



LTC Agar prepares for life after the CAV

SGT TERESA JOHNSTON

Editor

James “Jimbo” Agar, Lieutenant Colonel-type, began his stint in the U.S. Army as James Agar, Private First Class-type. He’s certainly come a long way in his short, 18-year career. And no, that’s not a joke about his 5-foot 4-inch stature.

As the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate of the First Cavalry Division, his area of responsibility is vast. The DSJA job description goes something like “manages the administration of legal services for the 1st Cavalry Division, a contingency armored division of 17,500 soldiers... Principle legal advisor to the SJA and the Assistant Division Commanders... Directly supervises three branch chiefs, the legal administrator, the chief paralegal NCO and 14 officers. Ensures that commanders, staff officers, soldiers and family members are provided prompt, sound legal advice and that all legal actions are processed accurately and expeditiously...Prepares the OSJA for deployments and exercises and serves as the DREAR OIC during such exercises.”

Add to this “provides comic relief and infectious motivation to members of the OSJA staff,” and you’ve just barely scratched the surface.

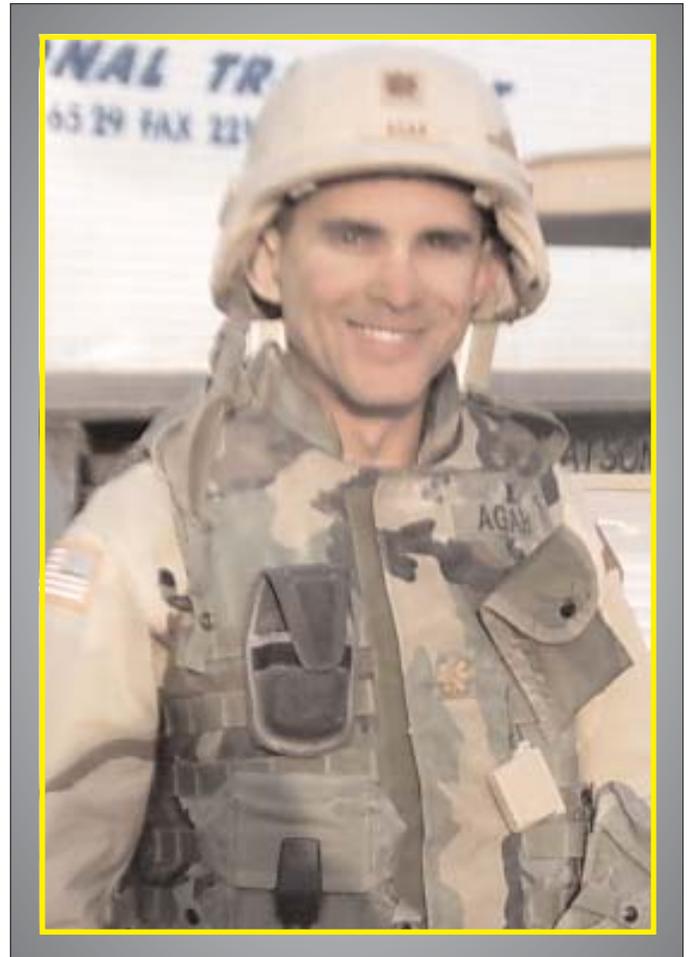
Just take his self-appointed Stetson call sign, for instance.

“Well, being from Oklahoma, ‘Sooner 6,’ sounded really cool, but it had no comedic value. So, I picked ‘Midget 6.’ The officers like it and you know instantly whom that (name) belongs to,” he said.

The staff learned of his looming permanent change of station (PCS) even before leaving Fort Hood in March. The idea of losing him not halfway into the yearlong deployment was disheartening to many.

He is slated to leave the Cav in early July and after a brief visit with his family in Texas will be on his way to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas to attend the year long Command and General Staff College.

The camaraderie established during his tenure at the Cav was strengthened during the three-day convoy from Kuwait to Baghdad, and one of his fondest memories occurred during that



LEMONS TO LEMONADE: Then-MAJ Jim Agar during the convoy from Kuwait to Baghdad. This particular picture was chosen to run with the story because it encapsulates the staff’s opinion of him...no matter what is going on he always manages to smile. **FILE PHOTO BY SGT TERESA JOHNSTON**

time.

“The best moment I can recall is when (HQ706) broke down on the convoy and we (HQ 77) safeguarded the site, with no incident. The rest of the convoy kept moving and we rolled into (Camp Falcon) a few hours later. Pulling in that night and seeing the smiles of relief on all those faces that we’d all made it there in tact...that was something. The sense of relief we felt was palpable. That ranks right up there,” he said. “Those three days made a man, or woman, as the case may be, out of

you. I really got to see the best of our office out there.”

He also recalled the night prior to the breakdown when everyone had such a laugh about a wheel that had come off of a trailer right in front of his vehicle. The wheel seemingly jumped off he trailer, rolled across the road then doubled back to bounce right in front of HQ 77, then found its way into a burning pile of trash on the roadside.

SGT Gabriel Galindo remembers the wheel incident in vivid detail.

“When we got to Scania that night LTC Agar was determined to find that trailer and look at where the wheel used to be. After he spotted the trailer we all went and checked it out and had such a laugh,” he said. “I don’t think we stopped laughing about that thing for days.”

His unsinkable optimism kept everyone in the section in high spirits during those three days. As the driver of the HMMWV he commanded during that convoy, this writer was treated to three-days of hilarious anecdotes about his family and stinging one-liners that came dangerously close to resulting in vehicle accidents. All the time, mind you, we were rolling through a *combat zone*.

As the 1st Cavalry Division’s only court reporter, SPC Jon Coen has been extremely busy of late transcribing testimony for a multitude of investigations. During the sometimes round-the-clock work sessions he’s been engaged in recently, LTC Agar has always been somewhere close by.

“I’ll miss the way he’s helped us through 20-hour work days,” SPC Coen



UH-OH: The infamous wheel that came off during the convoy, which was the subject of much laughter and the punch line of many jokes within the OSJA. **FILE PHOTO BY LTC JAMES AGAR**

said.

Not only will his humor be missed, but also his genuine concern and sincerity, a point that LTC Christopher O’Brien was quick to make.

“I’ll miss his energy, enthusiasm and endless efforts to try to take care of people,” LTC O’Brien said. “That’s what I’ll miss most about him.”

PV2 Traig Clements recalls when he arrived at Fort Hood and walked into the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate for the first time. “No one else was there and LTC Agar was walking out of the office to go home for the day. He stopped, sat down and talked to me for about 30 minutes about the office and the deployment and wanted to know things about me.”

PFC Kenya Lee expressed similar sentiments.

“I will miss his salute. LTC Agar salutes every soldier as if they were two-star generals. That very greeting he gives is a direct depiction of his character,” said PFC Lee. “...And he’s funny!”

A native of Oklahoma, LTC Agar enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1986 as a Private First Class. After spending a few years enlisted, he earned his commission in 1990 following law school at the University of Oklahoma.

“I’ll never forget that day. I graduated from Primary Leadership Development Course (an NCO school) the same day I got my bar results and was accepted to the JAG Corps,” LTC Agar said.

He received his undergraduate degree from The Colorado College with a double major in history and political science and a minor in drama. Although he joked about having used his drama degree more so than the others, he recalled con-



TO BE MISSED: SPC Jeremiah Burch and PFC Kenya Lee make it clear how they feel about LTC Agar leaving the OSJA next month.

PHOTO BY
SFC THOMAS TORRI

versations with his college classmates after deciding to enlist in the Army.

“All of my liberal friends looked down on me when I enlisted...they couldn’t see the value. But I had a desire to serve and I’ve had some of the most amazing experiences as a member of the military,” he said. “I was in (Washington) D.C. on September 11, stationed at the U.S. Army Litigation Division. I had a boss that gave me the day off so that I could go to the Supreme Court and listen to the Bush V. Gore case. Where else but here can you have such extraordinary opportunities.”

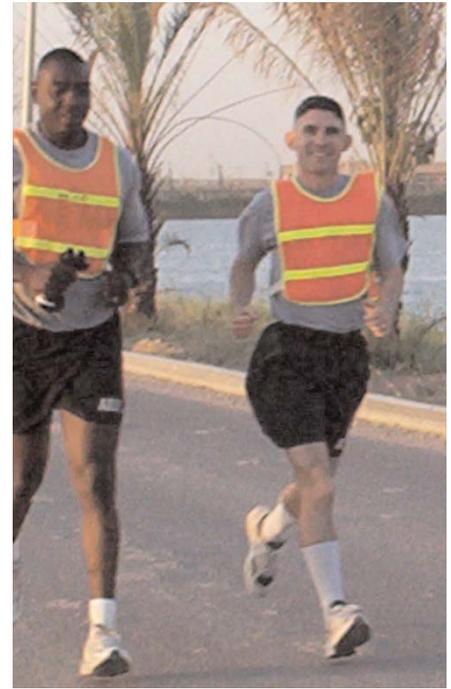
“You can make more money in a civilian law practice, but you can never make a difference,” LTC Agar added. “In the Army you can.”

LTC Agar views his departure from the 1st Cavalry Division with mixed emotions, saying that while he can’t wait to see his wife, Elizabeth, and two daughters, Grace and Alex, he’ll miss being a part of the First Team.

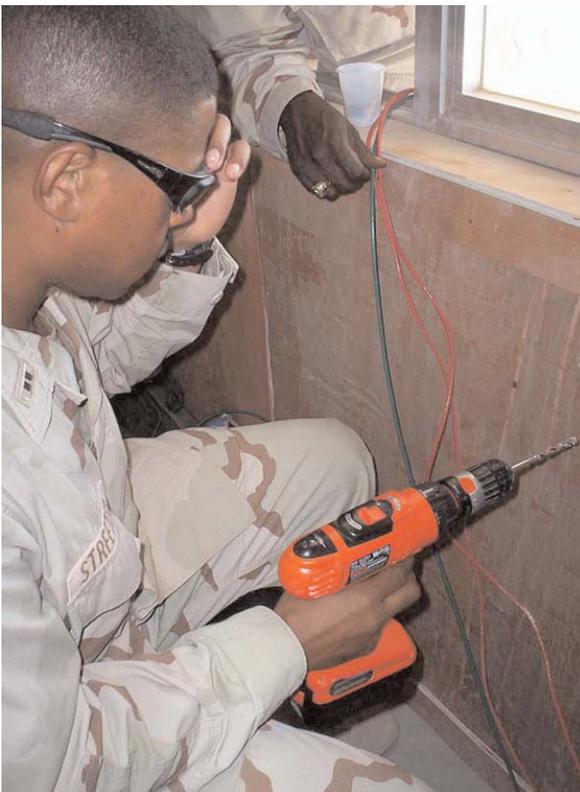
“I’m happy about seeing my family again; but I regret the family I’m leaving behind,” he said. “It has been an honor and a privilege to serve with LTC O’Brien and the men and women of this office.”

Right back at you, Sir.

Week in Portrait



GOING FOR A RUN: Members of the OSJA went on a group run Friday. Pictured at left are PFC Kenya Lee, SPC Rick Bassham, SPC Jon Coen, SPC Jeremiah Burch, PV2 Traig Clements (obscured from view), LTC James Agar. Pictured at right, LTC Agar and MSG Terry Watson. **PHOTOS BY SFC THOMAS TORRI**



MAKING ADJUSTMENTS: Pictured at left, CW2 Anton Streeter drills a hole through the wall in his office so that cables can be run through it. The goal is to have on-line connectivity within the next few days. Pictured at right, LTC Christopher O'Brien and LTC James Agar look over the new courtroom, noting areas that still need attention. **PHOTOS BY SGT TERESA JOHNSTON**

Thank you, Dad...

**for teaching me the value of hard work*always meaning well*
taking care of my family while I'm deployed*showing me the
things that make me the man I am today*teaching me to
drive*my dimples*working two or three jobs so that we had a
good life*my "carpentry skills"*showing me how to throw a curve
ball*being a role model*helping me make a wind barometer
when I was in sixth grade*being strong*always making me feel
safe*peace and quiet*loving me*banana splits*my last
name*the best barbeque in the history of the known universe
(and beyond)*teaching me to dance as a little girl by letting me
stand on your feet*being able to fix anything*for sharing your
beer with me*setting the bar high for any man who follows in
your footsteps*protecting me*loving me even when I was an
ingrate*a sense of purpose*the "Sultans of Swing"*teaching me
the difference between being a male and being a man*Chap
Stick*being my best friend*making sure my mother was well and
truly loved*Sunday morning pancakes*my brother and
sister*making me understand the value of an education*taking
care of the family*making me a daddy's girl*teaching me to "do
the right thing"loving me even when I let you down*teaching me
how to spit*making me proud to be your daughter*your unique
"people skills"*helping me bring my mind's creations to life*rid-
ing me on your knee*letting me count nails on the roof when I
was four*Notre Dame Football**

Happy Father's Day