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April 9, 2009

A n i s s u e d e d i c a t e d t o S o l d i e r s ' s t o r i e s

204th BSB Soldier becomes 'war' bride



STAFF SGT. MIGUEL A. RIVAS
2ND BCT, 4TH INF. DIV.



COB BASRA – Many married Soldiers would agree that the hardest part of deployment is being separated from their families. Some have been married for decades while others have been married for days, such as those who marry while on environmental morale leave.

There are some married Soldiers who have never even had their first kiss as man and wife.

Pvt. Nichole Mangum, a human resources specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 204th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, and resident of Colorado Springs, Colo., married Nathan Newkirk via a series of emails, paperwork and a telephone call from Iraq to the Colorado Springs courthouse more than 7,000 miles away.

"The idea of marriage had come up, but I knew I was deploying," said Mangum.

They debated the pros and cons of saying their vows before a deployment. Mangum believed they should wait, but Newkirk would have none of that. He was ready to become a husband and tie his life to the woman he had met more than five years earlier.

Mangum deployed shortly after that, so the prospect of a quick marriage was scrapped.

When she left Fort Carson to join the rest of 204th BSB, Mangum learned

Photo by Staff Sgt. Miguel A. Rivas
Pvt. Nichole Mangum, a human resources specialist with HHC, 204th BSB, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., talks to her new husband during a morale call at Camp Echo recently.

See MARRIED, page 2

MARRIED

From page 1

that since she was deploying so late, she would not be eligible to take EML.

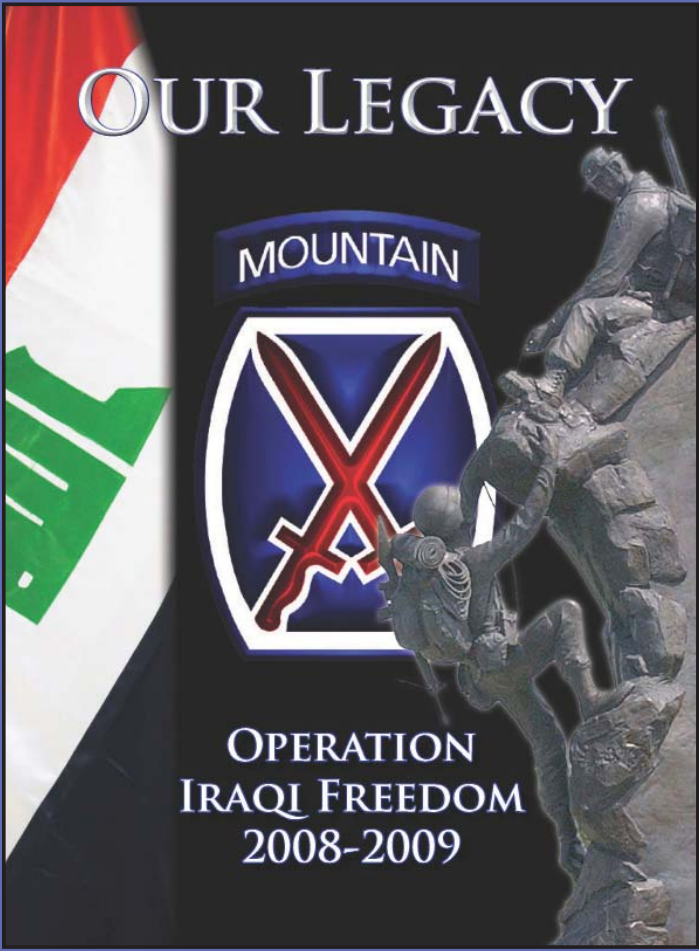
As she awaited transportation to FOB Kalsu after arriving in Baghdad, Mangum received an unlikely gift from a seasoned veteran, Sgt. 1st Class Sherika Gray, support operations noncommissioned officer-in-charge for 204th BSB.

Gray noticed an ad in Stars and Stripes for a legal marriage procedure that would change the life of the young Soldier standing next to her.

Gray said she was wary about recommending marriage to all young Soldiers, but in Mangum's case she decided to give her blessing and help any way she could.

Through e-mails, phone calls and the wife of a member of the 204th BSB Rear Detachment, who served as Mangum's proxy to sign the documents, the ceremony was completed.

Unfortunately, the honeymoon beach house in Florida and their first kiss as man and wife will have to wait. For now, accomplishing the mission is what is on Mangum's mind. However, knowing her new husband is there to support her helps her focus on her duty and endure the hardships of deployment and separation.



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Task Force 449



Media queries please contact TF Mountain Public Affairs at MND-Center_PAO@iraq.centcom.mil

MND-S commanding general speaks at EOD memorial

Pfc. TYLER MAULDING
MND-S



CAMP VICTORY – Maj. Gen. Michael L. Oates, commanding general of Multi-National Division-South, spoke at a memorial service at Al Faw palace on Camp Victory April 6, honoring six explosive ordnance disposal Soldiers who lost their lives in the line of duty during Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom in 2008.

“It’s appropriate for us to get to-

gether every year and recognize those in our community who work day-in and day-out and unfortunately make the ultimate sacrifice serving other service members,” said Oates to EOD members in attendance.

“We are enormously grateful for what you do and humbled by your sacrifice every day.”

The service included a color guard, the singing of the National Anthem, a Soldier Memorial, the playing of Taps in honor of the fallen and remarks by several EOD professionals.

The six service members who gave their lives in 2008 will be added to the EOD memorial at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. Their inclusion takes the total count of service members honored to 268.

“We couldn’t perform our duties without you,” said Oates. “As an American citizen I’m enormously thankful for what you do, and I know I speak for my British and Australian counterparts. It’s incredible that you continue to come back and do this year after and year.”



Photo by Pfc. Tyler Maulding

Maj. Gen. Michael L. Oates, commanding general of MND-S, is presented with a token of appreciation following an EOD memorial service at Al Faw palace April 6. The service was held in honor of six EOD personnel who gave their lives in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom during 2008.

What is the stupidest rule or policy you have seen in the Army?

To let the CG and others know, go to the
Mountain Sound Off Blog at
www.taskforcemountain.com

Headline Round-up

U.S. News:

WAUSAU, Wisconsin - The suspected pilot of a plane stolen from Canada and flown into the United States and trailed by fighter jets was captured April 6 near the rural stretch of road in Missouri where he landed. The single-engine, four-seat Cessna was intercepted by U.S. fighter jets over Wisconsin, where it prompted the evacuation of the state capitol in Madison, but kept flying south after the pilot failed to respond to radio calls and other signals. Mike Kucharek, spokesman for the North American Aerospace Defense Command in Colorado, said the Cessna 172 was stolen from Thunder Bay, Ontario, about 2:30 p.m. April 6. The pilot was flying erratically and did not communicate with the fighter pilots from the Wisconsin Air National Guard who intercepted the plane at the Michigan-Wisconsin border, he said. The pilot finally landed the plane on a road at Ellsinore near Poplar Bluff in far southeastern Missouri, said Laura Brown, a spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration. A man named Adam Dylan Leon, 31, was taken into custody about 9:30 p.m. in the same area, said Sgt. Marty Elmore, a spokesman for the Missouri Highway Patrol.

Technology News:

NEW YORK - The era of one-price-fits-all-songs on iTunes came to an end April 7 as Apple Inc., the Internet's dominant digital music retailer, began selling some of its most-downloaded songs for \$1.29 apiece. Apple said in January that it would end its practice of selling all individual songs for 99 cents each and begin offering three tiers: 69 cents, 99 cents and \$1.29. Recording companies pick the prices, much as they did for CDs sold in stores and online. Apple also did away with copy-protection technology known as digital-rights management, or DRM, allowing customers to play more songs on devices other than Apple's own iPods. Without DRM, the songs can be copied to any number of CDs, computers and music players, as long as those devices support the AAC encoding format Apple uses. AAC, like the more widely used MP3 format, is a method of compressing large audio files while trying to preserve sound quality. Besides iPods, several media players can play back unprotected AAC files purchased on iTunes, including Microsoft Corp.'s Zune and certain models from SanDisk Corp. and Creative Technology Ltd.

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For the
answer to
today's puzzle,
go to:



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AROUND THE COMMUNITY

Camp Victory

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Keep it Movin' Running Club,
5:15 a.m., corner of Echo
Valley Rd. and Williams
Wallace Blvd.

Liberty

April 11
Yung Joc concert Liberty
Stage @ 8:30 p.m.

Fishbowl Gym

April 11
Pirate's Cove Run 5K/10K.
Registration begins @
7 a.m., race begins @ 8
a.m., T-shirts awarded to top
finishers.

Babylon Theater

April 15
Fire Warden Class @ 1 p.m.
Fire Extinguisher Class @
2 p.m.

Freedom Chapel

April 12
Easter Sunrise Service @
6 a.m.
Sundays
Protestant (Traditional) @
10 a.m.
Roman Catholic Mass @
12 p.m.
LDS service @ 2 p.m.
Eastern Orthodox @ 4 p.m.
Protestant (Contemporary) @
12 p.m.
Mondays
A History of Christianity @
7 p.m.
Tuesdays
God & the Military @
6:30 p.m.

The Norris Roundhouse
There is no theory of evolution.
Just a list of creatures Chuck Norris has allowed to live.

