



# The Dust Devil Dispatch

November 27 - December 3, 2005

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## KS Govoner Visits Troops

by SPC Jay R. Gfeller

**This past week as we celebrated the great American holiday of Thanksgiving, families around the country gathered in festivities filled with friends, family, food, and games. The soldiers deployed to foreign soil celebrated this day in their own ways. Aside from calling home to speak with their loved ones and gathering at the dining facilities throughout theater, many took time to pay respect to those brave men and women who have given their lives for the great nation we call home.**

**On Thanksgiving Day, soldiers in Iraq dedicated a new memorial outside one of the dining facilities to memorialize those who have given everything to keep the United States of America safe every day. Additionally, great feasts complete with turkey, sparkling grape juice and dessert were served on Thanksgiving Day. Empty places were set as yet one more sign of respect and devotion the Soldiers have for their fallen comrades.**

**On the day after Thanksgiving, while those back home fought the masses of people in over-crowded stores, the Soldiers returned to work. The camp is alive with excitement, as Soldiers start the process of training the Soldiers who will soon take over missions as the 891st Engineer Battalion did almost one year ago. Everyone's busy, but the work is accepted with joy.**

**The day after Thanksgiving did bring a great surprise for the Soldiers of the 891st. The Governor of Kansas, Kathleen Sebelius, stopped in to see the Soldiers of the 891st Engineers and the 2/137th Infantry, both National Guard units from Kansas. She also enjoyed dinner with troops from the 891st stationed in Kuwait during her visit there on Thanksgiving Day. While her stay with the Soldiers of the 891st was short, the message she brought was loud and clear. She represented the thousands of citizens of the State who all wish to extend their gratitude to the Soldiers defending our nation and helping the Iraqi people establish a government of their own. It is touching to think about the sacrifices she made to spend the holiday with the Soldiers who have placed their lives on hold in an effort to make life better around the world.**

**While here, the Governor addressed the Soldiers of the**

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**battalion by extending her thanks for the job that we are doing in Iraq. Following her speech to the troops, Lieutenant Colonel Lee Tafanelli, 891st Engineer Battalion Commander, presented the Governor with a flag of the State of Kansas, flown over Iraq on the day of her visit. He also presented her with a flag of the United States of America, flown on the Fourth of July, Two Thousand Five. Inscribed on the certificate to accompany the flag was the following.**

**"This flag was displayed not as a symbol of occupation or oppression, but as a sign to all who saw it, that there are Americans here, in brotherhood with, and in support of, the Iraqi people. We came not to conquer, but to foster and build a new democracy. We came to restore basic freedoms, where once there was only terror and tyranny. This moment has been captured to remember the heroes that came here, and with their blood and sacrifice, made freedom and democracy not only possible, but made them flourish. May the democracy planted here spread throughout the region and bring peace to the Middle-East, in our time and forever."**

**After her visit and photographs with troops of the battalion, her ventures took her to the ancient city of Ur, home of the Ziggurat of Ur and the house of the prophet Abraham. Dief, a local Iraqi citizen who has dedicated his life to the history of Ur, just as his father and grandfather, gave a tour of the ancient ruins. Following the tour, the Governor returned to the camp to enjoy lunch with our soldiers in the 'Coalition Café, South.' The Governor was also accompanied by Brigadier General Jimmy G. Welch, commander of the 194th Engineer Brigade (TA). After lunch, Mrs. Sebelius flew out to continue her tour of the region and visit troops from other Kansas units in theater.**

**All the Soldiers of the 891st Engineer Combat Battalion, Heavy would like to extend their warmest thanks and appreciation to the Governor and to all those back home that have shown their support and dedication to the men and women of the United States Military. Without you're support, none of this could be possible. Rest assured that we'll be on guard tonight as you rest, our time here is getting short. We have just about "Got 'er Done!"**

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## Weather in Iraq

Date	.	Hi / Lo	Percip
Sunday November 27	 Sunny	74 / 47	0%
Monday November 28	 Sunny	75 / 47	0%
Tuesday November 29	 Sunny	77 / 49	0%
Wednesday November 30	 Sunny	77 / 49	0%
Thursday December 1	 Sunny	78 / 50	0%
Friday December 2	 Sunny	75 / 49	0%
Saturday December 3	 Sunny	77 / 49	0%

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## Reunion Workshops

**For the Families of Service Members deployed to Iraq, there are several Reunion Workshops that are being offered in the State of Kansas. You are encouraged to participate in one of these workshops to help educate yourself about issues that may arise upon reunion with your Soldier. Here is a list of available workshops:**

### Independence

**December 3, 10:00am - 3:00pm  
Methodist Church, 200 South Penn Ave  
POC: Dave Fehr, 785-806-1756**

### Iola

**December 4, 10:00am - 3:00pm  
Iola Armory, 1021 N. State St.  
POC: Dave Fehr, 785-806-1756**

### Manhattan

**January 7, 10:00am - 3:00  
Manhattan Armory, 721 Levee Drive  
POC: Laura Wheeler, 785-806-1751 or 785-539-0241**

**There will be several speakers at each workshop to include, but not limited to, TRICARE Reserve Select, Chaplain services, Veterans Affairs, Reunion Expectations, and The Vet Center.**

### Hotel Accommodations:

**Family members who live more than 120 miles from the workshop and their RSVP is received on time, may qualify for government lodging for one night, either Friday or Saturday. Please indicate on your registration if you would like to have accommodations. The Family Programs Officer will reserve all rooms for those who qualify for government lodging.**

### Youth Program and Childcare:



**An informative youth program on reunion issues will be available for children ages 6-17 at no cost. Meals provided free of charge. Due to new regulations, NO child care, supervision or meals provided for children under 6 years of age. If your children have a special diet, please provide a meal, drink and snack for them.**

**All this information plus a map of workshop locations and registration form can be downloaded by clicking the following link. For additional information, please contact your Family Readiness Coordinator.**

**[Download: reunionworkshop.doc](#)**

**(right click & choose 'Save Target As')**

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## Quote of the Week

**Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done, because he wants to do it.**

**- General Dwight D. Eisenhower**

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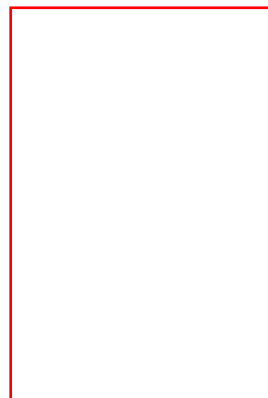
## Question of the Week

Last weeks question was,

**"During the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in 1957, what unexpected event happened with the Popeye balloon?"**

The Answer -

**His hat filled with water.**



In 1957, a torrential rain caused water to build up in Popeye's hat, when he veered off over crowds, the hat tipped spilling water over unsuspecting parade watchers. This year one of the balloons became entangled in a lamp post, knocking it over. A similar event happened in 1997 when the Cat in the Hat balloon hit a lamp post. High winds were the cause of canceling the balloons from the parade in 1971. After the 1997 incident, new safety rules were set in place to include a rule that balloons will be grounded if winds gust over 34 miles per hour.

Despite the miss haps, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade still remains a holiday tradition for millions of Americans. Millions of people pack the New York streets, rain or shine, to see the parade live. Millions more watch it from the comfort of their homes all over the nation each year.

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**Those who answered correctly: SPC Travis Harrison, 1LT Drew Polen, SPC Keri Lane, SSG Michael Yoho, and Julie Engle.**

**Thanks to all who participated!!!**

**THIS WEEKS QUESTION**

**There is not a question for this week.**

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## Events

### What's Happening at your MWR?

Nightly tournaments and events. Play for prizes or just bragging rights!!

**Mondays**  
**@ 1900**



**Chess Club...** Free your mind...or just decide to use it for a while!

**Tuesdays**  
**@ 1900**



**Ping Pong...** doubles and singles

**Thursdays**  
**@ 1900**



**Backgammon**



**Scrabble...**  
Put on your Thinking caps!

**Fridays**  
**@ 1900**



**Death and destruction**  
.....'nuff said!!!



**Billiards**  
8 and 9 Ball

**Saturdays**  
**@ 1900**



**Slap down**  
**Them Bones!!!!**



**Who's the best?**

**Sundays**  
**@ 1900**



**Spades....Cut throat cards at it's Finest!!!**

Check it out at Bldg 327 or call SSG Swan at 833-1745

If you know of an event not listed here, contact me at [jay.gfeller@us.army.mil](mailto:jay.gfeller@us.army.mil).

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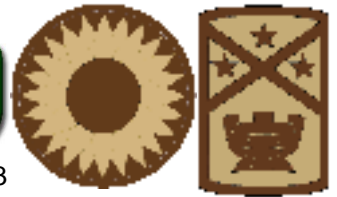
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## Notice

To the devoted readers,

This edition of the Dust Devil Dispatch will be the final issue released from Iraq. As we prepare to return to the United States and rejoin friends and families, we will be temporarily be postponing the Dust Devil Dispatch. The next update will come out as soon as we get settled in back state-side. If you would like to receive a notice when the next edition comes out, please send an e-mail to [jay.gfeller@us.army.mil](mailto:jay.gfeller@us.army.mil) with "REMIND" in the subject line and your e-mail address in the e-mail.

Also, if you have anything you'd like posted in the next Dust Devil Dispatch, please send it to [jay.gfeller@us.army.mil](mailto:jay.gfeller@us.army.mil). Pictures, poems, stories, memories, or anything else that you would like to share.

It has been great being able to publish the Dust Devil Dispatch during our time here in Iraq, thank you to all who have given so much support over the year. Your kindness means more than you can imagine.

Until next time,  
SPC Jay R. Gfeller  
891st Engineer Combat Battalion

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## Shout Box

### Saturday November 19th

- THIS IS FOR MY HUSBAND SPC MARK GALINDO AND MY SISTER SPC MICHELLE HALLACY CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU LOVE YOU BOTH. LOVE MEL

- SPC Brian Stewart, Hello Lover, Not sure how thanksgiving day will be i am not making plans, the kids are going to their grandparents, so i will spend the day alone thinking of you i may snuggle and read a book, or watch movies all day, but i will be missing you with pride in my heart, as of saturday we will be at grandma J's and i will be tearful and happy at the same time, WHEN it is time to say what im thankful for i will say this, "i am thankful that i live in a free nation, a nation that stands together, i am thakful for everyone in my family and army family, i am thakful i met a man as wonderful as brian to love, and to become part of such a wonderful family,""i am proud of you baby, hope we can chat on thanksgiving day, i want to spend it with you i even have an mre i could eat, i love you so very much smile your my hero.

- Brian Stewart, oh i am thankful that you and the others were skilled and brave enough to get-er-dun! im proud of all of you, I love you sorry if i wrote a novel in the dust devil, miss you talk to you soon, take care, love Olivia Stewart

- 1LT Dennis Sewell- Happy Thanksgiving! We are looking forward to seeing you very soon. We love you!!!!!!! T,A,A,&E

- Sgt Mortimore we can't wait till you get home we are so proud of you and want to thank you for everyhting that you have done. love oyu family

- spc wood hope you have a happy thanksgiving..it will be a



difficult holiday season since you are staying onm over there.. but i am proud of you and love you.. the kids are doing fine and they love their daddy.. spending thanksgiving day with shelley and jim and the sunday after with the kids all day!!!! i will get pictures.. happy anniversary to the time we first got together in 92. i won't forget that.. i love you.. looking forward to the leave you get with your new unit whenever that may be.. love your wife.. lannette

- to all 891 soldiers praying for a safe last bit of time you have over there. praying for a safe return home to your families.. this will be a difficult thanksgiving but it will be gotten through.. but looking for everyone to come home safe for part of the holiday season what a way to end the yr and start the next one.. stay safe.. happy late thanksgiving to all.. hurry home you are all missed.. proud of all of you.. and as pave the way for the iraqi people..

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### **Sunday November 20th**

- CW3Norton-Love ya,sweetheart and miss you sooo much. Happy Thanksgiving! Your in my prayers and dreams. Hugs and Kisses, ME!

- Happy Thanksgiving to ALL of the 891st and remember to "Click your heels three times and say "I want to go back home to Kansas"

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### **Monday November 21th**

- JEREMY I'M COMIN' A RUNNIN' CANT WAIT TO SEE YOU! I LOVE YOU! MANDY

- I would like to wish all the 891st and their families a happy Thanksgiving. I'm proud of all you and I'm very glad you'll be home soon. Stay safe. SSG Eubanks, Your family loves you and will miss you this Thanksgiving, but you give us alot to be thankful for, see ya when you get home, Love Ya Pauline

- Miss Me Baby - Love ALL WAYS !!





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# The Dust Devil Dispatch

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Dust Devil for troops and  
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Combat Battalion, Heavy and the  
Alpha Company of the 230th  
Engineer Battalion.**

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