



53RD Troop Scoop

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442ND MP'S PREP FOR OIF



Soldiers assigned to the NYARNG 442nd Military Police Company perform warrior tasks during the units Annual Training at Fort Drum, NY. The unit is preparing for an upcoming deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Fort Drum, N.Y. -- It's early afternoon in this Iraqi village and the 442 Military Police Company just started their dismounted patrol, when out of nowhere they receive indirect fire and the ground rattles beneath them.

The Soldiers run to find cover as their team leaders try to find accountability of each member on their team to make sure no one is hurt.

Fortunately, this is only a training exercise and the Soldiers are not under attack. They are at Fort Drum, N.Y.,

learning about Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) and what to do should they be out on a patrol, in harms way.

"Soldiers need to know what is going on, especially when the bullets start flying, they need to know where to be and what to do," stated Cpl Colin Stewart, Observer, Controller and Trainer (OCT), 1st 69th Infantry, the Fighting 69th. "We are here teaching them basic skills, giving them an idea of what they have to do, should something

happen while out on patrol."

This challenging two hour scenario started out with the squads reacting to indirect fire and what they have to do to stay alive and focused. Right after that they ran into an obstacle and what needed to be done to maneuver through it while being fired on and having a mortar explode.

"We are learning how to react to certain situations, like being fired upon," said Spc. Brittany A. Boyd, 442 MP Co. "We are getting

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CG'S CORNER



Fellow Soldiers,

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the 53rd Troop Command 'Troop Scoop'. Through this quarterly newsletter I will share with you news from throughout the Troop Command's various and diverse units – from training, deployments, missions, and more.

In this edition, you will learn about the 827 Engineer Company that has recently deployed to their mobilization station before leaving for Iraq. You will also hear about the 53rd Army Liaison Team that has recently returned from their deployment in Iraq. Other units are training and preparing for missions constantly. Additionally, I will use this forum to discuss with you issues that are important to the Troop Command, from safety to retention and more.

I would be remiss if I didn't say thank you all for your continued hard work as we continually train and prepare for potential deployments, whether they be in support of our state or abroad. As I travel across the state to visit with you and meet with your units, I am always amazed at your resilience, determination, and hard work. Thank you for all that you do.

Brig. Gen. Mike Swezey
53rd Troop Command
"For the Soldier"

CSM'S CORNER

We are an Army in transition, and our NCOES program is part of that transition. There are some significant changes coming in NCOES which every Soldier, enlisted and officer must be aware of:

Warrior Leader Course: Formerly known as PLDC (Primary Leadership Development Course), WLC (Warrior Leader Course) is the first school in the NCO Education System. Completion of this course is a requirement for promotion to the rank of SSG. However, we need to do everything to encourage our new leaders to attend this course as soon in their career as possible.

Advanced Leader Course: BNCOC (Basic Non-Commissioned Officers Course has changed it's name to the Advanced Leader Course (ALC). ALC is typically attended by NCOs in the ranks of Sergeant and Staff Sergeant. Completion of this course is a requirement for promotion to the rank of SFC. Again, as with all NCOES, we need to encourage our leaders to attend this course as soon in their career as possible, many time our promotion lists are limited due to Soldiers not having completed BNCOC (ALC).

Senior Leader Course: Senior Leader Course (SLC) is the new name of the Advanced Non-Commissioned Officers Course (ANCOC) and is generally attended by NCOs in the ranks of Staff Sergeant and Sergeant First Class. Completion of this course is a requirement for promotion to the rank of 1SGMSG. We have had some instances recently where Soldiers have been erroneously promoted to 1SGMSG without completing ANCOC (SLC). No SFC should have accepted a promotion without first completing this course. Unfortunately the solution to this issue is to reduce the Soldier, have them attend NCOES, and they would then be eligible for promotion to 1SGMSG.

First Sergeant Course: First Sergeant Course is for the NCOs who will be promoted to the rank of First Sergeant. The 1SG course is probably one of the best courses I have attended. This course truly provides the technical skills required to be a successful 1SG.

Sergeant Majors Course: The U.S. Army Sergeants Major Course is the top course in the NCOES. USASMA is attended by NCOs in the ranks of Master Sergeant through Sergeant Major. The SGM Course is the pinnacle of our NCOES system. There is a basic rule to this course. While you can make SGMCSM without completion (you need to only be enrolled) if you do not complete this course you will be reduced to MSG and cannot be considered for promotion again.

This is a brief overview of our NCOES system and the upcoming changes. My guidance is that all Soldiers know where they stand in their education system, and their requirements. All leaders must understand our NCOES system and where their Soldiers fall.

As always, if you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

CSM Frank Wicks
"For The Soldier"
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442 MP'S PREP FOR OIF (CONT.)

hands on training and it almost felt real life.”

After getting through the obstacle, the next part of the scenario was when the squad came under attack from two machine gun nests and the Soldiers had to break contact.

According to Stewart the main thing he is looking for as an OCT is communication between the squad leaders and team leaders and the team leaders to the team members.

“Communication is the key, without it we really don't have anything,” stated Lt. Robert Thorne, executive officer, 442 MP Co. “Communication is being stressed here, and how important communication is, each team must talk to each other to make sure the correct information is given up and down the chain.”

From that scenario they moved into a small urban area where they were hit by sniper fire. The Soldiers had to pull 360-degree security and tend to a wounded team member, while at the same time call in to higher headquarters to have that wounded Soldiers evacuated for medical treatment.

“The MOUT training we received was challenging,” stated Staff Sgt. Brendan J. Carey, 442 MP Co. “It gave us a chance to learn how to work together as a team, and find out what each of us is capable of, and to get us ready for mobilization.”

According to Sgt. Terrence J. McGhee, OCT with the “Fighting 69th,” MOUT is very important because the modern day battlefield revolves around urban



Soldiers of the 442nd MP Co. prepare for their upcoming deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Soldiers of the 442nd MP's conduct warrior task training at Fort Drum while preparing for an upcoming deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

terrain, and it is necessary for our Soldiers to succeed in the modern day battlefield.

“As a light wheel vehicle mechanic I don't get the opportunity to do this type of training everyday,” stated Sgt. Sheila P. Robinson, 442 MP Co. and Iraqi veteran 2003-04. “The training that we are learning today is very important especially when we get to Iraq so we all get home safe, no matter what job we have while deployed.”

Lt. Tara Dawe, commander, 442 MP Co. added that this is just part one of their pre-mobilization training for Iraq, which will be at some time in the future.

At this time in their training each Soldier is at the crawl, walk stage, and before they leave for Iraq they will be at the run stage. After completing all ten stages of this scenario, each Soldier will have a better understanding of what each other is capable of and how to react should they be fired on.

“I have never experienced a unit that once they found out they were activated for mobilization was highly motivated to do the right thing for their country,” stated Dawe. “I have one of the most highly motivated and best comradely units in the National Guard and I am proud to be their commander and serve with them.”

827TH ENGINEER COMPANY DEPARTS FOR OEF

HORSEHEADS, NY (02/22/2010) (readMedia)-- More than 800 friends, family and well-wishers joined 180 Soldiers of the New York Army National Guard's 827th Engineer Company at the Wings of Eagle's Discovery Center to say farewell as the unit departed for active duty in .

The unit, which includes Soldiers from the Buffalo-based 152nd Engineer Support Company, has been preparing for its ten-month mission in Afghanistan since 2008.

"A little over 18 months ago your lives changed drastically when the unit found out it was going to war," said Capt. Jeffery Miles, the company commander. "It feels so surreal. Many Soldiers put their lives on hold, like the big trip you have to put on hold for another year. These are the unseen sacrifices Soldiers make."

The deployment ceremony, hosted by the American Red Cross, gave the Soldiers and their families' one more chance to be together and be recognized for their sacrifices. Additional mobilization ceremonies



HORSEHEADS, NY --Soldiers and family members gather for last minute photos before the unit leaves for a one year deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

were held Thursday, Feb. 18 in Buffalo and in Walton for additional elements of the company.

Brig. General Michael Swezey, commander of the 53rd Troop Command, assured the Soldiers and their families that the New York National Guard would look after families at home as the Soldiers perform their duties in

Afghanistan.

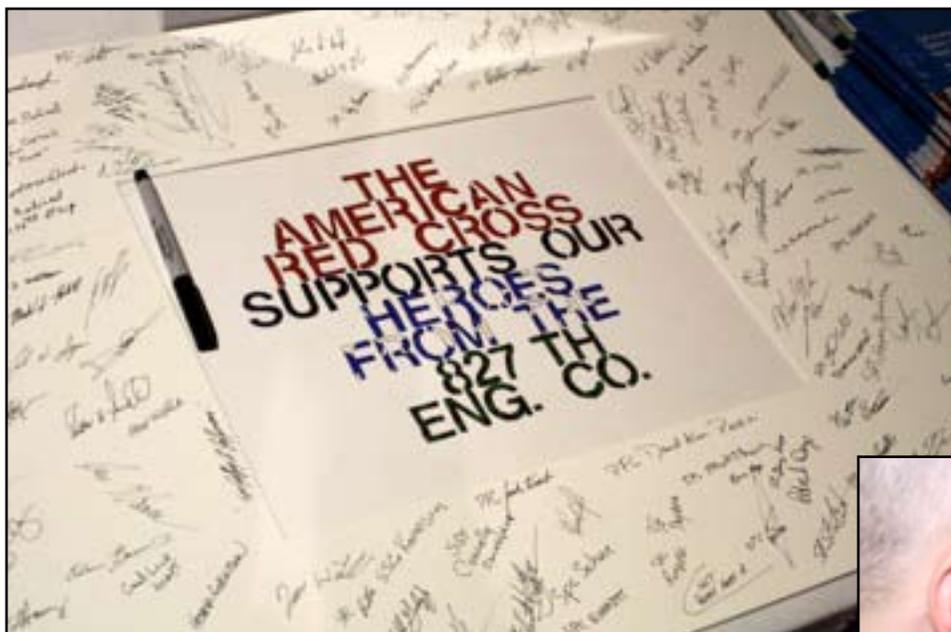
"The message I came with today is, we've got your back," Swezey said.

"We'll be standing by taking care of your families," he added.

Following the ceremony the Soldiers boarded a charter plane heading for Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, where they will complete approximately 30 days of additional training before continuing on to Afghanistan.

While serving in Afghanistan the 827th will build and upgrade roads.

When supporting communities within New York State, the engineer unit is often called upon to assist with snow removal and flood support such as their recent flooding in Delaware and Sullivan counties in June of 2007.



HORSEHEADS, NY --(Above) Signatures of some of the more than 800 family and friends of Soldiers of the 827th Engineer Company during their deployment separation ceremony held February 21, 2010. (Right) Capt. Jeffery Miles, 827th Eng. Commander, watches as his Soldiers load buses at the Eagles of Discovery Center, Horseheads, NY.



369TH OFFICER TEACHES IN THE BALKANS

CAMP BONDSTEEL, KOSOVO (01/11/2010) (readMedia)-- New York Army National Guard Captain Elizabeth Ramsey is a logistics officer in the 369th Sustainment Brigade, a Public Defender in New Jersey, and now a college professor.

Ramsey, a Manhattan resident who volunteered to deploy here as Trial Defense Service Attorney for Multi-National Task Force East, is teaching a class in Fundamentals of Criminal Law through Central Texas College which is offered at the Laura Bush Education Center. Next semester she'll teach Court Systems and Practice and Legal Aspects of the Law.

"My ultimate career goal is to become a law professor so when Central Texas College and the University of Maryland needed adjunct instructors I quickly put my application in to get experience," Ramsey explained by e-mail.

"I was a teaching assistant in law school, but that is the extent of my teaching experience," she said.

University of Maryland College-Europe and Central Texas College (CTC) are the two institutions from which Soldiers can take classes during their off time here. Other colleges and universities also are available through on-line distance-learning courses.

The structure and stability of the NATO peace-support mission in Kosovo makes getting an education while deployed a hard option to pass up for U.S. Soldiers stationed here.

At last count, about 400 uniformed men and women in Multi-National Task Force-East were filling classrooms after hours and on weekends, taking full advantage of college-credit opportunities for personal and professional growth.

The Laura Bush Education Center on Camp Bondsteel has provided thousands of Soldiers with these services since its start in 2000.

Ramsey recently put her class of a dozen students to work using their acquired knowledge in a mock court trial on Camp Bondsteel.

"This trial was a good exercise where they showed themselves what they learned in the class, and also to have some fun while getting to know each other better," Ramsey said.

Throughout the course, students participate in more than one trial as members of either the defense or prosecution. The juries are made up of volunteer Soldiers from throughout Camp Bondsteel.

"The students were given a scenario and a list of 10



CAMPBONDSTEEL, Kosovo-- NYARNG Capt. Elizabeth Ramsey, of NYC, leads a discussion during a Criminal Justice class held here January 9, 2010

witnesses who they had to interview," Ramsey said.

The students were told that an alleged assault with a deadly weapon occurred, but that the defendant may raise the defense of self-defense at trial.

The prosecutors for the first trial were Spc. James V. Mann, Menifee, Calif., 1-144th Maneuver Task Force, and Master Sgt. Louis Suchon, Mosinee, Wis., Task Force Falcon Medical.

"I am previous law enforcement, so it is interesting to see how it works in the court after we arrest someone," Mann said. "I think I put what I learned in class to good use. Captain Ramsey is a great teacher and we learned a lot from her."

Ramsey, whose year-long deployment will end in August, said she's honored to be teaching the Soldiers who take her classes.

"These Soldiers have to balance military duties, staying in touch with family back home, and everyday responsibilities with numerous college courses while deployed," she said.

"I believe it is important not only to encourage them to continue their education, but also important to provide the means for which they can achieve their future career goals," she added.

Getting Soldiers to think about their civilian or military career goals is an important service that the education center offers, said Laura L. Greenfield, of Starkville, Miss., the Camp Bondsteel education service officer

"Once they establish a goal, I explain what the two colleges we have here can provide the Soldier," she said.

Greenfield has worked in the education field for the

FRG MID-TOUR EVENT A BIG HIT WITH FAMILIES



Family Support Volunteers from the NYARNG Family Readiness Program gather for a Mid-Tour FRG Event sponsored by the 206th Military Police Company currently deployed.

LATHAM, N.Y.-- The 206th Military Police Company, and the 1108th Ordnance Company (EOD) held a mid-deployment Family Readiness Group (FRG) meeting on Feb 20, 2010 at the Division of Military and Naval Affairs designed to begin the preparations for returning Soldiers coming home from deployment.

The meeting called “Project Yellow Ribbon,” provides redeploying Soldiers and families a robust support network of information and services available from county, state, federal and private outreach organizations upon their return home.

“I am here for the family readiness mid-deployment briefing designed to support and educate families on anything that is currently happening, and to be sure that we are supported with an awareness of the different programs that are available to us if we need any support,” stated Theresa Martel, wife of 1st Sgt. Joseph A. Martel, 206th MP Co., currently in Basra, Iraq.

The Yellow Ribbon reintegration program was established under the 2008 National Defense Act.

The program is designed to prepare service members and their families for deployment, and service members through deployment and help them reintegrate back into their civilian

communities when they return.

Gordon Lattey, FRG, and lead volunteer for the 206th MP Co., said that today’s yellow ribbon program marks the midpoint of the deployment, so now the families know that they are on the downhill side, and their Soldiers will be coming home soon.

“A lot of things come into play and we want the families to be aware that once their Soldier comes back, there will be changes in the amount of benefits they receive,” Lattey stated. “Also, we want them to be ready for a different

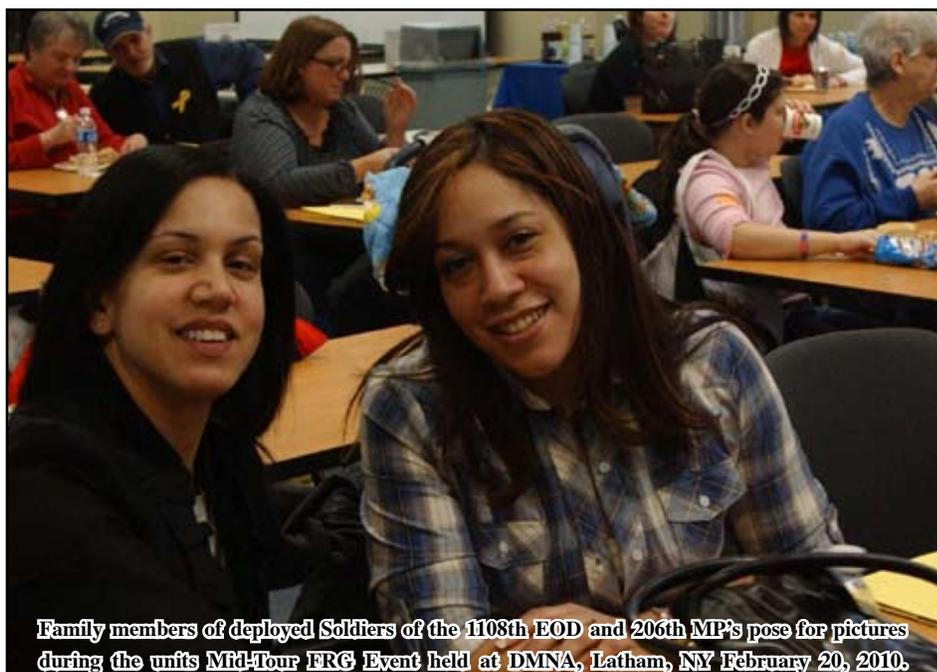
person coming home, the person that left last August has changed, and it’s important for the families to hear that and recognize that, so they will adjust their thinking as well.”

The commander of the 206th MP Co., Capt. Kevin B. Manion added that the yellow ribbon program encompasses the entire deployment, from pre-mobilization, where the State Family Readiness Group was able to bring in groups that can assist families with mobilization.

“If my Soldiers know that their families are provided for when they are deployed, and they are in positive spirits and their problems are solved, they can focus more on their mission, which puts them at ease, more focused therefore much safer,” said Manion. “Today is a mid-tour meeting, kind of face-to-face meet, and to start the preparations for the reunion in a few months with their Soldier.”

The 206th MP CO., is scheduled to return home to their families in the near future and the next step in the yellow ribbon program requires Soldiers to be present for paid assembles at 30 and 60 days after their return from a combat zone, and invite families

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Family members of deployed Soldiers of the 1108th EOD and 206th MP's pose for pictures during the units Mid-Tour FRG Event held at DMNA, Latham, NY February 20, 2010.

1108TH EOD LEAVES FOR FORT LEWIS/ OIF



1st Lt. Jeffrey Fiorito, Commander, 1108th EOD Company, shows his niece and nephew how to operate one of EOD's robots during the units OIF/OEF deployment ceremony held Dec. 8, 2009.

GLENVILLE, NY— “We are honored to be in your company,” said Maj. Robert Mitchell, commander, 501st Ordnance Battalion (EOD), to Soldiers assigned to the New York Army National Guard’s 1108th Ordnance Company (EOD) during a departure ceremony held in their honor at the Glenville Armed Forces Reserve Center, Glenville, NY, December 8, 2009.

“It’s a chance to do the job we were trained to do,” said 1st Lt. Jeffrey Fiorito, commander, 1108th EOD

Company. “We were trained in the full spectrum of operations,” Fiorito added.

Over the past year, 1108th Soldiers trained on basic Soldier skills and EOD operations, including clearing ranges of explosive hazards, rendering unexploded ordnance safe and handling improvised explosive devices.

The company also completed the Global Anti-terrorism Operational Readiness Course, as well as several FBI and ATF courses providing the

Soldiers with current trends in the theaters of operation they will be supporting.

“Our training has definitely prepared us for this deployment,” Fiorito said.

The 1108th has trained for about a year for the deployment in tasks ranging from EOD to Chemical operations, he added.

The 1108th EOD Company was organized in September 2005 from Soldiers of the inactivating 1st Battalion 105th Infantry Regiment, New York Army National Guard, formerly stationed at the New York State Armory in Schenectady.

Since its inception, the 1108th has supported real world operations such as the opening of the United Nations General Assembly in New York City.

The 1108th will spend approximately one month at Fort Lewis, Washington, for further training and validation before their scheduled departure to Kuwait for the units first deployment in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom in January 2010.



Brig. Gen. Mike Swezey, Commander, 53rd Troop Command, NYARNG, addresses 1108th Soldiers before the beginning of the units deployment ceremony held December 8, 2009, at the Glenville Armed Forces Reserve Center Glenville, NY.

ENLISTED SOLDIER TURNED OFFICER NOW COMMANDS



BAGHDAD, Iraq-- Specialist Tara Dawe takes a break while deployed with the 442nd MP Company in Iraq in 2003. She is now Captain Dawe and commander of the military Police Company. (Photo by Capt. Tara Dawe)

NEW YORK, NY-- The last time she was in Iraq, Tara Dawe was Spec. Dawe in the New York Army National Guard's 442nd Military Police Company.

When she returns later this year, as the 442nd deploys for a second time, she'll be Captain Dawe, the company's commander.

It's just one more stop in a career that includes service in two state National Guards, the Air Force Reserve, a deployment to Bosnia and a full-time civilian career as a New York City beat cop and now detective.

"I have outstanding company commanders assigned in my battalion, but she is the best," said Maj. David Gagnon, commander of the 104th Military Police Battalion.

"It's her dedication and experience she just gets the job done," he said.

Coming back to her old unit as an officer, and now commanding it, has been challenging, Dawe said.

"I will admit it was a difficult transition," she explained. "For so long I followed the direction of my senior NCO's and now I am

the one who they are looking at for direction."

"Once I got comfortable in my position then it became easy. I felt I knew many of the strengths of the Soldiers and it helped me plan and delegate better," she said.

"All I want from my Soldiers is their faith that I am a good leader and for them to know that I am putting everything I have into making this unit the best unit possible and that we will be ready to deploy," Dawe said.

"I do my best to know as much as possible about each Soldier, to know their civilian jobs, their goals, if they are in school and have children. All these things add to the stress of being deployed," she said.

The daughter of a retired New York City Police Officer, Dawe joined the Florida Guard at age 17 because she was "intrigued" by the Guard's domestic disaster role.

"Growing up we saw how the Guard was used in many ways especially for hurricanes," she said.

"I just think seeking responsibility comes with citizenship."

After serving three years in the Florida Guard, she returned to New York to follow her dad into the NYPD and also joined New York Army National Guard as a military policeman

In 1999, Dawe volunteered to fill a vacancy in the 105th MP Company when it deployed to Bosnia on a peacekeeping mission. For seven months she was a humvee gunner doing presence patrols.

After returning home she enlisted in the Air Force Reserve to try new things, but then returned to the New York Army National Guard to enter Officer Candidate School, while assigned to the 442nd.

At the same time she went from being a beat cop in the 63rd Precinct to becoming a detective in the NYPD Warrant Squad, assigned to track down fugitives.

In February 2003, the 442nd MP Company was mobilized for service in Iraq and Dawe decided she wanted to deploy with the Soldiers who had become her friends and teammates instead of going to OCS.

So in April 2003, Specialist Tara Dawe was in Baghdad, where she would spend the next year.

The 442nd worked with the Marines, opened the first Iraqi police academy, trained four classes of police recruits at academies in Karbala and Najaf, and earned a Presidential Unit Citation before returning to the United States in April 2004.

Morale was "pretty high" despite poor living conditions and the frustrations of training raw Iraqi police recruits, Dawe recalled.

"One of the things we noticed from the start was the difference shown towards us as a National Guard unit versus active duty," said

53RD ALT SOLDIERS RETURN FROM OIF

LATHAM, NY -- Approximately 20 Soldiers assigned to the 53rd Army Liaison Team (ALT) arrived at armories in Manhattan and Latham, NY on January 30, 2010, after serving a year in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 53rd ALT's main mission is designed around helping different unit headquarters to better understand the missions and intentions of other forces the United States Army works with.

While in Iraq, the 53rd ALT Soldiers performed a variety of missions.

Some Soldiers were part of the personal security detail for the commander of U.S. Forces in Iraq, others augmented the staffs of the Combined Joint Operations Center, and the Strategic Operations Center in Baghdad while other officers worked with the Iraqi Ministry of Defense, the United States Embassy in Iraq, the Iraqi Prime Ministers National Operations Center, and the Iraqi Ministry of State.

"I was assigned to Personnel Recovery Team that brought back Capt. Scott Speicher," Capt. Amy Wood, 53rd ALT.

"It was quite an honor to help in the recovery of Capt. Speicher and to help bring a sense of closure to his family after so many years," added Wood.

Maj. James Gonyo II, 53rd ALT, spent his year in a different role.

"My portfolio included being the lead action officer for Iraqi Border Security," said Gonyo. "My other major tasks included providing support to planning for a responsible drawdown of U.S. Forces as well as support for a revision to the Joint Campaign Plan."

"Working at the strategic level with senior leaders

ENLISTED SOLDIER TURNED OFFICER NOW COMMANDS (CONT.)

Dawe. "Before long the other units started coming to us because we had so many civilian police officers, construction workers, plumbers and numerous other skilled people that we tapped to get us through the rough moments."

Two weeks after outprocessing at Fort Dix, and starting back to work with the Warrant Squad, Dawe was attending OCS. By October 2005 she was the class Distinguished Honor Graduate and enrolled in her Officer Basic Course.

Her status as Honor Graduate allowed her to pick her assignment after finishing Officer Basic in February 2006 and she picked the 442nd MP Company. She served as platoon leader and XO before becoming commander in the summer of 2008.

Now, with the 442nd tapped to head to Iraq in the



53rd ALT Soldiers return to DMNA after a successful year long deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

at a four star headquarters in a combat theater was a once in a lifetime opportunity," added Gonyo.

The 53rd Army Liaison Team is a small unit that has one of the most storied lineages in the National Guard.

In fact, one of the unit's ancestors, the 2nd Battalion 2nd Regiment of Artillery gave the name National Guard to what was once known as the militia.

While gathered to welcome the Marquis de Lafayette, the French hero of the American Revolution, the unit decided to change its name to the American version of a citizens militia that Lafayette had commanded during the French Revolution known as the "Gard Nationale de Paris".

The American Version, "National Guard," stuck and by the end of the 19th Century most militia units were calling themselves the National Guard.

spring of 2010, Dawe is putting her experience to work preparing her company for a combat deployment.

About 45 percent of the Soldiers are fresh out of basic training, 25 percent have been deployed, 20 percent are college students, and a third are civilian cops, Dawe said. She has faith in them and in her leadership team from the first sergeant on down.

"I have known some of these soldiers for more than ten years and even the new ones have a lot of spirit," she said.

"I have taken phone calls from some of the new members who are still at school becoming MPs. They don't want to miss the deployment," she said.

"This is a great team and I know we are going to do a terrific job," Dawe said.

369TH OFFICER TEACHES IN THE BALKANS (CONT.)

past five years, the last six months at the center here.

The classes are scheduled during evenings and weekends to accommodate Soldiers and not interfere with their duty day.

“I just think it is amazing to see all five of our classes full on a Friday night,” Greenfield said.

Command Sgt. Maj. Jack W. Cripe, Dickinson, N.D., command sergeant major of MNTF-E, said he was pleased so many MNTF-E Soldiers are pursuing an education while deployed.

“I challenge the Soldiers of MNTF-E to use their time wisely and to make a commitment to themselves and to return from this deployment better educated, civilian-wise and military-wise, than when they deployed,” he said.

“Do not re-deploy back home regretting that you did not take advantage of the opportunities that you had available,” Cripe added.

Throughout the next seven months, several more classes will be offered at the education center, ensuring that any Soldier who enrolls will not have any educational regrets.

“The center has a lot to offer,” Greenfield said. “Soldiers can request certain classes. If enough requests are made, and a qualified teacher is available, that class will be added.”

Multi-National Task Force - East is a U.S. led task force commanded by Brig. Gen. Al Dohrmann. This task force is comprised of nearly 2,200 Soldiers, including Task Force Hellas and Task Force POL/UKR (Polish/Ukraine). The charter mission of MNTF-E is maintaining a Safe and Secure Environment and providing Freedom of Movement for the people in Kosovo.



FRG Volunteers interact with children of deployed Soldiers while parents attend briefings during a Mid-Tour FRG Event held at DMNA February 20, 2010.

FRG MID-TOUR EVENT A BIG HIT WITH FAMILIES (CONT.)

a non-threatening, non-military environment, to provide Soldiers and families a chance to share experiences and talk with each other about their experiences.

The New York Army National Guard’s goal is to integrate Soldiers, their families, and the Soldiers units back into life here in N.Y. following service in a war zone.

“The yellow ribbon program takes cares of the needs of the families here at home, and the needs of the guys and gals in Iraq,” Lattey stated. “It’s that simple.”

BRIG. GEN. MIKE SWEZEY
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