



# Lightning Weekly

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MAY 18, 2009

## Removing Barriers to Progress



An Iraqi traffic policeman watches as cars go through a green light at a busy intersection in downtown Kirkuk city, Iraq, May 9. The street lights have been operational for less than a month, but already the lights have helped make the job of controlling traffic easier.

**STORY and PHOTO BY**  
**Pfc. Justin Naylor**  
**2nd HBCT, 1st CAV Public Affairs**

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, KIRKUK, Iraq** – Imagine a city about the size of San Francisco, with large barriers blocking off busy roads and market areas, and no working stop lights.

In Kirkuk city, Iraq, that was the case until recently, when security gains have allowed for city-wide projects to begin removing barriers from around police stations and market areas, as well as repairs to traffic lights.

The barriers, which had been in place for several years, were used throughout the city to help reduce possible vehicle-borne improvised-explosive device threats, and make the job of the Iraqi police easier by controlling the traffic flow in certain areas, said Capt. Brad Hardy, an Akron, Ohio, native and the commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 3rd Battalion,

82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

By removing these barriers, we are helping return the city to normal and allowing the residents here to move more freely, which builds confidence in them about the police in the city doing their job of keeping Kirkuk's residents safe, explained Sgt. Ammed Mustafa Ismael, a member of the Emergency Response Unit in Kirkuk.

"The security situation has just improved so much lately that we can remove these large barriers and feel confident about it," said Ismael.

For Kirkuk's residents who make a living by selling goods in markets, the barriers have created obstacles for potential consumers, limiting the number of customers.

"It's a great idea," explained the owner of a small shop about the barrier removal. "It makes a big difference in business and it is a lot easier for people to come and go."

It is time for the city to return to normal,

and the barriers were just creating too much congestion in busy areas, said the shop owner.

"The people were ready to see the barriers go," said Lt. Col. Terry Cook, the commander of 3rd Bn., 82nd FA Regt.

Traffic lights have been turned on again in a few busy intersections of the city.

"The traffic lights are doing their job," explained a Kirkuk city resident. "It has been a lot safer driving around."

"Everyone stops for it," said 1st Lt. Akmad Hussein, an inspector for the Kirkuk city traffic police. "The people of the city are learning to respect the lights, and we have been giving out tickets to those who do not."

"The lights definitely make our job a lot easier," he said.

Workers will continue to remove barriers from around the city as district council members approve more locations, and new traffic lights are established throughout Kirkuk, said Cook.

# This Week In TROPIC LIGHTNING History

## TROPIC LIGHTNING NEWS

**MAY 19, 1969 – CHU CHI, VIETNAM** – The dark morning quiet was shattered by the eerie sound of incoming mortars. The Warriors of the 2d Battalion, 12th Infantry, were in a night laager ten miles north of Cu Chi in the Ho Bo Woods. The Fire Brigade troops were about to face a determined assault of NVA.

"First came the mortars, 75 or more, followed by an RPG barrage, then the ground assault," said First Lieutenant George Curtis of Brasher Falls, N.Y. "Groups of attackers were spotted on three sides crowding toward our concertina wire. They were moving up under the cover of darkness and the mortar barrage."

"About 30 enemy were right in front of me," said Private First Class Larry Goodson of Rose Lake, Idaho. "They were getting on

line - so close I could throw grenades. When I ran out of grenades, I got on the machine gun and finished the job."

"Several enemy were found along the berm line," said Sergeant Clinton Cooper of Mulligon, Mich. "This shows how close the fighting was. Many were killed with hand grenades."

"They were going all out to overrun us," stated Specialist 4 Jim Conner of Rochester, N.Y. "We drove them back and forced them to retreat completely. We just had too much firepower."

The Tropic Lightning troops were not alone in the defense. Artillery, Cobra gunships, and Spooky blasted the enemy with massive firepower. Spooky turned the night into day with flares.

The unknown sized enemy force lost 100 men in the two-hour fight, as well as

numerous weapons and ammunition.

"Some of the dead were wearing back packs for carrying RPG rounds," said Goodson. "Each pack could hold six to eight rounds."

The dead had ropes around their necks, noted one Warrior officer. The battalion Kit Carson Scouts told him that the ropes are used to drag the dead away from the battlefield.

One hundred of the ropes were never used.

Also found in the area were 31 AK-47, 12 RPG launchers and the usual battle flotsam of web gear and documents.

One prisoner and one of the dead were each found to have a copy of last month's Playboy in their possession.

The centerfolds, however, were reported missing.



**CAPTURED** - Colonel Louis J. Schelter Jr. of Columbus, Ga., second from left, Tropic Lightning 3d Brigade commander, checks over a recent enemy arms and ammo cache captured six miles southeast of Dau Tieng. Checking over the arms with him is Major Tran Kim Dinh, Khiem Hanh District Chief. The huge haul was found by RF-PF soldiers and mechanized infantrymen from Charlie company of the Triple Deuce, whose commander, Lieutenant Colonel Ralph Cline of Rockville, Md., looks on.

## TROPIC LIGHTNING NEWS

**MAY 19, 1969 – DAU TIENG, VIETNAM** – Tropic Lightning mechanized infantrymen from the 3d Brigade combined with Regional and Popular Forces units from Khiem Hanh District recently and found a hidden treasure, 45 miles northwest of Saigon.

The booty - a gold mine of enemy weapons and munitions.

A combined force of mech infantry from Charlie Company, 2d Battalion, 22d Infantry "Triple Deuce" and Vietnamese soldiers from the 872d Regional Force (RF) Company and two Popular Force (PF) platoons were conducting a sweep along a stream bed six miles southeast of Dau Tieng when they discovered the X that marked the spot.

The Regional Force unit, commanded by Second Lieutenant Nguyen Ngoc Thang and accompanied by Intergroup Commander,

Captain Tran Van Phien, uncovered two bunkers concealing more than 200 mortar and RPG rounds.

As cache discoveries increasingly mounted, Captain Alan Mayberry of Bartlesville, Okla., senior American advisor of Advisory Team 90, called in the Triple Deuce company to help in recovering the captured munitions.

Charlie Company, led by Executive Officer First Lieutenant James P. Devereaux of Chicago, began sweeping toward the RF-PF positions.

"I had my men dismount after we received the call to help remove the cache," recalled Devereaux. "As we swept toward the cache site, we also began finding small caches in tunnels and bunkers, seven in all," he said.

The Vietnamese and American troops continued scouring the area until darkness

made further efforts impossible.

When later counted, the cache discoveries totaled one 60mm mortar tube, one 57mm recoilless rifle, one RPD light machine gun, nine SKS rifles, 120 recoilless rifle rounds, 274 mortar rounds, 207 RPG rounds, 116 hand grenades, 219 RPG boosters, two Claymores, two Bangalore torpedoes, 304 mortar fuses, primers and charges, 2,000 rounds of ammunition and 89 pounds of TNT.

"This is by far the largest cache we have uncovered since I have commanded the battalion," said Lieutenant Colonel Ralph Cline of Rockville, Md., "Triple Deuce" commander. "A coordinated effort like this one really illustrates how effective combined operations can be. The regional forces did an outstanding job," he added.

**COMMANDING GENERAL:** Maj. Gen. Robert L. Caslen, Jr.

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER:** Lt. Col. David P. Doherty

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# THE BATTLE OF GAUGAMELA



Alex Laskaris, the Provincial Reconstruction Team leader for the Ninewa Pvince of Iraq, read to a command group words that were written on a tablet as a memorial to the noble warriors who fought in the Battle of Gaugamela in 331 B.C., "...You relinquished beloved youth for the rough cloud of war."

**STORY and PHOTO BY**  
**Spc. Daniel Nelson**  
**145th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

**MOSUL, Iraq** – The epic battle of Gaugamela took place more than two-millennium ago where Alexander the Great's forces faced and defeated an army of Persian soldiers more than five times greater than their own. This superior leadership and military genius of Alexander the Great enabled him to control the battlefield and overcome the menace of the Persian onslaught in 331 B.C.

Brig. Gen. Robert Brown, deputy commanding general (support), Multi-National Division-North, and Soldiers from Command Post-North, Task Force Lightning, hosted a command group briefing, May 9, to discuss the battle tactics used by Alexander the Great during this ancient battle at Gaugamela, an area located just north of Mosul, Iraq.

The group included Maj. Gen. Robert Caslen Jr., commanding general, MND-North, and brigade commanders and command sergeants major from throughout all of MND-North.

The command group arrived and received a detailed briefing on battlefield operations, maneuvering, and other specifics of the battle. The overview was presented by Capt. Wendy Wright, commander, 54th Military Historian Detachment, who provided details of the life of Alexander to include: his rearing, his father (King Phillip II), his father's assassination, and how he ascended to the throne as king at the age of 20. Wright further detailed Alexander's campaign into

Persia and generalship during his campaign.

Even though the battle at Gaugamela took place in 331 B.C., lessons can be learned from the victory Alexander the Great had achieved by overcoming incredible odds and defeating the Persian army led by King Darius III.

"His tutelage at his father's side, and his valor at the battle of Chaeronea earned him the immediate loyalty of his father's army," stated Wright. "Alexander wanted to fulfill his father's final battle plans; an invasion into Persia. In the spring of 334 B.C., Alexander set forth to the Persian western sea port."

Maj. William Epolito, deputy force protection officer, 25th Infantry Division, concluded the briefing to the command staff by asking the question, "Why is the battle of Gaugamela important to us today?" His aim for this question was to provide relevance in what can be learned from a battle that took place so long ago; how Alexander led his army to defeat a powerful adversary on a battlefield that was hand-picked and made to give advantage to the Persians.

"This, even though it was so long ago, gives us basic infantry and cavalry tactics," added Epolito. "We still can learn from this."

Making the closing remarks to the group for the night was Caslen. He highlighted how important the event is, being able to go to a battlefield, which is studied by historians around the world.

"We have a tremendous opportunity to be on a battlefield that's one of the most significant battles in the history of warfare," said Caslen. "There are a lot of lessons to be learned from it: from tactics to strategic."

Caslen added that U.S. Soldiers have an

opportunity to share, develop and train an Iraqi army in the same sort of camaraderie, which Alexander had built with his army.

"More importantly, is that we have a venue to bring two foreign factions that have fought each other in war before together," added Caslen. "This is an opportunity for engagement, for transparency and more than anything, for the future of this country. It's an opportunity for these two warring factions to build trust."

The next morning the group loaded into UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and was flown to Gaugamela to meet with top-ranking officials from the Iraqi army and Peshmerga, armed Kurdish fighters. They were also greeted by Dildar Jamil, a retired Iraqi general, who spoke about the battle that Alexander endured there centuries ago.

The group, now more than 80 U.S. and Iraqi senior leaders, actively engaged in the discussion with Jamil about the battle and what they can take away from the tactics and strategies used by Alexander the Great to overcome such great odds.

Before leaving the battle site, Caslen and Alex Laskaris, the provincial reconstruction team leader for the Ninewa Province of Iraq, presented a marker to serve as a monument for the battle, which was waged there. The words – etched into the marker in English, Arabic and Kurdish – don't depict a winning side to battle, but to honor the noble warriors who fought.

As the words on the tablet were read to the group in each of the languages, Laskaris ended the ceremony by reading the English, "...You relinquished beloved youth for the rough cloud of war."

# NEWS FROM THE HOME FRONT

## HAWAII

**HONOLULU** – Animals can be shielded by temporary restraining orders and will receive greater protection from pet hoarders after state lawmakers passed two pieces of legislation aimed at expanding and clarifying animal cruelty laws.

A bill written by House Judiciary committee chairman Rep. Jon Riki Karamatsu, D-41st (Waipahu, Village Park, Waialeale), allows the family court, in cases of domestic violence, to include animals under the protection of temporary restraining orders.

"We have had numerous cases where an abuser uses the domestic violence victim's pets to control the victim," said City Prosecutor Peter Carlisle, in testimony submitted to the Senate Judiciary and Government Operations Committee.

"These abusers have, in many instances, threatened to harm or actually injured or killed the victim's pets in order to frighten the victim into remaining in the relationship."

Five separate studies conducted by domestic violence researchers found that between 49 percent and 71 percent of battered women reported that their pets had been threatened, harmed, or killed by their partners.

Further, a national survey of battered women's shelters found that 85 percent of those surveyed said that women seeking shelter at safe houses reported incidents of pet abuse, according to the The Humane Society of the United States.

Further evidence suggests that domestic violence victims often will not leave dysfunctional relationship out of fear for their animals' safety.

"Because of the often close ties between women, children and their pets, domestic violence victims delay leaving because they fear for their pets' safety," said Inga Gibson, Hawai'i state director of the Humane Society of the United States. "Experts in domestic violence have been writing about the link between pet abuse and domestic violence for over 20 years. Domestic violence professionals have firmly established a significant link between domestic violence and animal abuse."

The bill will authorize the courts to include pets under the protection of temporary restraining orders as a means of keeping the animal safe and reassuring the victim.

"Batterers will use a variety of tactics to maintain this control ... one tactic is to abuse or kill the family pet to demonstrate and confirm power over the family," said Ana Maring of the Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence. "Due to the threat of violence against their pets, many victims will not leave the abusive situation."

At least 11 states have enacted similar legislation including Maine, California

Connecticut, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Nevada, New York, Tennessee, Vermont and Washington.

If signed by Gov. Linda Lingle, the bill will go into effect Jan. 1, 2010.

## ALASKA

**FAIRBANKS** – More than 30 miles of Chena Hot Springs Road will be re-paved this summer, a \$9.5 million job that will take about 3 1/2 months.

New asphalt will be put down between Miles 24 and 56 of the 56-mile road east of Fairbanks that ends at Chena Hot Springs Resort.

Work is scheduled to begin June 1 and continue through Sept. 15, according to information officer Meadow Bailey with the Department of Transportation in Fairbanks. Crews will begin at 24 Mile and work their way east, she said. H.C. Contractors of Fairbanks is doing the job.

The stretch of road was originally paved in 1978 and has not been refurbished since, according to Bailey.

"The life of the pavement is done," Bailey said. "We usually say the life of pavement is 20 years old, and the pavement out there is almost 30 years old."

Repaving now will save the state money down the road, so to speak, she said.

"Once you start to develop cracks in the pavement and the sub-surface begins to erode, it costs more to go in and fix it than it does to re-pave it," Bailey said.

Most of the 32-mile stretch will have new asphalt laid down over old asphalt, she said. About five miles of road will be ripped up and have new asphalt put down. New guardrails and bridge rails also will be installed, Bailey said.

Traffic will be reduced to one lane with pilot cars leading motorists through construction areas, Bailey said.

The re-paving project will impact users of the Chena River State Recreation Area, which runs from 27 Mile to 50 Mile, said Matt McClurg, head ranger for Alaska State Parks northern region.

The 250,000-acre recreation area, commonly referred to as Fairbanks' summer playground, is a popular destination for campers, floaters, fishermen and hikers.

Access routes to the Chena River, campgrounds and trailheads in the recreation area will remain open throughout the project, McClurg said.

"Hopefully it will be pretty smooth," the ranger said. "Hopefully once people get off onto the trails it won't be much of an impact."

Still, anyone venturing into the recreation area should expect traffic delays and plan accordingly, McClurg said.

"People are going to want to plan a little more time to get out there and get back," he said. "It's going to be a little slower traveling

for people going to the hot springs or any area in the park."

With work extending into the September moose hunting season, McClurg said hunters who set up camp along the road in the recreation area will be affected.

"It's going to have an impact on moose hunting for sure," he said.

Chena Hot Springs Resort owner Bernie Karl, whose complex sits at the end of Chena Hot Springs Road, is happy the state is repaving the road, even if it does reduce traffic to his resort this summer. The road "is totally falling apart," Karl said.

"It was blacktopped in 1978, and it's never had anything done to it since," he said. "You ought to see the holes in this road."

Karl said he has the utmost faith in H.C. Contractors, the company doing the job.

"I'm not anticipating any problems at all," he said.

## TEXAS

**KILLEEN** – Killeen police are looking for clues following a hit-and-run accident on Veterans Memorial Boulevard that killed a Killeen man Saturday night.

The accident, involving a car and a motorcycle, occurred about 8 p.m. in the 2700 block of East VMB, a Killeen Police Department news release stated.

Orlando Rivera-Paz, 48, who was riding on the motorcycle, was pronounced dead at 8:59 p.m. Saturday by Justice of the Peace Don Engleking.

According to the preliminary investigation by KPD, Rivera-Paz was eastbound on a 2002 Honda motorcycle when the driver of a maroon colored vehicle, possibly a Dodge Intrepid, traveling westbound, turned south in front of the motorcycle, the release stated.

Rivera-Paz laid the motorcycle on its side before striking the vehicle's passenger side, the release stated. He then slid under the vehicle as it sped off south on Hillside Drive, running over Rivera-Paz. The driver failed to stop and render aid, the release stated.

Rivera-Paz was airlifted to Scott & White Hospital in Temple, where he was pronounced dead.

Engleking ordered an autopsy to be performed at the Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences in Dallas.

Killeen police are looking for anyone who may have information about the accident.



# LIGHTNING HERO OF THE WEEK

**SPC Bobby Guzman**  
**Charlie CO, 1-8 CAV, 2<sup>nd</sup> HBCT, 1<sup>st</sup> CAV**  
**Huntington, CA**

On 28 April, while pulling security during a Key Leader Engagement inside the Yaychi Sub-District Council Building a Soldier from 1<sup>st</sup> PLT collapsed. The Soldier was unconscious when SPC Guzman discovered him. As notification was being made to key leaders, SPC Guzman evacuated the Soldier from the building, delivering him to medical personnel outside. By the time the key leaders exited the building the Soldier was already on a stretcher and being attended to by the medics. While en route to FOB Warrior during medical evacuation, SPC Guzman administered an IV in the back of a moving MRAP, which is no easy feat. When the Soldier arrived at the medical facility he was conscious and his vitals were stable, all as a result of SPC Guzman's actions.



## IRAQI FACTS

*The Iraq Petroleum Company (IPC) was an oil company that was jointly-owned by many of the world's largest oil companies. It controlled nearly all oil exploration in Iraq from 1925 to 1961. It was established in 1912 as the Turkish Petroleum Company by the Armenian Calouste Gulbenkian as a way to get concessions from the Ottoman Empire to explore Iraqi oil fields. The biggest shareholders at that time were the British-owned Anglo-Persian Oil Company and Royal-Dutch/Shell. Because of the outbreak of World War I, and the ensuing collapse and reorganization of the territories of the former Empire, drilling did not begin until 1925 and oil was not discovered until 1927. The first discovery was in Baba Gurgur, near Kirkuk. Over the 1940s and 1950s the IPC gained concessions to explore oil fields in the surrounding Persian Gulf states. In 1961, the revolutionary government under General Abdul Kareem Qassim nationalized 99.5 percent of Iraqi oil concessions, before finally nationalizing the remaining .5 percent in 1972 to the Iraqi National Oil Company (INOC). The ensuing legal battles between the IPC and INOC resulted in major sources of revenue for the Ba'athist government.*

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## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



*There is neither Jew nor  
 Greek, slave nor free,  
 male nor female, for you  
 are all one in  
 Christ Jesus.*

**Galatians 3:28**





### Rebel Commander Defiant Over Sudan War Crimes Hearing

A Sudanese rebel commander – accused in the 2007 deaths of a dozen peacekeepers in Darfur -- is voluntarily facing an International Criminal Court hearing at the Hague Monday to show an unwavering commitment to justice, his spokesman said.

"We know how innocent he is. After the court, he will be freed. He will return to Darfur to continue his struggle," said Tadjadine Bechirnam, communications director for Bahr Idriss Abu Garda.

Garda is charged with three war crimes allegedly committed in September 2007, when rebel-led soldiers stormed an African Union peacekeeping base in Haskanita, in northern Darfur. Twelve peacekeepers were killed and eight were wounded, in the deadliest single attack on African Union peacekeepers since they began their mission in late 2004.

Bechirnam said he could not speak about Garda's defense before the pre-trial hearing.

Garda – who faces charges of murder, directing attacks on peacekeepers and pillaging – was summoned to appear at the hearing, at the Hague on May 18.

"There should be no immunity for anyone. We show our commitment to justice, to support justice for people in Darfur and Sudan," Bechirnam said in explaining why Garda is voluntarily appearing before the court. Garda believes in the court's independence, his spokesman said.

Three other suspects, including Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, were also summoned, but remain at large.

"The voluntary appearance of Abu Garda might serve to encourage other suspects currently at large to come before the court to be heard with all guarantees of a fair trial," said Silvana Arbia, registrar of the international court.

The attack on the African Union peacekeepers came months before the 7,000-strong force was replaced by a joint A.U. / U.N. peacekeeping force of 26,000 troops.

The conflict in Darfur began in 2003 after rebels in the western region of Sudan began attacking government positions. Sudan's government responded with a fierce military campaign that has led to some 200,000 deaths and forced 2 million people to flee their homes, according to the United Nations.

## SPORTING NEWS

### Phelps' Return Brings Mixed Results

**CHARLOTTE** – Michael Phelps had "no idea" what to expect entering his first races since winning a historic eight gold medals at the Beijing Olympics.

Now, after two second-place finishes and two impressive wins at the Charlotte UltraSwim, he has some idea of the challenges facing him if he is to add to his legacy at the 2012 London Olympics.

His first meet back had "some things that really excited me and really made me happy but also some things that really kind of made me upset," Phelps said after losing in Sunday's 100-meter freestyle to the world record holder in the 50 freestyle, France's Fred Bousquet.

The Beijing Games were a test of Phelps' endurance and versatility. London could be simply a test of speed. Phelps wants to compete in sprint events in 2012, nothing longer than 200 meters.

While he is the world's best swimmer, his results in Charlotte show he has work to do to become the world's flat-out fastest.

His victories came in the two events that were also on his Beijing program, the 100 butterfly and the 200 freestyle. His times showed he has progressed a lot since returning to full-time training eight weeks ago.

But Bousquet finished almost a second ahead of Phelps on Sunday, in 48.22 seconds to Phelps' 49.04.

"My turn and my finish were awful," Phelps said.

In the 100 backstroke Saturday, Phelps finished behind the two-time reigning Olympic champion in the event, Aaron Peirsol.

Phelps recently came off a three-month suspension after a photo surfaced of him with a marijuana bong.

He heads next to the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs to train at altitude.

### Gruden to Replace Kornheiser on MNF

Former Tampa Bay coach Jon Gruden will replace Tony Kornheiser on *Monday Night Football*.

Gruden, who won Super Bowl XXXVII with the Bucs, joins Mike Tirico (play-by-play) and fellow analyst Ron Jaworski.

Kornheiser had done the games for three seasons before deciding to step down.

"This is a tremendous opportunity and I am very excited to be associated with ESPN and *Monday Night Football*," Gruden said in

a statement. "I grew up a fan of Monday Night Football, and whether I've coached on Monday night or watched, I've hardly missed a game all these years."

*MNF* begins its 40th season on Sept. 14 with a doubleheader: New England vs. Buffalo and San Diego vs. Oakland.

"I am totally grateful for the *MNF* opportunity that I truly enjoyed the last three seasons," Kornheiser said. "I feel we got better each year. My fear of planes is legendary and sadly true. When I looked at the upcoming schedule it was the perfect storm that would've frequently moved me from the bus to the air. I kept looking at the schedule the past month and wanted to find a way to quietly extricate myself.

"If I could handpick a replacement of a football guy, I would cast a net and drag in Jon Gruden. He is the two things you most want – smart and funny – and has the two things I don't – good hair and a tan. I love *PTI* and am looking forward to continuing to yammer and yodel with Wilbon until the end of time."

### Contender Dies Five Days After Fighting for Regional Belt

**DALLAS** – Boxer Benjamin Flores has died five days after he was hospitalized following a title bout with Al Seeger in a Dallas hotel.

Bout supervisor Bob Lenhardt says Flores, 25, died Tuesday at Parkland Hospital.

Referee Laurence Cole awarded the victory to Seeger in the eighth round of a fight for a regional belt Thursday night at the Hilton Anatole hotel.

Lenhardt said the Houston fighter was helped to his stool before lying down. Lenhardt said doctors rushed to his side and Flores appeared unconscious when removed on a stretcher.

The fight was for the North American Boxing Federation's vacant super bantamweight belt. Flores was 19-3 and weighed 122 pounds. Seeger is from Savannah, Ga.



# *TASK FORCE LIGHTNING – THROUGH THE LENS*



Sgt. 1st Class Betty Ortega, a Miami native and the women's initiative representative for 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, presents Kocher Muhammed Ali, a Kirkuk city resident, with a micro-grant, May 2, to help her start a juice making business.



Brig. Gen. Brown, deputy commanding general – north, Task Force Lightning, pins the Combat Action Badge on Sgt. Brian Allen, 145th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, on the CP-North Shore Lanai, FOB Marez, Mosul, Iraq, 13 May. Sgt. Allen received the CAB for being engaged by the enemy on 8 April in Mosul.



Staff Sgt. Kyle Cox, 25th Special Troops Battalion, 25th Infantry Division, CP-North, pulls security on the street outside of Provincial Hall during a Key Leader Engagement in downtown Mosul, 16 May.



The officers of CP-North, Task Force Lightning, serve dinner to the Soldiers of CP-North, 15 May. The officers, to include Brig. Gen. Brown, hosted a dinner on the CP-North Shore Lanai for all of the NCOs and Soldiers of CP-North to recognize their contributions and efforts during the recent Battle of Gaugumela staff ride and say "Thank You" for all that they do on a daily basis.



# HEROES OF THE 25<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION



- SFC Donald R. Moyer
- Company E, 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division
- Born: 15 April 1930, Oakland, MI
- Died: 20 May 1951, Seoul, Korea
- Entered Service: Keego Harbor, Oakland, MI, 1949
- Place of Action: Near Seoul, Korea
- Date of Action: 20 May 1951



Donald R. Moyer

## Medal of Honor Citation:

*Sfc. Moyer assistant platoon leader, Company E, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty in action against an armed enemy of the United Nations. Sfc. Moyer's platoon was committed to attack and secure commanding terrain stubbornly defended by a numerically superior hostile force emplaced in well-fortified positions. Advancing up the rocky hill, the leading elements came under intense automatic weapons, small-arms, and grenade fire, wounding the platoon leader and platoon sergeant. Sfc. Moyer, realizing the success of the mission was imperiled, rushed to the head of the faltering column, assumed command and urged the men forward. Inspired by Sfc. Moyer's unflinching courage, the troops responded magnificently, but as they reached the final approaches to the rugged crest of the hill, enemy fire increased in volume and intensity and the fanatical foe showered the platoon with grenades. Undaunted, the valiant group forged ahead, and as they neared the top of the hill, the enemy hurled a grenade into their midst. Sfc. Moyer, fully aware of the odds against him, unhesitatingly threw himself on the grenade, absorbing the full blast of the explosion with his body. Although mortally wounded in this fearless display of valor, Sfc. Moyer's intrepid act saved several of his comrades from death or serious injury, and his inspirational leadership and consummate devotion to duty contributed significantly to the subsequent seizure of the enemy stronghold and reflect lasting glory on himself and the noble traditions of the military service.*



# HEROES OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> CAVALRY DIVISION



- Spec. 4 John P. Baca
- Company D, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division
- Born: 10 January 1949, Providence, Rhode Island
- Entered Service: Fort Ord, CA, 1969
- Place of Action: Phuoc Long Province, Republic of Vietnam,
- Date of Action: 10 February 1970



John P. Baca

## Medal of Honor Citation:

*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Sp4c. Baca, Company D, distinguished himself while serving on a recoilless rifle team during a night ambush mission a platoon from his company was sent to investigate the detonation of an automatic ambush device forward of his unit's main position and soon came under intense enemy fire from concealed positions along the trail. Hearing the heavy firing from the platoon position and realizing that his recoilless rifle team could assist the members of the besieged patrol, Sp4c. Baca led his team through the hail of enemy fire to a firing position within the patrol's defensive perimeter. As they prepared to engage the enemy, a fragmentation grenade was thrown into the midst of the patrol. Fully aware of the danger to his comrades, Sp4c. Baca unhesitatingly, and with complete disregard for his own safety, covered the grenade with his steel helmet and fell on it as the grenade exploded, thereby absorbing the lethal fragments and concussion with his body. His gallant action and total disregard for his personal well-being directly saved 8 men from certain serious injury or death. The extraordinary courage and selflessness displayed by Sp4c. Baca, at the risk of his life, are in the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the U.S. Army.*