# **Gunfighter Gazette**



30 June 2007

Volume 1, Issue 2

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# **Transfer of Authority**

With a light haze in the sky in the early morning hours of 14 June 2007 the 92nd Military Police Battalion hosted the Transfer of Authority Ceremony from the 410th Military Police Company to the 401st Military Police Company. The ceremony which is a tradition from the outgoing unit to the incoming unit signifies the completion of the Relief In Place (RIP) process.

Captain Copeland along with First Sergeant Sneed unfurled the 401st guidon which has been furled - or cased - since just before the units departure from Fort Hood in May. The furling of the guidon is a signal that the 401st has completed it's mission at Fort Hood and is set to deploy. When the unit unfurls the

guidon, it is a signal that the unit has deployed and assumed a new mission. Likewise, when the 410th furled their guidon it was a sign that their mission in Iraq had been completed and that they were redeploying back to Fort Hood.

BRAVO SPIRIT to ALWAYS FIRST - 410th HANDS OVER AOR TO 401st

The 410th originally deployed in June 2006 from Fort Hood and served in the Baghdad area of operations. The Soldiers of the 401st wish the Vipers a Happy return to Fort Hood and thank them for a job well done!



"401st SETTLES IN"

#### CAMP LIBERTY A FOB OF VICTORY

# One Month After TOA Recap

Next month's issue

- EML Begins
- Weather Update
- Baghdad Report
- Gunfighter 3 Sends
- FRG Round-Up
- Platoons Report

Once a Saddam Hussein Presidential Palace compound and the Saddam Hussein International Airport, Camp Victory is an area rich with history and grand sights. Camp Victory, which is a conglomeration of smaller Camps: Camp Brooklyn, Camp Seitz, Camp Slayer, Camp Stryker, Camp Cropper, Camp Liberty, and even Camp

Trash Can. The 401st lives on Camp Liberty. Probably the center point of the post, Liberty serves the entire 92nd MP BN, and is just a stone throw away from the 89th Military Police Brigade headquarters. Camp Liberty has just about everything a deployed Soldier could ask for. Within walk of "Gunfighter land" there

are two amazing dining facilities that serve 4 meals a day. Also within walking distance are several AT&T phone centers, the largest PX in theater, and a laundry service. The company also was able to move into sleep trailers which were used until the 410th left. The sleep trailers offer a barracks like atmosphere.

# **GUNFIGHTER 6 SENDS**

CPT JOHN W. COPELAND



Our Gunfighters successfully completed their first month of combat operations in Baghdad. Our Soldiers performed well and made the transition like old pros. The 410<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company planned a seamless relief and afforded us the time to learn the area and tactics of this ever-changing place.

The 401st MP CO troopers are already making a difference. First Platoon, led by 2LT Travis Lynch increased security measures at their police stations; Second Platoon, led by 2LT Mark Martinez operated several joint security Iraqi Police operations in the local community; and Third Platoon, led by 2LT Jon Walter coordinated for joint operations between the Iraqi Security Forces in their area. I am proud of the headway the leaders and Soldiers are making. This is impossible without the continuous support of our Headquarters Soldiers. SGT Samuel Breese, SPC Richard Doster, and SPC Bobby Cruz, our communications specialists, work tirelessly to deliver uninterrupted communications to our 230 square kilometer area of responsibility. What a quality team! SGT Tyrell Tompkins, SPC Justin Allen, SPC Scott Anderson, and SPC Heather Bass – our



**THE 6 ELEMENT:** 6G - PFC Solano, 6 - CPT Copeland, 6D - SPC Scheuleter. The commanders team, who rolls out with 3rd Platoon 1st squad.

mechanics, as well as SGT Abigail Moreland and SPC Re'al Overton – our parts specialists work a thankless job to ensure success as we operate our combat vehicles. They are hard workers and never complain about the daily heat, dirt, and grease. I am honored to serve with these Soldiers.

The Gunfighters increased their strength with the addition of MSG Michael Fleser. MSG Fleser stayed on with the 401st after the 410th redeployed. He is serving as the Police Transition Team chief and Company Executive Officer. It's great to have him on our team.

I wish you all well and thank you for your support.

"Always First! Gunfighters!"

Top: SPC Kemnitz, ISG Sneed, and SPC Teague pull security at an IPS station. Below: SPC Taylor and an Iraqi Army Soldier check the area.

# **Gunfighter 7 Sends**







Greetings to all the Gunfighters, Gunfighter family members, and everyone else who supports and cares for the Great Soldiers of this unit! During the last newsletter the unit was still in Kuwait preparing to move forward, now the unit has settled into our mission and life at Camp Liberty. So bear with your Soldiers as they are still learning and refining their mission requirements, so they may not call home or write as often as you might like. I can assure you though they are not lacking the means to communicate back

I will say though as I get out and travel around our area of responsibility, I see nothing but great things that YOUR Soldiers are accomplishing already in just the short time we have been here. Whether it be SSG Guiffre conducting inventories in an Iraqi Police Station arms room or SPC Taylor, SPC Teague and SPC Kemnitz providing force protection on top of a roof top in the HOT summer afternoon in Iraq.

I am very proud of all of the Gunfighters and I thank you for intrusting them to the United States Army, myself, and Captain Copeland. Without your continued support none of this would be possible, Thank you all!

Last month I thanked my spouse Elsa for all her support to me throughout the years (15 years), but I forgot to thank my best buddy, My Son David.

Dada is very proud of you, you are becoming quite the young man. Until we are all together again, keep us in your prayers as you will be in ours.

GUNFIGHTER 7 OUT!

# **GUNFIGHTER 3 SENDS**

Well, what can I say about the operations that we are currently conducting over here in Baghdad, Iraq? Our mission is to assist the Iraqi Police in becoming a selfsustaining organization. The group of Soldiers we have working in the operations section are among the best NCOs and Soldiers the company has to offer. First. we have the Gunfighter Voice: SPC Kristina Andersen, who maintains constant communication with all the 401st elements out on the streets of Baghdad. Our intelligence comes from our very own SGT Joshua Thompson. SGT Thompson provides insight in what the enemy is going to do; he also has to think like the

enemy to formulate strategies to counter their operations. Then there is Echo, SSG Larry Hughes who is our corrections specialist. he is quickly getting the detention cells up to snuff. SFC Keith Williams, Gunfighter 3A, assists me with daily operations, missions, tracking and decision making for all our company missions. SFC Diomedes Senior is currently serving as the liaison between us and the 2-1 Infantry Division. Finally, our night shift, holding down the fort is SSG David Neuwirth, and SGT Eusebio Perez. They are responsible for tracking all the issues that arise during the night. Well, this will be all for now, I would

#### MSG JEREMY KEENE

like to say thanks for all the support you all have for us, and our mission. We appreciate what you do and it does not go un-noticed!

**GUNFIGHTER 3** 



92nd MP Battalion Unit Crest

# 92nd Military Police Battalion

"ON THE WATCH"

Once a Soldier of the Gauntlet, always a Soldier of the Gauntlet...but just for the next 14 months or so, the Gunfighters will be "On the Watch." The 401st has temporarily detached from the 720th Military Police Battalion and attached to the 92nd Military Police Battalion, from Fort Benning, Georgia. Although the 720th is also deployed, the 401st mission falls under that of the 92nd, and not of the 720th. LTC Frank Y. Rangel Jr., Commander 720th MP BN was there to greet the Gunfighters when they stepped off the plane that transported them from Kuwait, showing his continuing support for the unit. Commanded by LTC Leonard A. Cosby and CSM

Patrick Dawson, the 92nd is responsible for Military Police Operations in the Western District of Baghdad to the Syrian border. During the deployment, the 92nd MP BN also falls under the 89th Military Police Brigade, also from Fort Hood. The 89th is the parent Brigade for the 720th and 401st...confused yet?! Well, to make it easy, sometimes when units are needed there are cross selections made based upon unit rotation history, time in CONUS, and other key facts that decision is made by FORSCOM. The 92nd, when at home station at Fort Benning, falls under the 16th Military Brigade. Due to rotations that are beyond the Military Police Corps

control, sometimes units get miss matched on deployment rotations...like right now. The Battalion has been deployed since 2 November 2006 and is not due back until Jan 08 - they are scheduled to be relieved by the 716th MP BN from Fort Campbell, Kentucky. The Battalion itself is very young, having only been activated on 16 April 2006 at Fort Benning. Prior to the 92nd's activation there was no headquartered Military Police at Fort Benning. The 92nd shares MP duties throughout Iraq with several other MP Battalions including 720th which is responsible for operations south of Baghdad. The 401st looks forward to their mission.

#### GUNFIGHTER GAZETTE

401st Military Police Company. Fort Hood, Texas 76544

The Gunfighter Gazette is a Soldier produced newsletter designed for and distributed to the families, friends and Soldiers associated with the 401st Military Police Company while deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom 07-09. The opinions in this newsletter are not those of the United States Army, the United States Department of Defense or the United States of America. The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those solely of the Soldiers of the 401st Military Police Company. If you have questions or comments about this newsletter you may contact: SPC David S. Womack, 401s MP CO. david.s.womack@us.army.mil

This is a monthly publication distributed to the families care of the Family Readiness Group. You may contact the Family Readiness Group: (254) 287 - 2431 Bldg 16003, Fort Hood, Texas 76544

The Soldiers of the 401st Military
Police Company sincerely thank
you for your support!
To mail a letter or package to your
deployed Soldier please use the
provided address:

PVT Lastname, Firstname MI 92ND MP BN 401 MP CO APO AE 09342

401st Military Police Company 92nd Military Police Battalion 89th Military Police Brigade

# 1st PLATOON

#### PLATOON LEADER: 2LT TRAVIS LYNCH PLATOON SERGEANT: SSG KRISKA

#### The WARFIGHTER times

Soldiers of the 1st Platoon Warfighters of the 401st MP Co. have been hard at work the last several weeks, with Soldiers from different squads conducting missions on a daily basis. A typical day for a Soldier in 1st Platoon consists of PT, loading up trucks for a mission, conducting the mission, returning back to base safely, and ensuring the vehicles are in working order for the next day's mission. It may not sound like a lot, but as Private First Class Dennis states. "In the heat. with all our gear on, with the stresses of making sure we do everything right, it actually is pretty hard work."

In spite of the hard work and missing home, the soldiers of 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon make sure they maintain a high level of vigilance at all times, taking their missions very seriously. From performing security in a defensive position with full gear

on under the scorching desert sun, to ensuring proper treatment of Iraqi prisoners, to aiding the Iraqis in establishing inner security, the Soldiers of 1st Platoon have not slacked in their mission performance, constantly maintaining, and improving on, their skills and vigilance.

However, it is not all hard work in 1st Platoon. When Soldiers have the chance to relax, they have various amenities offered to them for their entertainment. There are centers with internet access, cable, and telephones, as well as gyms with a wide array of equipment. Some Soldiers even play volleyball at the volleyball courts, or throw a football around outside of their air-conditioned trailers. And for the Soldiers who decide to stay inside of their trailers, they can connect to wireless internet (when it works), and do almost anything they would do at home, such as playing video games and watching movies. While life may not be all fun in the sun, it certainly has its upsides, of which the Soldiers are very grateful for.

Overall, the Soldiers of 1st Platoon are doing very well. They perform their duties in an outstanding manner, and do the right things even when they have time to relax. Everyone here would probably agree with Specialist Ramos, who says, "I'm going to do my job the best I can while I'm here, and then I will get back home safely with my team members so we can be with our families again." And until that day comes when everyone comes home safely, here is a message for the family members back home who are reading this: Don't worry, we'll all be back safely soon, and most importantly, keep sending candy."



ABOVE: SPC Hamelin checks his team's M240B machine gun before mission. The 240B machine guns were recent additions to the 401st arsenal from the 410th. The 240B is a 7.62mm machine gun used to replace the MK19 on missions in urban environments. BE-LOW: Security, security, security...Soldiers help pull security at their assigned stations.







**LEFT:** PV2 Green and a local national child are seen at their police station. Good relations are essential for the company's mission. **ABOVE:** lst squad Bravo team, before mission.

# 2nd PLATOON

PLATOON LEADER: 2LT MARTINEZ PLATOON SERGEANT: SSG SMITH

The PUNISHER corner







To all the Punisher family and friends...first I would like to take this time to thank you for your sacrifice, I know this is a trying time in all our lives. All your Soldiers are doing fine. Everyone is excited about our mission and can't wait to see the Iraqi police start policing their own. Currently 1st squad is working at Ghazalia Local Police station, they are working on getting the police station to operate like a police station.

2nd squad currently being ran by SGT Tyma in SSG Norris' absence, is doing great. They have lots of new recruits at their assigned

TOP LEFT: SPC Womack assists a local national with a minor burn to his hand.

CENTER: PFC Owens is in high spirits as he pulls security. LEFT: SSG Smith stands next to a thermometer that reads OVER 120!

Temperatures during the summer can exceed 130.

patrol station; Ghazalia Patrol station. We are working on training currently and soon will start joint patrols of the Ghazalia area.

Our 3rd squad is working at the Abu Ghraib and Razalah police stations. Abu Ghraib is a well managed police station where SSG Mondello provides mentorship to the Iraqi Police chief. Currently at Razalah they are working on getting the station electricity and running water.

In closing, keep the care packages coming - your Soldiers love them!

Punisher 7 out!

BELOW LEFT: SGT Tyma meets up with the IP station commander at Ghazalia Patrol Station. BELOW RIGHT: Meet and greet. LT Martinez organizes a joint patrol with local Iraqi Police at the Abu Ghraib local police station. Joint Patrols were a part of the mission.





TOP: Iraqi police take just a few minutes under the shade to escape from the afternoon heat. CENTER: CPL Kluthe stand with the armsroom officer at Abu Ghraib Police station. CPL Kluthe is responsible for armsroom inventories at Abu Ghraib and Razalah.





# **3rd PLATOON**

PLATOON LEADER: 2LT WALTER
PLATOON SERGEANT: SSG DECKER

#### A HOOLIGAN REPORT

Since the arrival of the 3rd Platoon "Hooligans" in the theater of operations, we have moved from a tent containing 76 other Soldiers in Kuwait to tents with approximately 24 Soldiers. As of 17 June, we are currently living in trailers with one or two roommates and have some nice creature comforts like electricity and air conditioning. Some of the trailers even have basic cable installed in them. Most of the Soldiers of 3rd Platoon have access to the internet, either in their trailers or at the battalion internet trailer that is located just a stones throw away from our living area. Based upon prior deployments, mail has really improved in theater. Many Soldiers have started receiving mail from the first day that we arrived at our new home. The turn around for mail is between 5-7 days. That is a long ways from the two to three weeks from OIF 1.

The Soldiers of 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon have been spending a lot of "down time" working on their various pieces of equipment that has been recently transferred from the 410th MP Co. Due to all of the increases in protective measures taken on our vehicles, they seem to require more attention than in the past. Communications equipment and weapons are just as important as our vehicles and have needed special care

requiring the Soldiers of this platoon to spend tireless hours ensuring that they are in top condition.

With all of the new equipment that we have been receiving in the last few weeks, the Soldiers have had to remain flexible to all the changes



within the schedule and have done an outstanding job doing so. The training process that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon Soldiers have completed has been a great accomplishment. They were trained in just eight short days on everything the 410<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company had learned in 12 months. Now they are tak-

ing what they have learned and altering it for their own uses. 1st Squad, which is lead by SGT Seli is responsible for escorting the Company Commander throughout the entire "Gunfighter" footprint. 2nd Squad led by SSG Giuffre and 3rd Squad led by SSG

Watts are currently sharing responsibilities at the Kadhra Local IP Station. Those two squads have a tough job ahead of them, but they are working closely to develop this IPS station.

It has been a busy month for all of the Soldiers of 3rd Platoon and they have all supported each task and mission with the upmost enthusiasm. Environmental Mid-tour Leaves (EML) will be beginning during the month of July. The order of merit list is based off of the Soldiers previous deployments. This is going to allow those Soldiers who have deployed on numerous occasions to be able to pick certain times when they may go on leave. All Soldiers have submitted

their prospective leave dates and the platoon leadership is attempting to accommodate them, as mission allows. The Soldiers of 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon are doing an excellent job in this tough environment and they would like to thank all of the family members for their support from back at home.



**PROMOTION**: PV2 Bale to PFC. Congratulations!



PAPERWORK: Records, documents and don't forget about the miles of paperwork encompass some Iraqi Police at the local police stations. Soldiers help the Iraqi Police everyday in order to get a bit more organized.



INVENTORY: SSG Giuffre along with their interpreter assist the local Iraqi Police with their armsroom inventory. Accountability for their weapons is a huge part of the Soldiers daily missions and essential to the Iraqi Police Mission.

# 401 MP

Demonstrate Lawfulness Throughout the World"

**TAKING A BREAK.** Motor Sergeant Tyrell Tompkins takes a few minutes to relax after performing services on a HMMWV.

# FROM THE HORSE:

#### A WORKHORSE report

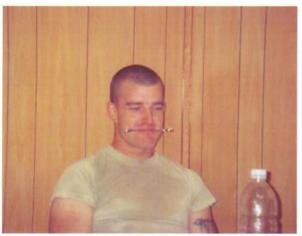
In the middle of the night and the heat of the day the Workhorse Maintenance Section is on the job fixing vehicles and ordering parts for the 401st Military Police Company. From sun up to sundown the WORKHORSE MAINTENANCE INCORAPTED you will always find wrenches turning and hammers hitting when the crew is hard at work.

Headed up by Motor Sergeant SGT Tyrell Tompkins a new addition to the 401st and PLL NCOIC SGT Abigail Moreland they keep the 401st Military Police Company Soldiers moving through the day to day missions. The highly motivated section consisting of SPC Scott Anderson, SPC Justin Allen, SPC Heather Bass, and PLL Clerk SPC Re'al

### PLATOON SERGEANT: SSG GARTH JOHNSON

Overton, takes on the motor pools day to day tasks ensuring all trucks are combat ready.

A special thanks to SPC Heather Bass for reenlisting to stay in the Army and with the WORK-HORSE MAINTENANCE INC.



#### SAY CHEESE:

SGT Abigail
Moreland
takes a minute out to
pose for a
picture. She
is responsible for ordering all the
equipment,
and parts for
the motorpool.



#### MECHANI CES ROCK:

The mechanics take
a minute out
of their busy
day to show
pride for
their section. Their
difficult mission is
MUCH appreciated!



# MAINTENANCE



**PLL:** The parts team, SGT Abigail Moreland, and SPC Re'al Overton are busy ordering all the parts necessary to keep the 401st fleet up and ready.

# **Rear Detachment Commander—Round Up**

Over a month has gone by and as you can see the proud and valiant Gunfighters have begun to settle into their mission set. We too have begun to settle in and are beginning to find our legs as an FRG and are beginning to figure out what we can do while our loved ones are gone.

I know with the summer months upon us many of you will be looking to head out of town and spend some time with friends and family before the school year begins again. I would like to remind all those departing the local area to get in touch with the FRG and provide us an address and a phone number so we can continue to stay in touch. I would also encourage you to get in touch with the Com-

mand Financial Specialist before you go so he can provide you with some information if it is going to be an extended stay. One last thing for those of you leaving the area, make sure you contact TRI-CARE so you do not lose any coverage while you travel. TRI-CARE works on a regional system and your medical care and needs must be transferred when you leave the area.

We are also still in need of a CARE Team. This is a critical need in supporting families in the future if we should ever have a need to call them out and we can't afford to wait for a casualty and be caught short. Basically we need 2 – 4 volunteers who can attend the training provided by

ACS, be available at a moments notice and who can be able to assist in the first critical days after a family has been notified (usually the first 72 hours). I know this is a lot to ask because everyone is busy with kids, jobs and taking care of their own families, but we need to look inside ourselves and see where we can make a difference and show those in need that WE CARE. We have had plenty of volunteers for the support piece to this critical need in our unit and I thank all who have signed on to do this. If you feel that you are up to the challenge, contact Tammy Johnson or myself so we can arrange the training.

#### **401st MP Company FRG Completes Volunteer Project**

Keeping with the spirit of the last FRG meeting on 13 June, the 401st MP Company completed their first volunteer project.

On 30 June 2007, several volunteers donned their "get dirty" clothes and gave it their best try as landscape engineers. At 0930 the Gunfighter Posse assembled at the 720<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion Memorial, adjacent to BLDG 16001 on Battalion Avenue, and put into action some plans to spruce up the memorial.

Amid high hopes and high humidity, weeds were plucked and pathways were edged before the real dirty work of planting could begin.

Tammy Johnson spearheaded the mission by receiving approximately \$150 of donated plants and materials from Oma's Garten Pflazen at 2301 Old FM 440 Road in Killeen.

With a pallet of color (red, white, purple and yellow) in hand waiting to be transplanted into soil, the plants were laid out and then planted. Many of the children on hand were willing to get dirty and were motivated by the discovery of earth worms in the soil. To my knowledge no earth worms were hurt in the planting process, nor were they mistaken for spaghetti and eaten.

After the planting was completed a healthy spray of water was applied to the plants and maybe a few children. Brandy Godbout, daughter of SCT Neel and Exther Neel

SGT Neal and Esther Neal, seemed to spend the most time trotting through the falling water and it was toss up as to who received more; Brandy or the flowers.

For those of you who missed out on this project, we are always looking for other ideas and/or ways to support Fort Hood and the local community. So feel free to contact the FRG and submit your volunteer project ideas and make

sure you sign up with the Volunteer Program at ACS located in the Lane Volunteer Center, BLDG 16005 on the corner of Hood Rd and Hell on Wheels Ave so you can track your hours in order to receive individual credit you can use in job resumes and for individual and unit awards and recognition. In the near future we are hoping to be able to provide support to a new Habitat for Humanity project that will be starting soon, if the weather will cooperate.



#### **JUNE 2007**

# CONGRATULATIONS GUNFIGHTERS

#### **JUNE RE-ENLISTMENTS**

HQ PLT:

SPC HEATHER BASS

2nd PLT:

SSG STARSKY SMITH

SSG JOSE MEJIA

# PROMOTIONS:

PV2 BALE TO PFC
PFC BRADEN TO SPC

AL FAW: (RIGHT) - A Former Saddam Huessien Presidential Palace, completely surrounded by a man made lake - stocked with fish! The palace is now used by the Mulit-National Corps/Forces Iraq as a headquarters. Its complete with remarkable finishing's!







1: LTC Leonard A Dawson, CDR 92nd MP BN—speaks briefly at the TOA ceremony. 2. SGT Michael Lucas scans his sector of fire through his ACOG scope. 3. CPT Copeland and SPC Heather Bass pose after Bass' re-enlistment ceremony in the motorpool. 4. Razalah Local Police station..from the roof. 5. ISG Sneed and CPT Copeland complete the unfurling of the company guideon at the TOA ceremony.







#### 401st Military Police Company

BLDG 16003 Battalion Ave and Hood Rd. Fort Hood, TX 76544

MSG John M. Arceneaux Rear Detachment Commander Office Phone: 254-287-0255 Cell Phone: 254-449-3732 E-mail: john.arceneaux@us.army.mil



"Always First"
Supporting the
Gunfighter Posse:



# **JULY 2007**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5Belton PRCA Rodeo @ Bell County Expo	6Belton PRCA Rodeo @ Bell County Expo	7Belton PRCA Rodeo @ Bell County Expo
8	9	10	11	12	13	14Fiesta Texas Trip w/ITR
15	16	17	18	19 FRG Meeting, 6:30 pm @ BN Clsroom	20Salado Old Glory Days, Salado, TX	21Harry Potter re- lease @ CCPX
22	23	24	25	26US Army Soldier Show @ Fort Hood	27Family Dive-In @ harker Heights, TX	28Back to School Shopping Trip w/ITR
29	30	31				

# Kid's Corral Resilient Children

#### Excerpt from an article by Julia Pfaff, National Military Family Association, www.nmfa.org

Below are nine things that I have learned that help our children on their paths to becoming resilient.

Recognize your feelings and teach your children to recognize theirs. Help your child understand that what they are feeling is normal but to channel those emotions in positive directions rather than lashing out in anger or withdrawing.

Express your love and approval of your children. Encourage them to express themselves through creative means such as play, art or writing.

Self care. Make sure that you take care of yourself. Don't ignore your needs by devoting your full self to your children or volunteering. The better you take

care of yourself, the better you will able to help your children.

Interact with your family, friends, and community. Don't be afraid to ask for help. In fact seek it out. Look for other trusted adults who can both help with your children and who your children naturally gravitate towards. These adults can also help your children sort through their feelings. Sometimes a child will share with another adult something he or she will not share with a parent.

Listen deeply and watch your children. Help them to understand

Information. Give your children good accurate and unemotional information. Children know when something is wrong. Don't

lie to your child and break his trust, but also gage what your child is ready to understand. Be prepared for tough questions. My youngest child asked me after 9-11, "Mommy, are you going to remarry if Daddy dies?" This question came out of the blue.

Enlist your child's help with the home and plans. When my husband was in Kuwait, several things happened that impacted my older son for which he had no control. I felt that he would be happier and would gain self esteem if I gave him the opportunity to make an important decision for himself and I was right.

Noble cause. Teach your children that their servicemember parent is serving the country and that this is an important job to the nation. Help them understand that they too are serving our nation. This service is very honorable.

Talk to your children about how you feel and how they feel. Be a link between your child and the servicemember opening up creative opportunities for the deployed parent to communi-

#### FRG Fund

"Dollars and Cents"

- Balance \$1,012.50
- Expenses \$0.00
- Funds Added \$0.00
- Budget Items None scheduled