

228TH FSB NEWSLETTER

Issue 2, Volume 1

“Iraq and Back, We take no Slack”

MAY 2005

Commander's Corner

The end of April brings us one step closer to our overseas departure date. We have been working hard here at Camp Shelby to meet all of our training requirements and are well prepared to face our mission demand.

We are receiving new equipment on a daily basis, with more in the system headed our way. Recently we received our new “Army Combat Uniform” that sports Velcro patches, a zippered jacket, and many new pockets.

In addition to the uniforms, new computers and communication equipment have been received that will greatly enhance our capabilities.

On a final note, thank you for all the letters and packages from home. We love getting something in the mail. Mail connects us back to our family, friends, and homes. Once we get “in-country” our soldiers will update you all with their new addresses.

Thank you for your continued support.

GLENN T. NISSLEY
LTC, MS
COMMANDING



Biloxi Bishop Holds an All Faith Service at Greer Chapel

By Spc. Aaron Berger

April 17, 2005- Soldiers from the 2-28th BCT made history again at Mob Center Shelby. This time it did have to do with liberating a people but with a simple act of faith.

Catholic Bishop Rodi, from the Diocese of Biloxi, visited and presided over mass at Greer Chapel. After meeting with 2-28th BCT soldiers, the Bishop came to Camp Shelby for mass and to pray for the soldier's safe return.

After the death of Pope John Paul II, Capt Joseph Serowik, a Polish American Catholic, of Co C 228th FSB, asked Chaplin Fintin Kilmurray if there would be a special mass in honor of the late Pope. Chaplin Kilmurray informed Capt Serowik that although one was not scheduled at MCS there would be one in Biloxi that Thursday. Capt Serowik organized a bus trip of the faithful to attend

that special mass.

After the mass had ended, Bishop Rodi, who presided over the mass, was outside greeting the congregation. Spc. Marilyn Kelly, also of Co C 228th FSB, asked Chaplin Kilmurray if he thought the Bishop would bless her rosary. Chaplin Kilmurray stated that he would and she was joined by several other soldiers for the blessing. After the blessing, Spc. Kelly and several other soldiers asked Bishop Rodi when he was coming to visit MCS. Bishop Rodi's answer was “soon”.

The next day Capt Serowik received a call from Chaplin Kilmurray explaining that Bishop Rodi had called him on his ride back from the mass and was touched by the generous nature and faith of the 2-28th BCT soldiers. After a short conversation, Bishop Rodi asked to come to MCS to say mass.

Bishop Rodi arrived for the mass in a Humvee escorted by the Military police. The mass was open to all faiths and included a choir from another local church. Several dignitaries were also in attendance. One of them being COL Striklen, the commander of MCS, who presented the Bishop with a coin and Army PT jacket. After mass, Bishop Rodi met with the soldiers of 228th FSB.

Inside this Issue

A Co.....	Page 3
B Co.....	Page 4
C Co.....	Page 5
Army News.....	Page 6
Stand at Ease.....	Page 7
Awards, and Birthdays.....	Page 8

Change of Command Ceremony

17 April 2005

Photo Left: Lt. Col. Glenn Nissely receives the HHD flag from outgoing HHD Commander, Capt. Todd McTavish. He hands it to the incoming Commander, 1st Lt. Robert Stine. At the ceremony, Capt. McTavish received the A Co flag from 1st Lt. Stine. As HHD Commander, 1st Lt. Stine will take the title of "Mayor" of the Fob.



Final CPX- Stuck in a Rut

19 April 2005

Photo Left: Mix Mississippi mud and 29 troops from HHD. Result, three stuck vehicles, one blown tire. But hey, everyone and everything got back safe.



Combat Lifesaver Training

Photo Right: SGT Byrd, a combat medic who just returned from Iraq watches as Spc. Edgar Maldonado gives an IV to a mannequin at the Combat Lifesaver Course. Spc. Frederick Carlson looks to Spc. Robert Lopez as they are next in line after the mannequin.

There are now over 20 Combat Lifesavers in HHD.

Race to Save Lives

13 April 2005

Photo Right: Mugs were the consolation prize for second and third place at the Camp Shelby Blood drive. Keesler Blood Donor Center came to MCS to collect blood from service members to be shipped overseas to OIF and OEF. Several soldiers in HHD donated blood to the cause. As with about everything else on Battalion Staff, it became a competition- to see who could fill the bag first. Capt Lonnie Miller took first place with 4:15. 1st Lt. Dave Welteroth came in second with 4:35 and 1st Lt. Rose Forrest was third with 5:35. While the nurses had never seen anyone race before, they assured the group all three times were new records.



HONOR STUDENTS USE MORE THAN MINDS FOR CHARITY

By Christopher J. Barnes
Of The Free Press

The honor society of Faith Christian Academy, Sellersville, has been busy lately.

Along with the rigors of quality grades and strong leadership skills, the 10 students took time to raise funds for charitable causes.

During a presentation last Wednesday, the students presented a total of about \$1,200 to the Red Cross for tsunami relief and to the Sellersville Armory so local service men and women can receive phone cards to stay in touch with home.

Students had been spending time throughout the last few months to raise the money for the projects.

"Especially with the tsunami, we've seen such an outpouring from the community," Regional Executive Director of the American Red Cross Christine J. Funchion said. "Our chapter has raised more than \$2 million in this area and it's all been from events like these. We get a lot of corporate support too but we get so much help from the community."

The phone cards will be given to both the troops and their families locally so communication can remain between them.

"It's amazing of the amount of people who have been so supportive," President of the Family Readiness Group of [Company A 228th FSB] Brenda DeLia said. "All the people who have taken care of not only the soldiers but have taken care of the family members as well. It's overwhelming to describe."

In addition to these two projects, the students were told of a situation and took a vote in favor of helping out in that case, and wherever else they can, such as the

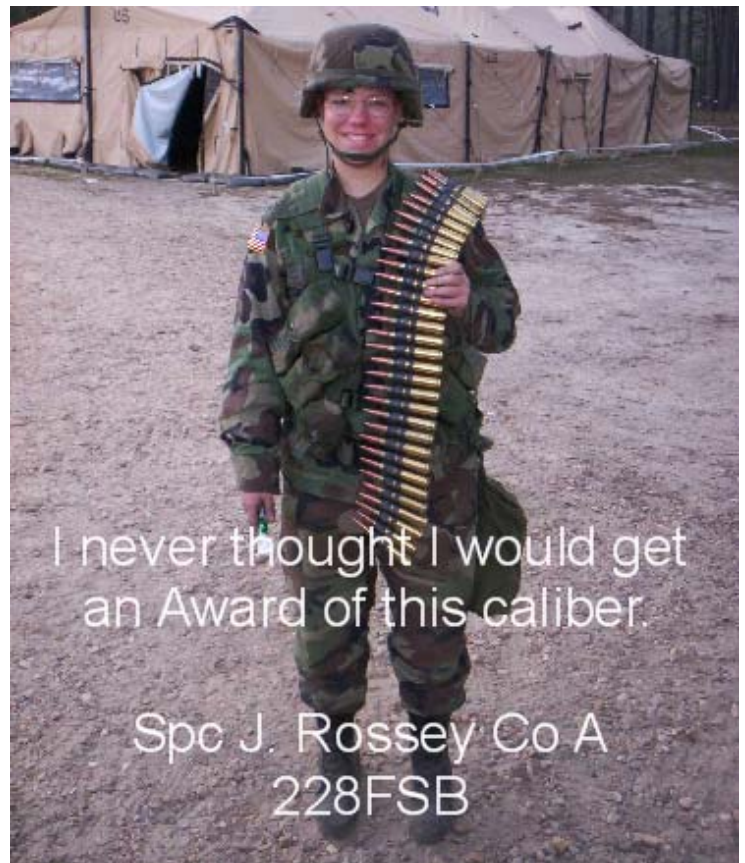
Continued on Page 6



Ryan Zamroz presents a check for \$800 to Brenda DeLia, president of the Family Readiness Group of [Company A 228th FSB].



Front row: SGT Luscombe, SPC Venezia, SPC Moore, SPC Hackett, SGT Shady
Back row: SPC Hamilton, SGT Hayner, SPC Rader, SPC Brown, SPC Parzych, SPC Espinosa



A Co Family Readiness Group

Brenda DeLia
225 E. Park Ave
Sellersville, PA 18960-2708
215-453-5032
frgpres@netzero.com



When the soldiers of B Co 228th realized the 50 cal mounts for the 5 tons wouldn't fit on the new medium tactical vehicles, they improvised to create the ultimate 50 Cal mount.

Spc. Robert Cherwinski demonstrates the new mount above. This model even works on the HMMWV, or anything else that can tow a creeper.

Plans are currently be developed which include off road tires and sand skis.



Sgt. David Lucas, of B Co, 228th FSB, installs a new engine on one of the company's new up-armored HMMWVs to get the vehicle ready for Iraq.

Most of the vehicles in the company are getting new motors for better performance over seas. The new up-armor puts an additional strain on the vehicles system and this will keep them running smooth.

Family Support Group Delivers Supplies to Camp Shelby Soldiers

WDAM- Channel 7

April 16, 2005

Some Pennsylvania soldiers training at Camp Shelby for service in Iraq got some much-needed supplies from home today, courtesy of some civilian supporters. Four members of a soldier family support group from the Keystone State made a 17-hour drive to Camp Shelby in a mini-van to bring some 60 cases of donated water and Gatorade to National Guardsmen from the 228th Forward Support Battalion. The soldiers from the cities of Scranton and Wilkes-Barre say they'll put the refreshments to good use.

Mission Statement: "The 228th Soldier-Family Support Organization, Inc. is dedicated to supporting the quality of life, welfare, and morale of B Company 228th Forward Support Battalion during their deployment for Operation Iraqi Freedom."

<http://www.228thsoldiersupport.com/index.htm>

B Co Family Readiness Group

Rhonda Celoso

301 Prospect Ave.

Bethlehem, PA 18018-5698

610-866-8096

frg@...com

B Co DET 1 Readiness Group

Christine Peters

Commo Training with SGT. Knight

By Sgt. Michelle Lynn

Company C 228th FSB may be outstanding, concerning their medical knowledge and capabilities, but with Sgt. Knight's help, this company also plans to be proficient at using frequency hop mode on the SINCGARS radio.

When asked the major reason for medics to become knowledgeable about the radio, Sgt. Knight's reply is simple, "The radio saves lives. Even if you're a medic, by the time you get to a casualty, you may not be able to save them especially if you don't know how to use the radio." Frequency hop mode on the SINCGARS radio, "provides secure communication that does not allow people to listen in," says Sgt. Knight.

As a 31C, a radio operator/maintainer, SGT. Knight is more than qualified to aid Company C in the communications aspect of the mission.

Sgt. Knight is 25 years old and resides in Allentown, PA. He commutes to Parsippany, NJ where he works for T-Mobile as a network operator. This motivated soldier joined the military on April 15, 1998. Prior to being part of the Company C family, he was active duty for four years. He remembers his past deployments to Kosovo and Korea and views this deployment much differently. "Iraq has a tough threat heavily imbedded in the local minority that is insistent on the removal of US troops. It's a divided culture," Knight says.

While his mother rejoices the return of one son from Iraq, Sgt. Knight's brother, she awaits with great concern the day of Sgt. Knight's departure to Iraq. His positive attitude and pride for being a soldier assures his mother everything will be okay. "It's what we do," he says.

Continued on Page 8



Getting to know Spc. Alysse Sevon Koleman

By Sgt. Michelle Lynn

19-year-old Spc. Alysse Koleman is a Pennsylvania girl from California currently stationed in Mississippi. In January, Spc Koleman left her home in Beaver Falls, PA where she lived with her parents, two older sisters, Cele and Lonnie, and younger brother, John Edward, to train at Camp Shelby. This Combat Medic who is mobilized and prepared to deploy to Iraq will be watching her younger brother, graduate from AIT during her block leave. She has also left behind her six cats, but explains she is not homesick. "I gotta grow up sometime."

There are some things Spc. Koleman would not leave home without though. She has carted U2 cds, SunnyD lemonade, and Rice Krispy treats to Camp Shelby. She also gets by from care packages filled with Sour Cream and Onion Pringles, Easy Mac, and socks.

When asked how she feels about the deployment Spc Koleman said, "I just want to get it over with and get it done." While at home, she enjoys fine Italian food. Here at Camp Shelby.... One of the most positive experiences she has had here at Camp Shelby was the MOUT training at Trebil.

To help her battle buddies, Spc. Koleman reminds the soldiers of C Co, "If you can't be good, be good at it." She can always be relied upon for a warm smile and genuine concern for her peers.

Spc. Koleman graduated from Black Hawk High School and enlisted in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard on May 1, 2003 as a 91W. She is assigned to the 128th FSB in Pittsburgh, PA. She is attached to C Co, 228th FSB for the deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Now that training is winding down, Spc Koleman is able to find some time for herself. She recommends "The Last Juror," by John Grisham for reading material. She also listens to music. "Anything but Jazz and Blues," she says. Spc. Koleman also likes to shop and surf the Internet.

Spc. Koleman has mixed feelings about leaving Camp Shelby. While she can't wait, "to get the hell out of Mississippi," she doesn't look forward to all that sand and no water.

CONGRATULATIONS

91 W Class Honor Grads

Spc. Nancy Kramer 1st in Class

Sgt. Joseph Toth 3rd in Class

C Co Family Readiness Group

Annalisa Cavotta

1501 Allen St.

Allentown, PA 18102-2098

610-821-6370

acavotta1031@aol.com

DOD Announces Criteria for the Iraq Campaign Medal

By 1st Lt Rose Forrest, S1 228th FSB

Soldiers of the 2-28th BCT may be eligible to receive the Iraq Campaign Medal according to an April 07, 2005 Press Release from the Department of Defense. The DOD has just announced the criteria for receiving the Iraq Campaign Medal (ICM) and the Afghanistan Campaign Medal (ACM). The ICM was created on May 28, 2004, by Executive Order to recognize service members for their contribution in Iraq. After April 30, 2005 these medals will replace the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (GWOTEM).

The Iraq Campaign Medal may be awarded to soldiers who have served in direct support of Operation Iraqi Freedom between March 19, 2003 through the cessation of the operation. Until now, service members deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq during the designated timeframes were awarded the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.

According to the regulation, it is possible for a service member to be awarded the GWOTEM, ICM, and the Afghanistan Campaign Medal for three separate acts, achievements, or periods of service. Deputy undersecretary of defense for military personnel policy, Bill Carr explained in a DOD Memo, "By awarding separate medals, we will recognize the specific contribution that our servicemen and women have made in Afghanistan and Iraq. It's appropriate that we present them with an award that truly honors their heroic service in these operations." However, service members cannot receive both awards for the same time period. Also, service stars are not authorized for the ICM. The DOD guidelines for awarding the ICM specify that the service member be assigned, attached, or mobilized with units operating within the area of eligibility for 30 consecutive days. This area includes all land area within Iraq, and 12 miles of contiguous sea and air. A service member may also qualify regardless of the time they have been in the eligible area if they are engaged in combat or are wounded during an operation or official duty.

Postings on www.military.com reveal that there are mixed emotions regarding the new ICM. Some soldiers are concerned that it will have less value than then the GWOT because it could be awarded to all soldiers who spend more than 30 days in Iraq. Other soldiers are appreciative that there will be an award specifically for soldiers who served in Iraq.

The Army Agency for Heraldry has approved the design of the medal and it is already available in limited numbers. If a soldier is awarded the ICM, it will be positioned below the Afghanistan Campaign Medal and above the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.



Sgt. 1st Class Paul Smith is awarded Medal of Honor for actions in OIF

By 1st Lt Rose Forrest, S1 228th FSB

The Medal of Honor is the nation's highest medal for valor in combat. It is awarded sparingly, and is only bestowed to the bravest of the brave. In fact, so few Medals of Honor are awarded that the only ones that have been awarded for action since the Vietnam War were bestowed to Army Master Sergeant Gary Gordon and Army Sergeant First Class Randall Shughart for valor in Somalia in 1993. April 4, 2005, the Medal of Honor was awarded to Sgt 1st Class Paul Smith for acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty two years ago. The action occurred with an armed enemy near Baghdad International Airport, Baghdad, Iraq, on 4 April 2003. On that day, Sgt 1st Class Smith was engaged in the construction of a prisoner of war holding area when his tank task force was violently attacked by a company-sized enemy force. Realizing the vulnerability of over 100 fellow soldiers, Sgt 1st Class Smith quickly organized a hasty defense consisting of two platoons of soldiers, one Bradley fighting vehicle and three armored personnel carriers.

As the fight developed, Sgt 1st Class Smith braved hostile enemy fire to personally engage the enemy with hand grenades and anti-tank weapons, and organized the evacuation of three wounded soldiers from an armored personnel carrier struck by a rocket-propelled grenade and a 60-mm mortar round. Fearing the enemy would overrun the defenses, Sgt 1st Class Smith moved under withering enemy fire to man a 50-caliber machine gun mounted on a damaged armored personnel carrier. In total disregard for own life, he maintained his exposed position in order to engage the attacking enemy force. During this action, he was mortally wounded. His courageous actions helped defeat the enemy attack and resulted in as many as 50 enemy soldiers killed.

"LIKE EVERY ONE OF THE MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM WHO HAVE SERVED IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, SERGEANT PAUL SMITH WAS A VOLUNTEER. WE THANK HIS FAMILY FOR THE FATHER, HUSBAND, AND SON AND BROTHER WHO CAN NEVER BE REPLACED. WE RECALL WITH APPRECIATION THE FELLOW SOLDIERS WHOSE LIVES HE SAVED, AND THE MANY MORE HE INSPIRED. AND WE EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE FOR A NEW GENERATION OF AMERICANS, EVERY BIT AS SELFLESS AND DEDICATED TO LIBERTY AS ANY THAT HAS GONE ON BEFORE—A DEDICATION, EXEMPLIFIED BY THE SACRIFICE AND VALOR OF SERGEANT FIRST CLASS PAUL RAY SMITH."

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH, WHITE HOUSE CEREMONY, APRIL 4, 2005

“Stand At Ease”

"When the pin is pulled, Mr. Grenade is not our friend."

-U.S. Marine Corps

"You, you, and you . . . Panic. The rest of you, come with me."

-U.S. Marine Corp Gunnery Sgt.

"Aim towards the Enemy."

-Instruction printed on US Rocket Launcher

"If the enemy is in range, so are you."

-Infantry Journal

"Cluster bombing from B-52s is very, very accurate. The bombs are guaranteed to always hit the ground."

-U.S.A.F. Ammo Troop

"Try to look unimportant; they may be low on ammo."

-Infantry Journal

"Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never encountered automatic weapons."

-Gen. Mac Arthur

"Five second fuses only last three seconds."

- Infantry Journal

"Bravery is being the only one who knows you're afraid."

-David Hackworth

"Tracers work both ways."

-U.S. Army Ordnance

"A slipping gear could let your M203 grenade launcher fire when you least expect it. That would make you quite unpopular in what's left of your unit."

-Army's magazine of preventive maintenance.

"No combat ready unit has ever passed inspection."

-Joe Gay

"If your attack is going too well, you're walking into an ambush."

-Infantry Journal

"It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed."

-U.S. Air Force Manual

"Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do."

-Unknown Marine Recruit

"Don't ever be the first, don't ever be the last, and don't ever volunteer to do anything."

-U. S Navy Swabbie

"Any ship can be a minesweeper... once."

-Anon

"If you see a bomb technician running, follow him."

-U.S.A.F. Ammo Troop

"Don't draw fire; it irritates the people around you."

-Your Buddies

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Soldiers, please remember to sign your family up for an AKO address so that you can receive email from them overseas. You will have INTRANET access, limited to DOD websites.

To sign your family up...go to www.army.mil/ako and click on "new user/ Register for AKO," then select "Create Guest Account."

Also let your family know they can check out updated photos and newsletters on the 228th Website:

<http://www.dmva.state.pa.us/paarnng/cwp/view.asp?a=3&q=443362#top>



“Finally...something my size!”

After three months at Camp Shelby covering up with two blankets, 7' tall CPT Dirk Remensnyder, C Co CDR gets his specially ordered sleeping bag, shown above with 1LT Dan McHugh

Local School Supports 228th, Continued from page 2

tsunami and phone cards.

“Right now, we’re helping a family in our school try to get back on their feet,” kindergarten teacher and honor society advisor Nicole Gross said. “We’re trying to help rebuild the family. We painted their house – students came out on a Sunday and spent about three hours painting the inside. We’re trying to get carpet for the inside now.”

Gross said that it’s important to have the kids understand that to be a good leader, you need to first be a good follower.

“I really feel that they

have the potential to help our community,” Gross said. “This brings them happiness, too. When they were out there painting that woman’s house, they were loving life.”

All students involved with the project were Shellanna Welsh, Megan McGinn, Hillary Dunham, Tad Dehaven, Natalie Totaro, Ryan Zamroz, Brett Ramroz, Jessica Kopp, Katie Oakes and Tori Peers. *Chris Barnes can be reached at tfp@berksmontnews.com.*

228th Newsletter Staff

Commander.....	LTC Glenn Nissley
CSM.....	CSM Harry Delorenzo
Public Affairs Officer.....	1LT Rose Forrest
HHD P.A. Representative.....	SPC Aaron Berger
A Co P.A. Representative.....	SSG Marci Ficht
B Co P.A. Representative.....	SPC Alissa Skorupa
C Co P.A. Representative.....	SGT Michelle Lynn

Sgt Knight, Continued from page 4

Although Sgt. Knight is not eagerly awaiting his deployment to Iraq, he shows great patriotism by stating, “I think that we have good reasons for going and I have complete faith in our president.” Sgt. Knight knows how to keep us all motivated at Charlie Company as he proudly states, “I love the Army. I love what we do and why we do it.”

April 2005 Awards

SPC Aaron Berger	AAM	SSG Rodney Rowe	AAM
SPC Scott Farrington	AAM	SGT Lester Erb	AAM
SPC Jennifer Hassler	AAM	SPC Dane Rader	AAM
SPC Edgar Maldonado	AAM	SPC Chris Brown	AAM
SPC Patrick Hennessy	AAM	SGT Henry Sporer	AAM

Block Leave Schedule

Torch-28 May-6 June	Main Body-8 June-17 June
Advon-4 June-13 June	PSA-28 May-6 June
Trail-12 June-21 June	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1985	SPC AMANDA FALLS	1 MAY
1986	SPC EMANUEL BOGGS	2 MAY
1970	SPC IRA HAMMOND	2 MAY
MAY 1962	SSG ANTHONY TRINIDAD	2
1979	SPC CHARLES HILDERSHEIM	3 MAY
1982	SPC SHEENA CHOLLA	4 MAY
1983	SPC MIGUEL AGOSTO	4 MAY
1981	PFC RONALD BARKER	4 MAY
1965	SSG DAVID OTT	5 MAY
1977	SPC JASON MUSSER	8 MAY
1979	SPC CLINT ROBINSON	8 MAY
MAY 1963	LTC MICHAEL FILIPCZAK	9
1968	SGT SEAN FOX	14 MAY
1966	SPC JAMES HILLIARD	14 MAY

Keep the Mail Coming!

While at Camp Shelby, packages can be sent to:

Rank, Last Name, First Name
 ___ Co, 228th FSB
 Building 2490 25th St
 Camp Shelby, MS 39407

While at NTC, packages can be sent to:

Rank, Last Name, First Name
 ___ Co, 228th FSB 2 BCT
 Rotation 05-06
 Fort Irwin, CA 92310

Packages may be sent one week prior to departure. Please do not send any packages one-week prior to return.