

Gunfighter Gazette



31 MARCH 2008

Volume 1, Issue 11

Happy St. Patrick's
Day!

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401st DOMINATES BATTALION NCO & SOLDIER OF THE QUARTER BOARD!



SGT MICHAEL

SPC BRYAN SCOTT-

The 401st is proud to announce that SGT Michael Purser, 2nd PLT and SPC Bryan Scott-Lee, 1st PLT won the Soldier and NCO of the Quarter at the 716th MP BN Quarter board this month!!



RE-ENLISTMENT: MARCH A MONTH TO REMEMBER!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING SOLDIERS FOR THEIR RE-ENLISTMENT DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH!

SPC CHARLENE MARTIN

SGT DAVID GATES

CPL ERIC PAGAN

SGT BOBBY CRUZ

SPC CHRISTOPHER BELIEU





GUNFIGHTER 6 SENDS

It's heating up, the days are flying by, and morale is high!! It's been quite the month and it started off superbly with the company sweeping the 716th Military Police Battalion Soldier and NCO of the quarter boards!! Congratulations to SGT Purser and SPC Scott-Lee...good luck at the 18th Military Police Brigade Soldier and NCO of the quarter board!

This past month First Sergeant and I had to review the entire company's end of tour awards submitted by the platoons and it was quite humbling to say the least. The accomplishments of every Soldier, NCO, and officer in the company are astonishing!! The feats this company has



accomplished since its deployment includes over 1,500 combat patrols, tens of thousands of miles traveled in western Baghdad, opening nine stations, outfitting the stations with equipment, processing hundreds of personnel actions, ordering over \$500,000 in supplies, providing thousands of rations for

the Soldiers, maintaining a fifty-six vehicle fleet in an austere environment, providing and sustaining the best medical care across the battalion in my opinion, and providing an unbelievable communication network coverage spanning over 260 square kilometers.

As I signed each of the awards a deeper sense of pride overcame me and I couldn't help but think what a phenomenal unit this is and what an honor it is to be a part of the 401st Military Police Company's history. Know each of you have a lot to be proud of for all the Soldiers you support from the home front.

See CDR...page 9

GUNFIGHTER 7 SENDS



RE-UP...You're crazy....RE-UP...You're outta your mind!!!! Greetings to all the friends and families of the Gunfighters, wherever this may find you. The statements that you read at the beginning are from an old cadence that we like to call while running, regarding reenlistment. Well, I am happy to say that we have a huge amount of Soldiers that are "crazy" and "outta" their mind. Keep in mind, that I consider it to be a good thing in this sense. There is no disputing that we are a nation at war, and the Soldiers of the 401st MP Company are on the front line. Given that fact, this month as well as others in the past, we have seen a remarkable amount of Soldiers make the commitment to reenlist at the front of those lines. They all have varying reasons for



ABOVE...SGT Grounds (left), ISG Flom (center) and SPC Martin (right), stand in-front of 401-7. The First Sergeant's team rolls out with squads through the Gunfighter Area of operation.

making that obligation, be it a generous bonus or a great assignment, or both (SSG Watts), but one thing remains for sure, is that they are true Patriots who have found their calling. Everyone who is here, has stepped up to the plate and looked the enemy in the eyes in their own backyard, but knowing that they may possibly return to this or some other combat zone, speaks volumes for their commitment to our country. To all those who have reenlisted, I thank you and your families for continuing to defend our nation.

It is hard to believe that another month is down already. With all the hard work that these Soldiers are doing, it is amazing how fast time is going by. It is a great feeling. One sign that we See ISG...Page 9

MSG JEREMY KEENE

OPERATIONS

March has seen operations maintaining the company business. The company has continued to conduct the PTT mission and have teams staying out at the Joint Security Stations to train the new Iraqi Police. They have been training 358 new recruits that have volunteered to help make Iraq a safer place. This month the company received the new body armor, the Improved Outer-Garment Tactical Vest or as we call it, the IOTV. All of the Soldiers were fitted for the new vests which will replace the Outer-Garment Tactical Vest, or OTV. The new vests are supposed to be more comfortable for the Soldiers to wear for extended periods. MSG Keene has continued his rampage of office rearranging. He has now effectively changed the office layout 87 times in the last month. We all think he had ADHD, but he doesn't. Of course he's crazy so what does he know. March is also the last month MSG Fleser will be with us. He joined the company when we arrived last year and will be redeploying the first week of April. He is staying with the company and will be joining the rear detachment so look for him at the next FRG meeting and meet him.



The 401st thanks MSG Fleser for his outstanding work during the deployment!



Has anyone seen the commander?

GUNFIGHTER GAZETTE

401st Military Police Company, Fort Hood, Texas 76544

The Gunfighter Gazette is a Soldier produced newsletter designed for and distributed to the families, friends and Soldiers associated with the 401st Military Police Company while deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom 07-09. The opinions in this newsletter are not those of the United States Army, the United States Department of Defense or the United States of America. The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those solely of the Soldiers of the 401st Military Police Company. If you have questions or comments about this newsletter you may contact: SPC David S.

Womack, 401s MP CO.
david.s.womack@us.army.mil

This is a monthly publication distributed to the families care of the Family Readiness Group. You may contact the Family Readiness Group: (254) 287 - 2431 Bldg 16003, Fort Hood, Texas 76544

The Soldiers of the 401st Military Police Company sincerely thank you for your support! To mail a letter or package to your deployed Soldier please use the provided address:

PVT Lastname, Firstname MI
716th MP BN
401 MP CO
APO HE 09342

401st Military Police Company
716th Military Police Battalion
18th Military Police Brigade

1st PLATOON

The GHOST Advanced WF times

PLATOON SERGEANT: SFC SMITH

PLATOON LEADER: ILT LYNCH



This month the Ghosts have been working extra hard and have been staying extremely busy. SSG Stanifer's squad has been working and living at South Ghazalia JSS, establishing life support for the Iraqi Police in their new station. SSG Adams' squad has been training 200 Iraqi police officers at the South Ghazalia police station, preparing them for their upcoming task in securing the neighborhoods in Southern Ghazalia. SSG Telkinski's squad has been conducting operations at Ghazalia Patrol setting up a station training plan aiding the police to become more capable of conducting their mission and to more self sustainable. SFC Smith has also has been working diligently in providing support to the Iraqi badge-making process and has provided IPs with badges who have been without for over two years. Apart from our daily mission, the platoon gets to gather together for mandatory training provided by the company's EO rep, AKA Ghost 3, SSG Stanifer. All is well here, and until next time, Ghost 6 out.

RIGHT: SFC Smith and an Iraqi police officer proudly showing off the new ID badges that they received during the month.



RIGHT: Soldiers from the platoon attending SSG Stanifer's EO training.



LEFT: Yet another award for a Ghost!
RIGHT: New police recruits being added to the HIIDE system.





2nd PLATOON

The PUNISHER corner

PLATOON LEADER: ILT MARTINEZ
PLATOON SERGEANT: SFC SENIOR

Hello Punisher Family,

The month of March has been really great weather, minus some sand storms, getting down into the 50's at night and into the 80's during the day. The Punisher's have put together a pretty good softball team and are currently undefeated. SGT Purser, SPC Nutter, SPC Prankienas, and PFC Maham have been killing them on the field. We drank a lot of near-beer and wore a lot of off green clothes for St Patrick's Day. 2nd Squad ran all over Western Iraq escorting the CSM near the Syrian border for a ten day mission (road trip!). Our platoon is now out of Abu Ghraib area turning it over to one of the company's sister units the 411th MP CO. Our platoon will now be helping out in the Mansour and Rashid area in western Baghdad. It will be something new to keep our minds fresh and focused. It's strange but the Soldiers are looking forward to the heat because they know the hotter it gets the closer it gets to going home. To all families thank you again for your support the Punishers really appreciate it. Thanks again to the Family Support Groups for all the projects ya'll have done and are doing. Just a few more months, God Bless!!

Punisher 6 out!!



LEFT: 1LT Martinez and SGT Parker are seen just after SGT Parker's Oath of Enlistment. Congratulations SGT Parker!!!



LEFT: SGT Puckett takes a moment out to ponder the meaning of the universe.



LEFT: PFC Bass, 1st Squad stands guard at Abu Ghraib district headquarters on his squad's last patrol to that station.



LEFT: SPC Womack stands with two local children. He handed out markers to the kids.



RIGHT: CPL Cantwell and PFC Mahan stand with 2 IPs.

3rd PLATOON

PLATOON LEADER: 2LT WALTER

PLATOON SERGEANT: SFC DECKER

A HOOLIGAN REPORT

The month of March comes to a close here in Iraq and it is the start to another month closer to coming home. Even though the time for re-deployment will be here soon, the mission that the 3rd Platoon "HOOLIGAN" Soldiers are conducting is far from over. 1st Squad led by SGT Seli has recently left the escort duties for CPT Sandoval, and is now conducting the station operations and training at two of our assigned Police stations. 2nd and 3rd Squads have been conducting training and station operations at their assigned Police Stations. With the return of SPC Morgan, 2nd Squad, the R&R leave rotation has come to an end for the Hooligans. The US Army operates a Rest and Relaxation center in Qatar, we will be receiving slots for Soldiers to take 4 day passes for some needed relaxation over the next couple of months.



SSG Keithley A. Watts, Squad Leader 3rd Squad, "It is all just part of the job."



PFC Marc Douthitt said "This is what we have been wanting to do (teaching IPs) since we have arrived."



LEFT: Another layout...Soldiers conducting a complete sensitive item layout. RIGHT: Soldiers from 1st squad seen outside their JSS.



LEFT: Training being conducted at Khadra police station. RIGHT: IOTV (Improved Outer Tactical Vest) being fielded. SGT Fennewald, middle, seen very excited.



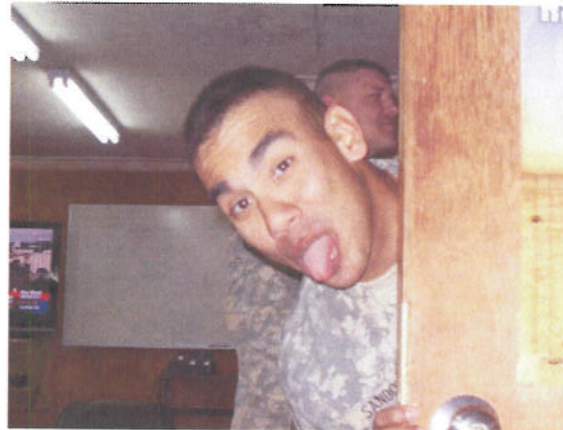


FROM THE HORSE:

A WORKHORSE report

EXECUTIVE OFFICER: ILT WILLIAMSON
PLATOON SERGEANT: SSG JOHNSON

This has been a very busy month for the HQ Platoon the Soldiers are still busy as ever and doing an outstanding job. The maintenance/PLL section are taking time out of their busy daily schedule to ensure that the fellow gunfighters A/C is in proper working condition before the summer months and as always, they were ahead of the game. Supply is ensuring that the gunfighters are getting the most up to date equipment to serve Soldiers needs outside the wire. DFAC section is always on the go assisting the line platoons with the pick up and drop Iraqi Police to training. Arms room section is still making sure weapons are always mission ready. Members of the communications section are back filling for the squads and have been actively involved in the upgrade of enhancement systems. Even the PAC section is extremely busy processing over 155 awards. With all of this plus what they do on a regular basis these group of NCOs' and Soldiers have supported the gunfighters and battalion non-stop. The "Workhorse" has a new symbol thanks to SPC Anton.



LEFT...CPT Sandoval seen having a good time in the company office.



LEFT... HQ seen receiving the Commander's Cup for their win in the Volleyball tournament.



LEFT...1SG Flom, left, and CSM Palmer - 716th MP BN CSM - seen just before a company formation.

LEFT...PFC Johnson seen about to receive a Certificate of Achievement for her win in last months Solider of the Month board.

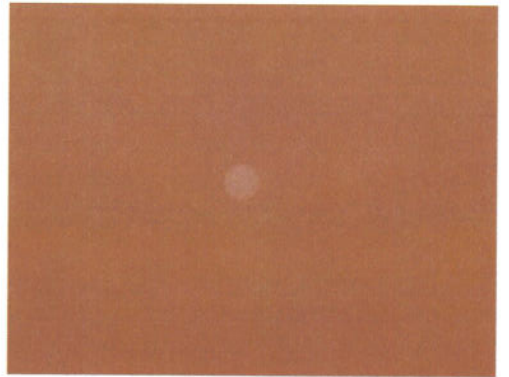
the SOLDIERS corner



LEFT: LTC Johnson, 716 MP BN CDR, CPT Sandoval, and SSG Adams discuss the IP training at the South Ghazalia IP station. **RIGHT:** PFC Jauhal takes a moment in his turret after a joint patrol.



LEFT: Soldiers from 3rd platoon conduct training of their IP counterparts at a JSS. **RIGHT:** The Iraqi Sun in the middle of a "sandy" afternoon.



\$250,000.00

Amount Soldiers have re-enlisted for in the 401st during OIF 07-09



UP LEFT: CPT Sandoval hands SSG Polette his re-enlistment certificate. **LEFT:** 1LT Martinez gives SGT Parker the Oath of Enlistment. **RIGHT:** SSG Polette, SGT Fontaney, and SPC Hamelin swear in at their re-enlistment.



CONGRATULATIONS GUNFIGHTERS

FEBRUARY PROMOTIONS:

TO Sergeant:

CPL Hastings

TO Corporal:

SPC Pagan

TO Specialist:

PFC Owens

PFC Anton

PFC Green

HERO OF THE MONTH:

SUSTAINER OF THE MONTH:

SPC Bradley Phangsang

SOLDIER of THE MONTH:

PFC Brandon Reddell

NCO of THE MONTH:

SGT Paul Adams



SPC Green and Family at his promotion on 01 April 2008.

1SG...continued from 2

are slowly winding down is with our leave program. This past month, we sent our last Soldiers on leave. This has given everyone the chance to unwind a little and look forward to the homestretch. We are now sending Soldiers to Qatar, which provides them with an opportunity to enjoy a little R and R, especially for those that went on leave early in the deployment. While there, they are able to enjoy numerous activities from fishing to swimming and shopping to just sleeping if they so choose. All the Soldiers that have been on this trip have had nothing but positive things to say about it and only regret that they could not spend more time there. Unfortunately, due to allocations and time left here, we won't be able to get everyone there, but we will send as many as possible.

During this past month, I was reminded that I had been a little absent minded. Of all the Soldiers doing great things that I have highlighted in the past I have been remiss in mentioning our medics. So, let me tell you about what I consider a Soldier's best friend. While there job has an importance that is unmatched, I must say that I am very happy when they do not have to perform their duties. At times they are low key and in the background, but when you need them, the Gunfighter medics are there. Not only do they perform duties which support our Soldiers such as conducting sick call for routine ailments, they are out everyday with the PTT Squads, providing that combat multiplier so essential to the success of the mission. When they are not treating our Soldiers, they are at the IP stations, providing medical treatment to the IPs,

detainees, and any other locals that may find their way to the station. They truly are our lifesavers.

Before I close, there are a few congratulations in order for some significant achievements. First, to SGT Purser and SPC Scott-Lee for sweeping the 716th MP BN Soldier and NCO of the Quarter Board. Second, I want to congratulate SSG Johnson and SSG Kriska for being selected for promotion to Sergeant First Class. All well deserving, and just goes to show what stellar Soldiers are in the unit.

I have enjoyed corresponding with numerous families over the past month, and remind you that you are always welcome to contact me at brian.flom@us.army.mil.

Until next month.....this is Gunfighter 7 standing by.

Respectfully Yours,

1SG Brian A. Flom

Gunfighter 7

CDR...continued from 2

We continue to work diligently each day especially considering we can see a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel now that we're nearing the 120-day mark until we're home!! And next month we have our organizational day to look forward to where we can all kick back, relax, and not worry about our everyday jobs. It will be an awesome opportunity for the company to play a few sports, play some card games, maybe even a few video games, and just enjoy each other's company with no worries about what is going on operationally for one day.

Thank you again to each and every one of you who supports us; the deployment, while long, is bearable because of the support you provide us while we're away from home and absolutely does not go unnoticed. You are absolutely phenomenal!!

Gunfighter 6 - CPT Rudy Sandoval

Kid's Corral

Make Your Own US Flag

What you need:

- Red construction paper
- White construction paper
- Blue construction paper
- Star stickers
- Glue
- Child safety scissors or regular scissors depending on the age of the child



What you do:

Cut out strips of red paper and a blue square (for younger children an adult can help with the cutting). Give the child a piece of white construction paper and star stickers. The child can then begin to glue the red strips on the paper then the blue square and finally have them put the stars on the blue square.

When you have completed the flag you can glue the edge of the flag to a dowel and the child can use this to march around the house singing such songs as: "Yankee Doodle Dandy" or "The Star Spangled Banner".

APRIL 2008

401st Military Police Company

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4 Funny First Fridays	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 Salute to Our Troops	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 FRG Meeting
20	21	22	23	24	25 Retreat	26 MOMC Fest
27	28	29	30			

04/04- Funny First Fridays with Hope Flood & Friends, 8.30pm @ Patton's inn, BLDG 9212 Old Ironside road @ 20th & 21st Street. For more info call 254-287-6116

04/11- Salute to our Troops, at Hood Stadium, 12.30pm-midnight, Offering free carnival rides, family activities, free food and drinks and live entertainment

04/19- FRG Meeting, 12pm, Place still to be confirmed

04/25-26 - Deployed Spouses Retreat, Clarion Inn, Waco, TX

04/26- Month of the Military Child Festival, 10am-3.30pm

Scarborough Faire - runs April - May, Waxahachie, TX (Renaissance Festival)

Rear Detachment Commander—Round Up

MSG Arceneaux

Information on LES change regarding your Soldier's pay:

SAVE PAY vs. HARDSHIP DUTY PAY-LOCATION

1. Prior to 3 March 2008, all Active Duty Soldiers entitled to Hardship Duty Pay-Location (HDP-L) were paid this entitlement and it was reflected on the Soldiers' LES as "Save Pay". For the first two days of March 2008, this entitlement was paid under the title of "Save Pay."

2. Starting 3 March 2008, HDP-L will be shown on the LES as HDP-Location. All March Active Duty LES' will show two entries; one for Save Pay and one for HDP-L. All subsequent LES' will show only one entry, HDP-Location.

3. As shown in the example below, the Save Pay entry shows 2 days of

"HDP-L" pay and the HDP-L entry shows 28 days of "HDP-L" pay (assumes Soldier draws \$100 / month HDP-L).

Bottom line from 1SG Flom; your Soldier is receiving the same amount of pay it is just under a different name.

Now that the important stuff is out of the way; here are some more things going on in the FRG.

The next meeting is 19 April 2008; we hope to do a fun activity and get away from the formal meetings of the past two months. If you have a great idea contact Amanda Arceneaux, 254-699-3193 or aarceneaux_76@yahoo.com.

The next Deployed Spouses Retreat is scheduled for 25-26 April in Waco, TX. For more information contact Amanda and get signed up. The word on the street is that these Retreats

have been great.

We also continue to plan for the unit's return. We need your help in all areas. Contact the FRG to see what is going on and how you might be able to help here or abroad.

Don't forget to register for the website @ www.armyfrg.org.

FRG Fund

"Dollars and Cents"

- Beginning - \$1698.53
- Expenses - \$0
- Income—\$110.76
- Current - \$1809.29
- Budget Items - None scheduled

Cathy Keene

Treasurer

Homecoming after deployment: Tips for reunion

By: Lorena Valles, LCSW

Social Work Services, WBAMC

Recently, I wrote about the changes and expectations related to Homecoming After A Deployment. The following article deals with "Tips for the Reunion," which when understood can possibly ease the transition of coming back from the theater to life in the U.S.A. Therefore, it is necessary to focus on when the service member returns from a deployment. Of course as we all know that the person often most needing this service isn't sometimes the one most likely to seek it. My advice is that if people don't want a service one can't force them, however the people around that person can seek the service. So seek help from a professional who can help you cope with this deployment. Also, research and gather as much information as you possibly can, because when a person is more informed, they are better able to understand what is going on and get the help they need.

Deployments and demobilizations are occurring at an alarming rate due to returns from Iraq. However many other service members are also serving time in other parts of the world, such as Korea, Haiti and other areas where military supervision is needed. So it is a well-known fact that many service members are reintegrating into their homes, work and that these reunions, although much anticipated, often create a lot of stress.

The following is cited from the US Department of the Army, and was prepared to help service members, significant others and their children become aware of how to handle these reunions after a deployment. As has been stated in past articles, reunions after a deployment cause a significant amount of stress both for the service member and family or significant others and children. Oftentimes, there is so much anticipation about this reunion, that one forgets how hard it is to jump back into the life that was left behind.

Therefore, the following are TIPS FOR REUNION, review these carefully and when in doubt, pose your questions to a chaplain, superior, or to the Social Work/Care Manager Deployment Program, to help with the readjustment issues that are common after a deployment. ...

Continued on Page 12

Homecoming after deployment: Tips for reunion

By: Lorena Valles, LCSW

Social Work Services, WBAMC

TIPS FOR SOLDIERS:

- Support good things your family has done.
- Take time to talk with your spouse and children.
- Make individual time for each child and your spouse.
- Go slowly when reestablishing your place in the family.
- Be prepared to make some adjustments.
- Romantic conversation can lead to more enjoyable sex.
- Make your savings last longer.
- Take time to listen and to talk with loved ones.
- Go easy on partying.

TIPS FOR SPOUSES OR SIGNIFICANT OTHERS FOR REUNION:

- Avoid scheduling too many things.
- Go easily in making adjustments.
- You and your soldier may need time for yourself.
- Remind soldier he or she is still needed in the family.
- Discuss splitting up the family chores.
- Stick to your budget until you've had time to talk it through.
- Along with time for the family make individual time to talk.
- Be patient with yourself and your partner.

TIPS FOR REUNION WITH CHILDREN:

- Go slowly. Adapt to the rules and routines already in place.
- Let the child set the pace for getting to know you again.
- Learn from how your spouse managed the children.
- Be available to your child, both with time and with your emotions.
- Delay making changes in rules and routines for a few weeks.
- Expect that the family will not be the same as before you left; everyone has changed.
- Focus on successes with your children; limit your criticisms.
- Encourage children to tell you about what happened during the separation.
- Make individual time for each child and your spouse.

These tips are here to help with transitions and to help understand that the reunion process is not always easy and it is more likely for some tensions to occur, than for everything to go smoothly. Remember, everyone is anxiously anticipating the reunion, but at times the reunion can be awkward. This is not unusual. The less we view this as a problem and instead understand that it is part of the transitional process the fewer stigmas it will have. Adjustments take time and patience.