



# DA LAVA FLOW



*The Official Newsletter of the 29th Brigade Combat Team*

Volume 1, Issue 1, October 2004

## **Commander's Corner**

*By Brigadier General Joseph Chaves*

As we transition from individual training and prepare for our next phase of collective training here at FT. Bliss, It's important that leaders at all levels ensure that our soldiers don't become complacent about safety standards. Unnecessary injuries and even deaths have been prevented simply because leaders enforced safety standards.

I want to remind each of you of the importance of staying focused, the tenants of our profession demand that you train hard, always place mission first, never accept defeat, never quit, and never leave a fallen comrade behind. This is the ethos of warrior-the ethos I expect all of you to live out.

Finally I would like to thank the Family Support groups on all your hard work in getting the baggies of goodies out to the soldiers upon departure and for the time spent in organizing other support functions. They were greatly appreciated by all. Thank you and Mahalo.

Lava 6 out.



## **ATTENTION TO RUMOR**

Put the rumor to rest right now. There is a rumor going on that there will be no Christmas Exodus, well what you have heard about the unpopular rumor is not true. This is coming down from General Chaves himself,

**“ FROM 20 DECEMBER TO 2 JANUARY, CHRISTMAS EXODUS IS ON.”**

*Chaplain's Corner* 2

*Soldiers on the air* 2

*Mail Call* 2

*Key events* 2

*Your vote counts* 2

*Request line* 3

*Weather page* 4

## **CSM's Message**

I've been observing and attending some good training. During our stay in Schofield, I was able to visit elements from nearly all the units in different training events. I've seen some very good opportune training by soldiers of the 1-487<sup>th</sup> FA. That's not to say others aren't doing it, I just happened to be there when they were reviewing the training they learned at the 11B MOSQ course.

I had some good conversation with the soldiers from CO. E, 100-442<sup>nd</sup> INF. I saw that they were taking the first aid seriously and watched while a small group practiced they're first aid skills before the testing.

One thing that was brought up which I need everyone's attention on is to reduce our "Hawaii" signature. Now that we are in Fort Bliss, we need to be sure we avoid those things we always enjoy doing, such as flying our state flag on our vehicles or putting those sorts of logos on the sides of the vehicles. We need to practice that and make sure we go into Iraq without attracting attention. I'll be watching out for these things and I need your help.

It's impossible for me to be everywhere and do everything but I will continue trying. Make sure information is passes down to the lowest level. Soldiers are still coming to me and asking me things that I know was passed out in the BUBs or in one of my notes.

CSM Robert N. Inouye

**Chaplain's thoughts**

I would just thank all for participating in the prayer breakfast. To all that helped put it together and to all that attended. I would also like for everyone to be safe and let us come together and work as one with daily prayer to make this venture one to which we can look back and say to each other "job well done". See you all at Bliss.

Maj. Leonardo Jamias  
Brigade Chaplain

**Mail Call**

If you want to get those care packages and letters from loved ones, certain procedures must be followed. The correct way to write your address is listed below:

Rank, First name last name  
Soldiers unit  
MRC5 29<sup>TH</sup> BCT  
BUILDING 2444, CASSIDY RD  
FT BLISS, TX 79916

Example:  
PVT LEONARD MALASADA  
E.CO 100-442 IN  
MRC5 29<sup>TH</sup> BCT  
BUILDING 2444, CASSIDY RD  
FT. BLISS, TX 79916

All outgoing mail must have appropriate postage before being given to mail clerk or mail will be returned to sender. Mail will be distributed from 1800-1900 hrs in accordance to your unit mail clerk.

Last day for personnel mail to be sent to ft bliss will be on December 17<sup>th</sup>. This will ensure minimal amounts of mail to be forwarded to FT. Polk



***SOLDIERS GO LIVE  
ON THE AIR***

SGT Rogelio Agcaoili and SSG Lei Watson of the 29<sup>th</sup> BCT along with CSM Richard Sylva, SFC Robert Rasmussen, and SSG Ryan Matsumoto of the 100<sup>th</sup> Bn were special guests on Tiny Tadani's Breakfast Club morning show.

The popular radio and TV host really took heart to the soldier's comments and stories. "It was one of our most popular shows because it really hit home to our audience on what you guys are going to be doing," commented Tiny after tallying the many phone messages during and after the show.

Soldiers spoke on training at Schofield as well as upcoming training expected along the way to ready us for the real thing in Balad.

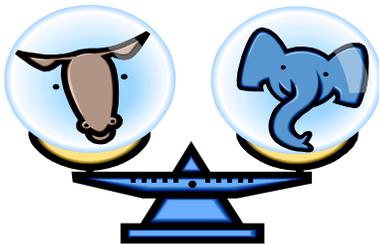
"We really need to talk about everything" explained SGT Agcaoili when the subject came up on communication between the soldier and spouses.

CSM Sylva and his crew spoke on the storied history of the 100th Bn.

SSG Watson got to dedicate the song "Thank you" to her mom. No doubt for all the love and support. Good job soldiers. You got to tell yours and the army story.

**Your vote counts**

Even if you are away from your hometown you are still encouraged to vote. Check these websites for more information; [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) and [www.myballot.mil](http://www.myballot.mil). These sites are for federal election absentee voting. Links to state websites are provided at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov).



**Key events:**

- >20 December, 2004 through 2January 2005, Liberal Leave Policy in Effect
- You may sign out on December 20<sup>th</sup>, but must sign in before 2330 hrs. on
- >First week of January, movement to Ft Polk, LA (JRTC)
- >End of January 2005, completion of training at Ft. Polk

**Planning your leave from Iraq in advance?**

CENTCOM's R&R program is for service members deployed for 12 months or more to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The program consists of 15 days of leave not including travel time to anywhere in the world the service member chooses to go. Service members become eligible for the program after serving 90 days and remain eligible until 60days prior to the end of their 12 months tour.

## **REQUEST LINE**

S1- Sick call hrs: 0630-0830 and 1800-2000 for McGregor TMC and 0700-0900 and 1800-2000 for Dona Ana. DD form 689 must be filled out by the attending physician and returned to your chain of command for record. If needed, buses will be provided to area hospitals. McGregor TMC is located at BLDG. 9503. PH: 915-569-9410. Dona Ana is located at BLDG 8158. PH: 915-569-0431.

S2- Asks for soldiers to be careful at the chow hall or any other place where classified conversations can be overheard by people that are not privy to this information.

As SFC Theodore Padua says, “ think security and the most important letter is U.”

S3- Check those FRAGOs.

S4- Your UMO (Unit Movement Officer) is the most important person in the movement process.

S5- Read your Iraq awareness books. The text contains vital information for your convenience.

S6- No personal laptops are to be in the TOC. No Government computers are to be connected to the LAN without the BDE S-6 approval.

S7- I/O reminder: keep OPSEC on all forms of transmission. Remember not to transmit on sensitive items on any unsecured lines. “This is the real deal,” comments Maj Sonny Deltoro. Also be aware of malicious software. Assure your computer is virus protected especially in the transfer of files into the system network

Do you have a Question, Concern, or Issue?

**29<sup>th</sup> BCT Inspector General (IG)**

**MAJ William Foss**

william.foss1@us.army.mil

Located in Building 9406 (29<sup>th</sup> BCT TOC),  
McGregor Base Camp  
569-9669

