

# 228<sup>th</sup> FSB NEWSLETTER

**Name that Newsletter – Battalion S1 is having a contest to name the newsletter something more original than 228<sup>th</sup> FSB Newsletter. All entries must be provided to the S1 office no later than 20 August 2005.**



228<sup>th</sup> FSB Staff and Company Commanders

Picture by SPC Berger

## **228<sup>th</sup> FSB Is “In the House”**

**SPC Aaron Berger**

On 19 July 2005, the 228<sup>th</sup> Forward Support Battalion (FSB) assumed the transfer of authority of the former Camp Mustang on TQ, Iraq. In a ceremony commemorating this transfer, the 2<sup>nd</sup> FSB happily handed over control of operations of the newly named Camp Viking.

During an amazing sunset, southwest Asia style, the ceremony started with an invocation from Chaplain Aristides Fokas and followed with the playing of the National Anthem. Then the 2<sup>nd</sup> FSB covered their battalion guidon as the 228<sup>th</sup> FSB unveiled their guidon. It was followed by words from the outgoing and incoming battalion commanders. The 2<sup>nd</sup> FSB Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Richard Bezold, thanked his soldiers for their hard work and dedication to duty throughout their mobilization in Iraq. The soldiers from his command were

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## **Commander’s Corner**

We are here and working! Sounds simple, but the soldiers of the 228<sup>th</sup> FSB have been working hard during our transition period with the 2 FSB (2ID), and now our mission support of the 2-BCT.

Soldiers from our Battalion are working in various locations within our area of operation. Each soldier is trying to make a comfortable personal area to relax when off-duty. Off-duty time can be short due to long working hours, so it’s precious.

We have already started improving our operating sites, and we are now managing things *our* way to best support *our* Brigade.

I’ve said this before, but it must be said again; thank you for your support. The mail is a wonderful connection to home, especially with all of the specialty items and food soldiers are receiving from home. I will encourage our soldiers to continue to call and write home as often as they can.

Keep us in your prayers.

GLENN T. NISSLEY  
LTC, MS  
Commanding

## **Inside this Issue**

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mobilized from Korea. Lt Col. Bezold's first statement to the participants and the guests was, "228<sup>th</sup>...we are *so* glad to see you!" After nearly 24 months away from home, no one can blame him. The 228<sup>th</sup> FSB Battalion Commander, Lt Col. Glenn Nissley, thanked the 2<sup>nd</sup> FSB for their tremendous help and support during the transfer of authority and wished them well on their much deserved trip back to the states. He implored the soldiers of the 228<sup>th</sup> FSB to, "take seriously the challenge set before us on this deployment and to stay focused so that every soldier from this Battalion gets home safely."

The 228<sup>th</sup> FSB has taken Camp Viking by storm. Early plans for camp betterment include increasing force protection around the camp, setting up the new gym, and finishing erection of the new dining facility. All of these plans are already being executed. The mayor cell's dedication to keep the camp clean and organized, as well as making continued improvements to the area, is a clear indication that the 228<sup>th</sup> FSB takes pride in all that they do in their "house".

## **Citizen to Citizen Soldier**

CPT Jason Guerrettaz

Fathers' Day. It's a day of merriment to honor not only your father, but all men who have been a father figure in your life. It's a time, at least in my family, to gather for Sunday morning breakfast, which usually comprises of eggs (however you want 'em), sausage, bacon, ham, biscuits and gravy, and most importantly, close family ... and although its *for* Dad, its usually *prepared* by Dad ... because he does it best. Children are everywhere during these family gatherings ... smiling, giggling, cooing, and scribbling on anything and everything they can get their paws on. They live in a different conscious state now, one I find myself this day wishing I could escape to. Their simplistic excitement at the most trivial matters is an enviable place indeed. But on this day, the children are not the focus of our attention, although it is very easy to divert our focus their way.

Presents are bestowed upon the Lord of the Manor, and this year a new driver was bequeathed. This driver has special meaning for me as this particular father figure, my father-in-law, is a regular golfing partner of mine. I won't be around this, or most of next year's, golf season. I don't share my internal misery while the gift is being opened, but the reality of my departure is really starting to hit home. I get that feeling in the bottom of my throat that one feels when sadness seems to be the only sensation that makes sense. The nostalgia I experience thinking of friends and family living their lives without me around, while it sounds arrogant, is a mind-altering sensation. And what is really daunting is that this burst of feelings comes from something as simple as a Father's Day gift.

Today isn't just Father's Day. It isn't just our annual time to spend a morning and afternoon together as a family. Today the family is also gathered to bid me farewell on a journey into history and peril to the sands of Mesopotamia. I try to enjoy this last day as much as possible, but I'm torn. The grief is so encompassing that it draws me ... between a need for isolation *and* a need for conversation with these Father's Day gatherers,

## **When I Come Home**

SGT Michelle Lynn

These words have passed through the lips of every soldier within the 2/28 Brigade Combat Team. What follows are hopes, expectations, dreams, desires, prayers and longing. Upon Charlie Meds arrival into Kuwait, soldiers were met with intense heat, long days of sleep and long nights of hard work to prepare for the missions ahead. Convoys were being planned, flights were being arranged and soldiers adjusted to the daily changes that determined their next engagements.

In the last two weeks, Charlie Med has faced those challenges and daily changes which brought them here to Ar Ramadi. Soldiers of Charlie Med watched with stilled breath as a handful of their men mounted up-armored vehicles to convoy to Ar Ramadi. The rest of the group waited for flight itineraries that would take them to TQ and then to Ar Ramadi. Boarding the C-130 in full battle rattle to head up North, I observed young soldiers absorbing the burden of their responsibilities.

Finally arriving, the soldiers had a mix of released anxiety and genuine apprehension. For the past 6 months, anticipation was the driving force that prepared Charlie Med for combat readiness. Now Charlie Med has a new driving force that gives them the power to be combat effective – determination. Physician assistants, nurses, medics, specialty personnel and Headquarters personnel successfully complete the company we call Charlie Med.

Many soldiers that come through Charlie Med's treatment facility experience some form of combat stress and vulnerable emotions that he shares with his brethren. Fortunately there is always an optimistic glimpse that we knowingly all share. This glimpse is when each soldier begins a thought with "When I come home..."

## Chaplain's Message

Send Me, Lord

As our days at Camp Beuhring in Kuwait were coming to a close, many of us were beginning to receive our assignments to either go by convoy or to fly. There were mixed emotions for many because this was the first time that they would be entering hostile territory. As the serials for the convoys lined up in the staging areas, Chaplain Assistant SPC Andre Hargrave and I went from vehicle to vehicle to talk and pray with soldiers. Many were very optimistic and ready for the three day trek to Camp Taqaddum near Ramadi. A number of soldiers said, "I am finally getting to do what I came here to do." These were confident souls who have trusted their training and were more than ready for the "clock to start ticking" (so that the time to go back home would come).

Our Commander, LTC Glenn Nissley lead the convoy to its destination. When I spoke with him about his decision to convoy rather than fly, he stated that it was important to soldiers to know that leaders are willing to "lead the way." It is critical for soldiers as well as family members to be able to see meaning in the call to service. When one says, "Send me" they may be responding to something so deep that they cannot name it, but know that their gut is telling them it is what I *must* do. Saying "Send me" can be a dangerous act.

There is much about wars that are dangerous and devoid of any meaning. But many soldiers speak of the bonds with their unit members and "buddies" as something very sacred and full of meaning. When one accepts the call to service, one is not necessarily going it alone. Often there are others who go before us and beside us. We draw courage and inspiration from those around us. The 228<sup>th</sup> FSB is full of soldiers who said at sometime and someplace, "Send me." I can see it in their eyes, hear it in their voices and I witness it in their actions every day.

Chaplain Aristides Fokas



## The Infamous Camel Spider

SFC Chris Day



The camel spider stories began to spread during the 1990-91 Gulf War and have now reemerged and become even more widespread with the return of U.S. troops to Iraq. Most of the stories on the internet are untrue. These creatures are not dangerous to humans. But, dangerous or not, they are horrifying to encounter. I pity anyone who encounters one for the first time.

With the internet becoming much more widely used during this Iraq conflict, rumors are spreading like wildfire. E-mail chain letters with claims, "he/she said his or her friend—or friend of a friend—knew a soldier stationed in Iraq who had said that the camel spider could inject a sleeping soldier with anesthetic, then chew out a chunk of flesh." Webmasters with imagination and flare for the absurd take it to the extreme with claims such as, camel spiders are known to eat dogs or cats.

Most people don't know that the camel spider can also be found in southwest U.S. and Mexico. While the recent buzz is all about the Middle Eastern camel spider, its North American cousin has no shortage of tall tales. In Mexico, they're known as matevenados, which means "deer killers." The buzz seems to ebb and flow, but before its over, the camel spider will have had its full fifteen minutes and maybe just a little place in history.

### **Some common Camel Spider Myths:**

1. Camel spiders can move at speeds over 30 MPH, ... screaming while they run.
2. Camel spiders can be as large as a dinner plate.
3. Camel spiders venom is an anesthetic that numbs their prey.
4. Camel spiders can jump three feet high.

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Camel Spiders (from Page 3)

5. Camel spiders get there name because they eat the stomachs of camels.
6. Send us your myths for inclusion here...

#### THE FACTS

These claims are all false. Camel spiders (so named because, like camels, they can be found in sandy desert regions, although they aren't technically spiders) grow to be about 5 to 6 inches, but nowhere near as large as dinner plates; they can move very quickly in comparison to other arthropods (a top speed of maybe 10 MPH), but nothing close 25 MPH; they make no noise; and they capture prey without the use of either venom or anesthetic. Camel spiders rely on speed, stealth, and the (non-venomous) bite of powerful jaws to feed on small prey such as scorpions, crickets, pillbugs, lizards, and possibly mice or birds. They use only three pairs of legs in running; the frontmost pair is held aloft and used in a similar manner to the antennae of insects. Camel spiders shun the sun and generally hide during the day, coming out at night to do their hunting.

## FAMILY AFFAIR

CW2 James Fontini

Most National Guard members consider themselves to be part of a family, which indeed they are. In this time of great danger we are all part of a big family here at the 228<sup>th</sup> FSB. Let's talk about some of the "real" family members we have with us as we embark on our year long tour in Iraq.

First let's talk about the Clark's, we have two different families with us. The first Clark's are a father and his 2 sons. James Sr., James Jr., and Timothy are from Harrisburg, PA. James Sr., 48, has been in the Guard for 26 years and is a 92A working in the Support Operations section in the Headquarters. James Jr., 22, has been in the Guard for 4 ½ years and is a 92A working in the Class IX section in Bravo Company. Tim, 21, has also been in the Guard for 4 ½ years and is a 92Y working in the Bravo Company supply section. All 3 are originally from HHC 28<sup>th</sup> DISCOM in Harrisburg. James Sr. volunteered for the deployment while both of his sons were selected. The boys were notified on a Monday and their father volunteered the following Friday. Remaining at home with Mrs. Clark is 9 year old Jonathon and daughter Jennifer. The Mrs. Is taking care of Jennifer who had a baby girl on 18 May. As I sit talking to SFC Clark I wondered what went through his wife's mind when she found out both her son's and husband were deploying to Iraq, so I asked. SFC Clark's response was "she went nuts!" He stated that a month prior she had been elected president of the FRG at the DISCOM, which is a very demanding and responsible job. I'd say Mrs. Clark is working as hard as her husband and sons!

Next we have the newlywed Clark's. They are from Mansfield, PA. Dana, 20 and Jamie, 27, are both from the 728<sup>th</sup> MSB and volunteered to deploy with the 228<sup>th</sup> FSB. They have been a couple for about a year and had planned on getting married prior to the deployment. So, while at Camp Shelby, they met with the chaplain and sealed the deal. It was a very informal, but most excellent ceremony. I know because I was there. Dana has been in the Guard for 3 years, while Jamie has been in 4 years with 5 years of active duty time prior. Dana is a 42L working in the Support Operations section in the Headquarters and her hubby is a 63B in Bravo Company.

Next we have the Sister's Cruz, as I like to call them. Candice and Corryn Cruz, they are from Clifford Township, PA. They are 21 years old and attend college at Kutztown University. They have been in the Guard for 3 years now. Corryn is studying criminal justice and Candice is still undecided, but attending college none the less. They are both 63W's and part of the Artillery Repair Team in Bravo Company. I remember their first drill, here they were standing tall, all six feet of them. I still cannot tell them apart! These were the 2 quietest soldiers you've ever met. Then they survived Basic Training and 2 Annual Training's at Ft. Drum. Now they are no longer quiet, which is a good thing. The funny thing is they say twins are telepathic and after spending time around these 2, I somewhat believe this to be somewhat true. Corryn and Candice definitely have a gift that most siblings do not.

As I make my way through the motor pool, I spot one of the Fejes brothers, Randy, I believe. Again, I think what goes through the minds of the families sending 2 siblings into harm's way. Gary, 36, and Randy, 32, are both from Bethlehem, PA. Gary has 18 total years of military service, with 5 of those being active duty. He is a 63B and works in the Bravo Company motorpool. He has 1 child who is 15 years old. Randy is a 52D who has 13 years of service, which includes 8 months as part of Task Force Keystone in Germany. He works in the Ground Support Equipment Platoon in Bravo Company. Next we have the Morgan's, Justin and Jane, who have been married for about 5 months now. Justin, 21, is from Gratz, PA and Jane, 20, is from Shickshinny, PA. Justin is a

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Family Affairs (from Page 4)

... 63W originally from the 628<sup>th</sup> DASB, here with the Artillery Repair Team in Bravo Company. Jane is a 62B from the 3622<sup>nd</sup> Maintenance Company which is part of Delta Company working in the Class IX section. What a honeymoon they have had! They plan on having a real wedding after the deployment with all of their family and friends. Jane plans on going back to school after the deployment and Justin will return to his technician job at the CSMS-East.

Now it's time to catch up with the Jones's. Michael and Jennifer are from Memphis, TN and are part of the 779 Maintenance Company, which has become known as our Delta Company. Mike is a 63H and has been in the Guard for 5 years and had 9 years active duty prior to that. Jennifer has 10 years total service, 4 Guard and 6 active, she is a 92A working in the Maintenance Control Office. They met on active duty and have been married for 5 years. Mike works for AM General, for those of you who don't know they manufacture the HMMWV. Jennifer is a customer associate for Circuit City.

This is a sample of some of the true families we have here with us. I will try and catch up with some more of them throughout the next year and let you know how they are making out.

## **CharlieMed Hits Ar Ramadi**

SGT Michelle Lynn

The days of waiting are over for CharlieMed. After months of training and traveling, CharlieMed personnel have successfully completed the transition from anticipation to relief. Relief to finally begin putting all the training that was accomplished to real world, real time events. At this time, CharlieMed is in temporary living quarters until the 2<sup>nd</sup> FSB can be completely relieved of their duties. Soldiers are slowly taking in their new environment and getting familiar with their AO. The 2<sup>nd</sup> FSB have briefed us on where the impact zones are within the FOB and have even nicknamed the area behind our barracks Mortar Alley. We have learned to walk along the edges of some areas.

The treatment facility itself looks great. The 2<sup>nd</sup> FSB made great provisions to the complex and has given CharlieMed helpful hints for a smooth transition. The LZ is right around the corner, which makes EVAC more efficient when time is a critical factor. With the exchanging of equipment and supplies, at times it seems like there is no beginning to an end.

However, there is a time crunch that reminds us that it's time for 2<sup>nd</sup> FSB to head home to their families and for CharlieMed to fill some very big shoes. So far, some of the medics have received quite a bit of action in the first 48 hours of their arrival. With the barrage of mortars hitting inside the wire and the intensity of outgoing fire power, medics have received several cases of gunshot wounds that were not fatal. Not many soldiers are aware of CharlieMed's responsibilities, but we also care for Iraqi civilians for wounds rendered during combat. Most of the gunshot wounds were Iraqi civilians that we treated with the same resources and compassion as we would our own U.S. troops.

Citizen (From Page 2)

face to face, before moving thousands of miles away. It's painful, private and altogether surreal ... it won't hit me, really nail me to the wall, until I step onto the airplane ... bidding a final farewell to my wife. I've already said good-bye to everyone once ... upon initial mobilization, and that was painful enough, but now ... it's somehow much different.

The flight from Kansas City *back* to Camp Shelby, Mississippi was bizarre. There were so many thoughts blazing through my head that the sadness was actually subsided. It's strange how the mind works. Stress and mind-filling numbness actually transport your thoughts to a tranquil section of your brain where thoughts are seemingly impossible. Of course, everybody handles these stressors in their own manner. I remained in this coma-like state until I arrived in Mississippi. Everyone returns to Shelby on or around Father's Day, and everyone *appears* as comatose as I *feel*. Personally, that makes this life altering moment easier because to writhe in anxiety is one thing, but to realize that others suffer something analogous is comforting. A few days later, we depart Mississippi for the first leg of what will be a very long journey, not only physically, but mentally as well.

After almost a full day of traveling, we land in Kuwait City via Ireland. The coma came and went for me, and throughout the trip, it seemed that very few people really had it in them for long conversations. The brain simply can't handle the truth. However, there is at least one common factor that pushes everybody through this journey, one thing that unites us all ... we are in this thing together ... we are not alone in our misery and sacrifices. While we're from all walks of life, especially in the guard and reserve, we're all about to embark on a new way of life. We all know that the living conditions will be less than what one would choose in the states, we are all aware of the loneliness that we'll feel throughout the next year, but we use each other to stave off the little things we'll miss because there are larger threats ahead. Bigger fish to fry.

Stepping off the plane in Kuwait was an experience that I'll remember for a lifetime. Some have said that the heat is like having several blow dryers aimed at your face, making breathing virtually impossible, and ostensibly baking your brain. Others have compared it to a sauna. However one describes it, it was undeniably breathtaking. Literally. It was 130 degrees when we landed, and I half expected a large turkey-baster to somehow plummet from the sky and begin buttering us for the rotisserie. We were put on buses and moved to Camp Buehring, via a Kuwaiti police escort, for in-processing ... or to "swipe" our ID cards to begin the 365 day Boots On Ground. It's amazing how excited everybody was to finally sweep their cards. Not necessarily happy about living in a desert for the next year, but we all know that the only way to end this vacation of ours is to get it started.

Camp Buehring, while out in the middle of the desert and probably the hottest place on Earth, had certain comforts that made the daily sand storms and inconceivable heat somehow livable. Living and working conditions were in air-conditioned tents. The dining facility was unprecedented and surprising to all with occasional surf and turf, cheesecake and various other comfort foods. There was a Burger King, a Subway, a Pizza Inn, a Coffee Shop and a PX. This all helped to make the transition from the West to the East a little easier.

Two weeks later, we began moving personnel and gear to Iraq. Some flew;

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## Soldiers Reenlist for 15K

SPC Aaron Berger

In a short ceremony conducted on Camp Viking in TQ, Iraq, three 228 FSB soldiers signed a six year reenlistment in the National Guard for a tax free \$15,000 bonus. B Company's Sgt. Don Celoso, and A Company's Sgt. Tracy Shady and Sgt. Bonnie Hayner, signed on the dotted line in the presence of Lt. Col. Glenn Nissley and CSM Harry DeLorenzo.

Sgt. Shady stated that she plans on using the money to help pay off her house back in the states. Whether the soldiers have plans for the money, or they just wish to boost their savings account, this incentive has already proven to be something that many of the 228 FSB soldiers will exercise. It goes without saying that the bonus comes with the promise of serving another six years, but the consensus is that the financial boost that it creates for each of their families is worth the pledge. There is also a three year reenlistment option for a bonus at \$7,500.

The 2/28<sup>th</sup> BCT has vowed to make retention a focus on this tour. In doing so, they have required of each battalion and to have an appointed Retention NCO. Sgt. Olivia Chenevert, of the S1 section is the 228 FSB's Retention NCO. She has dedicated a large portion of her time to help process the aforementioned reenlistments and is in the process of several more. If you wish to reenlist or just have a question about your options, stop by and see Sgt. Chenevert in the S1 office.



Pictures from June/July 2005



## FAMILY READINESS CONTACTS

HHC, DISCOM	SFC LARRY SNYDER	717-787-5063	<a href="mailto:Larry.R.Snyder@us.army.mil">Larry.R.Snyder@us.army.mil</a>
HHD 128 <sup>TH</sup> FSB	SSG CROW	412-343-5514	<a href="mailto:Daniel.crow@pa.ngb.army.mil">Daniel.crow@pa.ngb.army.mil</a>
CO A 128 <sup>TH</sup> FSB	SFC HILES	724-789-9159	<a href="mailto:Peter.Hiles@pa.ngb.army.mil">Peter.Hiles@pa.ngb.army.mil</a>
CO B 128 <sup>TH</sup> FSB	SSG CROW	412-343-5514	<a href="mailto:Daniel.crow@pa.ngb.army.mil">Daniel.crow@pa.ngb.army.mil</a>
CO C 128 <sup>TH</sup> FSB	SSG CROW	412-343-5514	<a href="mailto:Daniel.crow@pa.ngb.army.mil">Daniel.crow@pa.ngb.army.mil</a>
HHD 228 <sup>TH</sup> FSB	BRENDA DELIA	267-429-0102	<a href="mailto:Frgpress@netzero.com">Frgpress@netzero.com</a>
CO A 228 <sup>TH</sup> FSB	BRENDA DELIA	267-429-0102	<a href="mailto:Frgpress@netzero.com">Frgpress@netzero.com</a>
CO B 228 <sup>TH</sup> FSB	RHONDA CELOSA	610-866-8096	<a href="mailto:Frg228@yahoo.com">Frg228@yahoo.com</a>
DET 1, CO B 228 <sup>TH</sup> FSB	CATHY SHULNA	570-963-3859	<a href="mailto:cshulna@yahoo.com">cshulna@yahoo.com</a>
CO C 228 <sup>TH</sup> FSB	ANALISA CAVOTTA	610-821-6370	<a href="mailto:Acaotta1031@aol.com">Acaotta1031@aol.com</a>
HHD 328 <sup>TH</sup> BSB	ALICIA McCLUNE	717-898-1747	
CO A 328 <sup>TH</sup> BSB	LISA HYLTON	717-277-0208	
CO B 328 <sup>TH</sup> BSB	MRS. SIRIANI	215-643-7093	
DET 1, CO A	LAURA SHOUEY	610-396-8870	
CO C 328 <sup>TH</sup> BSB	HOLLY CUMMINGS	717-426-2511	<a href="mailto:hollygm@comcast.net">hollygm@comcast.net</a>
HSC 628 <sup>TH</sup> DASB	TRACIE DUGAN	717-691-5889	<a href="mailto:tmdugan@comcast.net">tmdugan@comcast.net</a>
CO A AMC 628 <sup>TH</sup> DASB	SIS McFARLAND	717-865-6578	<a href="mailto:sismcfarland@yahoo.com">sismcfarland@yahoo.com</a>
CO B GMC 628 <sup>TH</sup> DASB	DAWN FOSTER	717-657-9119	<a href="mailto:dmf91270@aol.com">dmf91270@aol.com</a>
HHD 728th	DEB GARVRICK	570-725-2390	
CO A 728TH	JULIE JONES	570-923-2801	
CO B 728TH	JOANNE HOPPENHAVER	570-385-5403	
DET 1 CO B	BILLY JO JEFFERDS	814-837-0861	
CO C 728TH	JOYCE SCHRECKENGAST	814-726-6434	
CO D 728TH	BETH KRIDER	815-765-1119	

### Citizen (From Page 6)

... some convoyed, but all arrived safe and sound. Except for the sand storms and ridiculous heat, this camp, now called Camp Viking, is much different than Camp Buehring ... actually we can be comforted by the fact that it is, on average, a entire 5 degrees *cooler* here compared to Kuwait ... if cooler is the appropriate word to ever use in Iraq.

228 FSB immediately began a phase of training to take command from an Active Duty unit that had been based in Korea prior to the year-long deployment to Iraq ... they were elated to see us arrive so that they could return to the states. We have begun to move into their living spaces as they depart, so having a private room, albeit small, is doing wonders for morale around the camp. A new dining facility is being built, and we're in the process of upgrading the gym and internet café in an effort to provide leave from the realities of war.

We have now transitioned from Citizen to Citizen Soldier.

### 228th Newsletter Staff

Commander.....	LTC Glenn Nissley
CSM.....	CSM Harry Delorenzo
Public Affairs Officer.....	CPT Jason Guerrettaz
HHD P.A. Representative.....	SPC Aaron Berger
A Co P.A. Representative.....	SPC Andrea Sweetland
B Co P.A. Representative.....	SPC Alissa Skorupa
C Co P.A. Representative.....	SGT Michelle Lynn
779 <sup>th</sup> P.A. Representative.....	CW3 Floyd Hyde

*Please see the above individuals if you would like to make a submission to the newsletter. It could be an article, photo, or artwork.*

