

The WRANGLER

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Serving the 4th Sustainment Brigade during Operation Iraqi Freedom 08-10

August 15, 2008



FAREWELL "GUARDIANS OF VICTORY"

The 10th Transportation Battalion from Fort Eustis, Va., has had many accomplishments in their tour of duty. Here is a sample of the great things the Guardian battalion has done.

- Deployed and redeployed the heavy equipment for more than 30 Brigade Combat Teams in and out of Iraq in support of OIF 07-09 and 08-10.
- Executed more than 450 Combat Logistics Patrols (CLPs) in Iraq.
- Driven more than 17.9 million miles throughout Kuwait and Iraq.
- Designed the proof of concept of mounting the TRIMAX-30 extinguisher to the M984 wrecker. This concept was successful and completed the installation across our fleet of M984 having saved the Army more than 3 million dollars in potential battle loss since being fielded.
- Trained more than 50 Soldiers from four different Brigade Combat Teams on riverine operations using small watercraft.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE



The WRANGLER

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Wrangler Command Team Message



Colonel Terence Hermans

It is an honor and privilege to be serving as the 4th Sustainment Brigade Command Team.

Leading, mentoring and coaching the 4,300 Soldiers and Airmen of the Wrangler Team is an awesome responsibly both of us take very seriously.

You have not hesitated to execute every mission and task given to you: from RIP/TOA operations, to developing innovative new techniques, tactics and procedures, equipment changes and improvements.

The 'Wrangler' Brigade is a team and a Family. We publish this newsletter to not only showcase the young men and women of this brigade, but to show our Families the great things we are accomplishing in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The numbers speak for themselves, after five months of supporting the theater of operations, we have incorporated three new battalions and six companies into our formation, and will start to redeploy the 10th Transportation Battalion and welcome the 6th

Transportation Battalion to the Wrangler Team.

Across the brigade, we have driven over 3.4 million miles, undertaken 1,900 land missions, more than 50 water missions, and have deployed and redeployed more than 13-brigade size elements to date.

We have processed more than 105,000 deployers and redeployers, 150,000 service members for R&R leave and provided service to more than 550,000 military members and civilians rotating into and out of theater.

Financial Management Soldiers have disbursed more than \$30 million in U.S. and foreign currency to service members and civilians.

Our convoy support teams have supported more than 2600 convoys across the theater, identifying and solving more than 2300 communications and maintenance problems.

The Wrangler supply system has spent more than \$20 million upgrading work areas, facilities, and improved the combat kit by purchasing more than 4,000 Army Combat Shirts for use by our convoy teams.

We would like to take a moment to thank the Families of our Soldiers and Airmen; you truly are the foundation of our organization. By you taking care of business on the home front, your loved ones can stay focused on the war front.

The mission is demanding, continuous, and requires all members of the team to remain proficient and disciplined to accomplish the mission. With our focus on safety and discipline,



Command Sergeant Major Erik R. R. Frey

we will carry out the mission and will constantly strive for excellence.

We, as a joint team, have already branded the Wrangler patch and work ethic to Kuwait and Iraq during this rotation in support of OIF 08-10.

Every day is a new day and every day is a chance to learn something new or try something different. Leaders, encourage your Soldiers to be innovative and to think of new solutions to old problems. Soldiers, give your leader's new ideas, new ways to be successful.

Every day, we are re-writing the manual on combat logistic supply. Though we are in a new position as the first sustainment brigade to handle the distribution fight, it is not unfamiliar territory for the 'Wrangler' Brigade. Our past has always been innovative and our future will be as well.

We are truly honored and committed to be serving with each and every one of you.

'Just Get it Done'

WRANGLERS

Chaplain's Corner

WELCOME

“Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and never give up. Luke 18:1” New International Version

JOB 9:16-25

16: Even if I summoned him and he responded, I do not believe he would give me a hearing. 17: He would crush me with a storm and multiply my wounds for no reason. 18: He would not let me regain my breath but would overwhelm me with misery. 19: If it is a matter of strength, he is mighty; And if it is a matter of justice, who will summon him? 20: Even if I were innocent, my mouth would condemn me; if I were blameless, it would pronounce me guilty.

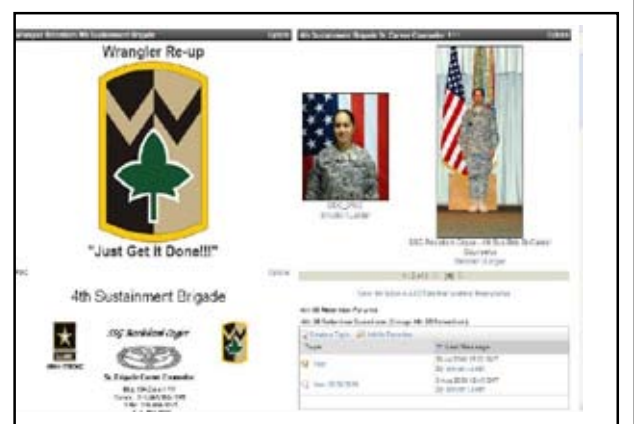
21: “Although I am blameless, I have no concern for myself; I despise my own life. 22: It is all the same; that is why I say, ‘He destroys both the blameless and the wicked.’ 23: When a scourge brings sudden death, he mocks the despair of the innocent. 24: When a land falls into the hands of the wicked, he blindfolds its judges. If it is not he, then who is it?”

25: “My days are swifter than a runner; they fly away without a glimpse of joy. 26: They skim past like boats of papyrus, like eagles swooping down on their prey. 27: If I say, ‘I will forget my complaint, I will change my expression, and smile.’ 28: I still dread all my sufferings, for I know you will not hold me innocent. 29: Since I am already found guilty, why should I struggle in vain? 30: Even if I washed myself with soap and my hands with washing soda, 31: you would plunge me into a slime pit so that even my clothes would detest me.

Wrangler Webpage Ropes In Re-Enlistment

4th Sustainment Brigade Homepage provides access to information, photos, articles, and links to other areas of interest. The site has recently received a facelift and is always being maintained, updated, and improved by the web support team at Ft Hood (lead by CW2 Cardona). Also posted to the page are all editions of the Wrangler Newsletter in PDF format for download and review. The site is always available at: www.hood.army.mil/4sus/.

A recent addition to the webpage is the Wrangler Re-Up Link. This page links into the 4th Sustainment Brigade Retention BLOG, maintained by Staff Sgt. Rosielani Coger, the Brigade Retention NCOIC. This site serves as posting point for retention programs, initiatives, and features a BLOG for Soldiers to post questions and inquiries. The site is posted on the AKO network, therefore your AKO user name and password are required for access (Family members with AKO access too).





LTF 10 MRAP ESCORT TEAM

Article and Photos Courtesy of
257th Transportation Company

The Escort Rider Team plays an integral part to the transportation of military equipment into Iraq and Afghanistan in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.



Sgt. 1st Class May Vazquez stands next to an MRAP she escorted into Mosul, Iraq.

The team travels by cargo aircraft from Kuwait into Afghanistan and various cities in Iraq such as Mosul, Balad and Al Asad.

Their primary mission is to escort

the new Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles being flown down range. Although, the MRAPs are also delivered to awaiting units by convoy, transportation by air allows for faster delivery.

The Escort Rider Team of the 257th Transportation Company includes Sgt. 1st Class May Vazquez, Sgt. 1st Class Carmen Bates and Sgt. 1st Class Roberto Del Moral. The responsibility of these armed escorts is to ensure there is no video or photography of the vehicles by the aircraft crew. They also make certain that the MRAPs arrive in the same condition with no missing or stolen parts or intentional damage.

“I am proud to be a part of this team because we are helping the troops by safely delivering these MRAPs which save lives,” stated Vazquez.



Sgt. 1st Class Bates stands next to a member of the team, Sgt. 1st Class May Vazquez.

The MRAP is a heavily armed military vehicle meant to protect troops against the leading killer of U.S. and Coalition Troops serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom - IEDs.

According to iCasualties.org, IEDs accounted for two out of five deaths in Iraq but have dropped recently as much as 17 percent. Thus, the speedy transport of these vehicles into Iraq and Afghanistan for combat is a life saver.

An Escape From The Stresses Of Deployment

Article and Photos by Sgt. Aeris Wiser
HHC, BTB, 4th SB



The 'Pearl' of Qatar, a world-famous monument to an export of the country sits at the edge of the coast line. The 'Pearl' is one of the highlights during the Doha City Tour at Camp As Sayliyah.

The Rest and Recuperation Pass Program is a great opportunity for Soldiers to get away from theater operations for a stress-free, four-day, three-night stay at Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar.

The R&RPP is first and foremost a privilege to Soldiers who are past their 61st day in theater and serving a tour of more than 90 consecutive days.

Established in 2003, the four-day pass program brings service members from Afghanistan, Kuwait, Iraq, and Africa into Camp As Sayliyah for some well-needed relaxation and the opportunity to get out and see Doha, Qatar.

While on pass, the uncertainties of day-to-day operations in combat are replaced with exciting or relaxing tourist venues offered by the program. The program venues are diverse, combining the interests of our Soldiers and the opportunities available in Qatar.

In an environment where uniforms are traded for civilian clothes and

weapons are swapped for digital cameras, the opportunities are endless. Soldiers can look forward to free trips to restaurants and malls such as the Villaggio, City Center, and Landmark, which are sponsored by the program.

They can also sign up for a sponsor to take them off post for some leisurely fun or home-cooking. Golf trips are available for just \$55. The Inland Island Picnic (\$35), provides a spectacular setting where Soldiers are driven out over the sand dunes to the beach where they can swim in the Persian Gulf, play beach volleyball, and retreat to a picnic in an Arabic tent.

The Doha Cruise (\$30) sets sail and anchors just off the shore where Soldiers are allowed to swim around the Doha and enjoy an Arabic meal on board. Another fascinating venture is Water Sports (\$35), which is similar to the Doha Cruise, but also provides an opportunity for Soldiers to ride jet skis, really setting it apart and piquing the level of enjoyment.

Camp As Sayliyah itself, aside from

the wonderful venues provided, can also be sought as a simple refuge away from the combat stresses of being in the theater. Camp As Sayliyah is extremely clean and quiet for Soldiers who just need a chance to get away and enjoy some time sleeping or hanging out at the camp.

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The camp provisions include a

Safety

SAFETY-CONSCIOUS

Article and Photo by Maj. Lydia Weatherspoom
Task Force Gateway

LSA, Kuwait -- In its ongoing efforts to remain safety-conscious, the Task Force Gateway Safety Officer, 2nd Lt. Keri Daniels, holds monthly safety meetings, to stay on the cutting edge of all safety-related issues.

Her list of safety-related training continues to grow as she plans out her strategy to keep the Task Force Gateway "Theater Safe." Some training she is implementing includes, and is not limited to:

- Fire Prevention Training
- Heat Prevention Training
- Army Safe Drivers Training
- Safety in the Workplace
- Fire Warden training
- Facility Manager training
- Accident Avoidance training
- Composite Risk Management Training
- Accident Investigation Training
- Fire Extinguisher Training



One of the main goals of the safety program for the Task Force Gateway is to never let safety get stale. For instance, we know that our environment is not the same as up north (Iraq and Afghanistan) but we also know that is no reason for us to get complacent. Complacency can kill, and we want to do everything possible to send all our troops home, safe and sound.

Escape Stress Continued from Page 6



A local Quatari walks a camel during the In-land Picnic tour sponsored by the R&RPP.

PX, food court, two gyms, internet café, movie room, outdoor golf course, spa, barbershop, a Java Juice, to include Dairy Queen ice cream. The camp amenities also extend to include a Chili's restaurant and outdoor swimming pool that are co-located together

The R&RPP Headquarters is equipped for every Soldier's needs; it provides a

movie room, telephone room, internet connections for personal laptops, and desktops for personal use.

The USO, located inside the R&RPP HQ, even provides each Soldier with a 300-unit phone card free of charge and a serene area for reading, playing video games, or just watching a movie.

Finally, the Top Off, located in the rear of the R&RPP HQ, provides a comfortable setting for dining, alcoholic beverages, music, and dancing.

Every Soldier not planning on taking R&R or deployed for a lengthy tour, should seek out the opportunity to take a pass and enjoy this fantastic program that has been put in place for our troops. It is really a stress reliever. The R&RPP Staff are an exceptional group of Soldiers who really put forth the effort to ensure military members enjoy their stay at Camp As Sayliyah.

Home Town Hero In Iraq

Article Courtesy of
Bravo Troop, 1-126th CAV

On a desert night of July 26, while doing convoy escort security, 2nd Platoon, Bravo Troop, 1/126 Cavalry from Manistee, Mich., was informed of a fuel tanker accident with no security.

As the convoy's scout truck, commanded by Sgt. Joseph W. Conkle, arrived on the scene, he could tell the accident was part of another convoy and needed security, during further investigation they could see the driver lying on the ground a few meters from the wreck.

Without any hesitation, Conkle informed his convoy commander, 1st Lt. Ian D. Mitchell, and headed to the patient. Conkle assessed the driver and started to help him.

He attempted to start an IV, but was unable due to severe dehydration of the driver. When Mitchell arrived on the

scene, Conkle gave him a situation report on the driver.

Mitchell handed his convoy to another that was passing by from A Troop, 1/126 and the driver was then loaded into the 1st Lt's truck and casualty evacuation to Khabari Crossing for medical evacuation.

While waiting at Khabari Crossing, Conkle stayed with the driver keeping him calm, reassuring him while assisting the medic with anything he needed until the helicopter arrived to medically evacuate the patient. Then he helped load the driver.

The medic made the comment that the driver would not have had a chance at surviving if weren't for the quick actions of Conkle.

When asked if he needed to think about what to do Conkle said, "No it was

an automatic response that took over and that was due to the training the unit received."

"I did what any Soldier from Bravo Troop would do; it's just part of the job. We did what we could, with what we know, I wouldn't change anything on how or what I did, whether the driver survived or not," he said.

When asked about Conkle, 1st Sgt. Robert J. Roe said, "Conkle is an outstanding Soldier and NCO. He not only exceeds the standards set by the Army, but is the standard that Bravo Troop sets for all of it's Troopers."

Conkle's actions show us this war isn't just about fighting the terrorism, it is also showing Iraq's people the U.S. Army is there to give a helping hand, when and where it is needed, no matter what it is.

Soldiers Save Life Of Deployed Americans

Article by Capt Eric A. Schwartz
Delta Troop, 126th CAV

CAMP VIRGINIA, Kuwait – In the late morning in the desert here, Soldiers from Delta Company, 237th Brigade Support Battalion from the Michigan National Guard came across an accident involving an SUV and a third country national driver.

Sgt. 1st Class Bob Martinez and Spc. Ken Kulczynski, both with the unit from Wyoming, Mich., were first to arrive on scene.

They quickly assessed the situation and determined the driver of the semi-truck was able to walk, but the two American Post Exchange employees, who were traveling in a SUV, appeared to have rolled over and

needed immediate medical attention.

Martinez aided the SUV passenger, who reported abdominal pain, had debris in her eyes and went into shock.

Kulczynski attended to the driver, who had a dislocated shoulder and a laceration on his left hand with severe arterial bleeding. He applied a tourniquet, which medical personnel later said saved the man's life.

Next on the scene was Spc. Josh Libby, also from the Wyoming Armory, and Master Sgt. David Densmore, with the Ohio National Guard.

Libby, an emergency medical

technician in his civilian job, took over treatment of the injured people while Densmore called for help.

These heroic National Guard Soldiers exemplify what the National Guard is. They are local community members that help out whenever and wherever possible.

Whether it is disaster relief at home, or a car accident 6,600 miles away, the National Guard is serving their communities with selfless dedication and willingness to help.

These Soldiers say they were just doing their job, but they saved someone's life – someone's son, or husband, or father. That makes them each an American hero.

CHARLIE CONVOY ESCORT TEAM

Article and Photos by Spc. Alexander Bacon
148th IN



Members of Charlie Company, 148th Infantry pose for a picture in front of a convoy protection platform before the start of a mission.

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait -- Every year, millions and millions of pounds of freight are shipped across the United States in semi trucks, and what they carry is a fundamental part of our way of life and economic survival.

In much the same way, semi-trucks play a vital role in supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. The freight they carry can be anything from new clothing supplies needed in Mosul, to the new innovation in the defense against IEDs, Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles.

The biggest difference between American and Iraqi roads, is the danger level.

That's where 'The Comanches' of Charlie Company, 1/148th Infantry Battalion come in: escorting the supply trucks into Iraq, through the danger zone, and safely to their destinations.

Convoy escort, especially on main supply routes is one of the most important missions in Iraq today.

Countless lives and financial assets have been protected by 'Comanches' and those who came before them. The mere presence of the gun trucks in a convoy is a very strong deterrent and a statement to any would-be insurgents: 'Watch what you do, because we are.'

Driving through Iraq is an interesting experience. When driving in the U.S., you will undoubtedly see people, cars, buildings, restaurants, and various other establishments. In Iraq, you can drive miles without seeing another soul.

The buildings are replaced with a few mud huts and most of the people will be simple farmers with their herds of camels, goats, or sheep. As far as the eye can see, there is nothing but an ocean of sand.

Nobody takes their job more seriously than C Co. From the very southernmost part of Iraq you can hear reports over the radio about anything out on the road that may affect the security of the convoy.

It's not only the roads that they are concerned with either; the gunners on the gun trucks are on the constant lookout, for any signs of danger. From boxes in the road, to suspicious looking vehicles in the desert, people walking on an overpass, one would be hard pressed to find something out on the road that hasn't already been seen, scrutinized, and double checked by somebody in the convoy escort team.

All of this is accomplished while working closely with a new group of Soldiers or Airman that make up the convoy, each and every time.

The convoy as a whole is led by the convoy commander, who also is a truck commander of a cargo truck. He decides where the convoy goes, how far it goes in a night, and what stops, if any, the convoy will make.

He is well aware, if something were to happen to compromise the safety of the convoy, the gun trucks will take charge at a moment's notice.

With only limited gun trucks per convoy, the Comanche Soldiers have their work cut out for them. When going through initial theater training at the Udari Range

Escort Team Continued from Page 9

Complex, it seemed like an incredibly daunting task.

The truth of the matter is that this mission is not for the faint of heart, but the 'Comanche's' have safely and consistently escorted all of its convoys to its destinations with minimal damage, despite everything that has been thrown at them. A big part of this success is the leadership of the company, down to the team level.

While those we protect can simply drive and follow the endless line of trucks in front of them, the convoy's security is always at work. Whether scanning the area, controlling traffic, or maneuvering to a Forward Operating Base, we are always busy.

Being able to take down any threat that they run into is very important to the men of C Co. That is why they go out every night locked and loaded with thousands of rounds per truck. The men are ready to engage the enemy from any direction at a moment's notice

If you want to see a prime example of the National Guard doing their job well in Iraq, then look no further than C Co. of the 1/148th Infantry! Success has been the



A convoy protection platform, an uparmored humvee, with the 'Comanches' of Charlie Company, 148th IN, prepares to roll out of a forward operating base in Iraq.

standard thus far, so expect nothing less than complete mission success from them.

Get Out And Vote!!!

Article By Capt. Alberto Pacheco
257th Transportation Company

Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, and Marines, the right to vote is something not to be taken lightly. Often times the attitude has been, one vote won't make much of a difference. Certainly the younger generations have had the lowest turn out.

The 2000 Presidential election definitely made voters aware of how the election process worked and enlightened the voting public of what exactly the Electoral College was and how it worked. But now eight years later the stakes are as high as ever and each vote in the presidential election will matter, as it always has.

Think of it; the decisions made in Washington D.C., and our state capitals for National Guard service members, directly affect our lives and the lives of our Families. It's not uncommon to overhear Soldiers discussing the pros and cons of the candidates. Talk is fine, but the ballots are what really matter.

Service members who have previously deployed, know they can vote through an absentee ballot. But other Soldiers who are on their first deployment, need to be aware of the Federal Voting Assistance program or FVAP. This is where the chain of command needs to have information readily available.

Each Soldier, Marine, Airman, or Sailor needs to contact their unit Voting Assistance Officers. The 257th Transportation Company and other companies in Logistics Task Force 10, have been passing out the SF 76, a request for a ballot form.

With this form, you can write to your voting precinct and request your ballot. There is less than twenty days until the deadline. The form takes only ten minutes to fill out and the postage is free.

It doesn't matter what state the soldier is from, Nevada, Arizona, Texas

or Hawaii; there is no excuse for an overseas service member not to have the chance to vote in the Presidential election. Even 7,000 miles away from the U.S., a service member can help decide the leadership of our nation.

For service members ages 18-30 turn off your PSP, Xbox or iTunes, and read the paper. Get informed and ask your chain of command to help you get your SF 76.

You have a say in who your next commander-in-chief is. This is a rare chance in the military to decide who you want to take orders from.

Go to <http://www.fvap.gov>. This website includes the requirements for all 50 states. Some states allow for e-mail and faxed forms, others don't. This website has the mailing addresses for voting precincts / counties for anywhere in the states. Voting is a right we should never take for granted.

NEW GI BILL PROVIDES INCREASED EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

Article By Staff Sgt. Michael J. Carden
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - The latest GI Bill considerably improves the opportunity for today's servicemembers to obtain their education, a senior Defense Department official said.

President Bush signed the Post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2008 on June 30. The new law mirrors the tenets of the original GI Bill, which gave returning World War II veterans the opportunity to go to any school they wanted while receiving a living stipend, Bob Clark, the Pentagon's assistant director of accessions policy, said.

"The original GI Bill was said to be one of the most significant social impacts of the 20th century," Clark said. "We believe the new bill is going to have a similar impact."

The new GI Bill applies to individuals who served on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001, and offers education benefits worth an average of \$80,000 - double the value of those in the previous program. It covers the full costs of tuition and books, which are paid directly to the school, and it provides a variable stipend for living expenses. It's also transferable to Family members of career servicemembers.

Its only restriction is that payment amounts are limited to the most expensive in-state cost to attend a college or university in the state where veterans attend school, he said.

The variable stipend is based on the Defense Department's basic allowance for housing for an E-5, which averages about \$1,200 a month, and \$1,000 a year will be paid directly to the servicemember for books and supplies, he added.

Enrollment into the Post-9/11 GI Bill is free. Eligibility for the Montgomery GI Bill is based on service commitment and requires active-duty servicemembers to pay a \$1,200 fee over the initial year of their enlistment.

The new bill requires that an individual serve at least 90 days on active duty after Sept. 10, 2001, and if discharged, be separated on honorable terms. Servicemembers discharged due to a service-connected disability are eligible if they served 30 continuous days on active duty. Servicemembers must serve 36 aggregated months to qualify for the full amount of benefits.

Servicemembers are entitled to benefits of the new bill for up to 36 months and have up to 15 years from their last 30 days of continuous service to use their entitlements. But as successful as Defense Department officials anticipate the new bill to be, Clark suggested that new recruits still enroll in the Montgomery GI Bill.

The Montgomery GI Bill gives benefits for higher education as well as vocational training, apprenticeship programs and on-the-job training, he explained. The Post-9/11 GI Bill focuses solely on higher education and can only be used at institutions that offer at least an associate's degree, he said.

"We recommend that all new recruits think hard before turning down the Montgomery GI Bill, because they will limit their opportunities for additional education without it," he added.

Military members also are "highly encouraged" to use the Defense Department's tuition assistance program

while on active duty, because the Post-9/11 GI Bill's full entitlements, such as the living stipend and book allowance, will not be available, Clark said.

"If you use the Post-9/11 GI Bill while on active duty, it will merely cover tuition or the difference of what tuition assistance will pay," he explained. "Another downside to that is each month you use [the new bill], you lose a month of your 36 months of eligibility."

So, if servicemembers serve on active duty on or after Aug. 1, 2009, and meet the minimum time-in-service requirement, they will be eligible for the new GI Bill while also maintaining benefits from the Montgomery GI Bill, he said.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill also brings good news for officers and for servicemembers who enlisted under the loan repayment program. Since eligibility for the Post-9/11 GI Bill is based on time already served, more servicemembers will be able to take advantage of its benefits, Clark added. Officers commissioned through one of the service academies or through ROTC and enlisted servicemembers participating in the loan repayment program don't qualify for the Montgomery GI Bill, he said.

Those servicemembers will be able to qualify if they finish their initial obligatory service. Commissioned officers must complete their initial five-year commitment if they attended a service academy or their four-year agreement if they were commissioned through college ROTC. Servicemembers whose college loans were paid off by the Defense

SEE GI Bill Page 12

Welcome Back to School Sundae

Article by Corinne Hermans

As summer comes to a close, it is time for us to prepare for the first day of school here in the Central Texas area and what better way to spend the Sunday before school than by having yummy sundaes.

No hassle, no fuss, no solicitations, no fees - just good ol' fun with ice cream. Whether you and the kids want a simple ice cream cone or you prefer to create a sundae master piece - we will have all the fixings!!!

Through gracious donations, we will also have some gifts and door prizes for the kids!!!

So come join us for this special treat, stay and visit or run in for a quick cone!

Sunday, 24 August, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Killeen Civic Center on W.S. Young and Elms Road.

Special thanks to the Killeen Civic Center, the USO, and the DECA Commissary along with their various vendors.

For more information contact your Fort Hood Family Readiness Leader, FRSA or Rear Detachment.



GI Bill Continued from Page 11

Department as a re-enlistment incentive must finish their initial commitment - whether it is three, four or five years - before they can apply, Clark said.

“Any amount of time an individual served after their obligated service counts for qualifying service under the new GI Bill,” he said.

Another facet unique to the Post-9/11 GI Bill is that it's transferable to Family members. The feature gives the defense and service secretaries the authority to offer career servicemembers the opportunity to transfer unused benefits to their family. Though Defense Department officials still are working with the services to hash out eligibility requirements, there are four prerequisites that are subject to adjustment or change, Clark said.

Currently transferability requirements are:

-- Qualifying service to be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill;

-- Active duty service in the armed forces on or after Aug. 1, 2009;

-- At least six years of service in the armed forces;

-- Agreement to serve four more years in the armed forces.

“We're really excited about transferability,” Clark said. “That was one of the things about education and the GI Bill that's come up the most often from the field and fleet.”

Individuals who may not qualify to transfer unused benefits because they leave the service before the new bill's effective date most likely still will qualify for the bill.



As long as the separated servicemembers meet the minimum qualifying time served, they can contact their local Veterans Affairs office and apply for the program. While payments are not retroactive, eligibility is, Clark said.

“This new bill will allow our veterans to chase their dreams,” Clark said. “It will allow them to go back and experience college like they deserve, much like their grandfathers did in World War II.”

A Deployed Mother's Perspective

Article by Sgt. Michelle Glover
4th Sustainment Brigade

Deployment is never easy. I have been deployed three times, and what makes the thought of deployment even harder is the fact I am leaving my two daughters.

Although being in Kuwait isn't half as bad as Iraq, I don't think a mother could ever get used to being away from her children, regardless of where she is. I knew what I was getting into when I joined the Army.

I knew all the pros and cons before I signed the dotted line. I've seen and heard debates on where a mother's place should be. I've heard so many arguments about how a mother should be with her children, and I struggle with that everyday.

But being the woman that I am, I do know that everything I do is in fact done for my girls. I often wonder if I'm doing the right things for them. I wonder if they're going to hate me or think that I've abandoned them.

I even wonder if they're going to be emotionally scarred because of the images of the war they see on television. The media often attacks military protocol on deploying mothers. What about the fathers who serve? Are we not the same?

Don't we have the same responsibility to our children? At least I can return home with a sense of pride and accomplishment and be able to tell my children that I had a part in defending our country.

Like many other deployed parents, I haven't seen my girls in months. However, I know they are in a safe



Sgt. Michelle Glover, the 4th Sustainment Brigade, operations administrative assistant sits at her desk during the work day. Photo by Staff Sgt. Reginald Wright.

place with everything they need. It is an incredible sacrifice for a mother to leave her children, therefore, people should never question the strength, patriotism and courage of women in the military, nor should they doubt the ability we have to do our jobs. I've made many sacrifices, but I think this has to be the biggest one yet.

Being a mother means I have the opportunity to love someone more than I love myself. It means that my heart no longer belongs to me, it belongs to my children. I have learned what it's like to experience joy and pain through someone else's life.

It has brought me a few tears and heartaches at times, but it has taught me hope and patience. It has shown me the depth, the strength, and the power of love. I never regret leaving my children.

I take so much pride in knowing that my girls will grow up knowing and understanding the importance of freedom and how hard my fellow Soldiers and I have fought for their freedom. I am a hero to my children and I am my own hero.

I've learned that heroes are the people who do what has to be done when it needs to be done, regardless of the consequences. And that's who I am. I am a mother first, and then I am a Soldier. I have a strong soul and I had to learn to defy my own fears.

Throughout the years of being in the Army, I have learned so much. And what I have learned will only make me stronger. Some may look at the sun going down as the day vanishing away. But I look at it as the resilience of the night bringing me another day closer to yet another dream.

RECEIVING CONTRABAND IN THE MAIL

Article and Photos Courtesy of
Brigade Troops Battalion

The next time you get a package from a loved one, you may have to visit the Joint Military Mailing Terminal and open that package in front of investigators.

All packages entering theater are x-rayed to ensure alcohol or other illegal items are not enclosed.

Approximately four months ago the postal agencies began x-ray inspections of all packages. The JMMT x-rays all packages and places a sticker on any package that seems suspicious of containing contraband.

For those deployed in Camp Arifjan, photos of the packages and their x-rayed contents are recorded by Navy Investigators. The packages are then forwarded to their servicing mail room for further identification by the recipient.

Once a suspicious package has been identified, the recipient along with their chain of command, will go to the mailroom to identify, accept or reject the package. Upon arrival to the mailroom, the investigators will ask a series of



Bottles of vodka lay on a desk wrapped in plastic bubble wrap after being discovered in parcel sent to a service member.

questions, to include, are you expecting a package?

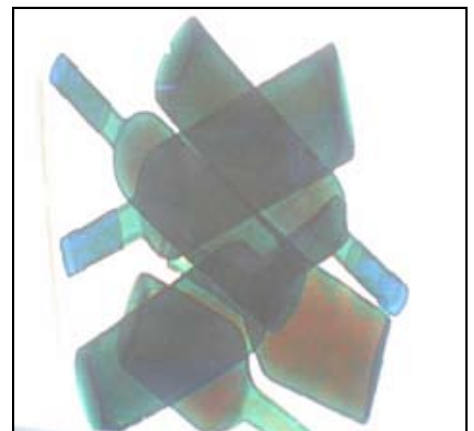
The investigators will then ask if you don't mind opening the package in front of them, and most of the times people comply. All contraband items will be confiscated. A high percent of the time, the customs form is not filled out correctly.

If mailing liquids, ensure your family members fill out the custom form accordingly. It's important for you to know

that ethonal-based liquids to include alcohol are prohibited mail items and are considered a federal offense.

Shipment or receipt of contraband items in theater is punishable under the UCMJ. USPS and MPS are really cracking down and continue the fight against contraband entering theater.

A picture of an x-ray of six bottles in a parcel that was sent to a service member.



The x-ray machine sits inside a building. The goal is to x-ray 100 percent of all parcels being sent to service members.



SUDOKU

The rule are simple. All you have to do is fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the number 1 through 9. **Remember**, each puzzle has only one solution.

**Puzzle: Intermediate
Solution on Page 21**

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

Wrangler Airmen Design New Expeditionary Combat Convoy Course

Article and Photos by Air Force 1st Lt. Tim Breitbach
70th Medium Truck Detachment

CAMPARIFJAN, Kuwait -- In an effort to combat mid-tour complacency and lay the groundwork for the transfer of authority process, the two Air Force medium truck detachments under Joint Logistics Task Force 28, have teamed up to produce a three-day Expeditionary Combat Convoy Course.

The course is structured from the five-week Basic Combat Convoy Course, at Camp Bullis, Texas. Airmen attend before deploying to run convoys with the Army. It is designed to provide refresher training on all aspects of convoy execution.

The new training course was designed through the co-efforts of the 70th and 424th flight sergeants which developed a plan that contained the right mix of classroom and hands-on instruction.

In addition, bucking the trend of most Air Force deployments, they worked weapons recertification into the training, allowing Airmen to spend valuable time on the range during the deployment itself.

Air Force Master Sgt. Pete Imhof, the 70th's Medium Truck Detachment flight sergeant said, "We attempted to

put something together that would fully engage our Airmen over a three-day period and serve to re-focus them during a lull we have in missions."

The training will supplement the daily/weekly training that is conducted and according to Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jonathon Bovia, the 70th MDT S-5, "the goal of formalizing the course is to allow for its use by future detachments as a standard mid-tour requirement."

The course will not only be utilized by Airmen from the 70th and 424th. In mid-August, the 586th Air Expeditionary Wing commander, group commander and chief enlisted manager out of LSA will make a trip to run through the course as well.

They will get the full treatment of casualty evacuation, M915 combat

semi-trailer egress, tow-bar hook-up, tire changing and combat life saver training to gain a better understanding of the hard work their Airmen are doing to fully prepare for the combat convoy mission.

Completion of the course will also provide them with the necessary skill



Air Force Senior Airman Jerry Gates instructs Alpha Flight's Delta Convoy Team on Coupling/Uncoupling procedures.

sets should they decide to ride along on a mission across the berm.

Ultimately, there's no doubt that Air Force Airmen will be better prepared for any situation that may present itself on the roads in Kuwait or Iraq.

Submissions

The Wrangler wants to hear from you

Do you want to highlight someone or something going on in your unit or section? Have a photo that you like posted? Please send all submissions via email to Sgt. Myers at angienne.l.myers@kuwait.swa.army.mil. In the body of the email, please include the following: Full Name, Rank, Unit and Duty Position. Attach your submission as a Word Document and limit to 300 words. Submissions are subject to editing. For photo submissions, please include a caption describing the photo (Who, What, When, Where and Why).

Recognizing Up Armored Efforts

Article and Photos by Jim Hinnant
401st Army Field Support Brigade PAO

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — “It’s not about the effort or the cost,” said Jacky Austin, supervisor for the machine and welding shops of the 401st Army Field Support Brigade’s Forward Repair Activity here. “It’s about the warfighter.” Five deployed U.S. Army civilian employees from Anniston Army Depot, Ala. were recognized here, July 25, for their work assisting in a key program designed to protect Soldiers delivering materials to support warfighters in Iraq.

Col. Terence J. Hermans, Commander, 4th Sustainment Brigade, presented Robert Gregg, Robert Lane, Timothy Holley, Joel McClellan and Garry Wills with “Wrangler Brigade” certificates of achievement, thanking them for their design and fabrication work to support the installation of add-on-armor to many of the brigade’s M1070 Heavy Equipment Transport Tractors. While deployed, the Anniston volunteers are all assigned to the 401st Army Field Support Brigade and work in the U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command Forward Repair Activity located here.

In addition to the Army civilian employees, Hermans also presented certificates to nearly 20 employees of L3 and ITT Corporations, who were also key to the success of the upgrade effort. In his remarks to the awardees, other Soldiers and employees who gathered in the area where some of the work had been performed, Hermans talked about the dangers his Soldiers faced every time they took to the roads north into Iraq, and how the additional armor provided by the Army Materiel Command/contractor team gave them a feeling of greater confidence that they would accomplish the mission and return safely to base.



Members of the 401st Army Field Support Brigade’s Forward Repair Activity (in Desert Combat Uniforms) pose for a group photo with fellow awardees from L3 Corporation, Col. Terence Hermans, and other 4th Sustainment Brigade Soldiers, after a HET upgrade recognition ceremony, July 24.

Hermans introduced the group to two Soldiers who had driven in convoys to Iraq, and told them that the work they had done made it possible for them, and other Soldiers like them, to safely make the dangerous run into Iraq and back. According to supervisor Jacky Austin the project was far from what one might expect in a “local fabrication” effort, and was actually very complex.

“Our Mobile Parts Hospital Site Coordinator and machinist, Lance Jennings, and lead welder Ollice Allison, designed several prototypes,” said Austin. “Once we settled on the final design, we sent it to the tactical vehicle Project Manager’s office for approval.”

“We tested the final design on five different vehicles at random to make sure the pattern fit correctly,” he said. “The welding work was done by the

FRA machine shop, and then L3 did the assembly and took the final product to the ITT paint shop.”

Once the painting was complete, L3 took the materials and handed the assemblies off to 4th Sustainment Brigade for HET installation. Quality was a focus throughout the project, Austin said. Non-destructive testing was performed to ensure the steel was of the proper quality and hardness.

During the nearly four-month effort, members of the FRA expended an estimated 2,000 man hours in research, design and fabrication.

“If our work saved the life of one Soldier, it was worth it,” said Austin. The Wrangler Brigade commander’s comments made it clear the HET armor upgrade has done just that.

Post-Deployment Health

Reassessment Program is mandated by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs designed to identify and address health concerns, with specific emphasis on mental health, that have emerged since deployment.

The Army Post Deployment Health Reassessment Program is a part of the DOD's overall force health protection program. It extends the continuum of care for service members' deployment-related health concerns.

The PDHRA is a process designed to identify the deployment-related health concerns of all service members during the three- to six-month time period after their return from deployment and facilitate access to care.

The PDHRA provides education, screening, assessment and access to care for a wide variety of questions and concerns that service members may have about their health after they return from deployment.

Protecting the health of those who protect our country is an important mission. It is recognized that deployment may have an impact on your health and wellbeing. In an effort to identify and treat your deployment-related health concerns, the Post Deployment Health Reassessment or PDHRA, has been implemented.

The program provides education, screening, assessment and an opportunity to access care for a wide variety of questions and concerns you may have about your health after you return from deployment.

What Can The Post-Deployment Health Reassessment Do For Me?

While deployed, you were focused on the mission at hand. Now that you have returned home, it is time to focus on your life, your health, and your future. It is encouraged to take advantage of the healthcare and community services available to you through participation in the Post-Deployment Health Reassessment.

The PDHRA empowers each of you to take control of your health and provides you with the chance to address your deployment-related health concerns with a healthcare professional. By identifying your health and readjustment concerns early, you can resolve problems that could - if left unattended - negatively affect your deployment status, career, or life beyond service.

You should complete the Post-Deployment Health Reassessment three-to-six months after returning from deployment. If you are in a unit, your unit or commander will notify you when it's time to complete the reassessment. Selected service members may be notified through the internet or a direct mailing when it is time to complete the PDHRA.

How Does The PDHRA Process Work?

First, you will receive training to assist you in participating in the screening process, then you will complete a questionnaire that will gather your current demographic and health status information. Then, you will have an opportunity to discuss your deployment health concerns or questions with a healthcare provider. Together with the provider you can determine what additional services or referrals are needed.

Why Complete The PDHRA?

For Yourself:

The PDHRA empowers each of you to take control of your health. By identifying your health and readjustment concerns early, you can resolve problems that could - if left unattended - negatively affect your deployment status, career, or life beyond service.

For Your Family:

Your family's peace of mind is an important part of your own well-being. Some family members worry about how deployments can affect their loved one's health. When you complete the PDHRA, you can reassure them that any health concerns you have will receive professional attention.

For the Army:

Deployment-related health concerns and problems may appear subtly over time and go unnoticed, even among service leaders and fellow soldiers. When you complete the PDHRA and answer candidly about your health status and concerns, the reassessment provides health care personnel with a comprehensive view of your health. A healthy Soldier is a ready Soldier - ready not only for deployment, but for life after deployment.

For the Future:

By completing the PDHRA you enable healthcare providers to initiate early medical care for your deployment health concerns. Early treatment can keep medical concerns from becoming chronic problems.

Pre-OCONUS Travel File (PRO-File)

Article and Photos Courtesy of
Brigade Troops Battalion

In recent weeks, the battalion has been actively pursuing percent completion of the Pre-OCONUS Travel File, more commonly known as PRO-File

for all conventional Active Army, Army Reserve, and Army National Guard forces, and for DA Civilians and contractors who are deploying to areas

Make sure you fill in all mandatory fields indicated by a red asterisk (*).

where ISOPREPS are required, and a pro-file survey must be completed prior to any OCONUS deployment.

You must provide data in all mandatory fields, to include photo upload, and complete a minimum of four questions in at least four of the background question sections. Updated and accurate entries are critical in the event Soldiers become isolated, detained, missing or captured.



It's everyone's responsibility to complete a PRO-File survey. You can do this by logging onto <http://medinah.sed.monmouth.army.mil/PRO-File/>. Access the site by using your AKO username and password.

Each battalion personnel office should be equipped with a digital camera to snap your photo for the survey. Photos will be of front-facing and profile view.

After successful data entry, the program will display a certificate for you. The Certificate will include your name, UIC, and the date-time-group of completion. PRO-File will automatically generate a unique certificate number for the session. Certificates should be printed and turned into your battalion personnel office.

surveys.

Headquarters Department of the Army has directed the implementation of the PRO-File in order to enhance existing capabilities to support, recover, and reintegrate isolated, missing, detained or captured personnel.

The PRO-File is designed to fulfill isolated personnel report completion requirements and will be used in conjunction with the Isolated Personnel Report component of Personnel Recovery Mission Software.



Compliance is mandatory

30 Years Of Service...And A Re-enlistment

Article By Staff Sgt. Reginald Wright
4th Sustainment Brigade PAO

Msg. La'roy E. Hilliman, 4th Sustainment Brigade Leaders Recon action officer has reenlisted for his last time. Since September of 1974 Hilliman, has seen many changes over the years. Seven elected presidents, the unification of Germany with the fall of the Berlin wall, and the start of the War on Terror.

Wrangler reporter Staff Sgt. Reginald Wright sat down with Master Sgt. Hillman recently and here is small portion of the interview.

Wrangler:

Since 1974, what is the biggest change you have noticed in the Army?

Master Sgt. Hilliman:

From Uniform changes and attitudes of leaders and Soldiers, to order and discipline.

Wrangler:

What is the most unique place you've been to, including deployments?

Master Sgt. Hilliman:

Fort Lewis, WA. In the states and Korea OCONUS.

Wrangler:

What was your biggest achievements / accomplishments in the Army?

Master Sgt. Hilliman:

Being able to serve in the Army, being married to my wonderful wife "Jan" for 30 years and having my Son "Roy" and assigned as a Brigade First Sergeant for just under 4 years.

Wrangler:

What Army uniform did you like the best; O.D. green, BDU's / DCU's, ACU's and why?

Master Sgt. Hilliman:



Capt. Luke Lisell re-enlistes Master Sgt. La'roy Hillman in a ceremony held inside the brigade conference tent. Hillman re-enlisted for the last time.

The Khakis, it was one of the Army's sharpest looking and coolest in hot climates. "It just looked good."

Wrangler:

What U.S. or world event are you proud to have been a part of?

Master Sgt. Hilliman:

The end of the Cold War, dropping of the Berlin Wall, and Operation Just Cause.

Wrangler:

Why did you stay in the Army so long?

Master Sgt. Hilliman:

Because for the love of the job, the people, and all the places I have been able to see in the world.

Wrangler:

What kept you re-enlisting in to the Army?

Master Sgt. Hilliman:

To Serve to protect the greatest nation on earth, and our way of life; to do my part so my son and further generations can enjoy the freedoms and rights that we have all had in the past.

Besides all that it's a great profession. I can not think of any other profession that will allow you to start at the bottom, teach you a skill, give you continuing education in that skill, and train you for the next higher skill level. Anyone can come in and go all the way to the top, regardless of your race, national origin, sex, and religious preference. Everyone is equal and all have the same ability for advancement. You get out what you put in.

Birthday "Shout Outs"

1-126th CAV

PV2 Forte, Troy	1 Aug	SSG Walsh, Gregory	10 Aug	SGT Rudd, Jeremy	22 Aug
PV2 Sawdy, Kyle	2 Aug	SFC Hart, Kenneth	10 Aug	SFC Lalond, Rickey	22 Aug
SFC Frenzel, Luke	2 Aug	PFC Garcia, Robert	11 Aug	1LT Grant, Mark	22 Aug
2LT Snedden, Brian	2 Aug	2LT Zeld, Aaron	11 Aug	PV2 Cramer, Joshua	24 Aug
SFC Jenkins, Gregory	5 Aug	SSG English, Joseph	12 Aug	SGT Gish, James	24 Aug
1LT Holoman, David	5 Aug	SPC Trotter, Stephen	13 Aug	SPC Cooper, Matt	25 Aug
1LT Caras, John	5 Aug	SGT Gifford, Christopher	14 Aug	PFC Slone, Tyler	26 Aug
2LT Erickson, Kevin	6 Aug	PV2 Gomez, Louis	15 Aug	SPC Evilsizor, Andrew	26 Aug
SPC Barton, Caleb	7 Aug	SPC Dew, Justin	15 Aug	SPC Garrett, Javon	26 Aug
SSG Wynd, Nathan	7 Aug	SSG Rozema, Thomas	15 Aug	SPC Kobel, Ryan	27 Aug
PV2 Vennekotter, Robert	8 Aug	SFC Schifferer, Paul	15 Aug	SPC Reynolds, Isaiah	27 Aug
PFC Utz, Anthony	8 Aug	SPC Delo Santos, Michael	16 Aug	SPC Picard, Matthew	27 Aug
PFC Hosford, Andrew	8 Aug	PFC Gasawai, Jeremiah	17 Aug	SPC Vasquez, Gabriel	28 Aug
PFC Remenak, Michael	8 Aug	PFC Ellinwood, Brent	17 Aug	SPC Stanton, Justin	28 Aug
PFC Bailey, Jonathan	8 Aug	SPC Lehman, Andrew	17 Aug	PV2 Nakken, Suttipong	30 Aug
SPC Mockerman, Wayne	8 Aug	SFC Lowe, Hansel	17 Aug	SPC Jones, Tracey	30 Aug
SPC Dewey, Kenneth	8 Aug	SGT Wright, Patrick	18 Aug	SPC Storey, Mark	30 Aug
PFC Borger, Steven	10 Aug	PFC Maue, Joshua	19 Aug	PFC Derby, Harry	31 Aug
PFC Holcomb, Glennis	10 Aug	SGT Cook, Adam	19 Aug	SPC Bostic, Michael	31 Aug
SPC Smith, Matthew	10 Aug	PFC Walker, Cody	21 Aug		



LTF 10

SGT Evans, Ryan	2 Aug	SGT Faber, Jesse	14 Aug	SPC Willing, Robert	29 Aug
SGT Pulis, Jason	2 Aug	SPC Nichols, Bejay	16 Aug	PFC Johnson, Bobby	30 Aug
SGT Harleman, Arthur	4 Aug	SPC Wasson, Spencer	16 Aug	SPC Lehman, Jason	31 Aug
SPC Marler, Bernard	5 Aug	SGT Edwards, Brandon	16 Aug	SGT Crotinger, Dustin	31 Aug
SGT Billings, Robert	5 Aug	SPC Onnen, Micahel	19 Aug		
SGT Painter, Ryan	5 Aug	SPC Onnen, Mitchell	19 Aug		
SSG Baldwin, John	6 Aug	SPC Stephens, Scott	19 Aug		
PFC Rains, Williams	7 Aug	SPC Ray, Ryan	20 Aug		
SPC Gordhamer, Jason	7 Aug	SGT Clary, Harold	20 Aug		
SPC Higgs, William	8 Aug	SSG Frear, Charles	20 Aug		
SPC Smith, David	10 Aug	SPC Ptak, Kevin	21 Aug		
SSG Young, Jeffery	10 Aug	SFC Chamberlain, Theodore	21 Aug		
SPC Lopez, Brandon	12 Aug	SFC Nelson, Bradley	21 Aug		
SPC Blauvelt, Jeffrey	13 Aug	SPC Gilpin, Stephen	23 Aug		
PFC Rapp, Justin	14 Aug	SPC Kilinkenberg, Matthew	23 Aug		

Fuzzle Solution From Page 15								
8	6	3	7	4	2	9	5	1
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6	3	2	4	9	8	7	1	5
5	9	1	2	6	7	3	8	4
3	4	9	1	2	6	5	7	8
2	5	8	9	7	4	1	3	6
1	7	6	8	3	5	2	4	9