



Camp Victory North Courtroom hosts its first Court-martial

SGT TERESA JOHNSTON

Editor

The Camp Victory North Courtroom played host Thursday to its first Court-martial after a last-minute effort to prepare the facility began not 24-hours prior to trial.

After receiving word late Wednesday morning that court would convene at 0900 the following day, SFC Thomas Torri, Military Justice NCOIC, rallied the few soldiers not on other details to put the courtroom in order...no small task considering it was being used as storage space.

Six hours later, boxes were stowed away, chairs were dusted and placed, the counsels' tables were assembled, the floor was swept and pictures were hung.

The stage was set.

Also making a debut was the government's co-counsel, CPT Leah Pettit, who was prosecuting her first Court-martial and second-chairing for CPT Wyndal Darville, 5th BCT Trial Counsel.

"I've never been first at anything before and now I'm the first to try a case in our new courtroom," joked CPT Darville. "This is different from a civilian law

practice because there you don't have to worry about IEDs and mortar attacks."

The accused was charged and pleaded guilty to violation of Article 92, disobeying a general order prohibiting alcohol consumption; Article 112, drunk on duty; four counts of Article 122, robbery; 10 counts of Article 128, aggravated assault; and five counts of Article 134, kidnapping and willful discharge of a firearm. He was sentenced to three-years confinement, a Bad-Conduct Discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances and reduction to the lowest enlisted grade (Private E1).



PREPARING FOR COURT: Pictured above, CPT Wyndall Darville, 5th BCT Trial Counsel, goes over documents before the Court-martial Thursday with CPT Leah Pettitt, co-counsel for the government. Pictured at left, SFC Thomas Torri and CPT M. Colin Cusack, put together a table Wednesday afternoon on short notice in preparation for the Court-martial. **PHOTOS BY SGT TERESA**

JOHNSTON

news of the weird...

...and other strange and useless trivia about our little patch of paradise

Did You Know?

An armored bus is available for soldiers to take when they have appointments outside the FOB.



The bus is protected with the same materials as tactical vehicles.

How about:



"Trigger," the 1st Cavalry Division mascot that is proudly displayed in the gallery-like foyer at 1st CAV headquarters in Fort Hood, was carefully packed in bubble wrap, lovingly put in a CONEX and "deployed" with the rest of the division to Iraq. Another interesting fact about "Trigger" is that many believe that rubbing his well-worn nose is good luck.

What about this...

Many Iraqis are under the false impression that the Outer Tactical Vests (OTVs) worn by U.S. soldiers year-round are air conditioned, that our Wiley-X sunglasses have x-ray capability and our HMMWVs are protected by a force field that can be disrupted by bubble wrap.

Or...

Some soldiers believe it is good luck to shave the 1st CAV symbol in their flat tops.



(Interestingly, their good luck ends as soon as their NCOs spot them.)

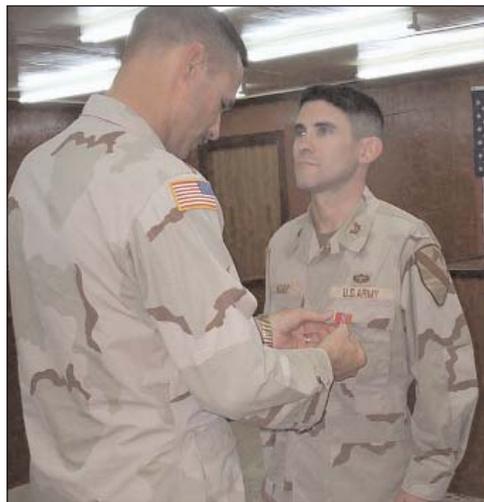
Did You Know?



Aerostat, an aerial imaging system, is used by the military to monitor sectors around Camp Victory using either infrared or high magnification, allowing it to zoom in on any location. Many local males believe that its real use is to take pictures of "their naked women."



Week in Portrait

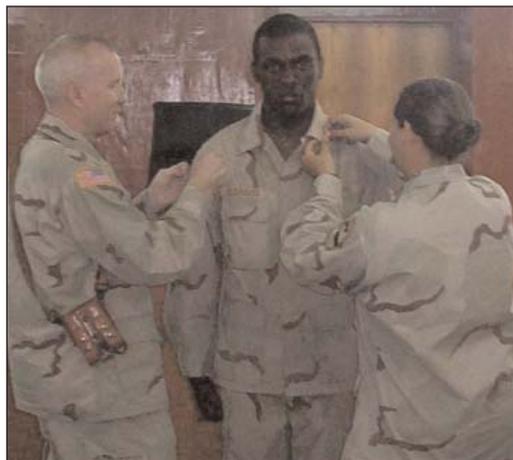


THANK YOU: LTC Jim Agar, Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, is presented with the Bronze Star by 1CD Chief of Staff Keith Walker, for exceptional service to the U.S. Army, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate and the 1st Cavalry Division staff.

PHOTO BY SGT TERESA JOHNSTON



OSJA'S NEWEST NCO: SGT Brodrick E. Bassham, Jr., center, becomes the newest member of the Non Commissioned Officer's Corps, as outgoing Deputy Staff Judge Advocate LTC Jim Agar, left, and SFC Thomas Torri, Military Justice NCOIC and platoon sergeant, right, pin on his new rank. PHOTO BY SGT TERESA JOHNSTON



IN APPRECIATION: CPT Sebastian Edwards, right, 1st BCT Trial Counsel, is presented with an the Army Commendation Medal for his contributions to the 1CD OSJA. CPT Edwards is leaving 1 CD and PCSing to Fort Bliss.

PHOTO BY SGT TERESA JOHNSTON

A STEP UP: Traig C. Clements, center, is promoted to the rank of Private First Class by LTC Chris O'Brien, Staff Judge Advocate, left, and SGT Teresa Johnston, Legal Assistance NCOIC and squad leader. PHOTO BY SGT GABRIEL GALINDO



WELL DESERVED: LTC Chris O'Brien, SJA, gives a well-deserved pat on the back and an SJA coin to SPC Jon Coen, division court reporter, for the outstanding job he's done typing verbatim transcripts for the many 15-6 Investigations the office has been tasked with as of late. PHOTO BY SGT TERESA JOHNSTON

PHOTO BY SGT TERESA JOHNSTON



PROMOTED: PFC George H. White, Jr., center, is pinned by LTC Chris O'Brien, SJA, left, and SGT Gabriel Galindo, Post-Trial NCOIC and squad leader. PHOTO BY SGT TERESA JOHNSTON

New SJA attorney gets acquainted with Detention Ops Law

CPT M. COLIN CUSACK

Judge Advocate



Less than three months ago, I was sitting in a classroom at the JAG school in Charlottesville, listening to two captains from the 3rd Infantry Division. They had recently returned from Iraq and were sharing their experiences with several of my classmates and me. One common theme to all of their stories was that they often found themselves doing things in Iraq that they had never anticipated doing. Having been in Iraq for all of six weeks, thus far, I have found this to be true for me as well.

One area of the law that I knew very little about prior to arriving in Baghdad is Detention Operational Law. However, one of my assignments since joining the 1st Cav has been to assist CPT James Du Pre with this area of the law. One of the responsibilities of this assignment includes the inspection of various brigade detention facilities in and around Baghdad. Besides the Staff Judge Advocate's Office, other sections responsible for inspecting a detention facility include the Provost Marshall's Office, Division Surgeon, the Inspector General, Safety, and Military Intelligence.

Each office has different areas to inspect. Two areas of particular interest to the inspecting Judge Advocate are the detainee records and the evidence handling procedures. We look at the detainee documentation to make sure that all of the required information is completed and in order. We also inspect

the evidence room and talk with the evidence custodian. This is to ensure that the detainee's property is properly accounted. It helps preserve evidence that is collected when the detainee is first apprehended by the capturing unit. This evidence may later be used against the detainee in an Iraqi court.

The Judge Advocate is also tasked to ensure that the guards have received their required training concerning the Geneva Conventions and the treatment of detainees. This is also a good opportunity for us to answer any questions the

detention facility personnel may have.

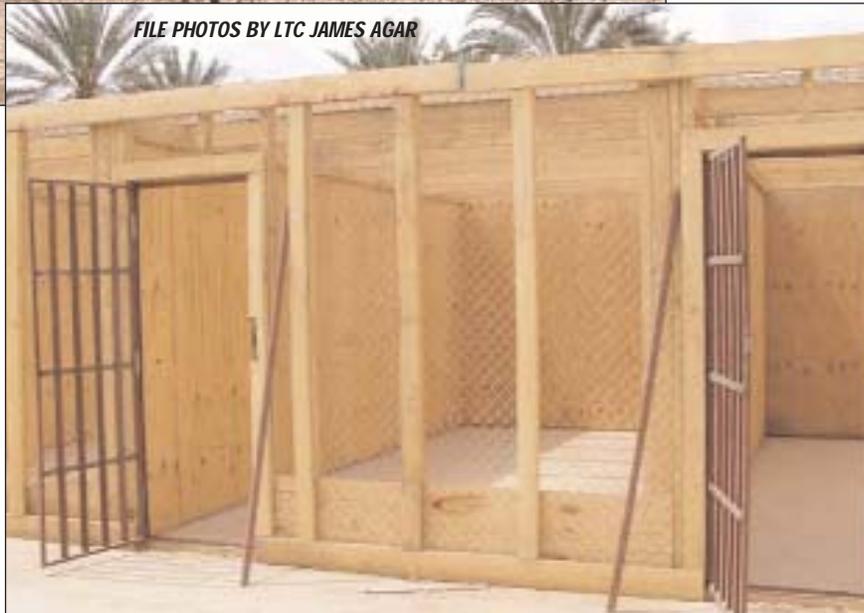
At the conclusion of each inspection, the representatives meet with the facility commander to make suggestions on ways that he or she can improve the detention facility. We not only tell the commander what the regulations require, but also try to come up with ideas and proposals for him or her on how to achieve full compliance for the facility with all of the various Army rules and regulations.

Detention Operational Law is a unique, yet highly relevant area of the

law. By inspecting the facilities and advising the commanders, judge advocates help prevent potential problems. We also assist the commanders in achieving their goal of having a safe detention facility, for both the guards and the detainees.



FILE PHOTOS BY LTC JAMES AGAR





Happy 4th of July!



1CD OSJA: Front row, from left to right: CPT Dan Everett, SGT Rick Bassham, PFC George White, SPC Jon Coen, SGT Teresa Johnston. Second row, left to right: LTC Chris O'Brien, MAJ Jim Teixeira, PFC Kenya Lee, SSG Katara Trammel, CPT James Du Pre, CPT Leah Pettitt, LTC Jim Agar. Back row, from left to right, SPC Jeremiah Burch, SGT Gabriel Galindo, CPT Colin Cusack, CPT Michael Goba, CW2 Anton Streeter, MSG Terry Watson, SFC Thomas Torri. Not pictured: SSG Columbus Wheeler and PFC Traig Clements. PHOTO BY SGT CHRISTINA ROCKHILL

(Point of contact for copies of this photo is SGT Teresa Johnston at teresa.johnston1@us.army.mil)

Messages from Home

From Iraq, with love

Jamie, Our son: A Soldier, A Lawyer, A Husband, A Father, A Brother. A man we are proud of. Happy 34th Birthday. We love you and think of you constantly. Love, Mom and Dad

Have I told you lately just how much I love you or how your gentle smile can melt my heart? With these words as a simple reminder of how much you mean to our family. Love, Amalia, Caleb, Zantavias, Catorina, Alexsus and Tymir

Leah, Have a great birthday, I'll be thinking of you! One birthday in Europe and another in Iraq..wow! Everyone misses you and can't wait for your return! Take care of yourself! Love, Kimmie

Happy Birthday Adrian Antonio! 1 July, 1993 Mijo, I wish you all the best on this special day. From the day you were born, I have always wished that I could hold you as I did when you were a baby. But grow you must and grow you did! You are becoming a young man, sometimes faster than you should have to, and I am very proud of you. Enjoy your day and celebrate it surrounded by family. Though I am not there to share it with you, I am there in spirit as you are with me. Love, Dad