

This is 'Creek Six,'

27 April 2008

Since you probably prefer a photograph over my ramblings, I decided to let the pictures tell the story again. So you wondered what a sand storm in Iraq is like.... This picture is in true color and was taken at noon. The dust is similar to talcum powder and hangs in the air even when it is calm. "Choking" best describes the conditions. We're in the midst of another as I write.



Next, Senator Inhofe makes one of his many visits in support of us. Here, we discuss mutual friend, Tulsa attorney and retired Air Force Colonel Charlie Sublett. Accompanying the Senator is Major General Harry Wyatt, Oklahoma's Adjutant General. You would be surprised at the favorable impact these visits have on soldier morale. Unfortunately, it seems that few politicians are willing to venture into the world of the military, particularly here, though they claim to support the troops.



Also a big supporter of the troops is singer, Toby Keith. Many of us attended his U.S.O. concert last night. Here, Staff Sergeant Hopwood, Company A, 1-279th Infantry Battalion, poses with Toby while holding a photograph of Toby and himself taken in Afghanistan several years ago. Located behind the stage on which Toby played is a Phalanx Weapons System. It is a radar-guided, 20 mm six-

barreled chain gun also known as a Counter-Rocket, Artillery and Mortar (“C-RAM”). It fires five or six thousand high-explosive rounds per minute to shoot down things that the bad guys shoot at us. Immediately prior to the concert it was test fired twice over our heads. The rounds came out so fast that the tracers had the appearance of one long red line extending several thousand meters into the sky, and then they exploded. The number of rounds a two second burst sends down-range is...well you do the math. Very cool!!



In the adjacent photograph, I award medals to two soldiers: 1LT Ryan Ginger and 1LT Nick Harris. To my left is my Command Sergeant Major, Kelvin McHenry. Giving awards to soldiers is one of the more rewarding aspects of my job.

In the next picture, Brigadier General Hipwell awards Specialist Bair, Company C, 1-279 Infantry Battalion, a Purple Heart for wounds he received in combat. Specialist Bair and the other soldiers standing to his left were also awarded the Combat Infantryman’s Badge.



Here, I am on a mission inside an up-armored HMMWV.



Have you ever wondered what 106 degrees feels like? Well, it is really hot...and it is still twenty to thirty degrees cooler than what we can expect in the near future.

I hope all is well with you. Thanks very much for the care packages. We really appreciate them and more importantly, your kindness and prayers. More later. ‘Creek Six, out.’

SITREP no. 7

LTC Doug Stall
1-279 Infantry
Commanding