



Six Soldiers honored for sacrifice

By Mark Heeter

The Dagger Brigade Combat Team and Schweinfurt military community gathered at two memorial services this week to honor six Soldiers killed recently in Iraq.

Staff Sgt. Michael A. Bechert, 24, died June 14 in San Antonio of wounds suffered when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device (IED) on May 30 in Baghdad, Iraq. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment.

Sgt. Alphonso J. Montenegro II, 22, Sgt. Ryan M. Wood, 22, Spc. Daniel J. Agami, 25, Spc. Anthony D. Hebert, 19, and Spc. Thomas R. Leemhuis, 23, died June 21 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when an IED detonated near their vehicle. All were assigned to the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment.

'As tough as they come'



Bechert

Staff Sgt. Michael Bechert was on his third deployment with the Vanguards, having joined the unit following one-station unit training as an

infantryman.

"Staff Sgt. Bechert was as tough as they come," said Chaplain (Col.) James Brown, Task Force Guardian chaplain.

"He was driven to be a leader, so the Soldiers around him were made stronger and better," Brown said.

"He had an overwhelming desire to be the best at anything he could do," said Staff Sgt. Matthew Colleary, reading the remarks that 1st Lt. Forrest Ryan gave earlier in

Iraq.

Ryan described how the relationship developed between the platoon leader and squad leader.

"He eventually became a person I could tell anything to," Ryan said.

Three fellow Vanguards died earlier from wounds suffered in the same attack that claimed Bechert, whose fight took him to Brooke Army Medical Center.

"We knew he gave his all and, most importantly, found peace with his brothers," said Staff Sgt. Luis Castro, relaying the remarks of Capt. David Diaz, the Company C commander as he referred to Cpl. James Lundin, Sgt. Bacilio Cuellar, and Cpl. Joshua Moore.

Bechert is survived by his wife, Daniela and son, Brandon; his father, Michael; sister, Teri; and grandparents, George and Doris Bechert.

'Gatekeeper of the Outlaws'



Montenegro

Anyone that wanted into the Outlaw platoon had to go through Sgt. Alphonso Montenegro Jr.

"Monte was one of the most borderline disrespectful Soldiers I ever met," said Staff Sgt. Raja Richardson, conveying the remarks of Staff Sgt. John Gregory. "It was never disrespect, though. He just stood up for what he believed in."

Montenegro stepped up to the plate when the platoon needed a team leader beginning in the last Grafenwoehr rotation, according to Gregory.

"He took his new team and really showed them his mettle when it came down to the

nitty gritty of his job," he said.

"Once you earned a spot in his mind, you had earned a spot in the Outlaws," Gregory said.

Montenegro, who joined the Blue Spaders in November 2003, was a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

"You could tell that Monte loved being a small-team leader by the way he carried himself and performed his duties," said Capt. Jacob White, as he read the earlier remarks of Capt. Cecil Strickland, the Company C commander, recalling Montenegro's sarcastic sense of humor and "sheepish grin."

Montenegro is survived by his mother, Sandra; sister, Jennifer; and two brothers, Pfc. Christian Montenegro and Jason Dominguez.

'And they all loved him'



Wood

A member of "Charlie Rock" since November 2002, Sgt. Ryan Wood, along with many others in his platoon, saw heavy combat in the fall of 2006.

"Allow me to emphasize Sgt. Wood's fearless leadership," said Richardson as he read remarks from Capt. Ryan Maravilla's eulogy at the memorial service in Iraq.

"He led countless combat patrols through the most dangerous streets of Baghdad," Maravilla said, describing several contacts with the enemy last fall.

Still, Wood was remembered most as a noncommissioned officer who took great pride in training Soldiers.



News Briefs

Seeking your feedback

Thank you to those readers who have taken the time to respond to our most recent request for feedback about the command information program and, more specifically, the "Bavarian News" newspaper. Your feedback is most helpful as we try to establish and maintain the most effective two-way flow of communication. If you have not already done so, please take a moment and send your honest comments about the "Bavarian News" to mail.sft.pao@eur.army.mil. Thank you once again.

Learn to play paintball

Come by the paintball field July 10 at 1 p.m. and learn the ins and outs of paintball completely free of charge. This Morale, Welfare & Recreation-sponsored event is part of this summer's "I can do it" Success Series. Learn proper techniques, marker-handling, and target acquisition methods, then take to the field with your new skills. Call 354-6933 for more information.

Message from school bus office

Bus riders must register at the school prior to registering for bus service. Currently registered bus passes will be mailed to your community mail room box prior to school commencement. School bus customer service summer hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mon-Fri. The office closes for lunch. Call 354-6677/6236 or 09721-81355.

Parents' Night Out

Registration for the next Parents' Night Out begins July 9 for Leighton and Schweinfurt. If you need to take a night off July 20, sign up with Central Registration in The Commons. Parents' Night Out will run from 6:30 to 11 p.m. and is open to children who are registered with Child & Youth Services. Enrollment is limited, so sign up early. Call 354-6414 or 350-7762 for more information.

Day trip to France

Morale, Welfare & Recreation hosts a Family-friendly trip Saturday to Strasbourg, France. Transportation is free. Tourist passport is required. Bus departs from Volksfestplatz at 5:30 a.m. and returns approximately 10 p.m. Peruse the markets, visit the sights, and enjoy the history of this medieval city. For more information, call 350-6305 or 0931-889-6305.

Summer reading program

The summer reading program with Schweinfurt and Leighton libraries begins July 11 and continues each Wednesday at 1 p.m. until Aug. 8. The program is open to children ages 6 to 11. A special story hour for children ages 3 to 5 years old will also be conducted. Children who meet the challenge of reading 20 minutes per day at least five days per week will earn a sticker for their weekly log. All summer, enjoy a variety of programs, give-aways, and contests. For more information, call 354-1740 or 350-1740.

Pets as healers

Schweinfurt Army Community Services (ACS) is holding a series of depression and stress management courses collectively called "Progressive Perspectives." On July 11, come join the class "Cold Nose, Warm Heart" by Schweinfurt veterinarian Michele Goodnight at ACS from 1 to 3 p.m. Learn how pets can be healers. Limited childcare is available. For more information, call 354-6933 or 0931-889-7103.

Newcomer orientation

Are you new to Schweinfurt or Wuerzburg? Come join the Army Community Services' class to get to know the community you're living in. Newcomers' Orientation and Welcome (NOW) on Leighton and Schweinfurt Newcomers Awareness Program for Spouses (SNAPS) will be held July 9-13. Free childcare is available. Learn about public transit, agencies in the military community, and tour downtown. Call 354-6933 or 350-7103.

Plan ahead with train travel

Railway workers' trade unions are on strike and have implemented random strike measures. The Deutsche Bahn will attempt to minimize any inconvenience for passengers and has set up a free service hotline with outage information and can be reached immediately around the clock under the telephone number 08000 996633, according to a message posted at www.bahn.de.

Schweinfurt Dispatch



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The Schweinfurt Dispatch weekly newsletter is an unofficial publication of the U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt, IMCOM-Europe and the U.S. Army authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1.

The newsletter is published and distributed weekly in an electronic format. The newsletter can be viewed on the U.S. Army Schweinfurt website at <http://www.schweinfurt.army.mil>.

This newsletter is a command information product that places emphasis on events and activities occurring throughout the Schweinfurt and Lower Franconia areas.

Information and photos included in this

newsletter are acquired from sources that highlight events, programs and activities in Schweinfurt and Lower Franconia.

Dates, times, locations, and the events themselves might change or be cancelled without prior notice.

To be added to the Schweinfurt Dispatch distribution list, please email: mail.sft.pao@eur.army.mil.

This address can also be used to submit community slides or information on upcoming events, or you can reach the USAG Schweinfurt public affairs office by calling 354-1600/6381 or (09721) 961600/966381.



- 5 JULY** --Christmas in July starts at Ledward Crafts Studio 6 - 8 p.m., Call for more info. 354-6903
- 6 JULY** --Intermediate German Language class begins 6:30 to 8 :30 p.m. Ledward. Call 354-6933.
- 7 JULY** --Family Friendly Trip to Strasbourg, France, free transportation. Call 350-6305.
- 9-11 JULY** --Three day FRG/FRL training, begins at 9 a.m. each day, Ledward ACS. Call 354-6933.
- 10 JULY** --Free Paintball lessons at the Conn Paintball field, 1 p.m. Materials provided. Call 354-6933.
- 10-11 JULY** --ACAP Transition Assistance Workshop for separating service members and Families 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call 354-6019.
- 11 JULY** --ACS Progressive Perspectives: Cold Nose, Warm Heart 1 to 3 p.m. Limited childcare available free of charge, call one week in advance 354-6933.
--Summer reading program at Ledward Library 1 p.m. through Aug. 8. Call 354-1740.
- 12 JULY** --Lunch Bunch 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call ACS at 354-6933.
- 14 JULY** --Music on the Patio, Leighton CAC. BBQ, bounce activities, live music. Call 350-6305.
--Family Fun Fair and flea market 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Leighton Barracks. Call 354-6715.
- 16 JULY** --Resume Writing class for separating service members and Families 1 to 3 p.m. Call 354-6019.
- 18 JULY** --ACS Progressive Perspectives: Take a Break from Anxiety 1 to 3 p.m. Limited childcare available free of charge, call one week in advance 354-6933.
- 20 JULY** --Parents' Night Out respite care 6:30 to 11 p.m. Sign-ups begin July 9.
- 20-22 JULY** --Teen Center special event Paris Trip, departs 10:30 p.m. Returns 7 a.m. \$30. Call 354-6732.
- 21 JULY** --MWR Street Party on Askren Manor, noon to 8 p.m. Live Latin Music starting at 6 p.m.
--USO shopping express trip to Czech. Sign up by July 16. Cost is \$45. Call 354-6711.
--Family Friendly Trip to Warner Bros. Movie World, free transportation. Call 350-6305.
- 24 JULY** --Checkbook Management class, Ledward 9 to 11 a.m. Call 354-6933.
- 25 JULY** --ACS Progressive Perspectives: Never a Dull Moment 1 to 3 p.m. Limited childcare available free of charge, call one week in advance 354-6933.
--VA Benefits Briefing, Ledward Theater 8 a.m. to noon. Call 354-6019.
--Kitchen Passport Series: German Cooking class, Ledward 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 28 JULY** --Family Friendly Trip to Luxembourg, free transportation. Call 350-6305.
- 30 JULY** --CAV call-in show with AFN at 7 a.m. Tune to AFN radio 1143 AM.
- 31 JULY** --Middle School Zone summer camp trip to Pullman City, 2 days, call 354-6308.
--Habits of Successful Investors class, Ledward 9 to 10 a.m. Call 354-6933.
- 1 AUG** --ACS Progressive Perspectives: Experiencing Fruitful Relationships 1 to 3 p.m. Limited childcare available free of charge, call one week in advance 354-6933.
- 13-17 AUG** --Vacation Bible School, Ledward Chapel, Ledward Barracks, Schweinfurt, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pre-register by calling 09727-909-516
- 27 AUG** --First day of school for Schweinfurt Elementary and Middle Schools and Wuerzburg Elementary and High School Freshmen (28 AUG, grades 10-12).

Community 6 week outlook calendar



Music rocks SAS summer camp

Story and photo by Kimberly Gearhart

Kids from the Schweinfurt School Age Services (SAS) summer camp rocked out June 28 at the Abrams Club as part of a week of music learning and fun.

In a combined effort with the Schweinfurt Schools of Knowledge,

Inspiration, Exploration and Skills (SKIES) program, SAS summer camp organizers staged an "Introduction to Music" concert to introduce the children to music in a different way as well as present the variety of music programs offered by SKIES.

"This is fantastic. The kids are having a blast," said Tom Williams, the SKIES program director.

Variety rocker Donnie Vox, who performed at the first Askren Manor Street Party last month, was joined by Peter Potter, who gives guitar lessons through SKIES, and SAS director Matt Spears on stage. Vox sang his way through "The Twist" and "Bad, Bad, Leroy Brown" while kids cheered, shouted, and danced.

"I felt that playing tunes with a rock band would be a good way to relate to kids at this age," said Spears, who began playing guitar at 12.

Elementary school children are often not exposed to the range of instruments and musical types that are available and so are not as likely to be inspired to learn to play. The summer camp program aimed to open children up to the idea of music as a fun, modern means of expression.

"I have to give credit to Matt for coming up with this idea, but it's great. I hope we can do it next year, too," Williams said.

Spears, who played guitar for the 1st Infantry Division Band, hopes that children will be inspired to pick up an instrument and learn to play, just as he was when he first saw Stevie Ray Vaughn and Eddie Van Halen burn through guitar solos on MTV.

Playing music, he feels, and sharing it with those around you, is an excellent way to relate and make new friends, even when you don't share a common language.

"We live in Germany, a country that does not speak our language, but we can make international friends through music," Spears said.



Children "Twist and shout" as Donnie Vox, Matt Spears, and Peter Potter cover the Beatles during a concert at the Abrams Club June 28.

Blood drive planned at Leighton Barracks

By Staff Sgt. John Queen
69th ADA Public Affairs

Interested in kicking-back and listening to some cool summer beach music while at the same time helping save someone's life? Then join the 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade and the Armed Services Blood Program (ASBP) for a blood drive Tuesday, July 10, at the Leighton Barracks Physical Fitness Center.

The event will run from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., with activities for children and snacks and juice provided for all. There will also be free summer time party favors for anyone that donates.

The need for blood is critical due to the number of wounded from Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, according to Capt. Amy Kleefisch, the officer heading

up the brigade's involvement with the blood drive.

"As they say, 'our supply is their supply,'" Kleefisch explained. "This is our way, here in Germany, to help fight the Global War on Terrorism."

The need for blood is ongoing. Many people often think that if they ever need blood an adequate supply will be there. According the ASBP however, that's not always true, and sometimes the supply does not always meet the demand.

Approximately 32,000 units (pints) of blood are used each day in the United States. On average a single trauma patient can require nearly 40 pints of blood. Without these vital blood transfusions nearly 4.5 million Americans would die each year.

For more information on the blood drive contact Capt. Amy Kleefisch at 350-7032 or 0931-889-7032.

Boy Scouts wash cars to raise funds



Sandra Wilson

Cub Scout Pack 630 spent two hours Saturday washing cars to raise money for pack t-shirts. Various community members donated a total of \$110 and 45 euro to the fund-raiser, and one customer even donated a Burger King lunch to the pack after their hard work. Pack 630 wants to thank the community for their generous donations which made the event a success.



SACRIFICE

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“Whether he wanted to be or not, Sgt. Wood was a natural leader,” he said. “Every one of his Bradley drivers and gunners greatly improved in skill under his tutelage. And they all loved him.”

“Inside, Ryan was a great man – perhaps small in stature but huge in heart and soul,” Strickland said of his fallen Soldier, whom he also recalled as a fine artist.

“If you paid attention, you could see his tender side, as he often let that out in some of his drawings,” Strickland said.

Wood is survived by his mother and stepfather, Renee and Scott Vincent; his father, James; his three sisters, Candice Bunce, Jennifer Campbell, and Stephanie Wood; and his brother, Scott Vincent Jr.

‘The Hebrew Hammer’



Agami

Intensely proud of his Jewish heritage, Spc. Daniel Agami made every effort to observe his religious traditions while deployed and was most intent on being at home with his Family during Passover.

“I have met very few people that have pride in who they are that could match Danny,” said Richardson, relaying remarks from Staff Sgt. Evan Johnson.

“He would joke around about it, calling himself the ‘Hebrew Hammer’ or ‘GI Jew... The Real American Hebrew,’” Johnson said, referring to him as “fiercely proud that that was his heritage.”

Johnson recalled the time that his laundry got lost in Iraq and returned from a mission to find a stack of fresh shirts and socks on his bunk.

“It took me two days to find out that Danny had put them there after overhearing

what had happened with my laundry,” he said. He would give you anything– except the Teddy bear that Gina had given him, Johnson said.

One who wanted to pull his friends along for the ride and a good time, Agami was recalled as the All-American kid by Strickland.

“I honestly can’t recall when he didn’t have a smile on his face when he was with his friends,” Strickland said.

Agami is survived by his parents, Itzhak and Beth; his brother, Ilan; and his sister, Shaina.

To earn the ‘Hebert Tab’



Hebert

Spc. Anthony Hebert didn’t have a Ranger or Special Forces Tab. So he made up the Hebert Tab.

“To earn this tab, you had to do something either really

funny or say something that would make him laugh,” said Sgt. DeQuinn Nickerson, who read the previously prepared remarks of Pfc. Marcus Leslie, himself a bearer of the Hebert Tab.

“He was even thinking of who was worthy of the dual Hebert tabs for both shoulders,” Leslie said of the perpetual funnyman Hebert.

“Tony always seemed to enjoy life, because he didn’t take it too seriously,” Strickland said. “It was his humor, wisecracks, and good-humored ribbings that helped keep the platoon’s spirits up, in spite of all the drama that has taken place over the past eleven months.”

Recalling the brand of humor that Hebert helped spread to his fellow crew members, Leslie explained a competition in which they had to count who had been hit by the most IEDs. He who would be killed would be the end-of-the-game winner.

“Unfortunately, they all tied for first and are going to have to share those (bragging)

rights up in heaven now,” Leslie said.

Hebert is survived by his parents, Robert and Laurie, and his sister, Tiffany.

‘My friend and my brother’



Leemhuis

Spc. Thomas Leemhuis, 22 when he enlisted in the Army, was a little more mature than some other new recruits, according to Strickland.

“You could always count on

him to get the job done, no matter what he had to do,” he said, noting that Leemhuis’ upbringing as a Native American in Oklahoma made him who he was.

“Leemhuis was a hard-working man, proud of his native roots and never complaining,” Strickland said. To others, like Pfc. Rodger Arnold, he was more than that.

“He was my friend and my brother,” Nickerson said, reading Arnold’s remarks.

Arnold was on the charge of quarters desk the day Leemhuis arrived at Charlie Rock and gave him the key to his new room.

“From that point on, Leemhuis and I were the best of friends,” he said, adding that Leemhuis helped him through the grief of losing their leader, Staff Sgt. Garth Sizemore, last year.

Arnold looked back on their brief but important friendship.

“I helped Leemhuis unpack in Germany. I helped him pack his household goods before we deployed. And I helped pack his personal effects to be mailed to his mother for the last time,” he said.

Leemhuis is survived by his mother, Patricia Leemhuis; his father, Paul Whitehorn; his three sisters, Stephanie Leemhuis, Renee Whitehorn, and Dream Cox; and his brother, Paul Leemhuis.



Germans nearly sweep horseshoe competition

Story and photo by Sandra Wilson

Close only counts in horseshoes and hand grenades—luckily, this was horseshoes.

Germans and Americans gathered Saturday for a full day of horseshoe pitching at Schweinfurt's seventh annual International Horseshoe Tournament on Conn Barracks.

"[Germans] are fanatics over here [about horseshoeing]. They even order their horseshoes from the States," said Hank Bielski, who started playing with the Germans in 1989.

Bielski won the trophy for the men's American discipline in Saturday's competition with a score of 78 out of 108 points. He was the only American to win a discipline.

Germans took the titles for the men's German discipline, both of the women's disciplines, as well as the team trophy.

The morning began with German-style horseshoe pitching from a distance of about nine meters. Teams of three participated with each person throwing 36 horseshoes, aiming for a ringer at best for three points, a leaner for two, or landing within one horseshoe away from the stake for one point.

German horseshoe clubs continued arriving at the competition throughout



Allyson Valadez, Family member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, prepares to throw a horseshoe in the German-style horseshoe pitching contest Saturday.

the morning from all over Germany. In the afternoon, the American-style pitching contest began with one-on-one competition.

"I didn't realize how popular it was with the Germans. It was a lot more fun than I expected," said Allyson Valadez, Family member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

Nearly 600 Germans are active in horseshoe pitching clubs within the country and travel around to compete for trophies and titles.

The game seemed to have been a favorite among soldiers in many American-fought wars starting with the Civil War. Returning home, these soldiers interested their hometown folk in the game, and horseshoe pitching courts were laid out in hundreds of cities, villages, and farming communities. The first horseshoe pitching tournament, open to the world, took place in Kansas in 1910.

"[This competition] is a traditional friendship event. It's to bring people together to show a little bit of American culture," said David Luellwitz, MWR Chief of Business and Recreation, who coordinated the event.

Live music began in the later afternoon played by Texas Rooster, and kids rode a mechanical bull set up for the event.

Walk with W.I.C. on Fridays

Walkers take laps around the track every Friday to enjoy easy exercise. Recently, the Women, Infants, and Children Overseas (WIC Overseas) program has started a new workout called "Walk with WIC." Each Friday morning at 8:30, they walk 8-10 laps around the track next to the WIC Office in front of the middle school on Kessler Field as a way to increase activity, burn calories, and lose weight. The goal to be attained by summer's end is walking two miles in 30 minutes. The event is open to all I.D. card holders. Participants receive a water bottle and pedometer. For more information, call 354-6753 or 09721-96-6753.



Jenny Roper



1-91 Soldier saves Afghan newborn's life

*Story and photo courtesy
Combined Joint Task Force-82*

KUNAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan— A U.S. Soldier potentially saved the life of an Afghan newborn June 24 in Kunar Province.

Pfc. Theodore Batdorf, a platoon medic assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment (Airborne), was credited with saving the baby's life after performing CPR on the child.

At about 10:30 a.m. near Tsunel, a small village in Ghaziabad District, the U.S. patrol came upon an ambulance stopped in the road. A woman in the ambulance had just given birth to a boy while en route to the hospital. The baby was not breathing. The Patrol Leader on the scene ordered Batdorf to assist.

Batdorf quickly examined the child and

realized the newborn was in critical condition. He assessed the child's breathing was restricted due to fluid in his respiratory tract and that the child's circulation was poor.

Batdorf informed the platoon leader that the baby needed to be evacuated to Forward Operating Base Naray for medical treatment.

During the more than 40-minute drive over extremely rough roads, Batdorf stabilized the baby by administering CPR, maintaining an open airway, and stimulating circulation.

Upon arrival at FOB Naray, Batdorf took the infant in for treatment by the doctors at the Forward Surgical Team. The baby was treated for more than five hours

by doctors there before clearance was given for the baby and his uncle to be evacuated to medical facilities at Bagram Airfield.

Army Col. Craig Shriver, a Surgeon with the FTS at FOB Naray, credited Batdorf with saving the baby's life.

"The baby clearly would have died had (Batdorf) not taken the measures that he did," said Shriver.

The baby and his parents were reunited at Bagram Airfield, where he continues to receive care.



A medical evacuation crew from the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division picks up a 4-hour-old baby boy and his uncle and transports them from the Jalalabad Airfield to the hospital at Bagram Airfield.

Thousands of miles can't separate two sisters

*By Capt. David Levasseur
2nd BCT, 1st Inf. Div. Public Affairs officer*

BAGHDAD, Iraq— A Family's military tradition continues today as one older sister, currently serving here, administered the commissioning oath to her graduating sister via video teleconference.



1st Lt. Brittany Kessler commissions her sister, Mallory, to office via video teleconference from Baghdad, Iraq.

When asked who she wanted to give her the commissioning oath, 2nd Lt. Mallory Kessler had only one response: her sister. The challenge is that her sister, 1st Lt. Brittany Kessler, has been deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, since October 2006. With the support of her Reserve Officer Training Corps cadre, Mallory was able to set up a video teleconference to Camp Liberty so that her sister could administer the oath.

Mallory is being commissioned as an Air Defense Artillery Officer and will first attend the Officer Basic Course before being assigned to Fort Bliss, Texas.

Brittany Kessler is a Military Intelligence officer and is currently serving with the 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division in Baghdad, Iraq. Along with the rest of the Dagger Brigade Combat Team, she expects to return from her deployment in October.

At 7 p.m. Baghdad time June 15, Brittany raised her right hand and gave the commissioning oath to her little sister. "I am very proud of her," she said afterwards. "She joined the Army to pay for school and I think partly because I did. I am really glad that I could participate in her commissioning, even though I couldn't be there."