

The Community Page



SINCE 1934
Hwy. 24 • Goodland, Kan. • (785) 899-2592

Northern Sun

(785) 899-6500

The Goodland Star-News

1205 Main
Goodland, Kan.
(785) 899-2338

"Where Service is an Affair of the Heart"

DAN BRENNER FORD-MERCURY

(800) 636-8778
(785) 899-2316



Dependable Glass
1219 Main
Goodland, KS
(785) 899-6300

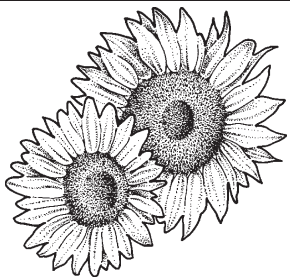
TRANE
It's Hard To Stop A Trane®
Heating & Air Conditioning
524E. Hwy 24
(785) 899-5770



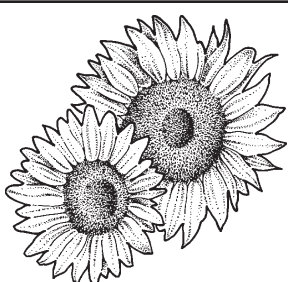
Your Ad

Could Be Here!
Call Jessica
at 899-2338

The Goodland Star-News



READ ALL ABOUT IT!



Advanced Auto Body

403 E. 19th
Goodland, Kan. 67735
785-899-5555

Goodland soldiers return after year of service in Iraq

By Staff Sgt. Mark W. Reasoner

Goodland armory staff

Soldiers assigned to the Goodland Armory who filled vacancies with the 714th Security Force when it was mobilized for service in Iraq have returned from 12 months of duty overseas.

The 714th Maintenance Company was called to serve in Iraq in April 2006. The unit attended about three months of training at Camp Shelby, Miss., before being cleared for movement overseas.

Advance Party for the unit departed the States the middle of August 2006, while the main body departed on the first of September, arriving in Kuwait on the 2nd, and in Iraq on the 18th. The unit returned to Kansas Aug. 26, and members were greeted by friends and family in Topeka.

Fifteen soldiers assigned to the 714th from the 170th Maintenance Company included seven from the Goodland Armory: Staff Sgt. Ernesto Gonzales, Sgt. Lonnie Guyton, Spc. Cody Boese, Spc. Aaron McClellan, Spc. Kody Sanchez, Spc. Richard Sturtevant and Spc. Bryan Varney.

The 170th Maintenance Company was reorganized last September, transferring Boese to Colby, which reduced the number of Goodland deployed soldiers from seven to six.

When the unit first moved into Iraq, its sleeping quarters were at Forward Operating Base Diamond Back. The base, nestled inside of Mosul and surrounded by buildings and streets, was subject to daily sniper and mortar attacks.

The unit began providing security escort services called Combat Logistic Patrols to convoys moving equipment and supplies in and around Iraq. These patrols took the unit to the northern Kurdish areas and the Turkish border as well as to Baghdad and southern Iraq.

During a mortar attack on the base on Oct. 12, 2006, Gonzales and three other soldiers from the 714th were wounded. Gonzales and Spc. Rodney Price were the most critically wounded in the mortar blast and were moved first to Germany and then back to the United States for care and treatment of injuries.

Both soldiers still carry pieces of shrapnel, and Gonzales has limited use of his left arm and some hearing loss from the blast.

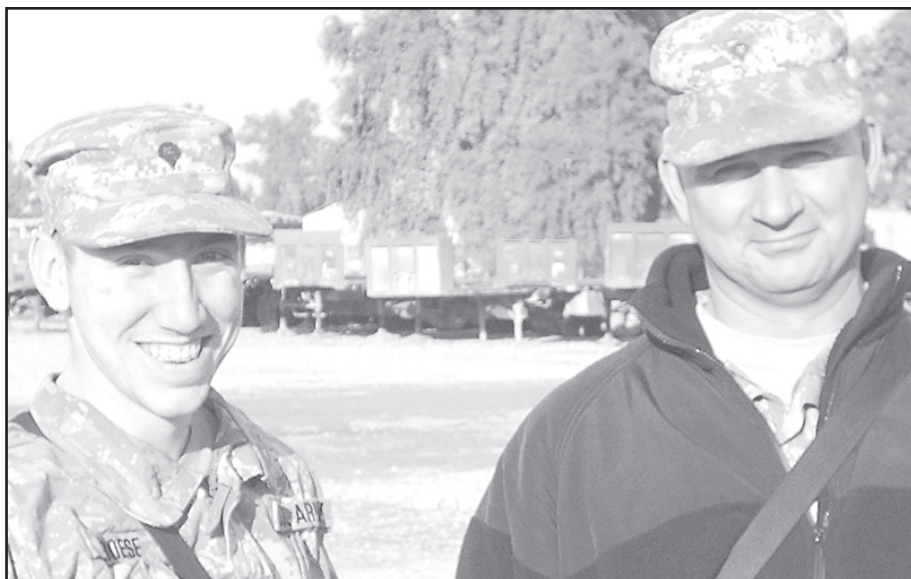
The unit moved from Diamond Back to Forward Operating Base Endurance, some 60 miles southeast of Mosul in an area known as "Q-West," by platoon while running continuous missions.

Q-West is on a flat plain that can be easily monitored for signs of an attack. This greatly reduced the risk of sniper or mortar attack and improved the comfort and safety of unit members. It was also from this base that Varney returned Stateside for medical care for non-combat injuries in April.

While in Iraq, the unit frequently took fire from the enemy or ran into situations where there were bombs while escorting convoys. During the tour, the unit provided over 580,000 miles of escort services over convoy routes.

By February, the unit had encountered 105 Improvised Explosive Devices. On the 23rd of July, the unit lost Sgt. Courtney Finch from Leavenworth to non-combat causes, and on Aug. 1, Staff Sgt. Travis Bachman from Garden City was killed by a bomb while conducting a ride-along with the unit that was replacing the 714th.

Of the six Goodland soldiers deployed to Iraq, three have received the Combat Action



Spc. Aaron McClellan (top), daughter Alyssa and wife Darla McClellan (obscured) shared a family hug at Forbes Field in Topeka when he returned from Iraq Aug. 26. Specialists Cody Boese and Bryan Varney (above) at Camp Endurance in Iraq.

Photos from national guardsmen and their families

Soldiers still at war

The Goodland Armory still has soldiers in Iraq. Shortly after the 714th was mobilized, the 731st Medium Transportation Company was notified for deployment as the 731st Security Force.

Assigned augmentees and volunteers from the Goodland armory for the 731st include Spc. Amanda Bonner, Spc. Drew Edwards, Spc. Ryan Nichols (who was later transferred to company headquar-

ters in Norton under the Sept. 2006 unit re-organization) and Spc. Kelly Simmonds.

Also in Iraq with the 731st is Sgt. Randall Lee, who transferred from the Goodland armory to the 731st to accept a promotion just before the 731st was mobilized. These soldiers should return from Iraq by the start of the New Year.

Badge (Gonzales, Guyton and McClellan), and a fourth is pending for Sturtevant.

During the course of the deployment, the unit withstood a number of different attacks. These ranged from sniping and mortar rounds to close encounters with explosive devices that were located and disabled before detonation, ones that were detonated and complex attacks in-

volving small arms and rocket propelled grenades.

The unit took part in humanitarian missions as well. One involved the soldiers collecting toys, candy, food, clothing and school supplies from home to create care packages that were delivered to an orphanage in Mosul in an exchange organized by the battalion chaplain.



202 E. 11th Goodland, KS
(785) 890-2000



Medical Arts Pharmacy

202 Willow Rd,
Goodland, Kan. 67735
785-890-5111

Lonny's Quality

Auto Body, Inc.

1933 Caldwell
Goodland, KS
(785) 899-6311



FEEDERS

6845 Rd. 17 • Goodland, Kan.
(785) 899-6515

KLOE 730am
Full Service Radio

102.5 FM KKCI
Best of the 70s, 80s, & 90s



Garcia's

Home Furnishings & Appliance

1114 Main
Goodland, Kan.
(785) 899-5123



YOUR AD

could be here!
Call Jordie
at 899-2338

The Goodland Star-News

Education Starts
With Newspapers



China Gardens

1108 Main

Goodland, Kan. 67735

(785) 890-3345

Dine in * Carry out

