

Joint Area Support Group-Central



IZ COLLECTIONS



News from the International Zone-Baghdad, Iraq

Volume II, Issue 5

May 2007

- **Commander**
COL Jesse Deets
- **Deputy Commander/Chief of Staff**
LTC Scott D. Niles
- **Command Sergeant Major**
CSM Craig T. Stoll
- **Security Director**
LTC Greg Davis
- **Support Operations Director**
LTC Bobbie A. Luba
- **Installations Director**
CAPT John H. Miller, II
- **HHC Commander**
ILT Cara Walters
- **HHC First Sergeant**
ISG Robert D. Reiner
- **Public Affairs Officer/Editor**
ILT Sharon R. Burns

Commander's Corner



TO ALL JASG-C MEMBERS, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

I'll start off this month's newsletter with some very good news. Our mission here in Baghdad is winding down. Although I can not be specific with dates, I can tell you this... "you will only see one newsletter after this one!" (from the current command)

Our replacement unit has arrived at their training venue and assumed their train-up for their deployment. We have had a Video Tele-Conference, shared information via e-mail and telephone calls, all of which will enhance their preparation for this very unique DOD/DOS mission. Although all "28th" Soldiers will eventually return to home station, many of our Air Force and Navy personnel will remain. This is due to deployment cycles, and a very good thing for our replacement unit. These Sailors and Airmen who remain will be the subject matter experts and continuity that is so very important to our replacements' success.

All JASG members continue to do well. A special note to all loved ones, they are not "thinking re-deployment". They recognize that we still have a mission to complete, and that philosophy will stick until the day we leave.

It's already an oven here, typical days are 105°. Soon, it will be 125 to 130 degrees.

We owe thanks to our great NCOs; they continue to look after our Soldiers. They are pushing hydration, meal consumption and a good sleep plan.

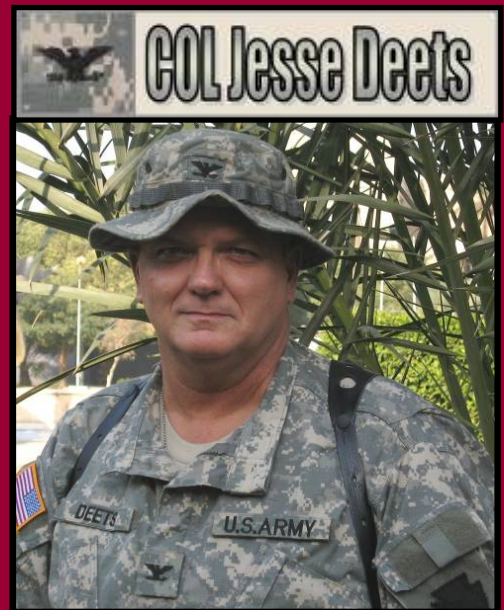
Until next time...I wish you all well. I can not thank you enough for your support. A year is a long time, but your generosity has made our stay, at the least, tolerable.

God Bless you all, and God Bless America!

COL D

Inside this issue:

Calendar of Events VP Cheney Visits the IZ	2
Commander's Call Recognition	3
Funny Page-Humor Sudoku	4
EO-Asian Pacific American Month Thanks!	5
Judge Advocate General (JAG) Loss of Veteran's Benefits	6
Security Directorate IZ Police-Tough Beat	7
Support Operations Directorate International (Zone) Dining	8
Installations Directorate/DPW Brace/Brown	9
Memorial Day	10
Mother's Day Greetings from Baghdad	11
Encouragement: Chaplain This Month in History	12
Safety Shorts Nutrition-"Food for Thought"	13
Command Sergeant Major Stoll Medal of Honor	14
Mobilization Moments Deployment Pictures	15
Quote of the Month Hail and Farewell	16



Seven of our brave Soldiers have re-enlisted for a 6 year commitment to the Pennsylvania National Guard! (back row L-R) SFC Folk, SSG Winkey, SFC Wagner, SSG Alley (front) SGT Witherow, SGT Dailey and SFC McConnell

May 2007



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
National Barbeque National Bike Month National Blood Pressure Month National Photograph Month	1 Nurses Week	2 ILT Belfi	3 CW5 Deaven	4 SSgt Butler III	5 PO1 Keys Cinco de Mayo**	
6 WILDFLOWER WEEK	7 CPT Beamesderfer	8 CPT Mellema VE Day, WWII	9	10	11 Military Spouses Day	12 International Nurses Day
13 Happy Mother's Day	14	15 SFC Lombard IV	16	17 MAJ Berrian	18	19 Armed Forces Day
20 EMS Week	21	22	23 Lucky Penny Day	24	25 National Missing Children Day	26
27	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31 Save Your Hearing Day	Birthdays are in Blue Happy Birthday	



United States Vice President Dick Cheney visited the International Zone, Baghdad. (above) US Ambassador Crocker, Mr. Cheney and General Petraeus held a joint press conference. (below) They were also able to enjoy a special lunch with Iraq President Mr. Talabani, the Chairman of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution Sayed al-Hakim, Iraqi Prime Minister Mr. Nouri al-Maliki and the Deputy Prime Minister Shaawaya, and others. (photos by Keith Kluwe, US Embassy PAO)



June 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Flag Flying Day at the US Embassy			1	2
3 Fishing Week	4 SFC Wagner	5	6	7	8 MAJ Keirn	9
10 SGT Knappenberger	11	12	13 SSgt Tyler	14 Flag Day	15 SSG Taylor	16

Thank you for your contributions:

Thank you to all JASG members and friends who contributed to the funds collected for MSG Sean Thomas daughter Alexa. We mailed Money Orders and Checks in the amount of \$3,221.00 to the fund established for his daughter. If there is anyone who did not get to contribute funds, but would still like to, you can send a check or money order to:

Points of Contact:
(DSN-318) (COM-703-343-XXXX)
SGT Adams 239-8467
CPT Smith 239-9400

Alexa Thomas
c/o Omega Bank
2 South Main ST
Hughesville, PA 17737



COMMANDER'S CALL 26 April 2007

The Commander's Call is a time to acknowledge and reward achievements, congratulate and announce promotions, meet and greet new Service members and to say farewell to those who are leaving. (Hail and Farewells are listed on page 16). Photos taken by MSG White.



Fr Lim and Capt Wigglesworth



Maj Sugiyama



Lt Col Mikalofsky



Farewell to Maj Berrian, SSgt Brace, SSgt Delton, SSgt Sehm, TSgt Balanon, SrA Bailey, ArC Evans & SSgt Gooden



SrA Montellese and SSgt Johnson



SGT Ruhl and Lt Col Smith



CSM Stoll administers the charge to the newly promoted NCO



Congratulations on your Promotion: SGT Dailey



Promoted to SSG Masker! LT Walters "pinned" her.



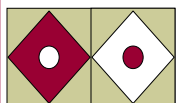
Congratulations on your promotion, LT Paul Kanish



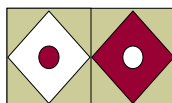
SFC Hiden was recognized by letter from MG Baldwin



Several individuals (not all pictured) were recognized for their selfless service during their response to scenes of recent enemy attacks on the International Zone.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



"The Distinguished Service Award is presented monthly to eligible junior Enlisted, junior and senior Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO) and company grade Officer members of the JASG who have demonstrated outstanding service and devotion to duty in support of the US Embassy-Iraq and the International Zone. Selection is based on significant individual contributions and achievements in regards to job performance during the award period. Each winner will receive a Distinguished Service Award certificate and a one-day pass!

CSM Stoll introduced the Enlisted & NCO winners.

Enlisted:
SrA Wendy Montellese

Junior NCO:
SGT Derek Ruhl

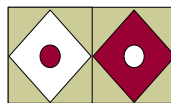
Senior NCO:
SMSgt Paul Riffle
1SG Pete Hiles



SrA Montellese

CSM Stoll

SGT Ruhl



LTC Davis introduced the Junior Officer:
Officer:
CPT Andrew Barrow



SMSgt Riffle

MAJ Engel

1SG Hiles

MAJ Thomas

CPT Barrow

Fun Stuff

Hello?! (submitted by CW5 Dæven)

Having just moved into his new office, a pompous, new Colonel was sitting at his desk when an airman knocked on the door. Conscious of his new position, the Colonel quickly picked up the phone, then told the airman to enter.

Then he said into the phone, "Yes, General, I'll be seeing him this afternoon and I'll pass along your message. In the meantime, thank you for your good wishes, sir."

Feeling as though he had sufficiently impressed the young enlisted man, he asked, "What do you want?"

"Nothing important, sir," the airman replied, "I'm just here to hook up your telephone."

3 Wishes

There was a party that many people attended. The very wealthy host had recently built a tank with many alligators, piranhas, and other things that could kill you. He said that if anyone could swim across the tank, he would, to the best of his ability, grant them 3 wishes.

Well, nobody was up to the challenge, so everyone just started having a good time and doing that "party thing."

Suddenly, there was this big splash! The host looked and saw a man swimming as fast as he could across the tank, and, lo and behold, he made it!

The host walked over to the man and said, "Alright, you made it, WOW!. What are your 3 wishes?" The man replied, "Wishes? Well, ONE I'd like your shotgun, please; TWO, see those bullets over there? give me those; Now, THREE, show me the wise-guy who shoved me in!"

	2		6	8	4		9	
		6	5					4
5	4		7				2	3
4					5	8		
9	8						1	7
		3	9					6
1	7				3		6	2
8					7	9		
	5		4	1	9		7	

Sudoku Fill in the grid so that each of the 9 rows across, 9 columns down and every 3 x 3 box contains the digits one (1) through nine (9), with no repeats. Good Luck!
← contributed by COL Austin

Solution: Last Month's Puzzle

6	3	4	7	8	1	9	5	2
7	1	8	5	2	9	3	4	6
5	9	2	6	3	4	7	8	1
4	6	7	8	1	2	5	9	3
8	5	3	9	4	6	2	1	7
1	2	9	3	5	7	8	6	4
2	4	5	1	9	3	6	7	8
9	7	1	2	6	8	4	3	5
3	8	6	4	7	5	1	2	9



Asian-Pacific American Month

-By SSG NICHOLSON,
Equal Opportunity NCO

May is Asian Pacific American (APA) Heritage Month—a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. When they first arrived in the United States, Asian (usually Chinese) immigrants were welcomed, but faced restrictive laws and occasional violence.

In the late 1800s Chinese, and eventually other Asians, were excluded from citizenship. These laws were repealed during World War II making it easier for Asians to enter the United States.

Today, Asian immigrants have a high rate of assimilation and participation in the American mosaic.

In 1980 more than 2.5 million Asian immigrants entered the U.S.; up from under 500,000 in 1960.

The Immigration Act of 1990 increased the numbers of Asians coming to the U.S. by raising the total quota and reorganizing system of preferences to favor certain professional groups. This allowed Asians with training in medicine, high technology, and other specialties.

In June 1977, Representatives Frank Horton of New York and Norman Y. Mineta of California introduced a House resolu-

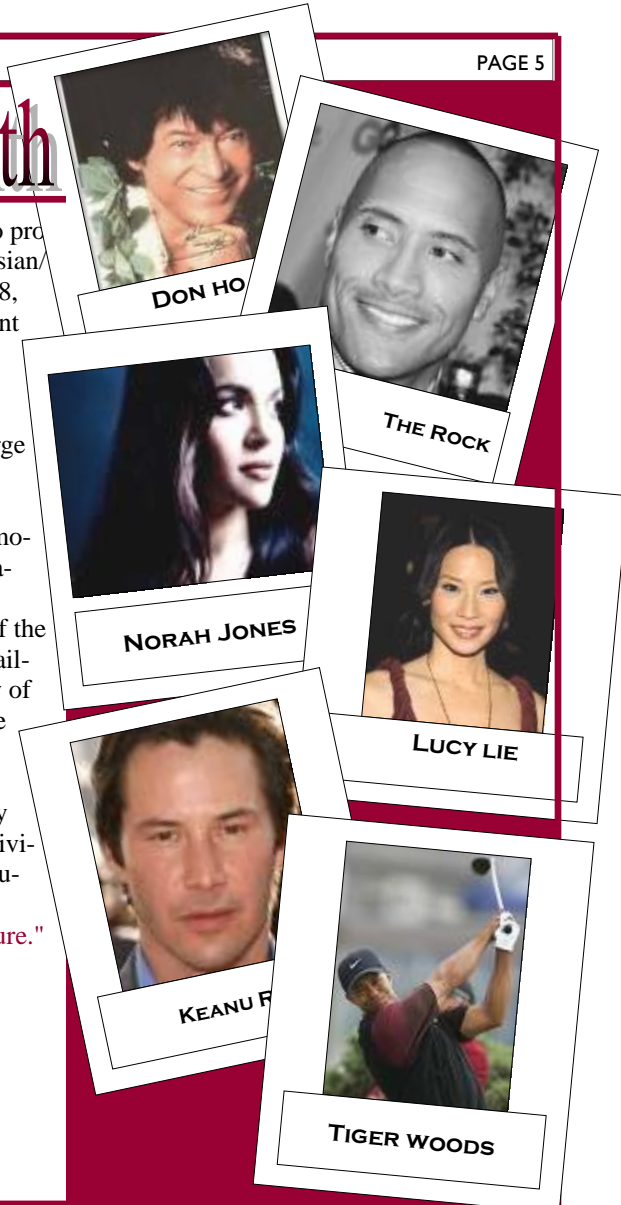
tion that called upon the president to proclaim the first ten days of May as Asian/Pacific Heritage. On October 5, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed a Joint Resolution designating the annual celebration.

In May 1990, the holiday was expanded further when President George H. W. Bush designated May to be Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is celebrated with community festivals, government-sponsored activities, and educational activities for students. This year's theme is "Lighting the Past, Present, and Future."

Notable Asian Americans

- Don Ho- Hawaiian entertainer
- Dwayne Johnson (The Rock)- Wrestler/Entertainer
- Norah Jones- Musician
- Lucy Liu- Actress
- Keanu Reeves-Actor
- Tiger Woods- Golfer



Thank You!!



We continue to be blessed by the generosity of those who send care packages to us! Not only do we get things from our friends and families in our home towns...we receive things from all over the US! We may never have personally met these wonderful people, but they have been there to support us through it all. Your support has had a positive impact on the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Civilians serving here in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom! **Thanks!**



"M & M"
(Mission & Military)

JAG/Legal

LOSS OF VETERANS' BENEFITS

—By Capt WIGGLESWORTH

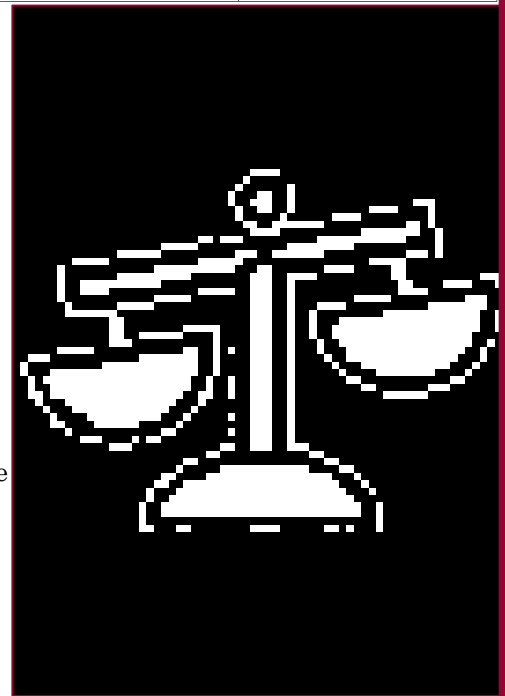
To become eligible for veterans' benefits, the active duty member must have been discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable, which is broader in this context than the term as defined in Rule for Court-Martial 1003(b)(3)(B).

Discharge or release because of any of the following offenses is considered to have been issued under dishonorable conditions: acceptance of an under other than honorable conditions (UOTHC) discharge to avoid trial by general court-martial; an offense involving moral turpitude, including (generally) a conviction of a felony; willful and persistent misconduct, including a UOTHC discharge if it is determined that the discharge was issued for willful and persistent misconduct, but not including a discharge because of a minor offense if service was otherwise honest, faithful and meritorious; and homosexual acts involving aggravating circumstances or other factors affect-

ing the performance of duty. Discharge based solely upon a homosexual act is not considered dishonorable conditions.

Benefits are also not payable where the member was discharged or released under one of the following conditions: as a conscientious objector who refused to perform military duty, wear the uniform, or comply with lawful orders of competent military authorities; by reason of the sentence of a general court-martial; resignation by an officer for the good of the service; as a deserter; and, by reason of a UOTHC discharge as a result of an absence without leave for a continuous period of at least 180 days;

A punitive discharge or UOTHC characterization does not necessarily deprive a member of benefits administered by the VA. Normally, benefits earned during an earlier period of honorable service are not voided by a punitive discharge or a UOTHC discharge dur-



ing a subsequent enlistment (38 U.S.C. § 5303(a); *United States v. McElroy*, 40 M.J. 368, 372 (C.M.A. 1994)).

On the other hand, any person may be denied VA benefits, regardless of an earlier period of honorable service, if shown by evidence satisfactory to the Secretary of Veteran's Affairs to be guilty of filing a fraudulent claim for benefits, treason, or subversive activities. See 38 U.S.C. §§ 5303, 6103-05; 38 C.F.R. § 3.12

We will not stop looking for you, we will never rest until you're finally back at home! Stay strong. You will not be forgotten.

whereabouts are confirmed and you are

THE
ENEMY
IS
LISTEN-
ING
HE
WANTS
TO KNOW
WHAT
YOU
KNOW.
KEEP IT
TO
YOUR-
SELF.

Your Trash...
Could be an Adversary's
Treasure!

Remember
OPSEC
Operations Security

Security Directorate

International Zone (IZ) Police- Working one of the Toughest Beats on the Street! -By SMSgt Riffle

Our IZ Police team has now been on the ground for just over two months...and boy have they been busy! Since 10 March they have been first responders to over fifty indirect fire/rocket (IDF) impacts; helping to secure the scene and treat the injured. They were also some of the first responders to the 12 April suicide attack in the Baghdad Convention Center (Council of Representatives office), at which they played a key role evacuating the facility, treating injured, establishing command/control, setting up a cordon around the area, and conducting follow-up investigation of the scene with FBI and RSO personnel. The airmen on "Mids" (night) shift made an especially significant discovery back on 29 March in which two suicide vests were found near an Iraqi apartment building... undoubtedly preventing further catastrophe. Like many units in theater, the current IZ Police team has faced tragedy. They are coping with the recent loss of one of their interpreters from a fatal off-duty vehicle accident. They have also had to deal with some grisly IDF impact scenes with a few killed-in-action (KIA) and other serious injuries.

Although the Operations Officer's (Capt Yakubik) trailer took a direct rocket hit which destroyed most of his per-

sonal items, fortunately he was not there. We are very thankful he is still alive as his wife called him late at work, detaining him momentarily...surely saving his life.

We can certainly be thankful for and proud of their valiant performance over the past months. Some have already received several accolades for their efforts. 2LT Wyche was named the 95th Mission Support Group (Edwards AFB) Company Grade of the Quarter (Jan – Mar 07) and SrA Whitfield was named the 99th Security Support Squadron (Nellis AFB) Airman of the Quarter (Jan – Mar 07), primarily based on their superior performance in the first month of their tour. A1C Dalgarn was selected as the JASG Enlisted Airman of the Month of April. Just this month, both SrA Montellese and SMSgt Riffle were recognized by the JASG for their contributions and outstanding service. Additionally, several of the airmen have been submitted for decorations based on their heroic performance during the suicide attack and for specific IDF responses.

Finally, our crack team of IZ Police Investigators (TSgt Peterson, SSgt Delaney, SSgt Eickenhorst, and Sami Aloul) were recently named as the "Team of the Month" for the 732d Air Expeditionary Group for April. Whether stopping escort/weapons regulations violators, responding to the scene of major/minor vehicle accidents, IDF attacks, shopliftings, DUIs, General Order #1 (GO1) violations or CPT Barrow's calls for assistance, our IZ Police truly "take action when others take cover!"



Support Operations Directorate International (Zone) Cuisine -By MSG WHITE

Where would you like to dine this evening; the Palace Dining Facility (DFAC), the Deli Annex or the Tigris Café? Choices - choices. Mexican, Italian, Indian Curry, Stir Fry, Pot Roast, Chili Macaroni. How about soup & salad? Stuffed peppers, Chicken Cordon Blue, Monte Cristo or a Gyro? Corn Dog, Waldorf salad, Grilled Panini sandwich... Chicken fingers, baked beans? Do you want fries with that? What about the newest choice – Belgian Waffle?

The MAN responsible for the most recognized DFAC is also, most likely, the most professionally dressed man in Iraq. Mr. Floyd Lee, known simply as Mr. Lee, comes to the Palace by way of 3 years in the Marine Corp and 19 years in the Army. Twenty two years of food service expertise, combined with supervising inmates in the kitchen of a minimum security prison, provided Mr. Lee with the right combination of skills to be selected for a flight to Baghdad!

The Friday after Thanksgiving 2003 the reins to the "Wolf Pack" (FOB Prosperity) DFAC were released to his hands. Word spread and lines outside the "Wolf Pack" continued to grow with hungry people waiting for the dining experience of the International Zone (IZ).

Mr. Lee's tasking to Victory Base and the Pegasus Oasis DFAC in March 04 set the stage for a long relationship between him and the 1st Cavalry (1CAV) Division out of Fort Hood, Texas. Major General Chiarelli, (then) 1CAV Commander invited Mr. Lee to their reunion at Fort Hood. Spouses of the Soldiers surrounded him to thank him for taking care of their loved ones and providing a piece of home away from home. They thanked him for recognizing the special days, events, and celebration of birthdays in an atmosphere where "extended family" could eat and forget about the bad and remember the good. This was when Mr. Lee realized the affect that a dining facility truly had on the Service men and women.

Mr. Lee has taken the lessons learned and applies the principles in the facilities he supervises and to the food service classes he instructs. He encourages DFAC managers to interact and listen to the customer. Ask what is important: like the anniversary of the organization, special food, birthdays, sporting events, etc. Milkshakes, smoothies, flags from sports teams, TV sets in the short order room, sandwich bar, and a tempting desert layout were first implemented by Mr. Lee and spread throughout Theatre.

One fan of the Pegasus Oasis DFAC went to Yankee Stadium for a game and convinced their management to redo the digital marquee to read "Yankee Stadium Welcomes you to the Pegasus Oasis of the 1CAV Div." The fan sent Mr. Lee a picture of the marquee, which now hangs near

his desk.

Another item displayed on the wall is an autographed photo of Mr. Lee and former Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld. He stopped by on

Christmas 2004, donned an apron, and stepped behind the serving line. After serving, Mr. Rumsfeld stayed and shook the hands of over 200 military and civilian staff. The photo depicts Mr. Rumsfeld and Mr. Lee wearing black Stetson cavalry hats, shaking hands.

ABC news called to conduct an interview with Mr. Lee for the Nightly News. Once the crew arrived on location, and after a quick assessment, the story was revised to be the feature for Good Morning America, "Christmas in Iraq-2004." Mr. Lee was once the "Person of the Week" on the ABC Nightly News with Peter Jennings. Our DFAC manager was also featured in US News and World Report.

No matter how good one man can be, Mr. Lee cannot accomplish the preparation and serving of over 6000 meals per day without a well seasoned team. The team consists of nearly 200 food service workers subcontracted through Tamimi from India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Pakistan. Some workers may not understand much English, however a thankful smile is part of the universal language. The staff is dedicated and attentive. Food service managers often come to the team with prior military service and always with food service experience.

A ceremony is held quarterly to recognize employees for a job well done and much appreciated. Certificates are given to the Employees of the Quarter and a video with highlights of previous month's performance and displays are shown, and a special thanks is given to all.

The extended team includes the KBR management and quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) personnel, Joint Area Support Group (JASG) and the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA). At a minimum, monthly inspections are conducted by Ms Francis Gibson, KBR QA/QC; Preventative Medicine; MSG Terry White, Contracting Officer Technical Representative (COTR) from the JASG; and Mr. Paul Kidd, QA/QC DCMA. DFAC Council Meetings held regularly include the Dept of State, JASG, DCMA, Medical Community, and KBR. These meetings

address policy issues relating to food service activities at the Palace DFAC and Embassy Annex Deli.

Anyone entering the Palace DFAC will recognize Mr. Lee. He is the one wearing a cap. It will be a baseball cap of a sports team, perhaps given to him by a customer. The cap would have been selected to color coordinate with the shirt, tie, belt and maybe snake skin boots that Mr. Lee had chosen to wear that day. Mr. Lee will also be wearing a smile because he is blessed; blessed with friends and a purpose to provide more than food to support the mission to all who enter the Palace DFAC.

MSG White and Mr. Lee at the Palace DFAC on Mother's Day. Red roses were given to all ladies who entered the DFAC.



Installations Directorate

SSgt Daniel "Faceman" Brace

By 1Lt BRADLEY

SSgt Daniel "Faceman" Brace is a member of the famed A-Team in the Installations section. Although the A-Team lost (re-deployed) two of its members last month, the remaining members push forward under a new yet to be determined name. SSgt Brace has been in the United States Air Force for a little over 6 years. He came to Iraq from Dover Air Force Base, Delaware and brings his expertise as an Operations Management NCOIC. His years in the Air Force and his leadership bring the Joint Area Support Group and Department of Public Works a great asset.

SSgt Brace is the man in charge of the concrete for the International Zone. He protects over 30,000 local Iraqi's and coalition forces with over a million dollars worth of concrete. To aid in the force protection he was the manager of the Tigris Reed Cutting Project to remove 33,200 cubic meters of reeds off the Tigris River. He also helped a local community by assisting in the creation of a new school for the IZ. He is a great asset to the office with his computer skills and creating the DPW Tracker used to track items of interest from KBR work orders and service orders, to projects for the Commander's eye. He also is an owner of the DPW Metrics used to track the progress of projects as well as certain key infrastructure items.

SSgt Brace is married to Becky and they have 3

children, Shelby, Madison and Daniel Jr. He enjoys time with his family but likes to stay active. He likes to play any sport and will Batista Bomb you in wrestling on Play Station 2 or beat you up with the Philadelphia Eagles in Madden football.

SSgt Brace is a great asset in more than just work. His personality meshes with the Insane Clown Posse called Department of Public Works. His humor and overall attitude makes him a great pleasure to work with. He is a proud member of the United State Air Force and a valued member of the JASG.

Brace



TSgt Mark Van Brown

By SSgt SEPHUS

TSgt Mark Van Brown comes to us from Hampton, Virginia, but unfortunately, he will not give out the year he was born; so we looked it up (1964). He is married to a lovely lady and has one daughter that is 5 yrs old. That has already made him buy a shot gun for the boys.

TSgt Brown is a certified Power Production Craftsman in the United States Air Force stationed with the 1st Civil Engineer Squadron out of Langley Air Force Base, Virginia and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our section.

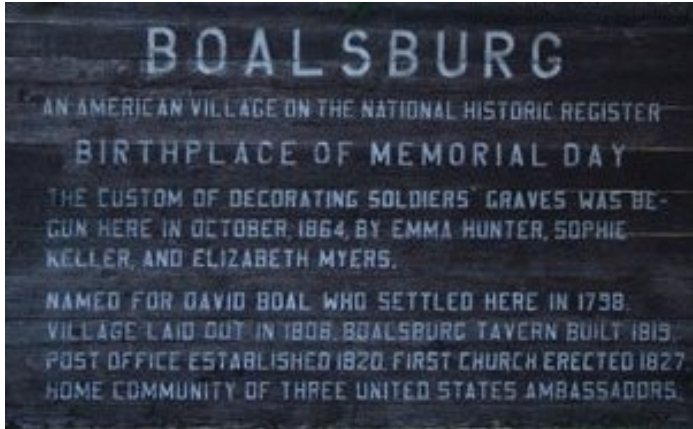
In his spare time, you can find him on the basketball court or on the dominoes table.

A consummate professional at all times, he always has EM2 Medlock in his hip pocket but if you want to talk to him, please give him a megaphone so he can speak up. The only calm voice in the sea of loud individuals that is Department of Public Works (DPW), he rarely loses his cool. But, even when he does, you would barely be able to tell! This is his fifth deployment to the Middle East. He is a true credit to the US Air Force and the JASG.

Brown



Memorial Day -By LTC LUBA With 57 years of service between my husband and me, it follows that our children have also served our country with their sacrifices. The 28th Infantry Division and the Pennsylvania Army National Guard are woven into the fabric of our lives. It is so very important that our children know the history, share the triumphs, and remember the gift of freedom for which the Boalsburg Memorial stands. Our extended family there includes our brothers and sisters who wear the Army uniform, proudly displaying the Keystone patch upon their sleeves. During this sacred weekend in May, we all converge upon the reverent memorial grounds of Boalsburg. With our children sharing in this tradition, we make the trip each year in the spirit of unity and remembrance of our fallen comrades..



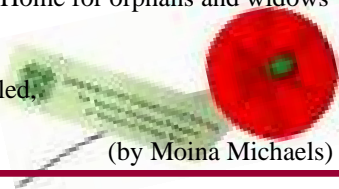
-By LT BURNS Many cities lay claim to being the “Birthplace of Memorial Day”. I think it is wonderful, that they are proud to have that distinction. Originally called “Decoration Day” for the act of decorating each of the graves in a cemetery, it was renamed “Memorial Day” and officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan (national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic) in his General Order No. 11. It was first observed on 30 May 1868 at Arlington National Cemetery and flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate Soldiers. It was an act to signify the joining of our nation’s warriors and honoring those who gave all for our freedom. After WWI the date was used to honor those who died in all wars. The National Holiday Act of 1971 was passed by Congress to ensure a three day weekend for Federal holidays and so Memorial Day was set on the last Monday of May, instead of on 30 May. Although it is a day to honor those who have served our nation and who have fallen in service to our country, we need to honor those who remain and those who contributed to who they were and why they fought and died; for not only do we remember our fallen comrades, we remember all those who have walked these paths before us. We should not forget from where we come, lest we have no clear direction for the future. It has taken the efforts of many to accomplish the positive changes our country has seen since it’s inception and we continue to fight for the freedoms we hold dear.

This day should be used to aid the widows, widowers and orphans of our fallen and also our wounded and disabled veterans. One way to do that is support your local veterans organizations and purchase “Buddy Poppies”. Continuing a tradition which was started to raise money to benefit Soldiers in need, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States became the first veterans’ organization to nationally sell red poppies. They started the “Buddy” Poppy program nearly 85 years ago to sell artificial poppies made by disabled veterans and needy veterans who were paid to provide them financial assistance. The program was adopted in 1923 at the VFW encampment and they were made the very next year at the Buddy Poppy plant in Pittsburgh.

The money made provides compensation to the veterans who assemble the poppies, financial assistance in maintaining state and national veterans’ rehabilitation and service programs and partially supports the VFW National Home for orphans and widows of our nation’s veterans.

We cherish too, the Poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led,
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies.

(by Moina Michaels)



Realizing the blessings we have in our lives, we take this time to reflect and remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. It is so very important for our children to witness this ceremony; be awed by the display of units’ colors, as each is presented; learn from the messages of our leaders as they relay the stories of valor; shed a tear as they hear the somber sound of Taps and the reading of the names of our fallen heroes; and stand humbled as they view the grave markers and fallen Soldier displays. It is during these ceremonies at Boalsburg each year that we remember the sacrifices of the men and women who have valiantly served our nation and willingly gave their lives in the name of freedom. We want our children to always remember that our nation’s freedom cannot be taken for granted. In remembering and honoring these Soldiers, we must also remember and honor the families who have lost their loved ones. Through their loss, they continue to serve our nation. Boalsburg will always be a special part of the Luba family tradition.

(Continued on page 16)



Samuel Luba

Happy Mother's Day! Mother Separated from Her Children, Gets to See them Via Satellite -By LT BURNS

It is difficult for a mother to see her child leave home. Just think how she would feel if her "baby" was off to war. Imagine if you can, how Rosa Stallworth feels; three of her eight children are currently serving a year-long deployment in Iraq! This is actually the second trip to Iraq for both LaSaundra and DJ and is the third time in Theater for Anthony. But, Mrs. Stallworth had the opportunity on Mother's Day to at least see them and talk to them "live" via satellite. The Good Morning America crew set up a van in front of her Pensacola home. Several family members, including her sons' wives and children, were also able to be there. They just hopped in the car and drove over to join her.

But in Iraq, it was not so easy to bring the family together. SFC LaSaundra Stuckey works with the Security Directorate of the JASG at Ocean Cliffs within the International Zone. SFC Dan Stallworth, Jr lives in the International Zone, Baghdad, but is a Convoy Security NCO. He often goes on missions in the "National/Red Zone". So they were each pretty close and only had to don protective gear (Individual Body Armor and helmets) and drive through a few checkpoints. But the youngest in country, SGT Anthony Stallworth, works over 60 miles away, near Baqouba, as a Communications Chief. Now in the United States, it might take about an hour to drive that far, a few stop lights and over railroad tracks and you're there. However, Anthony had to arrange to get off work two days earlier (he nearly had to take an armored convoy to another location for a flight) and catch a lift by helicopter with machine gun lookouts and flares to intercept heat-seeking rockets. He was then picked up at the landing zone and driven to the Combined Press Information Center (CPIC), where all media in theater have to enter. His trip back took a while longer to arrange, since the flights to his region of Iraq do not occur every day. But it was okay with him. He was able to spend a few precious days with his big brother and sister and a few priceless moments speaking with his family back home.

Once at CPIC the three siblings were seated in front of the cameras and television screen. Then they were "wired" for sound. Unfortunately the sound glitches took a while to work out, but eventually we were all communicating. Once the show began, Rosa was able to see her sons and daughter. They had the chance to tell her "Happy Mother's Day" and what they miss most (her guidance) and look forward to eating when they get back for a reunion dinner (SGT Stallworth wants ham and SFC Stuckey longs for her mother's infamous carrot cake)!

The host of the show interrupted the exchange to also wish SFC LaSaundra Stuckey a Happy Mother's Day. She is the proud mother of two sons Thomas, Jr. (TJ) and Jerren. The big surprise was when he told her that she should say "hello" to her sons and husband, who were right there in the New York studio with them. At first she was like, "oh really..." then she saw them and could not contain the emotion. The joy of seeing her beloved men together there, was so unexpected and overwhelming! We were all excited for her also. She had not seen them since her Rest and Relaxation (R&R) leave in January. Having served 22 years in the military, her family is used to having to be apart, but it does not make it easier.

Fortunately the ABC hosts let the family spend a few more moments on line, so Anthony and DJ could tell their wives, "Happy Mother's Day" as well. DJ has 2 boys and 2 girls. Children grow quickly and he could hardly recognize his youngest who has recently learned to walk! Anthony has 2 girls, ages 13 and 8.

To all mothers who are patiently waiting at home for us and to ALL of the Brave Women who serve their country, especially those who are apart from their children this holiday,

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!!



JASG Chaplain Words of Encouragement



After the fall of Jerusalem in 597 BC, the Chaldeans, upon defeating the Jewish nation, began a forced relocation of people. The exile consisted primarily of the educated and the leadership. They were relocated to the city of Babylon which was located about fifty miles south of modern Baghdad. After fifty years of exile, they began to return to rebuild their city and their culture. Soon we will return home and begin to rebuild our lives and I trust each of us have our plans in place as to how we are going to accomplish this.

Psalms 126 reflects on that return of the exiles as we read, "When the Lord brought back the captives to Zion, we were like men who dreamed. Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.'"

Like the Jewish exiles, we often think of home as we are close to returning from this area. Like them we have experienced much. And I suspect, like them, when our plane touches down in New Jersey, our mouths will be filled with laughter and our voices will be filled with joy.

I also hope like them, we will be able to echo the same sentiments that "the Lord has done great things for us." Take time in your remaining days in this deployment to thank God for the things God has blessed you with. Take the time to spend with God in worship, private and corporate. Take time to acknowledge God and God will indeed acknowledge you.

Father Hil'



Ch LtCol HILarion Mikalofsky comes to us from Sheppard AFB (Wichita Falls), TX where he looks forward to returning and retiring.

'Fr Hil' was born, raised and educated in Milwaukee, WI and ordained in 1975 (please give him a little respect for his age!). He's served at 12 bases in the US, USAFE and PACAF and being a worldwide deployable chaplain on the catholic enabler list he is no stranger to the AOR wherever that may be.....perhaps you've even seen him on your previous deployments?!

He'll be more than happy to talk and pray with you but only for 6 months!!



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THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

May 1, 1960 - A U-2 spy plane flying at 60,000 feet was shot down over Sverdlovsk in central USSR on the eve of a summit meeting between President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev. The sensational incident caused cancellation of the meeting and heightened Cold War tensions. The pilot, CIA agent Francis Gary Powers, survived the crash, and was tried, convicted and sentenced to 10 years in prison by a Moscow court. Two years later he was released to America in exchange for an imprisoned Soviet spy. On return to the U.S., Powers encountered a hostile public which apparently believed he should not have allowed himself to be captured alive. He died in a helicopter crash in 1977.

May 4, 1970 - At Kent State University, four students were killed by National Guardsmen who opened fire on a crowd of 1,000 students protesting President Richard Nixon's decision to invade Cambodia. Eleven others were wounded. The shootings set off tumultuous campus demonstrations across America resulting in the temporary closing of over 450 colleges and universities.

May 5 - Celebrated in Mexico as Cinco De Mayo, a national holiday in remembrance of the Battle of Puebla in 1862, in which Mexican, outnumbered three to one, defeated the invading French forces of Napoleon III.

May 14, 1796 - Smallpox vaccine was developed by Dr. Ed-

ward Jenner, a physician in rural England. Within 18 months, 12,000 people in England had been vaccinated and the number of smallpox deaths dropped by two-thirds.

May 14, 1942 - During World War II, an Act of Congress allowed women to enlist for non-combat duties in the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC), the Women Appointed for Voluntary Emergency Service (WAVES), Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS), and Semper Paratus Always Ready Service (SPARS), the Women's Reserve of the Marine Corp.

May 17, 1875 - The first Kentucky Derby horse race took place at Churchill Downs in Louisville.

May 20, 1862 - President Abraham Lincoln signed the Homestead Act opening millions of acres of government owned land in the West to "homesteaders" who could acquire up to 160 acres by living on the land and cultivating it for five years, paying just \$1.25 per acre.

May 21, 1881 - The American Red Cross was founded by Clara Barton. The organization today provides volunteer disaster relief in the U.S. and abroad. Community services include collecting and distributing donated blood, and teaching health and safety classes.

May 29, 1453 - The city of Constantinople was captured by the Turks, who renamed it Istanbul. This marked the end of the Byzantine Empire as Istanbul became the capital of the Ottoman Empire.

Safety Concerns

-By SGM ZAPPASODI

Safety NCO:
SGM Stephen Zappasodi

Safety and Nutrition
Consultants
CW5 Lynn Deaven
MAJ Starr Seip
MSG Terry White

Safe Lifting Procedures-Soon we will be packing to go home (That's sounds great!). Please follow the procedures for lifting as we pack. Safety first

There are 3 reasons for most back injuries:

1. Size of the load - load may be more than your back can handle. Never underestimate the size of a load.
2. Amount of strength - know what you can lift safely. Never overestimate your strength.
3. How you lift - lift the wrong way, twist instead of turn, get into awkward positions and use quick, rough, movements, and you'll strain your back. Lift the proper, safe way every time.

When performing lifting tasks, follow these basic rules:

1. First, test the weight of the load by tipping it. If in doubt, ask for help. Do not attempt to lift a heavy load alone.
2. Take a good stance. Plant your feet firmly with legs apart, one foot farther back than the other. Make sure you stand on a level area with no oil spots or loose gravel, etc.
3. Get a firm grip. Use as much of your hands as possible, not just your fingers.
4. Keep your back straight, almost vertical. Bend at the hips if you bend.
5. Hold load close to your body. Keep the weight of your body over your feet for good balance.
6. Use large leg muscles to lift. Push up with the foot positioned in the rear as you start to lift.
7. Lift steadily and smoothly. Avoid quick, jerky movements.
8. Avoid twisting motions. Turn the forward foot and point it in the direction of the eventual movement.
9. Never try to lift more than you are accustomed to.
10. Always get help when you have to lift bulky loads.



SAFETY SHORTS

-By MSG WHITE

Summer in the sun Summer will soon be here. This means long fun-filled days in the sun. Too much of a good thing can be bad. Prolonged sun exposure causes sunburn. Sunburn is a painful experience and results when the skin is exposed excessively to the sun's ultraviolet rays. Skin damage from sunburn may be as minimal mild redness or as severe as blisters with fluid accumulation and peeling of large areas of skin. In short, anywhere from a first to a third degree burn can occur! Prolonged sun exposure is a known cause of premature aging of the skin and of skin cancer. Skin cancer is the most common form of human cancer. Annual rates of skin cancer are rising each year. Sunburn and, hopefully, skin cancer can be avoided by: Limiting the amount of time of sun exposure; Avoiding the worst sun hours -- from late morning to early afternoon (10 o'clock to 2); Wearing hats and protective clothing; Being aware that sunburn can occur even on a cloudy day (clouds don't stop the ultraviolet rays); Knowing that sunburn can occur even when you are in the water; Remembering that sand reflects the sun rays and increases the chance of burning; USE APPROPRIATE SUNSCREENS!! Sunscreens with a Skin Protection Factor (SPF) of at least 15 are recommended for most people. Some dermatologists are recommending the use of sunscreens with an SPF of 30 or higher.; Sunscreen should be applied 20 to 30 minutes before going into the sun and reapplied often. Don't forget that lips get sunburned, too. So, apply a lip balm that contains sunscreen, also preferably with an SPF of 15 or higher. One warning sign of skin cancer is a change in the appearance of the skin such as a new growth or sore that will not heal. The term "skin cancer" refers to three different conditions: basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma (nonmelanoma) and melanoma. Nonmelanoma skin cancer is 100% curable if brought to the attention of a doctor at the earliest stages.

NUTRITION "Food For Thought"

-By MAJ SEIP



Why is 5 A Day important for health? All national health authorities recommend eating 5 to 9 servings of fruits and vegetables every day to promote good health and reduce the risk of cancer and heart disease. Research shows that people who eat 5 or more servings of fruits and vegetables every day may decrease their risk of cancer by 50 percent and their risk of heart disease by 33 percent compared to people who eat fewer fruits and vegetables. Eating 5 A Day may also reduce risk of diabetes, osteoporosis, diverticulosis and other chronic diseases.

Fruits and vegetables promote better health because they contain vitamin A, vitamin C, fiber and other essential nutrients. Additionally, most are very low in fat and calories and contain no cholesterol. Fruits and vegetables also contain many non-nutrient plant compounds called phytochemicals ["fight-chemicals"] that may provide additional protection to help reduce the risk of cancer and heart disease.

5 A Day Links and Resources Produce for Better Health Foundation-The Produce for Better Health



Foundation offers two web sites with information related to 5 A Day, www.5aday.com and www.aboutproduce.com, which offers nutrition information and selection, preparation and storage tips for over 175 produce items. The site also offers recipes and nutrition and health information.

National Cancer Institute The National Cancer Institute's 5 A Day site www.5aday.gov focuses on research and health issues related to 5 A Day. The site also includes 5 A Day recipes.

State 5 A Day Coordinators Every U.S. state has a 5 A Day Coordinator. This person is usually a health professional, typically a registered dietitian, whose job is to promote the 5 A Day program at the state and local level. Your State 5 A Day Coordinator can provide assistance and support to you when planning 5 A Day school and community events. To find out who your state coordinator is and how to contact him or her, go to http://www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov/health_professionals/coordinator_contact.html

Command Sergeant Major

We are coming to the end of our tour. We are seeing many of our Sailors and Airmen rotate out and we are welcoming new members. I wish "God Speed" to all of those that are moving on and thank you for all of your excellent work. To all of our new members, your predecessors have set the bar high. I know you will all excel just as they did. For those of us that are reaching the end of our tour I would like to stress the importance of safety and maintaining the standard. We will be very busy in the time that we

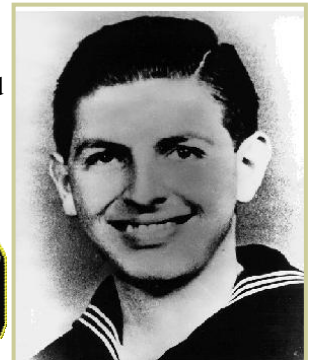
have remaining getting things ready for our follow on unit. We cannot become complacent and we must maintain focus on the mission. Directorates have been conducting Safety Stand Downs. The information and subject matter that was covered is paramount to our success. I challenge all NCOs to continue your vigilance in this matter, the lead in supervision, and maintaining the standard. Remember, those at home that have supported so well over the past year are anxiously awaiting our return.



CSM Craig Stoll

Medal of Honor Recipient - HC3c Edward C. Benfold

Rank and organization: Hospital Corpsman Third Class, U.S. Navy, attached to a company in the 1st Marine Division. **Place and date:** Korea, 5 September 1952. **Entered service at:** Philadelphia, Pa. **Born:** 15 January 1931, Staten Island, N.Y. **Citation:** For gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving in operations against enemy aggressor forces. When his company was subjected to heavy artillery and mortar barrages, followed by a determined assault during the hours of darkness by an enemy force estimated at battalion strength, HC3c. Benfold resolutely moved from position to position in the face of intense hostile fire, treating the wounded and lending words of encouragement. Leaving the protection of his sheltered position to treat the wounded when the platoon area in which he was working was attacked from both the front and rear, he moved forward to an exposed ridge line where he observed 2 marines in a large crater. As he approached the 2 men to determine their condition, an enemy soldier threw 2 grenades into the crater while 2 other enemy charged the position. Picking up a grenade in each hand, HC3c Benfold leaped out of the crater and hurled himself against the on-rushing hostile soldiers, pushing the grenades against their chests and killing both the attackers. Mortally wounded while carrying out this heroic act, HC3c. Benfold, by his great personal valor and resolute spirit of self-sacrifice in the face of almost certain death, was directly responsible for saving the lives of his 2 comrades. His exceptional courage reflects the highest credit upon himself and enhances the finest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for others.



The 15th Arleigh Burke-class Guided Missile Destroyer in the United States Navy, joined the Pacific Fleet on 30 March 1996 when she was commissioned for duty, was named in his honor.

www.medalofhonor.com/EdwardBenfold.htm ** Submitted by SGM Peiffer ** <http://www.army.mil/cmh-pg/mohkor2.htm>



April Photo

"How much did this cost us?!"
-LT Burns

- "Where do you put the bait?!" -SGM Peiffer
- "Who's going to pay for this?!" -SGT Masker
- "See what you made me do..." -LTC Luba
- "It your fault, I broke it." -LT Walters
- "Like my new fishing rod?!" -MSG Rubinic



Photo Caption Contest

CREATE A CAPTION FOR THE PHOTO- e-mail to the editor

17 1:44 PM

?(Your Creative Caption)?



SGM Moyer won Poker Tourney

Card playing time in the MWR Lounge

New office renovations at FOB Blackhawk



Danish Contingency (DanCon) March



puzzle=stress relief



SGT Knappenberger WINS big with his new ping-pong paddle!!!



Birthdays!

Information is intended for the Service members of the JASG-C, their families and friends. Content is not the official views of the United States Government, DOD, CENTCOM, nor MNF-I. Comments or questions should be directed to the PAO/Editor, 1LT S. R. Burns.

Public Affairs/Editor/Writer/Photographer:
1LT Sharon R. Burns
 JASG-C/Chief of Staff/PAO
 APO AE 09316

US Embassy Annex, Room M111
 DSN 318-239-9529/CELL 914-360-3843
 Email: sharon.burns@iraq.centcom.mil

To all who contribute to the newsletter; To everyone who helps with mail/packages and of course to all those who send Care Packages to the troops...**THANK YOU!!**

You will live in our hearts forever,
 you will never be forgotten...

SEAN MICHAEL THOMAS
 December 28, 1973-March 27, 2007

(Continued from page 10)

-By SGT RUHL It is a day to reflect on the men and women who have given their lives in service for their country. And, it is also a time to understand and acknowledge that their sacrifice is the primary reason Americans have the freedoms and liberties we currently enjoy.

-By COL DEETS Since 1982, LTC (R) "Gus" Hickock, hundreds of volunteer Soldiers, friends, families and I have supported our 28th Division Memorial and Shrine at Boalsburg.

Although we consider our efforts a labor of love, and not hard work, what you see today is a far cry from what existed 25 years ago. Remember when you could not see our Shrine from Rt. 322? It was hidden by trees and vegetation. Do you remember when the walkway in front of the WWI Memory Wall was a dirt path?

What used to be very labor intensive weekends, twice per year have now turned into cosmetic day trips on the first Saturday of May and October. The Soldiers who show up in all kinds of weather are not compensated for their service; rather, they do so as volunteers. What they get in return is peace of mind knowing that we have not forgotten those who have gone before us.

So, the next time you visit Boalsburg at dusk, take a look at the subdued light at the top of the 107th Memorial. Many years ago, we were told that it could not be repaired; the wiring was damaged beyond repair. With the help of a PPL electrician, it was repaired, and it now glows reminding all of us that we can never forget our veterans of the 28th Division.

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~pacentre/memory.htm>
<http://www.usmemorialday.org/>
<http://www.thisnation.com/>

"Integrity is one of several paths. It distinguishes itself from the others because it is the right path and the only one upon which you will never get lost."

- M.H. McKee

Quote of the Month

"Try not to be a man of success, but rather try to be a man of value."

-**Albert Einstein**, *Theoretical Physicist* (1879-1955)

"The American soldier is a proud one and he demands professional competence in his leaders. In battle, he wants to know that the job is going to be done right, with no unnecessary casualties. The noncommissioned officer wearing the chevron is supposed to be the best soldier in the platoon and he is supposed to know how to perform all the duties expected of him. The American soldier expects his sergeant to be able to teach him how to do his job. And he expects even more from his officers."

-**General of the Army Omar N. Bradley**

"...[Y]ou may fly over a land forever; you may bomb it, atomize it, pulverize it and wipe it clean of life—but if you desire to defend it, protect it, and keep it for civilization, you must do this on the ground, the way the Roman legions did, by putting your young men into the mud."

-**T.R. Fehrenbach** *This Kind of War*

"Out of life's school of war: What does not destroy me, makes me stronger."

-**Friedrich Nietzsche**, *The Twilight of the Idols* (1899)



WELCOME!!
 Glad to see you!



FAREWELL.
 You will be missed.

Security: Maj Sugiyama
Cmd/Ministry/Chaplain:
 LtCol Mikalofsky "Fr Hil"

Security: Capt Wigglesworth
Cmd/Ministry/Chaplain: Fr. Lim
Support Operations:

LtCol Langston TSgt Balanon
 SSgt Gooden SSgt Sehm
 SrA Bailey AIC Evans

Installations:

Maj Berrian SSgt Brace SSgt Delton

Dirge for Two Veterans

By Walt Whitman

The moon gives you light,
 And the bugles and the
 drums give you music,
 And my heart,
 O my Soldiers, my veterans,
 My heart gives you love.



Congratulations to TSgt Morrison and wife Carrie on the adoption of their son, Philip Alexander. Born Wed, 16th at 1:40pm, and weighs 5 lbs, 3.8 oz!!

"One flag, one land, one heart, one hand, one nation evermore."-Holmes

SGM Peiffer recently visited a kindergarten in "Little Baghdad". They distributed stuffed animals to each child along with crayons, coloring books, a DVD player, and some Disney animated movies. The teachers and Principal were very grateful for the things we gave them.

