

Patriot's Pride

Volume 1, Issue 6

June 2004

The Patriot Brigade Family Readiness Group Quarterly Newsletter



Patriot 6 Comments...



Greetings to Patriot Soldiers and Families! Let me first say, how extremely privileged and proud I feel at the opportunity of leading the great Soldiers of the Patriot Brigade and being part of an organization with such an important mission. Last month we bade farewell to COL Dick and Mrs. Kathy McEvoy after two years as the Patriot Brigade

Command Team. They did a wonderful job welcoming me and my wife, Rita, aboard and preparing a smooth transition. They are now moving to Atlanta, Georgia, where COL McEvoy will work for Third Army. We wish them Godspeed and continued success (and warm weather year round!)

In the short time since I've arrived, I've had a chance to visit and meet the Soldiers of five battalions, but I still have many to see. I've been to Syracuse and Fort Dix and will visit Fort Devens next month as part of the changes of command scheduled for 2-310 TSBn and 3-310 TSBn. If I haven't met you yet, I hope to have by the next time I send out this newsletter.

Everywhere I've gone I've been impressed at the professionalism of our Soldiers and the commitment they demonstrate in accomplishing their tasks at hand. You should all be proud of what you are individually and collectively doing in support of the nation's Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). I cannot understate the significance of your contribution to the training readiness and deployment readiness of the units you have and continue to support or train. A shining example of your contributions is the success in operations of the units you have trained. 2-108 IN for instance has performed superbly in Iraq where it is working with the 2nd BCT, 1st ID (M). It was Soldiers from 2-18 IN who recently picked up Mr. Thomas

Hammil, after months of captivity. Each of you own a part of their successes and others who are doing our nation's work abroad.

Looking Back

Before I talk about what's ahead, I want to recap what has happened the past 45 days. A new mobilization surge began late May. In support of this surge we mobilized an additional 35 Soldiers and extended another 42 through January 2005. After planning, coordination, and training validation, we picked up mobilization operations at Fort Drum in mid May. We began Division Staff training for the 42nd Infantry Division (Mechanized) with a STAFFEX supported by 1/78 Battle Command and Staff Training Brigade and ourselves. We conducted Brigade and Division level Soldier of Excellence Boards and a number of Patriot Soldiers came out on top. Our congratulations to the outstanding performances of SSG Civello (3-314 FA TSBn), SGT Hunsaker (2-313 LSB), and SSG Newhook (3-309 TSBn). We had several Soldiers selected for promotion (including MSG McGrath to SGM!) and one selected for Officer Candidate School. (See spotlights later in the newsletter). We also bid farewell to a number of Patriots and their Families and welcomed others to the team. Of note we bid farewell to LTC Carl (aka Gene Simmons) and Mrs. Janet Pfeiffer and LTC Mike Iratcabal. They will all be sorely missed, but we are lucky to have great folks stepping in to take their places: MAJ Steve and Mrs. Ann Bunch, and MAJ Rich and Mrs. Nancy Blake (from 3-309 TSBn). We also welcomed MAJ JB and Mrs. Lee Shattuck (from 1-314 IN TSBn), CPT Chris and Mrs. Jennifer Reichart (from 1-314 IN TSBn), CPT Walt McManus (from 3-310 TSBn) and SFC Mike and Mrs. Litsa Bedard (from 3-314 FA TSBn).

Looking Ahead

The current mobilization surge will last through the Summer. We are preparing selected units for GTMO, OIF 2.5 and the 42nd ID (M) for OIF 3. We also have 9 Soldiers deployed and 3 more deploying to Iraq. They are training the new Iraq National Army to assume its role in defense and internal security (see note on CMATT and photo later in the newsletter). We are continuing to provide traditional Training Support for units not yet mobilized for GWOT, but with dwindling numbers of Officers and NCOs not involved in the previous missions. Finally, we are coordinating and preparing support to the upcoming Democratic and Republican National Conventions as part of our mission to provide Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA). As you can see, we are contributing in a variety of ways to our nation's security and our Army's fights abroad.

Our current main effort is training the 42nd ID (M) for its OIF 3 mission. Almost all Patriot Battalions have a dog in this fight. 3-314 FA TSBn is leading the main effort and serving as the Mobilization Assistance Team DRUM. MATDRUM is responsible for the overall coordination of training and execution of individual and leader tasks. 1-314 IN TSBn is conducting collective training (convoy operations and live fires, defense) and short range marksmanship as well as designing the Mission Readiness Exercises for the Division's separate companies. 3-309 TSBn has mobilized Soldiers to support MATDRUM. 3-309 TSBn Cdr and a team are assisting 42nd ID (M) in conducting Division level rehearsals for its Command Post Exercises (CPXs) and developing a plan to create the sights and sounds of Iraq for those CPXs. 1-309 TSBn has Soldiers performing Unit Assistor duties with mobilized units and others directly involved in MATDIX operations and training. 2-313 LSB has mobilized Soldiers and is providing logistic support for operations at Fort Drum and Fort Dix. Soldiers from 2-310 TSBn, 3-310 TSBn and 3-313 LSB are providing support and trainers to MATDIX, MATDRUM as well as the CMATT in Iraq. Finally, not to forget the Patriot Brigade Staff main focus, we will run three CPXs for the 42nd ID (M) from June to August in order to prepare them for OIF 3. The Staff is coordinating this mission with other TSBs from the 78th Div (TS) and 87th Div (TS), as well as the

24th Infantry Division and First Army's Warfighter Team. It is a huge task, even for a 3-star Headquarters, but our Staff is up to it.

Also just ahead are some key changes in leadership. In July we will bid farewell to LTC John and Mrs. Michelle Zavez (2-310 TSBn) and LTC Steve and Mrs. Lisa Falcone (3-310 TSBn). In their place we will welcome LTC & Mrs. William Kalinowski (2-310 TSBn) and LTC Larry Whitten & his Family (3-310 TSBn). If you are in the Devens area on 11 July, I hope you will join us for their change of command ceremonies.

In closing, thank you for all you are doing for the Patriot Brigade, the Lightning Division and our Army. Your hard work and sacrifices are appreciated and are making a difference.

COL Skip Davis
Patriot 6
Patriots!

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Message from the Brigade Ministry Team

Greetings from 2nd Brigade Unit Ministry
Team: Chaplain (LTC) Walter McGehee and SFC
Reinhart Meyers

Discipleship: Counting the Cost

The noun: **disciple** literally means "a learner or a pupil." Perhaps our nearest modern equivalent is "apprentice," one who learns by watching and doing. The meaning applies to one who professes to have learned certain principles from another and maintains them on that other's authority. (Sounds like the Army way, doesn't it?)

Do you remember the following parable?
"Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple." (Luke 14:31-33)

The Bush Administration is being criticized for underestimating the cost of Operation Iraqi Freedom. However, we commend the President for wanting to complete what he has started, and to secure a thorough victory in the War Against Terrorism. As a result 135 personnel of the 2d Bde find themselves mobilized at Fort Drum and Fort Dix, in support of deploying units.

Each of us needs to ask our self the question: "**Am I willing to go the distance?**" First of all, as a Soldier, or as a spouse or family member of a Soldier; and secondly spiritually as a **disciple** (a follower of the Lord).

Patriot Brigade FRG Points of Contact:

2/78 TSB: Lee Shattuck
1-314 IN TSBn: Bridget Grimm
3-314 FA TSBn: Sylvia James
1-309 TSBn: Marie Ginto
3-309 TSBn: MAJ David Venezia
2-310 TSBn: George Miner
3-310 TSBn: Ellen Burch
2-313 LSB: Eva Goodfellow
3-313 LSB: Kathleen Stewart

The Brigade FRG is responsible for communicating information and providing support to the families of the Patriot Brigade.

78th Division History: Our Link to the Past

As members of the 78th Division (Training Support), we are the modern torch bearers of the heroes from the "Lightning" Division's past. Our quarterly newsletter will highlight achievements from the past to remind us of our proud lineage. By doing so, we honor the brave heroes of the past.

The 78th Division was initially organized on August 23, 1917 at Camp Dix, New Jersey. Its first Division Commander was Major General Chase W. Kennedy, but he was followed in rapid succession by four other Commanders before a permanent one was assigned. On April 20, 1918 Major General James H. McRae took command of the Division. Ultimately it would be General McRae who would be the commander to take the "Lightning" Division into overseas combat during World War I.

Following the Division Commander the first Soldiers reporting for new duty in the 78th Division were a detachment of 40 officers and 337 men of the Medical Corps. They arrived at Camp Dix on August 27, 1917 and were followed the next day by 1,200 Officers fresh from Officers' Training Camp. Within weeks, the Division was joined by units coming from New York, New Jersey and Delaware. On September 5, 1917 a national draft registration was implemented and the

Division braced for the challenge of training fresh recruits. By mid-September Camp Dix became an installation capable of billeting and training up to 50,000 Soldiers. The training became an international affair with Soldiers from Canada, Great Britain and France serving as instructors. These instructors brought a realism to training for the young American "Doughboys." Many of the American Soldiers were getting their first taste of dealing with foreigners. After months of grueling training preparing for war, the Soldiers of the 78th Division departed as members of the "American Expeditionary Force" to points in England and France in May 1918.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the 78th Division's Veterans Association or to learn more about the Lightning Division, please visit the Association's on the web at:

<http://home.pon.net/gregf/78thdva/78thdiv.htm>.

Membership is \$15 per year, or \$100 for a lifetime. You can also write the Association at:

78th Division Veterans Association, Inc.
c/o Herman "Red" Gonzales
104 Pack Glen Road
Pittsburg, PA 15237

Morale, Welfare and Recreation **(MWR)**

Rib Night Special. Buster's Brew Pub offers its "Rack of Ribs Special," along with live entertainment, every Wednesday night from 5 - 9 PM. For more information, contact The Commons at Fort Drum, (315) 772-6222.

Steak Special. Buster's Brew Pub also offers its Steak Special every Friday night from 5 - 9 PM. Dinner includes a great meal and atmosphere to end the work week. For more information and reservations, contact The Commons.

Thursday, June 24. Mountainfest Day at Fort Drum. 10th Mountain Division will host its annual event at Division Hill. This year's event will have static displays, a carnival, food, a Military Salute to the Nation and a spectacular fireworks display.

Physical Fitness & Health Management Program. Magrath Gym offers a health management program where Soldiers and Family Members can receive a personal exercise and nutrition report for a nominal fee of \$10. For more information on this program and others offered through the Fort Drum fitness centers, contact Maureen Conway at (315) 772-4584/9672.

Please call the Fort Drum MWR office for more information about upcoming events at (315) 772-5685. Or visit the their web site at www.drum.army.mil/dca/index.htm. You can also download the latest copy of their monthly MWR magazine "PREVIEW" by clicking on the "Upcoming Classes & Events Link."

Upcoming Army Family Team Building **Training Seminars**

The Army Family Team Building (AFTB) program is designed to help empower Army families through personal and family preparedness training, which enhances overall Army readiness. AFTB helps families adapt to Army life by providing information about the resources available to Soldiers and Army family members.

Training sessions are held on a regular basis for commanders, spouses, and Dependents. Some upcoming training seminars in the Patriot Brigade region for the next few months are listed below. For more information and to verify training dates and times, please contact the AFTB program coordinators listed below.

Additionally AFTB Level I and II training are offered online in both English and Spanish at <http://www.armyfamilyteambuilding.com>. All you need to do is click the "Online Training" link to register for access.

AFTB Coordinator POCs and Training:

Fort Drum, NY's AFTB program coordinator is Rena Tumbleson, (315) 772-6710. Upcoming training available:

- AFTB Level II: 11 - 12 August
- (No classes will be offered in July)

Fort Dix, NJ's AFTB coordinator is Frances Booth, (609) 562-3930. Fort Dix regularly offers abbreviated AFTB training sessions at the Army Community Service Newcomer's briefing every third Thursday held at 0900 hours. Please call to verify time and additional training.

Fort Devens, MA's AFTB coordinator is Tony Esposito, (978) 796-3023. Please call him for additional information.

Spouse Volunteer Information

Spouses and Dependents who wish to volunteer their time may contact the Installation Volunteer Program coordinators for information about volunteer opportunities in their area. The program coordinators request that spouses and Dependents register through their offices so that their volunteered time can be tracked by the installation program office.

For more information, please contact the program coordinator at the office nearest you:

- Fort Drum Program Coordinator:
Becky McCarthy, (315) 772-2899
- Fort Dix Program Coordinator:
Fran Booth, (609) 256-3930
- Fort Devens Program Coordinators:
Rick Croucher, (800) 554-7813 x2260
Dolly Gosselin, (800) 554-7813 x2487

Army Well-Being Notes

The Army's Well-Being Program goal is to foster Army Readiness in order to defend the Nation's security. Its success depends on a "One-Team Effort" by our Soldiers, Civilians and

Families. It is founded on a principle that Army Readiness is linked to support structures that help our Soldiers and Families be self-reliant—whether the force is deployed or at home. When Soldiers deploy, they know their Families are safe, have access to benefits and Army Community resources. Many different areas are elements of this support, including pay and benefits, health care, education, housing, Army Family programs and recreation.

In the coming months, we will spotlight these important topics and their relation to the Patriot Brigade's overall readiness.

Unit / Reserve Component Notes

Mobilization Update

The Patriot Brigade has just finished conducting another internal mobilization of 35 of our Reserve Component Soldiers. These Soldiers will be supporting the Brigade's ongoing training support mission to ensure Reserve and National Guard Soldiers are prepared for deployment in support of current military operations worldwide. By mid-June, we will have 130 of our Reserve Component Patriots performing duties at Fort Drum and Fort Dix.

For the families and loved ones of these Soldiers, we ask that you do not hesitate to call your Soldier's Family Readiness Group contact for assistance in making the transition from Drilling Reservist to Mobilized Reservist. Rest assured they will be well taken care of.

Also, rest assured that your Soldier will be entitled to full pay and healthcare benefits while mobilized. These benefits are also extended to Soldier Dependents. Your Dependent ID card is the key to most of these benefits. For Dependents who live in remote locations and not near an ID card issuing facility, there is no need to panic about a rushing to obtain an ID card. You're your Soldier has completed Soldier mobilization processing, Dependent healthcare benefits will be updated in Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS). This is the DoD database that verifies eligibility for TRICARE (healthcare) benefits.

It is important for Dependents to obtain their ID cards as soon as it is convenient. Regulations

permit issuance of ID cards to family members of deployed and mobilized Soldiers. This means you will not need a sponsor (your Soldier) signature on the DD Form 1172 (Application for Uniformed Services ID Card - DEERS Enrollment) as long as your eligibility can be verified in the DEERS system. You can find the nearest ID card issuing facility online by going to: <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl>.

Patriot Soldiers Training Iraqi Forces



**Four of our CMATT Soldiers in Kuwait
(From L to R: CPT Helmer, SFC Tomb,
SSG Costa & 1LT Santa Maria)**

In addition to our mobilized Soldiers in the Northeast, twelve Patriot Soldiers are mobilized in support of the Coalition Military Assistance Training Team (CMATT). The CMATT mission is to help train the new Iraqi National Army from the ground up. Its goal is to ensure that Iraq has a functioning military capable of providing security as sovereignty is handed over to the Iraqi Governing Council.

Nine of our Soldiers have been in Iraq since March of this year. Three more are scheduled to depart by the end of June. These Soldiers come

from 1-309 TSBn, 3-309 TSBn, 2-310 TSBn, 3-310 TSBn, and 3-313 LSB. Please remember them in your thoughts and drop them an email when you have time. Their contact information is available through their parent units.

1-314 IN TSBn Conducts GTMO Training

A job well done to the 1-314 IN TSBn for nearly completing their GTMO training mission. The battalion has been away from home for a month and engaged at Fort Dix training more than 300 Soldiers who will deploy to support current operations at the US Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The battalion has conducted tough, hands-on training focused on force protection and other tasks that will assist deploying units in this important mission down south.

Most of the battalion's personnel have begun to return back to Fort Drum and we anticipate the rest to return home within the next couple of weeks. Welcome Home!

Future Events

The Patriot Brigade's main effort over the Summer will be directed at preparing the 42 ID (M) for their OIF 3 mission. The brigade will conduct three major Command Post Exercises; one each in June, July and August. In addition to the 42 ID (M), the brigade will remain decisively engaged in its ongoing support to our habitual client Reserve and National Guard units across the Northeast and New England during their AT season. We will also continue to support a number of other units mobilization and training in support of GWOT worldwide.

The Patriot Brigade Family Readiness Group will host its second annual "Patriot Off-Site Conference" later this year, in October. Please stay tuned for more details on this important FRG leadership team-building event.

Patriot Soldiers in the Spotlight

Noncommissioned Officers Honored

The Patriot Brigade extends a well-deserved Congratulations to three of our Noncommissioned Officers for their recent achievements:

- **Staff Sergeant Paul Newhook** (3-309 TSBn & currently mobilized at MATDRUM) was inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club. He will receive an Army Commendation Medal and a 78th Division coin from the Division's Commanding General for this outstanding achievement.
- **Staff Sergeant Nicholas Civello** (3-314 FA TSBn) was selected as both the 78th Division (TS) AND the Patriot Brigade's Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. He was awarded the Army Commendation Medal and a Brigade coin for this outstanding achievement.
- **Sergeant Colby Hunsaker** (2-313 LSB and currently mobilized at MATDIX) was selected as runner up as the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year for both the 78th Division (TS) and the Brigade. He was awarded an Army Achievement Medal for his achievement.

Patriot Selected for Officer Candidate School

SSG Kendall Greenleaf, was recently selected to attend Active Duty OCS. **SSG Greenleaf** currently serves as a Medical Team Observer-Controller Trainer in 3-309 TSBn in Liverpool, NY. He was selected for commissioning as a Military Police Officer and reports for training at Fort Benning, Georgia in September. After OCS, he will attend the Military Police Officer Basic Course at Fort Leonard Wood, MO and then be assigned to Fort Lewis, WA. The Brigade wishes **SSG Greenleaf**, his wife Julie and their three children a hearty congratulations and best of luck as they prepare for this next important step in their Army Family life.

Promotions

Congratulations to the following NCOs for their selection for promotion during the recent 77th RRC senior promotion board. These NCOs will all have an effective date of July 16, 2004.

- **MSG Steven McGrath** (2/78 TSB) to **SGM**
- **SFC Edward Greenwood** (3-309 TSBn) to **MSG**
- **SSG Jeffery Crippen** (3-309 TSBn) to **SFC**
- **SSG Donald Manfredi** (3-309 TSBn) to **SFC**
- **SSG Melody Marvin** (3-309 TSBn) to **SFC**
- **SSGs Richard Moss and Twannia Price** to **SFC** (Transfer promotions to 1-309 TSBn)

Retirements

The Brigade also says a bittersweet good-bye to the following Old Soldiers who have already, or will retire over the next few months. We thank them for their dedicated years of service to the Nation and wish them and their Families Godspeed and all the best and as they leave the Army for civilian life.

May:

- **MAJ Gregory Boisseau** (2-310 TSBn)
- **SGM Dismas Meyers** (1-314 IN TSBn)
- **SFC Daniel Adams** (3-314 FA TSBn)
- **SFC Stephen Atkinson** (1-314 IN TSBn)
- **SFC Joseph Johns** (2/78 TSB)
- **SFC John Lyons** (3-314 FA TSBn)

July:

- **MSG Bruce Halloran** (2/78 TSB)
- **SFC Michael Franklin** (1-314 IN TSBn)

Helpful Web Sites:

2nd Brigade, 78th Division (TS) Homepage:

<http://www.tsb-drum.army.mil>

2nd Brigade, 78th Division Online Newsletter*:

<http://www.tsb-drum.army.mil/jun04newsletter.pdf>

78th Division (TS) Homepage (AKO):**

<https://78thdiv.us.army.mil/default.htm>

78th Division Veteran's Association:

<http://home.pon.net/gregf/78thdva/78thdiv.htm>

U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Command:

<https://www.2xcitizen.usar.army.mil/2xhome.asp>

Army Family Team Building:

<http://www.armyfamilyteambuilding.org/home.asp>

Army One Source:

<http://www.armyonesource.com>

Fort Dix, NJ Homepage:

<http://www.dix.army.mil>

Fort Drum, NY Homepage:

<http://www.drum.army.mil>

Fort Devens, MA Homepage:

<http://www.devens.army.mil>

Guard and Reserve Family Toolkit:

<http://www.defenselink.mil/ra/family/toolkit/>

*This and previous newsletters are also available in the Army Knowledge Collaboration Center (AKCC) 2nd Bde, 78th Div Cmd community, located inside the FRG Newsletter Folder. (Requires AKO access—read below for more info).

**Army Knowledge Online (AKO) access required. To gain access, you must have a valid AKO user account. To access this link, you must already be logged into the AKO web site. The first time you access this link, you will be asked to subscribe to gain access to the online newsletter archive folder. Soldiers can sponsor their Dependents on AKO by clicking on the "Sponsor Mgmt" link under "My Account" options on AKO located on the left navigation bar.