



Commander's Corner

Aloha Lava Brigade,

Congratulations! We're finally here, and the 81st BCT's mission is finally our own. I'd like to take this opportunity to reinforce General Order 1. This order outlines activities that are prohibited within the MNC-I area of responsibility.



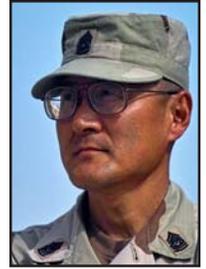
The following activities are prohibited:

1. The purchase, possession, use or sale of privately owned firearms, ammunition, explosives, or the introduction of these items into the AOR.
2. Entrance into a Mosque, or other site of Islamic religious significance by non-Moslems unless directed to do so by military authorities, required by military necessity, or as part of an official tour conducted with the approval of military authorities and the host nation.
3. Introduction, possession, sale, transfer, manufacture or consumption of any alcoholic beverage within the AOR. This restriction also prohibits the introduction, possession, sale, transfer, manufacture or consumption of any alcoholic beverage by military personnel or civilians serving with, employed by, or accompanying the Armed Forces of the United States, while assigned to or under the operational control of the Commander, MNC-I and present for duty in Kuwait or Iraq. This prohibition does not apply to personal hygiene items (like mouthwash) commercially available for sale by AAFES, nor does it apply to the use of alcohol for authorized religious ceremonies.
4. Introduction, purchase, possession, use, sale, transfer, manufacture, or consumption of any controlled substances, or drug paraphernalia. Prescription drugs must be accompanied by the original prescription label of

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CSM's Message

The 3rd of March, 2005 was a special day for all 29th BCT soldiers. Its significance probably exceeds that of 16 August 2004, when our Brigade was mobilized. On 3 March 2005, our Brigade Headquarters conducted the Transfer of Authority (TOA) with the 81st BCT and assumed full base defense responsibility of LSA Anaconda. Although other units have already conducted their TOA, by virtue of the Brigade Headquarters completing the TOA, we can now say the entire BCT is fully operational. 29th BCT soldiers can be proud of their contribution to the Global War on Terrorism and the support to the new Iraqi Transitional Government. I will continue supporting improved quality of life for our soldiers during our year long deployment. The one thing I do ask is that when you have a problem, always try to work it through your chain of command first and try to settle it at the lowest level. Stay alert. Don't let your guard down.



Lava! CSM Inouye

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

Aloha!

I appreciate the opportunity to address the 29th Brigade Combat Team and their families through this monthly newsletter. As the brave members of the Lava Brigade Combat Team continue to fight for the freedoms we enjoy while enabling peace and democracy to flourish in the world, please know my administration stands behind you.

No one knows better than you and your families that freedom is not free. But we also know the sacrifices you are making now will resonate for generations to come.

I agree with President Ronald Reagan when he said: “Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have ever made a difference in the world, but soldiers don’t have that problem.” Your dedication and courage have touched countless lives and made you heroes at home and around the world.

While you are abroad defending our nation, I am committed to implementing initiatives that will improve the quality of life for you at home. This includes a series of legislative proposals to help you and your families by providing tax relief, preserving vocational licenses and ensuring that state employees do not suffer a loss of wages while serving in combat zones.

Again, the Lieutenant Governor and I commend your many sacrifices on behalf of our nation and state, and pray for your swift and safe return to our islands.

Malama Pono,
Linda Lingle
Governor



Photo provided by the Governor's Office

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Transfer of Authority Ceremony

By Sgt Lauran Robinson



Photo by Sgt. Terry Eldred

Brig. Gen. Chaves and Command Sgt. Maj. Inouye uncase the 29th Brigade Combat Team's colors during the Transfer of Authority.

On March 3, 2005, members of 29th Brigade Combat Team, 81st Brigade Combat Team, and 4th Battalion, 13th Brigade, 4th Division of the Iraqi Army participated in the official Transfer of Authority during the Relief in Place Ceremony, in Logistic Support Area (LSA) Anaconda. The 81st BCT of Washington State cased their guidon as the final step to a successful mission completed, and the 29th BCT from the state of

Hawaii uncased their guidon as the first step of assuming the challenging mission of Operation Iraqi Freedom III.

The 81st BCT Commander, Brig. Gen. Oscar B. Hilman, gave a heartfelt speech honoring his troops on an outstanding job accomplishing their mission, and a remembrance of those who gave their ultimate sacrifice to bring freedom and democracy to Iraq. Some of the 81st BCT's biggest achievements were their contributions in the transfer of sovereignty that took place on June 28, 2003, and the first Iraqi elections on January 30, 2005. During the ceremony, the soldiers of the 81st BCT radiated pride in accomplishment, sorrow for those who would not be joining them home, and hope for freedom and peace in Iraq.

The 29th BCT Commander, Brig Gen Joseph J. Chaves, thanked the 81st BCT for the training given to his Soldiers in preparation for this ongoing mission. He gave words of encouragement to his troops, that as the months' progress, it will be what the Soldiers make of it, and it will go down in history as such. He said, "Do the right thing. Live the Army Values. Imbue yourselves with the warrior ethos." During the ceremony the Soldiers of the 29th BCT had a sense of readiness, duty, and determination.

The Transfer of Authority means a closure for the soldiers of the 81st BCT and a new adventure for the 29th BCT. The Soldiers of the 81st BCT will take home with them the memories of their adventures and the new found friendships among fellow Soldiers and the people of Iraqi. "I'm going to remember working with the Iraqi people, good or bad.", said SSG Leigh Tolend. The 29th BCT has a long journey ahead of them as they continue the mission of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Parting Words from Brig Gen Oscar B. Hilman

By Sgt Lauran Robinson

As the Commander of the 81st Brigade Combat Team bids a farewell to Logistic Support Area (LSA) Anaconda, Brig Gen Oscar B. Hilman passed on these words to the 29th Brigade Combat Team.

“I hope that the country of Iraqi has some form of freedom, and continues to build up the government and it’s Army. I also hope the Iraqis look at their economy and create new jobs to decrease poverty. It will come in time.

“This war is not about weapons of mass destruction. It is about terrorists who want to hurt Americans and their allies. However, we have the best technology and military tactics, and we will greatly reduce their capabilities.

“This experience has given me lots of good memories, as well as some sad memories. My Soldiers have built important relationships with the people of Iraq and have helped to work toward a secure environment for them. The 81st BCT has been successful at stopping enemies of Iraq from entering LSA Anaconda and have pushed the insurgents further back from the perimeters. The overall mission of the 81st was a success.

“Some advice and words of encouragement for the 29th BCT:

- Be loyal to each other.
- Overcome the heat, boredom, and depression. Take advantage of the outstanding facilities at LSA Anaconda.
- Apply all the training that you received in the states.
- Be flexible.
- Continue to work and communicate with the family support groups.
- Plan for rumor management.

The 29th BCT is under great leadership from Brig Gen Joseph J. Chaves. I pray for the 29th BCT and I admire the Soldiers and their families for going through this experience.”



Photo by Sgt. Terry Eldred

Brig. Gen. Chaves and Brig. Gen. Hilman following the Relief in Place ceremony

Convoy Crosses Into Iraq

By Capt. Kyle Yonemura

The 29th Support Battalion, a subordinate unit of the 29th Brigade Combat Team, left their staging area at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, in their ground assault convoy. The convoy traveled approximately 400 miles North through Iraq to Balad, beginning on February 16, at 1:00 p.m. Morale was high among the Soldiers, whose convoy took them to Logistic Support Area Anaconda, their new base of operations. The convoy was escorted by gun trucks (armored humvees with mounted weapons ranging from machineguns to automatic grenade launchers) belonging to Company C of the famous 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment.



Photo by Capt. Kyle Yonemura

100/442 Inf. Bn. Soldiers bow their heads in prayer at Camp Buehring, Kuwait prior to leaving on their convoy through Iraq

The Soldiers prayed together, then hugged each other affectionately before mounting their vehicles. This was the first experience in a combat situation for many of the Soldiers, something they have prepared many months for along with the rest of the brigade.



Photo by Capt. Kyle Yonemura

Soldiers from the 100/442 Inf. Bn. cheer as the convoy leaves

As the drivers started their engines and the gunners manned their turrets, other members of the 100th Bn., 442nd Inf. Regt. formed up and sang their rousing regimental song, “Go For Broke.” They were accompanied by bagpiper Sgt. Mark Reed. It was a moving scene as Soldiers first sang, then cheered the convoy as it pulled out with Sgt. Reed piping, “Scotland the Brave”. Some of the gunners held up small American flags as they passed the cheering group of Soldiers. Entering the combat zone in Iraq is commonly referred to in soldier slang as “Going over the berm.”

“We’re ready for this.” said 1st Lt. Jeffrey Hickman, the commander of the first group of transport trucks in the convoy.

As a security precaution, the date and time the convoy departed was not released until it arrived at its destination.

STAFF SECTION

Inspector General

NEED TO SEE THE 29th BCT INSPECTOR GENERAL?

BEFORE YOU CONTACT THE INSPECTOR GENERAL (IG):

- Give your Chain-of-Command a chance to resolve the issue. Many problems must be addressed by the chain of command for resolution anyway.
- Be sure you have a problem, not just a peeve.
- If IG assistance is needed, see the 29th BCT IG first. IGs at higher commands will normally refer the case to the lowest level command IG for action.
- You do not have to tell anyone why you want to visit the IG. However, you must obtain permission to be absent from your duties if you wish to visit the IG during your duty hours.

REMEMBER:

- Be honest and do not provide misleading information. IGs will discover the truth quickly in most cases and there are penalties for knowingly providing false information.
- Keep in mind that the IG is not a policy maker and can only recommend, not order, a resolution. The IG's role is to advise the commander.
- IGs can only resolve a case on the basis of fact. Your claim that a supervisor has violated the rules doesn't make it a fact. A claim must be supported by evidence.
- Don't expect instant action on your request. Be patient. Investigations take time, and IGs tend to have heavy workloads.
- Be prepared to take "No" for the answer. In any case, "Yes" or "No", the IG will explain why.

To complain without fear of reprisal is the right of any Service Member seeking IG help. After all, problem solving is the IG's primary mission.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The IG has a duty to protect confidentiality to the maximum extent possible. This is true for all persons who visit the IG.

Do you have a Question, Concern, or Issue?

29th BCT Inspector General (IG)

MAJ William Foss

william.foss1@us.army.mil

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

Any IG in the Warrior Support Center can take your initial information, it will then be forwarded to me to contact you and work your issue.

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

Chaplain's Blessing



Photo by Sgt. Terry Eldred

The 29th LAVA BCT's letters means to me:

L Loyalty to the command.
A Allegiance to the United States of America.
V Valor in behavior. Army values.
A Accountability for one's self and subordinates.

B Blessings to the honest and upright.
C Charity never fails.
T Trust in the Lord with all Thine heart.

Go forward and trust in God. And as Timothy wrote:
"That we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." 1 Timothy 2:2

To 81st BCT Best wishes and God be with you., and words for you from author unknown.

May the road rise up to meet you
The wind be always at your back
The sunshine warm upon your face
The raindrops fall softly upon your fields.
And until we meet again
May God hold you in the hollow of His hands.

Chaplain (MAJ) Leonardo Jamias
29th BCT

I wanted to wish my husband Spc. Sung Min Yi a Happy Birthday. He is in HHC 29th BCT and is an MP. His birthday is on March 7.

Thank you!
Jolene Ifuku- Yi

Happy 2nd Wedding anniversary to my husband SPC. Olledan Balleras from your wife Marjorie and daughter Danica. God Bless you and the whole 29th BCT.

Marjorie Balleras

Harmony and I want to let SFC Regan Pelekai know how much we appreciate what he and all of the 29th Brigade are doing for all of us here. SFC Pelekai is a platoon sergeant with Co. D, 2/299th. Imua Charlie and God Bless all our soldiers there in Iraq.

Georgete K. Bissen-Pelekai & Harmony Kawohikukapulani Pelekai



HHC Family Readiness Group is selling 29th BCT Magnetic Ribbons for \$5.00 (large) and \$3.00 (mini). Above is a sample of the ribbon. If anyone wants to support the 29th Brigade and is interested in purchasing a ribbon, they can contact either of the following:

Mary-Ann at maacedo@verizon.net
Ramona at damien.lariosa@verizon.net

PHOTO GALLERY





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the prescribing medical facility or authority.

5. Introduction, possession, transfer, sale, creation or display of any pornographic or sexually explicit photograph, videotapes, movie, drawing, book, magazine, or similar representations.

6. Gambling of any kind, including sports pools, lotteries and raffles, unless permitted by host nation law and applicable service or component regulations.

7. Removing, possessing, selling, defacing, or destroying archeological artifacts or national treasures.

8. Selling, bartering, or exchanging any currency other than at the official host nation exchange rate.

9. Adopting as pets or mascots, caring for, or feeding any type of domestic or wild animal.

10. Proselytizing of any religion, faith or practice.

11. Taking or retaining individual souvenirs or trophies, except as noted:

-Private property may be seized during exercises or operations only on order of the Commander, MNC-I or his delegated representative, when based on military necessity and in accordance with the rules of engagement. Such property will be collected, processed, secured and stored for later return to the lawful owner.

-Public property seized by U.S. Armed Forces is the property of the United States.

-No weapon, munitions, or military article of equipment obtained or acquired by any means other than official issue may be retained for personal use or shipped out of the AOR for personal retention or control unless authorized by the Commander, MNC-I.

-This prohibition does not preclude the lawful acquisition of souvenirs that can be legally imported into the United States. The following items have been approved as authorized souvenirs: helmets and head coverings; bayonets; uniforms and uniform items such as insignia and patches; canteens, compasses, rucksacks, pouches, and load bearing equipment; flags; military training manuals, books, and pamphlets; posters, placards, and photographs; or other items that clearly pose no safety or health risk, and are not otherwise prohibited by law or regulation. All acquired items are subject to the war souvenir retention process and must be approved by the appropriate reviewing officer. IAW MNC-I Frago 076 (09 Jan 05), each company commander or person in the rank of LTC/05 or above is designated as a reviewing

officer.

12. Taking or retaining any found or seized currency for personal use. Such currency will be identified, collected, recorded, secured, and stored until it can be delivered to the appropriate authority.

13. Sexual contact with foreign and local nationals.

14. Cohabitation of males and females except for lawfully married spouses.

This General Order was issued to ensure that our soldiers adhere to high moral and ethical standards and behave in a professional, competent, and confident manner that fosters good relations with our Iraqi allies. I expect very soldier in the 29th BCT to adhere to this order and always hold themselves to the highest standards.

Lava 6



Photo by Sgt. Terry Eldred

SHAMELESS SELF-PROMOTION



Photo by Sgt. Terry Eldred

The 29th BCT Public Affairs Team; (from left) Sgt. Lauran Robinson, Capt. Kyle Yonemura, Spc. Jayson Howell, and Sgt. Terry Eldred

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.