

FLIGHT LOG

C/3-126 AVN REGT (Air Ambulance) Newsletter
September 2006 Issue



OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM-05/07 TASK FORCE THUNDER



COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Dear Families & Soldiers,

As we roll into the final months of our deployment, everyone continues to do the great job they've trained for over the last few years at home and put theory into practice in a difficult environment.

I know many of you are anxious to learn of our return date – unfortunately I do not have any firm information. I assure you we look forward to the transfer of the mission and the deMOB process. For our next letter, I hope to be able to outline at least the process if not a reasonable timeline. That being said, we are entering a very critical period in our adventure.

This is the time where all of us need to be focused on our mission irrespective of whether we're training stay-behind Soldiers, keeping the home-front running, or maintaining an aircraft in the desert. This is a point where most of us begin to think about our civilian jobs, families, etc. I'm just as guilty of thinking about the new hangar in Burlington – but our focus needs to stay on the task at hand. US and coalition Soldiers rely on us every day to provide care if they get hurt, and we must be on our game to provide those services.

As we get closer to the end, people's morale improves both at home and abroad – but sometimes that high morale can be tempered with the stresses of change. Please be aware of that as we interact with each other and our families. I do not believe that we will have any problems; I only mention it to increase awareness and ease communication.

All of our Soldiers here speak very highly about the support from home. Friends, family, and business have contributed so much to the comfort of our team. Thank you very much for everything.

Regards,

MAJ ROGER W. DRURY

FIRST SERGEANT NOTES

Hello To all of our family, friends and fellow Soldiers. Over this past month our units OPTEMPO has been extremely high in all areas of our operations from Tallil to Diwaniyah. All of the Soldiers of C/3-126TH Aviation (Air Ambulance) continue to perform their assigned missions with the utmost determination and high level of standards. The days are long for all of us and the nights short, but we all know that within a few months we should be heading back to our families, loved ones and friends, and the one place that we all truly look forward to, home.

Over the next few months we all will be very busy with our current mission and with the mission that we have all been looking forward to, redeployment. Although there is much work to be done, we have been in the planning process for the past several weeks and will continue until each and every task has been completed.

We all look forward to the near future and reflect on the past. Take care of each other both here in Iraq and back at home.

With great respect and gratitude to all of our families and to all Soldiers of our unit.

Respectfully, 1SG Kris A. Sample

HQ PLATOON

Well August has been a busy month and a hot one here at LSA Adder. August has gone on record to be the hottest month so far. We have seen temperatures that we will never experience in Vermont or Massachusetts. This month, you shall get a glimpse of Headquarters members and a little bit of what they do and have been doing. The devotion that this platoon has poured in to this mission has been exemplary.

Our first 2 players are, who else? The Commander and the First Sergeant. Although they belong to the entire company, they hang their hat in the Headquarters Platoon as far as the Unit Manning Report is concerned. The commander has commanded this operation with ease. He has put in many hours keeping his watchful eye on all training and the well-being of each and every one of us. Not only has he administratively managed this company, he has walked in everyone's shoes by performing as a flight crew member on a regular basis.

The First Sergeant has followed closely in his footsteps. His NCO guidance transitioned us smoothly in to theater and he will ensure our trip out is just as smooth. He has shown great diversity and has filled in as crew chief when needed. He clocked well over 40 combat flight hours when the crews were short.

CPT Patrino has led the Operations team throughout this deployment with his effective management skills. He has supervised the coordination of patient movement between 2 sites that have added up to more than 840 patients and over 1000 flight hours. In addition to his Operations responsibilities, CPT Patrino has actively participated as a flight crewmember on a regular basis



SSG Lamonda, our own Poppa Panda, has kept the best interest of his NCOs in mind. He will work any shift to see that his Soldiers receive their scheduled day of rest. The operations team is always on their game, and it is a testament to SSG Lamonda's devotion to the mission and his Soldiers well-being. He has been a little lonely now that his roommate is on leave; so his friends bring him fresh bamboo stalks!

SSG Dusablon, Johnny D, has served the unit well as Safety NCO. He has managed numerous programs for the company that include material safety data, fire safety, environmental concerns, range safety, hazardous materials handling, hearing conservation, waste management, operational hazards reporting to just name a few. He has had his work cut out for him.

SSG Chagnon has worn many hats on this deployment. His professionalism and ability to procure needed items has been just what the unit needed. As the motors sergeant, he has managed 7 wheeled vehicles and 4 power generators and all the computerized programs that go along with them. As the "all around" Soldier, he has built a Motor Pool from the ground up, stays abreast on work orders, supplies unit with the basics, such as water and what ever he can procure that might seem impossible. Yes, he does police everyone on their wheel chock and dispatch, but it is all in the SOP.



SSG Gilstrap has been preparing for the “grand finale” since her arrival in theater. Hitting ground, performing the personnel mission, and then setting the Soldiers up for a smooth transition at the FT. Dix Demobilization station has been the personnel mantra. Many curve balls have been tossed, but through the assistance of the unit members, home station, mob station, and our active component S1 in Balad, every obstacle has turned into an open gate. You win some and you lose some, but you always walk away feeling like you tried!



SSG Martell, our unit supply sergeant, has been a “one man show” in many areas. He has great responsibilities that kept him burning the midnight oil on the way in to theater, and as we shift our eyes to the exit, he will ramp up again. He is vital to our movement however you look at it. As you can see, it is not all work and no play for SSG Martell, we do also catch him in the pool now and again!

SGT Nooney, Battle Princess, fills in for Poppa Panda and keeps operations running on the evening shift. SGT

Nooney has been a great asset to the team. She is important the unit's daily medical evacuation mission reporting requirements. She has sharpened her ability to receive and integrate data from our air ambulance platoons, and transmit them higher to battalion and brigade level. Her dedication is defined through her mission requirements.



to

SGT Laurie has

been the principle mechanic for our seven vehicle fleet. He has continuously poured his time in to ensuring that all vehicles were available for any mission. His efforts and many extended hours working on vehicles have inadvertently played a significant role in the success of all the platoons. The numbers of vehicles we have were an asset that the unit did not expect but could not have completed so many requirements without them.



SPC Mooreside has been consistent in running the day operations. She has independently reviewed the individual flight records of the entire unit. Her attention to detail was invaluable to maintenance and upkeep of the records. She was recognized and commended at the battalion and brigade level during two separate operational evaluations. She has had no difficulty in managing incoming data from split site operations. And every now and again, she'll take a break and go for a swim!

SGT Wright has single handedly monitored company MEDEVAC operations in Flight Operations during the midnight to morning shift throughout this deployment. Everyone knows he is in the unit but there are very few that see him on a regular basis. He has done a great job accounting for all the sensitive items in the section. He has made coordination with multiple sites, a significant contribution toward coverage of a large area of medical evacuation in southern Iraq.





Mr. Atkinson, our resident junk food junkie, not only performs air MEDEVAC missions, but is also assigned as our standardization officer. He has supervised the aircrew standardization and training programs for both officer and enlisted aircrew members in all modes of flight. He has trained and evaluated instructor pilots and pilots in command. And finally, he delves into the administrative portion by ensuring the company aircrew training records are up to date. Mr. Atkinson is experiencing a well deserved rest on R & R Leave this newsletter time frame.



Another Robey Sighting!

It has been fun these past newsletters looking for Mr. Robey! Rests assure, he has had a very distinct presence on this deployment. In addition to performing MEDEVAC missions, he is also our Safety Officer. He is the principle advisor to the commander on all aviation safety matters. He has set up and managed the command aviation safety program. The unit has been afforded the utmost safety awareness through his monthly training meetings. So yes, we do know where he is, and if we don't, he usually has his eye on us.

SSG Wood has enhanced our deployment in many ways. His sense of humor is greatly appreciated and knows when to initiate a laugh. He has juggled 3 primary responsibilities in addition to his readiness to fill in when needed. He has meticulously gathered, interpreted, and disseminated intelligence information from numerous sources. He has worked in conjunction with unit tactical operations officers to insure that the unit chain of command, aircrew members, and ground personnel are always informed of the tactical situations and threat within the unit's area of responsibility. He has managed the NBC defense and training program and has been responsible for unit level security and maintenance program of small arms. Oh, and yes, he is the weatherman. However, he can never be inaccurate when the forecast is "MORNING – Hot" "AFTERNOON – Hotter" "EVENING – Windy and Hot".

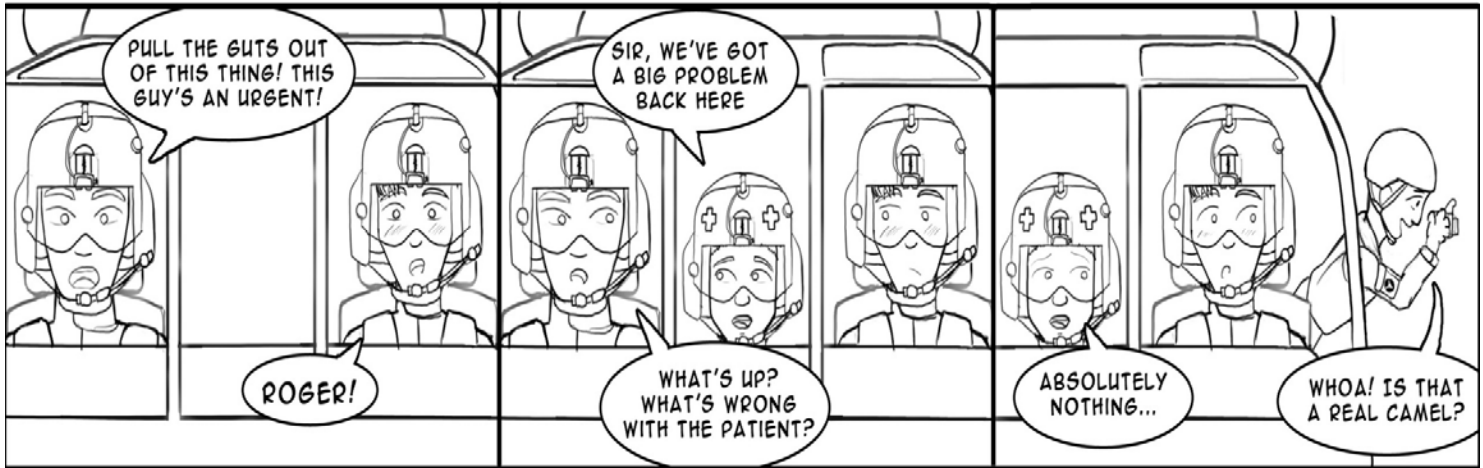
SGT Grant was a part of the Headquarters Platoon up until a few months ago. He has since moved to the AVUM Platoon. While in our Platoon, he was responsible for dispatching equipment, the unit license program, he tracked parts requisitioned and received, and he made daily inquiry at the Supply Support Activity (SSA) to retrieve parts. As he became more knowledgeable in aircraft parts and technical supply, AVUM snatched him up and have him working full time. SGT Grant remains very versatile and assists with all platoons.

So there you have it...a brief synopsis of our requirements!!

1st Platoon

Remove Before Flight

OIF #1



Writing: Ben Whitten Art: Vinnie Fusca

WWW.REMOVEB4FLIGHT.COM



Air Ambulance Platoon One is made up of seven pilots, seven crew chiefs and four medics who work very hard at their respective jobs to complete our mission. The pilots are tactically and technically proficient at flying the aircraft and managing our missions. The crew chiefs are responsible for daily maintenance; patient, passenger and cargo loading. Medics provide enroute medical care to patients.

In addition to the above jobs and responsibilities we also have one more important position that is vital to platoon operations: the position of most junior Soldier. As the most junior Soldier, your responsibilities are simple: do everything that everyone tells you to do. You out-rank no one, possess little experience and knowledge, and in most cases you are the youngest Soldier in the platoon. Everything is your fault directly or indirectly because 90% of work, if assigned correctly, ends up in your lap. A truly thankless job!

For AAP 1, that burden has fallen upon SPC Benjamin Whitten. SPC Whitten has done an outstanding job for the platoon throughout the year. His positive attitude and eagerness to learn has allowed him to progress from RL 3 to RL 1 in the aircraft. His work in the hangar has directly contributed to the company's mission capable rate of over 80%. The various errands he's run and odd jobs he's performed smoothed out day-to-day operations of the platoon. Additionally, he's the primary source of information technology support for both the network in operations and the internet in the living area. SPC Whitten has accepted every





task assigned to him with a smile and “two scoops of hooah.”

SPC Whitten’s next goal is to attend flight school and become a pilot. I have no doubt he will be successful given all he has accomplished to date. On behalf of the Platoon, SPC Whitten, thank you for everything you have done for us throughout the year. It hasn’t gone unnoticed.

Life at Ad Diwaniyah

Working in Hot Conditions



August must be the hottest month since we have been here in Iraq. We are now seeing clouds in the sky with an increase of humidity making the temperature about 50 degrees C in the cockpit. This is of course very uncomfortable when flying inside of the UH-60 with wind that feels like a blow dryer. This heat seems to be annoying but spirits are high. Why you may ask...because we are one month closer to coming home! Yes, another month down and what seems to be a light at the end of the tunnel is starting to peer through the calendar yearlong journey.

Everyone at FOB E is doing well. We have added SSG Derek Laferriere to our ranks as a new arrival. He has hit the ground running and is flying as a flight medic after honing some skills at the Combat Support Hospital (CSH) in Baghdad. CW4 Keith Roy was awarded a scholarship for corrective laser surgery this past month. His wife will be accepting the “Sight for Safety” award on his behalf from LT Governor Dubie. We continue to conduct our mission of air medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) for the Multi National Division-Central South (MND-CS). This newsletter I want to try to convey how our days are now that we have been going strong in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) 05-07 for more than 9 months.

The pictures attached to this article are of maintenance being conducted at different times here at FOB E. I wanted to take this opportunity to praise our ability to come together and tackle a task and overcome great obstacles with a limited amount of personnel, equipment, and time. In the past 9 months we have conducted multiple scheduled and unscheduled maintenance tasks. During that time we have completed this maintenance at all times of the day/night imaginable. We have had aircraft land at 11:00 PM needing repair. Without hesitation all our personnel will attack the aircraft and complete maintenance sometimes until 2:00 or 3:00 AM. Even during the day as I described the heat above, crew chiefs and crewmembers complete repairs and inspections on a regular basis. The motivation and drive of all members of FOB E is commendable in their ability to get the job done.



When a maintenance event occurs we have all hands out assisting; Crew Chiefs, Medics, and Pilots. Operations personnel will come out to assist with clean up, inspections, and even patient litter transfers. The Soldiers and officers here are resourceful people not willing to take “no” for an answer. During a 40-hour inspection we needed a crane to complete a crucial part of the inspection. We managed to resource one from local contractors in a matter of 30 minutes. I am extremely lucky to be serving with everyone here.

Support from our brothers and sisters in the south have been better than ever. We have improved communications 10 fold since we have been here, making submitting reports in operations almost seamless. The maintenance personnel here and AVUM platoon communicated so well that they have a combined Operational Readiness (OR) rate of over 86% (the standard is 75%)!!!!



Everyone works hard everyday to ensure mission success. It is tough to explain to family members and friends at home the atmosphere we live in day in and day out. I think you will see when we get home that our work ethic is like no other. I am not sure we will know what to do with “free time”, but I am sure you will help us figure that out. We will remain focused on the mission at hand and look out for one another to make sure we all come home safe and sound with our mission complete.

Thank you again for your outstanding support! As I tell the officers and Soldiers here at FOB E “Remain flexible and stay focused on the mission. We need to maintain our professionalism at all levels and look out for one another...safety is paramount”. Take care and we hope to talk to you soon.

AVUM PLATOON

Another month down, and more than another 1,000 hours of maintenance expertly completed by C Co. mechanics. Time marches on however – last week marked the first clouds in the sky since spring. This month we achieved our highest aircraft readiness rate of the deployment. Our overall mission capable rate of 88% well exceeded the Army standard, and was possible only due to the continuous efforts made by your Soldiers to keep aircraft on mission in the harshest environment imaginable.

Recently we had the opportunity to offer help to a unit transitioning through our area when two of their Blackhawk helicopters required major repairs here on Tallil. We were able to offer these Soldiers hangar space, tools, transport on base, and even managed to get some to a tour of the main local attraction – the Ziggurat of Ur. We were very glad to have the opportunity to “pay forward” the assistance we received from many sources upon arrival in theatre last year.

The unit we assisted was overjoyed to find a fully functional maintenance base where they definitely weren't expecting one. The work that has been put into our facility over the course of the year is simply amazing. When we arrived back in December, we were handed a hangar that was literally empty. We have now built up or procured office and storage space, heavy equipment, and tools and repair parts to complete our mission. It is important to note that no other aviation unit deployed to Iraq this year has had to start from scratch the way we have. There had never been an aviation maintenance section based on Tallil before our arrival. While other units fell in on established bases, the New Englanders turned “fat nothing” into a facility with most of the capabilities of home. Remember that this build up was completed with maintenance ongoing all the while.

As the deployment enters its eleventh month, the maintenance platoon is placing a strong emphasis on safety. To give an idea of the pace of operations, our 6 aircraft have burned 185,375 gallons of jet fuel since January 1, 2006. The long term effects of thousands of hours of hard work in a tough environment are known in the Army as “chronic fatigue”, and all Soldiers will display some signs. We are making a conscious effort to slow down and make sure the work is done right the first time. This commitment to quality is the reason why we have maintained 24/7 coverage throughout this year, and never dropped a mission. That knowledge will be the best thing your Soldier brings home with them.

In a just a couple of weeks, we will mark the one year anniversary of becoming “federalized Soldiers”. Over the last year your Soldiers have increased their knowledge and skills far beyond those learned in the traditional “part time” system, and become a team that know each others strengths and look out for each other. They will always have a reason to be proud of their accomplishments.

Below please find a recent Email that the Avum platoon received from a civilian contractor, also known as a LAR (Logistical Area Representative):

.....The days always seem to go fast and furious when its time to go and we know in the military, saying good-bye is sometimes the hardest and the last thing you want to do.

To all assigned to Vermont and Massachusetts Army National Guard (MEDEVAC), your personnel from the officers, noncommissioned officers, and enlisted, you have done an outstanding “thankless” job that I was glad to have witnessed and experienced for the last 5 months.

If you sit back and evaluate the results, you have exceeded your flight hour objectives and the army's standard of aircraft availability through excellent preparation, planning and execution. It has been my definite pleasure to serve your organization in any capacity that was useful in the accomplishment of your mission. To all I would like to express my sincere THANKS for making me a better person today than I was yesterday, in accepting me as your LAR.

Good luck in all your future endeavors and the completion of your outstanding deployment. Anytime, anywhere I can be of assistance, This message was written by Elliot Stanley, AMCOM LAR out of Balad, Iraq



FAMILY READINESS TEAM

1LT Jeffrey Sills(Title 10 Family Readiness Assistance-Massachusetts)
Carolyn Keenan – Western Massachusetts Army Aviation FRG Chairperson
Ms Jill Caliri – Western Massachusetts Aviation Family Support Group
CW4 Warren Lyons(Title 10 Family Readiness Assistance-Vermont)
Mrs. Suzanne Zisselsberger Family Readiness Leader-Vermont
Mrs. Susan Labbe Co Chair-Vermont
Mrs. Michelle Reno Treasurer-Vermont
Mrs. Valerie Sample Secretary-Vermont
MWR in Theater – CW2 Daniel Hiatt, CW2 Kevin Carvey



NOTE FROM THE FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP-VERMONT Greetings from the Family Support Group (FSG)

A request from the Massachusetts facility:

The end of your deployment and the Welcome Home party are just around the corner. We are putting together a slide show, with the pictures we have received so far, to be shown at the celebration. Please send any digital photos or footage of Massachusetts Soldiers you have. We'd like to see at least a shot or two from each of the Soldiers deployed from Westfield in the video. It will only be as good as you help us make it, so send everything you have.

Send to: Jeffrey.sills@us.army.mil

You may shortly see a request be made to stop mail going to Soldiers. As we draw closer to redeployment, the postal services will prove to not be reliable enough to assure proper delivery. Watch for an upcoming message from your Family Support Group.

FROM THE ADMIN OFFICE

Email: cindy.gilstrap@us.army.mil & DSN: 318-445-2170



It was easy to get SGT Wright to smile when he came in for his R & R Leave folder.

SPC Lowell finally visited the “big city” of Tallil. All he wanted to do was go shopping. But really what he wanted to do was go on R & R Leave.



SSG Maye joined us in Tallil for a few weeks. Always willing to help, he showed up on our doorstep looking for a place to sleep, where to get meals, and ready to take his place on first up.

DSN phone listings:

✚ The Soldiers here are authorized to call home through DSN lines. The following numbers are for your use: 312-850-5131, 312-235-3000, VT – 312-636-3000, MA – 312-557-4466 & 312-955-3000
Please limit your DSN calls to 2 times per week for 20 minutes

CIF TURN-IN

CIF Turn in at FT Dix – New improved Rain Suit, Gortex top & Bottom, Sappy Plates, Chemical Undergarments

TRAINING UPON RETURN TO HOME STATION

3.C.3.A. SOLDIERS HAVING SERVED ON ACTIVE DUTY IN SUPPORT OF CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS FOR MORE THAN THREE MONTHS WILL BE EXEMPTED FROM INVOLUNTARILY PERFORMING AT FOR **THE REMAINDER OF THE TRAINING YEAR, OR A MINIMUM OF SIX MONTHS (WHICHEVER IS GREATER) AND SHALL BE EXEMPTED FROM INVOLUNTARILY PERFORMING IDT FOR 60 DAYS AFTER REFRAD.**

EDUCATION

You are now able to view and print off your NOBE's "Notice Of Basic Eligibility" online.

Go to <https://www.nationalguardbenefits.com>, from this website you and your Soldiers will now be able to apply for tuition assistance and print off CH1607 and CH 1607 NOBE's.

As a reminder all Education Benefit information is still at www.virtualarmory.com/education

AGR Soldiers and Administrators; You will still have to contact the Education Support Center at PEC for your CH 30 GI Bill. 866-628-5999

MILITARY PAY

Military Pay Raise

- Military pay raise for 2006 (eff 1 Jan 06) was **3.1%** for all personnel; pay raise was mandated by law (Employment Cost Index + .5%)
- **Proposed** military pay raises for 2007 are **2.2% (Senate)** and **2.7% (House)** for all personnel (NDAA O7 approved pay raise will be effective 1 Jan 2007)

Both **House & Senate** versions of bill also includes targeted pay raises for Warrant Officers and enlisted members in grade of E-5, 6 & 7 (if approved, effective date would be 1 Apr 07)

Income-Replacement Program Launched for Mobilized Reservists, Guardsmen

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Aug. 4, 2006 - The Defense Department this month kicked off a program to help prevent activated reservists and National Guardsmen from facing financial hardships.

The Reserve Income Replacement Program will pay eligible National Guard and reserve members mobilized for extended or frequent periods the difference between their monthly civilian pre-mobilization income and their current total monthly military compensation.

"RIRP is designed to assist those mobilized Guard and reserve members that are experiencing a loss of income while mobilized," said Tom Bush, principal director of manpower and reserve affairs for the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

Program payments are not automatic. Guard and reserve members must apply for the RIRP payments thorough their service personnel offices.

To qualify for RIRP, service members must:

- * Be serving on active duty in an involuntary status and have completed 18 continuous months of involuntary active duty, or
- * Have completed 24 cumulative months of involuntary active duty within the last 60 months, or
- * Be serving on involuntary active duty for a period of 180 days or more that starts within six months of separation from a previous period on involuntary active duty for at least 180 days.

Guard and reserve members serving on involuntary active duty and earning at least \$50 less than their normal civilian income each month must verify eligibility for this benefit through their military service's personnel system, using a new DD form created for this program, DoD officials said.

Financial records submitted with the RIRP application must include the member's most recent federal income tax return or other record of earnings that shows gross income during the 12 months before the member's mobilization, officials said.

The first payments under the program will be made at the end of August for members who have completed the application and meet all eligibility criteria.

Congress authorized the Reserve Income Replacement Program as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2006. The authority for RIRP will expire Dec. 31, 2008.

Related Sites:

DoD Policy Guidance, Compensation Calculator and Downloadable Eligibility Verification Form

<<http://www.dod.mil/ra/>>

Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs <<http://www.defenselink.mil/ra/>>

News Archive <<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/archive.html>> News Archive

<<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/archive.html>>

NOTE: View the original version <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Aug2006/20060804_5800.html> of this web page on DefenseLINK <<http://www.defenselink.mil>> , the official website of the U.S. Department of Defense.

SERVICEMEMBERS GROUP LIFE INSURANCE (SGLI) COMBAT ZONE REFUND

1. Effective 1 Feb 2006, Soldiers deployed to OIF or OEF are entitled to **\$150,000 of free SGLI** coverage. DFAS will reimburse SGLI premiums on the LES.
2. Soldiers will be refunded for the first \$150,000 of SGLI. For example, if a member had 400,000 of coverage, from 1 Feb - 30 Jun 2006, the refund will be \$10.75 per month, \$3.25 per \$50,000 plus \$1 for the traumatic injury insurance (T-SGLI). From 1 Jul - 31 Aug 2006, the refund will be \$11.50 per month, \$3.50 per \$50,000 plus \$1 for the T-SGLI. The refunds will be tax free with the limits of CZTE.
3. Refunds are scheduled to begin by Sep 2006. When the reimbursement starts, Soldiers will receive a payment every three months under the allowances section of their LES.
4. These changes will not affect coverage under Family SGLI (FSGLI).

For more information regarding this and other finance questions, call or stop by the local finance office at (Alpha Detachment, 8th Finance BN LSA Anaconda West 829-2906/2916).

FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Members of the Vermont and Massachusetts National Guard have the opportunity to vote in all elections while they are in Federal Service away from home. The Federal Post Card Application (Standard Form 76) is the form members use to apply for registration and to request absentee ballots. The Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (Standard Form 186) may be used as an emergency ballot to vote in Federal elections when a member has not received his or her requested state ballot in time to be submitted for counting.

Information about the Federal Voting Assistance Program is available on the website www.fvap.gov, forms are also available on the website.

Family members can also contact their local town clerks office to have the forms mailed to their spouse. If there are any questions regarding this program, the point of contact in Vermont is Mr. Paul Mendez @ 800-438-8683.

SAVINGS DEPOSIT PROGRAM

For those of you unit members that enrolled in the Savings Deposit Program, **remember** that the allotment does not stop on its own. The Soldier must stop the allotment with a Savings Deposit Plan Withdrawal Form. You have 90 days after re-deployment to continue to gain interest on the amount that they have in their accounts. Again, **THE ALLOTMENT DOES NOT STOP AUTOMATICALLY.** The Soldier must stop the allotment and request for the money to be deposited to his/her account.

SAVINGS DEPOSIT PROGRAM WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES:

- Soldiers should submit for withdrawal NLT 90 days after departing the combat zone (No interest will accrue after 90 days).
- Interest can be withdrawn quarterly on accounts with a balance over \$10,000.00.
- Soldiers can email DFAS to request a withdrawal:
CCL-SDP@DFAS.MIL. Include the following information:

1. Name (Last, First, MI)
2. Social Security Number
3. Branch of Service
4. Bank Account Information (Account Number, Routing Number, Bank Name and

Address)

- Expect 10-14 days processing time.

GUIDANCE FOR AIRLINE PASSENGERS

Raised Threat Levels:

- The U.S. threat level is raised to Severe, or Red, for all commercial flights flying from the United Kingdom to the U.S.
- The U.S. threat level is raised to High, or Orange for all commercial aviation operating in the U.S., including international flights. Flights from the U.S. to the U.K. are also Orange.

Increased Aviation Screening Procedures:

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will be implementing a series of security measures – some visible and some not visible -- to ensure the security of the traveling public and the Nation's transportation system. **TSA is immediately implementing following changes to airport screening procedures:**

- NO LIQUIDS OR GELS OF ANY KIND WILL BE PERMITTED IN CARRY ON BAGGAGE. SUCH ITEMS MUST BE IN CHECKED BAGGAGE. This includes all beverages, shampoo, sun tan lotion, creams, tooth paste, hair gel, and other items of similar consistency.
Exception: Baby formula, breast milk, or juice if a baby or small child is traveling; prescription medicine with a name that matches the passenger's ticket; and insulin and essential other non-prescription medicines, which all must be presented for inspection at the checkpoint.
- Beverages purchased in the boarding area (beyond the checkpoint) must be consumed before boarding because they will not be permitted on board the aircraft.
- Passengers traveling from the U.K. to the U.S. will be subject to a more extensive screening process.

These measures will be constantly evaluated and updated when circumstances warrant.

How every passenger can assist in security:

- Pack lightly, without clutter to facilitate easier screening
- Arrive earlier than usual at the airport
- Cooperate with TSA personnel at checkpoints and with airline personnel at all gates
- Be attentive and vigilant to any suspicious activity and report it to authorities

Increased Border Protection Procedures:

- U.S. Customs and Border Protection will increase enforcement efforts in international arrival areas including the use of advanced targeting tools, special response teams including baggage and aircraft search teams, baggage x-ray equipment, specially-trained canine units, and explosive detection technology.
- DHS has also mandated that all flights from the U.K. transmit passenger manifest information for intensive screening prior to departure from the gate. In addition, passengers on these flights and all other international flights will be subject to heightened inspection upon arrival in the U.S.



September Birthday's

Happy Birthday!!

- ✓ **SGT William Stowell** **11 Sep**
- ✓ **CW2 Michael Ahearn** **23 Sep**

