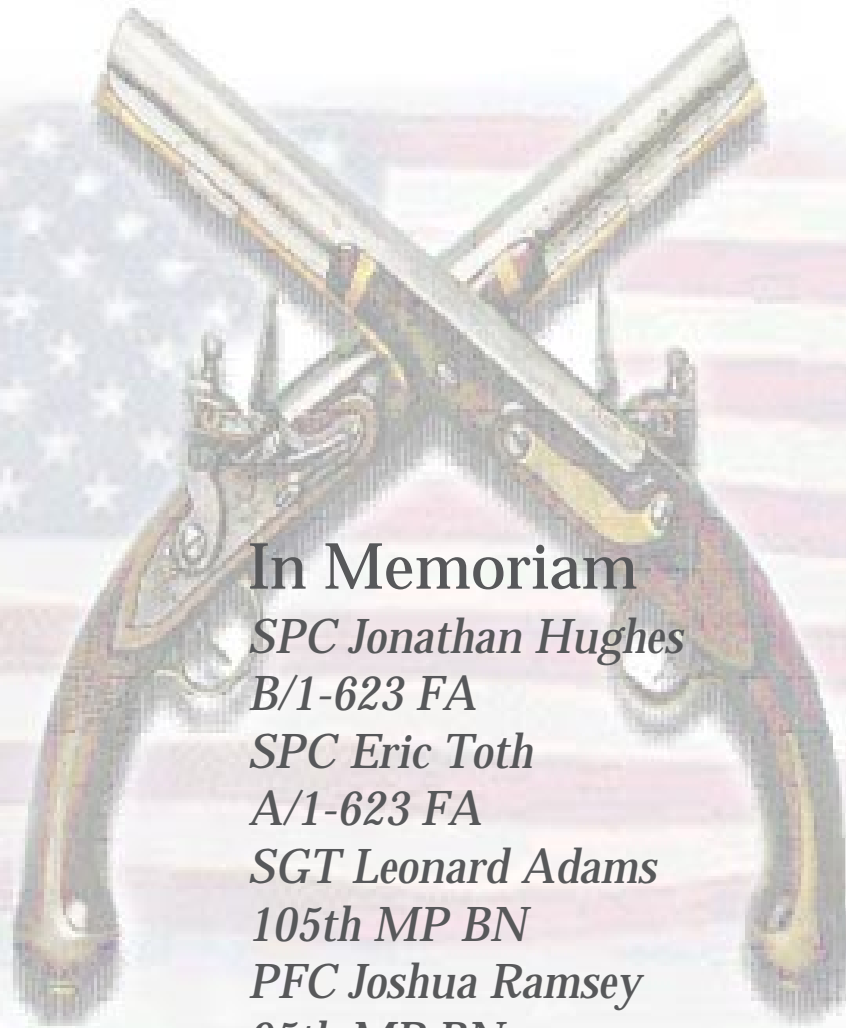




MEMORIAL DAY

Remembering our fallen comrades...



In Memoriam

SPC Jonathan Hughes

B/1-623 FA

SPC Eric Toth

A/1-623 FA

SGT Leonard Adams

105th MP BN

PFC Joshua Ramsey

95th MP BN

CPL Joseph Behnke

C/1-258 FA

Brigade Briefs

• June Birthdays

- 01- CPT Montgomery Granger
- 03- LTC Thomas Blair
- 03- CW3 Walter Bass
- 03- SGT Andrew Paasch
- 07- SFC Chris Warner
- 11- SGT David Jones
- 20- MAJ David Oberlander
- 21- SPC Joshua Collins
- 21- PFC Manuel Gomez
- 23- SFC Christopher Heberling
- 24- COL James Brown

• On June 14 we celebrate the 230th birthday of the United States Army and its service to our nation.

• **Help! We need your submissions for the Brigade Newsletter. Artists, writers, poets, photographers; please help us make this newsletter a success!**



Pfc. Luis Trevino passes out school supplies and toys to Iraqi school children in French Village during a joint Civil Military Operation with the 18th MP Brigade and 353d Civil Affairs Battalion May 17.

Happy Father's Day June 19



The inspiration behind Father's Day was by a woman named Sonora Dodd in 1909 who wanted a special day to honor her father. Her father raised her and her siblings after her mother died during childbirth.

Finally in 1966 President Lyndon Johnson signed a presidential proclamation declaring the third Sunday of June as Father's Day. President Richard Nixon signed the law which finally made it permanent in 1972.

VIGILANT TIMES

Produced by the 18th Military Police Brigade
Public Affairs Office, Baghdad, Iraq
Phone: DSN 302-242-0112

Maj. Rob Simmons.....S-1 OIC
Sgt. Lynne Steely.....Photojournalist

COMMANDERS CORNER

By Col. James B. Brown

Dear Friends, Families and members of the Ever Vigilant Brigade!

Today marks the half-way point for the 18th MP Brigade's leadership in its second deployment to Iraq. Having just celebrated Memorial Day and continuing to commemorate the memory of our Fallen and wounded comrades, it is a good time to focus on the demands of service and duty. Service and duty are two words that take on an entirely transformed meaning in war because the potential costs of both can be our own lives or the lives of our comrades. Just a few days ago, General Bell visited us and had dinner with about 25 comrades from the 18th MP Brigade. He took advantage of this time to remind us that the war we are now fighting in Iraq is all about our future. Will our children grow up in a world that respects freedom and human rights or will it be dominated by fear of terrorist attack? The answer belongs to us and our Iraqi partners. We have got to win this war and we will win it as a team.

Our heroes in the 18th MP Brigade are doing much to help win this war and to ensure a better future for all. While we were having dinner with the USAREUR Commander, one of our squads from the 617th MP Company, 503d MP Bn (ABN) was de-



fending the Iraqi Highway Patrol Headquarters in Baghdad against an armed attack and eliminated AIF fighters while sustaining no casualties. This is a great reminder that even as you read these words, somewhere Soldiers from the 18th MP Brigade are on the front lines fighting to defend freedom and win the Global War on Terror. Whether here in Iraq, home in Germany or deployed in Afghanistan, Soldiers from this great brigade are protecting the rights and future of our citizens, our Army comrades and our allied partners.

Toby Keith's visit was a great reminder that our service and commitment to duty is not forgotten, but remembered and honored. Of significant note is that he not only visited our headquarters, but he took the initiative to leave the protection of Camp Victory to go on patrol with us and visit our Soldiers of the 306th MP Battalion at Abu Ghraib. Toby Keith then went into the facility and told our guards how much he and the American people appreciated their service and Ever Vigilance to guard and protect our country. A big tip of the hat goes to Toby Keith and his great band as well as the selfless members of the USO team and BG Frutiger (our own USAREUR G1) who all accompanied him.

Our detention facilities continue to provide quality care to our detainees and to hold the most dangerous terrorists and security detainees in Iraq. The commitment and vigilance of our comrades from the 586th Expeditionary Security Forces

Squadron, the 105th Military Police Battalion and the 306th Military Police Battalion 24/7 is having a major impact in helping to make Iraq safer. We have been working to continually upgrade the quality of our facilities and today we are completing the construction on new facilities that will enable us to hold more detainees and in smaller groups to ensure maximum safety for the detainees and guard force alike.

Of interest is the fact that our commander for detainee operations is MG William Brandenburg—his Dad commanded the 18th MP Brigade in Vietnam and the 793d MP Battalion in Germany! Now he has both the 18th MP Brigade and 793d MP battalion under his command. That is a legacy in leadership! It is also a reminder that in some special way, we remember the service of our prior patriots and heroes. We have been very blessed to have lost so few Soldiers in the mission. I don't believe in luck. I believe that unit discipline, warrior ethos and faith have far more to do with the success of a military unit than chance.

Please continue to pray for our Soldiers and Families as we continue to fight and win the war in Iraq and for our partners in Germany and Afghanistan. God bless you all as we look forward to our Army Birthday (14 June) and the celebration of our own independence on the 4th of July! We have much to be thankful for. Please be safe and courageous as we continue to Soldier on!

EVER VIGILANT!

Col. Jim Brown, VIGILANT 6

MAY PROMOTIONS



Welcome to the Corps to Sgt. Allan Suskey, Sgt. Rebecca Williams and Sgt. Andrew Paasch



Spc. Matthew Vanderlugt



Spc. Michael Lokuta



Pvt. 2nd Class Courtney Townes

REUPS

AWARDS



Sgt. Norma Hill May 12



Sgt. Patrick Henry received a Certificate of Achievement May 1 for an outstanding job in the mailroom



Staff Sgt. Marcus Nakamura May 20



Pfc. Bradley Swope received a coin May 1 for hard work during a civil military medical operation.

REENLIST? OF COURSE I DID.
I LOVE MY JOB AND
THE BENEFITS ARE EXCELLENT!

See your units' career counselor today and find out how to get the most out of your future.

STAY ARMY
SEE YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR TODAY

BLOW YOUR OWN HORN!

You must have done something outstanding lately -- earned an award, finished a school, taken on a new job. Tell the folks back home about it with a Hometown News Release!

Contact your units' Public Affairs Office.

Soldiers deliver: Iraqi school receives cases of school supplies, toys

Spc. Jeremy Crisp

Multi-National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office

ISKANDARIYAH, Iraq - A tiny schoolhouse south of Baghdad got a big surprise May 9, when a convoy of U.S. Soldiers rolled in bearing gifts from the citizens of America.

With the help of an organization named Operation Iraqi Children, Soldiers from various units throughout Iraq delivered a truckload of school supplies and toys to hundreds of eager Iraqi school children.

OIC - founded by actor Gary Sinise and author Laura Hillenbrand - is an organization designed to give Americans the means to reach out to the children of Iraq and help support the efforts of Soldiers in assisting the people of Iraq.

On this particular supply mission, Soldiers - with supplies donated from OIC - delivered 25 cases of Beanie Babies; 245 book bags and backpacks; and 13 cases of school supplies, along with assorted jump ropes, Frisbees and soccer balls.

This was Maj. Andy T. Johnson's third mission to a local school, and he said with the supplies that the American people have donated for the children of Iraq, Soldiers have been able to build a more personal relationship with the Iraqi population.

"You can't even believe it,"



Capt. Whitney Jensen of the 18th Military Police Brigade passes out Beanie Baby giraffes to school children in Iskandariyah, Iraq during a joint Civil Military Operation May 9. (Photo by Army Spc. Jeremy Crisp)

said Johnson, who is the civil affairs officer for the 18th Military Police Brigade, out of Mannheim, Germany.

"You walk into the school and the children are unsure how to relate to Americans," Johnson said. "We come with all the guns and Humvees, but as soon as the children see we've got school supplies, pencils and papers and sometimes candy, the kids really open up."

Through OIC's School Supply Kit Program, American children, church groups and other organizations can donate by gathering school supplies in local drives and assembling them in kits

according to OIC instructions. Contributors then send the kits to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Association for transport to Iraq.

Staff Sgt. Butch Drake from Decatur, In., is an education and civil affairs noncommissioned officer, and has been one of the key organizers for delivery of the donations from OIC. Drake played an integral part in getting the supplies for their recent operation, and he said he found out about OIC one day just "surfing the web".

"I sent out some e-mails and I got in contact with OIC's facilitator here in Iraq. That set the wheels in motion."



1st Lt. Stephen Lemelin with the 18th MP Brigade Civil Affairs Office helps unload supplies from the back of a humvee. (Photo by Spc. Jeremy Crisp)

What was once a dismal supply closet for Drake and his fellow Soldiers with Task Force 134 out of Camp Victory, Iraq, has turned into pallets full of supplies donated from the American public through OIC.

“Before OIC, we had nothing to put out,” Drake said. “The only things that we had were small amounts of supplies we would get from Soldiers’ families back home.”

“Sitting behind my desk ordering it is one thing, but actually going out and seeing the expression on the children’s faces when they receive all this stuff is just unexplainable,” Drake said. “I’ve never seen responses from Iraqi children like that in my life. It is just amazing.”

No stranger to working with the Iraqi population, 451st Civil Affairs Battalion Alpha Team Sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Craig Coker; an Army Reserve Soldier from Sugarland, Texas, said the

relations built from delivering supplies allows the people of Iraq to see that Americans aren’t the bad guys.

“The impact of the little things we have done here are tremendous,” Coker said.

“We were heading down the road a week ago and two ladies came running up to us and stopped our convoy” Coker said. “They were yelling ‘Ali Baba, Ali Baba, boom, boom,’ which means ‘bad guys,’ ‘explosion’. They led us to two improvised explosive devices. We were able to cordon the area and dispose of them.

“We had done something that had affected these ladies’ lives - because in that area, we had been pumping in the supplies,” Coker said. “Sure enough, something affected them and they took a chance in helping us. That was a big chance they took.”

Coker said that because the

American people are taking their own time and money to donate supplies, on occasions like these it really does make a difference.

“Everything in Iraq is really based on relationships,” Coker said. “No matter how many tanks and trucks and planes we have, success on a day-to-day basis here is based on the way we relate to people. These relationships are not only for safety, but for the future of the Iraqi children.”

Once all the supplies were handed out at the dusty and lightless Iraqi schoolhouse, Coker assured the principal of the school that he would be back in one week. Coker and the civil affairs team have had the opportunity to obtain shelving equipment and other ‘big supply’ items that the classrooms desperately need.

After numerous “thank you’s” and “I love America” in hard-to-come-by English, the Iraqi children ran home showing off their new school supplies to fellow friends, while taking a chance to get in a picture with some of the gratified Soldiers. Coker said that’s why they do it.

“We aren’t fighting a war against the children. We aren’t fighting a war against Iraq,” Coker said. “We are fighting a war against a very few people that have real fixed ideas. You have that all over the world, but these kids, they need help just as much, if not more, than anybody else does.”

for more information visit:

www.operationiraqchildren.org

IRAQ FACTS

Education - Education in Iraq is free. Six years of primary education is required, although many children do not attend as they must work to help support their family. Only 41 percent of Iraqis aged 15 or older are literate. Iraq has eight universities and about 20 technical institutes.

Manufacturing - Manufacturing is not well developed. Besides petroleum and natural gas products, manufactures are largely limited to goods such as processed foods and beverages, textiles and clothing, metal products, furniture, footwear, cigarettes, and construction materials. Baghdad is the leading manufacturing center of Iraq.

Museums - Baghdad is home to the Iraq Museum, which contains relics of early Mesopotamian cultures. After the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, looters made off with a few dozen of the museum's prized artifacts and caused significant damage to the structure. Also in Baghdad are the Iraq Natural History Museum and the Iraq Military Museum.

Agriculture - Iraq is predominantly an agricultural country. Approximately 13 percent of the land is under cultivation. Most farmland is in the region of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Before the imposition of UN sanctions, exports of dates from Iraq accounted for a major share of world trade in dates. Other fruits produced include apples, figs, grapes, olives, oranges, pears, and pomegranates.

("Iraq," Microsoft® Encarta® Online Encyclopedia 2005)

Memorial Day History



General John Logan

Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868 by General John Logan, the national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his *General Order No. 11*.

It was first observed on May 30, 1868 when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery.

The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states.

In 1915, Moina Michael was

inspired by a poem titled "*In Flanders Fields*" written by John McCrae.

Her inspiration created what we know today as the "Buddy" Poppy program where artificial red poppies, made by disabled veterans, are sold.

To remind Americans of the true meaning of Memorial Day, the National Moment of Remembrance resolution passed in 2000 asks that at three p.m. all Americans voluntarily observe a moment of remembrance by either silence or listening to Taps.

Country music icon pays a visit to the 18th MP Brigade

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq -

Award-winning country music artist Toby Keith visited with Soldiers at the 18th MP Brigade Headquarters May 17.

Keiths' visit came as part of a whirlwind tour sponsored by the United Service Organization in which he has been entertaining troops all over the Operation Iraqi Freedom theatre. This is Keiths' third USO tour.



Top: Keith shows off his new 18th MP brassard presented to him by Brigade Commander, Col. James Brown, with Staff Sgt. Marcus Nakamura.

Center: Keith poses with Spc. Jared Dutka.

Bottom: Keith poses with Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Shelley, Brigade Commander Col. James Brown, Co. Commander Capt. Wayne Ludwig as well as several other Soldiers from the brigade.

Around Camp Victory





Brigade HQ takes the win at Memorial Day game, 17-16



Headquarters player Staff Sgt. Marcus Nakamura makes it look easy as he heads in to home.

The 18th Military Police Brigade headquarters and the 306th Military Police Battalion took part in America's favorite pastime this Memorial Day during their first ever full combat gear softball game.

Despite the heat, players were enthusiastic about the event and their competitive spirit shone through as they were able to break away from the rigors of daily military police work.

Following the game, an old-fashioned Memorial Day barbecue was provided with hot dogs and ice cold drinks.

HQ's Staff Sgt. John Barnhill waits for the ball but it looks like it's not going to make it in time.



Battalion News

Friday Night Fights

LSA Shadow - Soldiers in the 306th Military Police Battalion know how to relieve the stress of everyday life in a combat zone.

What started just over a month ago to improve Soldier morale, "Friday Night Fights" has grown into the premier event on base providing top-notch entertainment to the local troops and civilian employees.

Maj. Gen. Brandenburg, the Commanding General of Task Force 134, was the guest of honor at the Memorial Day weekend fights at Abu Ghraib May 27.

The new Forward Operating Base Commander, Col. Flynn, was also welcomed during the event.

Sgt. Leonard of the 1/119th FA remains undefeated at four wins.



Spc. Oliver from the 306th MP Battalion gives it his best shot as the pitch comes in.



What would Memorial Day be without a barbecue? No matter where we are, we never forget the good things in life!

Soldier honored

The B/1-623's Family Readiness Group in Danville, Ky. pose with Eddie Montgomery of the Montgomery Gentry band at a recent Armed Forces Day celebration. Montgomery requested two memorial buttons of Spc. Jonathan Hughes, who was killed in action, to wear in his next music video.



Act of compassion

While visiting the Brook Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas last month, actor Denzel Washington took a tour of one of the Fisher Houses on base. This is a place where families can stay for little or no charge while their soldier is in the hospital. Unfortunately they are almost completely filled most of the time.

Washington asked how much one of them would cost to build, took out his checkbook and wrote a check on the spot for the full amount!

To find out how you can help, visit: www.fisherhouse.org





CONNECTIONS

By Brigade Chaplain, Lt. Col. Thomas Evans

As we consider Memorial Day this year, a much greater significance is attached to it. We will memorialize all those who have gone before us, but this year it comes much closer to home.



Four of our own have given their lives this year in the cause of freedom: one in Afghanistan, and three in Iraq. As we see the people endorsing freedom, and striving to stabilize their nations so they can maintain it, I reflect on two things, the wonderful privilege of freedom, and the painful cost of freedom.

When the United States declared its own freedom, strong powers were employed to deny us that freedom, and to continue the oppressive domination that benefited those with power and restricted those without it. But, with victory came the opportunity for people to taste the wonderful flavor of liberty of thought and speech, of liberty to move about the country and pursue happiness, and religious liberty to believe and worship the way you want to. Now, in Iraq and Afghanistan, the citizens are responding to their opportunities for freedom. But that freedom, once again, comes at a great cost. Their future and their individual safety are threatened by those who want to retain domination over them.

The insurgents believe that fear and force are the proper tools of government. The wonderful privilege of freedom demands that someone stand in the face of oppression and say, "No More!" Therein lies the cost of freedom. Coalition Forces Soldiers along with Soldiers, Political Leaders and everyday citizens of these nations tell the insurgents, "No More," but too often that declaration costs them their lives.

History is not restricted to these last centuries. This Memorial Day, reflect on the fact that God is on the side of freedom. That He has made His bold declaration, "No More!" Mankind has been beaten down by the forces of evil. Individuals have lost control of their own lives, and once they were down, the powers against them wanted to keep them down. God sent His warrior Son to say, "No More!" And that declaration cost Him His life. He is the Divine Fallen Hero. This Memorial Day, celebrate the blessings of freedom, wave a flag, recall the heroes of today and yesterday, but among those heroes remember the One who gave His life for your liberty on earth, but more importantly, for your eternal liberty. This Memorial Day, wave a flag, and kneel before the Cross.

Military Police supply, train Iraqi Highway Patrol

Spc. Jeremy Crisp
MNC-I Public Affairs Office

UMM QASSR, Iraq—As coalition forces work to secure the country of Iraq, the U.S. Army's military police are working to make sure the Iraqi Highway Patrol has the tools it needs to help in the security effort.

Soldiers from the 503rd Military Police Battalion, Fort Bragg, N.C., and the 18th Military Police Brigade, Mannheim, Germany, are supporting the IHP in all facets, including what they need most—vehicles.

A May 19 convoy showed the diligence of the MPs, as the IHP took home 110 blue and white Chevrolet pickups. The four-door trucks were outfitted with blue and red lights, radio systems and spotlights.

Capt. Robert J. Baker of the 503rd, said the idea of the Iraqi Highway Patrol is a new concept to Iraq, and his unit is tasked with doing

everything it can to ensure its success.

“Our main effort is logistically supplying these people,” Baker said. “We’re taking



Photo by Army Spc. Jeremy Crisp

primary responsibility in getting the IHP vehicles and weapons and other logistical supplies they need in order to operate.”

Baker, from Rochester, N.Y., said getting the IHP new vehicles is a key to both forces’ success, because, “Without them, the IHP can’t do their job.”

“These vehicles to the IHPs are just like a

(Humvee) to an MP,” Baker said.

“We get them the vehicles and we get them out on the road,” said Baker, who is the civil military operations officer for the 503rd. “The more vehicles we get them, the more apt

they are to do their job effectively. The more Iraqi highway patrolmen we can have out on the roads, the bigger impact they are going to make.”

According to Baker this is just the beginning of new vehicles for the IHP. The 503rd is responsible for six IHP stations, with six more coming under their command by September, and Baker said that each

IHP station is to be fielded with 35 vehicles.

“There is going to be a projected 35 IHP stations throughout Iraq, and we’re only talking about six – soon to be 12 – falling under us,” Baker said.

Through the use of trucks previously fielded to the IHP, they have been able to take some of the burden off of U.S. forces.

“They’re out there finding (improvised explosive devices,) they’re finding (anti-Iraqi forces,) and they are making a significant contribution by doing their job in the field,” Baker said.

Maj. Muhammad, a platoon leader with the Iraqi Police, said with the help from Baker and Maj. Andrew Johnson of the 18th MP Bde, the IHP is able to do their job and work toward relieving coalition forces.

“These trucks are going to help out a lot,” said Muhammad, a 15-year veteran of the Iraqi police force. “Before

the war, we had junk vehicles sent to us by the Saddam regime, and there was no way could we get this number of vehicles before the war under Saddam. These vehicles are going to do a great job in different provinces around Iraq.”

Muhammad, who acts as a liaison for Johnson and Baker, said that through the training and support received, “The American government is trying to make it happen for us. They support our forces so we can take the responsibility from our friends the Coalition forces. That way we can reach our goal – the Iraqi

government goal – of controlling our country with our own forces.”

Along with supplying the force, the 18th and 503rd are responsible for ensuring the policemen of the IHP have the knowledge and skills at their disposal to accomplish their missions.

“We have a training academy that puts out roughly between 150 to 250 Iraqi Highway Patrol officers a month,” Baker said. “It is a 21-day point of instruction for them, and it’s not a monitoring relationship. It’s more a working hand-in-hand relationship.”



Photo by Army Spc. Jeremy Crisp

“We go out on joint patrols with them, and we deal with every facet as far as their operations to make sure they will be set up for success when we start pulling out,” he said.

Future operations for the MPs include a new class of recruits beginning the academy, acquiring more trucks to complete the IHP fleet and the completion of the six new IHP stations.

U.S. Army Europe Commanding General visits Soldiers at Camp Victory

General B. B. Bell, the Commanding General of the United States Army, Europe and 7th Army visited with Soldiers from the 18th Military Police Brigade and other units under his command at Camp Victory May 29.

Bell shook hands with each Soldier asking them briefly about their job, after which a modest buffet style dinner was served.

‘There are many people that don’t like us because we believe in freedom’, said Bell, ‘but in todays globalized world they will have to learn to accept the differences of others in order to survive’.

Following the dinner, all attendees personally received a coin from Bell.



Above: Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Johnson poses with Gen. Bell. Right: An informal dinner with Soldiers.



TIDBITS

Financial Insider

Charitable donations-

As members of the military most of us feel a need to help others less fortunate than us. Unfortunately there are many scam artists ready to take advantage of our generosity.

If you doubt the legitimacy of an organization, call your state Attorney General's office or Consumer Protection Agency to see if the charity is registered to conduct solicitations in your state or if it has legal actions pending.

Never give credit card, social security or bank information to phone solicitors. The Federal Trade Commission recommends asking the caller to send information by mail so you can make an informed decision.

Charities should also be willing to provide proof of their eligibility to receive tax-deductible contributions. Give, but give wisely!



Websites

A free day of fun!

Even though a Soldier is deployed, their dependants can still enjoy a free one-day pass to either Busch Gardens, Sea World or Sesame Place. visit: www.herosalute.com for more information.

Kid stuff

Websites to help kids deal with a parents deployment and become involved.

www.deploymentkids.com
www.usda-army-ydp.org/omk



Legal Tips

Child support-

Child support is a parent-soldier responsibility. The Army requires Soldiers to be responsible for financially supporting their families. A Soldier who fails to do so may face not only civilian legal problems, they also violate the punitive provisions of Army Regulation 608-99 and may face punishment under Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

AR 608-99 establishes guidelines for support of family members. If a court order or written agreement states the amount of support to be provided, it supercedes Army regulation and the Soldier must provide the amount stated.

Soldiers or family members who have questions should contact their local Army Legal Assistance Office for free advice.



Family support

www.MilSpouse.org
www.militarymoms.net
www.cinchouse.com

For the troops

For a donation of \$6.50 you can "Mug" some troops. Deployed troops will receive a mug of appreciation. www.appreciateourtroops.org

Help the children of Iraq

www.operationiraqchildren.org