



HAPPY THANKSGIVING



PARAGLIDE™

November 22, 2006
Volume LVX Number 332

Telling the Fort Bragg story™

www.paraglideonline.net

Stay alert, travel vigilantly

by **Spc. JeNell Mattair**
Paraglide

Traveling during the holidays has become commonplace today, particularly for Soldiers, who often live far from home.

Amidst the excitement of traveling domestically or abroad to visit loved ones, Soldiers must remember to stay alert this holiday season.

From remembering to buckle-up to keeping a low profile, there are many safety issues Soldiers must consider.

Traveling during a time of war can be dangerous if Soldiers are uninformed.

First-line supervisors should ensure that safety is first and foremost on their Soldiers' minds.

"Supervisors play an important role in the safety of Soldiers," said David Henderson, 82nd Airborne Division safety manager.

"First-line supervisors must ensure all mandatory training, such as the Army Safety Management Information System II and the yearly (subversion and espionage directed against the army) training, is complete before permitting leave," he said.

Soldiers must keep in mind, that they are targets both domestically and abroad. Maintaining situational awareness could be a matter of life and death.

"There are bad folks in the world who would like nothing more than to make a political statement by killing an American," Henderson said.

In an opening statement for the SAEDA training, Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, reminds Soldiers of the unique threats they face.

"We must remember that we are at war against an enemy who has publicly reiterated intent is to destroy our way of life," he said. "While we respond to this real and present danger, remaining vigilant in executing our responsibilities with a sustained sense of urgency, we must also remain attentive to many things, including our personal safety."

The U.S. State Department recommends several tips when traveling abroad. Soldiers should ensure they have a signed, valid passport and visas if required. Also, make certain to fill in the emergency information page of the passport.

Read the consular information sheets, public announcements or travel warnings to keep informed of dangers unique to particular destinations.

The department suggests travelers should familiarize themselves with local laws and customs of the countries they plan to visit.

Making two copies of the passport identification page will facilitate replacement if

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Dressed for the occasion



Rachel and Joshua Abrahams look on as their classmates share the history of Thanksgiving with friends and family members at Murray Elementary School on Fort Bragg Monday. Carmina Pena's English as a Second Language Students shared stories and food as part of the annual celebration.

photo by Spc. JeNell Mattair/Paraglide

Akbar court martial sentence affirmed

XVIII Abn. Corps PAO

Lt. Gen. John R. Vines, commanding general of XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg, affirmed the death sentence in the case of the U.S. vs. Sgt. Hasan Akbar Friday.

Akbar was sentenced to death by a unanimous vote of a military panel for two specifications of premeditated murder and three specifications of attempted premeditated murder April 28, 2005.

Sgt. Akbar was convicted April 21, 2005 of the March 23, 2003 grenade attack on three tents in Camp Pennsylvania, Kuwait that took the lives of Capt. Christopher Seifert and Maj. Gregory Stone

and wounded 14 others from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky.

The case now goes to the Army Court of Criminal Appeals under an automatic appeal.

Saving lives, one Soldier at a time

Combat lifesaver course helps lessen number of combat related deaths

by **Sgt. Anishka J. Fulton**
1st TSC PAO

The increasing number of lives that are being saved on the battlefield is due in part to immediate medical care rendered to wounded Soldiers. The Army recognizes that constraints on the battlefield limit the ability of combat medics to administer immediate care to Soldiers injured in combat. The combat lifesaver is part of the plan to help lessen the number of combat related deaths among Soldiers.

The CLS course, offered by the Medical Simulation Training Center, is aiding in the effort to minimize the number of casualties on the battlefield by training an average of 50 combat lifesavers a week.

"On the battlefield, the combat medics are not going to be with you in most cases, but the CLS will," said Benjamin Smith Jr., an instructor trainer at MSTC. "The sooner (a wounded Soldier) is treated, the higher the probability of a Soldier surviving on the battlefield."

The CLS course is referred to as the bridge between the basic medical training given to Soldiers at basic training and the more advanced medical training given to combat medics. Soldiers are taught to evaluate a casualty, dress wounds, apply a tourniquet and initiate an IV, among other tasks. The CLS provides immediate care that can save a casualty's life in the absence of a medic.



photo by Sgt. Anishka J. Fulton/1st TSC PAO

Spc. Andrew M. Lui, an automation specialist from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Sustainment Command (Theater), attempts to 'open the airway' of a 'casualty' by inserting a nasopharyngeal airway into the 'casualty's' nostril during a combat lifesaver class at the Medical Simulation Training Center.

"I was a combat medic before I retired and the CLS was important because he/she was closer to impact and could administer aid right away," said Smith. "They lightened the workload of the medics because there was only a few of us out there on the battlefield. All we had to do was ensure that proper treatment was being done."

"Combat lifesaver class was a blast for me," said Spc. Nathaniel A. Smith, a human resources specialist from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Sustainment Command (Theater), who was glad that this training had improved. Smith attended the "old" CLS course, but seemed to like the current course better.

"It was exciting to come to class every day and hear what the instructors had to say. The instructor I had was prior military, he was

a medic in the Army, so he gave us tips on how to make the most of situations that we would probably run into while deployed," said Smith.

The improved CLS class had a few changes to the blocks of instructions that were being taught initially. These changes were implemented to meet the evolving needs of Soldiers on the battlefield.

"The previous course had two classes in one. They had medical tasks and buddy aid. Now (the course) is a combined one," said Smith.

One of the changes includes the introduction of the chest needle decompression, a process that at one point was thought to be too difficult to be administered by a CLS Soldier.

"The chest needle decompression was added because it was proven that it was an easy process so Soldiers now have the chance to do the procedure," he continued.

The chest needle decompression is used to treat tension pneumothorax. Tension pneumothorax occurs when an injured lung or chest wall acts as a one-way valve. Air enters into the chest cavity and has no means to escape, causing the affected lung to collapse. A 14-gauge needle is used to release the trapped air. Death will result if not treated with needle decompression.

"I attended the old CLS class that was being done through the units and I think that the newer class is more descriptive on the tasks and how to accomplish them," said Sgt. Carlos L. Diaz, the supply room noncommissioned officer from HHC, 1st TSC. "The training aids were much better and each scenario that we had to go through was very realistic," he added.

The new implementations

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Bragg Soldiers die in combat

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An Army Special Forces Soldier and two 82nd Airborne Division paratroopers were killed in Iraq last week.

Sgt. 1st Class Tung M. Nguyen, 38, a Special Forces communications sergeant, died of a gunshot wound during combat operations Nov. 14 in Baghdad. He was evacuated and pronounced dead at a combat support hospital in Baghdad. In accordance with Army regulations, the events surrounding his death are currently under investigation. However, initial indications are that Sgt. 1st Class Nguyen's wounds may have resulted from friendly fire.

Nguyen was born in Cantho, Vietnam, became a U.S. citizen, and was raised in Tracy, Calif. He was assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) and deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

He entered military service in July 1986 with the 4th Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division (Light) at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, as an infantryman. After three years of service, he left active duty and served with the Army Reserve in Sacramento, Calif. In 1991, he reentered active duty, and served with the 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), at Fort Campbell, Ky., for one year before volunteering for Special Forces training.

Nguyen began his journey to become a Special Forces Soldier in 1992 and earned the coveted Green Beret when he graduated from the course in 1993. He was assigned to 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Lewis, Wash., that year and served in all three combat battalions during his tenure, first as a communications sergeant and then as an intelligence sergeant.

In 2003, Nguyen was chosen to become an instructor at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School. He served in both instructor and operations positions preparing Special Forces Soldiers for the rigors of combat until February 2006 when he was assigned to 3rd SFG, where he served until his death.

Nguyen's military education also includes the Special Operations and Target Interdiction Course, Special Forces Advanced Reconnaissance, Target Analysis and Exploitation Techniques Course, Warrior Leaders Course, Nuclear Hazards Training Course, Basic Airborne Course, Air Assault Course, Basic and Anti-Terrorism Instructor Courses, Basic and Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Courses and Combat Lifesaver Course.

Nguyen is survived by his wife, Marcia of Raeford, N.C. He is also survived by his parents, Nguyen Van Tuan and Phan Cong Duc of Alameda, Calif.

Capt. Rhett W. Schiller, 26, from Waterford, Wis., was killed south of Badad Ruz, Iraq when his unit was engaged by enemy small arms fire early Thursday. He was the executive officer for Troop C, 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment (Airborne RECON), 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division.

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Nguyen



Schiller



Dennison