

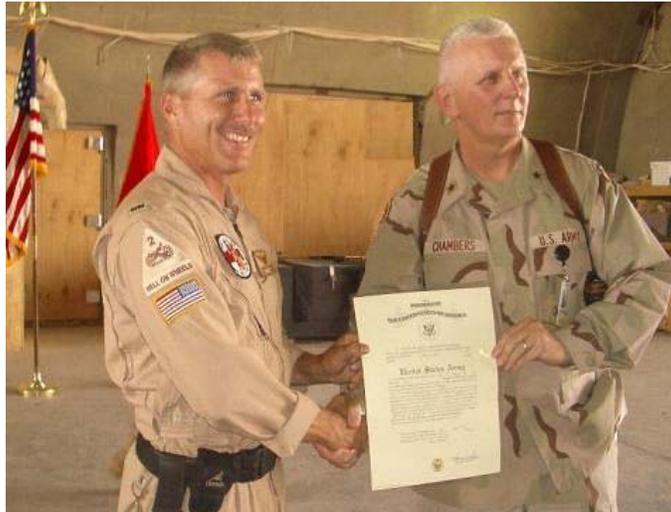


## 82nd Med Co logs over 1000 hours of OIF2 flying

by MAJ Cara Alexander  
**T**he 82nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance) recently passed 1000 hours of flying time for its current deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Boomer Dustoff pilots have each flown an average of nearly 100 hours over the five months of the unit's deployment, and its non-rated crewmembers have logged an average of almost 75 hours.

One of the major missions of the 82nd Med Co over the past month-and-a-half was conducting a relief-in-place of all of its four forward operating sites. Simultaneously, the unit picked up three new forward operating sites. The unit's forward support teams completed this mission in the most professional manner, ensuring that mission continuity was seamless.

This change has placed the 82nd's forward teams in closer proximity to the company headquarters. Overall, the change has improved not only the ability of the unit to support to the warfighters, but has also improved the ability of company



Newly-promoted CW4 Pearson is congratulated by BG Chambers, commanding general of the 13th COSCOM, at LSA Anaconda, Iraq.

headquarters to support its forward teams.

While the unit is hitting its stride operationally, temperatures are hitting new highs for the year so far. Temperatures for July have already topped 120 degrees, but the unit is doing its best to beat the heat. Boomer Dustoff has a team of Soldiers

that is dedicated to ensuring that electrical power remains available for air conditioning.

The Aviation Maintenance platoon has recently reached new heights for operational readiness. In the middle of July, their efforts resulted in an all-time deployment high operational readiness rate of 83.9%.

However, they are not satisfied yet. The platoon's goal is 90%.

The unit has seen six of its Soldiers achieve promotions in the last two months, with one warrant officer attaining the rank of CW4. CW3 Pearson pinned on CW4 in a special ceremony that BG James P. Chambers, the 13<sup>th</sup> COSCOM Commanding General, presided over on LSA Anaconda.

Boomer Dustoff also continues to exceed retention goals, with five soldiers re-enlisting over the past two months. SPC Ezell, one of the re-enlisting Soldiers, chose to re-enlist at the ancient city of Babylon. It was a great day for him, his friends and his chain of command. Other Soldiers who also re-enlisted were SSG Longacre, SGT Nicholas, SPC Green and SPC Hemming.

So far, the R&R program has given nearly 20% of the unit the opportunity for a much deserved break from the hard work it is doing. The unit expects to be close to its goal of 100% R&R participation by the end of November.

## New command team takes charge of battalion

**T**his past month brought both a new battalion commander and battalion command sergeant major to the 36th Medical Evacuation Battalion. LTC Robert D. Mitchell took command of the 36th MEB on the morning of June 4, 2004, as part of a ceremony held outside of Ill Corps Headquarters at Fort Hood, TX. Relinquishing command of the battalion was LTC Bryant E. Harp, who served as the battalion commander since June 2002 and led the unit during the first Operation Iraqi Freedom troop rotation. COL Terry J. Walters, 1st Medi-

cal Brigade Commander, acted as the reviewing officer.

CSM Brian A. Fahl took re-

sponsibility of the battalion on June 22, 2004. He comes to the battalion from Fort Lewis, WA, where he served as the 1st Corps Surgeon's Command Sergeant Major. He replaces CSM Gordon M. Hurd, who also led the 36th MEB during its deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Neither Soldier is a stranger to the 36th MEB. LTC Mitchell's previously served as commander of the 507th Medical Company (Air Ambulance), one of the 36th MEB's companies. Also, before the 507th MC (AA) was brought under the 36th MEB, CSM Fahl served with the unit as a flight medic.



36th MEB's new command team: LTC Robert D. Mitchell (left) and CSM Brian A. Fahl.

### Inside...

- 224th MD (PM) hits the road
- HHB trains for war
- What does "Auxilium Cito" mean, anyways?
- 507th MC (AA) approaches 180-day point
- 36th MEB by the numbers





## 224th MD leads PM detachments in convoy miles

by CPT Hugh Bailey

The 224th Medical Detachment (Preventive Medicine), based out of Fort Hood, TX, continues to conduct area preventive medicine support for MND-Central and MND-North (1st Infantry Division/Stryker Brigade). As the detachment reached its six month deployment mark on 7 July 04, it logged over 4700 miles on 106 separate convoy operations without damage to personnel or property, more than any other PM unit in theater. SPC Estrada, the detachment mechanic, has managed to maintain the vehicles at 100% OR, which is an impressive feat, considering the detachment typically maintains an average of 500 to 800 miles per month in convoy operations.

At the end of June, the detachment assumed direct support for AO Diamondback, which brings the total number of base camps supported to ten direct and twenty-three area support. The detachment soldiers conducted over 160 Base Camp Assistance/Assessment Team (BCAT) missions, twenty-two Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit (ROWPU) inspections, twenty dining facility

inspections, six enemy prisoner-of-war camp inspections, and sixteen spray operations in June and July. The detachment also



224th Medical Detachment (Preventive Medicine) prepares to convoy its HMMWVs out of Kirkuk Air Force Base.

conducted another field sanitation team class in June and trained 12 personnel, including 3 civilian contractors from Kellogg, Brown, and Root, in unit level sanitation procedures.

The 224th's hard work has not gone unnoticed, and it has distinguished itself in support of operations in northern Iraq. The detachment has received commendations from both the 248th

Veterinary Detachment commander and the 429th Medical Evacuation Battalion surgeon.

In addition, several individuals

in the detachment have been recognized during the month of June for going above and beyond. SPC Lewis received a commander's coin from the Task Force 5-20 Infantry (Stryker) commander for her outstanding preventive medicine support. Largely due to her efforts, the Disease & Non-Battle-Injury (DNBI) rate in that area has been kept to a minimum. CPT

Squitier was personally selected by BG Muntz to assist the Baqubah minister of agriculture and provide recommendations for crop pest control operations. This should have a long-term impact in building good will with the local nationals in the area. Additionally, CPT Squitier developed an entomological database and reporting system that has been adopted as the theater standard by 2nd Medical Brigade. The detachment NCOIC, SSG (P) Patton personally worked long hours with the Camp Speicher Ice Plant to ensure that it maintained the required standards, and she has assumed the mission of providing chemical and bacteriological water analysis for the plant. However, it's not all work for the 224th. Due to a suspension in convoy operations until July 7, the detachment also managed to take some well-earned downtime for the 4th of July and had a unit barbecue.

Overall, the unit is performing exceptionally well. As the detachment reaches and passes the six-month mark, the soldiers now mentally feel like they are over the hump, and have renewed their enthusiasm for the PM mission.

## HHD receives new personnel, preps for deployment

by CPT Nancy Gines

The HHD, 36<sup>th</sup> Medical Evacuation Battalion, has really had a complete turnover in personnel. We welcome our new battalion commander LTC Robert Mitchell, CSM Brian Fahl, battalion S-3 OIC MAJ Clifton McCready, Detachment Commander CPT Nancy Gines, and SSG Brian Brockett. CPT Gines' previous assignment was chemical officer of the 1st Medical Brigade, so she is already familiar with some members of the HHD. A Hail and Farewell will be held later this month to welcome new soldiers to the bat-

talion, as well as to give our best wishes to departing soldiers.

The Battalion is already quite busy with getting ready for deployment to Iraq. We have begun with two Field Training Exercises (FTXs) to help get us started. Our July FTX will be a joint effort involving fellow units from the battalion, including the 555th Forward Surgical Team, 565th Medical Company (Ground Ambulance), and 1256th Medical Company (Air Ambulance), and also the 21st Cavalry Brigade, the Army's combat aviation training brigade. HHD will be in charge of establishing a Tactical Operations

Center and Admin/Logistics Center, as well as provide life support, while other units will provide ground and air ambulance support and Level II medical care. HHD soldiers recently received their issue of desert equipment and attended pre-deployment briefings covering a variety of topics.

We have also revved up the unit's Family Readiness Group, with Mrs. Karen Mitchell leading the way. She is currently planning a summer party blow-out before the children go back to school. We look forward to very busy times as the summer so quickly concludes.



## Did you know...

that the phrase on the 36th MEB crest, "Auxilium Cito," is Latin for "Aid Quickly"? Quickly providing medical care and evacuating wounded Soldiers is one of the top goals of the battalion and its units.



## 507th MC (AA) establishes ops at Tall Afar

The 507th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) was recently tasked to support Tall Afar Airbase in order to provide American Soldiers with even better medical evacuation coverage. Within three days, Lonestar Dustoff Soldiers moved in, set up operations, and executed their first mission flawlessly. One significant change that the Tall Afar crewmembers experienced is that they are providing coverage for Army Soldiers at their site, instead of the Marines that the 507th provides coverage for at their main site at Al Asad.

One recent mission flown by a Tall Afar crew involved an extraction in the middle of the requesting unit's combat operations. CW2 DiDonato, CW2 Petik, SGT Hope, and SPC Burns received a request from a unit that had known enemy near the pickup site. Despite the risk, the crew took the mission because of the numerous soldiers that were hurt. When the crew arrived at the pickup site, the requesting unit was still being engaged with both direct and indirect fire. CW2 DiDonato and crew made a daring landing while combat operations were saving place, allowing them to extract four wounded soldiers off the battlefield and saving those soldiers' lives.

**“Do you know what the difference is between the sun and Iraq in July?**

**About three miles.”**

- Anonymous 507th MC (AA) Soldier remarking about the temperature reaching 126 F



One of the 507th Medical Company (Air Ambulance)'s UH-60 Blackhawks, silhouetted by the Iraqi sunset.

### OIF II evacuation by the numbers:

#### Flight and mission data

| Unit          | Hours Flown | Urgent | Priority | Routine |
|---------------|-------------|--------|----------|---------|
| 82nd MC (AA)  | 1182        | 357    | 162      | 1095    |
| 507th MC (AA) | 1874        | 266    | 202      | 303     |

## Mailing addresses for our deployed units

### 82nd MC (AA)

Rank / Name of Soldier  
82nd Medical Company (AA)  
LSA Anaconda, Balad  
APO AE 09391

### 224th MD (PM)

Rank / Name of Soldier  
224th Medical Detachment (PM)  
Camp Speicher  
APO AE 09392

### 507th MC (AA)

Rank / Name of Soldier  
507th MC, I MEF  
Unit #91549  
APO AE 09333-1549

## THE NINE-LINE NEWS

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