



THE JUNGLEER

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41 INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

MARCH 12, 2010

The look of going home



Photo by Spc. Anita VanderMolen

Task Force Volunteer Soldiers prepare their black boxes for inventory documentation on March 12, 2010 at Camp Adder, Iraq. The loading of the boxes into CONEXs is a milestone in the re-deployment process. The boxes are loaded with non-essential and personal items.

Soldier's Info

YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/theJungleerTube

Blog: www.jungleer.blogspot.com

Twitter: www.twitter.com/41stIBCT

Army Family Readiness Group: www.armyfrg.org

41st Facebook Group: www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=89211769848

Many more useful websites are listed in the newsletter

Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/mq8rh9>

Weather: www.weatherforyou.com

DVIDS: www.dvidshub.net/units/41IBCT



A past, present and future to be proud of



Greetings
Jungleers!

As we enter the final phase of our deployment, I would like to pass on a few key notes.

First, I ask everyone to maintain the same level of professionalism you have shown over

the past twelve months. It was not that long ago that we began pre-mob training at Camp Roberts, followed by post-mob training at Fort Stewart, and then deployed to Iraq. In that time we met every challenge, completed every requirement, and exceeded every expectation.

You have set the bar high, and now, more than ever, we need to stay focused on doing our best as we await the outcome of the Iraqi elections and train our replacements.

Second, I would ask you make our successors, the 256th IBCT, as successful as you have been. In the past nine months you have driven over 8 million miles and escorted over 6000 convoys. At the same time, you turned in over 6000 pieces of excess equipment, to include over 600 vehicles. You also upgraded our entire MRAP fleet with the latest 'plus' armor vehicles while maintaining our old fleet, fixing the new fleet, and turning in the replaced vehicles.

At the individual level, you also faced nu-

merous improved explosive devices, small arms and indirect fire attacks. Through all of this you set new standards in mission success and left a lasting impression with those you have served with.

Third, I would ask each of you to consider your future in the National Guard. You are the next generation of leaders. There are civilians today who are considering serving in the Guard, and there are Soldiers at Basic Training and AIT that will soon be entering our formations. When they see your combat patch, they will look to you to fill in the space between what they learned in school, and what you learned in Iraq. You will make a difference in their lives and will personally contribute to the future readiness of the Army National Guard. It is a responsibility to be proud of, and one not to be taken lightly.

Finally, I would ask you remember our fallen Soldiers and those who were wounded or injured during this deployment. Please keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

On a personal note, I cannot say enough about what an honor it has been to serve alongside you as your brigade commander. One could only be so fortunate, as I, to walk among heroes every day.

Jungleers!
Dan Hokanson





Missions change, Soldiers always

Warriors of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, you have done an outstanding job conducting each of your missions throughout Iraq. We have entered a new chapter into our prestigious lineage. You have transformed into diverse Soldiers with the ability to adapt and overcome, with ease taking the Brigade to a new level. As our mission comes to an end, take a moment to reflect on everything you have accomplished. Our statistics and results are amazing: the miles driven, the commodities hauled, areas secured, distinguished guests housed and transported, vehicle upgrades, and so much more. It is our great diversity that brought this high standard.

As citizen Soldiers we are asked to put our lives on hold, gear up and complete the mission without question. You have done this with professionalism and profound results, superseding all expectations.

As we approach our final days I would ask you to stay mission focused. We are entering an unstable time with the elections and our relief in place. Your diligence and unwavering desire to do it right the first time will equal success. This will take tact, patience and professionalism. Your ability to continue the fight while you teach, coach, and mentor the 256th IBCT is essential to the success of the mission.



ones, left behind at home, who kept our lives to-

gether, need to be recognized also.

Please take a moment to remember our fallen and wounded-in-action heroes and their families. We stand up and engage all enemies, both foreign and domestic.

Our fight on terrorism has no boundaries. You and your families have made sacrifices, some have sacrificed all.

You have accomplished more than 99% of your fellow Americans most of which they only have the pleasure to read about. Your experiences are the future of our organization. Adversity builds character and enables us to evolve and grow as Soldiers and leaders. Take this experience, continue with the successes and be part of the improvements to what we and make it better. It will take your time and dedication to build the leaders of the next generation.

I am extremely fortunate to have the honor and privilege to serve as your Brigade Command Sergeant Major. When others tell me what a great unit the 41st is, I let them know it is because of the fine Warriors that serve in the Brigade. Thanks for your time and outstanding achievements.

Jungleer 9,
Command Sgt. Maj. Shane Lake





Bridge re-establishes convoy route

Story by 2nd. Lt. Elizabeth Swamby, TF Atlas

The Rutbah Bridge, a key link between Iraq and Jordan, was originally scheduled to be open May 2010. With the exceptional efforts and dedication of Bravo Company 141, the Rutbah Bridge on Mobile, main service route, was opened and fully operational seven months ahead of schedule.

The bridge, essential to completing TF Atlas's mission, was damaged during a previous terrorist attack. The damage rendered the bridge unusable thus requiring convoys to take a more dangerous route. The damaged bridge caused significant delays in traffic, including the flow of oil tankers and humanitarian relief efforts.

The bridge reparation, a two year process, was accomplished with persis-



tence and dedication to re-establish a safer route for the Soldiers from Bravo Company. The bridge was placed in priority status to have the inspectors allow the bridge to be opened for regular use by all.

TF Atlas's Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Brian James and Several Bravo Company Soldiers escorted and assisted the Army Corps of Engineers conduct several practice runs over the bridge to assess the stability of the structure.

The efforts provided by Bravo Company also included providing feedback and data to the 41st Brigade through pictures, detailed analytical reports and meetings with local Iraqi officials.



New vows on ancient steps

Story by Sgt. Michael Fox, TF Volunteer

My first re-enlistment was held at the Ziggurat of Ur, Tallil, Iraq on January 30, 2010. It was also a re-enlistment for seven other Soldiers of 2/162 IN of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Oregon Army National Guard. First Sgt. George Gordon of Portland, 1st Sgt. Allen Holland, of Portland, 1st Sgt. Geoff Miotke, of Cottage Grove, Staff Sgt. Jason Becker of Corvallis, Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Comer of Portland, Sgt. Joey Shellhart, of Corvallis, and Spc. Steven Stark of Corvallis, and I stood on the steps of the ancient ruins, more than 4000 years old, and

promised to serve Oregon and the United States in the future.

It will be nice to be able to tell all my family and friends where I extended my contract with the Army.

This will always be something I remember. It was a great opportunity.

After the ceremony I was asked, "Why such a big smile on your face? Is it because of the bonus?" I said nothing. Deep down I knew it was because I was given this opportunity to be able to re-enlist in the Army on something so old and historical. I couldn't help but smile.





Answers from senators

Story by Editor, TF Jungleer

The questions below are from Soldiers to Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley during their visit to Iraq in November, 2009. The senators have provided answers to the questions after research.

Question on Unemployment: Soldiers are going back to very high unemployment rates. Can we use the GI Bill and unemployment insurance benefits at the same time?

Answer: In 2008, the GI Bill was updated to provide enhanced educational benefits to veterans with active duty service after September 11, 2001. These benefits cover more educational expenses, provide a living allowance, money for books and the ability to transfer unused educational benefits to spouses or children. As a veteran, you have earned the GI bill, and these benefits do not affect your qualifications to be on unemployment insurance.

For more information about what is included in the post- 9/11 GI bill, I would refer you to a letter to veterans released by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The link is:

http://www.gibill.va.gov/documents/CH33_veteran_outreach_letter.pdf

Question on "Soft Landing": I'd like to know more about the "Soft Landing" proposal, as well as being able to qualify for full benefits for National Guard service.

Answer: Senator Wyden's National Guard and Reserve Soft Landing Reintegration Act allows any member of the Reserve Component who is returning from a deployment in a contingency operation or homeland defense mission who was deployed for 180 days or longer, to remain on "Title 10" active duty for a period of up to 90 days after being released from their demobilization station.

In general, the service member may receive full base pay, Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH), and Basic Allowance for Substance (BAS) for the first 30 days. These amounts would then be reduced over the following months.

The Services would be required to provide reintegration services including:

- o Physical and mental health care evaluations
- o Employment Workshops
- o Marriage/family workshops
- o Financial management workshops
- o Education/workforce workshops
- o DoD and VA benefits workshops

Family members should be included in reintegration workshops and activities to the maximum practical extent to enhance understanding and follow up.

(Editor's note: as of publication date, the bill has not been passed and will not be before our re-deployment. If the bill passes at a later date, the benefits will not be retroactive.)

Question on Post 9/11 Bill: The Post 9/11 Bill gave credit to National Guard soldiers serving in combat zones. Why did duty guarding our borders not count?

Answer: Unfortunately, you must have served 90 days in a combat zone under Title 10 to receive the post 9/11 GI Bill. Service under Title 32 (calls to duty by the Governor) do not currently qualify. Legislation has been introduced to include service under Title 32, but it has not yet been adopted.

Question on Homebuyer Tax Credit: Can we get help buying a foreclosed home when we return? Will the homebuyer tax credit be extended for soldiers who are overseas now?

Answer: Armed service personnel on active duty and out of the U.S. for 90 days during any part of 2009 get an additional one year to buy their homes. They can utilize the credit until June 30, 2011

In addition there is a waiver on the time of occupancy. Members of the military do not have to repay the credit if they sell their home in less than three years if they move because they've been transferred to another duty location or station.

Answers con't on next pgs.



Coordinated efforts help Baghdad orphans

Story and photos by 1st Sgt. Gavin McIlvenna, TF Stetson

How can we help Iraqi children affected by the violence in Baghdad? From conversation to action, private citizens, church organizations and deployed Soldiers felt the desire to help. Response was directed to the Noha Al-Agha, the Head of Nintu Organization for Humanitarian and Cultural Assistance in Baghdad.

Members of the Klamath Falls, Oregon based C/1-82 CAV and Bend, Oregon based Headquarters, Headquarters Troop 1-82 CAV, assigned to Task Force Stetson, coordinated with Noha to deliver much needed school supplies. The Troop had been collecting boxes sent from various private citizens in the United States and organizations to include St. Paul's Episcopal Church in The Dalles, Oregon and the Joseph Finegan Elementary School in Atlantic Beach, Fla.

HHT/1-82 Cavalry member Cpt. Amy McIlvenna of Hood River, Oregon helped coordinate the efforts through her church members at St. Paul's in The Dalles, Ore., who focused on sending much needed school supplies.



C/1-82 Cavalry member Spec. Patrick Taylor of Fort Worth, Texas coordinated with two young students from the Joseph Finegan Elementary School who ended up sending over five large boxes of toys. Fifth Grader Robert White and his sister Taylor Mae White, who is in 1st Grade, drew up the flyers and went on the school TV to

promote the Toy Drive.

Taking into consideration the current security environment, the Troop decided to deliver the supplies to Noha outside the United States Embassy rather than risk the orphanage turning into a target for insurgents.

"We truly appreciate your hard efforts of helping the Iraqi Children and Orphans" said Noah upon seeing the Cavalry Troopers transferring the supplies.

Warm smiles were the order of the day as the Troopers posed for pictures

with Noah and her co-worker, Shihaab Jameel. Noah will be sending back photos of the children opening the boxes in the next few weeks.

Answers from Senators, con't.

Question on Security at Camp Adder:

Private contractors are ineffective at providing security. Iraqi's are cutting through the fence and getting onto the base. It's falling on E-4's to enforce security during our down time. Taxpayer money is being poorly used on this security contract.

Answer: Protection at Camp Adder is provided by a private security contractor. During our visit to the base, we were informed that the terms of the contract called for manning every other tower around the pe-

rimeter of the facility. After a while, however, people found ways to penetrate the perimeter fence in the gaps between manned towers, so the contractor was told to place security personnel in all of the towers.

This meant that the contractor had to pull employees from other lower-priority duties, such as checking ID's at mess halls, etc. As a result, U.S. soldiers were asked to step in and fill this gap. Col Hokanson requested that members of the 41st BCT be excused from this duty, and that request was approved.



Engineers check out the Talon robot

Story and photo by 1st Lt. Christopher Shull, TF Stetson

The 21B combat engineers organic to Alpha Company, 41st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, assigned to Convoy Security Company Two, Task Force Stetson, were fortunate to stumble into an outstanding training opportunity at Camp Victory. While conducting other operations the unit noticed a small building tucked away on the base where the explosive ordinance disposal and route clearance teams send various robots for repair. The Joint Robotics Repair Facility invited the engineers to spend the day training on the use of the Talon robot, the most common robotics platform used in Iraq.

The Talon comes in multiple configurations for both EOD and engineer use, and was remarkably simple to use. Four separate video cameras provide situational awareness, even at

night, and an articulating arm allows the operator to pick up light objects or interrogate a potential IED from a safe distance.

When the robot was originally fielded users complained of poor battery life, leading a smart Soldier to develop a mount to power the robot off of SINCGARS radio batteries, extending the operational time of the machine significantly.

After only a few hours of practice the Alpha company engineers were able to pick up objects as small as a golf ball after driving the robot out of sight. In fact the instructors at the Joint Robotics Repair Facility forced the engineers to practice using the robot from inside a closed building, using the robot's cameras exclusively to navigate and interrogate random objects.



Answers from Senators, con't.

Question on Food Stamps: I used to get \$500/month in food stamps for my family before deployment. That has now been cut due to my making a small amount of money from my military service. Is that right?

Answer: Unfortunately, yes. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP or Food Stamps) is based on income, money you have saved, and how many people live in your household. If you make more than a certain amount of money, you are no longer eligible for SNAP. The eligibility requirements are listed below:

Eligibility for SNAP (food stamps).

Eligibility for depends primarily on whether a household has cash income and assets below a federal limit.

For most, the income test confines eligibility to households with monthly total cash income at or below 130% of the federal income poverty guidelines. Current rates are as follows:

- Household size of 1 = monthly income below \$1,174
- Household size of 2 = monthly income below \$1,579
- Household size of 3 = monthly income below \$1,984
- Household size of 4 = monthly income below \$2,389
- Household size of 5 = monthly income below \$2,794
- Household size of 6 = monthly income below \$3,200

If your income, including pay for your National Guard service, exceeds these levels, your household will not be eligible for SNAP.

As for assets, households may have up to \$2,000 in countable resources, such as a bank account. Certain resources are not counted, such as a home, or vehicles (if used for income-producing purposes).



IHP and Atlas work together for safety, security

Story by and photo by 1st Lt. Janyce Prine, TF Atlas

Lt. Col. Brian James, TF Atlas Commander, met with Col. Hameed Albujleeb, Chief of the Al Anbar Provincial Iraqi Highway Patrol in Ramadi to continue the cordial working relationship the previous unit, TF Avalanche, Texas, enjoyed with the Al Anbar IHP.

The meetings provided a way for the leaders of IHP to discuss issues of mutual concern and find solutions. One of Lt. Col. James' priorities was making it easier for Iraqi citizens to pass TF Atlas convoys safely.

When TF Atlas arrived in Iraq and began conducting missions, many Iraqi motorists would pull off the road taking unnecessary risks when passing U.S. convoys. According to Col. Hameed, this had led to the deaths of several motorists. Col.

Hameed proposed equipping the TF Atlas convoys with green flags or lights to indicate when it is safe to pass. He stated if convoys started using these, Anbaris would get the message and would pass safely.

Since the time Col. Hameed and LTC James met, TF Atlas has implemented the use of green flags, flares and lights to let the Iraqis know when it is safe to pass, limiting the number of possible casualties to the

Iraqi Nationals on the road. We have included these techniques and updated them, as required in our TF Atlas Convoy Commander's Conference each month.

TF Atlas convoys have stopped into visit IHP stations and visit with Col Hameed's IHP personnel in order to work together with them as a partnership. We have provided extra support and security on the roads in the region together for Iraqi nationals.

In addition, working with his IHPs at the check points has allowed us to have a partnership to improve security. We have a better safety record with the third country national and heavy equipment trailer truck drivers with local Anbaris as they "share the road" together with us and Iraqi Security



Forces.

While the main bridge work was under construction, we improved access to local routes for our convoys to pass through local cities, coordinating with IHP checkpoints. This partnership has continued since all the main bridge work was done and Anbaris still pass our convoys on a routine basis with no major accidents or issues on the road.

Sgt. Becerra paints postcard to remind Soldiers of home

Story by and photo by Spc. Anita VanderMolen, TF Jungleer



Sgt. Moises Becerra of Eugene, Ore., and infantryman with A Co. 2/162, grabbed his paints and brushes to create a work of art January 25, at Scania, Iraq.

"It is a postcard of Oregon, taped in a vehicle. It is to give you hope. When you are traveling down the road you can look at it," he said. "The stamp is for the postcard."

The mural stands out colorfully in the midst of the base where many people can view it.

"People who have never been to Oregon see the mural and say, 'Now, I want to go,'" Becerra said.



The new guy

Story by 1st Lt. Michael Roybal, photos by Spc. Anita VanderMolen, TF Jungleer

As I progressed through the three phases of the Basic Officer Leaders course, there seemed to a lightning rod attached intending to ground the young officers.

The instructors would reinforce the disturbing reality of a nation at war by reminding us that we may find ourselves deployed to a theater, expected to lead experienced veterans in combat, right after graduation. We would have to find a way to balance the learning process with the duties and responsibilities of our assigned position.

As young lieutenants, few had any experience to speak of. Soldiers with enlisted time would have to take the lessons learned as junior enlisted and somehow make them relevant to platoon and company leadership. Those without, would have to find a way to gain acceptance and trust, based solely on their willingness to learn.

Within forty-five days of graduation, I found myself in the very position my instructors had talked about. I was given the opportunity to meet up with a platoon, already deployed, and assist them on missions in the few months leading up to their redeployment. I jumped at the chance to learn my job, where it would truly matter.

Upon arrival at COB Adder I was immediate-



ly inundated with SOPs and TTPs. Great effort was taken to ensure I had the information vital for my success. I found the Soldiers eager to share all the knowledge they had acquired over the last seven months of missions. The platoon sergeant was a competent tactician who truly placed the welfare of his troops before his own. The three squad leaders were as proficient as they were different.

Within a few days I found myself traveling north along route Tampa. The introductions were behind us and it was time to go to work. I experienced none of the resentment or animosity I had been told about. Instead, I was surrounded by true professionals who were simply glad to have some help shouldering their burden.



PortlandNASCAR.com has details about the upcoming NASCAR event on July 16th-18th at the Portland International Raceway. This is a great opportunity for NASCAR fans who are serving our country to enjoy three free days of racing with their spouse and any kids 12 and under. All branches and components qualify.

Camping, RV parking, stockcar ride alongs, and pit passes are available for the July event. Visit PortlandNASCAR.com for more information regarding tickets and amenities. For friends not in the Service, Bi-Mart has tickets on sale now and for a limited time they come with a free pit pass.



Relationships bring smiles during missions

Story and photo by 1st Lt. Benjamin Curle, TF Guardian

While deployed, Soldiers of the 1055th interact with local Iraqis on a daily basis. On Camp Adder, many of the support services for Soldiers are run by Iraqis from the nearby city of Nasriyah. Soldiers have also become acquainted with the local children who eagerly await American convoys around Tallil.

In a way, these locals have been adopted by the Soldiers of the 1055th. The Soldiers are always happy to give them a little piece of what most Americans take for granted.

After months of running long and stressful missions, the familiar faces of the local Iraqi children are a welcome sight to Soldiers. As the CETs make their final preparations to return to base, Soldiers often take a minute to give food and sometimes toys to these local families who have very

little of their own. What may seem like nothing to a Soldier could mean the world to an Iraqi child.

Most of Tallil-area residents are livestock herders.

They live in temporary housing and on a meager subsistence. After so much time here the Soldiers are recognized. They too are always happy to see the familiar faces. Some of the children have earned endearing nicknames like the popular goat herder Billy Ray.

These meetings always end up being a great experience for all involved.

Soldiers have the opportunity to unwind and feel good about giving something to their temporary community. In the end it will be experiences like these that build positive relationships with our new partners and allies in Iraq.



Veteran's online information

Below are web-sites that provide information on Veterans benefits and how to file/ask for them. Accordingly, there are many sites that explain how to obtain books, military/medical records, information and how to appeal a denied claim with the VA.

Please pass this information on to every Veteran you know. Nearly 100% of this information is free and available for all veterans, the only catch is: you have to ask for it, because they won't tell you about a specific benefit unless you ask for it.

You need to know what questions to ask so the right doors open for you and then be ready to have an advocate who is willing to work with and for you, stay in the process, and press for your rights and your best interests. (More websites are placed throughout the newsletter)

Appeals http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21_1/mr/part1/ch05.doc

Board of Veteran's Appeals <http://www.va.gov/vbs/bva/>

CARES Commission <http://www.va.gov/vbs/bva/>

CARES Draft National Plan <http://www1.va.gov/cares/page.cfm?pg=105>

Center for Minority Veterans <http://www1.va.gov/centerforminorityveterans/>

Center for Veterans Enterprise <http://www.vetbiz.gov/default2.htm>

Center for Women Veterans <http://www1.va.gov/womenvet/>

Clarification on the changes in VA healthcare for Gulf War Veterans <http://www.gulfwarvets.com/ubb/Forum1/HTML/000016.html>

Classified Records - American Gulf War Veterans Assoc <http://www.gulfwarvets.com/ubb/Forum18/HTML/000011.html>

Compensation for Disabilities Associated with the Gulf War Service http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21_1/part6%20/ch07.doc



The end of a journey begins with a black box

Photo by Spc. Anita VanderMolen, TF Jungler



TF Volunteer Soldiers are lined up with their black boxes and duffel bags ready to be placed in a CONEX. The boxes will travel on the 'slow boat' home.

This is just one step in the preparation for the more than 3000 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team-Soldiers' re-deployment.

Veteran's online information, con't.

Compensation Rate Tables, 12-1-03 <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Rates/comp01.htm>

Department of Veterans Affairs Home Page <http://www.va.gov/>

Directory of Veterans Service Organizations <http://www1.va.gov/vso/index.cfm?template=view>

Disability Examination Worksheets Index, Comp <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Benefits/exams/index.htm>

Due Process http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21_1/mr/part1/ch02.doc

Duty to Assist http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21_1/mr/part1/ch01.doc

Electronic Code of Federal Regulations <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/ecfr/>

Emergency, Non-emergency, and Fee Basis Care <http://www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/fedben.pdf>

Environmental Agents <http://www1.va.gov/environagents/>

Environmental Agents M10 http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1002

Establishing Combat Veteran Eligibility http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=315

EVALUATION PROTOCOL FOR GULF WAR AND IRAQI FREEDOM VETERANS WITH POTENTIAL EXPOSURE TO DEPLETED URANIUM (DU) <http://www1.va.gov/gulfwar/docs/DUHandbook1303122304.DOC> and http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1158

See also, Depleted Uranium Fact Sheet <http://www1.va.gov/gulfwar/docs/DepletedUraniumFAQSheet.doc>

EVALUATION PROTOCOL FOR NON-GULF WAR VETERANS WITH POTENTIAL EXPOSURE TO DEPLETED URANIUM (DU) <http://www1.va.gov/gulfwar/docs/DUHANDBOOKNONGW130340304.DOC>

Forms and Records Request <http://www.va.gov/vaforms/>

General Compensation Provisions http://www.access.gpo.gov/uscode/title38/partii_chapter11_subchaptervi_.html



Plans section, other teams work for Soldiers

Story and photos by Maj. Gary Repp, TF Atlas

The S3 (Plans) section is in charge of managing operations within the battalion. Decisions and plans are implemented through a process known as MDMP (Military Decision Making Process). Courses of action are developed to meet the battalion, and higher, (the chain of command's) commander's intent.

Combat Power and the principles of shoot, move and communicate are analyzed and utilized to ensure that the end-state is met. These principles are truly the fundamentals of our everyday operations that the Soldiers rely on to accomplish the mission. Often these decisions, and the rationale behind them, are not communicated down to the Soldier on the ground who executes the mission. It is the responsibility upon all staff, company leadership and first line leaders to address this 'shortfall' in communication and adamantly ensure that ALL Soldiers know at least the five W's of each task.

The S3 section is comprised of various sections task organized under the Battalion S3 Operations Officer. The S2 (Intelligence) section works in conjunction with my section under "Current Operations."

Future Plans is led by Cpt. Ben Long, a very experienced infantry officer with previous deployment experience in Iraq. He is also a master logistician. His ability to meticulously see a plan executed from start to finish has facilitated the Task Force in producing quality products that are often duplicated by other units.

The manager of the convoy tracker matrix is Cpt. Jeremy Christiansen. He also has previous deployment experience and has become an impromptu movement control team/support operations officer for our area of operations due to the numerous changes in "higher" units changing mission sets. TF Atlas Command Sgt. Maj. Miller, previously a sergeant major, is wearing two hats as well. He is the operations sergeant major and has been the thread holding the S3 Section together after the reconfiguration for the deployment and changes in section personnel. When I was at Brigade as the Brigade Plans Officer and subsequently the Brigade Current Operations Officer, for the deployment, Command

Sgt. Maj. Miller was absolutely our 'go to guy' for products and information pertaining to the operations of Task Force Atlas.

Command Sgt. Maj. Miller has been a great mentor and friend to me and deserves more recognition than I can articulate inside this short article.

The work we have done here at Task Force Atlas, and within the Brigade, made a strategic impact throughout our assigned operational environment in Iraq. We have implemented the consolidation of security escorts to reduce traffic on the routes and this directly ties into the "Share the Road" philosophy. We are reducing duplicity of effort to accomplish the mission. We, in the S3 section, never lose sight of the Soldier on the ground. We make every effort possible to ensure the Soldiers get all the credit for missions accomplished by Task Force Atlas.

Our Tactical Operations Center is the epicenter where all information is collected and disseminated. Their primary mission is to maintain the common operating picture (COP) which allows the Commander to have real time situational awareness of his organization operations. The TOC ensures all convoys are tracked, supported with recovery and provided with MEDEVAC when needed. They have been able to obtain 'support' from adjacent units to coordinate air support, route clearance, explosive ordinance disposal support and other 'secret squirrel' support. This section operates 24/7 and, until recently, worked 12 hour shifts without any days off. The TOC is managed by our battle captains, 1Lt. Sarah Thompson and 1Lt. Nicolas Mason and our two battle noncommissioned officers, Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Gallardo (recently replaced by Staff Sgt. Andrew Stocker after Sgt. 1st Class G. became the Operation NCO in Golf Company) and Sgt. first Class Maximiliano Vignoli. They are supported by our command post of the future guru, Spc. Michael Glenn, Blue Force Tracker master Sgt. Reid Anderson along with our radio transmission operators, Sgt. Estacia Trujillo and Sgt. Lonnie Roth. They are all cross-trained in one another's duties so they can readily address any issue that comes up while our convoys (con't next pg)





Delaware receives love, support from home

Story by Sgt. Natalie Friday, TF Volunteer

Until this deployment, I had no idea the amount of love and support our state would give our troops. From the letters to the packages, we have been blessed with an abundance of support from home.

Delaware is blessed with a wonderful Family Readiness Group that supplied every Soldier in our unit with everyday necessities such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, soap. Anything you can imagine was sent. They even provided fun items, unavailable in Iraq, such as snacks, magazines, games, boxes full of greeting cards for every occasion, and athletic socks for all Soldiers.

Christmas was amazing. Our Headquarters had 150+ boxes lined up from the floor to the ceiling and covered two whole walls.

Every Soldier received a box full of Christmas goodies and two full stockings.

Christmas was an extremely hard time being away from loved ones. Those gifts, sent with love, put smiles on our faces.

Many individuals and church groups also showed their support. We received homemade cookies, pictures, art work, homemade hats and scarves, and even an electric ceramic Christmas tree for each CHU.

Most importantly, were the letters and cards of thanks and appreciation for our service. They touched our hearts and it truly meant the world.

We are coming to the end of our deployment in the next month and we can honestly say there was nothing that we needed or went without.

How did we survive this deployment? Only by the love and support from our state. They made our life in Iraq a much happier place and we wouldn't have been able to do it without them.

Plans section, con't.

are out on the road.

Our tactical command post is led by 1Lt. Troy Hakala and Sgt. 1st Class David Hosie. They support our operations at a remote site. Other team members of the tactical air command are Sgt. 1st Class James Smith, Staff Sgt. Brad Hale and Cpl. Stefano Carrera. The TAC mission is an essential function of the operation plan to maintain the COP and will pick up monitoring and managing of Task Force operations if we relocate or if our systems go down. They are also a critical link with the MCT at their location and act as a liaison for our convoys that stay there overnight. Furthermore, they have assisted on numerous occasions to ensure that Counter Radio Controlled Improvised Explosive Device Electronic Warfare (CREW) systems are up to date and have helped convoys daily with radio fills and trouble-shooting.

Another critical team that falls under the scope of the S3 Section is our Electronic Warfare section led by Cpt. Sean Herring with his NCOIC, Sgt. 1st Class Lloyd Reeves and CREW Spc. Lindsay Ettig. This section has had direct impact on saving the lives of

our Soldiers with the knowledge they possess and the work they diligently perform in managing our various CREW systems. They took a failing program and have brought it above and beyond the standard to ensure our EW standard operating procedures are current and relevant to our daily mission and threat.

Most of the Soldiers mentioned have previous deployment experience as ground troops on convoys as well. All of the S3 Soldiers are firm believers in the Army philosophy: "Mission, Men and Myself." Their work ethic is based on this mind-set and is seen in their daily performance and professional customer service. It is their daily hard work that has made my job much easier as the Operations Officer for Task Force Atlas.

The S3 Section of TF Atlas thank you, the Soldier, for your hard work, professionalism and flexibility in making our Operation Iraqi Freedom mission a success.

Reconnaissance Rangers lead the way!





The transformation from beginning to end

Story by 1st Lt. Matthew Lawson, TF Stetson

“Fifty seven days and a wake up,” said Cpt. David Piersma, HHT/1-82 CAV Company Commander as he walked out of the Camp Liberty Area Defense Operations Center (ADOC) after completing that days



work. Cpt. Piersma, since Camp Roberts, has been counting the days of deployment, reminding us how far 1-82 CAV has come and how much we have left before returning home.

Thinking back to Camp Roberts seems to be so far away, in distance and in time. Thoughts on Fort Stewart are blurred with mud and swamp water.

Memories of Camp Buerhing consist of driving course that transitioned us from the white and blue ‘Scooby buses’ to the sand colored MRAPs.

Now in Camp Liberty, Iraq, most soldiers are thinking about replacements arriving from Louisiana. It was not too long ago when 1-82 CAV was replacing 1-124 CAV from Texas.

It is strange to think that, in the next two months, most soldiers will transition from riding in an armored vehicle in Baghdad to driving a 4-door sedan on

Oregon Highway 97 with a quick stop at Fort Lewis between the two.

I am sure we will all gladly accept the change.



Units share proud histories of service

Story by 1st Lt. Benjamin Curle, TF Guardian



To most, the 1055th Transportation Company is simply a new company that is attached to the 41st Infantry Brigade of the Oregon National Guard. Take a minute to look at the history of these two organizations you will find a great legacy.

Despite recently being activated in September 2008, the 1055th TC lineage makes it the 5th oldest unit in the United States Army. Formed in 1775 by William Harden in Port Royal, South Carolina, the 1055th began as a volunteer artillery battery called the “Old B.V.A.”

In its first action, the Old B.V.A. defended Fort Lyttleton from the British as part of the South Carolina Militia. Since that time, the 1055th TC, which came out of the Old B.V.A. has served in every major conflict the American Military has been involved in.

The 41st Infantry Brigade began as the 41st Infantry Division in 1917. With a high demand for Soldiers in Western Europe, the 41st Division combined units

from the Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana National Guards.

After serving with distinction, the 41st was called upon again in 1941 to defend its Nation. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the 41st was sent to the South Pacific to fight Imperial Japan.

After serving for years in the intense jungles of the Island Hopping Campaign, the Soldiers of the 41st earned the nickname “Jungleers,” for their hard won victories in some of the worst conditions found in World War II.

In 1965, the 41st was collapsed down to a Brigade comprised primarily of Oregon National Guard Units. In 2006, the 41st served in its first major conflict since WWII, training Soldiers of the Afghan National Army.

Now in 2010, the 41st and the 1055th continue a tradition of excellence that will continue a great American legacy for years to come.





Valentine's Day still a busy day for Soldiers

Story and photo by 2nd Lt. Mark Timmons, TF Guardian

Even on Valentine's Day a Soldier doesn't get a day off. The Soldiers of 1st Platoon, A Co. 1/186 IN were tasked by the 41st Brigade to provide personal security for Col. Daniel Hokanson, Command Sgt. Maj. Shane Lake, all the Battalion Commanders and Sergeant Major while they toured the Ziggurat of Ur.

This personal security detail was a good mission to refresh our infantry skills as we cordoned the Ziggurat area of operations with dismounts and gun trucks.

It was an honor and privilege to be tasked with this detail. Combat trucks and weapons were cleaned, supplies were loaded, operation orders were prepared and rehearsals were conducted prior to our departure.

When the time was set for the mission brief, 15 additional vehicles and 58 people showed up from around the Brigade. The turnout was much higher than had told to the platoons and some operational plans had to be changed right there on the spot. The platoon leadership made the adjustments

flawlessly, all before the start time to head out to the Ziggurat. With the Soldiers' well-laid plans and early preparations, all changes were easily made. It is a testimony to their quick mind and strength.

This tour was particularly important for these commanders as the 41st Brigade prepares to leave this theater of operations. They took time to have the brigade public affairs office take command staff photos in front of the Ziggurat with the U.S. and Brigade colors flying by their sides. These photos will now become a part of the 41st Brigade military history and Oregon history too.

The Soldiers of 1st Platoon played a significant role that day. At the end of this mission, Col. Hokanson gave the men of 1st Platoon, A Co. 1/186 IN high accolades for a



well done job.

Even though these Soldiers worked on Valentine's Day they received some well deserved appreciation. HOOAAHHHH!

Athletics offer soldiers fitness and fun

Story by 1st Lt. Benjamin Curle, TF Guardian

As the routine in Iraq becomes less mission-centered, athletics in the 1055th has taken off as a popular pastime.

Soldiers are becoming active on all sorts of athletic fields, courts, and rings.

Athletic events have a countless number of benefits to Soldiers' health and morale. Healthy competition is a great way to blow off steam and get a great workout.

Taking to the football fields of Tallil, the Road Dogs of South Carolina instantly dominated with their size, experience and prowess. They carry the 1/186 Infantry Battalion's winning record almost solely on



their shoulders.

On the newly laid basketball courts, Sgt. Gallman put the U.S. Olympic Dream Team to shame. He put on moves that would cause the 1967 Globe Trotters to become jealous.

One of the most popular athletic activities is Army Combatives. Soldiers practice hand to hand combat skills in a safe environment while staying in great shape

as well.

Activities like these keep Soldiers happy and healthy in what would otherwise be a long winter in Iraq.



What is the new future for guardsmen, women?

Story by Spc. James Kurasawa, TF Atlas

Many Soldiers returning to the Great Northwest, from Task Force Atlas, are concerned about finding jobs. The prospect of returning home unemployed or underemployed is disconcerting.

Approximately 180 temporary and indefinite federal technician positions with the National Guard have dried up in the State of Oregon for Fiscal Year 2010 due to budgetary constraints.

Active Duty for Special Work (ADSW) is very limited and living from order to order is now more difficult than it was just a year ago.

The approximate 130 Contingency Operation for Active Duty Operational Support (CO-ADOS) packets from Task Force Atlas alone brings to light the current collective anxiety related to the more than 10% unemployment rate in Oregon.

The National Guard was never intended as a full time force, but has been thrust into that role of supporting the federal missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The civilian diversity and experience outside the military has always been the strength of the National Guard Soldier. Filling out the Army's deployed ranks with Guardsmen during the past decade, to advance U.S. foreign policies and strategic objectives, is important.

The proper care and support of these Soldiers after the deployment is absolutely vital in retaining the wealth of institutional knowledge and battle hardened

experience that cannot be duplicated in a new recruit.

We are stretching the paradigm of the National Guard to meet the requirements of the fulltime Army. It is at risk of drawing from the well too many times with an eventual result of a dry bucket.

The consecutive deployments are developing a disproportionate number of career fulltime Soldiers within the National Guard.

We tell our Soldiers, often after multiple tours, to go back to their civilian jobs. The reality is they have no job to go back to because they have not nurtured a career outside of the military.

There is no single panacea for our unemployed Soldiers returning from this deployment. Many of them will live off of unemployment and savings until they find a job in the civilian sector. Others will attach themselves to subsequent deployments.

Currently, the average deploying unit consists of at least 20% of GKO volunteers, CO-ADOS, Interstate Transfers (IST) along with the involuntary activation of the Inactive Ready Reserve (IRR) filling the ranks.

A prospective Soldier has the choice of joining the Regular Army and deploying or joining the Army National Guard and deploying.

If we are to rebuild the concept of our Citizen Soldier, there must be a strong emphasis on supporting our Warriors as we reintegrate into the civilian workplace.

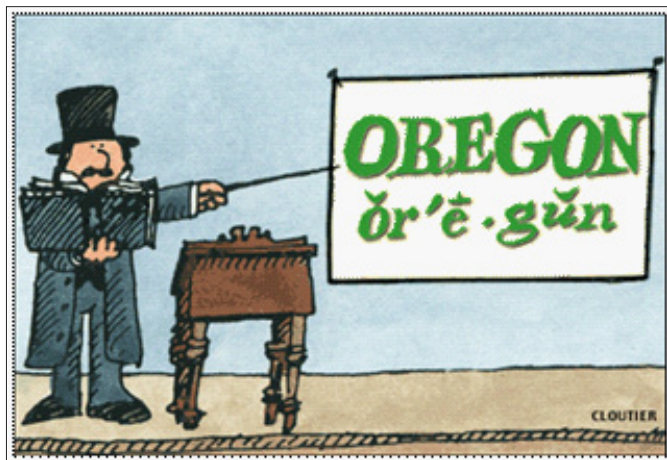




Happy 151st Birthday, Oregon!

Story by Sgt. Jamie Parkinson, TF Guardian

On February 14, 1859, Oregon became the 33rd state in the Union.



Here are ten fun facts about Oregon:

1. Oregon is the ONLY state in the Union to have a two-sided flag, adopted in 1925, with our seal displayed on the front, and a beaver on the back. The shield proudly exhibits our vast forest and mountain ranges, the Pacific Ocean (with a setting sun, familiar to those in the 41st Brigade), the wagons coming across the trail and the ship sailing way, signifying the departure of the British from the region. Oregon is known as the “Beaver State”, hence the image on the reverse side of the flag.

2. Our state fish is the Chinook Salmon, seen jumping out of the blue waters of Crater Lake on our state quarter.

3. Pears are our state fruit, and can be seen growing all over the Rogue Valley.

4. “She Flies With Her Own Wings” was adopted by the 1987 Legislature as the state motto.

5. The hazelnut was adopted as Oregon’s state nut in 1989, as Oregon supplies 99 percent of hazelnuts sold in the United States.

6. “Oregon, My Oregon”, written by J.A. Buchanan of Astoria and Henry B. Murtagh of Portland, became Oregon’s official state song in 1927. “Land of the rose and sunshine, land of the summer’s breeze. Laden with health and vigor fresh from the western seas...” is just a sample of the lyrics.

7. The mighty Douglas Fir grows abundantly in Oregon, and is our official state tree.

8. Crater Lake, the deepest lake in the United States and 9th deepest lake in the world is a National Park in Oregon.

9. Oregon is one of only two states in the Union that does not allow self-service gasoline (the other is New Jersey)

10. The official drink of Oregon is milk, but with our copious breweries in the state, should be changed to BEER!

FYI: Rogue Ale Brewery is naming a beer after the 41st Brigade. It is called ‘Jungleer Stout.’ It is a very dark brew with hints of coffee and cocoa. The alcohol content is between 9-10%.



“It is basically a loaf of bread in a 22oz. bottle,” said Lt. Col. Chester Cary, Brigade Logistics Officer. “Excellent for a black and tan.”



The desert you don't know about

Story by 1st. Lt. Alex Leonard, TF Stetson

In Baghdad, we experienced very stable weather conditions for February. Oregon, meanwhile, is seeing record high temperatures and the nation's capital has been bombarded by a blizzard. What you may not be familiar with is what an Iraqi winter looks and feels like.

The heat of summer is long gone and in its place we are left with months of cold, dry winds. Temperatures regularly reach the low 40s and often dip down to near freezing levels.

While we remember Oregon snow in the winter of 2008, we only saw a few mornings of frost, a stark contrast to the intense heat of the summer. After acclimating to the heat, the effects are drastically reduced, but when the temperatures drop below 70 many of us begin to feel cold. We had grown accustomed to constant temperatures of 115+ all day, every day, for months. A drop of 40 degrees has a significant impact on your level of comfort and stability.

With the cold also comes rain. The effect of an

environment comprised of fine dust and sand creates yet another facet of Iraq weather: mud. Mud is everywhere. Mud in your room, the office, your vehicle, the gym, and everywhere else a Soldier may be.

"It is, by far, worse than Camp Shelby, Mississippi during the rainy months," said Sgt. Eric Thomas.

It is impossible to walk or drive anywhere without coming across an impassable area of

mud or standing water. The frustration is compounded by the fine dirt and sand mixing to form a very deep and sticky mixture. Shaking or stomping your boots is often a futile effort. The mud and cold might be irritating, awaiting the inevitable return of the heat is a much greater concern. Optimistically speaking, we hope to be well on our way back to Oregon before Iraq reaches its peak of mid-summer heat.



Marathon sparks new interest, training

Story by Sgt. Clinton Stayton, TF Atlas

Sergeant Clinton D. Stayton, from D CO 2-162 IN, has always been a fitness freak. Involved in athletics and various sports since a young age, drove him to love physical activity. He learned a critical component of his morale was to maintain an intense physical training regime. His preferred workout was going to the gym and pushing serious weight around. While on this deployment his priorities changed.

Sgt. Stayton was talking with his girlfriend and she suggested they run the Eugene Marathon together. Stayton, quick to accept a challenge, agreed.

"I thought it would be supportive to her as well as fun to train and do something I thought I would never do. It is way out of the norm of what I usually do as a



Spc. Portillo, Sgt. Stayton, Pfc. Payne, 1Lt. Prine, Cpt. Johnson, Sgt. Buck, Cpt. Christiansen, Cpt. Pong, Spc. Ettig, Sgt. Greer, 1st Sgt. Paullus, Maj. Repp, Sgt. 1st Class Stong, Sgt. Mann, Cpt. Vanderzanden

physical activity," he said.

He later learned the run would be on May 2, 2010, his 40th birthday.

He spends a large portion of his workout regime training his body to be in the physical shape necessary.

Recently, Stayton ran the Austin Half Marathon with four other Delta Company Soldiers. He didn't plan on running. Stayton ran to support fellow Soldiers.

Sgt. Stayton continues to prepare for the Eugene Marathon on May 2. He chews up miles running all over Al

Asad, Iraq, preparing his mind and body.

Running his first marathon on his 40th birthday has driven him to find his true abilities and accomplish a goal he could look back and be proud of. He will be tasting new experiences and testing his limits.



Appreciation for the IRRs we work with

Story by 1st Sgt. Geoff Miotke, TF Volunteer

Inactive Ready Reserve: Men and women who once wore this uniform, lined up in squads or sections and performed maneuvers until one day in life a new calling or a new opportunity came knocking. They chose to say good bye to their military friends and hang up the uniform they wore so proudly.

Now imagine you swing by your mail box as you return from your new civilian career, anxious to see your family and have a great dinner. You kiss your loved ones and sit down to see what junk mail has been sent to you or see what bills you still have to pay. Maybe one of your friends sent you a letter to brighten your day. You come across a white envelope with your name dead center and Department of the Army stenciled in the left corner and think, 'That is strange I'm not in the Army anymore.'

Curiosity takes over as you open it, out comes some neatly tri-folded papers and as you read the heading, your jaw drops, you express certain words, you scream in shock or you just sit there dumb-founded that your name was selected.

You immediately start to calculate your time to see if there had been a mistake. You know deep down Uncle Sam didn't mess this one up, it was just your time. Massive amounts of emotions and thoughts role through your head as you search for the report date; there is so much to do and so little time.

Preparations begin. Soon the day has arrived and it's time to fly to some base and conduct some kind of training, but still hoping, you will be told that this was a big mess up and you can go home.

In-processing starts and it gets worse. Remember all the paperwork you used to do? The military has changed some and requires more paper work. Long lines are in your future. As you wait you realize everyone in the line with you is there for the same reason. You start to understand and decide to make the best of this.

You still have reservations about how this is all going to turn out. You don't want to be there, you don't know anything about the unit you have been assigned to.

Your unit greets you, assigns you a squad and gives you a place to lay your head. Just like that: you are

in the Army again. Slowly, friendships build and trust starts to form. A sense of belonging is felt. By now, you have told your recall story to everyone in the unit and they all say they sympathize with you. Believe us when we say we do too. Training has now ended. It's like you have been with us the whole time.

The mission is a go and you are ready, just like everyone else. Day in and day out you contribute to the missions: the details, the planning, the meetings, the power point presentations and let's not forget the mandatory briefings.

Side by side we are equals with the same responsibilities. We have the same gripes, complaints and issues because we are going through this together. You are no different you just get to hang it up again when this deployment is all over.

Many will remember this time as a positive experience and some will try not to remember this time at all. You do belong; you are part of a cohesive unit. Your unit would not have been successful if it wasn't for you and your actions.

I have the gracious honor of having 10 IRR Soldiers in my company and they have truly been an inspiration and all have contributed immensely to the success of my unit. They have shown their commitment to the greater good. That patriotism is still strong in their core and the Army Values are still paramount in their actions.

To all the IRR Soldiers we thank you; you have been an inspiration to us all.

You must know we respect you and your sacrifices. You will always be a part of my team.





Research dietary supplements before using

Story by Cpt. Scott Johnson, TF Atlas

Go into any health food store, drug store, supermarket or discount store and you will be bombarded with dietary supplements that promise health benefits. The government has very little control over what is put into the supplement. As a result, we assume the supplements we buy do what they advertise to do. Some do and some don't. And some can even cause dangerous side effects.

Everyone seems to have a different reason for buying dietary supplements. Some want to lose weight and get "shredded". Others want to "bulk up", adding muscle mass. Some want to soothe aching joints. Others just want to ensure that they have a healthy diet, and aren't missing out on essential nutrients.

So before you decide to start on a particular supplement you should do some research and ask these specific questions:

- 1. Do I need this supplement?**
- 2. Do I know that this supplement is safe?**
- 3. Does this supplement interact with any drug or**

food I am consuming?

- 4. Do I know that this supplement works?**
- 5. Can I afford this supplement?**
- 6. Do I know enough about this supplement?**

Some dietary supplements may be harmful under some conditions. For example, many herbal products and other "natural" supplements have real and powerful pharmacological effects that can cause harmful reactions in some people or can cause dangerous interactions with prescribed or over-the-counter medicines. It does not necessarily mean that supplements marketed as "natural" are safe and without side effects.

There is a lot of information floating around about supplements. The internet is often a good place to start researching, but remember many of the sites are trying to get you buy their product and will downplay any potential negative effects of the supplement. When you have done some research and feel you know what you want to try, then I recommend you discuss it with your medical provider.

My experience with Volunteer as a volunteer

Story by Spc. Theodore Bowden, TF Volunteer

I am attached to the 41st IBCT out of Oregon. While serving here in Iraq, I have learned a lot of new things, and met a lot of people. I have learned how to operate new equipment. I have learned new skills I can take back to my home unit in Idaho. I have learned how to operate the Blue Force Tracker, the military's version of the GPS used to track units out on missions. The noncommissioned officers and officers teach how to operate the equipment. Ensuring the Soldiers can do their job to the best of their ability.

I have been places I never thought I would see. One place was the Ziggurat at Ur, the location of Abra-

ham's house.

I have made some new friends along the way too. I have learned this company works well with one another. They like to hear new ideas to make the job go smoother.

If I could do it again I would. I will be mobilizing back to Tallil in October with my unit. My job and experiences will be different.

I thank this unit, battalion and brigade for taking me as a volunteer. I enjoyed my time here and look forward to finishing it up here. Making sure it is 100% completely done first.

Veteran's online information, con't.

Fee Basis, PRIORITY FOR OUTPATIENT MEDICAL SERVICES AND INPATIENT HOSPITAL CARE http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=206 Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents 2005 <http://www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/fedben.pdf> OR, http://www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/current_benefits.htm



GO #1 needs to be followed by all on VBC

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Mark Bentz, TF Stetson

Cavalry Scout Spc. Howard Pierson checked his equipment again as his platoon poised on the periphery of a contractor housing camp. It was a cold and wet early morning on Camp Slayer, Iraq, but despite the conditions the men and women of Bravo Troop conducted a Deliberate Camp Security Check (DCSC).

Platoon sergeant Staff Sgt. Bejan Rejaian, surveyed his Soldiers' positions and silently rehearsed his role in the inspection, set to begin in moments. An ominous fog hung over Baghdad but with little effect on the day's operation: the search of 51 contracted workers, who also make Victory Base Complex their home.

These missions assist the Garrison Command by ensuring compliance with General Order #1. Victory Base Complex houses thousands of local Iraqi Nationals and third country Nationals who work at various support service facilities around the complex.

Not all of the local nationals are fans of the American presence. Many of them are blatant in their violation of rules established to keep VBC safe. There are more than 100 local national and third country national sub-camps on the base. All of these sub-camps are held to the standards set forth in

General Order #1 as well as various other restrictions pertaining to prohibited items. Even though this operation would not be referred to as "combat", there is a twinge of anxiety in every Soldier's mind.

There are challenges to an operation of this nature.

Coordination and communication amongst different commands and leaders can be problematic.

The Base Defense Operations Center (BDOC) intelligence section works with Garrison Command to gather information and target sub-camps identified with violations.

Platoon leader 1Lt. Justin

Howland then plans a coordinated operation, working with the base Military Police Investigators, bomb and narcotic K-9 teams, the base Counter-Intelligence team, the contracted base security force and members of the BDOC Force Protection Cell.

Section leader Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Jeremiah supervises many facets of his Soldiers' preparations and aligns them with those of the supporting elements. Through rehearsals, printed hand outs, and briefings, infantrymen like Spc. Brandon Delfino and medics such as Spc. Daniel Martin, master their responsibilities and become a cohesive team, the recipe for another successful mission.



Veteran's online information, con't.

MS (Multiple Sclerosis) Centers of Excellence <http://www.va.gov/ms/about.asp>

My Health e Vet <http://www.myhealth.va.gov/>

NASDVA.COM <http://nasdva.com/>

National Association of State Directors <http://www.nasdva.com/>

National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention <http://www.nchpdp.med.va.gov/postdeploymentlinks.asp>

Persian Gulf Registry http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1003

This program is now referred to as Gulf War Registry Program (to include Operation Iraqi Freedom) as of March 7, 2005: http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1232

Persian Gulf Registry Referral Centers http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1006

Neurological Conditions and Convulsive Disorders, Schedule of Ratings <http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/regs/38cfr/bookc/part4/s4%5F124a.doc>



9/11 procedure to transfer benefits

Story by Editor, TF Jungleer

Benefits from the 9/11 GI Bill are transferable to family members. The following steps are the procedures to transfer the benefits. **They must be done in sequence.**

- Soldier confirms current ETS date meets required service obligation – extends contract if necessary – allows processing time for extension
- Soldier confirms desired family member enrolled in DEERS
- Soldier – logs onto DOD TEB Website (<https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/TEB>) completes request for transfer
- Soldier complete the Post 9/11 Educational Benefits Transferability Commitment and Statement of Understanding” (SOU) form at: <https://minuteman.ngb.army.mil/benefits> and upload the SOU
- Soldiers request is approved by ARNG GI Bill Support Team and notification is sent to Soldiers AKO email address
- Family member completes (VA Form 22-1990e) (only when benefit is needed) with the Department of Veterans Affairs online at <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>
- Department of Veterans affairs processing family members application and provides Certificate of Eligibility to family member
- Family member brings Certificate to Veterans Affairs Certifying Office at the school they are/will attend to begin payment of benefit

ARNG GI Bill Support Team
Education Support Center
ATTN: ARNG GI Bill Support Team
Box 46, Camp Robinson
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72199-9600

Support Team Numbers
Email: gibill.ch33@pec.ngb.army.mil
(866) 628-5999
fax 501-212-4928

Veteran's Affairs
(888) 442-4551
www.gibill.va.gov

Veteran's online information, con't.

Geriatrics and Extended Care <http://www1.va.gov/geriatricsshg/>

Guideline for Chronic Pain and Fatigue MUS-CPG http://www.oqp.med.va.gov/cpg/cpgn/mus/mus_base.htm

Guide to Gulf War Veteran's Health <http://www1.va.gov/gulfwar/docs/VHlgulfwar.pdf>

Gulf War Subject Index <http://www1.va.gov/GulfWar/page.cfm?pg=7&template=main&letter=A>

Gulf War Veteran's Illnesses Q&As <http://www1.va.gov/gulfwar/docs/GWIllnessesQandAsIB1041.pdf>

Hearings http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21_1/mr/part1/ch04.doc

Homeless Veterans <http://www1.va.gov/homeless/>

HSR&D Home <http://www.hsr.d.research.va.gov/>

Index to Disability Examination Worksheets C&P exams <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/benefits/exams/index.htm>

Ionizing Radiation <http://www1.va.gov/irad/>

Iraqi Freedom/Enduring Freedom Veterans VBA <http://www.vba.va.gov/EFIF/>

M 10 for spouses and children < http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1007

M10 Part III Change 1 http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1008

M21-1 Table of Contents http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/M21_1.html

Mental Disorders, Schedule of Ratings http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/regs/38CFR/BOOKC/PART4/S4_130.DOC

Mental Health Program Guidelines http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_



Veteran's online information, con't.

OMI (Office of Medical Inspector) <http://www.omi.cio.med.va.gov/>

Online VA Form 10-10EZ <https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/>

Parkinson's Disease and Related Neurodegenerative Disorders <http://www1.va.gov/resdev/funding/solicitations/docs/parkinsons.pdf>

and, <http://www1.va.gov/padrec/>

Peacetime Disability Compensation http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=browse_usc&docid=Cite:+38USC1131

Pension for Non-Service-Connected Disability or Death http://www.access.gpo.gov/uscode/title38/partii_chapter15_subchapteri_.html

and, http://www.access.gpo.gov/uscode/title38/partii_chapter15_subchapterii_.html

and, http://www.access.gpo.gov/uscode/title38/partii_chapter15_subchapteriii_.html

Persian Gulf Veterans' Illnesses Research 1999, Annual Report To Congress http://www1.va.gov/resdev/1999_Gulf_War_Veterans'_Illnesses_Appendices.doc

Persian Gulf Veterans' Illnesses Research 2002, Annual Report To Congress http://www1.va.gov/resdev/prt/gulf_war_2002/GulfWarRpt02.pdf

Phase I PGR http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1004

Phase II PGR http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1005

Policy Manual Index <http://www.va.gov/publ/direc/eds/edsmps.htm>

Power of Attorney http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21_1/mr/part1/ch03.doc

Project 112 (Including Project SHAD) <http://www1.va.gov/shad/>

Prosthetics Eligibility http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=337

Public Health and Environmental Hazards Home Page <http://www.vethealth.cio.med.va.gov/>

Public Health/SARS <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/SARS/>

Publications Manuals <http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/publications.cfm?Pub=4>

Publications and Reports http://www1.va.gov/resdev/prt/pubs_individual.cfm?webpage=gulf_war.htm

Records Center and Vault Homepage <http://www.aac.va.gov/vault/default.html>

Records Center and Vault Site Map <http://www.aac.va.gov/vault/sitemap.html>

REQUEST FOR AND CONSENT TO RELEASE OF INFORMATION FROM CLAIMANT'S RECORDS <http://www.forms.va.gov/va/Internet/VARF/getformharness.asp?formName=3288-form.xft>

Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans Illnesses April 11, 2002 http://www1.va.gov/rac-gwvi/docs/Minutes_April112002.doc

Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans Illnesses http://www1.va.gov/rac-gwvi/docs/ReportandRecommendations_2004.pdf

Research and Development http://www.appc1.va.gov/resdev/programs/all_programs.cfm

Survivor's and Dependents' Educational Assistance http://www.access.gpo.gov/uscode/title38/partiii_chapter35_.html

Part 18 http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?sid=1b0c269b510d3157fbf8f8801bc9b3dc&c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title38/38cfrv2_02.tpl

Title 38 Part 3 Adjudication Subpart A Pension, Compensation, and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=1b0c269b510d3157fbf8f8801bc9b3dc&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title38/38cfr3_main_02.tpl

Title 38 Pensions, Bonuses & Veterans Relief (also 3.317 Compensation for certain disabilities due to undiagnosed illnesses found here) http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=1b0c269b510d3157fbf8f8801bc9b3dc&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title38/38cfr3_main_02.tpl



Veteran's online information, con't.

General Policy in Rating <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=1b0c269b510d3157fbf8f8801bc9b3dc&rgn=div8&view=text&node=38:1.0.1.1.5.1..96.11&idno=38>

U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims <http://www.vetapp.gov/>

VA Best Practice Manual for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) <http://www.avapl.org/pub/PTSD%20Manual%20final%206.pdf>

VA Fact Sheet <http://www1.va.gov/opa/fact/gwfs.html>

VA Health Care Eligibility <http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility/home/hecmain.asp>

VA INSTITUTING GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF FUNCTION (GAF) <http://www.avapl.org/gaf/gaf.html>

VA Life Insurance Handbook Chapter 3 <http://www.insurance.va.gov/inForceGliSite/GLIhandbook/glibook-letch3.htm#310>

VA Loan Lending Limits and Jumbo Loans http://valoans.com/va_facts_limits.cfm

VA MS Research <http://www.va.gov/ms/about.asp>

VA National Hepatitis C Program <http://www.hepatitis.va.gov/>

VA Office of Research and Development <http://www1.va.gov/resdev/>

VA Trainee Pocket Card on Gulf War <http://www.va.gov/OAA/pocketcard/gulfwar.asp>

VA WMD EMSG <http://www1.va.gov/emshg/>

VA WRIISC-DC <http://www.va.gov/WRIISC-DC/>

VAOIG Hotline Telephone Number and Address <http://www.va.gov/oig/hotline/hotline3.htm>

Vet Center Eligibility - Readjustment Counseling Service <http://www.va.gov/rcs/Eligibility.htm>

Veterans Benefits Administration Main Web Page <http://www.vba.va.gov/>

Veterans Legal and Benefits Information <http://valaw.org/>

VHA Forms, Publications, Manuals <http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/>

VHA Programs - Clinical Programs & Initiatives http://www1.va.gov/health_benefits/page.cfm?pg=13
<http://webmaila.juno.com/webmail/new/UrlBlockedError.aspx>

VHA Public Health Strategic Health Care Group Home Page <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/>

VHI Guide to Gulf War Veterans Health http://www1.va.gov/vhi_ind_study/gulfwar/istudy/index.asp

Vocational Rehabilitation <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/>

Vocational Rehabilitation Subsistence <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/InterSubsistencefy04.doc>

VONAPP online <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>

WARMS - 38 CFR Book C <http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/bookc.html>

Wartime Disability Compensation http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=browse_usc&docid=Cite:+38USC1110

War-Related Illness and Injury Study Center - New Jersey <http://www.wri.med.va.gov/>

Welcome to the GI Bill Web Site <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>

What VA Social Workers Do <http://www1.va.gov/socialwork/page.cfm?pg=3>

WRIISC Patient Eligibility <http://www.illegion.org/va1.html>





The day isn't mine
The sun beats down on a day
that isn't mine
I blame myself
Inconsequential, all the lines
have been drawn
I pursue the path that leads
to the next day
I wash my eyes, ears,
and nose every night
Yet,
They are dirty the next day
This contract has me here to stay
I see so much and yet know so little
My decisions define no middle
A blast of regret
And yet,
The bullet stays true
Whoever you are,
I did it for you

Written by Pfc. Jesse Botkin, TF Atlas

