



# DA LAVA FLOW



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

*Volume 1, issue 8, February 2005*

## **Commander's Corner**



As we celebrate Valentine's Day, some of our family members back home may be experiencing feelings of loneliness because their loved ones are serving in the cause of freedom here in Southwest Asia. I realize the tremendous sacrifice that families make--to have someone so dear to them serving in a foreign and dangerous land, thousands of miles from home, far from family and friends. Separation, especially on special days such as this one, will never be easy. However, it is the commitment and sacrifice made by soldiers like you that will ensure the Iraqi people have the security they need to move forward toward a brighter future with their newly elected government. You have my deepest appreciation and respect for your commitment to this great cause called "freedom." Dwight D. Eisenhower once said, "Freedom has its life in the hearts, the actions, the spirit of men and so it must be daily earned and refreshed—else like a flower cut from its life-giving roots, it will wither and die." We dedicate this fragrant and beautiful flower called "freedom" to our loved ones back home on this special Valentine's Day. May God bless our families and each of the brave soldiers of the Lava Brigade Combat Team.

Happy Valentine's Day,

Joseph J. Chaves  
Brigadier General, United State Army  
Commanding

## **CSM's Message**

Task Force 1-1487<sup>th</sup> FA has completed its Transfer of Authority. Onward movement has started for the Brigade. It's starting – what we trained for. I've seen changes in the way our soldiers look and conduct themselves. A quiet seriousness is setting in. Frustration occurs daily when expectations are not met, yet soldiers drive on. Changes occur daily – hourly. Despite that, soldiers still can smile with a "Hooah, Sergeant Major!" as I walk past them, and others somehow find some time to relieve stress with a game of scrimmage. That's the Lava Brigade.

Lava, CSM Robert Inouye



*Taking aim: SGM Milton Yee concentrates on zeroing his M-4 weapon alongside other soldiers of the 29th BCT.*

*Photo by SGT Robert Curran*

# 1-487 Conducts a Relief in Place

Story and photos by Capt. Kyle Yonemura

**Kuwait Naval Base, Kuwait:** The 1-487 Field Artillery Bat. commanded by Lt. Col. Keith Tamashiro, conducted a Relief in Place Ceremony with the 2-146 Field Artillery Bat., commanded by Lt. Col. A. Grant Lingg, on Saturday, Feb. 11, at 3:30 p.m., on Kuwait Naval Base. The ceremony formally marked the Transfer of Authority of the 2-146 FA's security mission at a number of sites in Kuwait to the 1-487 FA. The 2-146 FA is from the Washington State Army National Guard. During the brief ceremony, the colors of the outgoing unit were encased while the on coming unit's colors were uncased. "This Relief in Place is the first one to take place among any of the 29<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team's Units," Lt Col. Tamashiro said proudly.



Lt. Col. Keith Tamashiro proudly uncases the 1-487 FA colors at the Transfer of Authority Ceremony.

*Photo and caption by Capt. Kyle Yonemura*



The Hawaii State Flag replaced the Washington State Flag over the parade ground during the ceremony.

*Photo and caption by Capt. Kyle Yonemura*



Relief in Place: (From left to right) Lt. Col. A. Grant Ling, Commander of the 2-146 FA, Brigade Commander Brig. Gen Joseph Chaves, Lt. Col. Keith Tamashiro, Commander of the 1-487 FA, and Deputy Brigade Commander Col. Bruce Oliveira

Note the Hawaii State Flag flying proudly in the background.

*(photo and caption by Capt.. Kyle Yonemura)*

## *Faith Warriors: Unit Ministry Team*

By Sgt. Robert Curran

Having faith in oneself the facilities he works in, tion of the assistants. ent ways.” shares MSG is good for getting to getting to do the best Spc Olipani, as well as Live Tau. MSG Tau vol- through life’s daily chal- job he so loves to do. . other assistants also han- unteered to join the 29th lenges. Major Jamias emphasizes dle administrative duties BCT out of Nevada. He

Having faith in others putting God first and to include supply and set- serves as the UMT builds team work to ac- things will fall into place. ting up the chapel for the NCOIC. accomplish tasks that are Such things that have different services. No mat- Providing Services and otherwise impossible to fallen into place is his ter what faith you are in counseling as well as vis- do oneself. unit Ministry Team you help out with the iting soldiers in the field

Having faith in some- (UMT). The UMT con- other faiths. “Just because for spiritual and morale thing higher brings bless- sists of Seven Chaplains I’m not Buddhist doesn’t reasons is the main focus ings big and small that and Eight Chaplains As- mean I won’t help them of the Unit ministry Team. neither self or team can sistants. with what they need to get MSG Tau says that is the achieve. One such assistant is done to prepare for their most satisfying part of his

As pointed out to me by Spc John Olipani. When services.” Says Spc Ol- job. “Taking care of the Chaplain Major Leonardo asked about his duties he ipani. Soldiers where ever they Jamias, the definition of explains how he gets to be Teamwork is essential as are. Bringing my 19 years faith can be found in He- the bodyguard for the well as getting along with of experience as a Pastor brews 11:1. chaplain. “ On the battle- the other faiths. At times to the Army.”

“Giving God 100% of field the chaplain stays the different faiths can A Soldier attended a full yourself is the key to it one step in back of me and conflict with each other gospel service which led all.” explains the 29th if bullets start flying I am but the team manages to him to attend another ser- Brigade Combat Team in between himself and work together. vice. The soldier is quoted Chaplain. the enemy.” Chaplains do “We stay in our lane as as saying “what ever ser-

Chaplain Jamias says not carry weapons and far as our faith goes. We vice affects the heart then he has been blessed in so rely not only on God’s share with each other and that is good.” many ways. From getting protection but the protec- respect each others differ-

### *Chaplains thought*

In Isaiah 40:29-31 the Lord says:

“He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength;

They shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

Leonardo S. Jamias

29<sup>th</sup> BCT, Chaplain

## The History of Valentine's

By Capt. Kyle Yonemura

Every February, emperor's ruling—across the country, continuing to perform candy, flowers, gifts marriages in secret. and cards are ex- When he was discov- changed between ered, Claudius II or- loved ones. Have dered him to be put to you ever wondered death.

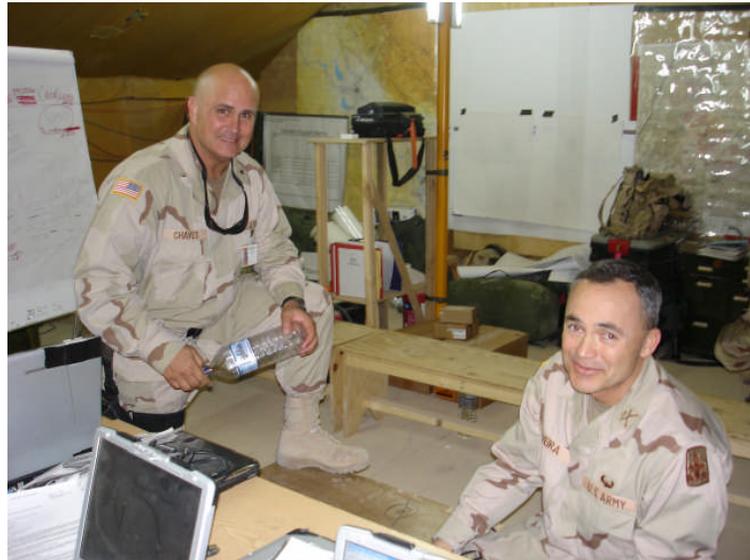
why we celebrate this One legend holds holiday called Valen- that Valentine actu- tine's Day? ally sent the first

Valentine's Day "Valentine" greeting carries with it a his- himself. While in tory rich with ves- prison—it is said that tiges of Christianity he fell in love with a and ancient Roman young woman (the traditions. Today, the jailor's daughter) Catholic Church rec- who visited him regu- ognizes at least three larly in prison. Be- different saints fore his death, he al- named Valentine or legedly wrote her a Valentinus—all of letter signed, "From whom were martyred. your Valentine." Al- One legend holds that though the truth is Valentine was a priest blurred by the pas- who served the sage of centuries, St. Church in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Valentine remains a Century in Rome. romantic figure to When the Emperor of this day and the date Rome, Claudius II on we celebrate Val- decided that single entine, has become a men made better sol- day in which we cele- diers, he outlawed brate our loved ones. marriage. Valentine Happy Valentine's believed that this was Day Lava Brigade! unjust and defied the



Is it the Japanese Super Hero Kikaida? Not really.... it's only 29th BCT's S-1, Maj. Keith Yoshida getting a hair cut.

*Photo and caption (and hair cut) by Capt. Kyle Yonemura*



Leaders at work: Brigade Commander Brig. Gen. Joseph Chaves discusses future plans with Deputy Brigade Commander Col. Bruce Oliveira in the 29th BCT's Tactical Operations Center.

*(photo and caption by Capt. Kyle Yonemura)*

## Army's 10% Savings Plan

By Capt. Kyle Yonemura

Serving your country in a designated Combat Zone has its privileges. One of these is the 10% savings plan that allows you to save money and incur interest at a rate higher than a bank would give you on a normal savings account. Interest is compounded quarterly. Once you have spent 30 consecutive days in a designated Combat Zone, you are eligible to begin making deposits in the Army's 10% Savings Deposit Program. Once you leave the designated combat zone, you are no longer eligible. If you are a member of the Hawaii Army National Guard, the following instructions apply to you. If you are a 29 BCT soldier from another state, please follow the instructions at the end of this article.

Deposits can only be made by the service member or an agent with power of attorney. All deposits must be in the form of a money order or cashier's check; no personal checks are accepted. The total deposit per month may not exceed that month's total net pay per the LES. Total deposits are limited to \$10,000 per deployment. Your deposit continues to earn interest for 90 days after your departure from the combat zone. All deposits must be made in \$5 increments (i.e. \$50, \$55, \$60, \$65, etc). If someone is making a deposit on your behalf, be certain they include a copy of their Power of Attorney with the first deposit mailed. If a withdrawal is made, it must be for the entire amount deposited, except in specified emergency situations.

Mail deposits to:

USPFO-HI

ATTN: Mobilization Pay

4208 Diamond Head Rd

Honolulu, HI 96816-4495

Include with your deposit:

>Money Order or Cashier's Check

>Copy of your LES showing Hostile Fire Pay

>Copy of Power of Attorney (first deposit only)

\*Make checks payable to: DCD

Questions? Call SFC Monica Montayre at (808) 733-4388

If you are a soldier assigned to a unit not assigned to the State of Hawaii, you may participate in this program by making your deposits with the servicing finance battalion at your FOB. Soldiers may make their deposits by cash, personal check, or money order only. Deposits must be made in \$5 increments, and can't exceed your monthly-unallotted pay and allowances. More than one deposit may be made in a month, but the cumulative total can't exceed your monthly unallotted pay and allowances. An agent may make a deposit on your behalf using a special power of attorney.

Questions? Call DFAS at DSN: 580-6924 or see your FOB Finance unit.

## RESTRICTIONS for APO 09391

### LEGEND

PS Form 2976, *Customs - CN 22 (Old C 1) and Sender's Declaration* (green label)

PS Form 2976-A, *Customs Declaration and Dispatch Note*

**A.** Securities, currency, or precious metals in their raw, unmanufactured state are prohibited. Official shipments are exempt from this restriction.

**A1.** Mail addressed to "Any Servicemember," or similar wording such as "Any Soldier," "Sailor," "Airman," or "Marine"; "Military Mail"; etc., is prohibited. Mail must be addressed to an individual or job title such as "Commander," "Commanding Officer," etc.

**B.** PS Form 2976-A is required for all mail weighing 16 ounces or more, with exceptions noted below. In addition, mailers must properly complete required customs documentation when mailing any potentially dutiable mail addressed to an APO or FPO regardless of weight. The following are exceptions to the requirement for customs documentation on nondutiable mail that weighs 16 ounces or more:

- Known mailers are exempt from providing customs documentation on non-dutiable letters, and printed matter weighing 16 ounces or more. (A known mailer is anyone who legally applies a permit imprint to a mailpiece. Mail with meter postage is not considered to be from a known mailer.)
- All federal, state, and local government agencies are exempt from providing customs documentation on mail addressed to an APO or FPO, except for those APOs/FPOs to which restriction B2 applies.
- Prepaid mail from military contractors is exempt, providing the mailpiece is endorsed "Contents for Official Use - Exempt from Customs Requirements."

**B1.** PS Form 2976 or 2976-A is required. Articles are liable for customs duty and/or purchase tax unless they are bona fide gifts intended for use by military personnel or their dependents. When the contents of a parcel meet these requirements, the mailer must endorse the customs form, "Certified to be a bona fide gift, personal effects, or items for personal use of military personnel and dependents," under the heading, Description of Contents. **Exceptions:** All other exceptions listed in restriction B above are applicable to this restriction.

**C1.** Obscene articles, prints, paintings, cards, films, videotapes, etc., and horror comics and matrices are prohibited.

**E2.** Any matter depicting nude or seminude persons, pornographic or sexual items, or nonauthorized political materials is prohibited. Although religious materials contrary to the Islamic faith are prohibited in bulk quantities, items for the personal use of the addressee are permissible.

**F.** Firearms of any type are prohibited in all classes of mail. See definitions of firearms in DMM C024.1.1C. This restriction does not apply to firearms mailed to or by official U.S. government agencies. The restriction for mail to this APO/FPO ZIP Code does not apply to firearms mailed from this APO/FPO ZIP Code, provided ATF and USPS regulations are met. Antique firearms are a separate category defined in DMM C024.2.0 and ATF regulations; they do not require an ATF form.

**H1.** Pork or pork by-products are prohibited.

**I.** Mail of all classes must fit in a mail sack. Mail may not exceed the following dimensions:

Length

42" 72" length and girth combined

over 42" to 44" 24" girth

**Continued from page 6.**

**I.** Mail of all classes must fit in a mail sack. Mail may not exceed the following dimensions:

Length

42" 72" length and girth combined

over 42" to 44" 24" girth

over 44" to 46" 20" girth

over 46" to 48" 16" girth

Maximum length 48"

This restriction does not apply to registered mail and official government mail marked MOM.

**M.** Fruits, animals, and living plants are prohibited.

**R.** All alcoholic beverages, including those mailable under DMM C021, are prohibited.

**R1.** Materials used in the production of alcoholic beverages (i.e., distilling material, hops, malts, yeast, etc.) are prohibited.

**V.** Express Mail Military Service (EMMS) not available from any origin.

**Z.** No outside pieces (OSPs).

**Z1.** The following restriction is applicable only to International Service Centers (ISC)/Exchange Offices.

An Anti-Pilferage Seal (Item No O817E or O818A) is required on all pouches and sacks.

- *International Network Operations,*

*Network Operations Management, 5-1-03*

## The Warrior Ethos

*By Capt. Kyle Yonemura*

Before we go “over the berm,” i.e. leave Kuwait and enter the combat zone in Iraq, it’s important that we remind ourselves of what is expected from each of us as professional soldiers. We have trained countless hours in our combat and combat support related skills over the past 6 months. It is also important to prepare ourselves mentally for what we’ll face. This mental preparation for combat missions has been described to us during our training as “putting on your game face.” This “game face” entails assuming the ethos and demeanor of the warrior, and imbuing ourselves with our warrior code, also known as the Army Soldier’s Creed.

The Soldier’s Creed compels soldiers to fight--under all circumstances—to victory, no matter how long or difficult the mission. It is each soldier’s selfless commitment to our nation, mission, unit and brother and sister soldiers. The warrior ethos is developed through discipline, commitment to our Army Values and pride in our Army’s heritage. So here it is fellow warriors--one last time--before we “go over the berm.”

### The Soldier’s Creed

I am an American soldier, I am a warrior and a member of a team. I serve the people of the United States and live the Army values. I will always place mission first. I will never accept defeat. I will never quit. I will never leave a fallen comrade. I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills. I always maintain my arms, my equipment, and myself. I am an expert and I am a professional. I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat. I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life. I am an American soldier.

# Photo Gallery



Major Rusty Spray briefs Major General Gary D. Speers and Brigadier General Joseph Chaves on equipment and mission essentials for the 29th. BCT.

Photo by SGT Robert Curran



Test firing the SAWS: MSG Lanky Morrill covers his ears as SAW gunners test fire their weapons on the Udairi Range.

(photo and caption by Capt Kyle Yonemura)



Ground Assault convoy: Members of the ground assault convoy draw night vision and other necessary equipment in preparation for their convoy into Iraq.

(photo and caption by Capt. Kyle Yonemura)



Convoy Brief: Members of the Ground Assault Convoy receive a briefing. Sgt Menzie briefs the communications portion. MREs represent the convoy's vehicles.

(photo and caption by Capt. Kyle Yonemura)



Sandy situation: SGT Zane Giron sets himself steady to get a good sight picture as MAJ Robin Lau looks on.

Photo by SGT Robert Curran



Armoring the Force: Soldiers from HHC, 29 BCT lift heavy armor plating into place, then bolt it down. The armor plates are to help protect the soldiers during convoys. (from the right: Spc Jonah Anguay, Spc Duane Adviento, Spc Kahale Kidder, and PFC Aaron Roth)

(photo and caption by Capt. Kyle Yonemura)



Chemical Suits for the troops: SSG Sueann Kauanui of HHC, 29 BCT issues a chemical protective suit to Spc Jason Huerbana of the 229 Military Intelligence Co.

(photo and caption by Capt.. Kyle Yonemura)



Getting comfortable: SSG Stephen Medeiros properly uses his sandbag for a good supported position.

Photo by SGT Robert Curran

# MESSAGE CENTER



*To my Church, family and Friends,  
Thank you for your prayers. Trust in the  
Lord with all thine heart.  
SpC John Olipani  
HHC 29th BCT*



*Hi Mom & Dad and everybody I didn't  
mention. Life is different but It's Okay.)  
SPC Stanton K. Horiuchi  
B. Co. 29th SPT Bn*



*Sending my love from Kuwait...Family,  
friends & baby Faith, your always in my  
thoughts.  
SPC Natalie Silva  
HHC 29 SPT Bn*



*Just want to say hi to my family and Happy  
Valentines Day.  
SPC Alesana Save  
C. Co. 100 Bn/442Inf*



*To my friends and family back home,  
Howzit going? I miss you guys and the  
food too.  
PV2 Kaipo Kasischke  
HHC 29th BCT*



*To everyone back home,  
Doing just fine, can't wait to get back home.  
Say a prayer for me.  
SPC Steven D. Craig III  
HHC 1/184 Inf*



*To my Gagarin & Santos family,  
I miss you guys and I can't wait to see you  
when I come back. I love you baby.  
SPC Frances Ann Gagarin  
HHC 29 BCT*



*To Chantel & Kara I miss you ! My family  
and friends take care and I miss you too.  
PFC Ryan Manuel  
HHC 29 BCT*



Be my Valentine? Not really. 29th BCT's CSM Robert Inouye poses with 1-487 FA's CSM Johan Huh at the 1-487th's Transfer of Authority ceremony.

*Photo and caption by Capt. Kyle Yonemura*



Meritorious Service Medal: 2nd Lt. Alan Kahanu (right) reads SGM Milton Yee's MSM citation, awarded to him by Brig. Gen. Joseph Chaves for his exceptional performance of duty. (photo and caption by Capt. Kyle Yonemura)

*Happy Birthday to Brigadier General Joseph Chaves from your wife Paulette.*

*Happy Birthday SGT Jason Kahana-Travis from your wife Kehaulani and daughter Kawena.*

*Happy Birthday SGT Justin Lui from your wife Melissa ,Lui's & Papalii's. Congratulations Harold P. Estabrooks on your promotion to SGM. Go for Broke!!*

*Happy Birthday to Major Steven Lai from your wife Becky and your children Matt and Emily.*

*Happy Birthday to SFC Theodore Padua From your wife Jennifer.*

*Happy Birthday to SPC Wilfredo Dinong Jr. from your wife Jehan & the Dinong family.*

*Happy Birthday to SGT Lauran Robinson from Da Girls.*

Current Weather in Baghdad, Iraq:

As of 14February 2005:

High: 41F/ Scattered clouds

Low: 53F

Sunrise:      Sunset:

0647 hrs      1747 hrs

Nautical Twilight:

0553 hrs      1841 hrs.

Moonrise: (28% illumination)

1000 hrs      1351 hrs.

Average weather in Baghdad in Feb.

Average High    64 F

Average Low     43 F

