

# Task Force 50th Personnel Services Battalion NEWSLETTER

Special Deployment Issue "Supporting the Climb"

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## **GREETINGS FROM CAMP ATTERBURY LTC Walter L. Alvarado, Bn Cdr**

The men and women of Task Force 50th Personnel Services Battalion arrived at Camp Atterbury during the first part of the month of January 2006.

The Soldiers of the Battalion hit the ground running. After arriving at Camp Atterbury, the first two days were devoted to medical and personnel in-processing. All Soldiers were checked to ensure that they were physically ready to enter Active Duty and to ensure that all of their administrative requirements, pay, ID Cards, wills, powers of attorney etc, were satisfied.

Since we have known of this deployment, I have challenged the members of the Battalion to deploy with a positive can-do attitude. I can happily report that this is exactly what they have done. All Soldiers have exhibited great morale and are enthusiastically awaiting our deployment to Afghanistan once we complete our training requirements here at Camp Atterbury.

There is no doubt in my mind that the 50th Personnel Services Battalion is one of the finest outfits in the Army. On a daily basis you can see that our Soldiers are the most motivated, most dedicated and best looking Soldiers that have ever trained at Camp Atterbury. They take pride in their military profession as evidenced by their appearance. As the commander of this organization I get goose bumps when I see the formations go by and our soldiers, your loved ones, march down the street in perfect formations.

As our deployment to Afghanistan draws near, I am absolutely convinced that this Battalion will set new standards of performance and will return having achieved many organizational and individual accomplishments.

While at Camp Atterbury, the New Jersey-based Soldiers have had the opportunity to interact with the 568th Personnel Services Detachment out of Tennessee and the 23rd Adjutant General Company (Postal) out of Pennsylvania. These units are members of our Task Force and they are also comprised of outstanding Americans that have answered our nation's call to duty.

I want to reiterate to the families of our great Soldiers that your sons, daughters, husbands, wives, fathers and mothers are doing great. My pledge to you remains the same: we will deploy, we will serve with honor and dignity and we will return to you safely.

## **VANDER CLUTE'S CLAUSES CSM Richard Vander Clute, Bn CSM**

I am pleased to report that our mobilization training has been proceeding well here at Camp Atterbury, IN. Since departing the first week of January, our Soldiers have performed in an outstanding manner. After some required administrative and medical processing, Task Force 50th PSB has been involved with military training that includes Basic Rifle Marksmanship, Physical Fitness Training and related training that is associated with our mission for Operation Enduring Freedom. You have seen some of the training depicted on both the 50th PSB and FRG websites.

I hope you can tell by the expression of the soldier's faces, that they are doing well and enjoying what they are doing. Our unit motto is "Teamwork Wins" and that is still the case here. Each Soldier is paired with a "battle buddy" to help each other in no matter what they do. Our leadership is dedicated to taking care of our Soldiers and that commitment will never cease.

Although training in winter in Indiana does pose some challenges, we are making the best of it. Usually the Soldiers' day will start around 5:30 am for wake-up and some Physical Training, followed by personal hygiene and breakfast. The training day will start between 8 to 9 am and continue anywhere between 6 to 10 pm. Our unit has barracks located right next to each other with females in one and males in the other. We have done some overnight field training and are anxiously awaiting a 12 day field exercise.

Like Soldiers from preceding generations, trips to the PX, the on post Subway shop and the barber shop, still continue. We also have scheduled trips to the local Wal-Mart which allows soldiers the chance to purchase items not available here on post. They still enjoy receiving mail so keep it coming. That works both ways and I encourage them to write back and keep everyone back home informed. Although cellular phone service is not very good here, I know that soldiers are staying in

touch with you back home. And if they're not, please let me know.

We have consolidated with our other units comprising the Battalion. One is from Tennessee and another unit is comprised of Soldiers from many states in the Northeast. The desire and attitude of Task Force 50th PSB is one of optimism and excitement. We look forward to completing our task here at Camp Atterbury and moving on to our wartime mission.

You can be proud of your Soldiers here in the Battalion. I know that I am. We will continue to watch out over them as they watch out for our nation.

### **MAJZER PROMOTED MSG Cynthia Carlucci, S1**

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On 30 January 2006, Private Timothy Majzer was promoted to the rank of Private First Class. In a formal promotion ceremony conducted in front of the Battalion HQs, CPT Lonell Jenkins, unit commander, mentioned that Majzer had "earned the promotion due [Majzer's] hard work and dedication." A very excited Private First Class Majzer stated that he was "excited and happy" and that he had set a goal to "one day become a warrant officer." Majzer received congratulations from all his fellow Soldiers.

### **SPECIALIST GERARDO RODRIGUEZ AWARDED ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL MSG Cynthia Carlucci, S1**

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On 27 January 2006, Specialist Gerardo Rodriguez received an Army Achievement Medal. This medal was awarded by COL Jeronimo Guareno, the Joint Force Headquarters G-1, in recognition of Specialist Rodriguez' exemplary performance while serving as a member of the G-1 Section. LTC Walter L. Alvarado presented this prestigious award to SPC Rodriguez on behalf of COL Guareno. LTC Alvarado mentioned that it was an "honor to have a Soldier of this magnitude as a member of the 50th PSB family." Congratulations are on order to this fantastic citizen-soldier.

### **SOLDIERS RECOGNIZED BY BATTALION COMMANDER MSG Cynthia Carlucci, S1**

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Since taking over as Battalion Commander, LTC Walter L. Alvarado has awarded The Battalion Coin to several members of the command. Receipt of this coin by a member of the Battalion symbolizes accomplishment, pride, respect and fellowship. The Battalion Coin is a treasured and respected representation of the organization minted on the coin.

LTC Alvarado awards these coins to members of the Battalion that have exhibited high morale, attitude, individual achievement and personal accomplishment. LTC Alvarado awards these coins to improve morale,

foster unit esprit and honor service members for their hard work.



The military history of using coins for recognition or identification tells many stories. In the Roman Empire, coins were presented to reward achievements, much in the way medals are now.

As part of the Coin Ceremony, each deserving Soldier receives a special handshake from the Battalion Commander. When the hands are clasped, the coin is palmed into the hand of the recipient. This is in keeping with Army tradition. A number of stories tell of similar handshake rituals in which a coin is palmed to a Soldier to convey a reward for their heroism, but without the appearance of a bonus being bestowed.

Since arriving at Camp Atterbury, the following Soldiers have been "coined" by LTC Alvarado in recognition of their military accomplishments:

#### **Headquarters Recipients**

PFC Timothy Majzer (Excellence)  
SPC Gerardo Rodriguez (Excellence)  
SPC Jennifer Rosario (Motivation)  
SPC George Broughton (Motivation)  
MSG Cynthia Carlucci (Accomplishment)  
SFC Norris Fletcher (Achievement)  
PFC Jordan Ray (Accomplishment)  
PFC Kathryn Abrams (Accomplishment)

#### **250th Personnel Services Detachment Recipients**

SPC Aracelis Costa (Leadership)  
PV2 Tracy Huggins (Motivation)  
PV2 Samantha Nigro (Fortitude)  
SPC Mandrique Wilson (Motivation)  
PFC Timothy Jardinico (Achievement)  
PFC Shawn Harris (Leadership)

### **UNIT MEMBERS RECEIVE LATEST ARMY EQUIPMENT SFC Sue Albano, S4 Sergeant**

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As the battlefield of the 21st century evolves, so does the equipment that keeps Soldiers in the fight. The U.S. Army has created the Rapid Fielding Initiative, known as RFI, which aims to ensure that Soldiers are issued the most technologically advanced equipment available to them. For members of the 50th Personnel Services Battalion, their RFI took place on 18 January 2006.

Each member of the Battalion was issued a variety of equipment, from the new Army Combat Uniforms,

desert boots, gloves to Oakley sunglasses and improved helmets.

The intent of RFI is for Soldiers to receive their equipment before deploying to Afghanistan. "With technology changing so fast, and Soldiers rapidly deploying, it is necessary to have a flexible solution to get equipment to the Soldiers prior to their deployment," said CSM Richard Vander Clute.

The items issued include improved T-shirts, belts and socks along with silk-weight long underwear, goggles, hydration systems, improved knee pads and fleece jackets. The Soldiers were also issued modular lightweight load-carrying equipment, known as MOLLE gear. One of the most popular items received is the Advanced Combat Helmet or ACH. The ACH is an improvement over the traditional helmet. The ACH is also one-and-a-half pounds lighter than the traditional Kevlar helmet and has a four-point chin strap system for a better fit. It also provides a better fit because each helmet has rotating pads that fit to different sized heads.

"It fits so well, and it is so much lighter that you would sometimes forget that you would have it on," said LTC Alvarado. "It really helps lessen neck and shoulder fatigue on long missions."

"It feels good, because it feels like the Army is going out of its way to get us the best equipment they can," said MSG Alexandro Estrada.

The members of the 50th PSB have been outfitted with the latest Army equipment. This will ensure that once the unit deploys to Afghanistan, they will be better equipped to fight, survive and win on the battlefield.

### **TIP MY HAT TO THE FRG LEADERSHIP LTC Walter L. Alvarado**

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I want to thank Debbie Vander Clute (President), Mary Hausmann (Vice President), Terrie Bobinis (Secretary), Tangie Jenkins (Secretary) and Sandi Perez (Events Coordinator) for being at the helm of our FRG. For the deployed Soldiers, knowing that our families have a forum where they can unite and find emotional support while we are away is a combat multiplier.

Our jobs are made easier knowing that our families are being taken care of. Therefore, I want to salute you for your efforts and want to let you know that we are simply doing our jobs and you are the true heroes. Thank you so much.

### **"2-5-0 A-G, TOO EASY" LT Monique Smith, Commander**

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Three weeks down and I am happy to report that the 250<sup>TH</sup> PSD is going through the validation process and exceeding the standards. The days are long and the nights are busy. We are conducting road marches, weapons qualifications vehicle convoys etc. We have seen rain, snow, ice, hail and extremely cold temperatures, yet we are proud to announce that morale and motivation is at an all time high. They are standing strong and proud to represent NJ. Other states are impressed with our Soldiers' high spirits and CAN DO ATTITUDE. Everyone should be proud of their sons and daughters, husbands and wives and grandsons and granddaughters.

Soon we will be transitioning into our mission. I ensure you the leadership will continue to work hard to help maintain your love ones efforts and keep them motivated during all missions.

I close by encouraging you to stay strong and keep in touch. The website is an outstanding tool for keeping in touch, sharing pictures and stories and asking questions that you may have. Keep us in your thoughts and prayers. Till next time, stay safe.

"Viper 6 Out"

### **"The Army Wife"**

**He takes her from the home she knows to lands of which are new. Survival is an unknown place, becomes her test of truth. Her burdens of many and his thanks sometimes are small. She keeps her faith through thick and thin and makes the best of all. She lives with some uncertainty, knows not what dawn may bring, but he knows nothing stops his girl from doing anything. Whether star or stripe or bar adorns his collar or his strife, nothing means more to a Soldier than the one he calls his wife.**