

Soldiers send special Happy Birthday wishes

SPC. AMANDA McBRIDE
4TH BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU – For one young man's 24th birthday, this year's celebration will be very hard to top.

Jason Overfield, a 24-year-old autistic man from Port Orchard, Wash., is a devoted military supporter who makes sure certain Soldiers receive special birthday cards from him every month.

Over the last five years, Overfield has sent around 100 to 200 birthday cards and letters monthly to Soldiers.

Staff Sergeant Kristy Smith, the supply noncommissioned officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, began corresponding with Overfield more than two months ago through the AdoptaPlatoon program, and kept contact on a daily basis.

The AdoptaPlatoon Soldier Support Effort is a nonprofit organization that provides deployed U.S. service members with letters, cards and care packages from communities and volunteers.

"(Jason and his mom) had my name, so they sent me a card and an e-mail," said Smith, a native of Laurel, Miss.

Throughout the last few months, Smith corresponded with Overfield and his mother about the day-to-day happen-



Spc. Amanda McBride

Corporal Tracy Fluharty and Staff Sgt. Jeffery Riddle, assigned to HHC, 4th BCT, sign a 3rd Infantry Division flag that will be sent to Jason Overfield.

ings in their lives.

"I let them know the things that are going on here," Smith said.

"Jason tells me things that are going on in his video games and the stuff he does to help his mom out ... Everything

they are e-mailing to me is just like I am family. They are just keeping me up-to-date with everything that is going on," she added.

Smith said corresponding with them boosts her morale every single day.

"It helps the time go by because I know that every morning when I come in, I'm going to have an e-mail from them," Smith said.

"It's good to know that there are people out there that think about you," she said.

After she found out that Overfield would be celebrating his birthday soon, Smith knew she had to do something special for him, something like he'd never experienced before.

Working with other Soldiers from her company, Smith went around to every single office to get Soldiers to sign a flag and make personal birthday video comments for Overfield.

"This is just something special to do for someone who has done so much for others," Smith said.

"Really, all of it is (memorable) because it's the way that they correspond with me; the way they talk to me," Smith said.

"It really makes me feel like I am part of their family. I'm deployed over here but it feels like I have known them forever," she added.

Government of Iraq funds canal cleaning

2ND LT. JOSHUA FINK
3-7TH INF. REGT., 4TH BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB ISKAN – The Government of Iraq is currently funding a canal-cleaning project in the Jurf as Sakhr and Ruwiyah areas, approximately 55 kilometers south of Baghdad.

Before the project began, the canal was congested with reeds, mud and trash. Unable to flow freely throughout the area, the stagnant water was a health hazard, said Sgt. 1st Class Chad Touchet, a platoon sergeant with Company A, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd

Infantry Division.

The canal connects to the Euphrates River and is a major source of water for citizens living in Jurf as Sakhr and Ruwiyah. Residents depend heavily on this source of water to support agriculture

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Racing Heroes Tour visits 4-27th FA Soldiers

SPC. JUSTIN SNYDER
2ND BCT, 1ST ARMD. DIV.

FOB HAMMER – From the New Hampshire International Speedway to the Auto Club Speedway of Southern California, auto racing spans across the States, providing excitement and entertainment to millions of Americans.

Fans flock to the tracks to watch a sport that has been around since the beginning of the 20th century and still growing strong in both popularity and thrill.

With the help of the Army Morale, Welfare and Recreation services, this same excitement came to Soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery, when the Racing Heroes Tour visited Combat Outpost Salie, in Narhwan, Iraq, May 11.

The event featured an afternoon of racing drivers such as NASCAR's Jeremy Mayfield, National Hot Rod Association driver Phil Burkart, six-time International Hot Rod Association World Champion Clay Millican and the first female Pro Stock driver, Erica Enders. The racecar heroes spent several hours

hanging out with Soldiers and answering their questions.

Soldiers welcomed the racers with a "pit stop" at the motor pool, where they showcased an M1151 up-armored humvee and the Army's newest vehicle, the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle.

Throughout the tour, the drivers entertained questions ranging from speed on the track to everyday family life.

"For a little bit I felt like I was at home," said Pfc. Matthew Dean, Company C, 4-27th FA, from Gans, Okla.

The tour concluded with a steak dinner prepared by the 4-27th FA food service personnel at the COP Salie dining facility. Afterwards, the drivers signed autographs before heading off to their next destination.

The Task Force Thunder Soldiers were excited over the visit and grateful the racers took the time to just "hang out" for the afternoon.

"It was nice to hear them compare their great accomplishments to our ac-

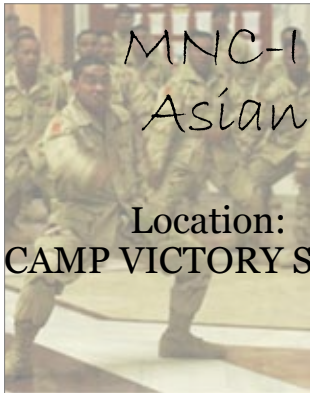


1st Sgt. Jim Cabrera

Soldiers from Company C, Task Force Thunder, pose for a photo with racecar drivers Phil Burkart, Jeremy Mayfield, Clay Millican and Erica Enders.

complishments here in Iraq," said Spc. Michael Gallahue, Co. C, 4-27th FA, from Vero Beach, Fla.

The 4-27th FA is under the command of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division and has been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since April in the Mada'in Qada, in the southeastern Baghdad Province.



MNC-1 Equal Opportunity Office presents
Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

Location:
CAMP VICTORY STAGE

When:
THURSDAY,
MAY 22, 2008
From 7:00pm to 8:30pm

POC:
MND-C EO OFFICE
DSN: 822-7654/53/9088
SIPR: 243-4128

All MND-C Soldiers are encouraged to attend

THE Dog Face Daily

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3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Abn. Division (Assault)
4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division
3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division
214th Fires Brigade
7th Sustainment Brigade
720th Military Police Battalion
354th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Coalition forces help Sayafiyah feed mill owner

SGT. JASON STADEL
2ND BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU – A Sayafiyah feed mill owner and operator received a U.S. Department of State microgrant May 16 to get his business going.

The mill was inoperable for some time due to insurgent activities in the area.

“We always had to stay in our house,” Thamer Hussain Kashkool said, adding insurgents had stolen the motor which operated the mill.

With most of the extremists driven out, the community is safer and therefore the focus has changed to rebuilding the agricultural-based economy.

Mike Stevens, Baghdad-7 embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team agricultural adviser, said the mill’s main purpose is to help area chicken farmers.

“We have a chicken coop ready to be stocked with 30,000 chicks,” Stevens said. “We need this mill so we can stock the coops. The farmers need the mill to feed their chicks.”

Without a mill in the area, Sayafiyah farmers have to travel to Baghdad to buy feed, something Stevens wants to avoid.

The money donated to Kashool was a U.S. Dept. of State Quick Reaction Fund grant. Stevens said the grant helps Kashool get back on his feet to

provide farmers with feed.

“We give them money to start, and then we encourage them to get loans from the Ministry of Agriculture to cover the rest so we have Iraqis using Iraqi money,” Stevens said.

Kashool said he would use the start-up money to repair the mill’s roof, and buy a generator, motor and various seeds.

In addition to chicken feed, the mill will produce feed for livestock and eventually fish.

Kashool told Capt. Shawn Carbone, Baghdad-7 ePRT economic chief, that when the mill becomes fully operational he will be able to employ at least 14 people.

CANAL: *Project eliminates health hazard, supports agriculture*

From page 1

throughout the area, said the native of Abbeville, La. Once the canal is clean, water will be more accessible even further away from the river.

“Hopefully this project will allow for an enhanced crop harvest season,” Touchet said, adding more productive crops will greatly boost the economy as a major source of income.

Saad Abeed, from Musayyib, is the

contractor for this project. His crew began cleaning the canal May 8, and it may take up to 22 days to complete. In the meantime, Touchet said, residents are pleased to see progress made on the project.

Safety Thought of the Day

Protect Ballistic Glass

- Ballistic glass will cloud and become yellow from exposure to solar UV light and heat.
- If possible, park your vehicle in a position that shields the cab windows from direct sunlight. Use existing shade from buildings, trees, or man made screen.
- Placing a tarpaulin over the vehicles cab does protect against sunlight, but it traps heat, causing deterioration to the glass panels. Allow for air circulation between tarpaulin and vehicle.
- Ballistic glass that is cracked, broken, or discolored sufficiently to impair operator vision will render a vehicle NMC and must be replaced.
- For more information see TACOM MAM 06-004 on the AEPS website: <https://aeps.ria.army.mil>



File photo

Headline Highlights

Yearbook's altered images; pig attraction; oh deer! angry stag

Company to reprint year-books after head switching

McKINNEY, Texas (AP) — School officials say they are appalled by altered photos — including heads on different bodies — in hundreds of McKinney High School yearbooks delivered this week.

Besides the head and body switching, some necks were stretched, one girl's arm was missing, and another girl's head was placed on what appeared to be a nude body, with the chest blurred.

A spokeswoman for Minnesota-based Lifetouch National School Studios Inc. said the alterations were "an unfortunate lapse in judgment" by an employee but didn't believe it was malicious.

The high school had required Lifetouch to make heads the same size and eyes at the same level in all student photos, company spokeswoman Sara Thurin Rollin said Saturday.

The request was "unusual and definitely very particular, but that's not to suggest what happened here is acceptable," she said.

Rollin declined to say if the company fired or reprimanded the employee who altered the images.

She said Lifetouch is taking full responsibility for the altered pictures, about 30 in all, and will pay to have the publication reprinted before the seniors graduate.

Lori Oglesbee, the school's year-

book adviser at McKinney High School, said the yearbook staff would spend the weekend rebuilding the yearbook.

McKinney is about 20 miles north of Dallas.

Big, hairy pig attracted gawkers in Wisconsin

VIROQUA, Wis. (AP) — A steady stream of vehicles pulled along the shoulder of the road to get a look at it: an enormous, hairy pig that apparently had been struck and killed by a vehicle.

"I took a look to see if it had any tusks," Andy Sherry of Viroqua said.

"If it did, somebody got to them before I did. It was really a big, big pig," he added.

Large populations of the hard-to-find, feral animals are thought to live in southwestern Wisconsin.

The animal was found on the highway five miles south of Viroqua 61 Friday morning.

It appeared to have been dragged from the center of the road, and it had a severe head wound.

Vernon County chief deputy Jim Hanson said a semi driver hit the 450- to 500-pound sow early Friday and apparently didn't have reportable damage. He said a removal company took care of the carcass.

"It's not a real common occurrence," he said.

The Wisconsin Department of Nat-

ural Resources considers feral pigs an exotic species that poses a threat to the environment and to agriculture. Anyone with a small-game license is allowed to hunt them at any time of the year.

Man cops wrath of stag

SYDNEY (Reuters) — An Australian man was gored in the thigh on Friday by an amorous stag after entering a deer paddock in the middle of the breeding season.

The 26-year-old worker at the tourist farm near Sydney ignored signs on the paddock gate warning people to keep out and was charged by the stag, the husband of the farm's owner told Reuters.

"It was the middle of the rut (breeding season), that is why the animal was acting like it did," Barry Hibbard told Reuters.

The man, who was apparently trying to feed some grass cuttings to the deer, was taken to the hospital after the incident and is expected to be sent home later on Friday, Hibbard said.

Hibbard said the animal was usually very docile, but did not take kindly to the intrusion of another male into its territory.

"He had six or seven girlfriends, you can imagine he would be protective in those circumstances," Hibbard said.

"I know I would be if I was that lucky."

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	7			1			
		8				5	7

from Sudoku Easy Presented by Will Shortz

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

4	7	8	9	3	5	1	2	6
1	9	5	2	6	7	4	8	3
3	6	2	1	8	4	7	9	4
7	5	8	4	9	1	6	3	2
6	3	4	8	5	2	9	1	7
2	1	9	3	7	6	5	4	8
9	7	1	6	2	3	8	5	4
8	2	6	5	4	9	3	7	1
5	4	3	7	1	8	2	6	9

ARABIC QUESTION OF THE DAY

Where is the unit?

wen weh Hed-teck?