



VA Boston Healthcare System OEF/OIF Bulletin

"Your interest and participation is the strength of this bulletin."

February 2010



*****Welcome Home and Thank You for Your Service*****



A Romantic Valentine's Day Story:

Adrienne Williams first met her husband, Fred, 7 years ago when they both served with the 118th Medical Company, located in Concord, Massachusetts. Friends of Adrienne remarked that she would try her best to approach Fred with some small talk. When they finally officially met, Fred looked forward to when they could talk some more. Through the course of a year, Adrienne and Fred developed a strong friendship and courtship- that had the both of them thinking about marriage. Their plans seemed to take a sudden halt when their unit received orders to mobilize and report for duty in Iraq for a year. However, their love for one another persevered. They wed before their deployment, and were able to serve a good amount of their deployment together as they medically assisted/treated coalition troops/Iraqi Nationals at a U.S. Camp near Baghdad. When their deployment was completed, they held a larger wedding reception for their families/relatives and military friends. Currently, Adrienne and Fred live in Westford, MA with their two children- Faith (2 years old) and Freddy (year old).



Mr. & Mrs. Fred Williams



The Williamses take a moment before returning to medical training scenarios.

Employee/Sergeant Tracy Knowles Checks-In with us...



Sgt. Knowles on assignment in Baghdad

Greetings from the PAO (Public Affairs Office) team. Thank you so much for all the support the 101st (her unit) has received from home. It's been a busy month with the National Guard Birthday and Christmas. Hopefully we can keep up the pace in the future months. Happy New Year.

Tracy reports that she will be coming back home in 4 months!

Here is a sample of Tracy's reporting for her Battalion's news publication, *Nation's First, Nation's Oldest*.



The 317th Eng. Co. accepts its mission with the 101st. Photo by Sgt. Knowles

BAGHDAD -

As new soldiers assigned to the 101st Eng. Battalion were present, the 101st battalion commander (Lieutenant Colonel Cody) welcomed them (the 317th Eng. Company) into their corps. "You have big shoes to fill and I am sure you will do well," Cody stated. The 317th is here to pick up the missions left behind by the 277th (prior unit that assisted the 101st), continuing proud service and becoming a new portion of the *nation's oldest history* (the 101st is the United States' oldest Army National Guard unit. As the 317th's colors were uncased- with its future unwritten, First Lieutenant Richard Hamilton (from Lake Moor, Ill., and the commander of the 317th), spoke words of praise and honor to his troops. "Do not count the days, make the days count," said Hamilton.

Photo of the Month:

I welcome what you believe is a great photo. There will be a vote on the best photo from the past year. I look forward to receiving your photo.

Before sending a photo:

Please contact me for photo requirements and specifications.



This Month's Photo: Submitted by Sgt. Knowles

Tracy explains her 'explosive' photo:

BAGHDAD - Standing close to the flames, Pfc. Lorenzo Clark (of Cleveland, Ohio, 1192nd Engi-neer Company, 101st Engineer Battalion), controls his area of ground clearance using the **ground torch system**, during the last phase of a five day training course which covered every-thing from preventive maintenance to fire safety. The **GTS** is an integral part of route sanitation missions. Once vegetation is burned it provides increased safety for U.S. Military and Iraqi Nationals by eliminating hiding spots for improvised explosive devices (IED's).

Readers- Thank you for keeping the submissions and pictures coming! It means a lot. I'm deciding the winner for the photo contest, and will reveal the 'chosen one' next month! Tony Falvey

This monthly bulletin is published courtesy of the Latest Generation Committee. Its purpose is to show support for returning OEF/OIF Veterans among Employees, their Families and Friends. If you would like to submit (info/photos/etc.) or have a question/concern send an e-mail to: Anthony.Falvey@VA.gov
Visit the VA BHS at www.boston.va.gov