

Gunfighter Gazette



31 JULY 2007

Volume 1, Issue 3

401ST SUFFERS TRAGIC LOSS IN MONTH OF JULY



Inside this issue:

Gunfighter 6/7 Sends	2
Gunfighter 3/5 Sends	3
Warfighter Times	4
Punisher Corner	5
Hooligan Report	6
Workhorse	7
Round Up	8
Calendar	8
Congrats	9

IN MEMORY OF



PFC Ron J. Joshua Jr.
7 MAR 88 - 17 JUL 07

&

PFC Brandon K. Bobb
15 JAN 87 - 17 JUL 07



In the early afternoon of 17 July 2007, 1st Squad, 3rd Platoon conducted a combat patrol in support of Operation "Gunfighter Surge" in the Gazalhia district of Baghdad. Upon exiting the Gazalhia Iraqi Police Station, the lead vehicle was struck with a devastating Improvised Explosive Device (IED) which tragically took the lives of these two brave Soldiers.

"Lopez," the squad's interpreter also lost his life in the explosion. SGT Kari Adams, the team leader, was wounded in the explosion, but is recovering from her wounds here in Iraq while on light duty. These two Soldiers were up and coming stars within their platoon and company, they will both be missed by all Gunfighter Soldiers.

Both PFC Brandon Bobb and PFC Ron Joshua attended and completed One Station Unit Training (OSUT) at Fort Leo-

nard Wood in "B" Company, 787th Military Police Battalion together. Upon reporting to Fort Hood, Texas, both Soldiers were assigned to the 401st Military Police Company in February 2007. PFC Bobb was assigned as the gunner and PFC Joshua was assigned



as the driver to "A" Team, 1st Squad, 3rd Platoon for the deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 07-09.

PFC Bobb and PFC Joshua were each awarded their Shoulder Sleeve Insignia, Former Wartime Service or

"Combat Patch" on 4 July 2007. Their decorations include the Bronze Star Medal (posthumously), Purple Heart Medal (posthumously), the Army Good Conduct Medal (posthumously), National Defense Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and the Combat Action Badge (posthumously).

As a tribute to these two heroes of the 401st Military Police Company, a memorial service was held at the 1st Cavalry Division Chapel on 24 July 2007. The entire 401st Military Police Company was in attendance, along with numerous other dignitaries, including MG Simmons, Deputy III Corps Commanding General and numerous others to pay their respects. It was a fitting remembrance to these two national heroes.

Next month's issue

- Police Report
- 401st Progress Report
- Weather Update
- Baghdad Report
- Gunfighter 3 Sends
- FRG Round-Up
- Platoons Report

GUNFIGHTER 6 SENDS

CPT JOHN W. COPELAND



Over the past month, the Gunfighters have grown closer than ever before. The team has rallied around the memory of our lost heroes, PFC Brandon Bobb and PFC Ron Joshua.

These brave souls went home on 17 July and continue to protect us in our daily missions and patrols. I have had the privilege of talking with many of the Soldiers about their experiences and feelings. The Gunfighters are grieving, but they are tough. I am awe-struck at how passionate they are about their friends and about continuing the mission. From the 401st Family to the Bobb-Miles and Joshua family, our hearts go out.

The Gunfighters Soldiers performed well this month. They trained the Iraqi Police with a sense of purpose I haven't yet seen. SSG Dewayne Cameron (Yarmouk Patrol Police), 1st Platoon, 2nd Squad swears he has the best station and is making the most progress. SSG Tommy Kriska

(Mamum Local Police), 1st Platoon, 1st Squad disagrees wholeheartedly. This type of ownership encourages Soldiers to give even more towards our mission and has had a great impact on the progress we've made.



Gunfighter 31 - SGT Scott Seli, my Patrol Leader, Yarmouk Patrol Police Station, Baghdad, Iraq

As I circulate the battlefield checking on stations and troops and providing support where leaders ask for it, I have the privilege of viewing Soldiers in action. CPL Joshua Nichol leads his team day in and day out teaching and molding his Soldiers into better leaders; PFC Kamisha Block always stands guard on her security position at the Iraqi Police Station without once complaining; and SPC Andrew Dakins drives his team around like a true professional.

As August rolls in, the heat and the dust pick up even more. The Gunfighters know another month is down though. As we hone our skills and set out battle rhythm, know that we are all thinking of home and praying for you. Thank you all so much for all you do everyday. Yours is a tough job and we are thankful to have you

"Always First! Gunfighters!"

Gunfighter 7 Sends

ISG CLAYTON SNEED



Greetings to all Gunfighters Soldiers and Family members, the month of July has been very fast pace for the Soldiers of the 401st. It is hard to believe we are closing out another month of the deployment. As you know, the unit began to send Soldiers out on Environmental Leave (EML) this month, so some of you already are enjoying your Gunfighter being home. I would like to congratulate SGT Donald Womack and SPC Sergio Winston for being selected as the Company Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Quarter for 3rd QTR, FY 2007. These two outstanding Soldiers rose to the occasion and came out on top this time around. A few Soldiers who were selected by their Platoon Sergeants were able to visit with and was provided the opportunity to ask the Sergeants Major of the Army SMA Kenneth Preston questions about the future

of the Army during one of his many visits to



SMA VISIT: Sergeant Major of the Army, Kenneth Preston visits Al-Faw Palace in mid-July. Soldiers from the 401st had the opportunity to meet with the SMA during his visit. Also in the picture is CSM Neil Ciotola, III Corps Command Sergeant Major.

Iraq. On 17 July 2007, the unit lost two of its beloved Soldiers in PFC Brandon K. Bobb and PFC Ron J. Joshua, Jr. These two young men gave all they had for the team, squad, and unit. Brandon and Joshua are true American heroes. They both joined the Army during a time of war to serve their nation and fellow Soldiers whom stood shoulder to shoulder with them everyday on the front lines of the War on Terror. Words will never describe these two. I will say they will never be forgotten as long as there are Gunfighters to remember their dedication to duty and commitment to their nations mission. The Soldiers are moving forward with their missions and continue to set the standard in all that they do. I am very proud of each and everyone of them as I know you are too. Until we are all together again, keep us in your prayers as you will be in ours. Gunfighter 7 out!

GUNFIGHTER 3 SENDS

It's not new news that the Gunfighter Operation Cell was very busy this month. We started off the month with the birthday of America. Independence Day is the day to celebrate and thank the men and women that died for our freedom throughout history. I want thank the men and women (my fellow Soldiers) who are sacrificing their lives for our freedom. This month we had SPC Andersen rock'in on the radio to get all the reports from our fellow Gunfighters. She is always quick to make sure she gets the

status of the patrols so we know our Gunfighters are alright. SGT Thompson, (aka Shaky) is getting our bullets so that we can give the insurgents a little present to keep them from coming back. Shaky is always keeping us informed so we know how to stay ahead of the enemy as our Intelligence NCO. I want to thank my wife Natalia for being strong and giving me support while I am out here helping with the War on Terrorism. From the Operations Cell, we want to send out our condolences to the families

MSG JEREMY KEENE

of PFC Joshua and PFC Bobb. They were truly two best friends that will never be forgotten by the Gunfighter Family. We love and miss you guys. This is 3 Tango (aka Diamond Dave), out.

To Cathy: (Mrs. Keene) Cathy, I want you to know you are my rock, you give me the strength I need day to day to accomplish my job. You have been by my side for the last 15 plus years and I love you with all of my heart.

Jeremy

401st WELCOMES CPT MUSGRAVE

CPT MELINDA L. MUSGRAVE

GUNFIGHTER 5 SENDS

It is a pleasure and honor to serve this great company as the new Executive Officer. I will do everything within my power and influence to ensure the safety and well-being of all assigned Soldiers and their Families. I intend to be fair, equitable and approachable to each and everyone. I encourage each and every one of you to use me as a sounding board, to vent frustration, ask advice or just talk when you need someone to talk to. Although I am only here for a short six months, I became a member of the Gun Fighter team to enhance this company through sharing the workload, giving and taking advice from the Company Commander as well as every Soldier in order to most effectively achieve our mission. I would like to thank each and every one of you for the opportunity to serve you. Gunfighter 5, out.



GUNFIGHTER 5 - Captain Musgrave takes a minute out from her day for a close-up. As the executive officer, she is second in command of the company.

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

The WARFIGHTER times

PLATOON LEADER: 2LT LYNCH

PLATOON SERGEANT: SFC ZILA



Now for breaking news out of Camp Liberty in Baghdad, Iraq - Greetings to all the Soldiers of the 1st Platoon Warfighters 401st MP CO, Warfighter's Family members, and everyone else who cares and supports America's Best and Finest Soldiers!!! Since our last Gunfighter Gazette issue, the Warfighters continue to settle in and embrace our daily challenges here in Baghdad, Iraq. We continue to assist, teach, mentor, develop, and support the Iraqi Police Force in their endeavors towards building a unified nation. Positive progress is inevitable and quite evident throughout our daily missions. To start off, during mid June 07, our Platoon Sergeant, SFC Zila (Platoon Mama) finally arrived and has been whipping us back into shape. The last and final member of the Warfighters Team arrived on 27 July 07, PFC Taranti, who is beginning to settle in and learn his task. Our missions continue whether day or night or sometimes two missions per day, but the Warfighters never waiver and pushes through until the job is done! A normal day for the Soldiers in 1st Platoon Warfighters begins prior to the sun rising and ends when the mission is complete and all Warfighters are safely accounted for. We conduct motivated PT, load up the trucks, move out, conduct the missions, return home safely, account for our property, refit our trucks for the next day's mission, conduct our debriefs, and then relaxation, reflection, and finally, quality time for all. Please note that even through their schedules may seem full and hectic, all Warfighters enjoy three healthy meals a day which truly puts a smile on their faces. As quoted by PFC Rivers, "I live for this stuff everyday, and even though I am tired at times, I will never quit nor fail in my mission." However, PFC Green, states with a big smile on his face, "That's great, but I am looking forward to going on leave in a few days." That's when SPC

Braden smiled and replied, "I just want to go to Jack-In-The-Box when I get home." In spite of all the hard work, long arduous hours, missing home and our love ones, the Warfighters consistently maintain an extremely high level of vigilance, never taking anything for granted or becoming complacent. Our mission here is serious as we continue to perform our security in a defensive posture dressed in full gear under the scorching desert sun in degrees of about 113 or above, to ensure and aid the Iraqis in establishing inner security, proper treatment of Iraqi prisoners, training and eventually, self ownership and independence of their country. However, our safe return is vital and all the Warfighter Soldiers consistently executes their part while maintaining and improving their skills, knowledge, and vigilance.

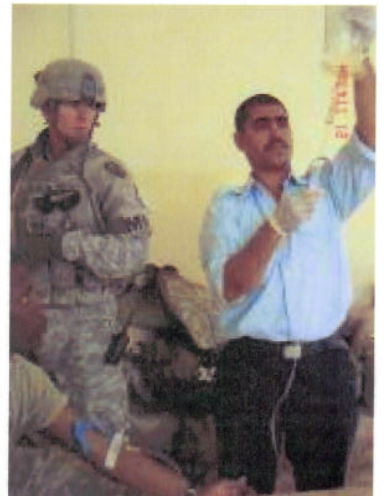
Understand that it is not always hard work and no play for the Warfighters of 1st Platoon. When afforded the time, all Warfighters power down, relax, and enjoy the great services that are available and provide for them. Such as: living accommodations (trailers) with air conditioning, fully equipped gyms, AAFES, centers with telephones, internet access, cable, morale telephones, volleyball courts, and an abundance of land for running or playing football. Camp Liberty also provides beautiful sceneries to include Z-Lake and Radar Hill. PFC Dennis echos, "Yeah Fun" as he finds no joy in running up Radar Hill which is pretty steep. Also, adjacent to us is Camp Victory with more attractive viewings of the Palace, lakes, AAFES, and swimming pools just to name a few. Now, some Soldiers do prefer to stay out of the sun and relax within their trailers, and they too have great options, such as wireless internet, watching movies, playing video games, cards, dominoes, talking to each other, or simply catching up on sleep. But the most rewarding thing at the end of each day are the letters and

packages that the Soldiers of 1st Platoon Warfighters receive. The smiles on their faces are priceless. We all look forward to mail call daily. PFC Graves leads the way as the mail recipient for Jun, July, and Aug 07, as the boxes and letters are now overflowing from his trailer. Thank you all and keep them coming.

Finally, no matter how heavy the task, we make time to recognize and promote deserving Warfighters as seen from the pictures below. In June, one Soldier was promoted to the deserving rank of Specialist. It was PFC Braden. Then came July, two Soldiers were proudly promoted to PFC. They were: PV2 Scott-Lee, and PV2 Milner. In August, we will promote five more high speed Warfighter Soldiers to the rank of PFC. They are: PV2 Rivers, PV2 Armstrong, PV2 Reddell, PV2 Steffey, and PV2 Green. Congratulations on your well earned promotions Warfighters!! We also celebrated some birthdays in Iraq: SSG Cameron, PFC Milner, PFC Graves, and PFC Armstrong. Lastly, in keeping with the Warfighters tradition, here is the second message to all our families, love ones, and friends back home, "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." You are all our guardian angels, continue to keep us in your prayers and we are all doing fine. Try not to worry and we will be home soon." As the Soldiers of 1st Platoon Warfighters are rotating home on leave for a well deserved rest and relaxation, know in your hearts that we are all doing well and continuing our focus on winning hearts and minds in Baghdad, Iraq!! Lastly, we proudly pay tribute to our fallen comrades, PFC BRANDON K. BOBB and PFC RON J. JOSHUA, JR., you are both truly in a better place now. You will always be within our hearts and minds, we miss you deeply. Warfighters signing off...



SGT Adams - Checks force protection at Yarmouk Police Station.



CPL Nichol - looks on as an IP medic checks an IV bag prior to administering fluids to SPC Jackson. Train the trainer.



SSG Teklinski - 1st Squad "Dirty Dogs" Squad Leader goes over procedures at a check point.

2nd PLATOON

PLATOON LEADER: 2LT MARTINEZ

PLATOON SERGEANT: SSG SMITH

The PUNISHER corner



Hello Punisher Family,

This month we were really getting ready for the beach. We were losing some weight with 110+ temperatures and working on our tan. We conducted 24 hours at the local Iraqi Police Station and conducted Joint Patrols with them. It was a good month for promotions with SGT Lucas getting promoted to Staff Sergeant (finally) and taking over 3rd Squad. SPC Bell made his Corporal and PV2 Lidgett, PV2 Nutter, PV2 Sanders, and PV2 Gholson

all moved up to Private First Class. SSG Lucas and SPC Hastings reenlisted to stay in the Army for a very nice T-shirt and a pen. We would like to thank all the families for their support. They have SSG Smith working overtime picking up the mail but it is great to get a little piece of home—so keep it coming. Our hearts and prayers go out to Bobb and Joshua's families and the 3rd platoon Hooligan family's for their loss.

God Bless. Punisher 6 out.



TOP: Punishers 6-7, 2LT Martinez and SSG Smith out with the troops on the vehicle line. **CENTER:** Security is essential to all missions, SPC Sadler keeps an eye out at Ghazaliyah for possible attacks. **CENTER RIGHT:** SPC Hastings and PFC Nutter catch a breather before mission, in the background SPC Parker prepares his teams' sensitive items for inspection and pre-combat inspections. **RIGHT:** PFC Owens and an Iraqi Police Officer stand guard in a tower at Rizalah local police station. Soldiers often share responsibilities with the Iraqi Police and assist them in simple things like pulling security in a guard tower.

3rd PLATOON

A HOOLIGAN REPORT

PLATOON LEADER: 2LT WALTER
PLATOON SERGEANT: SSG DECKER



This month has been marked with many great accomplishments by all of the 3rd Platoon Soldiers, but it has been marked with tragedy. On 17 July 2007, at approximately 1300 hours, PFC Ron Joshua and PFC Brandon Bobb were killed in a Improvised Explosive Device attack while conducting a security patrol for the 401st Military Police Company Commander. They will never be FORGOTTEN.

On 13 July 2007, SGT Womack competed against 4 other NCOs within the company in the NCO of the 3rd Quarter for Fiscal Year 2007. The competition consisted of an Army Physical Fitness Test and an oral board that was administered by the unit First Sergeant (1SG Sneed) and the four platoon sergeants. SGT Womack and the other competitors had to answer questions on numerous military subjects, mainly

dealing with the mission here in Iraq. The competitors were also judged on their military bearing, reporting skills, weapons qualification score. The overall competition was intense, but in the end, SGT Womack came out on top. SGT Womack is currently preparing to attend the Staff Sergeant promotion board at the beginning of August. Good Luck!

As it has been seen, over the last month the Soldiers of 3rd Platoon have had many great achievements and suffered a tragic loss. Yet through thick and thin, everyone of the "Hooligans" family has continued to hold their heads high and drive on with their assigned missions.

Thanks to all of the families and loved ones!



TOP: PV2 Topper is promoted to PFC. **CENTER:** SPC Taylor and CPT Copeland at SPC Taylor's reenlistment. Taylor re-enlisted for 6 years. **Far Left:** NCO of the quarter SGT Womack, and CPT Copeland. **LEFT:** PFC Belmonte is promoted to SPC by his team leader SPC McGinnis.



FROM THE HORSE: A WORKHORSE report

PLATOON SERGEANT:
SSG GARTH JOHNSON

"YOU CAN TALK ABOUT US BUT YOU CAN'T TALK WITH OUT US"...are the words spoken by the Workhorse Communications Section" the COMMO DOGS" of the 401st Military Police Company up all hours of the day and night fixing radios, and various electrical systems so the Military Police Soldiers can go out on mission to talk to the collation forces on the battle field. From sun up to sundown the WORKHORSE COMMO DOGS are always

hard at work and always mission ready to get radio systems up and running. From radio fills to going outside the wire to find "dead spots" to make communications better for the 401st Military Police Company. Computer problems? No worries, they do it all. When you are sleeping, the crew of SGT Samuel Breese (Section Chief), SPC Bobby Cruz (Communications Specialist), and SPC Richard Doster (Communications Spe-

cialist) don't stop until their work is done. Ensuring the 401st Military Police Company Soldiers are talking to each other through the day to day missions. The highly motivated section takes on all day to day tasks ensuring all trucks are combat ready.

This is one of the best Communications Sections I have had the pleasure to work with, thank you for being part of the team.

GUN-FIGHTER 96, A, B - (From Right: SPC Doster, SGT Samuel Breese, and SPC Bobby Cruz. The 401st communication team.



COMMO

SPECIAL NOTE: HEADQUARTES PLATOON "WORKHORSE" WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME SSG STANIFER, SGT GROUNDS, CPL SCHULTZ BACK TO THE TEAM THEY ARRIVED IN THEATER THIS MONTH. THEIR SKILLS ARE NEEDED AND THEY HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO EXCEL IN THEIR POSITIONS.

ALSO A SPECIAL WELCOME TO CPT MUSGRAVE TO THE WORKHORSE FAMILY.

Rear Detachment Commander—Round Up

With the tragic loss of two of our finest; PFC Brandon K. Bobb and PFC Ron J. Joshua, Jr., it has definitely been a hectic time for us in the Rear Detachment. I am truly honored to have been here to stand arm in arm with these two Families as they persevere through these trying times. I am blessed to have had the opportunity to sit and speak with them and share the laughs and the tears as they told me their personal memories of Brandon and Ron.

There are many folks to thank, who have provided tremendous support as we planned and prepared for the events surrounding the loss of our

Fallen Warriors. First and foremost I would like to thank the Battalion Rear Command and Staff and the Companies for their support. Thanks to Tammy Johnson, Stacey Purser and Amanda Arceneaux for getting dates, times, locations and mailing information out. I also need to recognize 1SG (Ret) Guthrie of TightLines Premium Fishing Tackle, CSM (Ret) Generalli and SGM (Ret) Wilson of GenSon Home Repair & Improvement, and Ron Taylor of AUSA for their contributions. I would also like to recognize the Management and Staff of Holiday Inn-Resorts at Port Arthur for all their help while I was down there. Last but not least a special thanks to the Pa-

triot Guard Riders for their help, coordination and patriotism.

Switching gears; we do have some things coming up that are great opportunities for the FRG to raise a little money and get sweaty with volunteer work. The 89th MP Brigade Cook-books are in and waiting to be sold. The proceeds we generate go into the FRG Fund. As for volunteer work, beginning 18 August we will be on site with Habitat For Humanity as they begin construction of a new house. So come out and join us as we do great things for the FRG and the local community. For more information contact Tammy Johnson.

401st Military Police Company

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"Always First"
Supporting the
Gunfighter Posse:

Coming Soon to the
Web

AUGUST 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Back-to-School Festival @ Bldg 324, 6:00pm	15	16	17	18 Idolatry on the Creek @ Salado 2:00/7:30p
19	20	21	22 Hi-5 Mini Concert @ Clear Creek PX	23	24 Family Dive-In @ Carl Levin Pool	25
26	27 School begins (KISD, CCISD)	28	29	30 FRG Back-to-School Potluck Dinner	31 Hot Summer Nights @ Killeen Amphitheater	

JULY 2007

CONGRATULATIONS GUNFIGHTERS

JULY RE-ENLISTMENTS

HQ PLT:

SSG NEUWIRTH

2nd PLT:

SGT LUCAS - 6 YEARS

SPC HASTINGS - 6 YEARS

3rd PLT:

SPC TAYLOR - 6 YEARS

BIRTHDAYS:

PFC ARMSTRONG	SPC DAKINS
SSG DECKER	PFC EAVES
SPC FENNEWALD	PFC GRAVES
SPC HAWK	PFC MILNER
PFC OWENS	SPC PAGEN
PFC SOLANO	PV2 WASHBURN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GUNFIGHTERS

PROMOTIONS:

SGT LUCAS TO SSG

SPC BELL TO CPL

PFC BELMONTE TO SPC

PV2 GHOLSON TO PFC

PV2 MITCHELL TO PFC

PV2 MILNER TO PFC

PV2 SANDERS TO PFC

PV2 NUTTER TO PFC

PV2 SCOTT-LEE TO PFC

PV2 TOPPER TO PFC

PV2 LIDGETT TO PFC

****SGT LUCAS HAS AN EFFECTIVE DOR OF 1 JUNE 2007****



TOP: A Soldier's memorial. The memorial service held at Division Chapel on Camp Liberty to honor PFC Joshua and PFC Bobb. Its traditional for there to be the Soldier's rifle, Kevlar helmet, boots and dog-tags. **CENTER:** SUSTAINER OF THE MONTH - SPC Bobby Cruz gets a certificate of achievement from First Sergeant Sneed. Cruz was selected as Sustainer of the Month for his tremendous success assisting with communications on the Gunfighter Surge. **NOTE:** SGT Joshua Holland (background) was the Hero of the Month due to his quick first aid response to an injured Iraqi Policeman. **LEFT:** SSG Smith and First Sergeant Sneed promote SGT Lucas to Staff Sergeant. SSG Lucas also became the 2nd platoon/3rd squad leader during July.

