

# IRAQI DESTINY

Volume 1, Issue 49

November 20, 2003

## Days of Remembrance

*Soldiers throughout 101st mourn loss of 17 in helicopter crashes*

*page 3*



## Commentary

## Iraqi Freedom News reaches 101st episode

by Sgt. Raymond Flores  
22nd MPAD

I remember the first time my team leader, Staff Sgt. Eric Hendrix, brought up the idea for "Iraqi Freedom News". Less than a week after arriving in Mosul, we were smoking cigarettes behind the old Civil Military Operations Center (now the governor's building), talking about how we could make a difference in this city. He explained it with all the excitement of a preacher, "Imagine, we are going to be the first thing these people are going to see on television after the fall of Saddam."

We asked ourselves from the very beginning, "Is there anyone who needs to know more about all the good things Coalition Forces are doing in Northern Iraq, than the people of Iraq?"

Within two weeks of being in Mosul, we saw ourselves as another way to win this war, as a way to win over the Iraqi people. We wanted to give that one Iraqi, the one who was still trying to make up his mind whether he was with us or not, the information on the good deeds the division was performing in the Nineveh Province every single day.

Our biggest asset was that we were the only game in town. There was one heavily-looted television station in Mosul broadcasting cartoons and old tapes to around 1.5 million people. We knew that anything we would produce would be a home run. Sure, there were satellite dishes popping up everywhere but there's one simple rule: relevant local news prevails over fancy national

news any day. Those first few months we pushed our products to the television station like it was a race. The faster we ran with our show, the farther ahead of the competition we got. When they teach us the basics of public affairs one thing that has always stuck in my head is this, "If the Army doesn't speak for the Army, then someone else will." And here in Iraq, it's the people who want to kill us that would be glad to fill any vacancy we leave.

There was a certain time when a local politician questioned our style of reporting. During a local leader's meeting he raised his voice and asked if my soldier dared to go out in the streets and ask the lowliest, poorest, dirtiest man his opinion.

My soldier, Spc. Bernard Weiss answered, "As a matter of fact, sir, I already have."

We wanted their opinion. With our "Man on the Street" pieces all we wanted was a little insight on what they were thinking as individuals. And for myself, and for most of my soldiers I think, it became so much more.

In their eyes you could see the excitement; you could see how much it mattered to them. That now, after so many years of tyranny and silence they had something to say. And more important was the fact that now someone was listening.

And after months of meeting so many people, with all the same hurts, worries, hopes and dreams that we Americans have; after meeting with them and talking with them I could see them standing taller. I imagined an old man living many long years hunched over from the great weight on his shoulders. And when we were

interviewing these people I could see how that weight was diminished and the same old man was looking in the mirror amazed at how tall he really could stand.

And we definitely aren't the only game in town anymore. Col. Joseph Anderson, commander, 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) gives the Iraqi people a voice every week on his radio call in show. Our interpreter Mahir Jasem, the voice of more than fifty IFNs, is known as the voice of Mosul helping the local television station with their local news show.

There are more than 30 registered newspapers operating in Mosul. Coalition forces have a different subject matter expert make a live appearance on television each night. Our mission, our show, has become more than the small graphic that accompanies the cover story.

The people of Mosul are now getting the news straight from the source. We, now more than ever before, make it our jobs to make sure our families and soldiers back in the rear know all the great things the division is doing for the people of Iraq.

In 101 "Iraqi Freedom News" shows we've seen everything from shots fired in anger to soldiers serenading children with "Louie, Louie." We've seen soccer games at 2 a.m. as people waited in day-long lines to get benzene, and we've seen Saddam's neglected orphans enjoying one of his beautiful blue palace pools. We've videotaped too many memorials and seen a thousand smiling faces. We've seen the combat arms soldiers putting themselves on the line night after night and we've also seen them in the role of diplomats, conducting civil affairs, making freedom happen for the people.

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# Units mourn loss of soldiers killed in Black Hawk crashes

by Staff Sgt. Mark Swart and Spc. Joshua Hutcheson  
101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault) Public Affairs Office

More than 1,000 soldiers from the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault) spent nearly two days mourning the 17 soldiers who died Nov. 15 in a two-helicopter crash over Mosul.

The ceremonies took place at the soldiers' respective battalion headquarters in both Mosul and Tallafar, in a total of six ceremonies over the two-day period.

An investigation is underway to determine the cause of the crashes, both of which were UH-60 Black Hawks flying non-related missions within the city.

Throughout the day, emotions ran high at the ceremonies, as soldiers said farewell for the last time. In many speeches, soldiers and leaders fought back tears as they spoke in honor of their friends.

In a letter sent out to the Fort Campbell community last week, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne commander Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus expressed his feelings on accidents.

"The losses we suffered are almost beyond comprehension. Our fallen comrades were friends and fellow soldiers with whom we have served and sacrificed, fought a tough enemy, and helped a nation rebuild," he said. "The losses will not, however, cause us to falter or fail. To the contrary, these losses will lead us to redouble our efforts and drive on. If we are to continue making progress-- and we have indeed made great progress -- we must continue to move forward. We are resolved to do just that."

Throughout the two days, many memorials' speakers focused on their continued commitment to the mission, and the idea of dedicating the duration of this deployment to the memories of their fallen comrades.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> Aviation Regiment

Behind the traditional fallen soldier memorials of helmet, boots and weapon, two Black Hawk helicopters sat silently, their blades moving gently in the cold, arid wind of Tallafar. This was the largest of the memorial ceremonies, paying tribute to the six soldiers from 4-101st that perished in the crash.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Jeremy L. Wolfe

Wolfe, a former enlisted infantryman with the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light Infantry), went green-to-gold and graduated from Hawaii Pacific University with a degree in computer science. He earned the George C. Marshall award and was the Distinguished Honor Graduate of his Reserve Officer Training Course. He was a pilot, graduating from flight school in Sept. 2003, and had recently taken over as a platoon leader in Company A, 4-101<sup>st</sup>.

He is survived by his wife Christine and his parents David L. Wolfe of Menomonie, Wis., and Jane S. Utpadel of Wheeler, Wis.



Staff Sgt. Mark Swart

Command Sgt. Maj. Donald J. Gregg, 4th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, does roll call as part of the traditional military memorial ceremony. This was one of four ceremonies held today for soldiers who died in a two-helicopter crash in Mosul Nov. 15. This memorial was for 2nd Lt. Jeremy L. Wolfe, CW2 Scott A Saboe, Sgt. John W. Russell, Spc. Ryan T Baker, Spc. Jeremiah J. DiGiovanni and Spc. William D Dusenbery.

### Chief Warrant Officer 2 Scott Saboe

Saboe entered the Army in 1989 as a light wheel mechanic, later serving as an Army recruiter and then switched to aviation as a warrant officer. He flew one tour in Korea prior to coming to Fort Campbell in 2002. He deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom in February, and had recently been selected to become an instructor pilot.

Saboe was remembered by his friends as a quiet professional and a pilot that could always be turned to for the most difficult missions.

He is survived by his father, Arlo G. Saboe of Willow Lake, S.D., his wife Franceska and his son Dustin.

### Sgt. John W. Russell

Russell joined the Army in 1994 as an infantryman, and served his initial tour at Fort Bliss, Texas. He later transitioned to UH-60 helicopter repair and did tours in Germany, Fort Drum, N.Y., Fort Hood, Texas, and Fort Campbell.

Russell deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in May. He was remembered by his friends as a noncommissioned officer that knew his soldiers and cared deeply about them, and as a leader who had a good sense of humor.

### Spc. Ryan T. Baker

Baker entered the Army in 1998 and was assigned to 4-101<sup>st</sup> at Fort Campbell after graduating from Advanced Individual Training. He deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom in February.

His leaders remembered him as a soldier that always had a smile and took a deep personal interest in his aircraft.

Baker is survived by his mother Victoria A. Baker of Browns Mills, N.J., and son, Tristan.

# F A S T R O P E

Photo and  
story by  
Spc. Mary  
Rose  
Xenikakis,  
22nd MPAD

Second Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), recently implemented a “fast rope” training program for 502nd Infantry Regiment soldiers in Mosul, Iraq.

The fast rope operations are used when rapid exit from a rotary wing aircraft into a small or restricted target area is necessary, according to Capt. Nathan Self, training officer.

“Col. Joseph Anderson (2nd Brigade, commander) decided to train this skill in a combat zone because it is a very necessary capability here and now,” Self said. “The uncertain nature of the stability and support operations, coupled by the urban environment in which we operate, requires a means of insertion that can put soldiers anywhere as quickly as possible.”

“It’s usually a training which is reserved for soldiers trained for Special Operations, Long Range Surveillance and Pathfinders,” Self said.

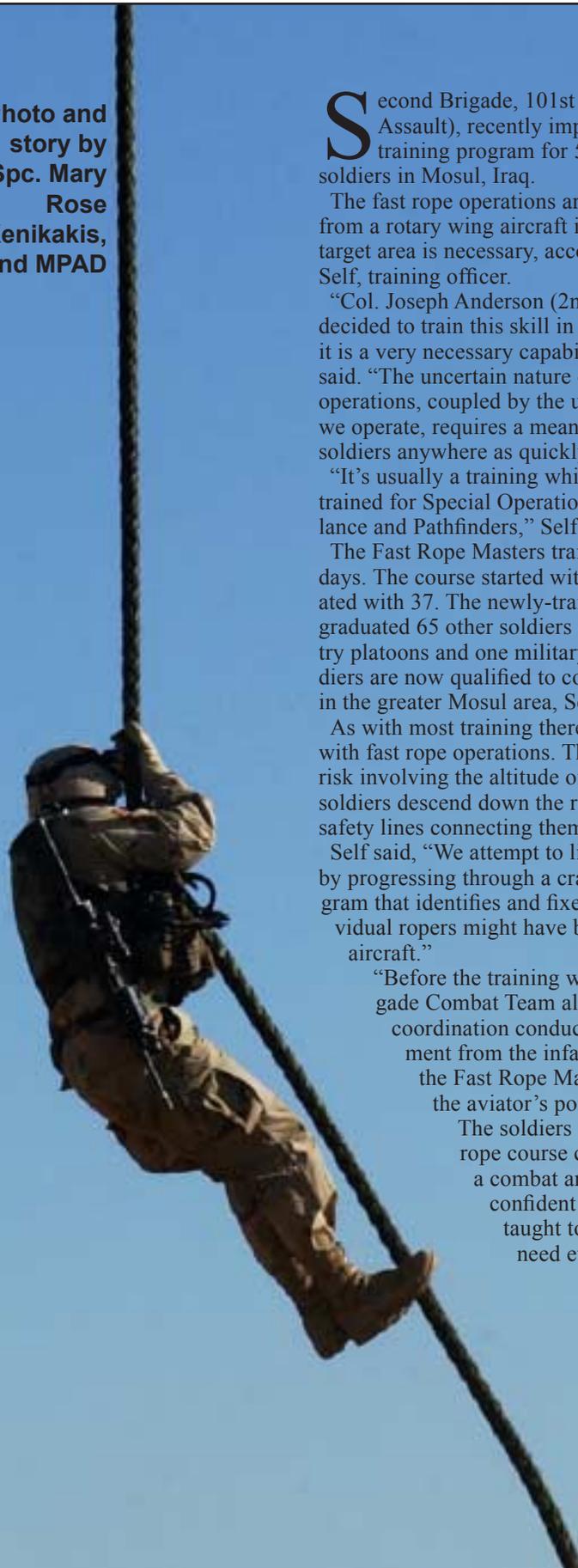
The Fast Rope Masters training took four fast-paced days. The course started with 39 candidates and graduated with 37. The newly-trained masters trained and graduated 65 other soldiers compiled from three infantry platoons and one military police squad. These soldiers are now qualified to conduct fast rope operations in the greater Mosul area, Self said.

As with most training there are risks that are inherent with fast rope operations. The ropers are subjected to risk involving the altitude of the hovering aircraft. The soldiers descend down the ropes at high speeds with no safety lines connecting them to it.

Self said, “We attempt to limit the objective hazards by progressing through a crawl, walk, run training program that identifies and fixes any problems that individual ropers might have before they ever board an aircraft.”

“Before the training was conducted the 2nd Brigade Combat Team along with combined-armed coordination conducted extensive risk assessment from the infantryman’s point of view, the Fast Rope Master’s point’s of views and the aviator’s points of views,” Self said.

The soldiers who graduated the first fast rope course conducted in Mosul, Iraq, a combat area, are now prepared and confident to apply what they’ve been taught to real life situations if the need ever arises.





# Reinforcing the tie that binds...

## *Deployed soldiers re-affirm marriage vows*



by Spc. Joshua M. Risner  
40th PAD

**M**arriage is a sacred institution. For soldiers deployed to faraway lands, the strain that is put on them and their spouses can be extremely difficult to deal with; it can even break a marriage apart.

To strengthen the bond that soldiers share with their spouses, chaplains with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) held a coin and covenant ceremony Nov. 16, at the Camp Performance chapel.

The program was originally developed by Army chaplains in Korea for soldiers whose duty separated them from their families for long periods of time, according to Chap. (Capt.) Fran E. Stuart, 526th Forward Support Battalion. "It's a historic moment for us... it's the first time this program has been implemented in Iraq," she said.

Approximately 40 soldiers were present for the ceremony, which detailed the cour-

age, challenge and commitment necessary to make it through the hard times of separation. The soldiers had been married anywhere from one year to nearly 20. "The program encompasses anybody who is married and in this situation," Stuart said. "It's a wonderful method to strengthen marriages."

First, certificates and coins were presented, stating the commitment to their wives/husbands and signed by the soldiers and the chaplains giving the ceremony. The certificates were gathered up at the end of the ceremony to be given to the spouses back home.

A circle of unity candles was lit to symbolize the wedding rings that each soldier had on his or her finger, according to Stuart. Soldiers came from their seats to light one each until the entire circle was complete, burning like the love in their hearts.

"Days from now, your loved ones will be presented with these certificates and a matching coin," said Maj. Steve Leonard, executive officer, 526th FSB. "Today, you have done much more than reaffirm your love for someone. You have written a song of love that will

remind someone that you share a common destiny, a unique and special commitment, a love as true and enduring as time itself."

Sgt. Walter Nery-Guity, Headquarters and Company A, 526th FSB believes the program is a good way to strengthen marriages. "It feels good because a lot of spouses believe that since we're in a hostile place that we don't think about them," he said. "It lets us say 'yes, we are at war and yes, we still think about you'."

The program will continue to be offered and will hopefully spread to other units so all soldiers can participate, Stuart added.

"In the end, when all we have done here is finished, we will return to our loved ones," Leonard said. "After the reunions, after the tears, what they will remember, more than anything is that we gave everything we had to share our love with them. In the midst of a combat zone, far from the safety of your homes and families, you had the courage and commitment to stand before God and reaffirm your love for those precious few who await your safe return."



Spc. Joshua M. Risner

Soldiers listen to a speaker as a ring of unity candles burn at the coin and covenant ceremony at Camp Performance. The ceremony is geared toward building up the strength of soldiers' marriages in spite of the hardships involved in a long-term separation due to deployment.

# 502nd gets supplies to hospital

By Spc. Joshua M. Risner  
40th PAD

Soldiers with 3rd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment made a special delivery to the pediatric ward of the Razzee general hospital in Mosul, Nov. 16.

People from across the United States donated boxes containing supplies ranging from baby formula to stuffed animals in an overwhelming show of generosity to their fellow man.

"The boxes were donated by high schools, church groups, normal American people who wanted to help out in some way," said Capt. Scott Todd, battalion adjutant, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Bn., 502nd Inf. Rgt. "We got the word out by email about the situation the hospital was facing and it spread like wildfire across the country."

The boxes immediately started pouring in. "In the first four or five days, there was an absolute outpouring," Todd said. "We ran out of room to store it all, so we're delivering it as it comes in."

The donations also contained warm clothes and hygiene items such as diapers and toothbrushes.

"We're working on getting medications; it's a future project," Todd said. "We have the support of Vanderbilt hospital in Nashville and the University of Washington hospital in Seattle... it feels great."

The employees of the hospital were overjoyed to see the supplies roll in. "We are pleased, really happy for this help," said Dr. B. Y. Mohammed, hospital manager and specialist in internal medicine. "We would like to transmit our thanks back to the U.S."

Todd assured the doctors that this was only the beginning. "We're expecting 150-200 more boxes just like this," he said.

Seeing the smiles and thankful faces seemed to have an effect on Todd, but he remained humble. "I'm just a conduit of the American people, helping people back home contribute to helping Iraq," he said.



photos by Spc. Joshua M. Risner

(Above) Soldiers with 3rd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment deliver supplies to the pediatric ward of the Razzee General Hospital. The items ranged from baby formula to stuffed animals. (Below) Capt. Scott Todd, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment and Dr. B. Y. Mohammed look through some of the items donated by people across the United States. Boxes containing everything from baby formula to stuffed animals have started pouring in with many more to come, according to Todd.



# Restricted items continue to be placed in military mail

by Staff Sgt. Nate Orme  
Army News Service

KUWAIT -- Military and civilian personnel continue to place restricted items capable of destroying life and property into packages mailed home from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Afghanistan, theater postal officials said.

"We have a huge problem with folks trying to send expended and unexpended ordnance, bayonets, U.S. tools, unit equipment, and captured Iraqi equipment," said Col. Donald Kennedy, commander of the 3rd Personnel Command, the unit responsible for postal operations throughout the theater.

All parcels undergo an inspection by a mail clerk at the camp post office before being accepted for mailing. Postal patrons must also complete a customs form and a declaration pertaining to the contents of parcels being mailed. Additionally, parcels are subject to x-raying at several points en route to their destination, said Lt. Col. Robert Howard, director of Postal Opera-

tions for 3rd PERSCOM.

Consequences for the sender of restricted items could be severe, depending on what was sent and whether damage was caused, Howard said. He said it may include Uniform Code of Military Justice action that could permanently damage military careers and result in fines, reduction in grade or imprisonment.

According to U. S. Central Command, U. S. Postal Service and Department of Defense policies, "any article, composition, or material is non-mailable if it can kill or injure another, injure the mail or other property." Harmful matter includes, but is not limited to, poisons, poisonous animals, diseases, germs, explosives, flammables, infernal machines, chemicals and other items that may ignite or explode.

Certain "war trophies"-defined as "enemy weapons, ammunition, explosives or items of equipment"-are "non-mailable." Items such as live rounds, pistols, machine guns, weapons magazines and anti-personnel mines fall into this category, Howard said.

War trophies that clearly pose no health risk, such as flags, uniforms, photos and

medals that were captured or found abandoned and do not dishonor the dead or result in improper or illegal conduct can be mailed, according to CENTCOM policy.

Cigarette lighters, aerosol cans, pornographic matter, sand and/or soil from outside the United States, and pork products are common examples of non-mailable items listed by CENTCOM.

Current policy also prohibits mailing all bayonets, knives, sharp objects and U.S. military equipment, including duffel/sea bags and rucksacks.

Batteries are now discouraged from being sent, Howard added. Over summer in theater, several fires, thought to have been caused by exploding batteries, started spontaneously in pallets of packages exposed to ambient temperatures of up to 140 degrees.

In both Operation Enduring Freedom and OIF, alcohol and pornography are prohibited in the mail as they are illegal to possess in many countries in the CENTCOM area of responsibility. "If you have something and you are

**See RESTRICTED, page 11**



courtesy photo

These restricted items were seized by MPs during customs inspections. Soldiers cannot mail home items capable of destroying life and property.

# Sniper school comes to Iraq

## *Soldiers learn finer points of sharpshooting*

by Spc. Joshua Hutcheson  
101st Abn. Div. (AAslt.) PAO

For the first time since 1968, a sniper school is being held on foreign soil during combat.

The National Guard Marksmanship Training Center sent the cadre of its sniper course to Northern Iraq to train the soldiers of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault) in skills that have proved to be useful during combat operations.

The need for sniper training was discussed by soldiers from the division's three infantry brigades. The request for the course went up the division chain of command until it was put to the soldiers who work at the training center.

"All this stuff starts off as a great idea by a PFC or a specialist, then makes its way up the ranks," said Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin L. Hill, division command sergeant major. "The 101<sup>st</sup> ran jump school in England, so why not the Air Assault school in Iraq? Why not the sniper school?"

The sniper course normally runs at Camp Robinson, North Little Rock, Ark. The version being run in Iraq has been changed

to suit the environment, said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Bret Boatright, noncommissioned officer in charge, sniper course.

"According to (Training and Doctrine) we can adjust the (program of instruction) 20 percent, so we have a little play there," Boatright said.

Instead of the usual five-week course, the course has been compressed to three weeks. To do this the instructors had to cut out days off and add hours of teaching time to the remaining workdays. In the end the soldiers spend the same number of hours learning sniper skills as students do in the original course.

"They still run the 398 hours," Staff Sgt. Dominic Barnello, sniper course cadre member. "It's not condensed, it's squished together, they get it all at once. It's a little harder on them because it's a lot of information flushed into their brains at once."

The sniper school was set up in the Sinjar region of northwest Iraq because of its vast prairies. The openness of the landscape lends itself well to the long firing ranges that had to be built to accommodate the weapons training in the course, said Command Sgt. Maj. Rory Malloy, command sergeant major, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 187<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault).

The 101<sup>st</sup> soldiers appreciate being taught

the techniques and skills that can be applied to their current situation in Iraq.

"(The cadre) brought to the table a lot of great skill, they've been a great asset," Malloy said. "The guys out here are real motivated to do this."

It's not just deployed soldiers who are enjoying the learning opportunities, cadre members are glad to be teaching soldiers taking part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"As soon as I found out that we were coming I was ecstatic. What's better then to bring the training to them?" Barnello said.

The students relish the chance to learn combat skills that will make them a bigger asset to their units.

"It's a good opportunity to perfect marksmanship skills and learn all the techniques," said Spc. Bryce Baker, scout, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 187<sup>th</sup> Inf. Rgt. "It's a lot of information thrown at us real quick, but they're good teachers and we're here to learn."

Like the 19 other students, Baker plans on taking his newly acquired skills back to his unit where he'll be able to pass his knowledge on to others and make the unit stronger.

**See SNIPER, page 11**



Spc. Joshua M. Risner

Students in the National Guard Sniper School break down their M 24 Sniper Weapon System, after firing at targets 700 meters away.

**MEMORIAL from page 3****Spc. Jeremiah J. DiGiovanni**

DiGiovanni entered the Army in November of 2000, and was assigned to Company A, 4-101<sup>st</sup>, as his first permanent duty assignment. He deployed in February.

He is survived by his parents, Joseph A. DiGiovanni of McComb, Miss., and Laurie A. Brock of Lakeland, Fla.

**Spc. William D. Dusenbery**

Dusenbery entered the Army in January, 2002. Upon graduation from AIT, he was assigned as a helicopter repairer to Company D, 4-101<sup>st</sup>, at Fort Campbell. He deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom in February. Dusenbery (known as "Duse" to his friends), was remembered by his peers for not only his aviation maintenance skills, but also for improving the quality of life for those around him on the deployment by wiring all of the units' tents for electricity.

He is survived by his parents, William D. Dusenbery of Fairview Heights, Ill., and Nancy L. Medcalf of Rancho Cordova, Calif. He has two daughters, Shalice and Aubrey.

**9-101<sup>st</sup> Aviation Regiment**

The 9-101<sup>st</sup> lost two soldiers in the crash, and paid tribute to them with a 9 a.m. ceremony at the Division Rear Command Post, on Mosul Airfield, Wednesday.

**Warrant Officer Erik C. Kesterson**

Kesterson began his military service as a Marine in 1992. He served as a UH-1 crew chief for 101 months, reaching the rank of staff sergeant. After a break in service, he returned to the military after Sept. 11, 2001, and entered Warrant Officer School, Initial entry Rotary Wing School, in April 2002. He arrived at Fort Campbell in August, 2003, and was assigned to Company B, 9-101<sup>st</sup> Aviation. He reported for service in Operation Iraqi Freedom Nov. 7.

He was remembered by his friends as a man who served out of love for his country and the desire to join in the fight to keep it safe.

He is survived by his fiancée, Catherine Hogan, and his parents, Clayton Kesterson of Independence, Ore., and Delores Kesterson of Santa Clara, Calif.

**Staff Sgt. Warren Hansen**

Hansen was a seasoned soldier who enlisted in the Army in 1986. He had assignments at Fort Carson, Colo., Sinai, Egypt (two tours), Fort Sheridan, Ill., Korea, Fort Bragg, N.C., Germany and Fort Campbell. He was also a veteran of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, serving with 4<sup>th</sup> Bn., 159<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regt.

He was remembered by his colleagues as

a noncommissioned officer who upheld the strictest standards when it came to clearing helicopters for flight.

Hansen is survived by his mother and stepfather, Beth and James Karlson of Clintonville, Wis.

**626<sup>th</sup> Forward Support Battalion  
Capt. Pierre E. Piche**

Piche was a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University, and had more than three years of enlisted Army service prior to his college education. He was commissioned as an Infantry officer in May 2000. After serving his term as an Infantry officer, he was detailed to the Ordnance Corps and was assigned as a maintenance platoon leader with the 626<sup>th</sup>.

He was remembered by his friends for personally taking on the task of training his soldiers in infantry combat tactics prior to the ground war, so that they would be as prepared as possible for any enemy engagements.

Many of his friends also spoke at the ceremony of his deep love for his wife, Cherish. He had planned on leaving the Army to pursue a career in education, but was dedicated to his unit and felt that it was important to remain with them for the duration of the deployment.

He is survived by his wife Cherish, his mother Lisa Johnson, and his father Pierre Piche.

**Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Kelly Martin L. Bolor**

Bolor was a veteran soldier, first enlisting in the Army in 1984. He spent time in the Army Reserve, and also served with the 137<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Company in the first Gulf war. At home station, he was often called upon to fill in as first sergeant, and was noncommissioned officer in charge of the ground convoy into Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In a teary farewell speech, one of his soldiers spoke of his hard-working dedication to the unit, how he took care of his soldiers and always put their needs first, promising to help fulfill his goal of returning everyone home safely.

He is survived by his wife Kelly Jean and son Kyle Kaleikaumaka Bolor.

**Spc. John R. Sullivan**

Sullivan, known as "Sully" to his friends in the unit, enlisted in the Army Reserve in 1997 as a wheeled vehicle repairman. He separated from the reserves in 2002, but chose to come onto active duty in May 2003. He was assigned to Company B, 626<sup>th</sup>, in July and worked in the maintenance platoon.

At the ceremony, his co-workers spoke of his dedication to duty and the many long days and nights he spent working on vehicles to ensure that the unit was always

ready. He was also remembered as a soldier who always had a smile on his face.

He is survived by his wife Katrina Sullivan, his daughter Jade, and two twin boys born in September, Aiden and Gavin.

**1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 187<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment****Spc. Damian Heidelberg**

Heidelberg enlisted in the Army in September 2002 and was assigned to Fort Campbell in January, deploying with his unit the next month. He was described by members of his unit Wednesday in a ceremony at Tallafar as a soldier who had in him the makings of a hero. A unit mail clerk, a logistics convoy that Heidelberg was in had been ambushed less than two weeks before. During the firefight, he showed his true character as he attended to the wounded, and refused to leave the area, despite enemy fire, until all of the injured soldiers were evacuated.

He was also known as a soldier who cared about his job, and worked hard to improve the mail delivery system for his unit.

He is survived by his one-year old daughter Staceyera, and his mother Debra.

**1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 320<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment**

"These soldiers and their distinct personalities can never be replaced," said Capt. Vincent Generoso, commander, C Battery, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 320<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, at the memorial service Thursday for the five members of 1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 320<sup>th</sup> FA Rgt., who died in the crash.

"Each of these five men touched us, each in a different way," said 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt Mathew Nagel, first sergeant, C Bat. 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. 320<sup>th</sup> FA Rgt. "These men never quit, never faltered, never complained, they simply did their job with character, dignity and pride. These are true American heroes."

**Sgt. Michael Acklin**

Acklin joined the Army in 1999, his assignments included Field Artillery units at Fort Sill, Okla., and Fort Campbell. Acklin is remembered by his friends as a pious man, a gentle man, and a good listener. He often helped people when they came to him with problems.

"He always wanted to be a preacher," said Sgt. Robert Rittenhouse, C Battery, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. 320<sup>th</sup> FA Rgt.

Acklin is survived by his parents, Michael Acklin and Dorothy Acklin.

**Sgt. Eugene Uhl**

Uhl was in the National Guard from January of 1999 to March of 2002. He then joined the regular Army, finished his train

## News around the AO

# 101st continues strikes, detains 161 suspects

**MOSUL, IRAQ** (Nov. 19, 2003) – The 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault) today conducted numerous offensive operations throughout Northern Iraq against potential enemy locations, resulting in the detention of 161 individuals suspected of anti-coalition activities.

In Northern Iraq, the division exercised its unique capabilities by conducting a Brigade Combat Team Air Assault where nearly 500 soldiers simultaneously attacked six objectives 100-kilometers from their operating base. Shortly after dawn, 43 helicopters carried the soldiers to their objective areas in a remote Southwest-ern region of the division's area of operations.

The operation, conducted by two battalions from the 327<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, included raids and searches, traffic control points and blocking positions designed to deny passageways used by anti-coalition forces to infiltrate secure areas.

The operation yielded the apprehension of 86 individuals, and the seizure of 49 AK-47s, 4 machine guns, 1 heavy machine gun, 2 sniper rifles, 3 complete rocket propelled grenade systems, 200 detonation devices, 2 pistols, 35,000 50-caliber rounds, an unknown amount of 7.62mm rounds, an unknown amount of C4 and identification papers and passports.

In Mosul, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment executed a series of cordon and knock searches in the Eastern portion of the city.

The operation targeted Ansar Al Islam suspects and former regime loyalists and resulted in the apprehension of 65 individuals. Included in the capture was a primary target and main Ansar Al Islam facilitator in Mosul. All detained personnel are currently being held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team holding facility.

Additionally, soldiers from 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 502<sup>nd</sup> Inf. Rgt. captured three former regime loyalists at a traffic control point in Northwest Mosul. They recognized the vehicle being driven from a target list and were able to apprehend and transport the suspects to the 2<sup>nd</sup> brigade combat team holding facility.

Seven other Iraqis were also taken into custody for various anti-coalition activities. A coalition informant, suspected of passing information to subversive elements was detained. One individual who was discovered with an RPG sight and Baath Party propaganda during a cordon and knock in central Mosul was apprehended. Five additional people in a vehicle were stopped and detained after they had thrown out weapons while passing U.S. soldiers.

The 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault) remains committed to the stability and security of Northern Iraq and will continue to conduct offensive operations to capture or kill those who pose a threat to the region.

(Editor's Note: Information compiled from press releases from the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Public Affairs Office.)

## Civil Affairs soldiers answer students' questions

by Capt. Andrew Manca  
404<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion

For the last seven months, the youth of Dohuk have seen American soldiers on the news and on the streets of their hometown, but they don't often get the chance to talk with American soldiers.

Beginning in early October, the Civil Affairs soldiers of C Company, 404<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion began a program to hold a question and answer session with the sixth grade classes at City of Dohuk secondary schools. Sixth grade in Iraq is the equivalent of senior year of high school for Americans.

Each week, the soldiers go to a different school that has been designated by the Dohuk Department of Education.

This program was created with

the idea of allowing Iraqi-Kurd students in the city of Dohuk to speak some English with American soldiers. The students have been learning English for several years and many are quite fluent. After the first week it became clear that the program was going to be much more than an English lesson. Students had many questions for the C Company soldiers. For most, this was the first opportunity they have ever had to speak with an American.

For the most part the questions concern the future of Iraq and the role the Kurds will play in a new government. The students usually have many questions on how the new government will be formed, how will the rights of all people in Iraq be protected, and what role will America play in the future in Iraq.

Many students also want to know about life in the United States and how their edu-

cational system compares to America's educational system. Since the students are all preparing to go to university in the next year many want to know about American universities, and also if they will get an opportunity to study abroad.

A typical session begins with an introduction by the school's principal followed by personal introductions by the four soldiers participating in the session. The soldiers talk a little about who they are, where they are from, and what they do here in Iraq. This usually only takes about ten minutes and then the floor is opened to questions. The assemblies have ranged in size from 50-300 students to three hundred students, but no matter the size the question and answer portion almost always starts out the same.

The students hesitate to be the first to ask a question, but soon

the soldiers start singling out students and asking them questions about school and sports. To get the spotlight off themselves the students quickly begin to throw out the questions. Besides the deeper questions about the future, students also frequently see this as an opportunity to find out if many of the rumors they have heard on the streets are actually true.

"Is it true that American soldiers don't have families?"

"Is it true that American's sunglasses have X-ray vision?"

The American soldiers enjoy the opportunity to set the record straight on issues such as these.

Typically the question and answer sessions have been lasting between one and a half hours to two hours. Both the soldiers and the students agree that the time flies by and all leave the session with a better understanding of one another.

**SNIPER, from page 8**

The sniper course is divided into two portions. In the first part, the students undergo marksmanship training. Using their M-24 Sniper Weapon Systems, they learn how to hit targets at distances ranging from 100 meters to 800 meters.

The budding snipers learn to hit stationary and moving targets during the day and night. They also learn how to judge and adjust for unknown distances.

During the second phase they learn sniper fieldcraft. This includes range estimation, creating camouflaged and concealed clothes and environments, and detecting unnatural movements or objects.

They also learn stalking, where they have to move within a certain distance of a target and fire without being detected.

The course instructors are only running the class once, and then they are scheduled to return to America. They will return to Iraq in the spring and stay for six months.

**MEMORIAL, from page 9**

ing at Fort Sill, Okla., he entered the ranks of the "Top Gun" soldiers of C Battery, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 320<sup>th</sup> FA Rgt.

"He was a devoted and dedicated man," said Sgt. Teddy Lawrence, a friend from C Battery. "He was devoted to everybody he met...but he was most devoted to his fiancée."

Uhl is survived by his parents Eugene Uhl and Joan Uhl.

**Pfc. Richard Hafer**

Hafer joined the Army in 2002. After finishing basic training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Sill, Okla., he arrived at Fort Campbell, Ky, where he joined C Battery. Nicknamed "Cornbread," Hafer was "a big guy who felt that he had to take care of everybody," Lawrence said.

Hafer is survived by his parents Richard Hafer and Sherry Barclay.

**Pfc. Sheldon Hawkeagle**

Hawkeagle also entered the Army in 2002. He spent his training at Fort Sill, Okla., and then was assigned to Fort

Campbell. While at Campbell he was attached to C Battery, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 320<sup>th</sup> FA Rgt.

He was "a friend who would give everything and ask for nothing," said Pfc. Elroy Duran, a friend from C Battery.

Hawkeagle was "a strong man, caring and compassionate with a kind heart," said Pfc. Leo Baskatawag.

Hawkeagle is survived by his sister Frankie Hawkeagle and his aunt Barbra West.

**Pfc. Joey Whitener**

Whitener joined the military in 2002. After training in Oklahoma, he entered C Battery, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 320<sup>th</sup> FA Rgt. at Fort Campbell.

At 19 years old, Whitener recently became a father. Though young in age, he always was ready to do his job to the best of his ability, and showed an experience beyond his years, Rittenhouse said.

Whitener is survived by his wife Elizabeth Whitener and son Tristan Whitener.

# The Judge Says...

## Items of legal interest to soldiers

**Q: Federal Income Tax planning for dependants**

**A:** *If a 2003-2004 deployment results in dependents in 2004 and 2005, is it too early to start tax planning now?*

*While it is too early to start spending any tax savings, it is never too early to consider the basic concepts involved.*

*A dependent on an income tax return requires an identifying number. This is usually a social security number (SSN), but may also be an ITIN (see "What is an ITIN," below). It is important to file for the appropriate number as soon as possible, because the IRS will not count the dependent without such a number.*

*The addition of a child on a tax return not only affects the number of exemptions claimed, which reduces taxable income, but may also be seen in income tax credits, such as the child tax credit, child and dependent care credit, and the earned income tax credit. Each of these credits will be examined in more detail in subsequent newsletters.*

*As the end of the year, and thus income tax season, approaches, it is important to start thinking about taxes. See your legal assistance office for further information.*

**Q: What is an ITIN? How do I get one?**

**A:** *An "ITIN," or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, is a nine-digit number issued by the IRS to individuals who are not eligible for a social security number, such as a non-resident alien spouse.*

*IRS Form W-7 is used to apply for an ITIN. Without an ITIN (or SSN), the IRS will disallow the exemption and associated credits.*

**Preventive law tip of the week:**

*Suppose someone came to your house and said he was in the neighborhood doing home repairs, and he has some excess materials. For a reduced price, he offers to do some work, like repair your driveway or your roof. Sound like a good deal?*

*Unfortunately, it is a very common scam. People who pay for such work generally receive substandard materials, or the work is begun then abandoned after payment.*

*Consumer experts advise homeowners to only deal with reputable firms.*

**RESTRICTED, from page 7**

not sure whether it is mailable or non-mailable, it would be wise to ask the clerk inspecting the packages at the APO (Army Post Office)," Howard said.

Sending restricted items in unmarked packages could result in severe injuries to personnel and damage to property anywhere along the mail route, including injury to the receiver, said Howard.

"There could be an in-flight explosion, especially with unstable powder in munitions," Howard warned. "There are also USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) issues with sending plants and animals that could spread disease or cause damage to agriculture."

Postal patrons should let people and organizations that may mail packages into the OIF/OEF theater know about official mailing policy and guidelines, Howard said. "It's a good idea to let folks back home know which items are prohibited. The risk of injury or worse is the same whether it's inbound or outbound mail." Howard said.

*(Editor's note: Staff Sgt. Nate Orme serves as a Public Affairs NCO for the 3rd Personnel Command.)*

# Man on the Street

## What helps you get through tragedies such as the one on Nov. 16?



“Prayer.”

- Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Perkowski, 318th Tactical Psychological Operations Company.



“I cry. I cry to release the pain, and then I try to go about my routine.”

- Spc. Keena Ray, 318th Tactical Psychological Operations Company.

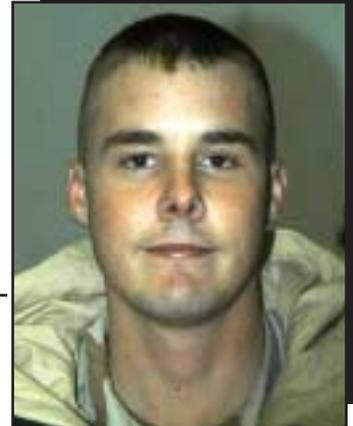
“I talk about it with friends.”

- Sgt. Craig Mahlke



“Time. Time is the only way to get through these tragedies.”

- Spc. Lucas Abbott, 431st Civil Affairs Battalion



“You just gotta grin and bear it, and keep going.”

- Staff Sgt. Trice Ellis, 431st Civil Affairs Battalion



“I write a lot. I”m a journalism major, so I write about these things.”

- Sgt. Stacy Stone, 431st Civil Affairs Battalion