



Commander's Corner

Warriors and Family,

On August 16, 2005 the brigade will commemorate its one year anniversary of the mobilization of the 29th Brigade Combat Team. Though the journey has been long and challenging, you have overcome every adversity that has crossed our path as we help move Iraq towards a free and democratic government. I would like to thank everyone for their commitment and dedication to this noble cause. I would especially like to thank the families, friends and our government leaders back home for their tremendous support, prayers and encouragements. It means a lot to all of us serving here in theater.



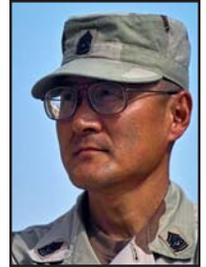
On that day, we will conduct a short and simple ceremony commemorating our one year anniversary with the awarding of the combat soldier sleeve insignia, combat infantry badge, combat field medical badge, and combat action badge to our key leaders. Each unit in turn will conduct their own ceremony to recognize our warriors for service in a combat zone. This short and simple ceremony is rooted in the history of our Army and signifies the tremendous sacrifice our soldiers and families have made in preserving freedom throughout the ages. The history of the combat shoulder sleeve insignia reads:

During the revolutionary war, George Washington devised badges so that rank might be readily identified, as the revolutionary army did not have uniforms. Washington's order directed what color ribbons and where each was to be worn so everyone could distinguish the rank of each soldier. Since that time, military insignias have multiplied according to the needs of each

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CSM's Message

This past month was a difficult one since we had lost 2 Soldiers within 2 weeks. My heartfelt sympathies goes out to the families of SGT Deyson Cariaga and SSG Frank Tiai. Both died as American Soldiers and I know that they would want us to continue our mission so that their loss is not in vain. Let us continue to embrace the Warriors Creed as we add their names in a place of Honor along with CPL Glenn Watson and CPL Arnold Duplantier and SPC Jorge Estrada. That is how we can best honor them.



Let us also not forget that for all the positive trends that are going on in Iraq, the insurgents will keep trying to stop the democratic process that the Iraqi Transition Government is trying to establish and try to turn public support for the Coalition Forces by continuing to use IEDs, VBIEDs, IDF and SAF against us and Iraqi Security Forces. Remain vigilant. We're not home yet.

As the weather gets hotter, make sure everyone keeps hydrated. Drinking water is not enough. You have to make sure Soldiers also eat regular meals. Drinking too much water alone will cause Hyponatremia, a condition created when the individual drinks so much water, that it flushes the electrolytes away and creates an electrolyte imbalance. When on patrols or any kind of mission that has the Soldiers in the sun and heat for long periods, make sure they consume a sports drink like Gatorade, and eat their meals or MREs. At least chomp on a Granola Bar. I'm sure I've oversimplified this, but I hope you get the message. Let's reduce combat losses due to heat injuries.

Shortly, we will have 2 Retention NCOs – MSG John

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MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

Aloha!

My heartfelt condolences go out to the families of Sgt. Deyson K. Cariaga and Staff Sgt. Frank Tiai and all the men and women of the 29th Brigade Combat Team and the 100th Battalion, 442nd who have lost their brothers. Their sacrifices will not be forgotten. My thoughts and prayers are with you as you continue your outstanding service and commitment to fighting this war on terrorism.

I stood in Aloha Stadium in October of last year when all the members of our guard gathered, their families gathered in the stands, and I dreaded the thought that I knew this day would come, that it was unlikely that the 29th would be able to make it through more than a year of deployment and not have anybody lose their lives. It's a very sad day for the families; it's a very sad day for Hawai'i.

As part of our Administration's ongoing commitment to our military, I was honored to recently join the Hawai'i delegation in Washington, D.C. to successfully lobby for the continued operation of Hawai'i's Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard. I shared with Anthony J. Principi, chairman of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) why Pearl Harbor should not be added to the list of installation closures, explaining the strategic significance of the shipyard to America's long-term security in the Asia-Pacific region. The outcome of our meeting was the exclusion of Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard from the BRAC listing.

I am pleased to share with you two bills I recently signed into law, which will benefit our active duty military personnel. The first, ACT 170, will allow military personnel to retain their professional licenses while deployed. Putting careers and business on hold while a service member is on active duty, often results in the expiration of professional licenses. This new bill will allow the service member to make a request within 120 days of their discharge or release and provide a copy of original deployment, thereby retaining their professional license.

The second, Act 171, requires the University of Hawai'i to allow military personnel returning from tours of duty to return to educational programs they were previously admitted into. It also allows National Guard members to set up banking accounts for the state to directly deposit monthly uniform allowances from DOD.

I continue to look forward to your safe return home. I know your friends and family back home would like to have photographs, which I would be proud to feature in my weekly newsletter and website so the people of Hawai'i can see how you're doing.

I also hope you will share your thoughts with me via e-mail at Governor.Lingle@hawaii.gov. I also encourage your loved ones to call me with any concerns during my weekly radio show at 7:05 a.m. each Wednesday on KHVH 830 AM (521-8383). You can also download the radio show on my website at www.hawaii.gov/gov and sign up for my weekly electronic newsletter to keep you posted on events back home.

Mahalo for your service!
Governor Linda Lingle



Photo provided by the Governor's Office

IN MEMORIAM

Spc. Jorge Estrada

By Capt Kyle Yonemura

FOB FALCON, BAGHDAD — Spc. Jorge M. Estrada was a warrior and a valued team member assigned to Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry. He deployed with his unit to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III with the rest of the 29th Brigade Combat Team earlier this year. Jorge worked for his battalion's communications section and was a well respected and loved member of the unit. A dependable and knowledgeable soldier, he took his military career seriously and enjoyed serving his country. While assigned to Forward Operating Base Falcon in Baghdad, his duties included working with the latest computer systems as he supported the numerous patrols that the battalion conducted.

A Southern California native, Jorge graduated from high school in Los Angeles in 1999. Shortly after graduating, he enlisted for four years in the U.S. Army as an electronic communications specialist, serving with the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, New York. Jorge was serving there when the terrorist attacks of September 11 occurred. Shortly after, he deployed to Afghanistan with the division in support of Operation Enduring Freedom I. After completing his combat tour and enlistment, he returned home to California and civilian life, where he worked as a salesman at a neighborhood gym.

In late 2003, Jorge joined the California Army National Guard and was assigned to the 540th Forward Support Battalion in Bell, California. He spent a little over a year in the unit, and it was there that he met his future wife Vicky, who is also a California Army National Guard member. They fell in love, and were married in December 2004. During his free time Jorge enjoyed listening to music, exercising, spending time with his friends and family, and playing soccer and other sports.

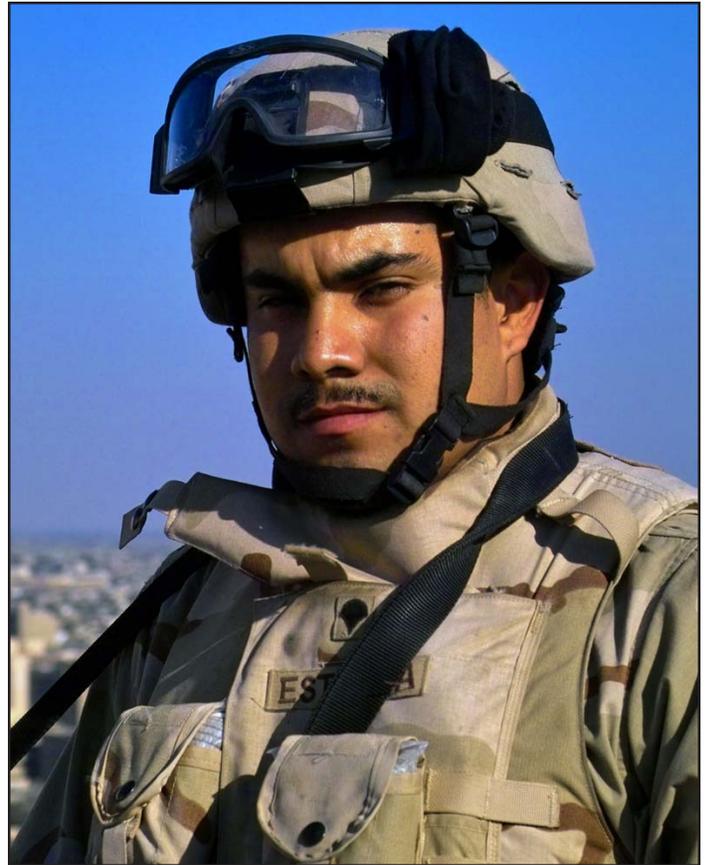


Image courtesy of 1-184 Inf.

Spc. Jorge M. Estrada

February 21, 1981 - June 13, 2005

On May 30, 2005 he left FOB Falcon on emergency leave in order to be present for the birth of his daughter. Lilliana was born on June 6, 2005. Jorge truly enjoyed being both a husband and a father, and shared those feelings often with friends and family. Sadly, on June 9, 2005, while still home on leave, Jorge was murdered in the parking lot of his apartment building by an ex-boyfriend of his wife. As with all deaths, Jorge's passing leaves a void among his family, friends as well as his brothers-in-arms in the 1st Battalion of the 184th Infantry, with whom he proudly served.



Image courtesy of 1-184 Inf.

Sgt. Arnold Duplantier II

June 3, 1979 - June 22, 2005

Sgt. Arnold Duplantier

By Spc. Jayson Howell

FOB FALCON, BAGHDAD — On June 22, 2005, members of Company C, 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry, provided security for the Al Rasheed District Area Council meeting, when they were attacked with small arms fire by anti-Iraqi forces. Sgt. Arnold Duplantier II, 26, was seriously wounded in the attack. Despite the valiant efforts of his fellow soldiers to save his life, he died soon after.

Sgt. Duplantier, “Dupe” to his friends, was born and raised in Sacramento, California. In 1999, shortly after high school, he enlisted in the California Army National Guard as an infantryman assigned to 1st Bn., 184th Inf. He married his high-school sweetheart, Tanya. Soon after, the couple had a daughter, Isabel.

Sgt. Duplantier’s has six years of service in the Army National Guard, including two tours in the Middle East. Duplantier deployed to Kuwait as part of Operation Desert Spring in 2002, where he was awarded the Army Achievement Medal. Upon returning to Sacramento, he served with distinction in a full time position at the California Army National Guard Headquarters. In August, 2004, he mobilized with Co. C to FOB Falcon, in southern Baghdad. As an infantry team leader, his natural leadership and the sincere care he showed for his men won him the respect of both his troops and his superiors.

The men of Co. C remember Duplantier not only for his professionalism as a soldier, but also for his good humor and selflessness. “He was a great friend” said Sgt. Antonio Cueva, “when I was with ‘Dupe’ I could never frown ... he would make sure of that.”

Sgt. Arnold Duplantier is survived by his wife, Tanya, and his daughter, Isabel. Sgt. Duplantier’s love and affection for his family were apparent to all who knew him. He was known for proudly showing off their pictures.

For the soldiers of Co. C, 1st Bn., 184th Inf., the mission continues and life carries on, but the void left by the loss of a fellow soldier — a brother — is palpable.

IN MEMORIAM

Sgt. Deyson Cariaga

By Capt. Kyle Yonemura

LSA ANACONDA, IRAQ — The soldiers of the 229th Military Intelligence Company lost an exceptional soldier, a friend, and brother on July 8, 2005. Twenty year old Sgt. Deyson Ken Cariaga, known as “Dice” to his platoon mates, was killed at approximately 12:40 a.m. when his vehicle was struck by an IED near Balad, Iraq. Sgt. Cariaga was the driver of a Humvee in a patrol that was returning to Logistical Support Area Anaconda when the incident occurred.

Sgt. Cariaga was a Tactical Human Intelligence Team member; part of a joint task force that collected intelligence from sources in the area. His company commander, Capt. Michael Desmond, remembers him as “a superb soldier, He always excelled in every mission that was asked of him.” Cariaga’s Team Leader, Specialist Eric Shimodoi described him as, “Very intelligent. The epitome of what makes a good soldier.” Cariaga’s high school classmate and close friend, Private 1st Class Sheldon Fujiwara, who joined the Hawaii Army National Guard with him, said, “I don’t have any siblings, he was like my brother.

Sgt Cariaga was a 2002 graduate of Roosevelt High School, in Honolulu, Hawaii. He enlisted in the Hawaii Army National Guard while still in high school on January 28, 2002. He attended basic training at Ft. Jackson, SC, then his advanced individual training at Ft. Huachuca, AZ. As a tactical intelligence collector, his duties were to screen detainees, question suspected terrorists and work with informants. He met regularly with local Iraqis gathering information and making intelligence assessments. A fast learner and good with his hands, he was his team’s go-to guy whenever something needed to be repaired. Sgt Cariaga was also certified as a Combat Lifesaver, trained in providing immediate medical care to injured personnel. He was also a trained Raven unmanned aerial vehicle pilot.

Sgt Cariaga took great pride in the fact that he was a solder. His uniforms were always pressed and he consistently scored the highest physical fitness scores in



Image courtesy of 29th BCT

Sgt. Deyson Ken Cariaga

July 28, 1984 - July 8, 2005

his company. A hard charger, he gave his all on missions.

Sgt Cariaga was known as a person who loved to laugh as well as make others laugh. He dreamed of visiting Japan and expressed interest in becoming a member of the U.S. Army’s Special Forces. He had been scheduled to attend college in late 2004, but that was put on hold when the 29th BCT was activated for a tour of duty in Iraq.

“I’ll really miss Dice, his loss leaves a big void in the team,” said Shimodoi. “We’re all really close. He would have turned 21 on July 28th. Our thoughts are with his family and friends,” said Shimodoi.

A memorial service was held for the popular young sol-

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dier on Tuesday, July 12, at 11:00 a.m. in the post theater on LSA Anaconda. The service was attended by his fellow soldiers and airmen. The theater was filled to capacity.

A Letter to the Soldiers of the 29th Brigade

By Theresa Inouye

Mother of Sgt. Deyson Cariaga

Dear Friends,

Deyson's brother Lance, his grandparents, his stepfather and I want to thank you for honoring him at the recent memorial service at LSA Anaconda. We are deeply moved by the photos and accounts we have received so far.

We are most grateful to those of you who befriended him and kept him company while he was there. It was difficult to think of him being away from family and friends, but knowing that some of you took such good care of him brings us comfort, even now in our time of grief.

We ask this of you: that you honor his memory not only by remembering his smile, his love for kids and his sense of humor, but by remaining vigilant and alert during your faithful service to our country. Our family prays for your safe and speedy return to your loved ones.

I close by quoting author Ben Stein, who happens to be a big supporter of U.S. soldiers in Iraq:

"I came to realize that a life lived to help others is the only one that matters, and that it is my duty, in return for the lavish life God has devolved upon me, to help others He has placed in my path. This is my highest and best use as a human."

With much love and aloha,

Theresa F. A. Inouye

Squad Hit Hard by War

By Capt. Kyle Yonemura

LSA ANACONDA, IRAQ — Staff Sgt. Frank Tiai served as an infantry squad leader with First Platoon, Co. C, 100th Battalion, 442nd Inf. A year ago, he bid his wife, two children, and his island home goodbye to answer his country's call to combat duty in Iraq. Born and raised in Pago Pago, American Samoa, he served 22 years as an Army Reservist with the famed battalion. According to his friend, Chaplain Capt. Fouvale Asiata, "Frank was a very gentle man, but a disciplined soldier with the 'Go for Broke' spirit,"

Staff Sgt. Tiai was remembered at a memorial service held on July 20, 2005, at 11:00 a.m. in LSA Anaconda's post theater. He was killed in action on July 17, 2005, at about 10:20 a.m., while on a combat patrol North of LSA Anaconda, after an improvised explosive device detonated near his humvee.

Tiai was remembered for his love of his family as well as his love of his men. "He had his family's photos on his wall and would talk to them [the photos] everyday, I sometimes thought someone was in the room with him—but it was only Frank talking to his wife's or his children's pictures," said Staff Sgt. Amone Moliga. As Tiai's roommate, Moliga knew how hard Staff Sgt. Tiai took it when his men were wounded, "He had a soft heart. He had tears in his eyes while he called for the MEDEVAC [medical evacuation helicopter] for his men. Other guys don't show that kind of thing."

At 45, Tiai was the oldest soldier in his platoon and he took on a fatherly role for the soldiers in his squad. His even temper and maturity earned him the respect of his men. "I looked up to Staff Sgt. Tiai," said Spc. Siamu Utu, a member of Tiai's squad, "He was my role model, he was always there for us through good and bad. We miss him. He was like a father and always gave us advice."

"Frank was a humble man, he never argued, but he always stood his ground. His calmness inspired calmness in those around him," said his platoon leader, 1st

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Image courtesy of 100-442nd Inf.

Staff Sgt. Frank Tiai

August 14, 1959 - July 17, 2005

Lt. Tuliloa Tuliloa.

Staff Sgt. Tiai's first squad had been hit hard in the past. In April, Spc. Nick Tuiolosega, an automatic rifleman with the first squad, was seriously injured by an IED that detonated near his humvee. Then in June, a report of a vehicle borne IED in the area of LSA Anaconda came in to the command post; a patrol from first squad sped out to intercept it. Turret gunner Spc. Satuala Amoa was critically injured when his vehicle accidentally rolled over, pinning him beneath it. Making matters worse, Amoa was wedged under the solid steel gunner's shield mounted on the humvee's turret and the weight of the armored humvee was crushing him. Seven burly Samoan soldiers from the first squad quickly positioned themselves along the edge of the vehicle and managed

to lift the three ton humvee off of Spc. Amoa long enough for their medic and artillery observer to pull him free. Both Amoa and Tuiolosega are recovering from their injuries at Tripler Army Medical Center in Hawaii.

"Co. C has been hit hard, but especially that one squad, the first squad of First Platoon," said acting company commander, Capt. John Ahrends. In a cruel twist of fate, First Squad Leader Tiai was mortally wounded on his last scheduled patrol before returning home to his family on Rest and Recuperation (R&R) leave. The patrol was returning to base and was only a few kilometers from LSA Anaconda's gate, when according to Platoon Sergeant, Sgt First Class Sofa Seumalo, "Staff Sgt. Tiai got on our platoon radio net. He thanked everyone in the platoon over the radio for their hard work. He encouraged them to keep up their good work, and he told them 'good bye' because he was going home on R&R."

"The explosion was so powerful that it shook the ground," said Sgt. First Class Seumalo, "you could hear it and feel it. My ears were ringing." The IED had exploded the same moment Tiai had completed his broadcast. Seumalo looked behind his vehicle to see Tiai's vehicle engulfed in smoke and flames. Tiai had been critically wounded; his squad rushed to his aid and removed him from the burning wreckage of the humvee. They lay him on the ground and began administering first aid. Seumalo called in a report over the radio then ran to his friend's side. Staff Sgt. Tiai was on his back, conscious, watching the combat lifesavers working on him. "He held my hand, squeezed it and looked into my eyes," said Seumalo, almost breaking into tears as he recounted his friend's last moments, "Frank had tears in his eyes, but he didn't say anything. He knew."

The quiet and humble warrior who had shed tears when his men had been wounded was now a casualty himself. Combat medics worked heroically to save his life as he was transported to the hospital. Chaplain Asiata was with him, "When I saw him at the hospital, he had a tear in his right eye as he breathed his last breath. He

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had a final tear to shed and I believe that it was a tear of concern for his family and for his men—that’s the kind of man Frank was, he always thought of the people he loved first.”

At Tiai’s memorial service, a bagpiper played Amazing Grace, then Tiai’s fellow Samoan soldiers sang a traditional farewell song in their native language called Mo’omo’oga Sa Molia i Talosaga, which Chaplain Asiata interpreted into English as, “A humble plea to be still together in life, but who can stop death!” The soldiers who attended the service also sang Peace Like a River and ended with the rousing regimental song of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Inf. called, Go For Broke.

“We will drive on with our mission, but we will always remember Staff Sgt. Tiai in our hearts,” said 1st Lt. Tuliloa, “We will always ‘Go For Broke!’”



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Photo by Capt. Kyle Yonemura



Photo courtesy of Ken James

Photo courtesy of Ken James



Photo by Capt. Kyle Yonemura



Photo by Capt. Kyle Yonemura

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Going For Broke

By Capt. Kyle Yonemura

LSA ANACONDA, IRAQ — The patrol briefing was to the point, we would be conducting a routine route clearance to deter the emplacement of improvised explosive devices along major supply routes around Logistical Support Area Anaconda as well as conduct counter-cache operations to deny the enemy access to weapons and ammunition. The soldiers from the 2nd Platoon, Company B, 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry have been performing these types of missions on a daily basis for about five months now. Company B is comprised mostly of infantrymen from American Samoa and has been supplemented by both volunteers and cross-leveled soldiers from all across the United States. Our patrol was lead by Staff Sgt. Uluao Leituli from Ameri-



Photo by Capt. Kyle Yonemura

Gentle Giant: Staff Sgt. Leituli Uluao shakes hands with children during a dismounted patrol through the village of Albu Hishma.

can Samoa.

The 29th Brigade Combat Team, which includes the 100 Bn, 442nd Inf., arrived in theater in late January of this year. Shortly after arrival, the change in season from winter to spring happened almost overnight. The Iraqi winter was wet, cold and muddy. The skies were overcast and rain visited in occasional deluges. Poor drain-

age and the over saturated soil led to ponds of placid brown water that dominated nearly every open area on the base. The ponds became mock reflecting pools mirroring images of the mundane: porta-potties, trailers and metal shipping connexes. Thick gooey mud was everywhere—adhering itself to everything it contacted. Vehicle tires became giant mud doughnuts covered with gravel “sprinkles,” while Army boots became awkward cement clodhoppers after a stroll through the stuff. Then one day the rain stopped, the sky cleared, and the puddle ridden fields became dry, dusty bowls in a matter of days—signaling the onset of spring.

The warm spring became an oppressively hot summer and the thirsty soil often takes flight in the form of dust hazes and dust storms. Visibility drops to about the length of a football field at times and the fine, tan colored powder gets into everything. On hot days, a gust of wind brings no cooling relief. The heated breeze reminds me of opening an oven to see if the Thanksgiving turkey is done; the blast of heat elicits a cringe rather than a sigh of relief. There have been days in which the temperature has risen above 121 F—peak summer temperatures here will rise to 130 F, sometimes higher.

We left the wire at noon, at the start of the hottest time of the day. An anemic AC unit in our humvee pumped arid, semi-cool air over us as we baked in the box-like interior of the steel humvee.

Our patrol passed along the raised dirt roads that meander through the fields of the rural agricultural communities that surround LSA Anaconda. Irrigation canals filled with tall weeds and fecund green water line many of the roads. Little girls heard flocks of sheep, goats and sometimes a few scrawny cattle, while women of various ages labor under the desert sun using long handled shovels to turn the bleached soil. Most of the older women are draped from the neck down in a black, loose fitting outer garment called “abayah”—the modest nun-like covering that Arab women wear. The younger women wear conservative printed coverings of the same design. The heads of both young and old women are swathed in “hejab,” the linen wrapping that allows only their faces to be seen. Their clothing ap-

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pears as confining and stifling as it is proper and traditional. They seem impervious to the oppressive heat. The resigned, even pace of their work is contrasted by their vibrant young children that play near them in the fields. The women work as their parents have, as well as their parents before them for generations. Though they work hard and perform important roles, in general, women occupy a low rung on the Iraqi social ladder. They pay no attention as our patrol rumbles past. Conservative Muslim tradition doesn't allow them to look at or speak with males outside of their families.

We passed homes either spread out across the countryside or clustered in small villages; most of the homes are humble dwellings made of cement or mud brick. The mud bricks are mixed with straw for strength, giving them a "hairy" appearance. The bricks weather over time, melting into each other until they eventually form solid hairy walls of earth.

Iraqi architecture favors square block-like homes with covered lanais; they often use their flat roofs as decks.



The mud brick structures feature roofs thatched with tree branches and sticks that are packed with mud—which after drying, aids in waterproofing and heat absorption. All of the homes are the same color of the light tan desert soil they stand in. Modern satellite dishes adorn the roofs of a few of the homes in the Villages of Yethrib, Albu Hassan and Albu Hishma. As we passed through, the men regarded us with friendly to neutral expressions, while the modesty of the younger women was protected by exasperated mothers who quickly shoved them indoors. Litter lines the potholed streets. We continued on through thick clouds of fine dust kicked up by the humvees in our patrol.

Some of the children dealt with the heat of the day by splashing about naked in the canals; occasional huddles of women scrub clothing piled in wicker baskets along the shores. Many of the children flash the Hawaiian "shaka" sign that the 100th Battalion 442nd Inf. soldiers have taught them.

The day settled into late afternoon and the sun cast the golden glow of a French Impressionist's painting upon the fields and laborers. The shadows lengthened and the outline of our hulking armored humvees shimmered across the timeless scene as we passed by. For a brief moment, the old and the new, the traditional and the modern were intermingled as our shadows crossed each other. Iraq is a land of many paradoxes.

We dismounted in the vil-

Children ask Spc. Savaiki Sua for candy as he steps from his vehicle.

Photo by Capt. Kyle Yonemura

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Photo by Capt. Kyle Yonemura

Sgt. Semeli Toilolo was asked by a concerned grandmother for help after her grandson was bitten by a neighborhood dog in Bakr Village.

lage of Albu Hishma and patrolled the village's main street. The children were full of smiles and friendly; they've become accustomed to the generosity of the soldiers and follow them wherever they go. Some of the children were unkempt, with matted, tangled hair. Many were barefoot and shouted, "Mista, you give me!" as they held out empty hands to the soldiers.

According to Sgt. John McElroy, the 2nd platoon has been hit twice by IEDs in the past few months. The first was set near a fake IED in the middle of the road. According Sgt. McElroy, when the patrol stopped to avoid the fake, the insurgents set off the large explosive device that had been hidden nearby. The explosion showered the patrol with shrapnel and debris and was followed by incoming mortar rounds that exploded nearby. "The IED was a big one so it was really loud when it went off," said McElroy. None of the infantrymen were injured in the attack. According to Sgt. McElroy, many of the 100th Battalion 442nd Inf. patrols have experienced IED attacks since taking over this area of operations near Balad, in the heart of the "Sunni Triangle."

The fiery Arabian sunset was accentuated by the ab-

sence of electrical lights in the area. As evening approached, the sun's passing was marked by the Bakr Village Imam (Muslim priest), who summoned the faithful to the "Salat-El-Meghrib" or "sunset prayer." The imam's voice reverberated across the quiet countryside like a surreal blanket, projected from a loud speaker in the mosque's minaret.

Evening brought out the bats. They flitted about haphazardly like dark leaves buffeted by an unfelt wind that doesn't allow them to fall; they swirled to the backdrop of a hazy purplish sky and a rising full moon. The peacefulness of the evening belies the danger outside LSA Anaconda's barbed wire. To date, 42 soldiers from the 100th Battalion 442nd Inf. have been wounded in action and one soldier, Staff Sgt. Frank Tiai, was recently killed in action.

This sad tally of casualties from the 100th battalion, 442nd Infantry, brings the 29th BCT's overall casualty figures to 67 soldiers wounded in combat, with four soldiers killed in action. The 29th BCT is about half way through its year long combat tour in Iraq.

Mission after mission, 227th Combat Engineers improve security

By Sgt. Lauran Robinson

LSA ANACONDA, IRAQ — The soldiers of the Support Maintenance Platoon, 227th Combat Engineer Company, use their heavy equipment and construction skills to improve security at Logistic Support Area Anaconda.

The engineers recently redesigned one of the roadways leading into LSA Anaconda in an effort to stop attackers who turned near the camp and fired at the base entry control point, then drove away. The two squads of the platoon rolled out the gate with their dump trucks, bulldozers and forklifts to re-design the roadway. As they

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had planned the event extensively beforehand, every Soldier was tasked with a specific job. Working with hired Iraqis, they placed concrete barriers, sand barrels, and concertina wire to create a road block, preventing vehicles turning into the roadway from being able to turn around quickly.

This was one of many missions the soldiers of 227th Combat Eng. Co., successfully completed to assist with base security. As combat engineers, they use various means to limit the mobility of insurgents to provide force protection for the base. Other missions the engineers have completed include: upgrading security at every entry control point on post: including installing anti-vehicular barriers; widening a road used by military convoys, allowing them to quickly move in and out of the post; building a ramp for gravel trucks coming into LSA Anaconda; and repairing a water canal that leads to a nearby village, providing irrigation water for farmers.

The soldiers of 227th Combat Eng, led by the detachment commander, Maj. Mark Ogburn, have been working at a hectic pace, making LSA Anaconda a safer place to live and work. “They are always trying their best and they take pride in what they do” said Maj. Neal Mitsuyoshi, the 29th Brigade Combat Team, Engineer Officer.



Photo by Sgt. Lauran Robinson

Maj. Mark Ogburn directs Sgt. Cory Ragragola in placing a concrete block with his forklift. The barrier will create a roadblock, improving security.



Photo by Sgt. Lauran Robinson

(from left) Pvt. Adrian Quick, Spc. Soliata Milovale, Sgt. Dominador Ruiz, Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Nakashima, and Capt. Jeffrey W Wyatt, all of 100th Bn., 442nd Inf., were presented with the Purple Heart award on May 2nd, 2005

“Go For Broke” soldiers awarded the Purple Heart

By Sgt. Lauran Robinson

LSA ANACONDA, IRAQ — On May 2, 2005, Capt. Jeffrey W. Wyatt, Sgt. Dominador Ruiz, Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Nakashima, Spc. Soliata Milovale, and Pvt. Adrian Quick of 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, were awarded the Purple Heart for injuries they received after an IED exploded near their vehicle while on a patrol. The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the U.S. armed forces who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy.

On March 5, after finishing his shift as a battle captain with the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, Capt. Wyatt joined D Company on his first mission outside LSA Anaconda. At around 10:00 am, the patrol was traveling south on Route Heather to question suspected insurgents in the village of Al-Shahabi. Wyatt noticed suspicious people sitting in a white car parked on the left side of the road. Seconds later, a loud explosion went off. An IED had been detonated near the right side of his vehicle. The soldiers in Wyatt’s humvee

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quickly checked each other for injuries. They had all been injured but none of the injuries appeared severe at the time.

The white car was no where to be seen and left Wyatt with the unanswered questions: did they set it up? Were they waiting for the Soldiers and watching? The Iraqi Army was called to check for secondary IEDs, and the patrol continued on with its initial mission.

Though there were no life threatening injuries from the IED attack, the soldiers felt the aftereffects of the blast. Capt. Wyatt reported to sick call where a doctor determined that he had suffered a minor concussion. That night he was unable to move. The blast of the IED had left him with a bulged disc in his lower back. His medical treatment consisted of electrical stimulation to loosen the back muscles, and physical therapy.

Due to his back injury, Capt. Wyatt is unable to go on missions outside the wire as much as he would like. “It will always be a nagging injury” said Wyatt, “I consider myself lucky that nothing serious happened to me. Someone was looking over my shoulders that day. I thank goodness that I am still able to play with my daughter.”

Capt. Wyatt continues his mission as the night shift battle captain, for the 100th Bn. 442nd Inf. The other four soldiers have all recovered and returned to duty.

If it's broke, 29th Support Battalion can fix it

By Sgt. Lauran Robinson

LSA ANACONDA — The Maintenance Companies A and B, of 29th Support Battalion use their mechanical skills to keep vehicles and equipment running to support the 29th Brigade Combat Team's security mission.

Company A provides routine inspections on both vehicles

and generators with quarterly check-ups and annual services. From oil changes, to break replacements, Co. A mechanics work on eight to twenty vehicles a day. They also provide unscheduled services, and 24 hour emergency repairs. Three soldiers of Co. A repair generators which are used throughout the post.

Trading the comforts of community for the convenience of being close to work, the soldiers of Company B live in “the country”, located away from the rest of the base's residents. Co. B provides direct support maintenance for the Brigade, these repairs including fixing parts such as engines and transmissions. They support the Brigade with Class IX supplies, itemized parts from light bulbs to engine parts to nuts and bolts. Soldiers of Co. B also



Photo by Sgt. Lauran Robinson

Spc. Jean Bourassa and Staff Sgt. Walter Kotrys switch out the rear tires of a five ton truck as part of the quarterly vehicle servicing.

repair weapons, radios, refrigerators, air conditioners, and water pumps. A team of welders cut metal to armor the undercarriages of vehicles.

Though the companies are have an important role keeping the Brigade moving, they are working with a minimal number of Soldiers. More than half of the companies' personnel have been depleted to support the brigade's security operations. The 29th Support Bn., maintenance companies are working hard to support the Brigade by keeping vehicles moving, generators running and supplying repair parts.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

29th BCT Remembers Vietnam

By Spc Bob Sentell

27th Public Affairs Detachment

LSA ANACONDA, IRAQ — On Friday the 13th, Soldiers gathered in the early morning hours to honor the sacrifices of those before them.

Soldiers of the 29th Brigade Combat Team gathered at DFAC 1 for a prayer breakfast to commemorate the May 13, 1968 call-up that sent the 29th Infantry Brigade to Vietnam and to pay tribute to Soldiers lost in both Vietnam and Iraq.

As Halau O Hula Lava Brigade performed traditional Hawaiian music, Soldiers ate breakfast and enjoyed each other's company. Once the ceremony began, the mood grew somber as Soldiers looked into the Brigade's past to remember those long lost.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 James Kinoshita talked about how his father answered the call to go to Vietnam.

“As my father drove to Fort Rucker to be sworn in as a chaplain, he heard on the radio that the 29th was being called up to go to Vietnam. Well, he didn't turn around. He went to Fort Rucker and was sworn in. Thirty days later, my father convoyed, through protestors, to Schofield Barracks to head to Vietnam.”

Chief Kinoshita also spoke of the differences between the Vietnam War and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“When my dad came home, the Brigade landed at Hickam Air Force Base. They were loaded into cattle cars and convoyed through the protestors to Schofield Barracks. Other than the protestors, there was no welcome home party to greet them, no parade to honor them for their service.

“Soldiers who returned to Hawaii from this war were welcomed and greeted as heroes. And our return to Hawaii will be even bigger than the welcome put on for them.”

The 29th BCT Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Jo-

seph Chaves, spoke of a Brigade Soldier who served heroically in Vietnam and gave his life in the process. He asked whoever was listening to not forget those who paid the ultimate price in this and prior wars.

“This [Soldier] was one of 3500 Soldiers who answered the call on May 13, 1968 to fight for their nation in a very unpopular war and was one of 29 Soldiers from this brigade who made the ultimate sacrifice.

“Let us always remember, honor, and pay tribute to those who have gone before, and above all, let us never forget their sacrifices as we serve our nation today.”

Editor's Note: Spc. Sentell is a member of the 27th Public Affairs Detachment from Fort Drum, NY and is deployed to Iraq in support of units under LSA Anaconda command.

Tailgate Medicine

By Capt. Kyle Yonemura

LSA ANACONDA, IRAQ — Medical teams from the Iraqi Army and Co. C, 29th Support Battalion, 29th Brigade Combat Team (Hawaii Army National Guard) visited the Village of Al-Faduz on July 5, 2005, providing much needed assistance to village residents. Al-Faduz is a farming village located less than three kilometers from Logistics Support Area Anaconda's southern border.

Much of the security for this joint mission was provided by soldiers from the Iraqi Army's 4th Battalion. These soldiers have been trained by Task Force Konohiki, part of the Hawaii Army National Guard's 29th Brigade Combat Team. The Iraqi soldiers worked alongside soldiers from the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 128th Inf. to secure the village's main street where the medical assistance would be provided. Iraqi med-

NEWS FROM THE FIELD



Photo by Capt. Kyle Yonemura

Children ran into the streets to welcome the patrol as it entered the Village of Al-Faduz.

ics that had been trained by medics from the 100th Battalion, 442nd Inf. worked in concert with medical personnel from the Hawaii Army National Guard's Co. C, 29th Support Bn. to set up a triage as well as two treatment areas on the unpaved, dusty street.

Once security was in place, Iraqi Army soldiers put out the word to the villagers that Iraqi and US medical personnel were there to help them and the word spread through the village's approximately 500 residents with amazing speed. Within minutes of the team's arrival, the street was swarming with dozens of onlookers as well as people seeking medical assistance—and more kept coming. Villagers lined up and received an initial evaluation at the triage table. “We treat those who can be treated, the more serious injuries and illnesses or long term illnesses are referred to [near by] Balad Hospital,” said Maj. Arthur Sampaga. Sampaga, a registered nurse from Hilo, Hawaii stated that the goal of the mission was, “to see as many patients as possible.”

Iraqi Army medics along with physician's assistants and medics from the 29th Support Bn. began treating patients who reported ailments ranging from minor cuts and tooth aches to flu symptoms and infections. “We even did one minor surgery,” said Capt. Roy Ouano, a physician's assistant with ten years of civilian experi-

ence. The medical personnel from Hawaii worked with Iraqi medics to provide what Ouano described as, “tail-gate medicine,” an apt name as the soldiers worked out of the backs of open Humvees. “I'm very proud to be helping other Iraqis,” said “Muhamad” an Iraqi medic, “the people are very happy to see an Iraqi soldier helping them and they look up to me.” Muhamad requested that only his first name be used, as insurgents have killed the family members of Iraqi Army soldiers in the past. He sees his unit as being “almost ready” to take over the security of the area from American forces. He credits the high morale of his unit with the “improved conditions in the Iraqi Army.”

As the crowd of people wanting to be seen by the medical team grew to well over a hundred, Iraqi soldiers attempted several times to get the villagers to form a neat line; however, the excited villagers pressed up against one another so tightly that the line kept collapsing and returned to its original state—a large and excited group thronging the tables. “This is awesome!” said medical Staff Sgt. Matthew Mitsui through a smile, “This is what we came to do.” Mitsui is an active duty guardsman from Oahu, Hawaii. According to Maj. Sampaga, the Iraqi-US medical teams were able to treat about 160 people in a two hour period. “This is very



Photo by Capt. Kyle Yonemura

An Iraqi woman explains her medical concerns to American and Iraqi medics. A translator assisted the US medic.



Photo by Capt. Kyle Yonemura

An Iraqi medic explains the proper dosage of anti-biotic to take to a mother.

fulfilling and worth while!” said Sampaga.

Missions such as this medical assistance visit are part of ongoing civil affairs efforts by area commanders aimed at changing the way the local populace feels about their multi-national neighbors on LSA Anaconda. According to Cpt. Hallah Nilsen, who helped coordinate the medical visit, Al-Faduz has been used as a mortar launching point into the base. Such efforts are aimed at changing some of the villager’s attitudes toward the multi-national forces. “Medical Assistance Visits are an element of Civil Military Operations that support the maneuver commander’s efforts to positively influence the local population’s perception and support of Coalition/ US Forces,” said Maj Marc Lawton, the 29th BCT’s Civil Affairs Officer.

As the mission wrapped up and the soldiers left the village, smiling and waving Iraqis stood along the dirt road to wave goodbye. Large smiles were on the faces of the Hawaii soldiers too, “This was very rewarding,” said Mitsui.

“Yethrib Five-O” train Iraqi Police

By Sgt. Lauran Robinson

LSA ANACONDA, IRAQ — Select soldiers from the 29th Brigade Combat Team with civilian police experience were brought together to form a Police Transition Team to help train the Iraqi police from the nearby Village of Yethrib.

The Iraqi police in Yethrib, a village north of Logistic Support Area Anaconda, have had to redevelop their operations with new responsibilities to assist the newly elected government. “There is not a large criminal element here, but there is an insurgency, and insurgency breeds crime” said Maj. Calvin Fish of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, who was given the task of helping the Iraqi police through this transitional phase.

The 29th BCT dedicated more than a half dozen soldiers with civilian police experience to form the Police Transition Team, jokingly referred to as the “Yethrib Five-O”. These soldiers train the Iraqi Police, teaching them techniques and procedures to be proactive against crime.

Each member of the Police Transition Team focuses on specific area of training. The training they provide includes check point operations, dismounted foot patrols, partnering with Yethrib residents for community policing, arrest techniques, investigation procedures, preserving a crime scene and traffic stop procedures.

The team teaches the Iraqi police in a classroom setting as well as on the job training. They provide one on one attention so the Iraqi police can learn the multiple skills they must have to become more effective. It is hoped that these new Iraqi police officers will be able to pass the training they have received on to other policemen in the future.

The Police Transition Team has been working with the Iraqi police on a daily basis for two months and will continue to work with them for the duration of this deployment. “We are making good progress, they are a



Photo by Sgt. Lauran Robinson

Staff Sgt. Barry DeBlake plays the subject as an Iraqi policeman learns how to control his detainee, with guidance from Sgt. Clyde Bueno.

step better than what they had. I like what we are doing” said Corp. Davis Michael a team member from 100th Bn., 442nd Inf. and a police officer from Carl Junction, Missouri.

“We have the best job in the Brigade. We get to do what we love to do.” said Sgt. William McCoy, of 100th Bn. 442nd Inf. McCoy is a police officer from Honolulu, Hawaii who specializes in traffic enforcement.

“The Iraqi police have been receptive to the training and are more confident. They take pride in their work, have more self respect, and are proud of being a police officer in Yethrib” said SSG Barry DeBlake of 100th Bn. 442nd Inf., the non-commissioned officer in charge of the Police Transition Team and a police officer from Kauai, Hawaii.

82nd Cavalry welcomed in Al Dujayl

*By Mike Smith
Troop F, 82nd Cavalry*

Al Dujayl, Iraq — Think about a convoy escort through the heart of Iraq, and you might conjure up images of a dangerous duty in a hostile land. For members of Troop F, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, a trip to the town of Al Dujayl means greeting crowds of happy children and receiving thanks from adults who remember what it was like to live under a brutal dictatorship.

The June 21 mission for the National Guard soldiers from Oregon, California, and Hawaii was a simple one; provide security for a team of Air Force Office of Special Investigations (OSI) agents out to the town where they gathered intelligence by talking to local officials. The potential for violence was as real as any other part of Iraq, but on this day and most days, Al Dujayl was as peaceful as a small town in the U.S.

“Al Dujayl is on one of the bigger areas we go to,” said Platoon Leader 1st Lt. Dale Price.

From their base at Logistical Supply Area (LSA) Anaconda, the trip to Al Dujayl was a short one. Along the way, children ran from their houses out to the road to wave at the passing soldiers. Once they arrived in town, the soldiers parked their armored Humvees and walked the main street of the town.

Before the Humvees could even come to a stop, word had spread through the town that the Americans had arrived, and a large group of children approached to greet the soldiers. They were fascinated by the well-armored soldiers, and the soldiers were fascinated with them.

“We give out candy all the time,” said Price, who is from San Diego, Calif. “Toys, dolls, pens, pencils, school supplies. They love it.”

The presence of Americans soldiers walking through town is a deterrent to any terrorists that might be con-

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

sidering attacking civilians. But perhaps more importantly, a casual foot patrol through town gives the soldiers an opportunity to personally interact with the Iraqis they are helping to free.

Storefronts full of everything from groceries to clothing to electronics spill out onto the sidewalk, and the soldiers take their time to peruse the goods being offered. Many soldiers here bought gifts for family members at home, as well as locally grown produce. The store owners enjoy the attention and the money spent by the soldiers, and posed proudly when the soldiers took their pictures.



Photo by 1st Lt. Mike Smith

Sgt. Jon Winnop of Troop F, 82nd Cavalry, watches as an Iraqi Police convoy passes through the town of Al Dujayl.

Price believes the effect on the economy is important to the Iraqis. “It shows them that we’re friendly, that we’re trustworthy. It gives a good image of the American forces.”

Well-behaved children followed the soldiers around, occasionally receiving gifts of candy from the Americans. One soldier posed for a picture with a young girl, and gave her a stuffed animal as a gift.

Older children, mostly boys, asked to have their pictures taken, and asked that the Americans bring copies of the pictures next time they come to Al Dujayl. No

promises are made, but the soldiers say they’ll do their best.

The patrol ended with lunch at a local restaurant. The soldiers dined on sandwiches made with locally grown lamb, tomatoes and cucumbers before returning to their Humvees. Before the soldiers could get to their vehicles, an excited man stopped his truck in the middle of the street and started calling out to the soldiers.

With a big smile, the man called out in broken English, “Thank you! Thank America! No Saddam! Saddam no good!” His three sons climbed onto their father’s lap to wave to the soldiers, and more pictures were taken.

With the OSI agents ready to leave town, the soldiers mounted their vehicles and started back to their base. The next day would bring another mission to another village—and another chance to leave a lasting impression with the Iraqi people.



Original artwork by Staff Sgt. Donovan Tuisano

SPORTS PAGE

Island Girls court victory

By Spc. Jayson Howell

LSA ANACONDA, IRAQ — Within the 29th Support Battalion, 29th Brigade Combat Team, a small group of soldiers are making their presence felt on Logistics Support Area Anaconda. They train during their off duty hours. They have their own distinct uniforms. They shoot, they run, they shoot again. When put on the defensive, they quickly recover and seize control once again. They average just five feet, four inches in height. They are called “the Island Girls.” They are the current LSA Anaconda champion women’s basketball team.

Soldiers at Logistics Support Area Anaconda often take advantage of the various facilities for physical training and recreation that are available to them. One of the more popular amenities — a basketball court — soon inspired the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation staff of the LSA to host tournaments. Every few months, two tournaments are held, one for men’s teams, and one for women’s.

On June 25, 2005, a team of women drawn mostly from Company A, 29th Support Bn., did the unexpected: they won the championship game. A 35-30 victory over the West Side Warriors ended in an uproar as the crowd supporting the Island Girls broke into thunderous cheer. A Hawaiian flag was proudly raised and paraded around the court. The victory, though well earned, was hardly expected. The last time the Girls faced the Warriors, they were savagely trounced by more than twenty points. “It feels good, nobody thought we were going to win” said one team member.

“We’re the cinderella team” said another.

The team credits much of their success to head coach Spc. Micah Steele, of Co. A. “He believed in us from the beginning” they said. “He said we would win the championship.”

The season was further complicated as most of the team went on R&R at different times. The rest of the team adapted to cover the positions of players who were on



Photo by Spc. Jayson Howell

Spc. Naomi Taliulu, of Co. A, 29th Support Bn., 29th BCT savors the sweet taste of victory moments after the championship game.

leave for a few weeks, sometimes more than one at a time.

For a team that lost its first game by more than fifty points, the taste of victory is welcome. Now, it falls on them to defend their position, as the next season of tournaments is already beginning.

STAFF SECTION

Commander's Corner

(Continued from page 1)

branch of service.

Shoulder sleeve insignias originated during World War I. Many were cut out patches of felt, applied on a background. The more modern patches are embroidered. Some of the early patches of World War II were hand embroidered. This is especially true of navy ratings. The patches manufactured today are machine embroidered. The brightly colored insignia, worn on the left shoulder, denotes the command unit under which a soldier serves and serves the same purpose as the enameled badges of the civil war and the Spanish-American War.

The first shoulder sleeve insignia is credited to members of the 81st division. On their way to France in 1918, the unit adopted the figure of a wild cat, and was granted permission to wear it in October, 1918. Because general headquarters recognized the value of a patch as a means of building morale and helping troops assemble under their own officers, all organizations of the American expeditionary force were directed to adopt similar insignias. After World War II, the wear of a unit patch on the right shoulder was approved to denote service in combat with that unit. A new design must not conflict with an existing one, nor may it resemble too closely a symbol employed by the enemy. Officially known as the shoulder sleeve insignia – former wartime service, it is most commonly called the “combat patch”.

Again, I would like to thank all of you for your service, dedication and commitment to the Army and our great Nation. Wear the “combat patch” proudly, you’ve earned it!

Lava!

Joseph J. Chaves

CSM's Message

(Continued from page 1)

“Sonny” Gollero and MSG Richard Tanaka, arriving here to assist units with talking to their Soldiers about extending. These NCOs come from HIARNG, and their job will be assist any 29th BCT ARNG unit with retention. Our plan is to base one Retention NCO here at LSA Anaconda, Balad and one in Camp Victory, Baghdad. They will visit all the units as needed to make sure we try to retain your seasoned Soldiers.

Lastly, it comes as some relief to many of us that we have passed the half-way mark. Although our main effort is still the combat mission here, we have to make sure that we plan for the personnel and logistic challenges ahead that deployment and demobilization present. We must complete our NCOERs before we demobe. We have to make sure awards are done in a timely manner. Since HQDA changed the policy on the awarding of the CIB and CMB, and established the CAB, units must keep on top of these and not wait. Let’s make sure our Soldiers records are as complete as possible before they REFRAD and we need to start thinking about that now.

STAFF SECTION

The New Waves Warning System

*By Capt. Kyle Yonemura
29th BCT Public Affairs Officer*

The indirect fire warning system on LSA Anaconda known as the “Big Voice” system is being replaced with an improved warning system called WAVES. The Big Voice system is an audible alarm system that requires the Joint Defense Operations Center, i.e. “the command post,” to manually activate an alarm after an incoming rocket or missile impacted the base. The LSAA is transitioning from the reactive and manually operated “Big Voice” system as the Big Voice system does not meet the future force protection needs of LSAA. The system’s short coming is that it was incapable of alerting all residents of LSAA. Personnel in some hardened buildings are unable to hear the alarms. In addition, the Big Voice system does not provide the base with a pre-strike warning. The proactive WAVES warning system will provide a pre-impact alert tone which indicates a mortar or rocket attack is occurring—allowing base personnel enough time to take appropriate measures to protect themselves from the lethal effects of an incoming rocket or mortar.

The new WAVES performs all of the functions performed by the older system with a number of additional capabilities. The WAVES system can operate in both manual and automatic modes. In other words, it can be activated both manually and automatically after the detection of either mortar or rocket launches or both. The system can swiftly calculate the projected point of impact of the incoming round and cue alarm devices within the base to alert personnel to the danger through the use of both audio and visual (strobe lights) means. Once fully operational, a only a localized alert will sound to inform the personnel in the projected area of impact or “localized alert zone,” of the incoming round. This will ensure that the entire base’s operations are not interrupted by an indirect fire attack in one area. The new system will also provide public address capability if needed.

LSA Anaconda will implement the WAVES in two phases. Phase I will include a validation of the Opera-

tional Readiness of the WAVES as an early warning system. During Phase I, the current “Big Voice” warning system will be maintained along side the news system. Data will be verified by a manual check of the system to ensure that it alerted to a valid radar acquisition. Until this verification is complete, the new WAVES will only augment the current “Big Voice” procedures.

During Phase II, the WAVES will act as a localized early warning for only the part of the base affected by the indirect fire attack. An audible alarm in the vicinity of the threat will indicate that personnel in that area must take appropriate action. Immediately following the threat, the entire LSA will go to Alert Status Red IAW existing policies. During this phase the WAVES team will collect data on the effectiveness of the Sense & Warn capability. This panel will reconvene once WAVES has achieved Operational Success Capability to determine reducing the requirement for the entire LSA to “go Red” based on the effectiveness of WAVES.

The new WAVES indirect fire alert system is wireless; it provides both indoor and outdoor audible alarms/announcements to the LSAA and is projected to be fully operational by 4 July 2005.

The command post will use the WAVES system to sound four alarms: Alert Status Red, All Clear, Ground Attack as well as a Localized Threat Alarm. The alarm tones will not change from the current system and a new alert tone will be added. The Localized Threat is a new alarm tone that replicates the “klaxon” or alert tone used by the Navy to sound “General Quarters.”

The Waves system will provide an early warning for incoming rockets and mortars. The Warn capability provides residents of LSAA an advanced warning of an indirect fire attack. Individuals alerted by the local alarm have between five and nine seconds to react to the alarm before the incoming artillery round impacts. Anyone who hears the local alarm is within the projected impact area of the incoming mortar or rocket, and must take immediate action to protect themselves, i.e. personnel must lay down immediately and cover their ears.

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The actions personnel must take upon hearing Alert Status Red does not change. When sounded, all individuals seek shelter in the required uniform, i.e. kevlar and IBA, until the “all clear” is sounded. When the localized Threat Alarm is sounded individuals are required to seek shelter in a hardened structure or bunker if one is available within 20 feet, if not, personnel must lay flat on the ground. It is important to remember that personnel have only about five to nine seconds to respond appropriately. Immediately following the Localized Threat Alarm, a second alarm will sound. This second alarm will be either the All Clear alert tone or the Alert Status Red.

Once fully operational, the WAVES system will provide local warning against indirect fire attacks while at the same time minimizing impacts on the activities.

A training CD has been developed for distribution to all units and contractors of LSAA and has been distributed to all Major Commands on LSAA for distribution.

29th BCT Safety Convoy Operations and Heat Injury Prevention

*By Chief Warrant Officer Hargrave
29th BCT Safety Officer*

CONVOY OPERATIONS: A convoy had just departed the MSR headed towards a Camp in Kuwait, as a vehicle owned by a Kuwaiti National, driving ahead of the convoy, stopped suddenly forcing the next vehicle to brake to a stop. The following convoy vehicles, attempting to stop, collided with each other in a chain reaction accident.

Lessons Learned: Maintaining proper intervals and convoy speed is a must to allow vehicles proper stopping distance. Drivers are required to be licensed for the type of vehicle they operate, sleep plans and the use of proper



PPE will be enforced. A Risk Assessment of the mission, to identify hazards or risk needs to be completed while reviewing the convoy procedures. Consider weather, load plan, speed and driver fatigue. Establish controls to reduce or eliminate hazards. Know your soldier’s driving habits, complete vehicle repairs immediately, and establish sound Safety Standards.

Individual Failure: Not following Safety Standards, is the result of complacency and overconfidence of soldier’s ability to perform his mission. Haste makes waste; taking short cuts, rushing and having a poor attitude contributes to unnecessary accidents. Commanders are responsible for soldier’s safety & the quality of their unit safety program. Inadequate or improper supervision is not acceptable. Enforcement of the standards protects soldiers, maintains combat readiness and has a direct impact on the mission. Wear seat belts and PPE for each mission. Not being familiar with the terrain and driving at excessive speeds is the largest contributor to accidents.

Cause Factors: Soldiers driving too fast for road the conditions, following too close, misjudging clearance, no ground guides and inattention to situation awareness.

“THINK SAFETY”

HEAT INJURY PREVENTION: Prevention falls into several categories; acclimatization, physical fitness,

STAFF SECTION

hydration, nutrition, work-rest plan, reduced heat exposure and clothing. Observe soldiers carefully for signs and adjust work-rest schedule and water consumption according to the conditions. For heat illness and dehydration, emphasize rest, shade and hydration along with making sure soldiers are eating properly. If and when the 1st heat casualty occurs, monitor ALL soldiers in the unit.

Acclimatization & Physical Fitness: Maximize the endurance of physical fitness and acclimatization.

Hydration: Know the importance of drinking fluids. Water is required to replace what the body will lose from sweating. Carry water in your belly; don't save it in your canteen.

Work-Rest Cycles: Mandatory work-rest schedules will prevent an increase in body temperature. Plan all heavy work during cool early morning hours or evenings whenever possible.

Clothing: Wear uniforms to cover all exposed skin, protecting you from the sun, wind and other hazards. Use hats, other head gear, goggles and sunscreen as needed. Resist the urge to loosen or take off clothing, thinking you are improving the ventilation and you will cool down. The hazards from the sun, wind and insect exposure will be more harmful.

YOUR INVOLVEMENT SAVES LIVES



Fluid Replacement Pictorial Guide

Work Level and Heat Category Information

Work levels are broken down into 3 categories:

- Easy work:** walking outside on hard surface, minor maintenance, stationary under cover in full gear.
- Moderate work:** local national escort, walking on uneven/sandy surface, moderate maintenance tasks.
- Hard work:** combat operations, manual labor tasks (ie sandbag filling and stacking), heavy maintenance tasks.

Heat Category:

-1 (White)	78° - 81.9°
-2 (Green)	82° - 84.9°
-3 (Yellow)	85° - 87.9°
-4 (Red)	88° - 89.9°
-5 (Black)	> 90°

This is the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature not the ambient temperature. This information is available from several sources e.g. Staff Weather Office on SIPR or preventive medicine staff.

Note: When wearing body armor add 5° to the above temperatures.

STAFF SECTION

Where There's a Will, There's a Sound Estate Planning Way

CPT Lloyd Phelps II

29th BCT Legal Assistance Attorney

As the Lava Brigade moves into the second half of its deployment to Iraq, many soldiers may want to reacquaint themselves with the will they prepared prior to deploying. For most soldiers, these wills were prepared at pre-deployment SRP's and then set aside for the more immediate concerns of preparing for war. Now that the Brigade has settled in theater and into its battle rhythm, soldiers need to know exactly who is aware of their wills existence, and most importantly, must insure the person they named as the will's executor is aware of its existence, location, and has access to it.

Significant life changes such as marriage, divorce, the birth of a child or the death of a loved one may compel soldiers to draft a will for the first time, or revise their existing wills, in order to insure their estate is properly administered should the unthinkable happen. Also, if soldiers change their mind about the division of their personal property, will changes are likely necessary. Regardless of the circumstance, soldiers should not attempt to change their will by writing upon their existing will.

Soldiers with children from prior relationships, who gain a child through marriage, or who experience the joy of child birth during their deployment, will want to consider how their will protects the financial assets intended to be passed to these children. Long term financial or educational interests of children can be protected through a properly drafted will, along with insuring certain property is left to specific children, or other individuals, as opposed to leaving such decisions up to the courts.

For many deployed soldiers, the largest estate asset they have is their SGLI coverage, and thus it is important that soldiers remember a will does not affect the ultimate recipient of SGLI proceeds. In other words, SGLI benefits will be paid to the individual named on the soldier's SGLI contract regardless of what his or her

will states. Soldier can, however, create a trust within their will, and have their SGLI contract name the trust as recipient of the SGLI proceeds, and thereby provide for their children's financial future.

Marriage and divorce significantly effect who may receive certain property in the event a soldier loses his life, and these events have a profound impact on how individuals want their estates distributed. Soldiers who marry or divorce subsequent to writing their will invariably will want to take a second look at the will, and their SGLI contract, to insure their estate planning needs and desires are in proper order. More information on changes in SGLI and the rules surrounding its distribution will be provided in the next issue of Da Lava Flow.

Regardless of whether soldiers have experienced great change in their lives since deploying, periodic review of their wills is sound practice. Changes in State and Federal tax laws, along with fluctuations in inheritance laws and recent increases in SGLI coverage, are just a few reasons soldiers should seek advice and review of their wills from a qualified legal assistance attorney. Lava Brigade legal assistance stands ready to help soldiers with timely and vital legal support. In addition, family members of soldiers called to active duty are entitled to legal assistance services from their nearest military installation legal assistance office.

Do you have a Question, Concern, or Issue?

**29th BCT Inspector General (IG)
MAJ William Foss**

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or

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Located in the Warrior Support Center
Across from Building 4114, in the trailers
on the north side of 1st COSCOM Headquarters,
LSA Anaconda

DSN: 829-1125

Chaplain's Blessing



Photo by Sgt. Terry Eldred

Aloha and greetings to all. You all have contributed, and sacrificed greatly to Operation Iraqi Freedom III. We also cannot forget our fellow soldiers who were wounded, and the four that gave the ultimate sacrifice of life itself. You all are to be commended for all the good you do.

I would like to share with you what I know about “Integrity”, an Army value we soldiers are expected to adhere to.

To have integrity means to be sincere, honest, and truthful, and without deceit at all times. When you act with integrity in every way, you are able to enjoy peace of mind and maintain self-respect. You build strength of character, which allows you to be of service to others. You are trustworthy to those around you.

On the other hand, if you lack integrity in word or actions, you hurt yourself and often hurt others as well. If you lie, steal, cheat, or neglect to give full amount of work for your pay, you lose your self-respect. You may find that you have damaged relationships with family members and friends and that people no longer trust you.

Being with integrity often requires courage and sacrifice, especially when others try to persuade you to justify dishonest behavior. If you find yourself in such a situation, remember that the lasting peace that comes from being honest is more valuable than the momentary relief of following the crowd.

Editor's Note: The 29th BCT Public Affairs Officer, Capt. Kyle Yonemura, has been corresponding with a 442nd Regimental Combat Team veteran's group in California. The veteran's group is from Company E. Lawson Sakai, a highly decorated WWII squad leader with the 442nd RCT wanted to express condolences to the families of soldiers who have been killed on behalf of the group.

Letter from a 442nd Inf. veteran

To the current soldiers of the 29th BCT and the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry deployed to Iraq,

My name is Lawson Sakai. I am a WWII veteran of E Company, 442nd Regimental Combat Team. My and my family's thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of the soldiers from your brigade who were recently killed in action. Our thoughts and prayers are also with all of you during this time of grieving.

I deeply appreciate and admire all of the courageous soldiers of the 29th BCT, and the current members of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Inf. Battalion who are serving our country in combat in Iraq. It hurts my heart so deeply to know that our finest soldiers are being lost there. I have lost many dear friends in combat and was myself wounded four times in battle. I understand and share your pain. I pray each day for your safe return, as well as for the quick healing of those who've been wounded there. We stand behind you all and are proud of you and your service.

I grew up in Southern California with a bunch of half-Samoan classmates

in the forties. They were the children of U.S. Sailors in the submarine fleet that was stationed in Pago Pago during WWI. The sailors had married Samoan ladies and moved to the United States. I recently had the pleasure of meeting a group of soldiers from the 100th battalion 442nd Inf. that was en route to Hawaii last October for R&R. I noticed many Polynesians in the group. I must say—you all look like “Warriors.” My best wishes are with you all. All of the Veterans of the 100th Battalion and 442nd RCT of WWII wish for an end to

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

the hostilities in Iraq and pray for a safe return home for each of you.

Go For Broke!

Sincerely,
Lawson I. Sakai.

Lawson & Mineko Sakai
P. O. Box 308
Gilroy, CA 95021-0308

Paytron Wiggins—Happy Fathers Day & Happy Birthday!! We love & miss U so very much!! You are the BESTEST DADDY in the whole wide world, early HAPPY BIRTHDAY, no LavaFlow in July Keep safe, Hurry Home GOD BLESS & KEEP YOU—Toni, Lex, Bulla, CC & Paytron JR

Happy Birthday 1SG Robert Balatico (6/29). You are our hero. We love and miss you!
Marcie and Shelden

SPC. Vincent D. Garces, 100th/442nd Inf. Happy Birthday (July 30). We're all very proud of you, and can't wait for your safe return. Anthony, Eileen, Emily and Sierra.

“Happy Birthday, SPC Cliff Cardenas! We love you and send to you our hugs and kisses for a great year...you're not getting older, you're getting better! Love, Delana, Heather, and Ashlee.”

You're not 1 yr older; you're one year wiser, Happy Birthday, D3!!!!!! Love from the family, DMMTJ
Sp. Damien K. Place, HHC, 100thBN, 442nd INF, 29thBCT

Happy Birthday to Spc. Alfred Tachera with the 100/442 “C” Company.
On July 17, 2005... Your loving wife and beautiful daughter wish you a happy birthday... we love you very much and be safe...

To my husband, Cpt. Calvin Arroyo with Bravo Co 29th BCT wishing you a “Happy 42nd Birthday” We miss you

and love you very much. Can't wait until you come home. Love, Lil' Cal, Chazz and your one and only love.

Happy 23rd Birthday to SPC Jon S. Hiromasa (July 12) from your friends and family in Mililani

For Spc. Nic Abelardo, HHC 29th BDE, 29TH BCT
To My Daddy Nic Abelardo on his birthday Aug.23, 2005. I had great fun with you when you were here in July and can hardly wait until you are home for good. We can really celebrate then. I love you and miss you Daddy and will be able to say your name when I see you in 2006. Love, Noah (Nana, Kungie and Mommy too)

To My Big Bro, SGT RODEL EUGENIO 29th Spt Bn C Co. I miss you! Be careful and come home soon, ok. Love, Justin Joshua

MANO 1 aka SSG Stephen D. Medeiros Sr. 29th HHC- We are grateful for your sacrifice to ensure a better future for the Iraqi people and ourselves. We hope you and Junior Boy come home safely to all of us. Happy Birthday Daddy love always Big Girl, Elder, Snow White, and Baby Angel

Congratulations ssgt. Ryan Taniguchi & Cassi Taniguchi (parents) D. Co. 2/299th INF on the birth of Rylynn Reiko Kiana Taniguchi (daughter) weight 8 lbs 6oz height 19 1/2 inches born on May 19, 2005 at 8:22pm

SGT Jared Chong, 229th MI Co. Happy 1st Anniversary on July 12th! Wish we could be together to celebrate! I love you and miss you like crazy!! Love, your wife Becca

To my husband Joseph Lewis III, I love you honey...Happy Anniversery. Love always, your wife.

Happy Father's Day to LTC Kerry K. Oshiro, HHC 29th BCT. We LOVE you, think of you always, miss you so much and look forward to seeing you in October. Keep safe! With all our LOVE, Norma and Jaimie

To my husband, SGT Sheldon Gaison, D.Co. 2-299 INF. Wishing you a “Happy 40th Birthday” and many more!(07/10). We Love you very much and are proud of you. Stay Safe and May God Be With You Always! Love, Bonnie, Jake, Jamie, & Alika

PHOTO GALLERY



Staff Sgt. Jim Evangelista of HHC, 2nd Bn., 299th Infantry writes the Hawaiian Word of the day in their guard shack in front of Al Faw.

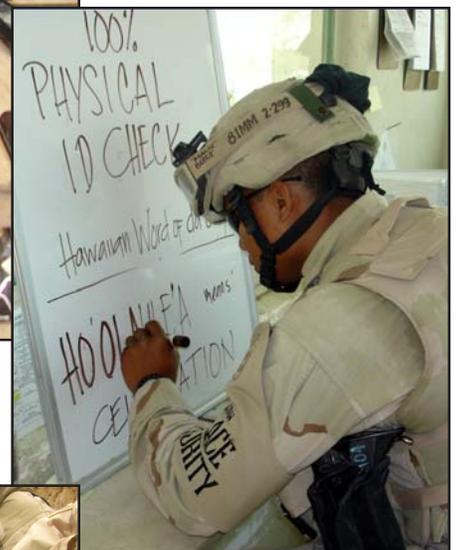


Photo by Capt. Kyle Yonemura

Maj. Sean Wilson, Maj. Dale Arvik and Maj. Eric Oh examine weapons were recovered by the 100th Bn., 442nd Inf. from cache sites.

Photo by Capt. Kyle Yonemura



Photo by Capt. Kyle Yonemura

A little girl shows Staff Sgt. Leituli, of 100th Bn., 442nd Inf., a painful tooth, while a boy engages Sgt. Semeli Toilolo, also of 100th Bn., in conversation in a farm field.

PHOTO GALLERY

Spc. Glenn Nakata and Spc. Paul Kekela of 2nd Bn., 299th Inf., stand a shift of guard duty at Camp Victory, Baghdad.

Photo by Capt. Kyle Yonemura



Photo by Capt. Kyle Yonemura

Iraqi medic "Muhamad" and Maj. Price examine a sick child.



Photo by Sgt. Lauran Robinson

Soldiers of 227th Combat Eng. Co., 29th BCT, are working hard to stay one step ahead of terrorists by improving security around LSA Anaconda.



Photo by Capt. Kyle Yonemura

Bread is still baked the old fashioned way in Bakr Village near LSA Anaconda. Fresh Iraqi bread is firm and crusty and is eaten with most meals.

PHOTO GALLERY



The 29th BCT recently hosted two distinguished reporters from the Honolulu Advertiser, Mr. William Cole (left) and Mr. Richard Ambo (right). They wanted to send the following message to the brigade's soldiers:

29th BCT-

It was a great experience hanging out with you folks. Mahalo for sharing your stories with us and watching our backs out on missions.

Even though we are back home now we will always be with you.

Aloha,
Richard Ambo



Photo by Capt. Kyle Yonemura

While smiles were the rule of the day during a recent medical mission, one sick child wasn't feeling well when his mother brought him to be seen.

Soldiers of 29th Support Bn., (left to right: Sgt. Clifford Wong, Spc. Maryrose Jose, and Spc. Jason Fujimoto) pose with Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld, during his visit to LSA Anaconda on July 27th.

Photo by Sgt. Lauran Robinson



PHOTO GALLERY

Dancers (from left) Sgt. Lorinda Ballesteros, Spc Kanani Konanui, and Spc Sherde Marshall perform the hula at FOB O’Ryan, where Task Force Konohiki held a luau to celebrate the 4th of July.



Photo by Capt. Kyle Yonemura



(top right) Sgt. Jamal Jones, 229th Military Intelligence Co. sends a Raven off on a mission. (bottom right) Spc. Patrick Nakagawa and Sgt. Faateleupu Ifopo, both of 229th MI Co., put a Raven unmanned arial vehicle (UAV) together for a reconnaissance mission. Raven UAVs have advanced cameras that provide real time intelligence to operators.



Photos by Capt. Kyle Yonemura

Photo by Capt. Kyle Yonemura



Spc. Kuiokalani Gapero performed a Hawaiian warrior dance for luau guests.

PHOTO GALLERY



Photo by Spc. Jayson Howell

The "Island Girls" gather with coaches and commanders after their surprising and well deserved upset over the Westside Warriors in LSA Anaconda's women's basketball championship game. (from left) Lt. Col. Norman Saito, Commanding Officer, 29th Support Bn.; Head Coach Spc. Micah Steele; Asst. Coach Sgt. Parrish Fitts; Asst. Coach Cassisu Baker; #21 Spc. Patsy "Smash" Ortiz; (holding flag) 1st Sgt. Yale Alama, 1st Sgt., Company A, 29th Support Bn.; #45 Spc. Raynelle "Jamba Juice" Riveira; #31 Spc. Belnda "Bee" Butac; #24 Spc. Lehuanani "Lei" Sanborn; #5 Spc. Celeste "Kivalu" Kivalu; #11 Spc. Naomi "Suga" Tuliulu; #33 Spc. Kiori "Potes" Potes; #50 Pfc. Raquelle "Muñoz" Muñoz, of 659th Engineer Company; #25 Bernecia "Give Um" Mahoe; Waterboy Spc. Junior Taola, of 659th Engineer Company; Capt. Joseph Burdett, Commanding Officer, Company A, 29th Support Bn., Command Sgt. Maj. Bert Hamakado, Command Sgt. Maj., 29th Support. Bn. All are from 29th Support Bn. except where noted.

SHAMELESS SELF-PROMOTION



The Lava Flow Staff

The Lava Flow is published monthly by the 29th Brigade Combat Team's Public Affairs Section.

The 29th BCT PAO is dedicated to telling the story of the men and women serving with the 29th BCT in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, as well as bringing messages of support to the troops. Our newsletter, The Lava Flow, is a Command Information bulletin, used by BG Joseph Chaves to keep his brigade's soldiers informed.

As a morale booster, we'd like to include messages of support from family members for the brave men and women of the 29th, please contact us at the following address:

pao.lava@us.army.mil

All submissions must be no more than one sentence long, and contain the soldier's name, rank, and unit along with the message of support. Please limit your submissions to one per family per month.