



Lightning Weekly

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Wounded Soldier Receives Purple Heart

STORY and PHOTOS BY

Pfc. Justin Naylor

2nd HBCT, 1st CAV Public Affairs Office

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, KIRKUK, Iraq – "Let it be known that he who wears the military order of the Purple Heart has given his blood in defense of his homeland and shall forever be revered by his fellow countrymen." These are the words that were once written on the orders received when a Soldier earned a Purple Heart; and for every Purple Heart, there is a story to accompany it.

Spc. Robert Williams, a water purification specialist with 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, added his own story to the history of the Purple Heart, April 9. Williams' convoy was hit in downtown Kirkuk city, Iraq, by an RKG-3, a hand-held anti-tank grenade, wounding him and other Soldiers in the vehicle.

"We stopped our vehicle and I started scanning," recalled Williams. "Then all I remember was a 'boom' that knocked me out for about eight seconds."

"After I came to, I pretty much knew what had happened," said Williams.

The event left Williams disoriented and peppered with shrapnel from the blast; fortunately the training of the Soldiers in his convoy prepared them for just such an event.

His unit reacted exactly how they were supposed to, said Williams.

"My medic was on the ball, and he peppered me up in record time," said Williams.

"You couldn't ask for a better group."

Williams was then rushed back to Forward Operating Base Warrior's Emergency Medical Station, where he was treated for shrapnel wounds in his arm.

The following day, inside of the EMEDs, Williams received a Purple Heart from Col. Ryan Gonsalves, the commander of the 2nd BCT, 1st Cav. Div., during which his battalion commander and fellow Soldiers were present.

"What you are doing is absolutely amazing," said Gonsalves to the gathered



Col. Ryan Gonsalves, commander, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, looks at a chunk of shrapnel that was removed from Spc. Robert Williams after an attack on his vehicle, April 9. Williams was awarded a Purple Heart medal, April 10, by Gonsalves at the Emergency Medical Station on Forward Operating Base Warrior for wounds received during the attack.

crowd. "3rd Bn., 82nd FA has done a tremendous amount of work in a short amount of time."

"This is a citation we don't like to give out, and no one likes to receive," explained Gonsalves. "This could have turned out tragically. We appreciate all of your efforts every day."

After the ceremony, Williams's coworkers gathered around to congratulate him on the medal and expressed their desire to see him back in action soon.

"I cannot wait to get him back in," said Staff Sgt. Christopher Brummer, Williams's platoon sergeant.

"He has been a great Soldier to have under me," said Brummer. "His family should be proud."

Back in the United States, Williams's wife, Melanie, has already received word of the injury.

"There is no nice way to say I got hit," said Williams. "I told her I got hit and I am in the aid station right now but everything is OK."

Although the event came as a shock, Williams is still looking forward to hitting the streets of Kirkuk again after a little bit more time for recuperation.

"I am looking forward to going back in with them," said Williams.

The Purple Heart medal has a long history in the U.S. military and the medal bears the likeness of the first president of the United States, George Washington, who implemented the medal, Aug. 7, 1782, calling it the Badge of Military Merit. The medal is awarded to service members who have been killed or wounded by an opposing force, and three service members from 2nd BCT have received the medal during this rotation in Iraq.

Iraqi Army Medics, From Students to Instructors

STORY BY

Pfc. Justin Naylor

2nd HBCT, 1st CAV Public Affairs Office

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, KIRKUK, Iraq – Coalition forces in Northern Iraq conducted medical trauma and sustainment training in Hawijah with the goal of developing a train-the-trainer program for the Iraqi Army.

Medics of the 15th IA Brigade trained with U.S. Army medics from 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, at Forward Operating Base McHenry, Kirkuk province, from March 22 to 26.

The training was designed to develop the skills of the students so they can give the training to other Iraqi soldiers, according to 1st Lt. Sean Spencer, a medical platoon leader with 8th Cav. Regt.

The training was equivalent to the U.S. Army combat lifesaver course and tactical combat casualty care, which includes classroom instruction and practical exercises on medical tasks like properly bandaging a wound, treating patients for shock, fractures, and administering intravenous fluids.

"During the training, the IA medics and infantrymen were involved at all levels," said Spencer.

The Iraqi soldiers progressed from asking questions to answering questions, from being students to being instructors, and from being evaluated while undergoing trauma lanes to establishing and running trauma lanes.

"This training offered every IA soldier involved the ability and confidence to assess and treat soldiers on the battlefield," said Spencer.

Overall, 21 Iraqi soldiers attended the one-week course and graduated with the knowledge to establish their own medical training programs.

"The IA soldiers who attended the course can take this knowledge back and create programs to better establish a medical course for their units," said Spencer. "This program is intended to train the trainers."

Coalition Forces Teams Up With ERF in Search for Weapons Caches

STORY and PHOTO BY

Spc. Anthony Jones

145th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

DIYALA, Iraq – Under the late afternoon sun, Soldiers of 2nd Platoon, Company C, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, work in close coordination with the Iraqi police's Emergency Response Force, April 9.

"The ERF is the best Iraqi force that we've come across," said Sgt. 1st Class Mitchell R. Hanson, 1st Platoon's Platoon Sergeant. "They are more than willing to go on any patrol and they share information with us."

Both the ERF and 2nd Platoon spent the afternoon and late into the evening searching for weapons caches hidden by al Qaida or other anti-coalition groups in the Effa Desert.

"The enemy runs a decentralized supply operations; which would be caches," said Hanson. "The check points the Iraqi army, the IP's and the Sons of Iraq have up and down the Mukdadia area have pretty much denied the enemy freedom of movement. With taking their supplies away and already having their freedom of movement taken, they're pretty much hurting."

To find caches, which could be hidden



Spc. Douglas Green, of Las Vegas, Nev., instructs two members of the Iraqi Police's ERF how to operate a metal detector and shows them what kind of areas they should search in order to locate hidden caches, during a patrol April 9.

underground, in a wall or alongside a building, the ERF and coalition Soldiers use a specialized metal detector that picks up traces of metal of varying sizes, and based on the sound the detector emits, Soldiers can tell if enough metal is present to warrant further searching.

If the metal detector finds a large enough amount of metal to warrant a search Soldiers use shovels and other tools to dig up dirt or break open walls.

During the search, coalition Soldiers used the patrol to teach members of the ERF how to operate the metal detector and what type of areas to search.

After hours of searching multiple sites, no weapons caches were found, which according to Hanson isn't out of the ordinary.

"Some weeks you'll find one every time you go looking. We probably look three to four times a week and usually average finding one a week," said Hanson.

After searching, the Soldiers and the ERF made a stop at a local sheik's house for a key leader's engagement. Following the engagement, coalition Soldiers returned the ERF to their station and returned to Forward Operating Base Normandy.

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Iraqi Army and Coalition Soldiers Conduct Combined Strike Training



Staff Sgt. Joshua Wilson briefs Iraqi Army Soldiers on how to clear a large room with multiple doorways, providing feedback on what they did properly and what could have been done better. The room clearing training was part of joint strike training conducted April 8 at Forward Operating Base Normandy.

Iraqi Army and U.S. Army Soldiers practice the "three steps and drop" method of exiting a UH-60 Blackhawk during joint strike training, April 8. Due to bad weather conditions a Blackhawk could not be provided for training and Soldiers improvised bringing cots to training to simulate the seating area of a helicopter.



STORY and PHOTOS BY
Spc. Anthony Jones
145th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

DIAYALA, Iraq – Even in the face of adverse weather Soldiers of the Iraqi Army trained alongside coalition Soldiers in combined strike training on the flight line of Forward Operating Base Normandy, April 8.

The training, conducted by the IA's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 20th Battalion, 5th Division and 1st Platoon, Company C, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, was performed to keep the Soldiers prepared for their aerial quick reaction force mission, said Capt. Morgan Maier, platoon leader, 1st Platoon.

Due to the adverse weather, heavy clouds, sand and partial rain, a helicopter could not be provided for the static training portion, forcing Soldiers to improvise and use cots to simulate the inside of a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter.

The training included how to safely enter and exit a helicopter while maintaining security. Coalition Soldiers demonstrated how to properly conduct the movement then had the IA Soldiers join in and practice conducting combined entering and exiting.

"This training is important," said Staff Sgt. Caleb Mellette, a squad leader with 1st Platoon. "It builds the IA's confidence and allows them to establish their own tactics, training and procedures.

"Mellette added that the static training is productive for coalition Soldiers as well, pointing out the language barrier in coordinating movement to and from the helicopter.

As a way to bypass the language barrier the coalition Soldiers taught hand and arm signals to the IA; this allowed for information about movement and security to be passed between Soldiers of both Iraqi and coalition forces easily and quickly.

After completing the static load training, there was another mandatory task: the

completion of the house-borne improvised explosive device lane, operated by a Navy explosive ordnance demolition team.

The IA Soldiers, lead by an Iraqi non-commissioned officer navigated through several stages of the HBIED training complex, finding several hidden IEDs and booby traps.

Once inside the final area of the HBIED trainer the IA Soldiers collected several intelligence items and weapons placed by Navy EOD personnel.

Following the IA's completion of the HBIED training lane, Maier had his Soldiers navigate the lane in order to keep their edge and reinforce previous IED awareness training.

The day of training was completed after a brief demonstration by both IA and coalition Soldiers on room clearing. Both sides were impressed with the others ability to quickly enter and dominate a room.

This Week In TROPIC LIGHTNING History

TROPIC LIGHTNING NEWS

APRIL 28, 1969 – CU CHI, VIETNAM – One hundred forty-three North Vietnamese soldiers died at the hands of 2d Brigade and supporting fires five miles northeast of Trang Bang in two days of close, fierce fighting. On the first morning of the two-day battle, Fire Brigade troopers made a helicopter assault into enemy-infested area.

"We were just getting spread out when Charlie opened up," said Private First Class Vernon Turner of Washington, D.C.

With gunships providing cover, the infantrymen regrouped to mass firepower on the enemy. One unit commander, Captain Robert B. Powell, commented, "Charlie might have had us but we blasted our way back with the aid of gunships."

Each time the Fire Brigade infantrymen advanced they were greeted by intense small arms and .51 caliber fire.

As artillery and air strikes pounded the enemy's underground fortress, regular and mechanized infantry forces were called in to reinforce their comrades and help conduct a sweep of the area. As the task force began its sweep, it was again greeted by automatic weapons and RPG fire from the entrenched enemy.

First Lieutenant Louis M. Geitka reported that it was "just like trench warfare" as the Tropic Lightning soldiers moved forward to rout the persistent enemy. "We fought from dike to dike and bunker to bunker," said



STALKING elements from C Company 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry move out with the Dreadnaught Task Force during a sweep in the Filhol Plantation. The Fire Brigade operation is under the control of the 2d Battalion 34th Armor.

Geitka

As fire ceased and the sweep was concluded, 76 NVA bodies were discovered along with three RPD machineguns, six AK-47s, five RPG launchers and a .51 caliber machinegun.

The following day a combined armor-infantry task force moved out to combat-assault the area. As soon as they got started they received mortar, small arms, automatic and RPG fire from the north. Armored personnel carriers and tanks were called in to aid the infantrymen once more. As the combined force fought against the North

Vietnamese troops on the ground, air strikes, gunships and 81mm mortars rained shrapnel on the enemy.

Again as fire ceased the Fire Brigade soldiers began a sweep of the battlefield and they received fire from a well hidden enemy force. After an hour duel the last round flew overhead, and the Tropic Lightning infantrymen continued the sweep.

Tallied on the second day of fighting were 67 NVA bodies, one light machinegun, 31 AR-47s, 15 RPG launchers, three .50 caliber machine guns, three carbines and assorted munitions and documents.

TROPIC LIGHTNING NEWS

APRIL 28, 1969 – TAY NINH, VIETNAM – When 60 medals for valor were awarded to soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Manchus' Charlie Company in a special ceremony March 31, it brought to 154 the total of combat decorations the company has received since the start of 1969.

The Manchu battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel Leo L. Wilson of Salina, Kans., and Company Commander, Captain Ramon T. Pulliam of Chattanooga, Tenn., personally pinned on 25 Bronze Stars with "V" devices for valor and 35 Army Commendation Medals with "V" devices in a formal ceremony at Fire Support Base Sedgwick, 15 miles southeast of Tay Ninh.

Those 69 decorations, for a battle January 26, coupled with medals distributed in two ceremonies earlier this year brought the company's 1969 tally to one Distinguished Service Cross, 12 Silver Stars, 44 Bronze Stars with "V"s, and 97 Army Commendation Medals with "V"s.

The 94 other medals were earned Dec. 22, 1968, when the Manchus fought off a North Vietnamese Army regiment's attack on Sedgwick, which was then Patrol Base Mole City. In the January 26 action, C Company was flown by helicopter from Sedgwick to

join the 3d Squadron, 4th Cavalry, as a blocking force to bottle up a Viet Cong company which had invaded Phuoc Luu, a small village 40 miles northwest of Saigon.

Using building materials shipped from Tay Ninh by helicopter, the Manchus dug in for the night, working until midnight to construct bunkers with overhead cover. When the VC unit attacked around 1 a.m. in an attempt to push through the U.S. barrier, the bunkers

proved invaluable. Only one Manchu was wounded, not seriously, as the Tropic Lightning units battered the enemy force, recording an official total of 15 killed and capturing a truckload of weapons and equipment.

In presenting the latest group of medals Wilson praised his C Company troops as a "proven fighting unit."



AWARD CEREMONY - Soldiers of C Company, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry, salute their battalion commander, LTC Leo L. Wilson of Salina, Kans. (far left), at the end of a ceremony in which 60 of the company's men received medals for valor.

**STAY
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WHY STAY?

MSG Peni Q. Cabanting

Why did I join the Army? There are a number of reasons I joined the Army, two of which were that I needed to get out of my parents house and I wanted to travel the world. The real reasons, the important reasons that joined were different, a little deeper; I joined the Army because of what it stands for. We are the defenders of our country and the freedom that it holds so dear. We are the standard bearers for others to follow. We are an elite force who volunteer to do what is asked of us and go where we're told. We are educated, strong, independent, and vibrant with culture.

Why do I stay? What is it about the Army that keeps so many of us in? The reasons are as varied as the reasons we joined. I stay because I love what the Army represents; I love what the Army is about. I love how the Army does things, and most importantly, I love taking care of Soldiers, and consequently taking care of our Army.

The sound of the Star Spangled Banner still brings tears to my eyes as I remember how much we, as Americans, have. We get knocked down and we get right back up. We fight amongst ourselves like families; and like families, when one of us is picked on, we come together. The many long deployments have been difficult and plentiful, but more importantly, they have served to make bonds between Soldiers that will not be broken.

Every time I see a formation of Soldiers hitting all their marks as they participate in the ceremonies we hold dear I get a chill and remember how the Army was designed to work. When all the politics and personalities are stripped away, the Army is an amazing organization. We are designed to be completely self sufficient if need be. We are respectful of our history and remember it as we walk the path that will one day be another Soldier's history. We represent the melting pot of America; we have Soldiers from every corner of the world. We can be thrown together, given a mission, and make it happen without regard to our childhood or upbringing. Our training is consistent, fierce, adaptive, current, and realistic. We have a unique ability to overcome internal conflict because the "end-all-be-all" is that the mission must be accomplished and the petty differences that divide our civilian sector we simply don't have time for.

I am still in the Army 18 years after I went to Basic Combat Training, primarily because of the leadership I have had along the way. I will long remember the senior E-4's who taught me how to drive an old beat up 5-ton truck on the back roads of Germany as, well as every other aspect of my job. I will never forget the squad leaders who put me in situations so that I would have an opportunity to learn and develop the ability to solve a problem, or the platoon sergeant, who was untouchable, demanding and never cracked a smile, yet showed me the picture of strong, silent leadership as our platoon became cohesive and impenetrable. We all remember our First Sergeant; mine was one who rarely raised his voice, seemed to have eyes in the back of his head and demanded and received the best of his subordinate NCO's. Last but not least is the Command Sergeant Major who never hesitated to train me, guide me, and, when he thought I wasn't paying attention, express pride in my accomplishments. To these leaders I can only offer thanks and lifelong respect as I pass on what they have taught me.

I will retire from the Army a proud veteran. I will be the old lady sitting in a rocking chair, years from now, telling old "war stories" of the many different, colorful, wonderful Soldiers I had the great fortune to serve with. For a long time I didn't understand why retiree's participated in certain Army activities; I understand now. There is pride in service to our country that can't be explained in mere words. It is read in the eyes of our young Soldiers, leaders, and veterans.



NEWS FROM THE HOME FRONT

HAWAII

HONOLULU – They named him Keller, after Helen Keller, because he, too, was blind.

Though it was never clear who adopted whom, the black-and-white pig who wandered in from the forest found safety and comfort at the Kamilonui Place animal shelter run by Gina Lay and Gary Weller.

Lay said Keller knew every corner of the sprawling property, even if he occasionally did walk into a wall or a tree. He even had a friend, a part-sharpei dog named Manini, with whom he'd share long naps.

"He'd only known human kindness," Lay said, "so he wasn't prepared for what happened to him."

According to witnesses, Keller was lazing on the grassy front lawn of the sanctuary yesterday when a group of hunters pulled up and set their dogs on him.

The dogs mauled the 35-pound pig until one of the hunters finally stabbed him to death.

Neighbors called police, who arrested the man who stabbed Keller. According to one witness, who asked not to be identified, an off-duty police officer from the area arrived first and drew his gun while detaining the hunters.

Lay said the man admitted killing Keller and later helped Lay bury the pig in a mulch heap on the property.

According to Lay, the men had been given permission by another neighbor to hunt pigs on a separate property far down the isolated road.

Packs of hunting dogs have killed several pets in recent years on O'ahu, and last year Joseph Calarruda of Makaha was sentenced to five years in prison for killing Porky, a pet pig owned by Mililani resident Aaron O'Brien. Porky was stabbed to death despite witnesses' pleas, and at sentencing, Circuit Judge Richard Pollack called Calarruda's action "vicious and callous."

While hunting is prohibited in the private valley in Hawai'i Kai, Lay said she frequently hears gunfire in the surrounding forest and that several dead or wounded feral pigs have been found nearby.

Lay said she recently found a pig that had been trapped in a snare that had been left, illegally, in some nearby brush. The pig had chewed off its own leg trying to get free.

Yesterday was not the first time the sanctuary has lost a pet to hunters.

One Sunday afternoon a couple of years ago, a pack of hunting dogs chased another pet pig under Weller's house. Weller went outside to intervene, but not before a hunter ducked under the house, killed the pig with a knife and ran away.

Weller said the Hawai'i Kai Neighborhood Board, of which he is a member, has been looking into repeated complaints of hunting dogs attacking pets on hiking trails in the

area.

Weller said he did not bring up the earlier killing in deference to other board members. The next time the board meets, however, Weller said "all bets will be off."

"I've never been so mad," Weller said. "Keller was our pet, and this is very emotional for us. If this were Texas, (the hunters) would be dead in the front yard. I don't have much in Hawai'i. This property is all I've got. For someone to come on private property with their dogs and kill our pet ..."

The sanctuary caters to abandoned, abused, disabled and terminally ill animals of all sorts. In addition to the 300 or so animals that have a permanent home at the facility, several feral pigs also visit the site to feed on the scraps neighbors often leave for them on the side of the road.

As Lay spoke yesterday, a half-dozen feral pigs and several cats strolled along the periphery of the property.

"They're very tame, not aggressive at all," Lay said of the pigs. "People come around all the time to see them, and they're amazed at how friendly they are."

Several neighbors stopped by the sanctuary to console Lay and her volunteer workers. Yet perhaps no one was more upset than Keller's nap buddy, Manini.

Two days ago, Manini gave birth to a litter of puppies. Yesterday, as the hunters' dogs pounced on Keller, Manini charged out of the house and attacked the dogs in a vain attempt to defend her friend. She was retrieved by shelter volunteers, "messed up" but otherwise unharmed.

"We try to be a sanctuary for these animals," Lay said. "But it's hard to be a sanctuary when animals are slaughtered right on our front lawn."

ALASKA

FAIRBANKS – The new Ruth Burnett Sport Fish Hatchery in Fairbanks won't open for more than a year, but work on the \$45.6 million facility is "right on track," according to state officials monitoring construction of the hatchery.

"We're right on track financially and we're right on track schedule wise," said project manager Dave Kemp with the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. "This summer I think people will see a lot of progress on the site. It will really be taking shape by late fall. People will really get a feel for what it will look like."

The hatchery, located on Wilbur Street across from the Carlson Center, is slated to open late next summer, Kemp said.

The contractor, Alaska Mechanical Inc. of Anchorage, has completed most of the foundation work and is in the process of moving equipment and materials to Fairbanks for the summer building season, said Jeff Milton, regional hatchery supervisor

with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

"They should be putting up steel here as we go into the summer," Milton said.

The goal is to get the walls up and roof on before the winter so work inside the facility can be done through next winter, Kemp said.

"That way they don't have to tent it," Kemp said, referring to the practice of covering buildings under construction with plastic and heating them during the winter. "That's a big building to try and tent and it would be expensive."

Kemp, who is based in Anchorage, said he will be traveling to Fairbanks next week to meet with AMI officials and discuss the next phase of construction.

"We're waiting for a revised schedule from AMI right now," he said.

An aquaculture consultant from PR Aqua, the British Columbia company that is designing the state-of-the-art water recirculating system that will be used in the hatchery, will be visiting Fairbanks next month to inspect the site and coordinate with the contractor, Kemp said.

Likewise, officials from AMI, DOT and the Department of Fish and Game will travel to PR Aqua's British Columbia headquarters and visit other hatcheries using the same kind of recirculating systems that will be installed in Fairbanks.

While PR Aqua is in Fairbanks, state officials will install a webcam on the resident engineer's hard hat so officials at PR Aqua can see how construction is progressing and offer advice or help. They will communicate through Skype, a software program that allows users to make telephone calls via the Internet.

"When he's looking at stuff we can say, here's what I'm looking at," Kemp said. "We want the aquaculture guys to be there looking at it through the webcam."

The Fairbanks hatchery will grow Arctic char, Arctic grayling, lake trout, rainbow trout, chinook salmon and coho salmon. The goal is to double the number of fish that are stocked in Interior lakes and ponds to meet increasing demand from Alaska anglers.

Once the hatchery is built and ready for fish, it will be another year before any fish will be released from the facility, Milton said.

"Once they're done, we have to test things," he said. "We could have some fry or fingerling stocked in the fall of 2010, depending on timing of when we feel safe to put fish in system."

"If we're able to get rainbow trout in there in the fall or mid-summer of 2010 we could get catchable out the following spring," Milton said.

The state also will begin construction on a new \$100 million hatchery in Anchorage this summer. That facility is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2011.

LIGHTNING HERO OF THE WEEK

SGT Brian Allen 145th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment Yukon, OK

On 8 April, while volunteering to provide video coverage to the 591st Engineer Company during a route clearance mission in Mosul, SGT Allen's vehicle was attacked by an RKG-3 grenade. Throughout the course of the mission SGT Allen captured video footage, that when further reviewed, appeared to show not only the grenade thrower, but a spotter with a video camera. SGT Allen alerted the CP-North S2 and his video was forwarded to G2X for further analysis. Because of SGT Allen's personal courage and commitment to mission success, two insurgents may be identified and detained, ultimately saving the lives of American Soldiers and Iraqi civilians.



IRAQI FACTS

Iraq's telecommunications infrastructure was badly damaged by the first Gulf War, the 1998 bombings, and the U.S.-led invasion in 2003.

Before the start of the Gulf War, there were approximately 37 land-lines per thousand residents, and that figure declined to 30 land-lines per thousand people in 2001.

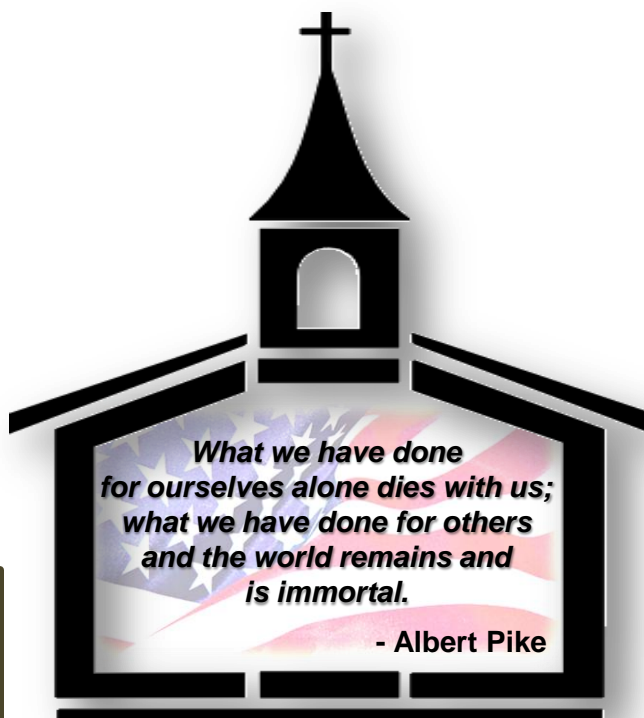
Although there are no current statistics, observers speculate that the extensive use of cellular phones in Iraq has likely led to an even sharper drop in the use of Iraqi land-lines.

Saddam Hussein's regime made several attempts to replace damaged telecommunications infrastructure, but the United Nations Sanctions Committee blocked the repairs, arguing that the equipment could be used for military purposes.

From 2001-2002, the United Nations allowed a series of several upgrades to Iraq's telecommunications, including GSM cellular phone service in the northern Kurdish region of Iraq.

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER





Kim's Son Joins North Korea Military Board

SEOUL, South Korea – North Korean leader Kim Jong-il tapped his son to join the powerful National Defense Commission -- a move analysts say makes the latter the heir apparent, South Korean state media said.

"Kim Jong-un had been appointed to a low-level post, called 'instructor' at the National Defense Commission days before the first session of the 12th Supreme People's Assembly meeting was held," South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported, quoting a source.

The report was not able to be independently confirmed.

The secretive North Korea shields its internal affairs from international scrutiny. And often, the only news coming the Communist nation is reported by its neighbor South Korea.

The two countries have technically remained in a state of war since the Korean War ended in 1953, although relations have warmed somewhat in the last few years. The Korean conflict ended in a truce, but no formal peace treaty was ever signed.

The 25-year-old picked for the North Korean defense commission is the youngest of Kim's three sons, Yonhap said.

The move comes two weeks after Kim added his brother-in-law Jang Song Thaek to the military board. Analysts said Jang will serve as a caretaker for the successor, Yonhap said.

Jang, who has been married to Kim's sister since 1972, is considered his right-hand man, according to Yonhap.

Kim was reappointed this month as chairman of the military board in his first major public appearance since a reported stroke in August.

His recent health problems and long absence from public functions prompted speculation on whether he was ready to groom an heir to the world's only communist dynasty.

SPORTING NEWS

Talladega Yields Keselowski's First Cup Win, Injured Fans

TALLADEGA, Ala. – Scrambling out of his battered Ford to jog playfully across the finish line, Carl Edwards tried to bring levity to his frightening crash that ended Sunday's Aaron's 499.

But for the effervescent driver who usually is upside down only celebrating wins with a backflip, it was no laughing matter being involved in a wreck that sent Edwards' car flying into the catchfence and scattered debris into the frontstretch grandstands at Talladega Superspeedway.

Brad Keselowski won his first Sprint Cup Series race Sunday by pushing Edwards into the lead, then driving off to victory when contact between the two cars sent Edwards sailing into the fence.

"NASCAR just puts us in this box, and we'll race like this until we kill somebody, and then they'll change it," said Edwards, who appeared shaken in post-race interviews as he described checking after the wreck to make sure he wasn't impaired by parts from the roll cage of his No. 99 Fusion. "I'm glad the car didn't go up in the grandstands. I don't know if I could live with myself if I ended up in the grandstands."

Seven fans sustained minor injuries in the incident, and Dr. Bobby Lewis said a woman was airlifted to a hospital with facial injuries and a possible broken jaw. Lewis said the other six fans sustained bumps, bruises and possibly "a couple of minor fractures" to their extremities.

The last-lap crash occurred when Edwards cut down on a surging Keselowski trying to protect his lead.

Rather than complete the pass below the yellow line – an illegal move at Talladega and Daytona International Speedway, the two tracks that require horsepower-robbing restrictor plates to keep cars from topping 200 mph – Keselowski held his line and bumped the left-rear of Edwards' car, which spun and then corkscrewed into the air from contact with third-place finisher Ryan Newman.

"I have to apologize to Carl for wrecking him, but I wasn't going below (the yellow line)," said Keselowski, a rookie who won in his fifth Sprint Cup start. "You're forced in that situation. I'm sorry for those hurt, but that's the way the rules are."

Said Edwards: "Brad did everything right. If he drives below the line, he loses, so what's a guy supposed to do? You end up having to wreck people or get second and

none of us want to do that."

Restrictor plates have been used at Daytona and Talladega since 1988, shortly after Bobby Allison's car tore off a section of the fence in a crash at Talladega.

Drivers have complained the rules create treacherous conditions at the 2.66-mile track as cars running similar speeds clump into large packs. There were two crashes with at least 10 cars Sunday.

"This is crazy racing," said fourth-place finisher Marcos Ambrose. "We can legitimize it all we want, but it's insanity on four wheels."

Keselowski, though, defended it as "NASCAR racing at its finest."

"This was a great show. There has to be some element of danger. Who doesn't love watching football players hitting each other head on as fast as they can? That's what the fans want: contact. If we'd ran all race without contact, everyone would have written about how boring this was."

It was the second straight day a car had gone airborne at the track. Matt Kenseth escaped injury after a barrel roll in Saturday's Nationwide race.

"Talladega is short for we're going to crash, we just don't know when," said Newman, who suggested NASCAR re-examine the roof flaps that deploy at high speed to keep the 3,400-pound stock cars from lifting off the asphalt. "We need to look at things to keep the cars on the ground, not just fans but the drivers as well. There's no such thing as overreaction when it comes to safety."

Vice president of corporate communications Jim Hunter said NASCAR would analyze Edwards' crash "to see if there's anything we can do. We're always looking at ways to make racing safer. That's our No. 1 priority."

"For years, we have had wrecks like this every time ever since the plate got here, and for years it was celebrated," he said. "The media celebrated it, the network celebrated it, just trying to attract attention and trying to bring people's attention to the race."

"So there's a responsibility with the media and the networks and the sanctioning body itself to come to their senses a little bit and think about the situation. You can't jump up and go, 'Wow, what I saw today was crazy. I don't think it's right,' because the media and the networks and everybody has been celebrating that stuff for years."

"We have been saying this for years, racing like this is not a whole lot of fun. It's just something we have to do."



TASK FORCE LIGHTNING - THROUGH THE LENS



Lt. Col. Andy Shoffner, the commander of 4th Squadron, 9th U.S. Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and Brig. Gen. Sarhad Qadir, the police chief of the country area in Kirkuk province, discuss an operation, April 7, in a small village in Kirkuk province.



Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division gathered to form the emblem of a ribbon symbolizing the Take Back the Night Rallies. The rallies, originally started in Belgium and were led by women in 1976, during a period that experienced high rates of crime against women. The Bde's event was designed to bring awareness and promote a stand against sexual assault by "breaking the silence", April 11.



Col. Ryan Gonsalves, commander, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, pins a Purple Heart on Spc. Robert Williams, April 10, at the Emergency Medical Station on Forward Operating Base Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq.



Sgt. Brad Canon, a London, Ohio, native and the support team non-commissioned officer-in-charge for the 2-12th Military Police Company, 607th MP Battalion, 8th MP Brigade, which works with the 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, tries to get the soccer away from the Iraqi Policemen that his team is playing against on Forward Operating Base Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq, April 16.

HEROES OF THE 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION



- Capt. Lewis L. Millett
- Co. E, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment,
25th Infantry Division
- Born: 15 December 1920, Mechanic Falls, ME
- Entered Service: Mechanic Falls, ME, 1937
- Place of Action: Vicinity of Soam-Ni, Korea
- Date of Action: 7 February 1951



Lewis L. Millett

Medal of Honor Citation:

Capt. Millett, Company E, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action. While personally leading his company in an attack against a strongly held position he noted that the 1st Platoon was pinned down by small-arms, automatic, and antitank fire. Capt. Millett ordered the 3d Platoon forward, placed himself at the head of the 2 platoons, and, with fixed bayonet, led the assault up the fire-swept hill. In the fierce charge Capt. Millett bayoneted 2 enemy soldiers and boldly continued on, throwing grenades, clubbing and bayoneting the enemy, while urging his men forward by shouting encouragement. Despite vicious opposing fire, the whirlwind hand-to-hand assault carried to the crest of the hill. His dauntless leadership and personal courage so inspired his men that they stormed into the hostile position and used their bayonets with such lethal effect that the enemy fled in wild disorder. During this fierce onslaught Capt. Millett was wounded by grenade fragments but refused evacuation until the objective was taken and firmly secured. The superb leadership, conspicuous courage, and consummate devotion to duty demonstrated by Capt. Millett were directly responsible for the successful accomplishment of a hazardous mission and reflect the highest credit on himself and the heroic traditions of the military service.

HEROES OF THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION



- PFC James H. Monroe
- HHC, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile)
- Born: 17 October 1944, Aurora, IL
- Died: 16 February 1967, Republic of Vietnam
- Entered Service: Chicago, IL, 1966
- Place of Action: Bong Son, Hoai Nhon Province, Republic of Vietnam
- Date of Action: 16 February 1967



James H. Monroe

Medal of Honor Citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. His platoon was deployed in a night ambush when the position was suddenly subjected to an intense and accurate grenade attack, and 1 foxhole was hit immediately. Responding without hesitation to the calls for help from the wounded men Pfc. Monroe moved forward through heavy small-arms fire to the foxhole but found that all of the men had expired. He turned immediately and crawled back through the deadly hail of fire toward other calls for aid. He moved to the platoon sergeant's position where he found the radio operator bleeding profusely from fragmentation and bullet wounds. Ignoring the continuing enemy attack, Pfc. Monroe began treating the wounded man when he saw a live grenade fall directly in front of the position. He shouted a warning to all those nearby, pushed the wounded radio operator and the platoon sergeant to one side, and lunged forward to smother the grenade's blast with his body. Through his valorous actions, performed in a flash of inspired selflessness, Pfc. Monroe saved the lives of 2 of his comrades and prevented the probable injury of several others. His gallantry and intrepidity were in the highest traditions of the U.S. Army, and reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of his country.

Messages From Home



Patrick C. Cornett,

***We miss you very much!
Come back safely!***

Love Lyberti and Cassie