

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

Week of
3 May 2004

-News from Camp Victory, Baghdad, Iraq

Stepping Up

LTC Jim Agar and MSG Terry Watson latest members of 1st Cavalry Division OSJA to be promoted and take on greater responsibilities

SGT Teresa Johnston

Two leaders of the 1st Cavalry Division's Office of the Staff Judge Advocate were promoted this week and charged with the weighty responsibilities associated with their new ranks.

LTC Jim Agar, deputy Staff Judge Advocate, was awarded his silver oak leaf by Major General Peter Chiarelli, commanding general of the 1st Cavalry Division, in the Command Information Center.

In a ceremony held in the yet-to-be-complete Legal Services Center, MSG Terry Watson, Chief Paralegal NCOIC, was pinned with his third rocker by LTC Chris O'Brien and CW2 Anton Streeter.

"The team of lawyers we have in 1st Cav are absolutely fantastic," said MG Chiarelli. "And Jim sets an exceptional example for the JAG Corps and the Army."

After he was pinned, LTC Agar joked about being "vertically challenged," but added that the team he is a part of increases his stature.

"This is the best staff I have ever worked with. To the enlisted personnel and the other officers: I'm a tall person when I stand on your shoulders," LTC Agar said.

To the Staff Judge Advocate, he had these words: "I am a better officer and lawyer because of you."

MSG Watson requested that his promotion take place at the Legal Services Center where OSJA section will be housed in the near future.

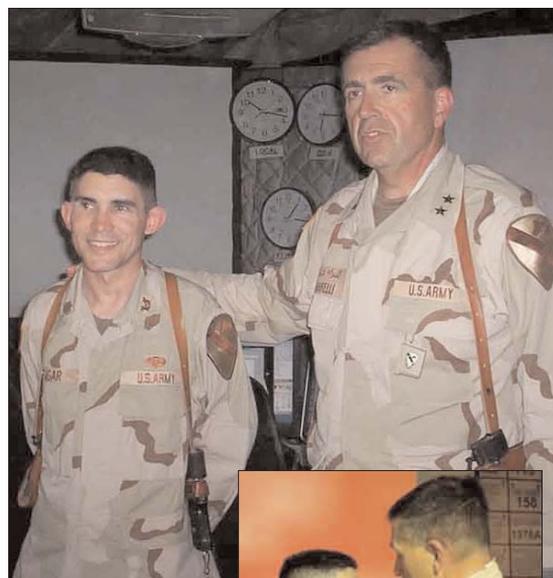
The building's courtroom saw its first official function as LTC O'Brien and CW2 Streeter pinned MSG Watson as judge advocates and paralegals from 1 CD and III Corps looked on.

LTC O'Brien remarked that this is the second time he has served with MSG Watson, and that his deployment experience is invaluable.

"I'm glad to be promoting a great Non-Commissioned Officer in the JAG Corps," LTC O'Brien said. "MSG Watson is everything an NCO should be."

MSG Watson was quick to thank the officers, NCOs and soldiers he's worked with and gave them accolades for his success.

"I can't take credit for this. It's because of the NCOs and soldiers who have accomplished the missions and made me look good," MSG Watson said.



Pictured above, left to right, LTC Agar, deputy SJA, is congratulated on his promotion by MG Chiarelli. Inset: The CG pins on LTC Agar's new rank. Pictured at left, LTC O'Brien and CW2 Streeter pin E8 rank on MSG Watson, chief paralegal NCOIC. (Photos by SGT Teresa Johnston)

Detention Ops part of OSJA mission

LTC Jim Agar

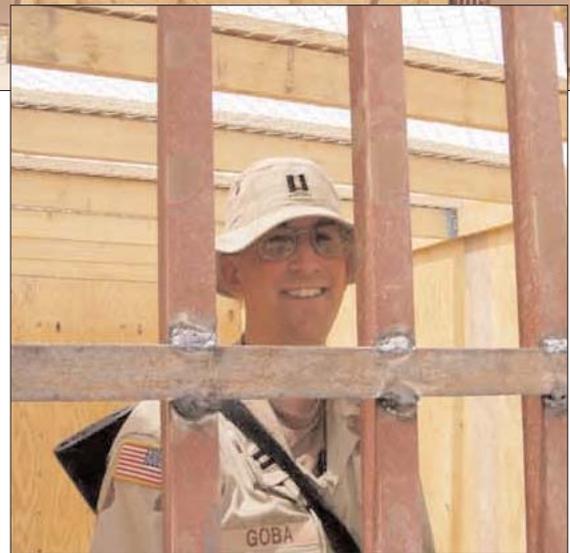
The First Team conducts raids and searches around Baghdad every day. Sometimes those raids capture some bad guys or just people we want to talk to because we think they may have some intelligence value.

When we do, those people often go to the Division Internment Facility or DIF. Pictures of an operational confinement facility are prohibited by Army regulations, but the First Team SJA office recently toured the new DIF under construction in Baghdad (no, we won't tell you where it is) and took pictures of the new DIF.

The DIF will be surrounded by three strands of coiled razor wire and contain enough cages to hold up to 80 detainees. An interrogation facility is just a stone's throw away. The detainees receive humane treatment. They often eat the same food the soldiers do and they get a shower once every three days.

Running the legal side of detainee operations is the responsibility of CPT James Du Pre, who moonlights as the division's Chief of Legal Assistance.

CPT Du Pre coordinates with the DIF and assures that detainees are treated humanely and that their rights are respected. He is also in charge of the program to release detainees from the Abu Garhaib prison west of Baghdad.



Pictured above and below, the Division Internment Facility under construction.

CPT Michael Goba, pictured right, poses for shot behind bars. (Photos by LTC Jim Agar)



Court system in Baghdad to be assessed

LTC Chris O'Brien
Staff Judge Advocate

Baghdad sure is different than home! But rest assured, everyone has done a great job getting settled and adjusting to our new home. Our biggest challenge continues to be establishing reliable communications. Everything takes longer here, whether it is waiting in line for meals or making a simple telephone call. We are also awaiting the completion of both our division headquarters building and the division legal center. Until then, we are working out of tents and our five-ton expando van (it is our mobile office).



As you have heard in the news, enemy insurgent activity has increased since our arrival. Maybe the insurgents don't like the big patch we wear on our left shoulders! The good news is that it appears to be calming down. Although our division has suffered some casualties, morale remains high. The soldiers understand why we are here and believe in the mission we have been given.

On 15 April, the 1st Cavalry Division officially took over the Baghdad-area security mission from the 1st Armored Division. In general terms, we are here to provide a safe and secure environment for the people of Iraq so the coalition can transfer sovereignty back over to the Iraqis. It is not an easy task. Re-establishing the rule of law is at the heart of our effort. Our office will play a key role in this process.

In fact, our folks are wasting no time getting started. One of the division's first missions is to do an assessment of the court system in Baghdad. MAJ Jeff Spears and CPT Dan Everett are the brains behind this mission. The assessment is literally on the courts systems, i.e., how they track criminals from apprehension to incarceration. The goal is to identify how we can help the Baghdad court system become functional. Without a functional court system in a city of 5-6 million people, there is no hope of restoring the rule of law.

The court system assessment is just one example of how our office is contributing to the overall task of rebuilding a nation. It is exciting and humbling to participate in this monumental effort.

You should be very proud of all of your soldiers.

Week in Portrait



What the hail? : Golf ball-sized hail pelted soldiers' living areas over the weekend in a storm that last about 10 minutes.
(Photo by SPC Jon Coen)

Leaving its mark: Pictured left to right, CPT Dan Everett and MAJ James Teixeira look over an indentation made by a rocket that landed in 1 CD's area of operation. *(Photo by LTC Jim Agar)*



LTC Chris O'Brien, left, presents SGT Teresa Johnston with an SJA coin for her work on the newsletter. Upon hearing about 1CD OSJA's weekly publication, the Judge Advocate General has asked to receive a copy. *(Photo by LTC Jim Agar)*

To Mothers

Thank you for...

*my life*the gift of reading* my humanity*protecting me*
loving me* keeping me alive* being my first editor* green
eyes*being my champion*typing my reports*our wonderful
children*believing in me*teaching me to play golf*warm homemade
chocolate-chip cookies*letting me live*carrot cake without
raisins*everything*my spirit*love of God*ballet lessons*raising my
son*not putting me in a psychiatric institution*providing a happy
home*being my Guardian Angel*knowing me better than I know myself
*taking care of me*Gloria Lynn*raising me right*forgiving me for wrecking
the car*helping me with my homework*setting the example*always standing
beside me*showing me what a true lady looks like*my brother and sister*
sacrificing your needs*my family*teaching me to ride a bike*herbal tea when I
was sick*giving birth to our son without me there*teaching me values*making me
go to school*singing to me*good manners*handling me after the Jesuits got a hold
of me*being the source of life*integrity*giving birth to me so that I could serve in the
U.S. Army*adopting me*letting me be myself*sticking up for me no matter
what*taking care of me when I was sick*7Up and dry toast*showing me that
everyone deserves a second chance*my Holly Hobby desk*six-subject conversation
competitions*making me "look it up"*independence*showing me how to be a good
mother*your kindness*concern for others*compassion*teaching me how to
cook*tying my shoes*love of country*giving me 10 nicknames*dancing*being a
good speller*seeing the good in me when no one else did*being such a beautiful
person*showing me the kind of woman I want to be*making me breakfast
every morning*making me self-sufficient*bandaging my scrapped
knees*always knowing the right thing to say*having a green thumb
*teaching me how to sew*my creativity*my love of self
always being there when I need you

*Happy Mother's Day
From
All of Us*