

Commander's Corner

Aloha 29th BCT Warriors and Families:

My most sincere condolences go out to the family members and friends of the four soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 184th Inf. who were recently killed in action. My prayers are with them as well as with all of the soldiers who were wounded. We wish our wounded brothers a speedy recovery.



Though we've suffered the loss of exemplary soldiers, we must honor their memories and continue with our mission to the best of our abilities.

I want to remind all of you that mission success is a team effort. In order for success to occur, every soldier has to be doing his piece of the mission to the best of his ability. Mechanics have to keep our vehicles running, our guard mount must maintain the highest levels of vigilance, our medics and combat lifesavers must maintain proficiency in their critical lifesaving skills—indeed, the list of what you all do to contribute to our mission success is long, and each piece is vital. Each of you have the power to set the conditions for our success or failure within your individual and team lanes of duties.

As I circulate the battlefield, I continually see many examples of professionalism amongst the brigade's soldiers. Whether on a combat patrol, in a security tower, at an Entry Control Point or in the gym, the transformation of our citizen soldiers to professional warriors has been an accomplishment I am proud of. I showcase this fact at every opportunity. It was a little over a year

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CSM's Message

Selfless Service and Duty

By Command Sgt. Maj. Hamakado



As Acting Command Sergeant Major of the 29th BCT (for the next few weeks), it has and will continue to be a privilege for me to work with and lead a talented and dedicated group of soldiers in combat operations as part of OIF III. I do have a core beliefs on leadership that I'd like to impart along with related expectations from leadership and soldiers.

Of the seven Army Values, I place "SELFLESS SERVICE" and "DUTY" above the rest. For leaders, selfless service means placing the mission and soldiers above personal ambitions and comforts. Duty is the reason we are in the U.S. ARMY. Duty is fulfilling all specified and implied tasks to the utmost of your ability. For me personally, over the years, I have learned that Officers and Senior NCOs who are present and visible among troops, especially when the going get tough, are leaders that the soldiers respect and follow willingly. I expect our leadership be knowledgeable about their unit, personnel and equipment. I expect leaders to be intricately familiar with assigned missions and to be present and visible among their troops during operations and living areas.

For the soldiers of the 29th BCT, I have the highest admiration and respect. You are doing your duty here in Iraq, away from home, families and regular life. It was hard to get here and complete difficult tasks at Schofield Barracks, Fort Bliss, Fort Polk, Kuwait (Camp Buehring) and now here in Iraq. You are here because

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MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

Governor's Update column for Da Lava Flow- OCTOBER 2005

Aloha!

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the soldiers of the 29th Brigade Combat Team and their families who have surpassed the halfway point of a yearlong deployment to Iraq and the Middle East. On behalf of the people of Hawai'i, I am proud of your service and grateful for your sacrifice on behalf of the principles of democracy.

On the home front, I was pleased to welcome nearly 4,000 soldiers and their spouses to Honolulu for the National Guard Association of the United States' 127th General Convention. The conference, attended by delegates from across the country, included states affected by Hurricane Katrina. During the conference, I met with several members of Mississippi's National Guard, who shared photographs of Katrina's devastation in their local community. Our hearts and prayers continue to go out to those victims and survivors of this horrific tragedy. We stand sincerely grateful for the tremendous dedication of our National Guard to act as our nation's first-responders, delivering the first line of defense and relief in these emergency situations.



Photo provided by the Governor's Office

Hawai'i also hosted the Third Annual Asia-Pacific Homeland Security Summit and Exposition in September. Four years ago, none of us imagined the need for such a conference, but the tragic events of 9/11 changed the world. I want to assure you that while you are courageously serving our state and nation on the front lines, we are working to secure our borders and prevent future attacks here at home. The Homeland Security Summit brought together over 800 delegates from 11 countries in the Asia-Pacific region to share ideas, strategies and technologies and prepare for future catastrophes, both terrorist and natural. At the conclusion of the conference, Hawai'i Civil Defense facilitated a terrorism exercise for state, county, federal, military and private sector officials, simulating terrorist attacks on O'ahu, Maui and Guam. The exercise gave delegates valuable practice in planning and responding to terrorist attacks, as well as natural disasters.

As always, I look forward to your safe return home. I encourage you to send me photographs which I would be proud to feature in my weekly e-newsletter and website so your family, friends and the people of Hawai'i can see how you are doing.

I also hope you will share your thoughts with me via e-mail at Governor.Lingle@hawaii.gov. You can also sign up for my weekly electronic newsletter to keep you posted on events back home at www.hawaii.gov/gov.

Mahalo for your service!
Governor Linda Lingle

IN MEMORIAM



Staff Sgt. Alfredo Barajas Silva

November 20, 1969 - September 15, 2005

Staff Sgt. Alfredo Silva

By Capt. Kyle Yonemura

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Staff Sgt. Alfredo Barajas Silva, was a forward artillery observer with the 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery's California Detachment. He worked with Company D, 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry in Baghdad and was killed in action on September 15, 2005, after his vehicle was destroyed by an improvised explosive device.

Staff Sgt. Silva was the driver of a Humvee in a patrol that was in hot pursuit of suspicious vehicles in a rural

area of the Al Rasheed District in Baghdad when his patrol was attacked. When the road side bomb detonated, it killed him and wounded four other soldiers in his vehicle.

Silva joined the Army in July, 1995, and served three years on active duty as a forward artillery observer. He later joined the California Army National Guard and served as a combat engineer. In 2001, he began working as a member of California's Counter-Drug Task Force.

He was activated for Operation Iraqi Freedom III and was assigned to Detachment 1, Headquarters, Headquarters Support Battery, 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery. He was then augmented into Company D, 1st Battalion, 184th Inf. as a member of their fire support team. While training for the deployment at Ft. Bliss, Texas, a strong bond formed between the artillerymen and their infantry counterparts after Staff Sgt. Silva joined the team. "We melded together when Staff Sgt. Silva joined us and he made us into a team," said Platoon Sergeant, Sgt. First Class Barker.

Staff Sgt. Silva was respected by his subordinates and leaders alike. Though some who didn't know him well may have perceived him as having a hard exterior, he was a generous, charismatic leader who took care of his soldiers, "He was the first to start throwing Beanie Babies and soccer balls to the [Iraqi] kids [on patrols]. He made sure every kid got something, even if it was just a pen or a pencil lying around the truck," said Sgt. First Class Barker. Barker was Silva's platoon sergeant and friend.

"Professionalism and dedication to his guys were first and foremost in his mind," said Barker. "He would try to get things to give out to the kids and his team," said Capt. Raymond Hill, the Fire Support Officer for the 1st Battalion, 184th Inf. Silva was known to his buddies as "Chamuco," or "The Boogeyman," in Spanish. The nickname was a misnomer for a firm leader who tried—unsuccessfully—to hide a soft and generous heart.

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“I have so many memories of Silva. He is the reason Delta FIST is such a tight team. When we first came together as Delta FIST we were a bunch of guys that got pulled from other units to fill out the detachment. Because of him we became a team. Thank you ‘Chamuco.’ I’m proud to have known you and I will never forget you,” said Sgt. First Class Barker at Staff Sgt. Silva’s memorial service.

Silva leaves behind a beloved wife Cecilia and a daughter, Mariel. He spoke of them often to his friends. It was his dream to see his daughter graduate from college. “One of the things I will always remember about Silva is his pride. He was proud of who he was and where he came from. He was proud to be Hispanic, proud to be in the Army and he was proud of his Soldiers. But most of all he was proud of his daughter Mariel. We used to tease him because he only had one child. We’d ask him why he didn’t have more kids. He told us, ‘If you get it right the first time, you don’t need to do it again,’ ” said Sgt. First Class Barker.



Sgt. Michael Takeshi Sonoda

July 1, 1971 - September 21, 2005

Sgt. Michael Sonoda

By Capt. Kyle Yonemura

BAGHDAD, Iraq – “There are over 300,000 words in the English language and I can’t seem to find any good enough to describe Sgt. Michael Sonoda. Nothing I can say will make Mike’s death more tolerable or less painful,” said his friend and fellow warrior Spc. Jorge Sanchez.

Sgt. Sonoda was born in Oceanside, California. He joined the Army in 1995, serving two years on active duty as a Parachute Rigger with the 325th Airborne in Vincenza, Italy. He made over 50 “static-line” para-

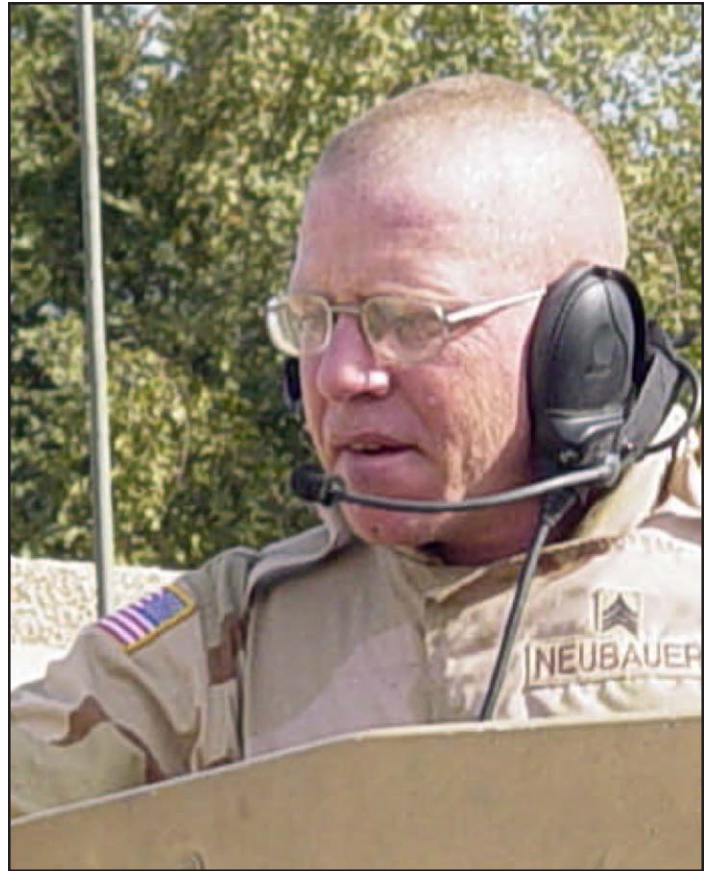
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chute jumps, also earning a set of Italian jump wings while there. Sgt. Sonoda joined the California Army National Guard in 1998, serving a six month tour in Kuwait in 2001 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

“Sgt. Sonoda had a long history with the company and he had been in every platoon, served in every capacity as the need arose. Ready and willing for anything, he would give you the shirt off of his back,” said his company commander, Cpt. Jeffrey Dirkse.

In civilian life, Sgt. Sonoda worked for the United Postal Service as a Hazardous Material package inspector. His awards include the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, National Defense Ribbon and the Combat Infantry Badge. Like other infantryman, Sgt. Sonoda fought to protect his buddies, “Mike died serving his God and Country. But most of all, he fought for us, the Delta Demons. He fought to keep us all safe and went on every patrol with the intent to find IED’s and terrorists—so the rest of us could do our patrols as safely as possible,” said Sanchez.

Sgt. Sonoda was very close to his family and often talked about his father Takeshi, mother Emiko and his sister Irene. “I can’t imagine what his family is going through right now, to think that something like this could happen to such a great son, brother, and soldier. It feels a little colder now that he’s gone,” said Spc. Sanchez.



Sgt. Paul Christian Neubauer

March 8, 1965 - September 23, 2005

Sgt. Paul Neubauer

By Capt. Kyle Yonemura

BAGHDAD, Iraq – “I never once heard Sgt. Neubauer complain, he loved being a soldier and all that it entailed. If we passed each other on the FOB he would always ask me how I was doing or how things were going,” said Capt. Jeffrey Dirske, Sgt. Neubauer’s company commander..

Sgt. Paul Christian Neubauer was born 8 March 1965 in Denver, Colorado. He served as an enlisted seaman in the Navy as a Sonar technician and acoustic analyst and got off of active duty in 1991. He joined the Cali-

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fornia Army National Guard in 1997 and served with Company E 160th Infantry, Company D 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry, Troop H, 18th Cavalry, and was attached to Company D 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry in August of 2004 for deployment to Iraq. Sgt. Neubauer worked as an active duty state worker assigned to the counter drug program in San Diego California. "Paul was a soldier that would do any task placed before him. He was a master of his weapons systems, be it a M16 series rifle or any crew served weapon in the platoon's inventory," said his platoon sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Chebahtah.

Sgt Neubauer enjoyed performing his mission in Iraq and believed in the mission he and his fellow soldiers were assigned to carry out, "Paul totally believed in this mission, and enjoyed going out and performing our assignments. I never heard him complain about any of our taskings. It was always 'Roger sergeant!' He treasured working and interacting with the local populace," said Chebahtah.

Sgt. Neubauer's service awards include: the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, National Defense Service Medal, second award, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment, Battle "E", Navy Unit Commendation, and Combat Action Ribbon. Sgt. Neubauer is survived by his wife Judith Neubauer of Vista, California.



Staff Sgt. Daniel Ronald Scheile

May 10, 1968 - September 24, 2005

Staff Sgt. Daniel Scheile

By Capt. Kyle Yonemura

BAGHDAD, Iraq – "Happy. That's how I will remember SSG Scheile," said his company commander, Capt. Jeffrey Dirkse.

Staff Sgt. Daniel Scheile, known to buddies as, "The Shyster," was born on May 10, 1968 in Vallejo, California. He enlisted in the California Army National Guard in October of 1987 and served with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 159th Infantry, and Company A, 529th Engineer Battalion. Staff Sgt. Scheile joined Company D, 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry in 1995 and deployed

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with the “Delta Demons” in support of OIF III.

He loved his daughters, cats, motorcycles, and playing X-Box. Staff Sgt. Scheile was a mason among other things in civilian life and worked in a business partnership with his father. “He had a love of fishing. When we lived up at FOB Freedom someone sent him a whole pile of fishing poles. He wanted to fish in the Tigris, though I doubt anyone would eat whatever he may have caught. We agreed on catch and release only,” said Dirkse.

Staff Sgt. Scheile’s military awards include the Bronze Star, Purple Heart with an oak leaf cluster, Combat Infantry Badge, Expert Infantry Badge, Air Assault Badge, and National Defense Service Medal, with second award.

He is survived by his wife Jennifer and two daughters Kelli and Marrisa. “His passion and fire were for his wife Jennifer, and two daughters Kelly and Marisa. I can’t remember a day that went by that he wouldn’t tell me a story of how proud he was to be their dad. Dan also spoke often of his parent’s,” said Cpl. Scott Reynal.



Photo by Sgt. Lauran Robinson

Photo courtesy of Paul Hansen



A soldier plays Taps at the memorial service for Staff Sgt. Silva (above).

(left) A soldier pays his respects to three fallen comrades at the memorial service held for Sgt. Sonoda, Sgt. Neubauer, and Staff Sgt. Sheile.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Hiki No Protects Vital Infrastructure

By Capt. Kyle Yonemura

KUWAIT NAVAL BASE, KUWAIT—The soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery, two platoons from the 227th Combat Engineer Company, and a platoon from the 107th Engineer Company from the Michigan National Guard, took on a variety of missions that have kept them busy since their arrival at Camp Patriot, Kuwait, last January.

Battery A, 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery is the security force battery for Kuwait Naval Base, responsible for the security there. They man the main entry control point for the naval base as well as the ECP for Camp Patriot, the small U.S. post within the naval installation, and two smaller ECP's into Kuwait Naval Base. Battery A also mans seven of Camp Patriot's guard towers and provides a Quick Reaction Force for both the Kuwait Naval Base and Camp Patriot.

Battery B performs three missions. They provide a Quick Reaction Force for Camp Arifjan, an Area Reaction Force for the southern half of Kuwait and a Quick Reaction Force for Camp Doha, another US military base located in the central part of Kuwait, north of Camp Arifjan.

Battery C used to guard both an ammunition storage area and a fuel depot, however, since July they were reassigned to supplement the other two battery's missions and some of the soldiers from the battery are supplementing the 227th Combat Engineer's security mission at another base.

Along with their security operations at Camp Patriot, the 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery has performed the post's "Mayoral" duties, i.e., running the camp's operations including the post dining facility. These duties were turned over to the Air Force on September 8th. The 1st Battalion, 487th still provides the food service personnel, as well as the supervisory personnel, however the Air Force has taken over the dining facility's operations. According to Maj. Mark Inouye, the battalion's operations officer, "the 487th, was the only

battalion in the 29th Brigade Combat Team that ran an entire camp's operations." Inouye said that running the camp was a, "complex task as operations often had to be vetted through the other services and personnel that reside or pass through the post including: Marines, Navy personnel, US Coast Guardsmen, base workers from other countries as well and civilian contractors and ranking members of the Kuwaiti Navy." Duties were divided up between the 487th's officers, "I basically ran the camp command cell while Maj. Inouye handled the security forces mission, [our battalion commander], Lt. Col. Tamashiro oversaw both," said executive officer Robert Leshner.



Photo by Capt. Kyle Yonemura

Sgt. Manuel Tacub of Battery C checks the identification of a soldier entering Camp Patriot while Spc. Desmon Inere allows a vehicle into the base.

"We oversaw a lot of new construction on the camp," said Leshner, "If we didn't do our jobs right, things would have shut down," he said. "My biggest challenge was to transition from using [contractors like] Kellogg Brown and Root, who did everything on the camp, to individually contracting out services," said Leshner, "but doing that saved the Army a lot of money."

The 227th Combat Engineer Company provides security at the "SPOD" or Sea Port of Debarkation. This is a harbor located about a half hour drive north of the Ku-

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wait Naval Base. The combat engineers perform a security mission at the port as well as provide a quick reaction force there. The SPOD is the only port of embarkation and debarkation in the area. The Company has been supplemented by a platoon of engineers from the Michigan Army National Guard's 107th Engineer Company.

When they are not performing their military missions, soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery have developed a number of recreational outlets to maintain morale. "The 487th values camaraderie," said Capt. Keith Horikawa, a staff officer with the Battalion. According to Horikawa, the Battalion hosts a barbecue featuring foods soldiers would normally enjoy back in Hawaii including: grilled steaks, rice, lomi salmon, shoyu chicken and char siu chicken every Sunday. As no Hawaiian barbecue is complete without fresh fish, a number of artillerymen go fishing in the naval base harbor after work everyday. They freeze their daily catch and the soldiers enjoy the fish as a regular part of the barbecue.

Soldiers also relax on a putting green they recently constructed in the courtyard of one of their billets, or practice their golf swing in front of a net they set up in the post gym.

Despite the comforts and the relatively relaxed atmosphere of Camp Patriot, some soldiers expressed disappointment at not being able to serve in Iraq. "We're a combat arms unit and we were trained as infantrymen before we deployed," said Horikawa, "I was prepared to go into Iraq with the rest of the brigade." "I feel a little guilty that we're not in combat and our unit will be one of the first to return to Hawaii," added Horikawa.

"I volunteered to go to Iraq," said Spc. David Okouchi of Battery C, "I wanted to be out on patrols."

While not a glamorous job, a security mission is still an important one and the soldiers of the 487th Field Artillery and 227th Combat Engineers take their jobs seriously, "We're still focusing on our security mission and planning our redeployment," said Leshner, "We've done a lot to improve the camp," he said, "we're trying to set the unit that's replacing us up for success."



Photo by Sgt. Lauran Robinson

Sgt Gary Costales of 1st Platoon, A Battery, 1st Bn., 487th FA, greets everyone with the happy smile as he working at the guard station leading into Camp Patriot.

Battery A provides security at Kuwait Naval Base

By Sgt. Lauran Robinson

KUWAIT NAVAL BASE, Kuwait – The soldiers of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery conduct security force operations alongside Kuwaiti personnel at Kuwait Naval Base, a port used by Coalition forces to support Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Located in the southern part of Kuwait along the Persian Gulf, KNB is where military vessels off-load supplies, vehicles and equipment used to support theater operations. Over 3,000 American servicemembers and Coalition forces work within the port to keep operations moving. Within KNB is Camp Patriot, "home" to US forces including the soldiers of 487th Field Artillery.

Though the Americans are guests in Kuwait, the soldiers of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 487th FA provide additional security around KNB. Three platoons rotate 12 hour shifts and duty positions amongst themselves to conduct security force operations. Their security cov-

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erage includes the main entry control point, several guard towers and stations, and a quick reaction force.

The main entry control point is used by Coalition forces, Kuwaiti police and military, and about 300 workers from countries such as Pakistan, Bangladesh and the Philippines. The soldiers search all vehicles and personnel coming into the post.

Towers are strategically located around the perimeter of the base with soldiers watching for suspicious activities. KNB houses a vehicle wash rack in which all vehicles in theater are thoroughly washed before being shipped by sea. The soldiers of Battery A take further security measures by checking identification at the guard station entering Camp Patriot.

The soldiers of Battery A provide a quick reaction force, ready at a moments notice, 24 hours a day. They are called upon as first responders to accidents, emergencies and to provide extra security when needed within the post. They also patrol within the port and around perimeter looking for anything suspicious.

The soldiers of Battery A stay vigilant in their mission. "Security is the most important mission. Our mission is to make sure everyone inside KNB stays safe. Everything else falls within the secured environment," said Spc. Marc Washington of 1st Platoon, Battery A. He is a student at Morgan State University, from the town of Waldorf, Md.

Platoon from Hawaii provides security for southern Kuwait

By Spc. Jayson Howell

CAMP PATRIOT, Kuwait – While the world focuses on Coalition involvement in the reconstruction of Iraq, the soldiers of 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery, ensure the security of operations critical to Operation Iraqi Freedom. Operating from Camp Patriot, in the heart of

the Kuwaiti Naval Base, the men of 3rd Platoon, Battery B, 1st Bn., 487th FA constitute the area reaction force for the southern half of Kuwait.

While Kuwait was the center of military activity during Operation Desert Storm just over a decade ago, its current role is far different. Personnel and supplies arrive via aircraft, and ships traveling up the Persian Gulf. The most notable difference in operations here to those of other units within the 29th Brigade Combat Team is that of position. Troops in Iraq are a stabilizing force assisting the Iraqi government as Iraqi forces return stability to the country. In Kuwait, such stability is already present.

While many installations have a quick reaction force to provide immediate response within the post, an area reaction force has a different set of mission parameters, and the challenges that go with them. From downed helicopters to disabled ground vehicles, the ARF provides support on the scene of any incident involving US military forces. The ARF maintains a visible presence in the region to dissuade terrorist threats.

The troops of Battery B regularly train amongst themselves as well as in tandem with other units such as



Photo by Capt. Kyle Yonemura

Spc. Stephen Garrett and other soldiers from Battery B, 1st Bn., 487th FA's Area Reaction Force prepare for a patrol.

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helicopter teams and chemical operations units. With such a wide distance to cover – sometimes over 100 kilometers – the Platoon needs to be ready for any eventuality. Every man in the unit is qualified in the combat lifesaver program, possessing first-aid skills at a level above most soldiers. The unit is trained in both security convoy movement and air assault operations.

While the primary focus of the team is quick response to coalition forces in distress, they also play an important role in maintaining a show of force around American assets. Doing so requires a special understanding of the unique relationship between the U.S. military and Kuwaiti government. While establishing a defensive presence near warehouses and businesses essential to operations north of the border, the troops must remember their place as guests of a sovereign nation – one with its own internal police agencies and legal codes. The troops of Battery B adopt procedures that ensure the local populace is not offended, and that the sovereignty of Kuwait is uncompromised, without sacrificing the security of Coalition forces or contractors.

The team also has another role that, while less common, is no less important. With such a familiarity of the surrounding country, the readiness to escalate or deescalate force as needed, and a skill set enabling great versatility, the men of 3rd Platoon, Battery B, are the security escort of choice for many high ranking officers and officials traveling to and from the Kuwaiti Naval Base.

Though perhaps not as high in adrenaline as a firefight in the heart of Baghdad, protecting the flow of supplies and those who deliver them is just as vital to the success of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The soldiers of 1st Bn., 487th FA are content to avoid media attention – it means that nothing tragic has happened on their watch, and that they're succeeding in their security mission. "A quiet day is a good day" as the soldiers of the ARF are fond of saying.



Photo by Capt. Kyle Yonemura

Soldiers from 4th Company, 4th Battalion, searched house to house during a battalion sized operation.

Iraqi Army's 4th Battalion Doing Well

By Capt. Kyle Yonemura

FORWARD OPERATING BASE ORYAN, IRAQ—Soldiers from the Iraqi Army's 4th Battalion conducted a cordon and search mission called Operation "Al Saekah" or "lightening strike," in the City of Abayachi during a recent early morning operation there. They were supported by soldiers from Task Force Konohiki, and soldiers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry from the Wisconsin Army National Guard.

The operation was significant in that it was a large scale battalion sized operation. "This was the first time the [Iraqi Army's] 4th Battalion operated in the field with three maneuver companies at the same time," said Lt. Col. Steve Hawley, the commander of the 29th Brigade Combat Team's Task Force Konohiki. Hawley has commanded the task force for about eight months now. The task force's mission is to train the soldiers of the Iraqi Army's 4th Battalion so they can assume the mission of providing security in Iraq.

Iraqi soldiers swept into the city under the cover of darkness and cordoned off the western portion of Abayachi.

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Abayachi is located along the Tigris River a few kilometers south-east of LSA Anaconda and has a population of about 15,000 people. The homes in this section of the city are clustered mainly along the river and the area is sprinkled with farms. The Iraqi soldiers conducted house to house searches looking for known insurgents, weapons caches, and contraband. They also collected intelligence on an ambush that had killed two soldiers from their battalion a few weeks prior.

“Abayachi is a hub of terrorist activity, we have a lot of problems there,” said Sgt. First Class Prescott Dela Cruz. A physical education teacher from Waipahu High School, Dela Cruz lead one of the Konohiki patrols in support of the operation. “There’s a lot of IED (improvised explosive device) activity and lots of small arms fire” from that city, said task force member Spc. Bradley Hines. A construction worker from Seattle, Hines had already served one tour in Iraq with the 81st Brigade Combat Team and volunteered to stay on for a second tour with Konohiki.

During the operation the Iraqi soldiers confiscated two AK-47 rifles, a Glock pistol, a shotgun as well as one suspected insurgent. Although the number of illegal weapons seized was not large, the superb execution of the mission demonstrated that the Iraqi Army is capable of planning and executing large scale unit operations on its own. “We used to lead them on patrols, but they’ve been leading their own patrols since June,” said Spc. Hines.

Under the leadership of Col. Ali Nasser Yahya (pronounced Yahia) and with mentoring from Lt. Col. Hawley and his Task Force, the soldiers of the Iraqi Army’s 4th Battalion have made important strides toward assuming responsibility for the security of their country, “it’s very rewarding seeing them growing so quickly on their own,” said Spc. Hines.

“The mission was very successful,” said Lt. Col. Hawley, “the Fourth Battalion achieved tactical surprise, met all of its timelines, integrated coalition forces into the operation including:

dog teams, air support in the form of Apaches (helicopter gunships) and Raven [unmanned aerial vehicles].” “I’ve seen tremendous improvements in the Iraqi Army,” said Spc Hines, “They have more confidence, conduct thorough searches and follow in-depth preparation procedures before combat missions,” he said.

“We’ve sent a two-fold message to the insurgents,” said Lt. Col. Hawley about the successful mission, “we’ll keep coming back [to Abayachi if necessary] and the Iraqi Army is here to stay.”



Photo by Capt. Kyle Yonemura

4th Battalion soldiers cordon off the home of a suspected insurgent.

The mortar team fires back

By Sgt. Lauran Robinson

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Residents on post can rest a little easier knowing that the 29th Brigade Combat Team mortar team can return fire at insurgents attacking the post by launching a 120mm mortar round with pin point accuracy, sending a loud and clear message not to mess with Logistics Support Area Anaconda.

The mortar team is made of soldiers from 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry and 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery working together to provide all the components needed for a successful mission. The coordination of the fire direction center, air traffic control, forward observers and the mortarmen play vital roles in executing mortar missions.

There are many factors to consider when launching mortars for accuracy such as target location, mortar tube placement, muzzle velocity, weather, and manual compensations. Equipped with modern technology of radar, weather instruments and computer generated predictions of where the mortars will land, the soldiers are able to calculate the variables and reduce errors to improve accuracy.

Mortars are used for three types of missions: counter fire attacks, terrain denial, and illumination. When the post is under attack by mortars, the attackers are positively identified, and the mortar team counter fires by launching two to five rounds at the target. To deny enemies terrain, highly explosive mortar rounds are launched into a specified area to discourage insurgency activities. Illumination rounds are flares sent to light up the sky over a specified area of interest during low light.

The mortar team must calibrate their equipment and register the mortars at each sector. Since arriving to LSA Anaconda, the 29th BCT mortar team has more than doubled its registration points around the post, increasing their coverage and improving accuracy.

“It makes me proud when the mortars are fired” said Spc. Kakali Goeas, an ammunition bearer and assistant gunner of 100th Bn., 442nd Inf.

What’s a Loggie?

By Sgt. Suzette Fernandez

Uncle George, as used in this article, is a fictional character that every family has. He’s that relative that provides a detailed plan for every family event.

Ask any Soldier or civilian to provide an explanation of what they think a Commander, an intelligence person, a civil affairs person, and a logistician does. The answers you’ll receive will be something along the lines of –

Commander: someone who leads Soldiers,

Intelligence person: someone who provides information on the enemy and the environment,

Civil affairs person: someone attune to the civilian population and their affairs,

and then before the last answer is given you will receive a look of uncertainty instead.

Logistics, logistical, logistician; these are not words commonly used on a day to day basis. When is the last time you were engaged in a conversation which utilized the word “logistics”? It is not a word most people cannot relate to nor easily associate with.

The military and civilian world both use the word *logistics* to encompass a variety of functions that go on around us on a daily basis. Yes, believe it or not, you Mr. Infantry Person, do logistical planning on a daily basis and never even knew it. For instance, when was the last time you planned a trip or arranged a dinner engagement? That’s right, all the steps involved in carrying out these two common everyday occurrences involve logistical planning, at least that’s what my Uncle George taught me.

You have all planned a trip before haven’t you? Normally arrangements for transportation, via air, land or sea, of you and your luggage are made, along with preplanned lodging and dining alternatives. Oh yes, don’t forget, you also arranged for someone to care for

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the plants, animals, and daily deliveries made to your house while you were planning to go away. The entire trip, YES — is all an exercise in logistical planning.

When planning a nine course Chinese dinner at home you've made arrangements for a caterer or chef to arrive at a certain time, to bring out your favorite courses in a pre-arranged order, coordinated for set up of tables, chairs and fine china to match the exact number of guests you know will arrive by a given time per their RSVP to you, at which time your hired valet service will park



Photo by Sgt. Suzette Fernandez

Maj. Lynn Ishii, 29th BCT Logistics Officer, address “loggies” as they meet to plan for the Brigade’s redeployment home.

the guests cars in a fashion that they will all fit in your turnabout driveway or the adjacent legal street parking. Ah, don’t forget about the clean up. The entire dining experience —YES again, another exercise in logistical planning!

To know logistics is to know how to support an operation by providing timely and adequate services and materials at the right place and time. Can you believe that logistics encompasses design and development, acquisition, storage, transport, distribution, maintenance, evacuation, disposition of facilities and the acquisition or furnishing of services? Phew, can you believe all of that in the same breath???

Moving troops was, to those who know, the most obvious logistical task requiring a great deal of detailed coordination for transportation via air, land, or sea for the troops, their belongings and all the equipment they need to conduct their mission. Depending on how long a move takes involving Soldiers, food and water always needs to be provided. Once troops arrive to their final destination they need to be provided a place to live, shower, sleep. If during transport something breaks and the transporter is not able to transport, what happens next? Contingency plans have had to be made and maintenance support needs to be in place. Since we are in the business of war, Soldiers need to eventually obtain their basic load of ammunition. If expended, how will it be replaced? Certain to every mission is the day when (supply) accounts need to be cleared and open issues at the present location closed. This event eventually occurs again as Soldiers arrive at the new destination, new accounts need to be opened to continue supporting the next mission.

Logistics is a never ending task. Just ask anyone wearing one of the eleven combat service support branch insignias. A logistician’s or “loggie’s” job is always dynamic and ever changing; seemingly, the only constant. Being a logistician can be both a gratifying and tireless job. It is always a satisfying feeling when you are able to acquire things to support the Soldier and they recognize you for it with a grateful, “thank you”. However, if things are going smoothly, the work of the logistician goes unnoticed. Logistical planning will cease only when operations are complete; by then it’s more likely time to develop the logistical plan to support the next operation. Your job is really never complete, ask MAJ Ishii.

If you’re looking for a “loggie” you can find them in your supply room at the company level, at the motor pool, or in the S4 section in your battalion to name a few places. I guarantee you someone from all of these shops was the “first in” and will be the last to reach home when this deployment is over.



Loco Moco in the Gulf

By Capt. Kyle Yonemura

KUWAIT NAVAL BASE, Kuwait — Soldiers assigned to Camp Patriot, a small US post located on the Kuwait Naval Base, enjoy a selection of Hawaiian “local food” thanks to the efforts of two award winning chefs from Hawaii who are assigned there.

With hundreds of soldiers from the Hawaii Army National Guard’s First Battalion of the 487th Field Artillery and 227th Combat Engineer Company stationed in Kuwait, dining on food they’d normally enjoy while in Hawaii has helped the soldiers deal with their lengthy tour away from home. The First Battalion of the 487th Field Artillery was assigned, among other things, to oversee the dining facility on Camp Patriot upon their arrival there about eight months ago. Sgt. First Class Wayne Pacupac and Sgt. First Class Patrick Cambra took on the task of managing the mess hall and they take a lot of pride in the dishes they prepare for the soldiers, seamen, airmen and Marines who eat there. One of the changes they’ve implemented is that every Friday has been designated “Aloha Friday” at the dining facility. Service men and women who dine there can select from a variety of menu items including: fried rice, loco moco, shoyu chicken, pork gisantes, terriaki steaks and chicken long rice.

Pacupac, a painting supervisor from Kapolei and Cambra, a retired Honolulu City and Country worker from Makakilo have 60 years of military food service experience between them. “Between Sgt. First Class Cambra and myself we’ve won eight Regional Connolly Awards,” said Pacupac. The West Coast Regional Connolly Award is a prestigious award presented by the Army to the best Army dining facility in the region. The competition to win the award is fierce, as dozens of Army unit chefs vie for the annual award. “We’ve each won four awards a piece,” said Pacupac.

Many of the base’s workers are from foreign countries. “We teach our cooks from India how to prepare local foods from Hawaii,” said Cambra, “they’re fast learners.” According to Pacupac and Cambra, Hawaii based Soldiers travel from as far away as Camp Doha, an hour drive away, to pickup take out plates of the special foods prepared at their facility. “We serve an average of about 3,500 meals a day,” said Pacupac. When the Hawaii based soldiers return home in a few months, they will leave a tall order behind that the unit replacing them may have difficulty filling. The Aloha Friday menu has proved very popular with both the soldiers from Hawaii as well as with the men and women of other services at the camp. “It’s been a hit.” said Cambra proudly.

Donated ukuleles inspire 29th Support Bn. to spread the Aloha spirit

By Sgt. Lauran Robinson

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — The soldiers of 29th Support Battalion, 29th Brigade Combat Team, inspired by the generosity of supporters who donated ukuleles, came together to learn how to play the traditional Hawaiian instruments.

Shirley Orlando, owner of Island Bazaar, a Hawaiian

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

novelty store in Huntington Beach, Calif., joined the Kolohe Ukulele Club in donating ukuleles and some songbooks to the 29th Support Bn. It was like Christmas in July for the soldiers and their excitement encouraged the supporters to donate even more. A total of a hundred ukuleles and some songbooks were donated and dispersed throughout the 29th Brigade Combat Team.

The 29th Support Bn. received 26 of the ukuleles and 15 song books, inspiring the soldiers to come together and unwind to familiar songs of Hawaii. Soldiers who grew up with sounds of the ukulele are taking the opportunity to learn how to play them while deployed halfway around the world. Soldiers attached to the unit from other states have joined the Hawaiians to learn how to play the traditional instrument.



Photo by Sgt. Lauran Robinson

Spc. Jason Fujinako assists Maj. Charles Underhill during ukulele class, as Master Sgt. Rudy Gabrillo observes. The soldiers are from 29th Support Bn., 29th BCT.

Spc. Jason Fujinako, a medic from Company C, 29th Support Bn., has been playing the ukulele for over twelve years and leads the classes twice a week, teaching basic chords and playing familiar Hawaiian songs. "One soldier practices every night, and serenades his roommate" said Fujinako with a chuckle.

"We hope we can interest others with our playing, to bring about our fellow soldiers representing over 30 other states, as well as regions extending across the Pacific: the Kwajelin Islands, Guam, and South Korea, to join us in learning how to play this lovely instrument which represents our Hawaiian heritage of the Aloha spirit and being the example of the melting pot of the world" said Lt. Col. Norman Saito, the commander of 29th Support Bn.

Greetings from Saudi Arabia!

By Maj. Kevin Biggie
CDR, Team Delta, Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia

I know what you're thinking... the 29th BCT has a unit in Saudi Arabia? The answer is yes! The Brigade was tasked to provide one company of soldiers for a Security Force mission at a compound just outside of Riyadh, the capital of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The name of the compound is Eskan Village.

The unit performing this mission is comprised of a tank company from the Vermont Army National Guard (Company D, 1st Battalion, 172nd Armor), along with two platoons of attachments from an Air Defense Artil-



Photo courtesy of Co. D, 1st Bn., 172nd Armor

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Photo courtesy of Co. D, 1st Bn., 172nd Armor

lery battery from the Minnesota Army National Guard (Battery E, 1st Battalion, 216th ADA). As a company team, together we call ourselves “Team Delta.”

The mission of our Security Forces is to provide force protection to Eskin Village, and its Department of Defense (DOD) military and civilian inhabitants. There are two main DOD organizations that reside on Eskin Village, and both are the reason why we’re here. Each organization consists of military advisors that advise one of the two “militaries” that Saudi Arabia has. The first group: the United States Military Training Mission (USMTM) advises the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Defense and Aviation (MoDA). The second group: the Office of the Program Manager for the Saudi Arabian National Guard (OPM-SANG) advises the Saudi Arabian National Guard.

Our Security Forces perform three main functions: 1. Control entry and exit through the Entry Control Points (ECP) on the compound, 2. Provide over watch and security around the interior perimeter from established Perimeter Defensive Positions (PDP), and 3. Man a Quick Reaction Force (QRF) to react to incidents on the compound. Our Headquarters provides command and control, operates the Eskin Village motor pool and fuel point, operates the SECFOR arms room and supply room, and provides a security detail to escort soldiers off post to the local hospital or airport as needed.

Together here with a Military Police Detachment from the Indiana Army National Guard, an EOD team, and section of active duty Air Force Military Working Dogs, we make up what is called the Base Security Detachment – Saudi Arabia, which is part of the Area Support Group – Qatar, our higher headquarters.

We take our mission here very seriously, and work hard to ensure that we’re ready for any contingency. We conduct several scenario-based training exercises every week to keep our skills sharp and practice our battle drills. For example, we practice scenarios involving vehicle breaches at one of the gates, personnel breaches in the perimeter, and suspicious packages, just to name a few.

Although we are geographically separated from the rest of the Brigade, we are proud to represent the Brigade here in Saudi Arabia, and wish everyone a safe and speedy remainder of the tour!

Use the five C’s to secure an IED site.

Confirm : the device

Clear : the area

Call : EOD

Cordon : the perimeter

Control : site access



STAY ALIVE

0035

IEDs KILL

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

“What food do you miss eating the most?”

By Sgt. Suzette Fernandez

Sgt. Stephen Mattson

Co. A, 329th Inf.

“Sockeye salmon”



Staff Sgt. Robert Bostic

Battery E, 216th ADA

“Medium rare steak”



Staff Sgt. Bernard
Garcia
HHC, 2nd Bn., 299th
Inf.
“Opihi”



Sgt. Thomas Hairston

HHC, 100th Bn., 442nd
Inf.

“New York style pizza”

Sgt. 1st Class Francis
Tau’a

HHC, 29th BCT

“Kim chee poke from
Taniokas”



STAFF SECTION

29 BCT Safety

Seatbelts — What it's All About

By Chief Warrant Officer Richard Hargrave

We are a team, all working together both in theater and at home, Military, DOD Civilians and Contractors, each one having an important part of our combat readiness. When the loss of a soldier is due to a preventable accident of any kind, the impact of our combat power is directly affected.

WHY SHOULD I WEAR MY SEATBELT? I had all kinds of excuses; if we are ambushed I need to get out fast; they restrict my movement; they don't fit; it's like planning for an accident; if my time is up, it's up; wearing seatbelts just isn't cool. As I look back, I realize how lucky I was. Too many soldiers are dead and might be alive today if they wore their seatbelts.

A vehicle rollover killed two soldiers, because the driver lost control of his vehicle. The soldiers died because they were not wearing their seatbelts. How do soldiers develop the mindset of "we never wear seatbelts" or "I don't need to wear seatbelts". It was discovered that our soldiers pick up bad habits from leaders who say it's okay, not to wear seatbelts. What kind of message does your soldiers get, when you, as a leader tell them to wear seatbelts, but do not enforce the rule or do not wear your own seatbelt? The bottom line is, "always buckle up" and treat your vehicle as the powerful machine, it is which can be a lethal weapon, if mishandled.

Finding an aggressive way to change the mindset of how we think about safety and the process of including safety in all of our missions, is the major challenge we need to overcome. COMPOSITE RISK MANAGEMENT is a training concept, which is vital to keeping our forces ready to win wars. It is also a new focus to sustain readiness and to manage all risk, posed by the enemy, the environment and by human error. Take calculated risk, which is different from taking unnecessary risk or being rash. General George S. Patton once said; "no bastard ever won a war by dying for his coun-

try. He won the war by making the other poor dumb bastard die for his country." Leaders must focus on teamwork, unity, mission, risk management and be proactive in their planning toward maintaining combat readiness.

Each leader is responsible and will be accountable for enforcing the standards.

BE SAFE — MAKE IT HOME

Take care of your back

By Chief Warrant Officer Randall Au

In reviewing the periodical medical report, provided by C/29 SB, of individuals seen at the Lava Clinic, listing their respective complaints/discomforts, I noticed a complaint/discomfort that was frequently listed that I would like to address. These preventable work related injuries are lower back injuries. Preventing back injuries is a major workplace safety challenge. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, more than one million workers suffer back injuries each year, and back injuries account for one of every five workplace injuries or illnesses. Further, one-fourth of all compensation indemnity claims involve back injuries, costing industry billions of dollars on top of the pain and suffering borne by employees.

I would like to share an article obtained from the U.S. Army Safety Center addressing lower back injuries and ways in which we as individuals, supervisors, and managers can prevent these unnecessary injuries.

Back Safety

Back disorders are listed in the "top ten" leading workplace injuries published by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health. They account for 27 percent of all nonfatal injuries and illnesses involving days away from work. It's no wonder. Your back is a

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sophisticated piece of machinery made up of numerous muscles, bones, nerves, and supporting tissues. It's a machine you use every day, probably in ways you don't even notice.

Just like the finest machinery, your back requires proper care to keep it working. If it's not working right, you'll suffer. An injured back affects your ability to move your limbs, your hips, your neck, and your head. Injuries to the back can be very debilitating, causing a lot of pain, time away from work, and often requiring physical therapy or even surgery. Everyone whose job involves stressful lifting or awkward postures is at risk for a back injury. Here are some tips to keep your back in optimum condition:

While lifting:

- Don't bend over an object you are lifting. Bend your knees, squatting in front of the object to reach it.
- Lift the object slowly and carefully, using your leg and arm muscles to lift, not pulling with your back.
- Keep your head up and look straight ahead while making the lift.
- While lifting, keep the object as close to your body as possible.
- Keep abdominal muscles tight while making the lift.
- Use the same techniques when you put the object down.
- If the object is too big or too heavy to lift using these techniques, use mechanical assistance or get someone else to help.

When reaching for objects:

- Do not reach for an object unless you're sure you're strong enough to lift it.
- Use a step ladder to reach objects above shoulder height.
- Avoid awkward stretches while reaching. These stress your back and could cause you to lose your balance.
- Don't depend on structures to support you (e.g., a shelf support, a storage rack, etc.). These could easily give way if you pull or tug on them.

Exercise also plays an important role in keeping your back strong, healthy, and flexible. A properly exercised back is less likely to be injured. Your physician, company medical personnel, or other health-care provider can recommend the best exercises for you, taking into account your physical condition and the type of work you do.

Finally, a word about back belts. There's a lot of controversy about using back belts to control low back injuries in workers who don't have an existing injury. According to a report published by the National Safety Council, available scientific data does not completely support nor condemn the use of back belts to control low back injuries. One thing that is agreed upon is that back belts should never be a substitute for a comprehensive back injury prevention program. Taking this into consideration, many companies have developed a back belt policy. If you do use a back belt, be aware that you may experience a false sense of security by wearing the belt. You may be tempted to lift loads you wouldn't otherwise lift. Remember, it's your back doing the work—not the belt!

Always be alert for situations that could cause a back injury. Be kind to your back. Don't take unnecessary chances. By following proper lifting and reaching techniques and exercising properly, you'll help keep back problems behind you!

Back injuries are preventable. Take the time to work properly using proper lifting techniques and use the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) and if required, seek assistance in lifting heavy objects. Take care of yourself as an injury will affect the combat readiness of a unit, but most importantly it could have lasting effects when we are reunited with our families and transition back to our previous civilian lives.

Message from the Judge Advocate General

By Capt. Natalie Lewellen

Identity theft is a rapidly growing crime and the military is certainly not immune. The Colorado Springs Gazette recently ran an article warning soldiers who processed in or out of Fort Carson over the past year that they may be targets of identity theft. According to the September 13, 2005 article, computer equipment was stolen from the Soldier Readiness Processing Center when the facility was broken into over the August 20-21, 2005 weekend. Apparently, four computer hard drives containing recently input or updated information were taken while other computers were left alone. Troops are cautioned that hard drives contained names, dates of birth, social security numbers, units, financial information, rank, employment and citizenship information.

Identity theft occurs when someone fraudulently uses your personal information to obtain credit, property, or services in your name. Identity thieves do not need all of your personal information to commit this crime – sometimes a few pieces of information will do. But the more information a thief collects, the easier to assume your identity. Identity thieves may apply for and purchase items on credit in your name; tap into and max out existing credit accounts; gain access to and empty your checking and saving accounts, take out large loans in your name to buy themselves cars, jewelry and vacation homes. Identity thieves may use your information to obtain certain services or apply for certain benefits. Identity thieves may even assume your identity to evade arrest or the authorities. To access your personal information so that they may accomplish these criminal objectives, an identity thief may steal your mail directly from your mailbox, change your address with the local post office to receive your mail directly, rummage through your trash or “dumpster dive” for “unshredded” documents, statements and correspondence. Identity thieves may, posing as a legitimate business, contact you directly and ask you to “verify” or “confirm” certain account information, your social security number or other personal information over the phone or email. Identity thieves may “phish” online for any personal information you send across unsecured

web sites. Identity thieves may also steal employee files, databases, hard drives, marketing rosters, wallets, purses and anything else that may contain social security numbers, pin numbers, passwords, account numbers, dates of birth, names, credit information, employment information, and any other identifying information.

To help protect yourself from identity theft, you must keep a watchful eye on and protect your own information to include your accounts, credit statements, incoming and outgoing mail and the like. For instance, shred documents containing personal information before you throw them away. Select passwords or pin number not easily guessed and memorize them instead of writing them down. Be careful not to offer, share or verify personal information over the telephone or unsecure internet sites. Put a lock on your mailbox or collect the mail when it is delivered. Check your credit report for suspicious activity. Put an “active duty alert” on your credit report. Reduce the amount of unsolicited “junk mail” to include “pre-approved” credit offers which make it easier for thieves to apply for credit in your name. Store personal information documents in a locked filed cabinet.

While these precautions cannot guarantee that your personal information will never fall into the wrong hands, every preventative effort counts.

“Active Duty Alert”: Federal law allows military personnel to place an “active duty alert” on their credit report when deployed. The alert is valid for 12 months from registration unless sooner removed by the servicemember. The alert requires businesses to verify the identity of anyone applying for credit in the servicemember’s name. To initiate the alert, contact one of the three major credit bureaus below (while all three websites offer information on active duty alerts, the author was able to register online only through Experian’s website). Once you have successfully placed an alert on your report, the credit bureau you contacted will notify the other two credit bureaus for you.

Experian: www.experian.com or 1.888.EXPERIAN (1-888-397-3742);

Equifax: www.equifax.com or 1.800.525.6285;

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TransUnion: www.transunion.com or 1.800.680.7289.

Annual Credit Report: Review your credit report for suspicious activity and to verify the information on file. It is now easy to obtain a free copy of your credit report, due to an amendment to the Fair Credit Reporting Act. The FCRA requires each of the major credit reporting bureaus to provide you, upon your request, a free copy of your credit report every 12 months. To request a copy of your report, visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call, toll-free, 1-877-322-8228.

“Pre-Approved” Credit Offers: As a consumer, you have the option to “opt-out” of receiving “pre-approved” credit offers for the next two years. To place your name on the “opt-out” list, call the credit bureaus’ toll-free number, 1-888-5-OPTOUT (1-888-567-8688). If you placed an “active duty alert” on your credit report, the credit bureaus should have placed your name on the “opt-out” list at that time.

“Promotional Offers”: As a consumer, you may also “opt-out” of receiving unsolicited “promotional offers” for two years. To place your name on this “opt-out” list, you must separately notify each of the three major credit bureaus in writing. Include your full name, home mailing address (and previous address if you moved within the past six months), your social security number and date of birth.

Experian, Consumer Opt-Out, 701 Experian Parkway, Allen, TX 75013;

Equifax, Inc., Options, PO Box 740123, Atlanta, GA 30374;

TransUnion, Marketing List Opt-Out, PO Box 97328, Jackson, MS 39288.

“Mail Marketing”: As a consumer, you may “opt-out” of receiving direct mail marketing from many national companies for the next five years by registering with the Direct Marketing Association (DMA) at www.the-dma.org/consumers under “How to Remove Your Name from Mailing Lists”. Or, write DMA Mail Preference Service, PO Box 643, Carmel, NY 10512.

Telemarketing: “Opt-out” of receiving telemarketing calls for five years by placing up to three phone numbers on the federal government’s “Do Not Call Registry” at www.donotcall.gov or call, toll-free, 1-888-382-1222.

Email: Ensure your browser is in compliance with industry security standards, such as Secure Sockets Layer (SSL). Such standards scramble purchase information sent over the internet.

Whether deployed or at home, become proactive in safeguarding your information and protecting yourself and your family from becoming victims of identity theft. If you believe you are the victim of identity theft, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) recommends you take the following actions immediately: (1) contact the credit bureaus’ fraud divisions and ask them to flag your file with a Fraud Alert (Equifax 1-800-525-6285; Experian 1-888-397-3742; TransUnion 1-800-680-7289); (2) contact the creditors of accounts that have been opened fraudulently or tampered with, ask to speak with the fraud department and close the accounts (follow up with a written letter); (3) file a police report with local law enforcement (makes copies for your records). Other actions to consider include contacting the FTC Identity Theft Division at 1-877-438-4338 so that other law enforcement agencies can track, investigate and prosecute identity thieves. Notify your other creditors and your bank to inform them of the situation (also following up in writing). Request that new ATM cards, debit cards, credit cards, PIN numbers and passwords are issued. Request that they contact you to confirm unusual activity. Call the Social Security Administration’s Fraud Hotline (1-800-269-0271) and your state’s Department of Motor Vehicles (to see if another license was issued in your name).

If you have a legal question about this or any other legal matter feel free to contact your nearest JAG Legal Assistance office. Servicemembers on active duty and their dependants are entitled legal assistance at any military installation.

Identity Thieves Target Troops

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Commander's Corner (cont)

ago that our citizen soldiers left their families and occupations and answered our country's call to duty.

Our citizen soldiers have embraced the Army's culture; a culture that is deeply rooted in tradition and history. The Army has its own guidelines that define who our soldiers are, the cause they serve, and establishes connections to those who have gone before them.

The Army is a values-based organization. It upholds principles that are grounded in the Constitution and inspire guiding values and standards for its members. These principles are best expressed by the Army Values, Soldiers Creed, and Warrior Ethos. Derived from the obligations of the oaths of office, they express the professional competence required of Soldiers and affirm long-standing values within the Army's culture.

The Army Values are the basic building blocks of a Soldier's character.

The Soldiers Creed captures the spirit of being a Soldier and the dedication Soldiers feel to something greater than themselves.

The Warrior Ethos describes the frame of mind of the professional Soldier.

These values and standards instill in our soldier the will to win and make great personal sacrifices in selfless service to the Nation.

It was this set of values and standards that Staff Sgt. Daniel Scheile, Sgt. Alredo Silva, Sgt. Paul Neubauer, and Specialist Mike Sonoda, Jr. of the 1st Battalion 184th Infantry embraced, lived daily and ultimately sacrificed their lives for. These brave men volunteered to join the Army, volunteered to serve in the infantry and endured the hardships of training as well as the rigors of combat—each of them knowing full well the great risks involved in war. Truly, the World is a dimmer place without men of action such as these amongst us. We are deeply saddened by their passing and we share the pain of our brothers in the 1st Battalion, 184th In-

fantry, but we also find inspiration in the heroism and selfless service these fallen soldiers displayed.

Katherine Lee Bates may have said it the best in the words to the song "America the Beautiful".

"O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved, and mercy more
than life!

America! America! May Gold thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness
And every gain divine."

May God bless our fallen comrades, our Army, and the United States of America.

BG Chaves



Photo by Sgt. Lauran Robinson

Congressman Ed Case shows Brig. Gen. Joseph Chaves, commander of 29th BCT, a bag of goodies from Hawaii he brought for the soldiers during a recent visit to LSA Anaconda.

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CSM's Message (cont)

you are doing your duty and you are great Americans. As for my expectations, I want you to follow SOPs. I want you to conduct yourself with dignity and honor. You will be faced with choices on a continual basis. The choice will be to do the right thing, or to the easy, selfish thing. You will sleep better and go home prouder of your service if you do the right thing. I do not want a young man or woman's service to be tainted with UCMJ action. I do not want a soldier to go through the shame of explaining to their families why they were reduced in rank because they disobeyed an order, got caught with alcohol or got into trouble over a sexual conduct issue. This can be avoided by focusing on the mission and by doing the right thing when faced with that choice.

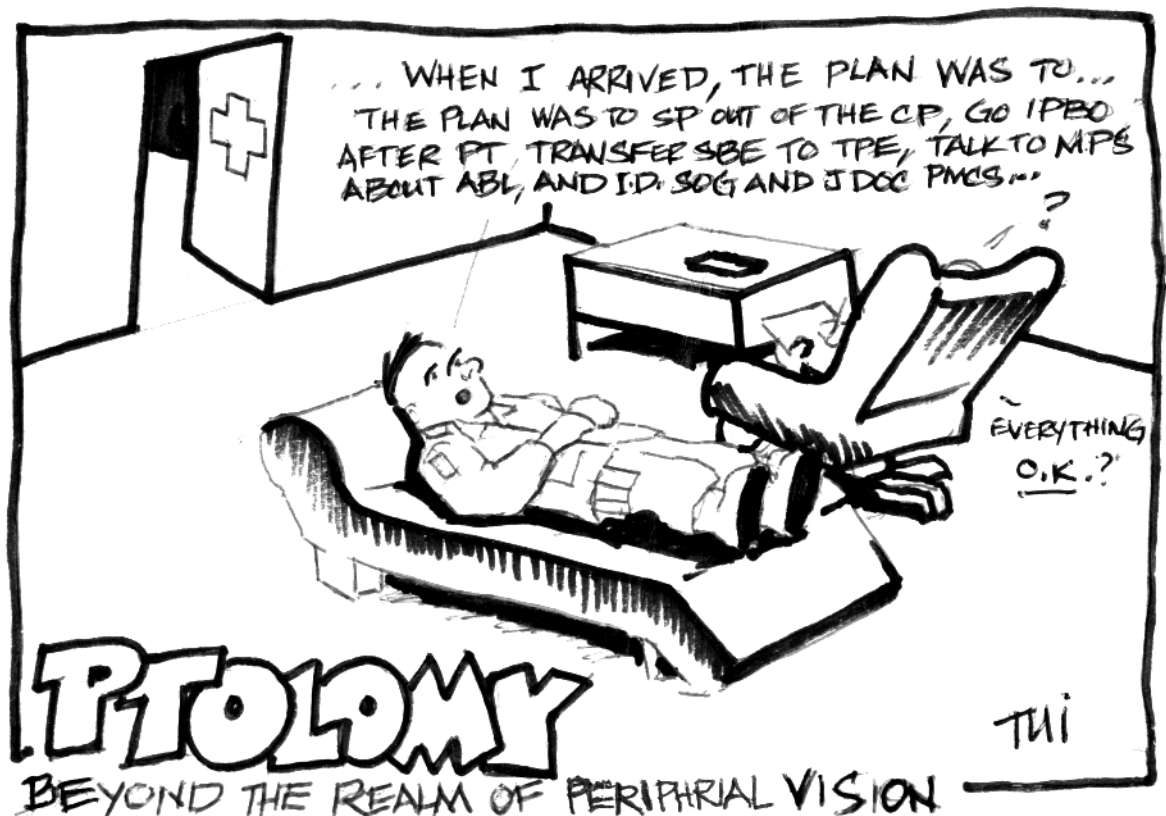
I want each and every soldier in the 29th BCT to get through our experience here in Iraq safely and honorably. No matter what you do, it will be a major part of your life and your personal history. Make it a good experience. Treat people as you would like to be treated.

Thank you for your service, honor and duty to our country.

With Ramadan about ready to start let's be vigilant and focused on our mission. We have approximately 14 weeks to go before the majority of us depart Iraq.

In parting I would like to make a special acknowledgement to the Infantry soldiers from the 1-184th Infantry Battalion (FOB Falcon). My heartfelt condolences to the families of SGT Michael Takeshi Sonoda, SGT Paul Neubaue, SSG Daniel Ronald Scheile and SSG Alfredo Silva and all the men and women of the 29th Brigade Combat Team and the 1-184th Infantry Battalion who lost their brothers, comrades and friends. They were killed in action while on patrol in Baghdad.

"LAVA"



Original artwork by Staff Sgt. Donovan Tuisano

Chaplain's Blessing



Photo by Sgt. Terry Eldred

“Your Private Life Affects Your Public Life”

Our private lives can actually be different from what we show to the public. Personal morality is doing what's right even when no one is looking.

In fact this concept holds esteem enough to be a topic in the moral leadership training for U.S. Army soldiers (AR 165-1, Religious Activities, 25 March 2004).

While I was at Field Artillery Officer Basic Course, a senior leader shared that as an officer we are in a fishbowl. Our actions are in open view for others to see. Therefore, we must always be on parade.

Good concept, in that like fishes our behaviors are scrutinized, however what others see is not always what we truly are on the inside. There are times we go off into our private homes, and secret places, and do things “behind closed doors.”

It is “behind closed doors” is when we let down our guard, and be who we really are. So this is where I would like to focus my thoughts on.

I will use God as a reference point to show that the virtuous private life of an individual brings great blessings from above.

Praying

He asks us to pray, make devout petition to God, commune, fall on bended knees, call upon him in secret. “But when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when

thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly (“The New Testament of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ”) The secret prayerful life, has everything to do with the successful public life.

Look inward to the heart

God is more interested in our hearts, our true nature, disposition, and our soul than he is of what we look like on the outside. “But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.” (The Holy Bible containing the Old and New Testaments”)

I hope that what I've shared would help clarify that the secret life of prayer, and practicing a pure life in private will bring public honor and blessings to you. The only way you would know if what I've shared is true, is by putting it to the test. This means, to pray to God in secret, and to live a good and honorable private life.

In conclusion, I know what I shared is true, and that your spiritual and even your life as a whole will be blessed, you will find happiness, experience more joy, and find grace and favor in God's eyes and in the sight of good men.

1. Army Regulation 165-1, Religious Activities, “Chaplain Activities in the United States Army, Chapter 11, “Moral Leadership Training”, 11-5.e. Personal Morality, Headquarters Department of the Army, Washington, DC, 25, March 2004)
2. Matthew 6:5-6, “The Gospel According to St. Matthew”
3. 1 Samuel 16:7, “The First Book of Samuel Otherwise Called The First Book of The Kings”

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

SGT RODEL EUGENIO (29th Spt Bn C Co) Hi My Love, *Happy Anniversary*23SEPT04* I'm so HAPPY that we got to celebrate it together! *muah* Loving & Missing you like crazy .:*YOUR WIFEY*

Ssg. Ronald Asuncion, A Company, 29th SPT. BN. Thank you for all that you're doing. We support you 500%. We miss you & love you sooooo much. You're always in our every thoughts. God Bless You & Protect You Always. All our love, hugs & kisses——Lenora, Na'u, RJ, Kiana & Koa Asuncion

To my husband and best friend- PFC Benjamin R. Chavez- Happy Belated Birthday, honey. The girls and I miss you and love you so very much. Please come home to us safely, and soon. You are in our hearts and thoughts always. Forever More Than Salt , your "wifey"- Candace

SSG Jayton L. Ruiz 29TH SPT BN, C Co. We love you Dada, more than anything in the world! We are SO proud of you and the entire 29th BCT and pray for your safe return. Our little hearts are always with you Dada, wherever you go! Mama sends you her love and says "Happy Anniversary HB!" We miss you and love you. Be safe and God Bless... BriBri, TateTate & Baba Jaymes.

Thank you for every precious moment that we shared during your R&R. Although it was short our memories will last forever.

Our boys miss you and you know how I feel... Stay safe and god Bless, and return home to us soon!! All of our Love Kuulei, Kekoa, & Micah Ray

SPC Ryan J. Billaber, B Company 2-299 INF Happy 20th birthday on October 25! So young, so brave, and so strong. WE're so proud of you and looking forward to your safe return. You are so special to your family and friends. Be safe. Love, Mom & Dad, David.

SSG Skinner, Jose HHC29th . Happy 26th Birthday Son (TX SIZE)! We are very proud of you! Our

prayers are with you and all soldiers for a safe and quick return home. We love you! Hugs and Kisses. Love mom, dad, sis, shaun, amber.

Puopolo Family up here home in Sebago, Maine. We miss you and love you. Looking forward to you and all our troops coming home real soon. We're all praying for your safe return from Iraq and we send you our love with overwhelming gratitude for being the patriot you are! In fact every one of ya'all is a hero in our book.

DELTA DRAGONS —— GO FOR BROKE Love ya bro, Big John, Tracy, Lil' John & Katie

Happy 21st Birthday to SPC Katherine Roberts, A Co 29th SPTBN. We'll have a drink on you over here on your birthday and one with you when you get home. Love you, Mom and the rest of the old guys back home.

"Hello" and send all my "LOVE" to my husband, Sgt. Rickey E. Goulsby, with 1st BN 487th FA in Kuwait. We all miss you a lot and thank you and your fellow soldiers for all your support and fight for our freedom! Take Care and hurry home! God Bless All of You!

Just wanted to thank my husband Sgt Shane Francisco and his unit (HHC 29th SIB, MP platoon) for my birthday card last August. That was sweet and I prefer real names. Also keep up with your bible studies... and be patient....Amen! Almost there.....Rodelyn Francisco.

Happy Birthday to my husband, Cpt Lloyd Phelps of the JAG section, The Phelps & Dymont gang all wish you a very Happy Birthday on Oct. 16. We wish we were there to help you celebrate. Actually, we wish you were here so we could help you celebrate. We love and miss you! From: Jennifer

PHOTO GALLERY



(left) Pfc. Lionel Anjel, an assistant gunner from 100th Bn, 442nd Inf., assigned to the 29th BCT mortar team braces himself after firing a round from a mortar tube affectionately nicknamed "Mary", as gunner Pfc. Micheal Orcino, stands clear.

(below) Spc. Laurens Miller, Batt. B, 1st Bn., 487th FA, watches as Spc. Jesus Molling of Batt. C attempts to sink a putt on a golfing green soldiers built in a courtyard of their billets.

Photo courtesy of the 29th BCT mortar team



Photo by Capt. Kyle Yonemura

Capt. Hussein Al Salami, the Commander of the Iraqi Army's 4th Co., 4th Bn., coordinates the movement of his company over a radio in Abayachi.



Photo by Capt. Kyle Yonemura

PHOTO GALLERY



Photo by Capt. Kyle Yonemura

Sgt. Hazel Donato, HHC, 29th BCT, helps unload boxes of school supplies sent from Hawaii. The supplies will be delivered to the local Iraqi population that lives in the area surrounding LSA Anaconda.



Photo by Capt. Kyle Yonemura

Sgt. Mariesyl Erese works a shift at the 29th Support Bn.'s Internet Café. It's been open for almost two months after being renovated. The Café is open 24 hours a day, except Wednesdays, and has 7 phones to call home as well as 19 on-line computers.



Photo by Capt. Kyle Yonemura

(left) A fisherman's Christmas tree. Master Sgt. Mark Shiraishi of HHC, 1st Bn., 487th FA goes fishing in the Kuwait Naval Base Harbor regularly after work. On this day, he and Master Sgt. Miles Ishizaki caught over 150 Halalu (baby Akule) in an hour and a half.

PHOTO GALLERY



Unsung heros: Mechanics from HHC, 29th BCT's maintenance section work long hours keeping vehicles running in the harsh desert climate. (standing, from left) Spc. Jay Agdeppa, Master Sgt. Samuel Lono, Spc. Kuwane Adviento, Spc. Jonah Anguay, Spc. Karl Kidder, (kneeling, from left) Sgt. Cipriano Herrera and Spc. Anthony Chung

Photo by Capt. Kyle Yonemura

Lt. Col. Hara's "loggies" of 2nd Bn., 299th Inf. inspect the newest additions to their "family".



Photo by Sgt. Suzette Fernandez



Photo by Sgt. Lauran Robinson

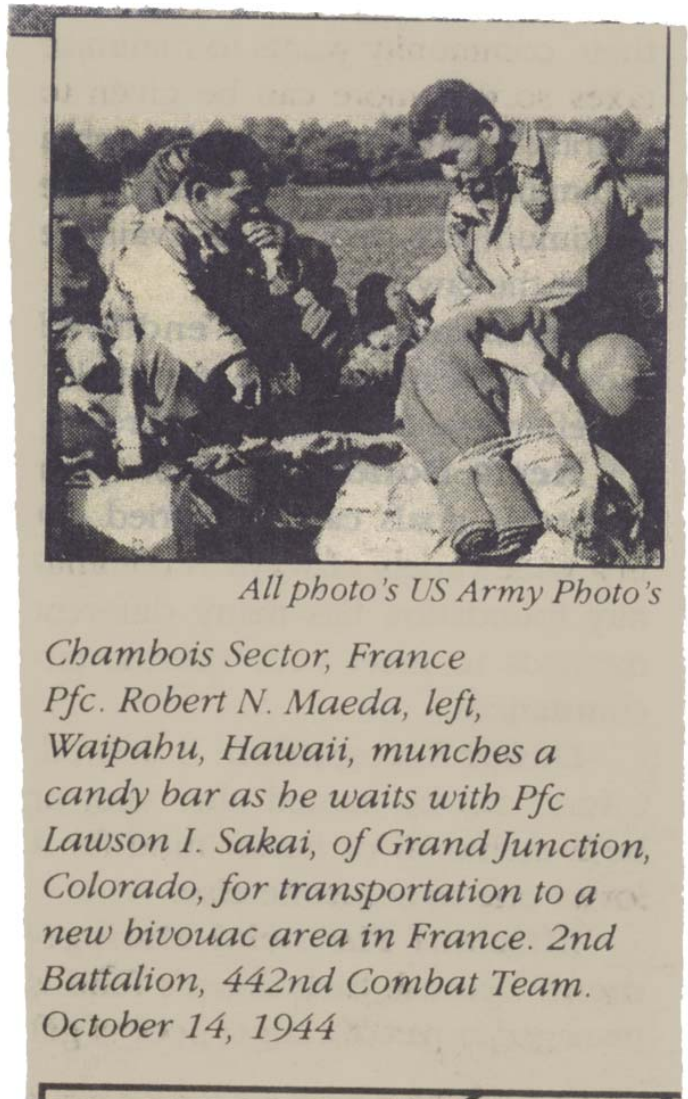
These soldiers of HHC, 1st Bn., 487th FA, take a CPR class offered in the evening after their normal duty day is complete.

PHOTO GALLERY



Photo by Capt. Kyle Yonemura

This "Aloha Fridays" menu is posted at the Camp Patriot dining facility.



All photo's US Army Photo's

*Chambois Sector, France
Pfc. Robert N. Maeda, left,
Waipahu, Hawaii, munches a
candy bar as he waits with Pfc
Lawson I. Sakai, of Grand Junction,
Colorado, for transportation to a
new bivouac area in France. 2nd
Battalion, 442nd Combat Team.
October 14, 1944*

Then...

...and Now



Photo by Capt. Kyle Yonemura

Soldiers from Co. C, 100th Bn., 442nd Inf., take a dinner break during a patrol along the Tigris River outside of LSA Anaconda.