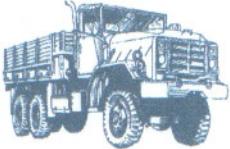


Family Readiness Group



1244th Transportation Company

Illinois Army National Guard FRG

Newsletter

October, 2003

Inside this issue:

- Halloween Party page 1
- Comments from :
Lt. Peterson page 1
- Comments from :
Lt. Peterson page 2
- Fundraising
updates page 3
- Birthday wishes page 3
- Holiday Events page 3
- Message to are
soldier page 4
- Thank You page 4
- Holiday/ Christmas party
page 5
- Help is a call away
page 5
- Monthly
Calendar page 5
- Coming Events page 6
- The FRG council and
committee chairs: page 7



Halloween Party

Friday, Oct 24th, is the date for the 1244th's Halloween Party. We are planning a great time for all the children. Trick or Treating, Haunted House, Bobbing for apples and MORE! Plan to join the FRG at the ARMORY with your children for a great time. Costumes are not required but are encouraged, including adults!

Comments from LT. Petersen

1244th ACTIVITIES

Arifjan First Annual Chess Tournament:

SPC Marcos Gonzales - 2nd Place, SPC Noel Calhoun - 3rd Place

Weightlifting Competition:

1st Place Middle Weight Bench Press 450 LBS (Zone 1 & Zone 2)
Recipient of 2 Gold Medals - SPC Noel Calhoun

Defense Contract Management Agency, Recognition for Superior Service:

For Contribution while operating the Al Amadah Contracting Office as MCT and Preparation of civilian long-haul vehicles on a daily basis:
SPC Frederico Medina, SPC Nestor Vera, SPC Edgar Alba
SPC Marcus Anderson

Defense Contract Management Agency, Recognition for Superior Service:

For Contribution while operating the Al Amadah Contracting Office as MCT and Preparation of civilian long-haul vehicles on a daily basis:
SGT Timothy Washington

For Commendable Fueling operations in support of Truckville Operations from

257th Trans C (HET) NV USAR:

SPC Noel Calhoun, SPC Samuel Diaz, SGT Salvatore Dazzo

Great job to the winning team of the Arifjan Chicago Fire Soccer Team 3rd Place:

1LT Alex GaliciaSSG Manuel Flores SGT Ed Rocha
SGT Ben Hernandez SPC Sebastian Gawron, SPC Jesus Vargas
SGT Francisco Salazar, SPC Martin Kempf, SPC Aaron Hughes
SPC Vincent Echeverria

Congratulations to our entries in the Arifjan Ten Mile Race:

SPC Brittany Hohoff, SPC Aaron Hughes

Commended for their Carpentry & Artistic skills and contribution to the Life Support And Morale of the overall unit:

SGT Benjamin Watkins SFC Milton Matos SPC Echeverria
SSG Jose Moyet SPC Aaron Hughes SPC Andy Hernandez

For Going Above and Beyond their skill sets and responsibilities to increase the Morale and Comfort of the unit through Supply, GSA Support and Resourcefulness:
SGT Theresa Watkins, SSG Larry Bennett

Completion of the Convoy Commander's Safety Course (80 hrs):
All 1244th Personnel

(This is a new requirement upon entering theater that all transporters and force protection personnel must complete. It provides for understanding and compilation of Operation Orders from command level down to all subordinates to include placement and utilization of all personnel and assigned equipment.)
COMPLETION OF THE CONVOY COMMANDER'S SAFETY COURSE (80 HRS): ALL 1244TH PERSONNEL

New Personnel welcomed to the unit (last 60 days)
SPC Kenneth Young, SPC Joseph Geymayel and SPC Crystal Huerta

Sympathies to:
SFC Scott for the loss of her Grandmother
1LT Watkins for the loss of her Aunt
SSG Bennett for the loss of his Father.

Well Wishes, good health and God Speed to:
CW3 Archibald's father while in the hospital
SPC Masters mother during recent surgery and recovery
SFC Cotto for his recent injury and MEDEVAC to CONUS
SSG Curtis for his recent injury and MEDEVAC to CONUS

As you can see, we promote activities outside the company area to promote healthy lifestyles and morale of the troops. Our troops have taken advantage of these opportunities and have successfully accomplished most. This does not interfere with their current mission of transport of logistical items coming in and out of theater. So far, the 1244th has logged over 242k mission miles since mobilization. We have completed over 360 missions as well.

We are coming into the cooler season of the year now. The temperatures have declined to high 70s to low 80s at night. Our daytime temps are only around 95-100 degrees. We have a constant wind (known as sha-mals) from the West on most days. When it comes in from the East, we are hit with severe humidity ranging in the 70-80% range. We should begin the rainy season around the end of the month. It will last until March. It truly boggles the mind. The humidity and additional moisture from the cooler temps has attracted the insects. We take every means to deter them through insecticides and sprays along with using sealed containers for food. If families send food items, we request that they send ziplock bags to help us with this as well. If anyone has a company or they wish to donate anti-itch creams we would appreciate that as well. We get hydrocortisone 1% about once a month, but it goes relatively fast.

We will miss everyone for Halloween, but we are hoping that we can get some good photos from our family and friends in the states. We are already preparing for Thanksgiving and Christmas here. If anyone wishes to donate some small to medium Christmas trees or lights, we will put them to good use. That goes for our Kwanzaa, Chanukah, Muslim, Agnostic, and Islamic brethren too. I want to ensure that everyone is thought of during our holiday season and that everyone feels some of the comforts of home and their religious preference while so far away. We have had full use of religious facilities while in theater. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services were completed recently. We begin Ramadan observances later this month and next month too. We allow our troops to seek their own spiritual guidance through the channels that we have available. We also allow them to use the facilities at Camp Doha for larger, more significant services if they desire and it does not interfere with our mission. We will begin our next rotation to the states for R&R on 28 Oct. Soldiers are allowed 2 travel days to the states and 2 travel days to return. They are to use 10 days leave while at home. I understand that the media states 15 days of leave, however, I want to afford everyone the opportunity to get home, so I have limited the amount of days to accommodate all soldiers fairly and equitably. No one is given preference on dates. That is to say, no one gets preferential treatment because they have had a child born; they are parents, or just recently married. Everyone's home life is just as important as the next soldier's, so that is why we do a lottery for fairness. Soldiers put their name in a hat and are drawn for their turn to go on leave. Soldiers not allowed to go home on R&R are those that are pending UCMJ (Uniform Code of Military Justice) action or who are under a doctor's care for illness/injury.

We hope that everyone is well and we hope to give you some news soon regarding your soldier and their return. I will try to pass along more information soon so that I can try and keep our friends and loved ones attuned to our needs and concerns.

Take care and GODSPEED!



FUNDRAISING UPDATES

Come and get 'em. Please come pick up your fundraiser merchandise, we have many people that have ordered and have not picked up their items.

We have many products available with the 1244th on them for our soldier's families and friends to show their support. If you have not seen them, please do—they are great! If you have, you know that they are great and please recommend them to your soldier's friends and extended family for them to show their support and help our group. We all know that this is a great cause. Thanks for all of the efforts of our families to raise money for our troops boxes, shipping and essentials. Ultimately, a party to welcome our troops home, too.

This is how we are using our fundraising money to support our families and troops:

We have successfully sent our first round of boxes to our soldiers that have not been getting boxes. We have heard rumors that the soldiers got the boxes and liked the cookies and other goodies, but that has not been confirmed. Everyone is welcome to continue bringing items to meetings and outings to contribute to future boxes, but don't feel obligated, the council will make sure these soldiers are provided during this deployment. The council wants to make sure all soldiers are taken care of, so please let us know if you know of a soldier that is not getting packages by emailing us at frg1244tc@yahoo.com titled 'soldier in need'. If you know of a soldier who is not receiving letters, we are still working on the list for them to be added to so send the information to us at frg1244tc@yahoo.com titled 'write a soldier'. Please supply these resources to our council so we can support our soldiers and families more effectively.

Packages to the troops in November are started already. At the cookie bake we will be baking and packing! There will be approximately 170 (we are getting exact numbers) packages to pack with stress balls and games that we have already purchased and we will include the packet of messages written by family and friends and, of course, cookies. Money from our fundraisers purchase packing supplies, filler items, copy supplies and postage.

1244th merchandise will be raffled at all outings. You can purchase tickets for one dollar each at our meetings or outings and we will pull names at each outing. Raffle prizes will include 1244th flag bags, flag pins with yellow ribbons, yellow bows and even 1244th clothing. This is a chance to obtain merchandise supporting your soldier for a minimum price! Please, come show your support for our soldiers.

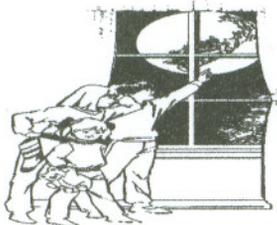
Of course, THE HALLOWEEN PARTY! See you there!



Congratulations to the following soldiers that had BIRTHDAYS in the month of October:

MCPHERSON GARY, SMITHBANKS CANDANCE, WACKERLIN JILL, MOYET JOSE, DANIELS JONATHAN, GALICIA ALEJANDRO, REYNOLDS-MULCAHEY ELIZABETH, GOMEZ MAYRA, BALDWIN JEREMY, ECHEVERRIA VINCENT, SIPPEL DIANE, WATKINS BENJAMIN JR., JONES ROBERT III, TONEY DINIKIA, IKORO NELLY, MARTINEZ MARCOS, DAVIS JAMES AND PETERSEN RHONDA

Holiday Events



As noted in the Calendar of Events, we are planning a Christmas Party for Sunday, Dec 14th. A planning committee is currently looking for a suitable location (other than the Armory). We had high hopes that we would be hosting the party with our soldiers present, but the current situation makes that extremely remote. But, we will go on and have a great Holiday/Christmas Party regardless. We'll just have to have another when the "soldiers come marching home".

Since the soldiers will probably not be home for the holidays, we are planning a "cookie bake" the third week of November. Details are not yet set, but we anticipate people bring cookie dough ready to bake to the armory where we will have pans, ovens and packaging to bake our Holiday cookies for our soldiers. Make your plans to attend and help get cookies to all our soldiers.

MESSAGES TO OUR SOLDIERS

To go along with the packages of cookies that we will send each of our soldiers from our cookie bake, we will be including a packet of messages from family and friends that are at home supporting them and waiting for their return. We want to start now with collecting messages to build a packet of comments and inspirations for our troops. We all need to show our group of soldiers that we are proud of them, we are here for them and we are eagerly awaiting their return.

Please include your message, your name and your soldier's name. We ask that you keep the message positive and do not mention the 'Holiday season' as many of our families and soldiers are struggling with the idea of separation through this important time.

Please submit your short message to the troops via email titled 'TROOPS MESSAGE' to frg1244tc@yahoo.com or mail it to Renee Berens at 2771 Melbourne Lane, Lake in the Hills, IL 60156. We will combine all of the messages and build a packet to include in a package for each of our soldiers. Please participate, as your soldier will be getting this packet and will want to see your support and loving words! Deadline for your message to get to us to be included in this packet is November 18th.

THANK YOU!

The FRG council would like to extend sincere thanks to the following people for their generous contributions to our group. Thank you so much!

McHenry County FMP (Families of Military Personnel)

Ongoing thanks to all who attend the FRG functions and meetings and help everyone

Battalion Commander Visit

LTC Robert Mayberry, the new commander of the 733rd Quartermaster Battalion, the 1244th Illinois higher headquarters, will be attending the Nov 14th Pizza Night. LTC Mayberry wants to meet our families to learn our concerns and answer whatever questions he can. If you have questions for LTC Mayberry you may submit them prior to his visit, giving him a chance to research answers if necessary. To submit question contact a Council member or email frg1244tc@yahoo.com as early as possible.

Cookie Bake

Starting at NOON, Saturday Nov 22nd, we will host a COOKIE BAKE and PACKAGEING gathering at the North Riverside Armory. Everyone is invited to bring their favorite cookie dough, ready for baking. We will have pans and ovens available to bake all our cookies. Once the finished cookies have cooled we will package them for shipment to our soldiers.

The intent is to bake a large enough quantity of cookies so that we can make a cookie package for each and every 1244th soldier deployed in Kuwait. We have almost 170 soldiers to make cookies for, so be sure to join us for this fun time.

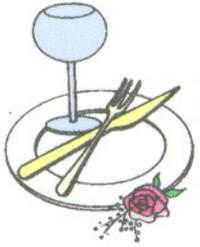
HALLOWEEN PARTY



In conjunction with our Friday Pizza Nights the 1244th FRG is having a HALLOWEEN PARTY on Friday, Oct 24th. Everyone, especially the children, is encouraged to come in their favorite Halloween costume. We will have "Trick or Treating" for the children along with several games and prizes. Some anticipated highlights will be our "Soak a Soldier" where participants can toss wet sponges at a soldier and the "Haunted House".

Other games for the children will be available along with an opportunity to have the children's photos taken in their costumes to send to the soldiers in Kuwait.

Don't miss this fun time to get together.



Holiday/Christmas Party

Mark your calendars: Sunday, **Dec 14th** is the date for the 1244th's Holiday/Christmas Party. We are combining this FRG event with the drill schedule of the non-deployed soldiers, and having their Holiday meal at the same time. The party will be held at a site away from the armory where everyone can relax and have a good time.

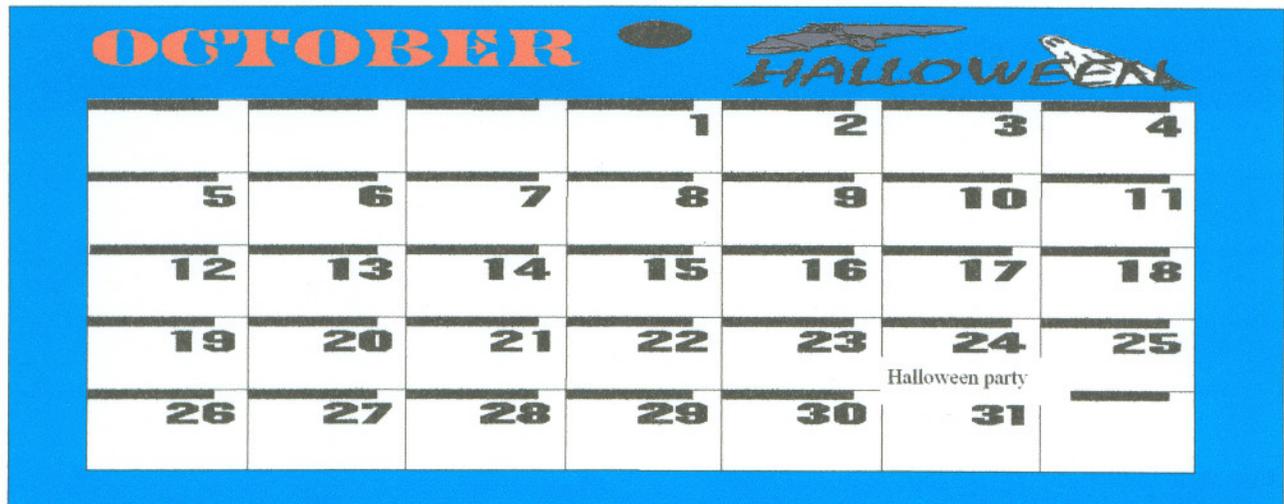
Help is a Call Away

(Excerpt from *Army Times* 20 October 2003)

The Army has a new toll-free information and referral line. The service, activated Aug. 15, originally was available only to soldiers deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. But funding is now available to provide it to all active duty soldiers and families, as well as deployed Army Reserve and Guard members, Army civilian employees and their families.

Army One Source is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by consultants who hold masters degrees in social work or psychology, and can answer questions about a variety of topics ranging from parenting, Tricare, child care, finances, elder care, education and issues such as spouse abuse. They also can refer callers to other experts if necessary.

Army One Source toll-free numbers:
 Within the US: 800-464-8107
 TTY/TDD: 800-364-9188
 Spanish: 888-732-9020



If you have an email address, please let us know. This information is very important to us. Contact us by emailing the FRG at frg1244tc@yahoo.com as soon as possible. In the subject box write:

Family of 1244th email address request.

Be sure to include your full name, your soldier's name, your relation to the soldier, and your phone number so we can reach you if we have any questions. Thank you so much. **AS CONFUSING AS IT SEEMS WE ARE NOW BACK ON YAHOO!** EMAIL IS THE MOST EFFICIENT DISTRIBUTION OF THE NEWSLETTER AND OTHER INFORMATION.

Coming Events

FRG Council Meetings Every other Wednesday, 7PM at the Armory, Open to all, next meeting **Oct 29th**.

Oct 24th, 7 PM Pizza Night/Halloween Party at the Armory. Haunted House & Halloween theme, get together to share experiences during the current deployment. Pizza \$3 for adults & \$1 under 10

Nov 14th, Pizza Night at the Armory. Get together to share experiences during the current deployment.

Welcome the 1244th's new Battalion Commander, LTC Mayberry, as he joins us for open discussion and dialogue. Pizza \$3 for adults & \$1 under 10

Nov 22nd, Noon Cookie Bake and packaging at the Armory. Bring your cookie dough and bake as a group, package and send cookies to the 1244th.

Dec 5th, Pizza Night at the Armory. Get together to share experiences during the current deployment. Pizza \$3 for adults & \$1 under 10

Dec 14th, Christmas Party, Location and time to be determined. Non-deployed 1244th soldiers will join us for a holiday celebration

Jan 9th, 7 PM Pizza Night at the Armory. Get together to share experiences during the current deployment. Pizza \$3 for adults & \$1 under 10

Jan 30th, 7 PM Pizza Night at the Armory. Get together to share experiences during the current deployment. Pizza \$3 for adults & \$1 under 10

Las sesiones del Consejo de FRG cada otro miércoles, los 7PM en el arsenal, se abren en todos, reunión siguiente de oct el 29.

Noche de la pizza de oct del 24to, 7 P.M. y partido de Halloween en el arsenal. Tema frecuentado de la casa y de Halloween, reunión paracompartir experiencias durante el despliegue actual. Pizza \$3 para los adultos y \$1 debajo de 10

De nov el 14, noche de la pizza en el arsenal. Reúnase para compartir experiencias durante el despliegue actual. Dé la bienvenida al Nuevo Comandante del Batallón 1244th's, LTC Mayberry, como él nos ensambla para la discusión y el diálogo abiertos. Pizza \$3 para los adultos y \$1 debajo de 10

De nov el 22, galleta del mediodía cuece al horno y empaquetando en el arsenal. Traiga su pasta de la galleta y cueza al horno como grupo, empaquete y envíe las galletas al 1244th's.

Dec 14th, partido de Navidad, localización y hora de ser determinado. los soldados No-desplegados 1244th nos ensamblarán para una celebración del día de fiesta

Noche de la pizza de enero 9, 7 del P.M. en el arsenal. Reúnase para compartir experiencias durante el despliegue actual. Pizza \$3 para los adultos y \$1 debajo de 10

Noche de la pizza de enero 30, 7 del P.M. en el arsenal. Reúnase para compartir experiencias durante el despliegue actual. Pizza \$3 para los adultos y \$1 debajo de 10

The FRG council and committee chairs;**Leader:**

Bob Brown, (630) 393-1413 blkbt7@aol.com soldier, Greg Brown

Secretary:

Theresa Lemmer, (847) 683-7202 theresalemmer22@hotmail.com soldier, Lisa Lemmer and Matthew Palm

Treasurer:

Carol May, (630) 637-1946 birdkper1@aol.com soldier, Donald May

Phone Tree:

Diva Davis, (708) 345-4719 diva2018@comcast.net soldier, James Davis

Newsletter:

Bartolo Nava, (312) 217-2263 bartolonava@aol.com soldier, Eric Morales

Special Events:

Tracy Duffing, (708) 824-1635, tduffing12@msn soldier, Jesse Duffing

Fund Raising:

Renee Berens, (847) 669-5902, renee_berens@adp.com soldier, William Berens

Jessica Dewitt, (630) 290-7994, daisy7997@aol.com soldier, Greg Brown

Council members:

Claudia Hillsman, (708) 345-3589, maeliza18@aol.com soldier, Daniel Hillsman

Lisa Pupillo, (630) 837-7355, lisamarie1324@yahoo.com soldier, Clint Thompson

Laura Thompson, (630) 745-0458 lbthom79@yahoo.com soldier, Clint Thompson

Shawna Howard, (708) 226-1811 Shawnaop@aol.com soldier, Len Howard

Cheryl Pokorny, (630) 616-1528, cheri81264@cs.com soldier, SFC Dan Pokorny & SPC Dan Pokorny

Caroline Perkins, carolineperkins@comcast.net soldier, Wes Perkins

Rear Deatchment:

SGT Carl Langs, (708) 824-6030

carl.langs@il.ngb.amy.mil



1244th Transportation Company

**Family Readiness Group
1244th Transportation Company
Illinois Army National Guard
8660 Cermak Rd
North Riverside, IL 60564**