



# DA LAVA FLOW



The Official Newsletter of the 29th Brigade Combat Team Volume 1, Issue 4, November 2004

## Commander's Corner

Aloha Warriors of the Lava Brigade Combat Team. We are half way through the five weeks of Phase III company operations. This is a time for building individual and unit readiness to its highest levels. It is a time when you must apply and dedicate yourself to honing your individual and collective skills. Our schedule continues to be full, and challenging, but through meeting our challenges we will gain a better understanding of what is possible.

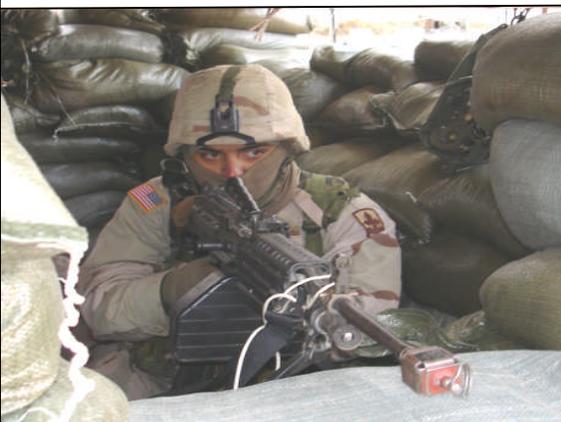
During the past week we have participated in training events in many parts of the nation and world. The Brigade command and primary staff conducted a pre-deployment site survey in Iraq and Kuwait. A second staff group linked up with the command and primary staff in Ft. Polk, Louisiana, and is currently participating in the Leader Training Program. From Ft. Polk, another group will continue on to Ft. Drum, New York, for further mission coordination. The remaining staff is preparing for the upcoming Digital Command Post Exercise and follow-on Brigade Mission Readiness Exercise at Ft. Hood, Texas. In addition, current operations at FOB McGregor and FOB Dona Ana continue as units train in mounted, security, urban, and intelligence-surveillance-reconnaissance operations. On-going, we have the requirement of maintaining equipment, taking care of soldiers', administrative and logistical issues, receiving new equipment training, mandatory briefings, and conducting daily physical training. We also continue to receive, train, and assign new soldiers to units of the 29<sup>th</sup> BCT.

Building the Lava Brigade Combat Team must be our highest priority. Every training exercise, every Soldier activity must work to this end. We will win this fight as a team. It's just that simple. Teamwork is just one of the focus areas for post mob training. We must ready ourselves both physically and mentally for the mission ahead. We must know our equipment, how it operates and how to maintain it. We must excel in weapons proficiency so that every round finds its mark...and we must instill discipline in everything we do! It is essential that these focus areas incorporate safety. This is all about standards. Follow procedures; don't take shortcuts.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world, it's the only thing that ever has.

Lava , Col Bruce Oliveira

## The first wave of approach



*Huddled behind a makeshift guard post, Specialist Clinton Stevens covers Specialist Ryan Soon at his front.*

In country or while we are training members of the 29th BCT are constantly keeping a watchful eye on who will enter the gates of our camp. Many will try to enter, only the authorized will pass through. It may sound simple. Put soldiers in front of the gate, nothing can go wrong No one will get through that is not supposed to. One would hope it was that easy.

The front guards face a constant wave of Iraqi people asking for food, medical attention and help. The guards then have to determine or seek guidance whether or not the 29th BCT can provide for these people with immediate attention or some kind of future resolution. A lot of times situations may arise that are unpredictable.

These are the times the guards have to be at they're sharpest with the objectivity being safety first.

"If your being approached your always going to have a cover, your going to always have a soldier protecting your back and protecting you." explains SSG Keith Becker on the importance of teamwork.

Situation awareness is constantly practiced as the guards are put into different scenarios to react to. A private company was hired to pose as Iraqi citizens giving some realism to the training. Being able to hear the Iraqi dialect and body language puts the soldiers into a different reaction mind set. Training with fellow soldiers posing as Iraqi's allows some sort of ease but with these "actors" in the field the tension rises and adds to the realism that may be faced while in country.

"Most of our actors pretended to have little or no English speaking skills and that really put us in scenario." said Spc Ryan Soon.

The first to approach becomes the first to protect and protecting everyone is the name of the game to bringing everyone home.



*Specialist Ryan Soon keeps a safe enough distance between himself and two approaching Iraqis.*

## CSM 'S Message

For this article, I had planned to discuss the NCOES system for soldiers mobilized under 10 USC Title 12302 which is what we are. Unfortunately, I am unable to get to my files to get this information as I am currently with the Leaders and Staff at our Leaders Training Program (LTP) at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, LA.

What I can do, is to share some observations and lessons learned from the JRTC gurus. JRTC will replicate the conditions and environment as we expect to experience in Iraq. They can't duplicate it, but they come pretty close.

Troop Leading Procedures. Information and situation awareness must get down to and understood by every soldier. The more the soldier understood the mission and his or her part, the fewer mistakes were made. Leaders must rehearse, rehearse and then rehearse the plan. If a convoy mission is planned, time must be allotted before the movement to rehearse the drills. Everyone must participate. Leaders must conduct proper Pre-combat Inspections (PCI) to ensure all equipment required is there to include any possible contingencies. Pre-combat checks (PCC) must be done to ensure that piece of equipment works. Having a PLGR does no good if PCIs weren't done to ensure fresh batteries were available, or PCCs weren't done to make sure it worked when turned on. Considering the wet weather we've been experiencing, a PCI would be to ensure the soldiers packed wet weather gear. A PCC would be to have each soldier check it to make sure it wasn't full of holes. AARs and back-briefs must follow every mission.

Negligent discharges. Proper procedures must be

followed and enforced. Squad leaders are responsible for making sure their soldiers know and execute these procedures for each weapon system they may handle. Many negligent discharges occurred when soldiers failed to put their weapons back on SAFE after firing. This is taught during reflexive firing. Procedures must be established to clear crew-served weapons before entering the FOBs. Don't forget muzzle awareness.

Look like you mean business. Once soldiers are on a mission, they must look like they mean business. The OPFOR is looking for soldiers who appear weak. If they see soldiers who are laid back, they are vulnerable to attack whether in convoy, or on ECP detail. At Fort Bliss, the term Game Face was used. BG Chaves calls it your War Face.

Eye protection. Soldiers need to start wearing their eye protection at all times outside the wire. It will help protect your eyesight. Once you lose your eyes, they can never be replaced. If you have protective goggles, start using them especially on convoys where the risks of IEDs are the greatest.

Name Tape Defilade. Soldiers manning crew-served weapons out of the HMMWV turret need to make sure they are sitting no higher than name-tape high. This will help protect you from wires strung across the road or from IED blast, both of which have unpleasant consequences.

These are just a few of the many valuable observations and I want each and every one of us to start practicing these.

LAVA!

CSM Inouye

## Medics graduate with new skills

“Medic!!, Medic!!”. Watch any war epic and these words have been shouted more than once when a Soldier is wounded on the battle field. Response time is of the essence to evaluate the Soldier, treat the wounds and maybe even save a life right in the middle of the battle grounds.

Medics of the 29th BCT added to their already filled plate of skills. Emergency Medical technician procedures were hit hard in the training time frame along with pre hospital trauma life support assessments. They even learned how to deliver a baby.

Deputy Brigade Commander Colonel Bruce Oliveira was on hand to



Colonel Bruce Oliveira congratulates 29th BCT Soldiers at the 91 Whiskey graduation ceremony.

congratulate the Soldiers. Flynn as the best group of the three brigades she has trained. “You epitomize the warrior ethos.” Colonel Oliveira himself started “You have set the standard as my measuring stick for future classes.” Charlie Medical Company. The “Army trains to fight.” In this case the Medics were “Army trains to care.” praised by Major Dawn

## Chaplain's Thoughts

An Examination of Opposite Leadership Philosophy's

A story worth retelling is of a young King in search of a leadership philosophy. He asked two groups of people to help him come up with ideas.

The first was a staff of older men who advised saying, “If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants forever.

The second staff of younger men the king consulted advised him saying, “Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou it lighter unto us; thus shalt thou say unto them, My little finger shall be thicker than my father's loins.

And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke; my father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you scorpions.”

The king followed the advice of younger men. “He answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men's counsel.” Consequently, “the people departed unto their own tents” (and went away from the king). 1 Kings 12:5-16 KJV

The moral is this. Leaders who serve, gives answers to, and speak good words to their people will have them as servants forever.

Chaplain Leo Jamias 566-0273

## **REQUEST LINE**

S5: The following report captures current events in Iraq's effort to rebuild their nation. We must keep in mind that we are going to Iraq to help them in this effort.

### **Weekly Progress Report**

**Reconstruction:** A newly refurbished 96-megawatt generator has come online at a power plant to the northwest of Baghdad, bringing enough electricity for more than 275,000 homes, officials said the week of 25 October. (Relief Web, IRIN)

**Economy:** Iraq's economy is set to grow more than 50% this year, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) says. In a review following a \$436m (£230m) emergency loan, the Fund said the authorities had created 'macroeconomic stability' in the country. But it acknowledged its 52% forecast growth followed a 35% collapse last year amid an 'almost complete halt in economic activity. (BBC News)

**Elections:** Iraq's electoral commission urged on 27 October for candidates to come forward and register from the start of next month for national elections in January. It called on 'political entities -- parties, groups or individuals -- who want to enter the upcoming elections to contact us and obtain the necessary documents to validate their candidacy,' in a half-page advert splashed across the front or back page of several dailies. (Relief Web, AFP)

**Security:** NATO'S top military commander says the alliance is planning to train about 1000 Iraqi officers a year once an Iraqi military academy is set up in a Baghdad suburb. NATO's training mission in Iraq is likely to be smaller than what was originally anticipated. (VOA News)

Prime Minister Iyad Allawi said on 26 October that he has asked the United Nations to send troops to help secure elections promised in January and voiced concern over a manpower shortage in the Iraqi police. (ReliefWeb, AFP)

The United Nations says Fiji's government has become the first to agree to provide troops specifically to protect UN officials in Iraq. The 35 UN officials in Baghdad are currently protected by troops from the US-led multinational force. (BBC News)

S6: Do not connect any personal computer or personal device to the NIPRNET or internet on McGregor Or Dona Ana without the authorization of Major Valdez, CW3 Shiramizu, or CW3 Parubrhub of Brigade S-6. Report all violators to Brigade S-6 at 569-9037. Legal action will be taken.

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*Chaplain Leo Jamias joins hands with 2nd BTN Soldiers before urban operation training.*



*SSG Fredrick Schaben gives instructions to PV2 Logan Luta and PV2 Glenn Ponce during training.*



*Colonel Bruce Oliveira congratulates Distinguished Honor Graduate PFC John Schutter (above) and Honor Graduate SSG Joe Julkowski (below) at the 91 Whiskey Graduation.*



*Specialist Nick Kamono (above) drives the presentation for the intel fusion students held at a Ft. Bliss classroom as his twin brother Nathaniel (seated below) listens with other students to the instructor.*



# Message Center



*Hello everyone. I love and miss you! God bless.*  
SGT Stephen Mattson  
Co A, 3/297th



*Aloha everybody! Thanks for the support. Miss you honey and Sia boy. God bless*  
PFC Jerome Sevilleja  
HHSB, 1/487



*Hello to everyone back home in Oregon. We all are having fun in our adventure and miss you all every minute.*  
SPC Grant "Foxy" Fox



*Life is hard and your soul and spirit is strong due to family and friends.*  
SGT Juan Valencia  
S-1 1/184



*To my wife Jamie and my children Dakota, Alisha, Anthony, Payton, and Jameson. I Love and miss you all. Love DAD.*  
SPC Jamie Cole



*Happy Thanksgiving to all the families and friends of Echo Co. Especially to my wife and son.*  
PV2 Dwight Cruz  
E Co. 100th BTN  
Saipan



*Happy Thanksgiving to my family and friends in Guam.*  
SPC Vincent C Cabrera  
Echo Co. 100th BTN  
Guam



*To my family, friends and beautiful wife. I miss you all. Happy Thanksgiving.*  
CPL Aifili John Tufa  
100th BTN/ 442 INF  
American Samoa



Posted on: Friday, November 12, 2004

## Mayor-elect pays tribute to his Samoan roots

By [Johnny Brannon](#)  
Advertiser Staff Writer

It was planned as a brief and reverential visit to his mother's grave. But there was no holding back the joy and pride that greeted Mayor-elect Mufi Hannemann in American Samoa.

"I tried to make it low-key, but once I was there, it was amazing how people were able to put things together at a moment's notice," said Hannemann, who returned to Honolulu yesterday after the 48-hour visit.

The city's first mayor of Samoan ancestry first traveled to his parents' birthplace when he was 12 years old. As an adult, he's made it a point to visit once a year and maintain the link.

"Cultural identity was very important to my parents," said Hannemann, who is also of German and English extraction.

His father Gustav Arthur Hannemann was born in Samoa, the former German protectorate that was known until 1997 as Western Samoa. His mother Faiaso Soliai Hannemann hails from adjacent American Samoa, a U.S. territory since 1899.

When he is sworn into office on Jan. 2, Mufi Hannemann will become Honolulu's first O'ahu-born mayor since Neal Blaisdell left office in 1968.

Hannemann said he recognizes that his Samoan heritage carries a great significance, and that he feels a big responsibility to be a leader that people who share his background can be proud of.

But at the same time, he tries not to dwell too much on his ancestry, he said.

"People judge you by your actions, and not your words, your symbol, or your title," he said. "I think about it for a second and then I move on. But if it's going to make that Samoan kid study harder at school, try for better grades, and be a contributing member of our society, then I'm very happy about it."

His older brother, Gus Hannemann, lives in Hawai'i Kai but maintains strong political ties to American Samoa. He served a two-year term in the territory's Fono, or legislature, and twice ran to be its delegate to Congress. He currently serves as the Fono's appointed liaison to Hawai'i.

On Monday night, American Samoa Gov. Togiola Tulafono, Lt. Gov. Ipulasi Aitofele Sunia, leaders of the Fono and the Hannemann family held an airport reception for Mufi Hannemann and six other members of his Honolulu family in Pago Pago, the territory's capital.

"Now the door is open and the future is promising for the rest of us because we now all know it is possible," Tulafono said. "You've done it, and other children of Samoan ancestry can do likewise. You have become the role model for the rest of our children that will follow you."

Hannemann thanked the governor and said he was proud of his culture.

"I am very happy to be here with my brothers and sisters," Hannemann said. "I wanted to come home."

After visiting his mother's grave in Nu'uuli on Tuesday morning, Hannemann addressed close to 300 students at the American Samoa Community College in Pago Pago.

"Dream big and reach for the stars," he said. "Work hard and never give up, because eventually it will pay off. But always believe in yourself, your heritage, your roots, and always honor your parents."

*The Associated Press contributed to this report. Reach Johnny Brannon at [jbrannon@honoluluadvertiser.com](mailto:jbrannon@honoluluadvertiser.com) or 525-8070.*



Mufi Hannemann

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