

228TH FSB NEWSLETTER



Commander's Corner

As commander of the 228th FSB, it is a privilege to be able to lead this battalion in a historic deployment for the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. We are currently involved in a very rigorous training program here at Camp Shelby, MS., preparing to move soon to the National Training Center (NTC) in Ft. Irwin, CA.

New equipment and soldiers are coming to the battalion each day. Our days are long but the focus is clear on the mission ahead. As soldiers we are preparing to support the 2BCT (Brigade Combat Team) in all areas of logistics, in our operations in Iraq.

As we complete our stateside training, all soldiers will be afforded a ten day block leave to be with their families and friends. Home contacts are very important to each of us. I encourage your support through letters and packages. All of us love to get something in the mail. Contact can also be made via e-mail or phone. Thank you for your support. Please know that without your direct support and prayers our job will be more difficult. Also as needs arise at home please contact the Family Readiness Group at the numbers provided at the bottom of each page. The FRG president of each unit and a large group of others can help you with your needs.

My best wishes to each of you and our Soldiers.

Lt Col. Glenn Nissley

Airport Policy Change Allows Military Families to Greet Soldiers at the Gate

By Spc. Julianne Williams

Good news for soldiers and their families: family members of military passengers are now allowed to escort or greet military passengers at the gate.

Family members can now go to the airline that the soldier is flying on and receive a pass to go to the gate. The family member will be required to have a pass and a photo ID to get past the security checkpoint. This news comes in time as soldiers will be

traveling home for block leave in June.

Block Leave Schedule

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

228th FSB Receives RFI Issue

By Spc. Aaron Berger

March 11- In preparation for NTC and the inevitable trip to Iraq, the 228th received a lot of new equipment. Each soldier received 2 new pairs of desert issue boots - one pair of summers and one pair of winters. These new boots are extremely comfortable and will be feet friendly in the upcoming tour of duty. Also, the soldiers were given the new cold weather gear. It included the new version of the poly-pro, as well as the new fleece set. The fleece set includes a fleece jacket along with pants that are held up with suspenders, and a fleece cap. Even though it sounds really "Old School", it may be the warmest outfit that I have ever worn and I have a feeling that I will be wearing it often. Next, the

soldiers were given all of the IBA accessories such as ammo and grenade pouches, canteen pouches, butt pack, and a new slimmer camelback.

Wiley-X sunglasses as well goggles were the highlight of the day for many of the 228th soldiers. The most anticipated issue of the day was the new kevlar helmet. This helmet is almost 2 pounds lighter than the old one and is equipped with the NOD mount as well as the new and more secure chinstrap. This helmet molds to the shape of your head and does not move into your line of sight, much like the old one did. Unfortunately for some of the soldiers with giant craniums like me, they ran out of XL6 helmets and had to special order one for us. The RFI personnel assured each of us that we would receive them by the time we arrive in Kuwait. A few weeks down the road, we will also be getting the new Army Combat Uniform (ACU). It is comforting for all of the 228th FSB soldiers to know that we will be heading into Iraq with the best equipment that the Army has to offer.

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Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment

Long Days and Cold Nights...

HHD just finished its second CPX (Control Point Exercise) and is ready to excel at the Mobilization Readiness Exercise at the National Training Center.

From 27 Feb-1 Mar and 17-20 MAR 05, HHD ran a 24-hour TOC. The purpose of the exercise was to allow the staff sections to practice reacting to various situations.

The S6 shop, which is responsible for information and communication, worked continuously to maintain the old fashion field phones, radios, and the new army computer systems.

The intelligence section, the S2 shop kept track of enemy activity and the operations section, S3 shop planned the missions the companies were to execute.

During notional situations the S1 (personnel shop responded with casualty and replacement operations and the S4 (supply) shop conducted combat loss operations.

The Support Operations shop was responsible for planning re-supply missions for all classes of supply to the entire brigade.

The CPXs allowed the staff sections to try-out their checklists and play-books.

"We have a very comprehensive SOP, but the OCs found scenarios we hadn't thought of, now we are ready to handle any situation," says Sgt. 1st Class Chris Day from the S1 shop.

The HHD would like to thank the Observer Controllers (OCs), LTC Fink, and MSG Kaminski for all their guidance during the CPXs.



Above, Spc. Dave Chalecki from the S2 shop teaches Sgt John Musky how to track enemy activity using the ASAS-L software. Spc. Chalecki was awarded the "Hero of the CPX" award by OC LTC Fink.

Delta Company

228th Welcomes D Co to the Battalion

Co D 228th FSB, aka 779th Maintenance Company from Centerville and Parsons, TN, and 3622nd Maintenance Company from Pennsylvania arrived at Camp Shelby, MS on 20 March 2005.

The 779th Maintenance Company GS was formed in 1996. Training for the unit has been conducted at Camp Dodge Iowa, Ft Irwin California, Ft Clayton Panama and Kaiserslautern Germany, where the unit received the Dragon wrench award for maintenance excellence for the training year 2000. Prior to being reorganized to the 779th the unit was Company B 473rd Support Battalion of the 30th Separate Armored Brigade.

In 1941 the unit was Battery C 115th Field Artillery Battalion which was deployed with 100 soldiers in World War II for four years.

The company is presently commanded by Capt. Elisabeth McCallister and the First Sergeant is 1SG Randy Powers. The soldiers who are on ground have begun training at Camp Shelby and there are several soldiers scheduled to arrive in the coming weeks.

The unit is awaiting the arrival of two additional platoons from Ohio and Illinois to bring them to their authorized strength. Information regarding the history of the 3622nd, as well as the Ohio and Illinois units, will be published in coming issues.

HHD Family Readiness Group

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B Co P.A. Representative.....SFC Hector Tirado
C Co P.A. Representative.....SPC Kristy Kroll

Please see the above individuals if you would like to make a submission to the newsletter

Alpha Company

Goodbye to a Creative Twist

By Staff Sgt. Marci L. Ficht

Co A, 228th FSB would like to bid a fond farewell to Spc. Sabrina R. Pasko who was recently diagnosed with scoliosis after experiencing lower back pain for an extended period of time. She is being sent to Ft. Campbell, KY to consult with a spine specialist who will then determine whether she will be eligible for this deployment or future deployments.

Spc. Pasko has been a member of the Army National Guard for almost eight years. She spent six years with the 728th MSB in Lancaster, PA as a 91E (Dental Technician) before transferring into the Class III Section (POL) of Co A, 228th FSB in Sellersville, PA. Spc. Pasko joined the military to follow in the

going to be coming home together safe. I have no doubts they will.”

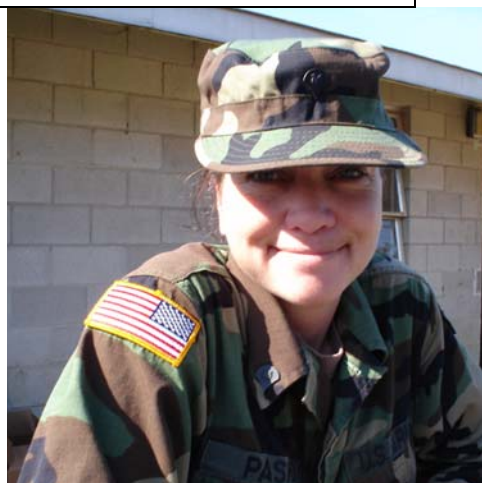
When asked about their family, Spc. Pasko laughingly referred to the television show “Eight is Enough”; together they have eight children from former marriages: Kristen (23 years), Erica Jo (21 years), Tesse (19 years), Ian (19 years), Breanne (16 years), Travis (16 years), Joey (14 years), and Samantha (14 years). Ian is currently serving in Iraq with the 3rd Infantry Division; Tesse recently joined the Navy and will be going to Boot Camp in May. Spc. Pasko also has several grandchildren, Selina (2 years), Shantay (5 months) and Cadan, who is due to be born on June 19th.

Spc. Pasko spends as much of her free time as possible with her family as well as pursuing her artistic interests. In addition to the drawing she created for this article, she has been doing drawings for some of the A Company soldiers at their request. When asked how long she has been drawing, she stated, “Lead No. 2 has been my friend since I was old enough to have the privilege of grasping it in my hand.”

Her additional mediums are ink, oils, acrylics, and computer related programs such as Illustrator, Photoshop, and Quark Xpress; she especially enjoys animation and web site development. SPC Pasko has sold numerous paintings and drawings, including illustrations for a book that is to be published at a future date.

According to SPC Pasko, her favorite training at Camp Shelby was attacking Al Asad and the Close Quarters Combat Training. She particularly enjoyed “taking down” her husband during the hand to hand combat and used that training as the basis for her drawing. She says that what she is going to miss most about Camp Shelby is “training with some very good people.”

Spc. Pasko would like to leave the following parting words for her comrades at arms, “Thank you and my prayers are for you.”



A Co says good-bye to Spc. Sabrina Pasko.



Spc. Martin shows off her new gear while taking a break from Combat Service and Support lanes training



Spc. Cynthia Jamieson and Sgt. 1st Class Michael Kunkle discuss the set-up of an Ammo Holding Point



By SPC Sabrina Pasko

footsteps of her father, Sgt. LeRoy Cordts-Miller, a Marine who served in the Korean War and spent 26 years in the Pennsylvania National Guard.

Although generally very quiet and soft-spoken, Spc. Pasko makes it clear to all that she is distraught over not being able to deploy with the Company. She states that there is “always hope” and that there is a “possibility that the spine specialist will determine that I can still deploy with A Company.”

Spc. Pasko was to be deployed to Iraq with her husband, Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Pasko, A Company’s Second Platoon Leader and Motor Sergeant. She states that, “A Company and my husband are one and the same. They train together and therefore need each other if they are

A Co Family Readiness Group

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Bravo Company

“Can-Do” Attitude

By Spc. Jennifer Hassler

Good things are happening in B Co 228th FSB. Soldiers from all corners of Pennsylvania have come together to make up the 2 BCT Direct Support Maintenance Company.

B Co is extremely diverse in all facets of Direct Support, with activities ranging from engine repair to electronic communication equipment repair. If you break it or it doesn't work, the odds are that B Co will fix it.

During the last two

months at Camp Shelby, the unit has gone through a transformation from part-time maintenance soldiers to active Army maintenance soldiers—not only able to repair equipment but able to be tactically ready for whatever mission is assigned to the unit.

From Mounted Convoy Patrols to inventorying toolboxes and property, B Co soldiers have come together through teamwork and spirit to complete the mission.



Sgt. Ricardo Moreno administers first aid to a notional casualty with Sgt. 1st Class Hector Tirado during Platoon Urban Operations training at the Al Jaffah site. This is part of the theater immersion training B Co soldiers are undergoing to prepare them for their summer deployment to



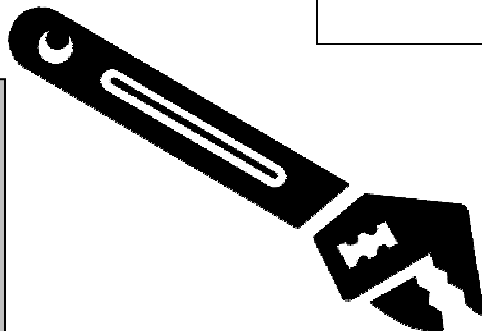
Staff Sgt. Remy Santi is pulled out of the line of fire, to safety by his fellow B Co soldiers. Staff Sgt. Santi was handed a “casualty card” by the site trainers after his MILES gear was set off by a laser attached to an enemy’s weapon.



B Co soldiers prepare to enter the objective, a building they believe to be a weapons cache. They are confronted by actors, role-playing Iraqi civilians, which adds more realism to the training.

B Co Family Readiness Group

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B Co DET 1 Readiness Group

Christine Peters

Charlie Company



Get to Know...SSG Lauff

By Spc. Kristy Kroll

Staff Sgt. Robert E. Lauff is a medic with C Co, 128th in Pittsburgh PA. He has left his home in Verona, PA in order to deploy with C Co, 228th. He comes to the FSB with a positive attitude and a wealth of information.

Staff Sgt. Lauff was born in Pittsburgh on August 6, 1968. He looks forward to visiting his friends, parents, and brother in Pittsburgh when he returns for block leave.

As if working as a paralegal, and pursuing a bachelor's degree weren't enough,...Staff Sgt. Lauff was looking for something more in 1987. He found it when he enlisted in the Army National Guard. He holds a 91W and 92A MOS, medic and supply. In 1988 Staff Sgt. Lauff mobilized to Germany for the REFORGER mission. He remembers this as one of the most interesting deployments in which he participated.

When asked how he feels

about this deployment to Iraq Staff Sgt. Lauff says, "Alright." As with the rest of C Co 228th, Staff Sgt. Lauff admits to being homesick and plans on spending time catching up on Steeler's Football and collecting enough Pittsburgh memorabilia to keep his morale up while overseas.

Staff Sgt. Lauff is currently assigned as a Squad Leader and an acting Platoon Sergeant. He takes his job seriously and maintains a positive attitude. If he could make one change, he would add more physical training. He would also like to make the internet at Camp Shelby free to soldiers.

When Staff Sgt. Lauff has downtime here at Camp Shelby, he watches movies and sports. He also is reading "Principle Centered Leadership." At home he likes to go fishing. For now, the soldiers of C/228th can count on Staff Sgt. Lauff for friendly conversation and on the spot corrections.

Students & Citizen Soldiers Going to War

Bloomsburg University Alumni and Students Serve Honorably

By 1st Lt. Ryan Quinn

This year will certainly be full of cherished memories, especially for several Bloomsburg University students who will be deploying to South West Asia this summer.

Allow me to introduce two Bloomsburg University students, Sergeant Candy Gilbert (Junior – Nursing) and Specialist Julianne Williams (Junior – Social Work). These two soldiers will deploy to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom for an 18-month tour of duty after mobilizing at Camp Shelby, MS.

Both Sgt. Gilbert and Spc. Williams are members of Co C (MED) 228th FSB, which is based in Allentown, PA.

However, for this deployment, Spc. Williams has been reassigned to our Headquarters Company of the 228th FSB.

Sgt. Gilbert and Spc. Williams are two outstanding and loyal soldiers who are vital to the success and operation of our mission. Their devotion to duty and their team spirit are valuable assets to our company and battalion. These two soldiers/students are sacrificing much. Both will be withdrawing from school, leaving behind many close friends and a campus that they enjoy.

Story continued on page 6



(Left) C Co gathers around the company sand table to plan their medical operations during the Brigade CSS Lanes.

C Co Family Readiness Group

Annalisa Cavotta

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Bloomsburg Alum, Continued from Page 5.

A new member to our family, and ironically another alumnus, Army Lieutenant Jerusha Rodriguez (Class of 1998) of Malvern, PA recently returned from Afghanistan and will take command of the unit (Co C (MED) 228th FSB) as the 'stay behind' Commander and head the operations of the company. 1st Lt. Rodriguez served with honorable distinction in Uzbekistan and Afghanistan while in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and

received the Bronze Star for her actions while in the theatre of combat. Her guidance and mentorship have and continue to be invaluable as we prepare to go into harms way.

I think it is all fitting and proper that we recognize both Sgt. Gilbert and Spc. Williams for their commitment to service, their sacrifices and their strong character as they leave school to serve their country.



(Photo left) Safety is very important to the soldiers of the 228th FSB.

After doing a risk assessment on low flying aircraft, B Co Commander, Capt. Joe Harkins (left) was worried about his peer, C Co Commander, Capt. Dirk Remensnyder, (center) who stands close to 7 feet tall.

Capt. Harkins decided to implement a control measure, and order a big red blinking hat for the C Co Commander.

January-March 2005 Promotions

SSG Ficht	PV2 Chudoba	SPC Lower	PFC Ruth
SSG Morris	PFC Cribbs	SPC Miller	SPC Button
SGT Steudler	PFC Espinosa	PFC Manning	SPC Gerber
SGT Dickey	PFC Ronchi	SSG Patno	SPC Koleman
SGT Liszka	PFC Morales	SPC Moan	SPC Herguiz
SPC Thompson	SPC Agosto	SPC Osorio	SPC Poston
PFC Reber	SPC Braun	SPC Piercy	
PFC Hackett	SPC Calton	SPC Roloson	
PFC Luna	SPC Dixon	SPC Sulim	

SFC Hillegas Wins the Slogan Contest

Everyone in the 228th FSB knows the value of receiving one of the "World Famous" pen and pencil sets from Command Sgt. Maj. Harry DeLorenzo. Last month, the CSM finally exhausted his original 1,000 sets, and needed to order more. "It was time for a change, and I needed a new slogan," explained Command

Sgt. Maj. Delorenzo.

He decided to open it up to the whole Battalion. SFC Dan Hillegas, from the S4 shop won the contest. The slogan he submitted, "Iraq and Back", was sent to the pen and pencil company.

SFC Hillegas won a gift certificate to the catfish place and dinner for two—two MREs (Meals Ready to Eat).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HHD

SGT Kevin Rutt SFC Ted Banks
SGT Thomas Eckman SPC Matt Woodhams

A CO

SSG Marci Ficht PFC Stephen Foster
SPC Brad Thompson

B CO

PFC Jesse Miller SPC Michael Bittner
SPC Donna Seltzer SGT Kevin Maggs
SGT Kevin Hostetter SPC Kweilan Reed

C CO

SGT Jeffrey Martel SPC Vesta Smith
SPC Debra Poston PFC Christian Herguiz
SPC Carilee Amman SGT Trevor Knight
SGT Alexander Takacs



Keep the Mail Coming!

Letters and Packages are definitely appreciated. SPC Julianne Williams, the 228th Mail Clerk doesn't mind when the mail room overflows. "I like to see the mail room full, because I know that it will make a lot of people happy."

Please send mail to :

Rank, Last Name, First Name
___ Co, 228th FSB
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Camp Shelby, MS 39407