



143d Transportation Command (FORWARD) **Twists & Turns**

Volume Two, Issue 2

September 2006

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WISCONSIN GUARDSMAN HONORED IN KUWAIT

Story and Photos by Cpt. Michael Wallace, 377th Public Affairs Officer



Soldiers of the 121st Field Artillery and others render a salute to Spc. Stephen Castner during a ceremony in Kuwait to commemorate and honor the fallen soldier.

An empty pair of boots, a helmet, a rifle with a set of dog tags dangling from the barrel, and a photograph represented U.S. Army Specialist Stephen W. Castner, who died Monday, July 24, 2006, when the vehicle he was in struck an improvised explosive device on a routine convoy in southern Iraq.

More than 700 service members braved the blistering sun in Southwest Asia to give honor this fallen comrade during a memorial service on Friday.

"Stephen understood that our enemy is not the shoeless children begging alongside the road. Our enemy wants us to back down and seeks to prevent us from improving the social conditions in this troubled region. He understood that we fight for justice and opportunity—

they fight for criminality and oppression."

Two fellow unit Soldiers, spoke in eulogy of their friend. "Stephen rebuffed those people encouraging him to 'get out' of this deployment," said Spc. Gregory Weller, who was Castner's communications chief for two years before deployment.

"Every time someone some one tried to talk him out going on this deployment, he would explain to them by saying, 'you don't understand, I want to be deployed'."

"Running missions deployed somewhere is exactly what Stephen wanted," said Weller. "He refused many opportunities to avoid coming here. This is exactly where he

See Guardsman, pg. 5

Commanding General Message:

30 Seconds – Do you have it in you?

In their joint document, *Serving a Nation at War*, General Schoomaker and President Bush told us that this war would be unlike any other in our Nation's history. They noted further, that after "our initial expeditionary responses and successful major combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, those operations have become protracted campaigns where we are providing the conditions necessary for security and in the case of Iraq, an environment that will create conditions for democratic elections early next year. The fight that we are engaged in is not simply a fight against terror—terror is a tactic. This is not simply a fight against Al Qaeda- they are foot soldiers. This is not simply a fight to bring democracy to the Middle East—that is a strategic objective. This is a fight for the very ideas at the foundation of our society, the way of life those ideas enable, and the freedoms we enjoy."



One thing that a protracted war means to us is that we must put forth our best effort....no

At the heart of our lengthy efforts lies the Warrior Ethos and our core values. So what is the Warrior Ethos? Others have described it this way. Those traits that characterize a soldier that has the Warrior Ethos are those traits necessary to face and defeat the Nation's enemies.

Here are three that are as timely as they are important – traits that we must develop in ourselves and our soldiers if we are to be effective leaders.

1. The belief that one's word is one's bond and that trust binds soldiers together.
2. The embodiment "to guard my post until properly relieved".
3. The uncompromising commitment to be technically and tactically competent, to achieve and exceed the demanding standards; to be combat ready.

We are responsible for ensuring that our soldiers and those that we train are technically and tactically proficient-to do otherwise is a mistake of the greatest magnitude. When we do our part we lead soldiers like this story that I received from a friend who fought in the Fallujah offensive.

His name is Corporal Yeager (Chuck Yeager's grandson). As the Marines cleared an apartment building, they got to the top floor and the point man kicked in the door. As he did so, an enemy grenade and a burst of gunfire came out. The explosion and enemy fire took off the point man's leg. He was then immediately shot in the arm as he lay in the doorway. Corporal Yeager tossed a grenade in the room and ran into the doorway and into the enemy fire in order to pull his buddy back to cover. As he was dragging the wounded Marine to cover, his own grenade came back through the doorway. Without pausing, he reached down and threw the grenade back through the door while he heaved his buddy to safety. The grenade went off inside the room and Cpl Yeager threw another in. He immediately entered the room following the second explosion. He gunned down three enemy all within three feet of where he stood and then let fly a third grenade as he backed out of the room to complete the evacuation of the wounded Marine. You have to understand that a grenade goes off within 5 seconds of having the pin pulled. Marines usually let them "cook off" for a second or two before tossing them in. Therefore, this entire episode took place in less than 30 seconds.

A life time of training comes down to a moment of truth that lasts 30 short seconds. We must be prepared and we must prepare all our formations for their moment of truth....the 30 seconds that reveal our true character.

Editor.....1st Lt. Ryan Pace

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

Soldiers Pay Respects to Fallen Warrior, Friend

By Staff Sgt. James E. Martin
377th TSC Assistant Public Affairs Officer

Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry gathered under a desert moon Aug. 8 at Camp Navistar to honor the memory of Sgt. Ryan David Jopek who died from injuries received from an improvised explosive device Aug. 1 while performing his duty as a gunner on a convoy mission in Iraq.

The 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry is a subordinate unit of the 377th Theater Support Command that provides security for convoys moving supplies into and out of Iraq.

Jopek was represented in front of the battalion formation by a monument composed of his bayonet and rifle with his Stetson on top, a set of dog tags dangling from the rifle set behind a photograph of him and his cavalry boots with gold spurs attached. Although he was serving in an infantry unit, as a cavalry scout Jopek earned his gold spurs by serving in combat in accordance with cavalry tradition.

"Sgt. Jopek was that special kind of Soldier. The kind of Soldier every commander wished he had more of," said Capt. Dale Ellenbecker, Jopek's company commander. "He was always happy and willing to do whatever it took to accomplish the mission."

"Shortly before we deployed I was talking with him and his father, Staff Sgt. Jopek who is also a member of the Wisconsin Army National Guard, and his younger brother," said Ellenbecker. "As we were listening to his father who had already served a tour in Baghdad ... I could also see how proud he was to be following in his father's footsteps serving his country."

One of Jopek's friends continued the tribute.

"If you were to ask anyone who knew Sgt. Jopek, myself included, what is the first thing they picture when they think of him, the answer is almost always the same, his smile," said Sgt. Kyle Clemins. "He had a big goofy grin that could brighten the day of anyone he crossed paths with."

"Without fail I knew I could count on him, because he cared about his role and the mission," Clemins said. "Jopek had the ability to recognize when someone needed a friend. It was nothing for him to take a little time out of his schedule just to lift the spirits of someone in need."

Clemins gave an example of his friend's selfless service by talking about a visit to the camp by the Bronco Cheerleaders.

"On that day, Jopek and two of his buddies went to eat and take pictures with the cheerleaders at the chow hall. When they got their food and were ready to sit down there was two seats available at the table with all the cheerleaders. One of the boys went to sit down with the cheerleaders, and asked Jopek to join him," Clemins said.

"Jopek declined because it would have left the other Soldier sitting by himself. He passed up an opportunity to sit and mingle with beautiful women, to instead sit with someone he had spent almost every day with for the last year. To him I'm sure it was not a hard decision to make. Others always came before his own desires."

Clemins finished his tribute to his fallen friend by reading "Fiddler's Green," a cavalry poem that memorializes those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for their nation.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Andrew Aquino followed with his praise and a prayer. "He was loved by everyone and was happy. You will be hard pressed to find a photo among the many where he is not smiling. He did good, and had a valued place in this battalion. We will not forget, nor can we forget the blessing of his presence."

Seven Soldiers then fired their rifles to give Jopek a 3-volley salute, immediately followed by the playing of "Taps."

Jopek's photograph was gradually surrounded by generals, commanders and command sergeants major coins as more than 500 Soldiers concluded the ceremony by lining up to individually salute his display.

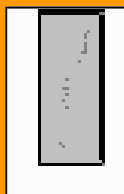
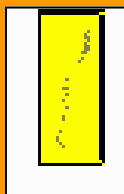


A cavalry soldier salutes the memorial for Sgt. Ryan Jopek during the ceremony in his honor on August 8th in Kuwait.

See WARRIOR, pg. 12

Promotions and Awards

OFFICERS



Newly Promoted Officers 1st Lt. Christopher Ficquette (top right) and 1st Lt. Christopher McKinnon (bottom left) pinned on rank in July and August, by 143D Transcom Commander - BG Thurgood, with groups of soldiers in attendance to congratulate them on their new milestones.



ENLISTED

Promotion Ceremonies were held this month for the following Enlisted Soldiers of the 143D Transcom: SPC Joseph Fetyko, SGT David Marczak, and SGT Andrew McCullough, SGT Veronica Torres...**New NCOS!!!** In Iraq, SSG Craig McDermott and SGT Donald Peterson were promoted as well, however photos were not available yet. **CONGRATULATIONS TO THEM ALL!!!**

"SERVICEMEMBER OF THE MONTH WINNERS"



Petty Officer Bailey-shakes hands with Brig. Gen. Thurgood (right), 143D Transcom Commander, following a coining and luncheon for her outstanding work and outgoing leadership.

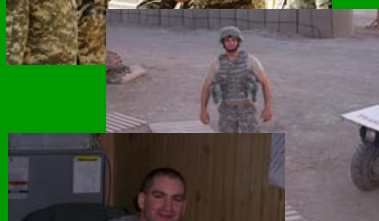
Newly promoted Sgt. Torres (left) shakes hands and receives a coin from Brig. Gen. Thurgood, before attending a luncheon for her accomplishments as a developing young leader..



SGT BG Thurgood (middle) and Col (CH) Garthwait (right) pin new rank on SGT McCullough during the ceremony on 17AUG06.



SGT Torres receives her promotion certificate and rank from BG Thurgood (middle) and MSG Ferdinand Collazo (right) on 17AUG06.



SGT Peterson (left) pauses for a photo in Iraq, prior to his promotion this month;



SSG McDermott (left photo) smiles behind his desk prior to his promotion announcement as well in Iraq.



New SPC Fetyko and Command Sgt. Maj. Schulz shake hands; SGT Marczak pins on his new NCO stripes.



Guardsman,

wanted to be, and what he wanted to be doing, with who he wanted to be doing it with."

Speaking of his uniqueness to the unit was his friend Sgt. Michael Hermann. "It's difficult to describe the kind of person Spc. Castner was. He was reserved, yet verbal; easily flustered, yet patient; and at the same time, both timid and aggressive."



Spec. Steve Castner's memorial display, including his Kevlar helmet, rifle, dog tags, and boots. Honorarium coins from visiting generals, colonels, commanders and their staff are set by the boots to be sent home to his family in respect.

"Although he may have had several contrasting personality traits, the qualities that stood without antonym were his intelligence and his willingness to help others."

Hermann reflected on how Castner would always help those that needed assistance. "No matter how deep he was involved in something, he would never hesitate to help someone who needed his assistance. He was 4th platoon's 'IT' guy. He was a great friend and a brother to us all. Stephen completed our family away from home."

Hermann reinforced his conviction that Castner wanted to be doing the job he was doing. "He actually understood the purpose of this conflict, why we are here, and truly believed

in, and wanted to be part of, this mission's success—and everyone who wanted to see the success of this mission has lost an ally."

Silence followed as final roll call was called by 1st Sgt. Patrick Frederickson for C Battery, 1-121st Field Artillery Battalion of Wisconsin. When Spc. Stephen W. Castner's name was read off, there was a long moment of silence—broken by the sound of a 21-gun salute and a playing of taps.

Chaplain (1st Lt.) Mark Brooks echoed the unit's feelings of Castner. "There are things far worse than dying—such as a life that didn't make a difference. There is nothing better than having lived a life that made a difference. Stephen passed the test that every Soldier hopes to pass—staring down danger and uncertainty and doing his duty."

"At the ultimate cost, he offered the ultimate gift—a chance at freedom for a people who know little of it. We thank him, we admire him, we honor him and we will not forget."

The ceremony concluded with the playing of 'Amazing Grace' to bagpipe music. The memorial display was covered with general, colonel, and sergeant majors coins, and every one of the hundreds of Soldiers paused—gave a salute of honor—and then continued on to the chapel to share in a memorial movie and memories of their friend at the unit's chapel.

Having attended the service and paid his respects, Major General Thomas Robinson, the commanding general of the 377th Theater Sustainment Command said, "we are all thankful for Spc. Castner's service. "He understood that freedom has a price—we fight to preserve our way of life, our families and our friends. He will never be forgotten, and I'm sure that he would want us all to remember him and that he wanted us all to press on with our important mission."

Patrol Boat Sailors Secure Vital Harbor, Escort ships

Story and photo by 1st Lt. Ryan J.

Crews of four-man teams, part of the U.S. Navy Inshore Boat Unit 28- Naval Coastal Warfare Unit 26 of King's Bay, GA patrol and secure the Kuwaiti Harbor and Persian Gulf, day in and day out, while training Kuwaiti forces and protecting vital cargo and missions with joint forces.

The crews consist of two gunners, a navigator (who also serves as an engineer), and coxswain who operate and secure Navy patrol ships, 34 foot Sea Ark Dauntless boats with twin 370B 365

See PATROL, Pg. 12



U.S. Navy patrol boats monitor and safeguard the Kuwaiti Waters from modern day pirates and acts of terrorism, while also assisting in joint missions.

143D Soldier Doubles as Fashion Designer

Story and photo by 1st Lt. Ryan J. Pace
143D Transcom (FWD) Public Affairs

Kuwait – Master Sgt. John Pevy, an 26-year veteran, leads a double life. The former Container Management supervisor for CFLCC, now working as an Administration Specialist with the 143D Transportation Command, also leads the life of a Fashion Designer. And he succeeds at both.

Master Sgt. Pevy has been sewing for 26 years and during that time he has put on few Fashion Shows at the different

Post's while he served on active duty. He has had no formal training or schooling, with much of his skills self taught, and bringing out creative ideas to life through aspiration and dedication.

"I guess I can say that my interest came about when in Home Economics class in High school," said Pevy, "And as time went on I continued my talent and improved on my workmanship by sewing basically everything for my wife and three kids."

Pevy is so outgoing with his devotion to the art of fashion that he actually hosted his own fashion show, with help and admiration from fellow soldiers in Kuwait, recently, on Saturday, July 23rd. The show went very well and soldiers in attendance were very pleased, with all of the models coming from units stationed in Kuwait and the clothes designed primarily by Master Sgt. Pevy.

In attendance for the event, Staff Sgt. Allan, of the Area Support Group - Kuwait (Host Nations) said, "This was a good break for soldiers to get out of uniform and feel good about themselves... It really builds our morale."

The models and audience commented on how the event was a great opportunity for soldiers to enjoy themselves and get a break from everyday life while others were impressed with the unique and stylish designs introduced in the show. In speaking with Pevy on the event, he commented, "It was a challenge with short comings the night of the show, with many of us from many different back grounds and units, but we came together as a team, working together to make the Jofunu Fashion show a success."

MSG Pevy had planned to pursue his career further by going to Seattle, Washington but all

See **FASHION**, pg. 13




Master Sgt. John Pevy, a 26-year Veteran and member of the 143D Transcom, smiles for a recent photo as he prepares to complete his mission and return home from a more than 3-year tour of duty.



Humpty the Safety Camel
Official Mascot of the 143d TRANSCOM
Safety Office

Humpty Sez:” Don’t SHOOT THE (\$%#) CLEARING BARREL (& YOUR Career)! Are You Authorized to Insert a Magazine ?? Be Smart and Safe: **STOP: TAKE THE MAGAZINE OUT OF YOUR WEAPON & HAND IT TO YOUR BATTLE BUDDY BEFORE CLEARING IT!!**

G6 Automation Wisdom:



ALPHA DETACHMENT 55TH
PERSONNEL SERVICES BATTALION

Need a new "CAC"?
Need a PIN reset?

Now that we are using Common Access Cards for logging into government computers, you may find you need a new CAC or PIN reset.

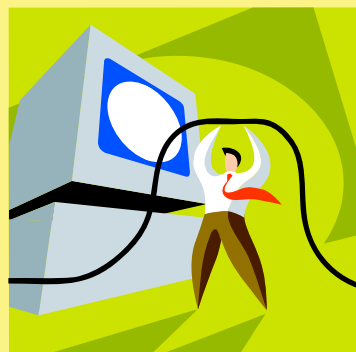
A/55th is here to assist with CACs or PIN Resets.

Location: BLDG 136 (Near the Zone 1 PX)
Time: Monday - Friday: 0830-1800 Sunday: 1300-1600

"We are open on Saturdays, but due to system maintenance in CONUS, system availability is very limited.

Note: If you work in Bldg 505 or 506 you can reset your PIN (but not get a new CAC) in Bldg 506 Bay 4, near 1st Personnel Command. Monday-Saturdays 0900-1700.

If you have any questions please contact CPT Husted at 430-7719.



SAVE YOUR POWER DEVICES:

Check the Input Voltage on your electric powered items before plugging in; if it says, "INPUT: 110V," ensure you use a 240V adapter or you may blow the circuit and fry the power supply adapter.

G6 support desk E-mail System:

For all future G6 related computer issues, please submit a help ticket email to: 143DG6SUPPORT via outlook.

TROUBLESHOOTING:

Save your work, Exit out of all programs, and Restart your machine. This is basic, yet very effective for most minor automation-related problems PC users face daily.



Your G6 Team- from Left to Right:

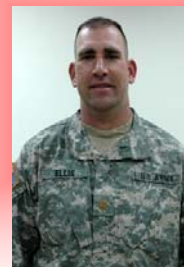
Sgt. Garcia—Systems Specialist/NCO, Maj. Ellis— Communication Officer-in-Charge, 1st Lt. Pace— Automation Officer, Sgt. Alexander— Systems Specialist/NCO, Master Sgt. Rossman— Communications NCOIC (not pictured).

Have an interesting mission or story that you feel should be in the next Twists & Turns or home town newspaper?

Contact your unit PAO or the 143rd Transcom (FWD) PAO, 1st Lt. Ryan J. Pace, to submit your pictures and/or stories for review at: ryan.j.pace@arifjan.arcent.army.mil or call DSN 786-3157

Announcements

Maj. Christopher Ellis was selected and highlighted in the last edition of "Desert Voice," 3rd Army's Kuwait-wide publication, for his efforts so far. [Congrats, Maj. Ellis and Family!](#)



Congratulations to Chief Thomas Nickles on his recent news of promotion to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 5- the highest rank a Warrant Officer can achieve.

Way To Go, Chief!



CW4 Nickles is awaiting orders and schooling to accompany the promotion, but currently is working hard in the G4 Supply Section as a Maintenance Officer.

MOVEMENT BRINGS

143RD
TC
2006



DET
18
2007

VICTORY



143D Transcom
Detachment 18

MWR DAY - 13AUG06





COMMANDER & 1SG CORNER



Soldiers of the 143D TRANSCOM (FWD):

Congratulations to SSG McDermott, SGT Peterson, SGT Torres and SGT McCullough on their recent promotions!!!

Leave and Passes have been approved for all who have turned them in.



Unit MWR Fun Day for AUG was a success thanks to 1LT Pace, SPC Cranston, SPC Fetyko, SSG Brownlow and SFC McNeil for assisting in this event. If you have recommendations for activities for our future events contact 1LT Pace.

UNIT SAFETY PROGRAM

The following tasks are an ongoing part of the program. Safety isn't just a word it is a work in progress.

Hands-on Training

100% HEAT (HMMWV Egress Assistance Trainer) trained personnel, dates TBD

100% ASDT (Army Safety Drivers Training) trained personnel, currently 49% complete

Online

<https://safetylms.army.mil>

Accident Avoidance Course (100% completion prior to taking R and R Leave)

Composite Risk Management Course (All Officers and NCOs)

Commanders Safety Course (CDR, 1SG, CSM and all OICs and NCOICs)

AS A WARRIOR REFLECTS ABOUT HIS OR HER LIFE IT IS REALIZED THAT THE PAST AND THE FUTURE OF HIS OR HER PEOPLE ARE INSURED BY HOW WELL THE WARRIOR LIVED LIFE IN THE PRESENT



Thanks to the efforts of Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Comstock (middle right photo), many Soldiers have been trained and qualified on the Army's HEAT Trainer, a mechanical training aid built to instruct soldiers on how to avoid or react to a vehicle roll-over, safely account for soldiers and familiarize themselves with safety devices.

143D Transportation Command: Unit Ministry Team



PRAYER OF THE MONTH:

James 1:17

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and cometh down from the father of lights with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."



143D Chaplain Gains New Counseling Center

Story and Photos by 1st Lt. Ryan J. Pace

Kuwait – Col. Stanley Garthwait, 143D Transcom Chaplain, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, has opened a newly assembled counseling center to provide religious and spiritual guidance to servicemembers.

On a sunny day in early August, the new facility was officially opened with help from the Navy Seabees - Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 21, and Area Support Group – Kuwait. After 10 months of coordination, the project finally went under way and was completed and opened for business to a delighted Unit Ministry Team.

"We're very excited about it," said Chaplain Garthwait, "This is a new facility and beneficial to Unit Ministry Teams for privacy of sanctuary, security, and convenience."

The Chaplain, now overseeing all ministry teams in Zone VI, is eager to take Chaplain services to a higher level with a new resource and ongoing training to provide the best service to God and fellow servicemen. Given the new space in a convenient location, they also plan to begin bible study classes soon and other opportunities for all to attend.

"This will apply to Zone VI and all of our subordinate units to provide a resource and counseling center, in a prime location adjacent to the chapel," said Garthwait.

Sgt. McCullough, the Chaplain Assistant to Col. Garthwait and member of the 143D Transcom Unit Ministry Team, is also happy to move into the new facility. "This is a quite place to do counseling and host bible studies," Said McCullough, "We needed a place like this for soldiers and sailors here." McCullough also said that he can apply his skills and train with other assistants to better serve his fellow soldiers.

Hopefully, with a more stable presence with the troops – where it is needed most - this may influence other UMT's to do the same and increase the coverage and abilities of ministry teams, Kuwait-wide.



143D Leadership gather for the official opening of the new Unit-Ministry Counseling Center.

CSM PIECES

As the Command Sergeant Major for the 143d (Fwd), I've been able to travel all over Kuwait and Iraq to see first hand the outstanding accomplishments OUR Transporters have made. The Transportation Corps should be proud! I have been blessed during this rotation with so many strong NCOs and enlisted Soldiers who have made me very proud to be an NCO! This month, I had the privilege to pin the following Soldiers and welcome them to the NCO Corps: SGT Veronica Torres, SGT Andrew McCollough, and SGT David Marczak. My driver, Joseph Feytko was also promoted from Private First Class to Specialist. Congrats to All, You deserved it!

One Heart...one mind: families, Soldiers, civilians!

CSM Mike Schultz

Command Sergeant Major

143d TRANSCOM (FWD)

Featured SHOTS



143D SJA: CORE WARRIOR VALUES TRAINING

Story and Photos submitted by Maj. Patrick Leduc

Recent events in the past months concerning allegations of unlawful use of force by military members in Iraq created a desire by our national leadership to have military personnel step back and be reminded of certain core national principles. The purpose of Core Warrior Values Training was to take time to reflect on the values that separate Soldiers from our enemies. Over the past several months, every service-member throughout Iraq and Kuwait, to include the thousands of Soldiers that make up the 143d Transportation Command, has received this very training.

Core Warrior Values Training stresses that the cornerstone of military professionalism is professional conduct on the battlefield. As professionals, Soldiers have an obligation to ensure that their conduct is consistent with the values and traditions of our country and our service. That obligation does not end when Soldiers go into combat.

The vast majority of Coalition Forces perform their jobs magnificently every day.

They do their duty with honor under extremely difficult circumstances. They exhibit good judgment, honesty, and integrity. They display patience, professionalism, and restraint in the face of a treacherous enemy. They do the right thing even when no one is watching.

Almost without exception, the men and women who make up our coalition live their lives and do their duty with honor every day. Unfortunately, there are a very small number of individuals who choose the wrong path. Of those, some think that because we are at war, the rules that normally govern their conduct don't apply. Some may view all Iraqis as the enemy. As a result they treat every Iraqi with contempt. Some fail to do the right thing, even when they know they should. Often this is a result of fear, stress, or peer pressure. The goal of Core Warrior Values Training is to make sure the actions of a few do not tarnish the good work of the many.

As the Army Chief of Staff, General Peter Schoomaker stated: "We are, have been and will remain a values-based institution. Our values will not change, and they are non-negotiable. Our Soldiers are warriors of character. They exemplify these values every day."



SJA Maj. Patrick Leduc conducts a class on, "Core Values Training," in Kuwait.

WARRIOR,

Some Soldiers left other items, and spent a few extra moments before departing as they paid respects to their fallen brother.

A recording of a bagpipe performance of "Amazing Grace" was played in the background as Soldiers waited to pay their final respects.

Following the ceremony, the commanding general for the battalion's higher headquarters spoke about Jopek's impact in the unit.

"I was impressed with the positive impact Sgt. Jopek had made with everyone in his unit. Everyone felt his friendship had enriched their lives," said Maj. Gen. Thomas D. Robinson, commanding general of the 377th Theater Support Command.

"We will not forget his friendship, dedication to his duty and sacrifice for his country. His loss is a reminder that there is a price for freedom, and that we all need to rededicate ourselves to protect freedom," Robinson said.

Jopek's contribution and legacy to his unit and friends was summed up by Clemins.

"Sgt. Jopek was without a doubt an enlightened soul. His empathy toward others and his dedication to whatever he put his mind to, made him an ideal Soldier and a reliable friend. Sgt. Jopek's life came to a close far too soon, but for all of us that knew him he will live on in our hearts and minds," Clemins said.



Seven soldiers fire a 3-volley salute in closing moments of the memorial ceremony for Wisconsin Guardsman Sgt. Ryan Jopek.

PATROL,

Horse-powered motors with a top speed of 35 knots, in support of Marine unit operations, ammo and cargo operations, and patrolling the ports from attack or accidents.

"It's an interesting job; Relaxing at times, like today, but could be hectic tomorrow by chasing jet-skis and boats or escorting ships," said Coxswain's Mate Two Rodney Graham.

They also perform "Ranger Operations," which consist of escorting incoming ships to port with four patrol boats included, at other ports along the coast. During their escort missions, they also rely on explosive ordinance diver to check for explosives, and security is tight with focus still on the 1993 U.S.S Cole tragedy, which involved an explosive device which caused casualties on the American vessel.

"We're not to be messed with, and if we perceive danger we make quick decisions," said Graham, "These ships were made to withstand fire and battle damage and can operate, due to compartmental structure, under stressed circumstances in combat, if necessary."

The ships are maintained very well, with a 6-week turn around for maintenance and repairs. There are generally as many as 10 ships in water at any one time, to secure enough strength to answer the call of duty whenever needed.



Coxswain Rodney Graham steers and commands the crew on his patrol boat in the Kuwaiti Harbor during a morning patrol.

Many units or members also may be assigned to locations in Iraq, where small arms fire or ramming of boats is not necessarily uncommon.

Serving on a patrol boat can be a real-life combat experience for some- contrary to what most may believe, in order to support their mission as primary defenders of the port.

Waterfront Mission Supports Joint Force Operation

Story and Photos by 1st Lt. Ryan J. Pace

Kuwait—Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen work together in joint mission at port to load vital cargo onto Motor Vessel Strong Virginian.

During and after the operation, the joint components of the mission combined their resources to safely and efficiently discharge the containers of theater ammunition stocks for support to other areas of operations. In addition, a Transportation Brigade was also able to perform patrol duties of securing the port during effort.

"The mission is to get the cargo loaded quickly and safely," said Petty Officer Kenneth Barnett of Navel Logistics Support Group – Expeditionary, Port Group Delta.

The four-day mission was conducted in half the time of a normal load, while successfully uploading over 200 containers of equipment into hatches awaiting shipment to another port.

The discharge of the MV Virginian is a perfect example of the joint environment we currently operate under during military operations.

The operation included support from almost all service components including Air Force, Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Department of the Army civilian workers, third country national contractors, coalition forces and the Kuwait Navy.



The Strong Virginian, a Naval Motor Vessel used to assist seaport ops and transport cargo into and out of theater, with support from Army, Navy and Air Force Units, as well as civilian contracting supporting the greater mission.

During the last two months, the 595th Operations Team at Kuwait Naval Base, led by U.S. Army Soldiers, Maj. John Cubbedge, MAJ Derrick Charles and CPT Yolanda Ellerbee, planned, coordinated, and conducted a seamless discharge and retrograde operation of the hazardous cargo to

"It is Supervisory; Sharing the responsibility and working as a team." said SKC Howard Alsbrook, also of the Navy LSG-Port Group Delta

From the time the ship arrived in Kuwait Territorial Waters, to the time it arrived on berth and discharge started and upload ended then vessel sailed, there has been no injuries and no delays in operation.

Truly a testament to the amount of planning and rehearsals, the 595th Transportation Battalion - Operations Team was a key element made mandatory during Phase One Planning for missions.



Staff Sgt. Cassandra Logan, (left) of the 595th Ops Team at KNB flanks Staff Sgt. Curtis Jefferson and Spc. Quandria Stephens, both of the 1189th TT Brigade, surveying the movement of containers onto the MV Virginian.

FASHION,



came to a halt when the tragic events of September 11th struck and he was sent to Kuwait in April 2003, where he has continuously served ever since, and plans to possibly pursue fashion on a greater scale again as he is nearing the end of a more than three year tour of duty.

A native of Monroe Louisiana and resident of Junction City, Kansas, he works as a Mail Handler at the Topeka Kansas Post office, in addition to furthering his hobby as a Fashion Designer with aspirations of success and greater achievements. He also has his own growing fashion line, Jofunu Fashion.

Master Sgt. John Pevy and Sgt. Carla Mansfield showcase two outfits—part of Pevy's fashion line, Jofunu Fashion.