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Galva Guard Unit receives honors

On Monday, July 12, an awards ceremony was held where the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, COL Michael D. Formica, presented 10 Army Commendation Medals for Valor and 18 Army Commendation Medals for Meritorious Service to the soldiers of F/202 ADA, Galva National Guard Unit.

All of the awards were for actions during the Battle of Holy Week, which culminated with the fierce gun battles of Easter Sunday. As you might recall from earlier dispatches, it was on Easter Sunday that 2nd Platoon was caught in an ambush and after nearly completely depleting their supply of ammunition, the insurgent forces retreated.

At that point an emergency re-supply was quickly formed by 1SG Paul Peterson of rural Roseville. During the re-supply, an observant soldier noticed fresh smoke rising above the tree line from where the previous battle had just ended. Without hesitation, 1LT Tracy Doubler and SFC Kris Hess led their soldiers back into battle and notified the headquarters of the situation as they were already enroute. 1SG Peterson also took his headquarters re-supply mission along to assist and continue the re-supply while in route.

Upon arrival they found a military fuel convoy had been ambushed with critically wounded soldiers and burning fuel trucks littering the highway. The soldiers of F/202 fought their way into the ambush and began to suppress the enemy fire, treat and evacuate the wounded, repair vehicles, and prepare to evacuate the scene.

Through the end of June and back to the start of the war in Iraq, only 308 of these awards have been presented, with the F/202ADA receiving 15. Eleven were awarded last week and three more will be awarded in the next few weeks.

In order of their rank, citations were awarded for valorous actions on April 11, 2004.

1SG Paul N. Peterson awarded the Army Commendation Medal for valorous actions during combat operations west of Baghdad, Iraq. 1SG Paul Peterson lead an emergency resupply mission and subsequently joined 2nd Platoon in responding to a major convoy ambush. Upon arrival at the scene 1SG Peterson took command of the 706th Transportation Company, the unit under fire. Disregarding his personal safety, he began running up and down the line to direct fire and changing o multiple flat tires on the vehicles. His actions undoubtedly saved many lives and bring great credit upon him, F/202 ADA, TF 4-5 ADA, the 1st Cavalry Division, and the United States Army.

SFC Kristan L. Hess awarded the Army Commendation Medal for valorous actions during combat operations outside Baghdad, Iraq. SFC Hess risked his life by moving under hostile fire in order to direct and re-supply fire teams as they engaged enemy insurgents. His calm conduct while taking fire strengthened his platoon at critical moments in the fight. SFC Hess further assisted in the air evacuation of US casualties helping save numerous lives. SFC Hess's actions reflect great credit upon him, F/202 ADA, TF 4-5 ADA, the First Cavalry Division, and the United States Army.

SSG Troy D. Wolford awarded the Army Commendation Medal for valorous actions during combat operations outside Baghdad, Iraq. SSG Wolford, without hesitation, volunteered to assist in the air evacuation of US casualties



PHOTO SUBMITTED Galva National Guard Unit member Paul Peterson of Roseville was one of several who received an Army Commendation Medal for Valor during a ceremony held July 12.

while taking enemy fire. SSG Wolford's disregard for personal safety and presence of mind resulted in a rapid evacuation time, helping to prevent US fatalities. SSG Wolford's selfless service brings great credit upon him, F/202 ADA, TF 4-5 ADA, the First Cavalry Division, and the United States Army.

SGT Jason A. Adams awarded the Army Commendation Medal for valorous actions during combat operations outside Baghdad, Iraq. As a member of the platoon rescuing an ambushed fuel convoy, SGT Adams, a qualified paramedic, voluntarily and without orders moved under fire to treat the many wounded personnel and assist the platoon medic with their evacuation to MEDEVAC helicopters. This expert medical care and disregard for his personal safety reflect greatly upon him, F/202 ADA, TF 4-5 ADA, the First Cavalry Division, and the United States Army.

SGT Derrick E. Glisan awarded the Army Commendation Medal for valorous actions during combat operations outside Baghdad, Iraq. SGT Glisan fearlessly lead the members of his platoon through enemy ambush sites in order to rescue elements of the 706th Transportation Company that were under attack by insurgents. SGT Glisan's instinctive decisions were essential in allowing the platoon to safely maneuver through multiple ambush sites. SGT Glisan's actions reflect great credit upon him, F/202 ADA, TF 4-5 ADA, the First Cavalry Division, and the United States Army.

SGT Carlos A. Ortiz awarded the Army Commendation Medal for valorous actions during combat operations outside Baghdad, Iraq. After defeating the enemy force, SGT Ortiz volunteered to place himself in harms way in order to clear a nearby building suspected of harboring insurgents. His disregard for personal safety and great bravery ensured that the enemy could not counterattack and allowed a fuel convoy to evacuate its casualties and withdraw. SGT Ortiz's actions bring great credit upon him, F/202 ADA, TF 4-5 ADA, the First Cavalry Division, and the United States Army.

SPC Mark D. Bomleny awarded the Army Commendation Medal for valorous actions during combat operations outside Baghdad, Iraq. SPC Bomleny was wounded by enemy fire when his platoon maneuvered through an ambush position in route to provide assistance to a fuel convoy under attack by insurgents. Though injured SPC Bomleny fearlessly engaged the enemy in order to secure the area for air MEDEVAC. SPC Bomleny's actions were instrumental in saving lives as well as military equipment. His actions reflect great credit upon himself, F/202 ADA, TF 4-5 ADA, the First Cavalry Division, and the United States Army.

SPC Kevin M. Mundy awarded the Army Commendation Medal for valorous actions while on patrol southwest of Baghdad, Iraq. Driving the lead vehicle of a patrol moving to rescue the 706th Transportation Company from an enemy ambush, SPC Mundy quickly and skillfully navigated his vehicle through debris, gunfire, thick smoke, and burning fuel to bring his fellow soldiers to the critical position in the fight. His courage directly contributed to victory and reflects great credit upon him, F/202 ADA, TF 4-5 ADA, the First Cavalry Division, and the United States Army.

SPC Benjamin C. Sleaford awarded the Army Commendation Medal for valorous actions outside Baghdad, Iraq. After defeating the enemy force, SPC Sleaford volunteered to place himself in harms way in order to clear a nearby building suspected of harboring insurgents. His bravery ensured the personal safety and great bravery ensured that the enemy could not counterattack and allowed a fuel convoy to evacuate its casualties and withdraw. SPC Sleaford's actions bring great credit upon him, F/202 ADA, TF 4-5 ADA, the First Cavalry Division, and U.S. Army.

SPC Nicholas P. Welgat awarded the Army Commendation Medal for valorous actions during combat operations outside Baghdad, Iraq. As a member of the platoon rescuing an ambushed fuel convoy, SPC Welgat, a qualified paramedic, voluntarily and without orders moved under fire to treat the many wounded personnel and assist the platoon medic with their evacuation to MEDEVAC helicopters. This expert medical care and disregard for his personal safety reflect greatly upon him, F/202 ADA, TF 4-5 ADA, the First Cavalry Division, and the United States Army.

SGT Glisan and SGT Adams have since the incident been promoted to Staff Sergeant and SPC Sleaford has been promoted to Sergeant.

The following soldiers (in rank order) were awarded the Army Commendation Medal for meritorious service during the period April 9-11.

SGT Richard T. Anderson; SGT Thomas D. Brock; SGT Daniel A. Brokaw; SGT Michael Finney; SPC Jason G. Baldwin; SPC Brian A. Beckman; SPC Justin E. Boelens; SPC Patrick J. DeGeorge; SPC Charles R. Harker; SPC Dustin Hipkins; SPC Seth Malcolm; SPC John C. McKirgan; SPC Mark D. Rathjen; SPC Andrew J. Trigg; SPC Eric Werkheiser; SPC Ricky G. Williamson; SPC Larry M. Wolf; and PFC Richard A. Douglas.

Their citation reads as follows:

For meritorious achievement during combat operations outside Baghdad, Iraq, (the named soldier) was an integral part of second platoon's success in identifying and defusing one improvised explosive device, defeating two enemy ambushes, protecting Italian civilians, and rescuing a fuel convoy under attack. His constant courage and honorable conduct under enemy fire reflect greatly upon him, F/202 ADA, TF 4-5 ADA, the First Cavalry Division, and the United States Army.

"I am very proud of these and all of the soldiers of F/202 ADA who continue to work hard everyday to end the insurgency and help in the building of a democratic Iraq. It is always difficult with the temperature now consistently over 120 degrees and still rising, but they do it willingly everyday and with a smile on the face. As we have said before, it is better for us to be here fighting al-Qaida and the other terrorists than to be fighting them in the United States," stated 2nd Brigade Combat Team, COL Michael D. Formica.

"It is very hot over here. In a couple of weeks they tell us it will not even go below 100 during the night. It is like walking in a blast furnace all of the time, however the guys are still performing professionally and I could not be more proud of their accomplishments," added Major Mike W. Kessel, MAJ, AD ILARNG, COMMANDING.