

# ***Soldiers of the Gauntlet***

720<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion Newsletter – May/June 2003

## **Photo of the Month**



SSG Preston Huddleston, 411<sup>th</sup> MP CO, watches rooftops during a weapons market raid in Fallujah.

## **Rebuilding Iraq**

May and June have been busy months for soldiers of the 720<sup>th</sup> MP Battalion. They have performed missions in many of the most challenging and least stable parts of Iraq. In all the missions, the main objective has been the same – to restore a safe and secure environment in which the Iraqi people can rebuild their country.

The 411<sup>th</sup> MP Company spent three weeks in May in Al-Fallujah where they participated in raids on weapons markets, homes of Baath party loyalists, patrolled streets and provided security at checkpoints throughout the city.

In the first week of June, the 64<sup>th</sup> MP Company participated in Operation Peninsula Strike with elements of the 411<sup>th</sup> and 401<sup>st</sup> MP Company in Ad-Duluiyah. In the aftermath of the operation, the 64<sup>th</sup> MP Company has been conducting round-the-clock joint patrols in the town with local police.

Soldiers of the 64<sup>th</sup> and 401<sup>st</sup> MP Company worked directly with the Organization of Coalition Provisional Authority, led by Ambassador L. Paul Bremer, in Baghdad. The MPs escorted many civilian and military leaders to meetings and events where the future of Baghdad and Iraq was being formed.

The Soldiers of the Gauntlet sadly lost one of their own in June, when PFC Jesse Halling died after being wounded during a firefight Tikrit. In a memorial service held June 10, he was remembered as a quiet young man who always did his duties as a soldier. As SGT Angel Cedeno said in his tribute delivered during the service, “You can’t ask for more from a soldier than that.”

## ***Soldier Profile***

SPC Joseph Allen joined the Army in January, 2000. He is a military policeman assigned to the 64<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company.

He has performed the full range of MP missions while on this deployment from convoy escorts to gate guard.

“Convoy escorts, EPW missions, all the MP missions are the best missions in the Army,” he said.

Allen first became an MP because his long term goal was to pursue a civilian law enforcement career. Now though, he is only sure about one thing in the future. He wants to see his wife and daughter who live in Killeen.

“I love them and I think about them always. I can’t wait to come home,” he said.



SPC Allen  
West Jordan, Utah

## **Table of Contents**

Rebuilding Iraq	Pg. 1
Soldier Profile	Pg. 1
From the Commander	Pg. 2
From the CSM	Pg. 2
Far from home	Pg. 3
From the Companies	Pg. 4-6
From the Chaplain	Pg. 5
Soldier’s Voices	Pg. 7-8

## *Soldiers of the Gauntlet*

# From the Commander's Foxhole

I ask you all to remember one of our fallen heroes, PFC Jesse Halling, in your prayers. He was a great American. PFC Halling, 401<sup>st</sup> MP Co, was killed in action in Tikrit, Iraq on 7 June 2003. His death was devastating to his family and us all. A true American hero, PFC Halling gave the ultimate sacrifice for the most noble of causes----to protect his fellow soldiers. We will forever honor the memory of Private First Class Jesse M. Halling.

Today, "Soldiers of the Gauntlet" continue to do great things no matter where they are in Iraq, Qatar, Kuwait, or Ft. Hood. We are trying hard to get the 410<sup>th</sup> MP Co (Qatar & Kuwait) redeployed back to Ft. Hood as they've been gone for over 7 months.

Soldiers of HHD, 64<sup>th</sup> MP Co, 401<sup>st</sup> MP Co, and the 411<sup>th</sup> MP Co continue to find bad guys here in Iraq, as well as assisting in getting Iraqi police operations up to par. Our support soldiers continue to work hard to feed us, keep our equipment working, take care of personnel actions, process our mail, and replenish the supplies that we need. I'm very proud to be associated with such a great group of warriors. No matter the tactical situation, the intense heat, or projected length of our deployment, I hear no complaining. It's a great feeling to be surrounded by courageous professionals.

I'd like to take a moment to mention the departure of our Executive Officer, two great commanders and our S3 Sergeant Major for their service as they rotate out of their current jobs. MAJ Doug Ingros leaves us to assume his responsibilities as the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Provost Marshal here in Iraq. We're very grateful to MAJ & Mrs. Ingros for putting their hearts and souls into the 720<sup>th</sup> for the past 2 years. CPT Gerald Mapp relinquished command of the 411<sup>th</sup> MP Co on 30 June to CPT Lomas. CPT Mapp will soon take command of another company at Ft. Leavenworth, KS. Gerald Mapp is one of the finest individuals I've met in my life. We'll miss him greatly. 1LT(P) Jim McBride relinquished command of HHD on 29 June to 1LT Chris Church. Jim McBride did a super job as commander. He will attend the Captains Career Course at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO in August. Sergeant Major Chris Zimmer will rotate to become the Operations (S3) Sergeant Major for the 89<sup>th</sup> MP Brigade back at Ft. Hood. They've all served selflessly and we wish them all the very best. (see **Commander on page 9**)




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# From the Battalion Command Sergeant Major's foxhole

Soldiers of the Gauntlet, family members and friends, it is hard to believe that 90 days have elapsed. The pace of our daily operations has helped pass the time. Our soldiers have conducted hundreds of successful Military Police missions such as convoy escorts, raids, Enemy Prisoner of War processing and static security. I'd be remiss not to mention the not so glorious but necessary daily duties like Kitchen Police (KP), ration, water, and parts runs, and our all time favorite, Guard Duty. Some of our drivers have logged in excess of 6,000 miles over the deteriorated Iraqi road network. I can tell you that each soldier is proud of his/her role and the contribution made in this operation thus far.

Our quality of life has begun to improve a little each day. Although we are still on a predominately Meal, Ready-to-Eat (MRE) diet, we have received limited quantities of normal food items. For example, fresh fruit, vegetables, and dehydrated meals you bring back to life with water. Sounds delicious, doesn't it? We now have a small PX annex run by the soldiers on the camp with limited supplies. One thing is for certain; they sell and we buy plenty of Soda...

Our living conditions are steadily improving, mostly hard stand buildings and work space with the addition of a limited supply of air conditioners placed in the sleep areas, a welcome feeling after baking for 12 hours in the sun. Also, as I'm sure you've heard from your soldier, the use of a cell phone strictly dedicated to morale calls 24 hours a day. Each soldier is allotted one 15-minute call per week. Internet access is also available, although the system is slow and the line is long.

Even though some soldiers still choose to do laundry by hand, we now have the ability to turn laundry into an Army laundry and bath unit with a 24-48 hour turn around. In addition to the TV and surround sound DVD player each unit has, we just purchased a satellite receiver to catch up on the news, movies, and other popular programs. (see **CSM on page 8**)



## ***Soldiers of the Gauntlet***

# *Far from home - two soldiers words about their spouses*

by SPC Joshua Clouse, 64<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company

Life is full of wonderful events, moments and memories. Too often I forget the importance of time well spent. I take for granted the time I spend with you, thinking that there is always tomorrow.

I know I have been told that when special moments arise I should seize them, hold on to them and cherish them as if they will be the last moments of my life. Unfortunately, sometimes it takes something drastic like a deployment to make me realize how precious time really is.

When I am at home, I get all wrapped up in work and what is going on with the rest of the world. I get sidetracked on too much useless nonsense and end up losing touch with what life is really all about.

When I return from this deployment, instead of coming home from work and watching the same TV shows day after day, let's go out to the park and enjoy watching our dog chase the geese. Or how about we go for a long drive to nowhere special, but instead just drive and enjoy each others company and conversation.

Then we can say that we spent our time together and had a lot of fun along the way. Then next time I receive that 3:00 a.m. phone call, I won't roll out of bed wishing that I had taken advantage of all the time we could have spent together.

Stephanie, my love, let me take this chance to start out on a better path. One that leads to priceless moments, memories and a life well spent together. As long as you are my wife, and I am your husband, our lives will be great.



SPC Clouse on a mission in Baghdad.

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by SGT Randi Lambert, HHD 720<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion



SGT Lambert in HHD headquarters in Tikrit.

So much is written nowadays about the trials and tribulations that soldiers are going through here. Yes, we see very little mail, eat semi-tasteful chow, and live next door to a city where some people may wish us harm. But as we live in this environment and face these challenges, there are others back home also facing difficult challenges.

People say that spouses are important. They are more than that; they are phenomenal. We wouldn't be able to do our jobs without them.

Here in Iraq it seems like I will never get home to my family. Day after day I think of my wife and daughter and how much they mean to me. We talk from time to time to keep me up to date on all the happenings at the house. My wife tells me about all the crazy things my daughter is doing and how school is going.

Since August 2001, I have spent about 3 months total with my family. During that time, my wife has been more than supportive of what I am doing. She goes to school full time, raises our daughter, (who is now 14 months old) handles all the finances, and does everything else you can think of. Now she is also helping her mother recover from major surgery. Through all of this, I know she is worrying about me over here. She is the strongest woman I have ever known. Her devotion to our marriage has never been a question with all my time away. She is without a doubt the best wife and mother to our daughter that I could ever ask for.

All across the military there are supportive spouses of our service men and women. My wife is just one of many. All too often they are overlooked as we receive all the glory. But if it wasn't for them, we wouldn't be able to do our jobs. Great spouses make it possible for us to come to a foreign land and free a people from a ruthless dictator. They make it possible for us to sleep at night knowing that everything at home is taken care of.

Spouses, some people may overlook the job you do, but the Soldiers of the Gauntlet appreciate you more than you will ever know. Tabitha, I love you. You are my hero.

### *Soldiers of the Gauntlet*

## 410th Military Police Company

by CPT Yvonne Miller, commander

Greetings from Viper 6. The 410<sup>th</sup> MP Company has reached the seven-month mark and is still going strong. I am extremely proud of what this company has accomplished since we deployed in November, 2002.

The "Gravediggers" moved from Camp Doha, Kuwait to Iraq in April and are providing outstanding security for the land component headquarters. The "Renegades" moved from Qatar to Kuwait and onward to Iraq at the end of March, where they are currently providing exceptional support to the 504<sup>th</sup> MP Battalion. The "Ghost Riders" and "Raw Dawgs" are still in Qatar working hard to provide force protection for all the high value assets in the country.

The 410<sup>th</sup> MP Company has set the standard for all operations at Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar. We have won the NCO and Soldier of the Month boards for ARCENT-QA every month since December. Every day I receive compliments from high-level officials on the professionalism and commitment of the soldiers in 410<sup>th</sup> MP Company.

Everyone in this unit appreciates the support we have received from families and friends back home. This support has helped get us through several holiday periods and gives all the soldiers extra motivation to continue on with the mission. We appreciate all the prayers, letters and packages.

We hope to move 1<sup>st</sup> platoon and 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon down to join the rest of the company by the end of June and hope to be home soon, but they still need us over here to ensure the safety and security of all the units conducting operations in this area of operations. The living conditions here improve every day, and the soldiers are making the most of their down time. We miss you and will continue to pray for a safe return home.

**BRAVO SPIRIT!**



Members of the 410<sup>th</sup> MP Company on a recent mission in Qatar.

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## 411<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company

by CPT Gerald Mapp, commander

The soldiers of the 411<sup>th</sup> MP Company are doing great. The company has just returned from conducting a mission in Balad with 3rd Brigade of the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. The mission was very successful with several soldiers showing extreme courage under fire while detaining over 400 individuals.

The morale of the company is high now that mail is starting to arrive daily. I ask all of you to keep writing letters. Don't get discouraged about the mail situation because mail service is improving.

The battalion has also set up morale telephones for soldiers to use so your loved ones should be calling home soon. The company has not been given a redeployment date so I ask all of you to remain patient and to keep us in your prayers.

The weather here is starting to warm up with temperatures reaching 120 degrees. There are a few things that soldiers do when they are not working such as playing cards, playing basketball (with a homemade basketball hoop), watching DVDs, and going to church.

The quality of life is getting better for the company. I want to thank all of you for the hard work that is being done in the rear. I really appreciate everyone for working together.



SPC Challacombe with confiscated RPGs in Fallujah.

## *Soldiers of the Gauntlet*

# 401<sup>st</sup> Military Police Company

by CPT Mark Blair, commander

The months of May and June of 2003 have been watershed months for the 401<sup>st</sup> Military Police Company. On May 5<sup>th</sup>, we moved from our location in a southern suburb of Baghdad four hours north to the city of Tikrit. Ironically, we came to find out that Saddam Hussein originally hails from this northern city overlooking the Tigris River to the east. While it is not a very large city by American standards, it is certainly a key hub of important Iraqi political and commercial activity and very integral in reestablishing law and order in this region since the cessation of major military operations in early May. The 401<sup>st</sup> is also responsible for Samarra, which is a city to the south comparable in size to Tikrit and certainly just as important politically and economically.

2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> platoons have been working very diligently day and night with the Iraqi police to get Tikrit and Samarra back onto its feet and policing its own citizens. These soldiers have made major headway toward successfully accomplishing that goal. A great degree of professionalism and thorough understanding of the Iraqi culture by the soldiers of the 401<sup>st</sup> are directly attributed to the success experienced in this region. We face many challenges ahead and there are many obstacles we will encounter, but there is no doubt that these military police soldiers will overcome any adversity thrown in their path.

With the great deal of success these soldiers have fought for, earned, and experienced sometimes comes the cost of such success. On May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2003, the 401<sup>st</sup> came under mortar fire in Samarra an hour after midnight. Seven soldiers were injured but very luckily no one was killed. With the many acts of bravery, sometimes great soldiers will make the ultimate sacrifice. In the early morning hours of June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2003, PFC Jesse M. Halling paid that ultimate price. He was part of a team responding to an adjacent American unit under heavy fire from elevated positions very nearby to the Tikrit police station. He bravely fired on the Iraqi paramilitary forces upon the dark rooftops until a rocket-propelled grenade struck him. He saved the lives of all of his fellow soldiers that night through his selfless act of courage.

On June 10<sup>th</sup>, a memorial ceremony was held in PFC Halling's honor on a bluff overlooking the Tigris River. The entire company was present as well as friends of the 401<sup>st</sup>. (see 401<sup>st</sup> on page 9)

## From the Chaplain

excerpts from Chaplain Xuan Tran's message at PFC Halling's memorial service



CH Tran delivers his message during PFC Halling's memorial service June 10.

"Today, we gather here in memory of one of our fellow soldiers, PV2 Jesse Halling. He was one of the finest, most dedicated soldiers and was loved by many in his team, platoon, company, and battalion. Once again, the angel of death has visited our midst and snatched away one of our finest soldiers who was loved by his parents, sister and girlfriend.

Let us remember that in the midst of confusion, fear, despair, commotion and death that nothing in the world can sustain us and protect us physically, emotionally, and spiritually but our faith in God.

In Psalm 91 the almighty God has promised that those who dwell in Him will find shelter and rest under His mighty wings. When we confront our enemies, we can trust in God because He is our refuge and fortress. Our God will cover us with His feathers.

Therefore, we will not fear the rocket-propelled grenade by day, nor the bullets by night. If we make the Most High our dwelling and refuge, then no harm will befall us and no disaster will come near our tents.

In the moment like this all of us can find comfort, strength, peace and hope by calling and looking up to our God, Creator, Savior and Lord. He will answer our cries and rescue us out of despair, confusion and death. Let us pray and look up to him."

### *Soldiers of the Gauntlet*

## HHD 720<sup>th</sup> MP Battalion

by 1LT James McBride, commander

Greetings from Iraq. We have all endured the slow approach to the three-month deployment mark on the home front and abroad. New bonds have grown between families, friends, and comrades near and far. These new bonds have enabled us all to get through the hardships of being apart. The primary purpose of an active FRG is to bring people together. Thus, it is very comforting to hear news of families and friends coming together for BBQs and a variety of other vacation activities.

I would like to thank the military spouses and families for enduring the pre-deployment hardships. These hardships occurred during the unit's prolonged duty hours throughout training exercises, medical screenings, equipment load-up, and rail load operations. It was also difficult to deal with the many rumors of deployment dates. The long drawn out bumpy ride was well worth it. Our unit achieved its highest level of readiness prior to deploying. This has and will continue to carry us through the months ahead.

The operational tempo has stabilized for the detachment. We are currently working at the Task Force Iron Horse base in Tikrit with many of our neighboring units from Fort Hood. Thus, sections are conducting business much as they would back home. Unfortunately, they don't get to go home after the duty day is over. However, every individual and collective action is critical to supporting the unit and the battalion's operational flow.

My change of command ceremony will be held on June 29. 1LT Chris and Samantha Church will be representing the new command team with DET-SGT Charles and Tammy Guthrie. 1LT Church was a former platoon leader from the 411<sup>th</sup> MP Company and is a native of West Virginia.

The weather is still very hot but relief is in sight. The battalion has contracted for air conditioner units. The dining facility is preparing to serve hot As, which is real food. The base camp PX has opened and the mail system seems to be flowing well now. Lastly, the detachment shows movies on a big screen with surround sound every night.



HHD soldiers PFC Nealis and SGT Crane at work in the HHD motorpool tent in Tikrit.

## 64<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company

by CPT Juan Nava, commander

The 64<sup>th</sup> MP Company, "Guardians", participated in one of the largest military operations of the war in Iraq since President Bush's declaration of the end to major combat operations in May. The Guardians were augmented by platoons from across the 720<sup>th</sup> MP Battalion to form a six-platoon task force to support Operation Peninsula Strike in the first week of June. This task force, commanded by myself, was composed of the second, third, and fourth platoons of the 64<sup>th</sup> MP Company; the third platoon of the 401<sup>st</sup> MP Company; and a two platoon size element from second, third, and fourth platoons from the 411<sup>th</sup> MP Company.

The MP soldiers were among the first to enter the area as a part of the operation to gather important information and police intelligence used in the planning of the decisive combat operation. As operations commenced, the soldiers assigned and attached to the 64<sup>th</sup> MP Company were among the first to spearhead US forces ground movement into the objective area. As they established checkpoints used to facilitate the onward movement of combat forces, the MPs were the first to enter the town of Ad Duluiyah. The MPs were met with mortar, RPG, and automatic weapons fire. As elements continued to travel through the town, they encountered sporadic gunfire from the rooftops along the main street. Arriving at their positions, MPs were engaged by enemy elements and returned fire directed at muzzle flashes in the dark as soldiers braved the gunfire to uncoil the concertina wire used for vehicular obstacles.

In addition to these combat operations, MPs conducted force protection and security operations at the airbase used to launch the forces, operated a brigade holding area that was ultimately used to hold and process 397 detainees, and conducted detainee and evidence transport with assault companies on several objectives. The Guardians, alongside our Gauntlet brothers and sisters, are proud to have participated in an operation of this scope as coalition forces work to



SSG Arnold speaks with an Iraqi police officer and some local men in Daluiyah. The 64<sup>th</sup> MP Company has been conducting joint patrols with local police since the conclusion of Operation Peninsula Strike.

establish a safe and secure environment rid of non-compliant and anti-coalition forces in effort to re-build a democratic and free republic.

*Soldiers of the Gauntlet*

## Soldiers' Voices



SPC Nelson Cardona, 411<sup>th</sup> MP Company

*To his wife Luz in Killeen, Texas*

“Mi amor, te extranado como loco. Me haces tanta falta. Te envio un abrazo grande y a los nenes tambien. Cuidense, los tengo en mi corazon y pensamiento siempre. Nos vemos pronto mi amor. Te amo como tu no te imaginas! Chow!”

1LT Shannon Newell, 411<sup>th</sup> MP Company

*To family in Mississippi*

“Mom, Dad, Granny, Aunts and Uncles - It's hot! Thanks for all the goodies and I can't wait to have some ribs and watermelon – whatever month it is! Love you all!”



CPL Michael Stinemetze, 64<sup>th</sup> MP Company

*To his girlfriend Erin*

“I love you and I miss you. As soon as I get home I will be there with you.”

PFC Maria Martinez, 64<sup>th</sup> MP Company

*To her mother, father and sisters in Illinois*

“I'm OK. Hopefully we'll be home soon. I love you. I miss you.”



### ***Soldiers of the Gauntlet***



SGT Marlo Vaughn, HHD 720<sup>th</sup> MP Battalion

*To his parents, Cornelia and Willie Vaughn and son Quarian in Sumter, SC*

“I’m doing fine. My thoughts are with my family. My love goes out to my son Quarian. Quarian – keep being the man of the house. Daddy will be home soon.”

SGT Elizabeth Lopez, HHD 720<sup>th</sup> MP Battalion

*To her family*

“I just wanted to say hi to everyone. Daniel and Maria, mommy loves you and misses you. Terry, my husband, I love you and miss you. Mom, I miss you and love you. Don’t worry, I’m fine! To my brothers and sisters, Don, Jan, Donna, Billy and Priscilla - hopefully soon we will all be chilling together. I love all of y’all. Take care.”



SGT James Brown, 401<sup>st</sup> MP Company

*To his parents Eileen and James Brown in Bennettsville, South Carolina*

“Hi mom, hi dad! I’m still alive and kickin’. I just re-enlisted – watch out!”

### **CSM from page 2**

For the early morning or late evening hours when the temperature is tolerant enough or we have the opportunity to do some physical conditioning, we have constructed our own weight benches, dip and pull-up bars, and other rudimentary contraptions. And finally, now that the mail is flowing in by the truckload, we have so much going for us; the soldiers have decided to stay a while.

As I close this newsletter, let us not forget that what we do as a profession is inherently dangerous and extremely rewarding. In memory of PFC Jessie M. Halling, 2/401<sup>st</sup> a young American soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice with and for his brothers in arms, the experiences and losses we are living and sharing together will bond us together as a brotherhood for a lifetime.

CSM William A. Generali - Gauntlet 7  
“Orderly Regulation”

## *Soldiers of the Gauntlet*

### Commander from page 2

I'd also like to recognize the great work of two fantastic Non-commissioned officers who'll be retiring soon; SFC Frater (S2) and SSG Grazier (HHD Rear Detachment Commander). They've done great things for our Army and for soldiers and their families for over 20+ years each. They've earned retirement and we all wish him God speed.

We still have no word on when we might be home. We will continue to help the Iraqi people help themselves and set the conditions for U.S. forces no longer being needed here. We appreciate the mail you've sent—the mail system appears to be fixed although some pieces may have been lost while the system was jammed up. Keep it coming!

Finally, I thank YOU—the families of these great American heroes—for being strong and supportive. The sacrifices you have made for our families and our Nation are many. None of us want to be here, but your total support allows us to focus on our jobs and keep us safe. Thank you!!!!

LTC Dave Poirier  
"Gauntlet 6"

### 401<sup>st</sup> from page 5

The following is the eulogy given in his remembrance:

*Soldiers of the 401<sup>st</sup> Military Police Company, today we come together not to mourn or grieve for a fallen comrade, but to celebrate the life of a gallant American soldier and hero.*

*PFC Jesse Halling was born on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1983 in Salt Lake City, Utah. After graduating from high school in Indianapolis, Indiana, he enlisted in the United States Army in August of 2002 and attended One Station Unit Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri where he was awarded the MOS 95B, Military Policemen. He was immediately assigned as an M2 Gunner to 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, 401<sup>st</sup> Military Police Company, Fort Hood, Texas in February of 2003 upon graduation from training at Fort Leonard Wood. He deployed with the 401<sup>st</sup> MP CO to Operation Iraqi Freedom on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2003.*

PFC Halling's NCOs and fellow soldiers described him as being a quiet but steadfast soldier. He had expressed a strong desire to become a pilot someday because of his strong love for flying. He was quiet yet very focused and determined. Regardless of harsh conditions or any adversity, he never complained. PFC Halling was the epitome of a great soldier. He is that which all professional soldiers aspire and commit themselves to be.

*PFC Halling's awards include the National Defense Service Medal and the Army Service Ribbon. He has been recommended for the Silver Star and will receive the Purple Heart posthumously.*

*PFC Halling leaves to cherish his memory, his parents Major (USMC) and Mrs. Halling, and his sister, Karen, of Indianapolis, Indiana.*

*In final closing, I would like to say that PFC Halling would not have wanted us to grieve. This is, of course, without dispute. He would have wanted us to keep our heads up high and drive on with the task at hand; the work we know we must do. He gave everything he had and then some. He fought beyond his heart and soul and with every last fiber in his being. This is the mark and distinction known only to exist in a true soldier. PFC Halling has set the example and standard that all combat leaders and soldiers must reflect upon and strive to achieve. We must and undoubtedly will do just that to best honor his memory and his unswerving selfless service to his comrades and to his unit.*

The ceremony was very emotional and very suiting for a fallen comrade, friend, and warrior. The soldiers of the 401<sup>st</sup> Military Police Company will never forget him as long as they walk this earth.

Despite these obstacles and adversities, the soldiers of the 401<sup>st</sup> Military Police Company continue to soldier on. Their sense of duty, esprit de corps, and extremely high level of military professionalism set the standard by which all American soldiers should aspire to be. All friends and family members should be enormously proud of these men and women. They are enduring hardships and adversities indescribable to the average American citizen and are keeping their heads high the entire time without fail or even an echo of complaint. To the spouses, girlfriends, and family members: these soldiers miss you so very much and cannot wait to get home to you. Please keep them in your thoughts, prayers, letters, e-mails as continually as you can. You are a great source of strength to them and it is you that they are fighting for. They love you very much and will be home soon.



PFC Jesse Halling (center)  
3Nov1983 – 7June 2003



# *Soldiers of the Gauntlet*

720<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion Newsletter photo supplement – May/June 2003

## *Cities, towns and villages*



A farming village on the outskirts of Baghdad.

A village near the city of Hillah.



*Cities, towns and villages*

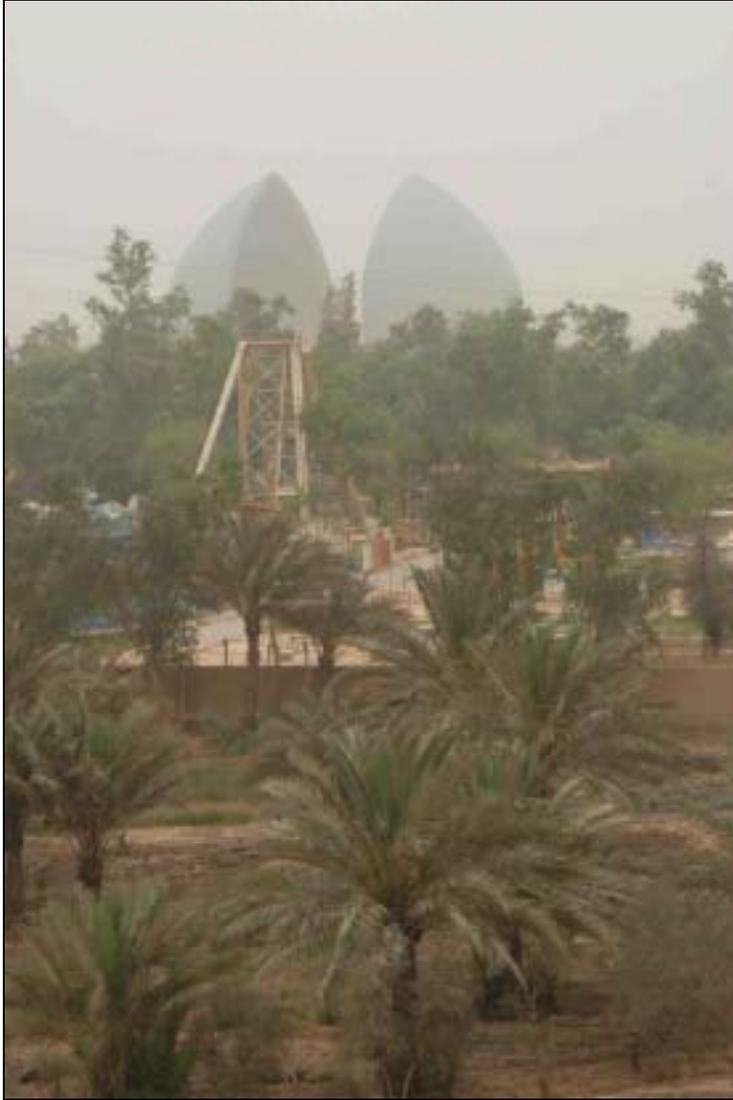
A neighborhood in Fallujah.



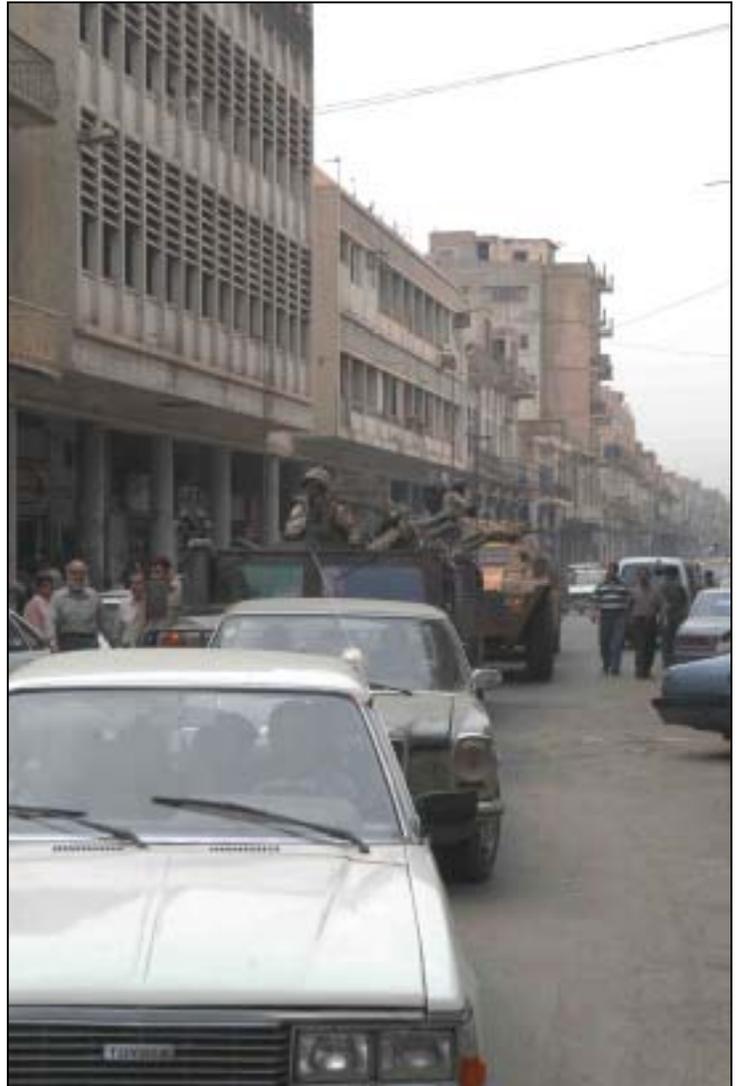
A street vendor in Mumadiyah.



*Cities, towns and villages*



The Martyrs Monument rises behind the Baghdad Zoo in Baghdad



A crowded street in Baghdad.

*Cities, towns and villages*



SGT Stiles, 64<sup>th</sup> MP Company, directs traffic in downtown Baqaba.



Pedestrians walk along a street in Baghdad.

## *Soldiers of the Gauntlet*

720<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion Newsletter photo supplement – May/June 2003

# *Homes away from home*

One of the 64<sup>th</sup> MP Company's living quarters in Tikrit, with the main gate to Saddam Hussein's former presidential compound in the background.



A 64<sup>th</sup> MP Company living area.

*Homes away from home*



Lakeside cabins that were the 411<sup>th</sup> MP Company quarters in Fallujah during the first half of May.

The hanger at an airfield near Daluiyah that was the 64<sup>th</sup> MP CO quarters.



*Homes away from home*



HHD soldiers play a game of volleyball in front of one of their quarters in Tikrit.

HHD soldiers relax in their day room.



*Homes away from home*



411<sup>th</sup> MP Company soldiers receive their ice rations outside their quarters in Tikrit.

411<sup>th</sup> MP Company quarters in Tikrit



## *Soldiers of the Gauntlet*

720<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion Newsletter photo supplement – May/June 2003

# *Support Soldiers*



PV2 McNeil, a cook with the 411<sup>th</sup> MP Company, prepares a meal in the MKT.



SPC Ortiz, a 411<sup>th</sup> MP Company medic, stands ready to attend to his soldiers or Iraqi detainees while on a weapons market raid in Fallujah.

## *Support Soldiers*

From left to right, PFC Hogan, PFC Harmon and PFC Bostic, 411<sup>th</sup> MP Company mechanics, discuss repairs to a vehicle in the motor pool tent in Tikrit.



64<sup>th</sup> MP Company mechanics work on one of their vehicle's tires.

## *Support Soldiers*



SPC Gaines and PFC Machino, HHD transportation soldiers, rinse down a fuel trailer in the motor pool in Tikrit.



HHD commo soldiers hook up vital power and communication cables at camp Bushmaster, 720<sup>th</sup> MP BNs first camp inside Iraq.

## *Support Soldiers*

PFC Allas, left, and CPT Kluge, right, the 720<sup>th</sup> MP BN legal team at work in the BN headquarters.



SFC Arceneaux, 64<sup>th</sup> MP Company operations sergeant, at work in the company CP, above, and on a recent raid in Tikrit, left.

## *Soldiers of the Gauntlet*

720<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion Newsletter photo supplement – May/June 2003

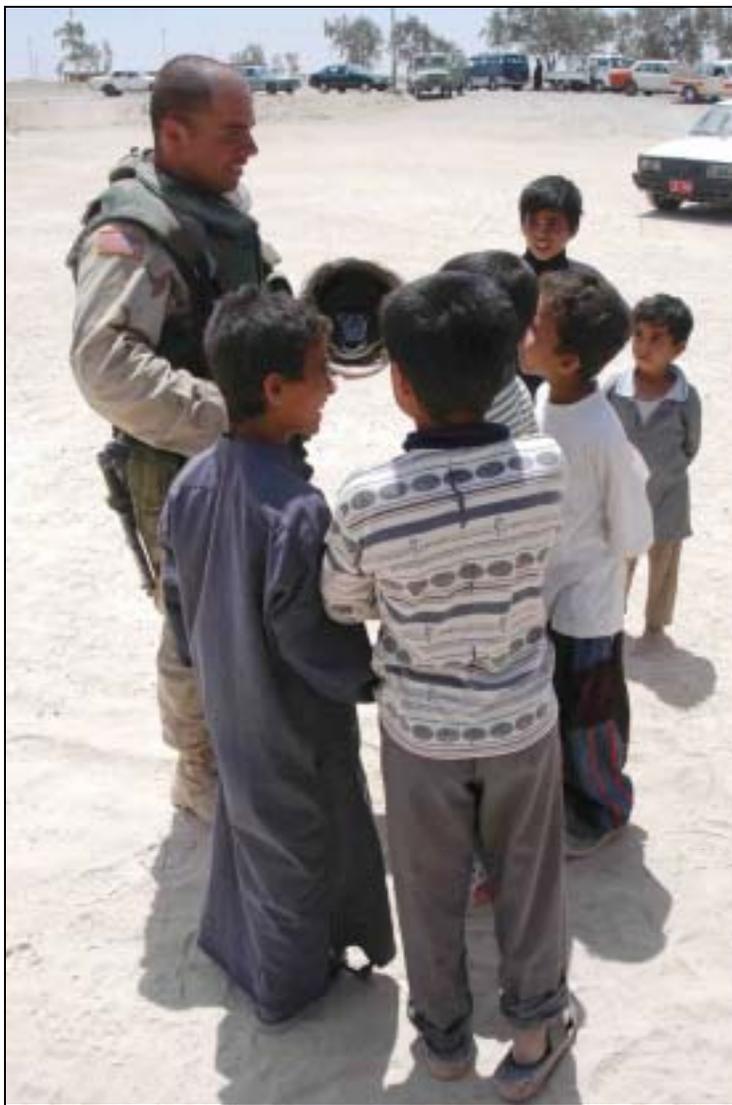
# *Winning hearts and minds*



A young girl takes a liking to SSG Dominguez, 401<sup>st</sup> MP Company, at a Saudi Arabian food distribution site in Baghdad.



A boy has his armed autographed by PFC Zick, 64<sup>th</sup> MP Company, in Baghdad.

*Winning hearts and minds*

A 411<sup>th</sup> soldier shows a picture of his family to a group of boys at a Jordanian hospital in Fallujah.

A 64<sup>th</sup> MP Company soldier is the center of attention for a group of boys in Ad-Duluiyah.



*Winning hearts and minds*

SSG Merzke, 411<sup>th</sup> MP Company, speaks with a group of Iraqi men in Fallujah. The men had led Merzke and his squad to a missile armed with a live warhead that had been abandoned in an empty lot. Merzke reported the location of the missile to an EOD team.



SPC Stevenson, 64<sup>th</sup> MP Company, speaks with a man at the gate to Task Force Ironhorse headquarters in Tikrit. (The man to her left is an interpreter.)

*Winning hearts and minds*

SPC Williams, 411<sup>th</sup> MP Company, befriends a boy in the Mayor's compound in Fallujah.



A conversation with 1LT Bishop, 401<sup>st</sup> MP Company, brings smiles to the faces of a girl and several women in Baghdad.