

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

Week of
7 June 2004

-News from Camp Victory, Baghdad, Iraq

Moving Day

1st Cavalry Division Office of the Staff Judge Advocate moves in to its new legal services center.

SGT Teresa Johnston

After months of anticipation and patient frustration over cramped working conditions, members of the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate began moving themselves into the new Camp Victory North Legal Services Center and Courthouse earlier this week.

While online capabilities are still a few weeks away, the air conditioning was installed last week and furniture is expected for delivery any day now...close enough, many said, to proclaim Monday as moving day.

The new building comes complete with a courtroom and enough office space for the Military Justice, Administration, Legal Assistance, and

Claims sections.

The Operational Law and Detainment Operations sections will be housed in the new 1st Cavalry Division Headquarters building, which is also near completion.

Deputy Staff Judge Advocate LTC Jim Agar mused over the strides made by the office since only March.

"Just to see how far we've come since Camp New York (Kuwait)...it's astonishing," he said.



GOT IT: Pictured above, SGT Gabriel Galindo hands down a printer to SPC Jeremiah Burch to be taken into the new legal services center. (Photo by SGT Teresa Johnston)



PROGRESS MADE: Pictured above at left, the building as it looked this week. Pictured at left, the legal services center under construction in April. (Photos by SGT Teresa Johnston)

OSJA gets two new team members

CPTs Colin Cusack and Leah Pettitt call Camp Victory home after only a short introduction to the Army.

SGT Teresa Johnston

First Cavalry Division became the home of two more attorneys this month when 1LTs M. Colin Cusack and Leah Pettitt joined the ranks of the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

Both officers recently graduated from Officer's Basic Course (OBC), and after a brief in-processing at Fort Hood, were on a flight to Baghdad for the year-long deployment.

Both were promoted to captain only two weeks after arriving in Iraq.

CPT Cusack was born in Wellsley, Massachusetts and decided to join the army after meeting a JAG attorney while in law school at Ave Maria in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

"He seemed really happy and to enjoy what he was doing," CPT Cusack said. "I'd rather be doing something with a sense of mission and camaraderie."

During his undergraduate years at the University of Dayton, CPT Cusack was an opinions columnist for *The Flyer News*, the school's paper. He said he plans to make contributions to the OSJA's newsletter, mission permitting.

CPT Leah Pettitt hails from Fresno, California, where she was born in 1976.

A 1999 graduate of Fresno State, she attended law school at the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento.

She has some experience in the JAG Corps, as she served an internship with the Judge Advocate General's Corps in Hawaii.

"I really liked the type of people I worked with while I was there and I enjoy the physical aspects of being in the army," she said. "Plus, I get to travel around the world."

A point she said her father brought up to her when she discovered she was on orders to deploy to Iraq.

"My Dad wasn't happy and he said, 'I told you this would happen,'" CPT Pettitt said. "The rest of my family thinks it's

pretty cool that I'm able to be a part of this."

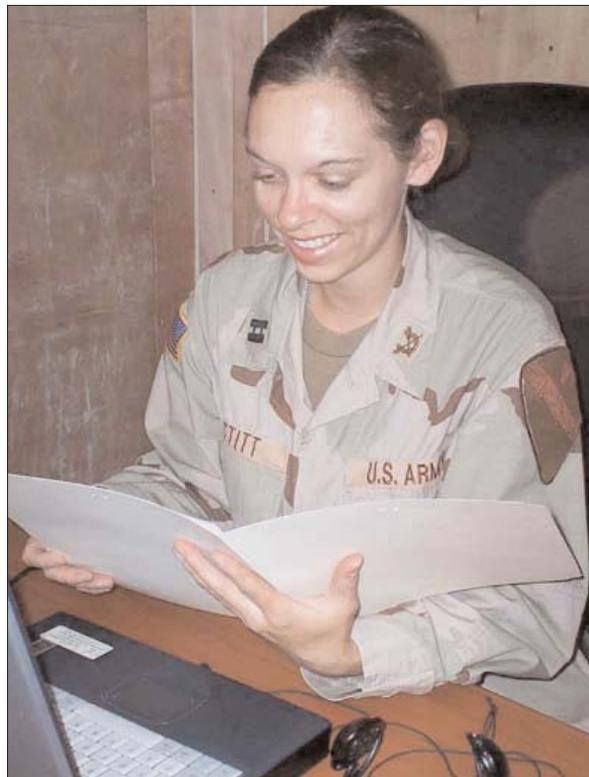
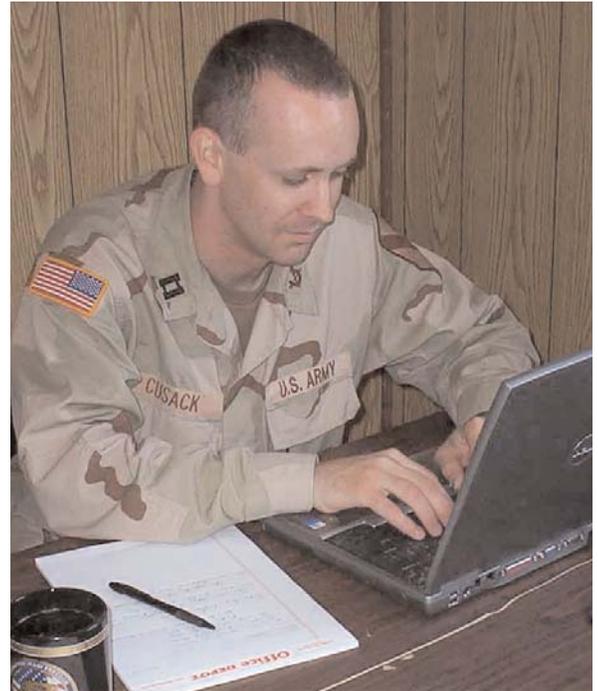
Both of them said they are proud to be associated with the First Team.

"I'm excited to become a member of the Cav and the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate," CPT Cusack said. "It's great to be a part of this team."

CPT Pettitt expressed the same sentiments.

"I know 1st Cav has a long and highly respected history. It's an honor to be over here and to do our part to liberate Iraq," she said.

CPT Cusack takes over as Chief of Legal Assistance. CPT Pettitt will work in both the Command Information Center and as Trial Counsel for the Engineer Brigade.



GETTING TO WORK:

Pictured above, CPT Cusack works on a will for a Legal Assistance client. Pictured at left, CPT Pettitt, looks over paperwork at the new Legal Services Center. (Photos by SGT Teresa Johnston)

Up Armor...

Everything you ever wanted to know but were afraid to ask

Story and Photos by LTC Jim Agar

Convoys are a way of life for the First Cavalry Division Judge Advocates deployed to Baghdad. But the existence of IEDs and small arms fire (SAF) from insurgents give a whole new meaning to the term “Road Rage.”

Prior to deployment to Iraq, most of the vehicles in the First Team’s motor pools carried no armor protection. The exceptions to this were the M-1 Abrams tanks and M-2 Bradley fighting vehicles that the Cav left behind at Fort Hood in order to become a “motorized” division.

HMMWVs come in several different flavors, and some are armored, but the First Team’s HMMWV fleet consisted largely of the M998. This version of the HMMWV is a tough vehicle that can go anywhere, but the fiberglass and aluminum skin of this light vehicle was designed to keep out the weather, not hostile fire. Indeed, these HMMWVs were intended for tactical and logistical use in the rear. They were never designed to be combat vehicles. The First Team deployed with these unprotected HMMWVs to Iraq, where urban



The M1114 HMMWV in full battle dress. Note the machine gun turret on top and armored plating on all sides.

combat dominated the terrain.

Fortunately the Army saw the problem early. In Kuwait, the G-4 (supply guys) began installing “up armor” kits on the

vulnerable M998. The kits consist of armored doors with bullet-proof glass, side and rear armor plates, and a ballistic windshield. The kit enables the crew of a M998 to survive 7.62mm machine gun fire and IEDs. For the final touch, the Army bolted an M-6 machine gun mount in the bed so the First Team JAGs can dispense some roadside justice, if the ROE (Rules of Engagement) call for it.

The armoring of First Cavalry vehicles doesn’t stop with our HMMWVs. The Cav “up armors” everything in the Division inventory from medium trucks (the LMTV) to an armored bus. Meanwhile the First Team continues to acquire new M1114 versions of the HMMWV.

The M1114 is designed and built to be a fully armored HMMWV. Delivered in full battle dress, it will soon replace the 14-year old M998s and give us even better protection in the War on Terror.

An “up armored” M998 HMMWV. Note the ballistic windshield and armored doors added in Iraq.



Inset: Two-inch thick ballistic glass can withstand a direct hit from IEDs and machine gun fire.

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The survivability of all these HMMWVs is impressive. Protected by a Kevlar helmet and vest, earplugs, and ballistic goggles, several members of the Division staff have driven through IED attacks and ambushes and emerged totally unscathed because of the new armor. The only casualty is usually a flat tire. The Army prepared for that contingency too, equipping all HMMWVs with a special "run-flat" system that permits soldiers to make a hasty withdrawal under the worst of circumstances.

Baghdad remains a combat zone. However with the new "up-armor" kits, the First Cavalry Division Judge Advocates have transformed themselves into the ultimate road warriors. They're polite, professional, and prepared to kill.



An armored LMTV awaits it's next convoy at Victory Base.



Note the armored doors and bulletproof glass on his M998 HMMWV. Before its conversion it looked like the HMMWV on the right.



Week in Portrait



Simper Hooah!: SGT Shawn Brothers, center, stands at attention as Trial Counsel CPT Wyndal Darville, left, and NCOIC SSG Tiffany Watt, right, pin on his new sergeant rank. SGT Brothers is the paralegal for 1-7 Cavalry Regiment and is prior-service Marines. *(Photo courtesy of 5BCT Legal)*



5BCT Legal Team: Pictured left to right, CPT Wyndal Darville, Trial Counsel; SPC Kristopher Turner, paralegal specialist; SSG Tiffany Watt, Paralegal NCOIC; SGT Brothers, Paralegal NCO and CPT Chris Ford, Command Judge Advocate. *(Photo courtesy of 5BCT Legal)*



Congratulations: To SSG Andrew Croker, 2BCT Legal BCT and his wife, Jamie, on the birth of their daughter, Kamrhyn Alise, on 24 May 2004. Kamrhyn was born at DACH-weighing 8 lbs and 3.2 oz and 21 inches in length. Kamrhyn is pictured with her brother Andrew and sister Mariah. *(Photo courtesy of the Croker family)*

First Brigade



CPT Dan Estaville, 1st Brigade Trial Counsel, during a visit to Camp Victory North last week. CPT Estaville is at Camp Dragoon, along with CPT Sebastian Edwards, Command Judge Advocate; SSG Brewer, NCOIC, CPL Goebelbecker, paralegal; and SPC Price, paralegal. First Brigade Legal Center is split among two other camps: Camp War Eagle, home to SGT Raffield, NCOIC and SPC Nicholas Brown, paralegal; and Camp Cuervo, home to SGT Martinez, NCOIC and SPC Skylar Williams, paralegal. CPT Estaville said morale is high in all three camps and everyone is doing well. *Photo by SGT Teresa Johnston)*



Convoy members stopped for pizza in the Green Zone last week. Pictured left to right are MAJ Jeff Spears, LTC Chris O'Brien and CPT Larry Edell. *(Photo by SGT Teresa Johnston)*



CPT James Du Pre, Chief of Legal Assistance, works on a client's case *(Photo by SGT Teresa Johnston)* Tristan Du Pre at two-months old. *(Photo courtesy of the Du Pre family)*

