

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

Friday
9 April 2004

-News from Camp Victory, Baghdad, Iraq

OSJA gets down to business

SGT Teresa Johnston

Some members of 1st Cavalry Division's Office of the Staff Judge Advocate got their first taste of what their mission will entail in Iraq through their involvement in a court-martial recently.

Second BCT trial counsels CPT Christopher Beese and CPT Keith Petty, as well as Trial Defense Services attorney CPT Samuel Spitzberg, manned both sides of the courtroom in a case involving a soldier who pleaded guilty to one specification of aggravated assault.

Aggravated assault is a violation of Article 128, Uniform Code of Military Justice.

OSJA soldiers who sat in on the court-martial were on hand to hear sentencing arguments made by the government's attorney, CPT Petty, and by the accused's defense attorney, CPT Spitzberg.

The accused pleaded guilty to one charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and was sentenced to a Bad-Conduct Discharge, six month's confinement, minus 15 days for an Article 13 violation by the accused's chain of command and reduction to E1.



Halls of Justice

(Pictured above and inset at right)

Close to a mosque that is currently being rebuilt, the Camp Victory Courthouse will see many courts-martial during the coming year.

(Pictured below at left, seated from left to right) CPT Christopher Beese and CPT Keith Petty, trial counsels for 2nd BCT, take a break before a court-martial begins as SGT Triplett, 2nd BCT Legal NCO, looks on. (Pictured bottom right) CPT Samuel Spitzberg, defense counsel, looks over documents before

court. (Photos by SGT Teresa Johnston)



*Du Pres
have new
addition*

SGT Teresa Johnston

Congratulations are in order for CPT James Du Pre and his wife, Yuko, on the birth of their first child, a son, Tristan Mushashi Du Pre.

Tristan was born in Yukota Hospital, Yukota, Japan at 0750 on 8 April 2004. At birth, Tristan was 19 1/2 inches long and weighed 8 lbs, 3.2 ounces.

The parents chose both the first and middle names to reflect warrior traditions in both their cultures.

According to Celtic legend, *Tristan* was a knight and the name "reflects his Celtic heritage," said CPT Du Pre.

Mushashi is Japanese and is the name of the the most famous Samari, he added.

CPT Du Pre is the OIC of 1st Cavalry Division's Legal Assistance Office.

The gift of reading....

SGT Teresa Johnston

Elementary school children throughout Florida, along with their local libraries, treated soldiers of the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate with something they've been lacking-- books. And not just a few dozen, but more than 1,000, and many of them came with book marks made by the students themselves.

The senders of the books came from a variety of areas, and some even included letters of support for the soldiers, as well as those spear-heading the book drive.

One such letter from Pamela M. Carrozza, from Friends of the Martin County Library System, included the following message:

"We are sending these books to you with our thanks and gratitude to all the service men and women serving in Iraq in our behalf. We are proud to make this small contribution to their welfare.

We hope, through these books, that they will find some respite and comfort from the dangers they face everyday."

PFC Kenya Lee, a paralegal in the OSJA Claims

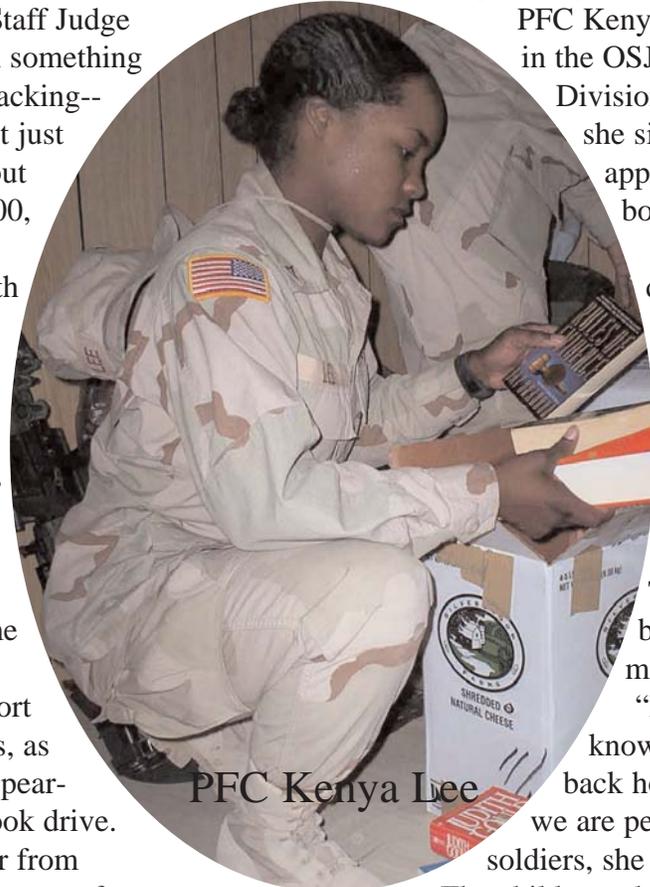
Division, said it best as she sifted through the approximately 40 boxes of books.

"As soldiers we don't just have physical needs, like eating and sleeping, we also have mental needs. We require an internal feeding, too. That's what these books mean to me," she said.

"It's so nice to know that everyone back home understands we are people, too, not just soldiers, she added.

The children who made the book marks are students at Jensen Beach Elementary School in Jensen Beach, Florida.

As a tribute to the children, CPT Michael Goba, an OSJA attorney, compiled a "Top 10 List" of the best of them and entertained OSJA personnel at a recent staff meeting.



PFC Kenya Lee

CPT Goba's Top 10 List

10. Remember 911
9. We All Thank You for Fighting in the Army
8. Come Home
7. Go Read. It Will Help
6. You Can Travel the World if You Read
5. I hope you're OK down there in Iraq, whoever you are. And from here in America I sat making this book mark.
4. (A three-way tie)
You Rock my Sox's

- Go, Fight, Win. (P.S. I'm not a cheerleader, I'm a tomboy...K! Go get some tushy!)
and...
The Ten Best Ways to Get Better at Reading.... (1-10 are all "Read")
3. (A four-way tie)
You are so Cool You Rock
You Rule Rock On Dude
 2. Books Begin with a Character Like You
 1. You are Fresh Fruit....They're the Rotten Vegetables.

OSJA Profile

PV2 Clements takes care of soldiers

SGT Teresa Johnston

As a paralegal in 1st Cavalry Division's Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, PV2 Traig Clements is one step closer to a goal he's had since childhood--becoming an attorney.

Upon inspection, his motivation is simple, really. An interest in the law spurred at an early age due to his father's incarceration.

"I've always wanted to be a lawyer, ever since I was a kid," he said. "Maybe it's because my dad has been in jail since I was three."

Whatever the reasons, PV2 Clements' goal has led him to the U.S. Army, a choice both his parents made when they were approximately his age.

"My parents were in the army but both got out," he said. "After I was born, my mom went back in and was a sergeant when she got out."

Although a back injury sustained while serving in the military has left his mother unable to work, she approved of PV2 Clements' decision to enlist in the army.

In fact, she had already planned to take him to the recruiting station when their phone rang one day in 2003 while he was a senior at Millville Senior High School, PV2 Clements said.

"I was already set to go when the army recruiter called," he said.

PV2 Clements admits that the decision to enlist in the army has been a good one because many of the friends he has in New Jersey haven't been as lucky as him.

"I think I made the right decision," he said. "Everyone I hung out with at home is in jail. Or has been killed. One of the two."



Which is why both his mother and grandmother were in agreement that he should enlist, but weren't so happy about his deployment to Iraq.

"My mom was real upset about it," he said. "My grandma was fine though, because she knew there was nothing she or I could do."

While PV2 Clements plans to benefit from the army by getting his

education, clients of the 1st Cavalry Division's Legal Assistance Office benefit daily from his decision to join.

Soldiers come to the Legal Assistance Office for issues spanning from simple powers of attorney to more complex problems, such as contract disputes and divorces.

Many soldiers within the OSJA are working in different sections than those they worked in at Fort Hood, but PV2 Clements is the exception. In fact, he was chosen to work in the Legal Assistance's Iraqi field office specifically because of his prior experience.

"I deal with a lot of different kinds of people in [Legal Assistance]," he said. "You get a lot of impatient people, too, but I'm learning to deal with them."

Because of his family's military background, PV2 Clements has lived in Georgia, New York, North Carolina, Florida and Germany. But Port Norris, New Jersey is where he calls home.

From Iraq, with love

Granddaddy,

I'm sorry that I'm going to miss your birthday this year, but please know how much I love and miss you. I consider myself lucky to have such a wonderful grandfather.

Your strong spirit, wisdom and kindness have inspired me more than you can ever know.

And just think, if Grandma hadn't let those moths get in the house all those years ago, I wouldn't have the great fortune of calling you "Granddaddy."

Have a wonderful birthday and know that I am thinking of you every day. I miss you and will see you soon.

*I love you,
Your grand daughter,
Teresa*

Mom, Rachel, Michael, Nathaniel, Angeli, and everyone else,

I hope these words reach you in happy times. I know I don't get to call much, but please know that I love you all, and think of you often. Happy late birthday Mom; sorry I couldn't get you anything, but you have my love. Rachel, take care of all your little ones and keep mom focused on school; I can't wait to see you all. Michael, I hope your hand gets better soon. Nathan, try not to terrorize your little sister too much. Angeli, stay sweet and keep doing well in school. I can't wait to see you all again soon.

Love,
Rick

P.S. Tell Grandma Pat and Great-Grandma Burke I love them.

4 April 2004

To my beloved little sister Patricia Marie Goba Churchill, born 30-years-ago today.

Welcome to the thirty-something club, kiddo. I am so impressed by the woman you have become, so love you for the confidant you have always been for me, so proud of the mother you are to "my favorite midget-me," and so, so miss YOU, Christopher Herman and Jared Michael more than ya'll will ever, ever know or could ever, ever imagine.

Hope your day is fantastic and know that you are here with me in my heart and that I am there in spirit with you every day until 1st Cavalry Division redeploys in early 2005.

Love, kisses and big hugs from your Big Bro serving in the Big Sandbox of Camp Victory North, Baghdad, Iraq.

XOXO

Michael

P.S. Hi Mom and Dad!

Well Meaning



Pictured left to right, LTC Christopher O'Brien, CPT Michael Goba and CPT Daniel Everett, stand beside a sign made by a local company "well coming" visitors to 1st Cavalry Division's area of operation.

(Photo by MAJ Jim Agar)