

Subject: Mohave County Chapter 975 Dispatch Volume 2 Edition 10; June 24, 2008
From: "Chap Tom" <chap975@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, 24 Jun 2008 21:57:04 -0700
To: "Chap Tom" <chap975@gmail.com>

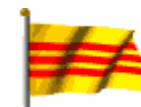


"CHAPTER 975 DISPATCH"

"Never again shall one generation of veterans abandon another"



*"Only two defining forces have ever offered to die for you,
Jesus Christ and the **American G.I.**"
~One died for your soul, the other for your freedom~*



For Questions, Comments, Suggestions, Issues: Contact chaplain@vva975.org



Chapter Meeting Thursday 6:00PM

Bullhead City Moose Lodge

(928) 763-1860 2620 S Miracle Mile, Bullhead City, AZ



Breakfast Run Saturday!

Saturday June 28th, 9:00 AM

AVI Resort Native Harvest Buffet

We will have another breakfast run Saturday at the AVI. We will have tables reserved at the Native Harvest Buffet.

Breakfast runs are a great time of breaking bread and fellowship that we have been enjoying together -- brothers and sisters in arms enjoying time together. Ride your motorcycle, scooter, skate board, drive your car, pick up or whatever you have but just come and enjoy some fellowship with your brothers and sisters in arms!





Kingman Welcome Home For Major Josef Hatch and SPEC Martin Carlill Saturday June 14, 2008

We participated in a welcome home for Maj Josef Hatch and Spc Martin Carlill Saturday along with Patriot Guard Riders, Kingman Patriots, Blue Star Mothers, American Legion Riders, VFW Post 10386, Kingman Fire, Mohave County Sheriff's Dept and many others. We thank God for bringing them both home to us and for Major Hatch's recovery. We have added both to our Dispatch Prayer List and ask that you keep them in your prayers for their next duty stations!





The group staged at VFW 10386 before departure

Maj Hatch and Rich our ride captain



Ralph and Deb McKie good looking couple!



Mac

(the good looking one is on the right!)



Spec Carlill and Fiancé getting ready to ride in the escort Dad rode with us also!



Col JGlen Bright and Gunny Crego



Maj and Mrs. Hatch good beautiful couple!

Webmaster Dave



**John and Pat Marcikese beautiful couple also!
(Pat's the beautiful one!)**



Thank you Kingman Fire!





Lake Havasu Blue Star Mothers Martha and Nic and Terri Gunther Patriot Guard, Am Legion Riders, HOG Mother Road Chapter Linda Spec Carlill, Fiancé and Mom



Kingman Mayor John Salem presents certificates of appreciation to Spc Carlill and Maj Hatch





***Major Noel LaBonte's Jeep!
memories!***

Chap Tom behind the wheel ... brings back



Tom Murray, Chap Tom, Maj Hatch and kids

From Sue Crego:

Below is a link to the pictures John Miller took of the "Welcome Home" in Kingman Saturday. John says feel free to copy the pictures as long as you don't use them for profit.

Sue



Returning home from Iraq, Major Josef Hatch and Spc. Martin Carlill are escorted by Patriot Guard Riders of BHC and Kingman Arizona. View the easy way with slide show

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/candidog/sets/72157605754862828/>

From Kingman Daily Miner Online Edition:

kDMINER.com

Soldier pays a visit

Hatch returns to Kingman after two tours in Iraq

Suzanne Adams

Miner Staff Reporter

Sunday, June 22, 2008



JC AMBERLYN/Miner

Returning from serving in Iraq are (left) Spc. Mark Carlill and Maj. Josef Hatch, pictured Saturday at VFW Post 10386 in Kingman. VFW Post 10386 hosted a celebration Saturday in honor of the two soldiers. The Patriot Guard escorted Carlill and Hatch to the post, where Kingman Mayor John Salem and the VFW Post presented certificates and plaques to the soldiers. Hualapai Valley Fire Department and Mohave County Sheriff's Office also participated.

KINGMAN - There's no place like home. At least not to Maj. Josef Hatch, who's served three tours in Korea, two tours in Iraq and recently received the Purple Heart Medal for injuries sustained from a rocket attack in Iraq.

"The biggest thing is how positive all the support I get from Kingman is," he said. "I almost get kind of embarrassed about it sometimes. I'd just like to thank anyone from Kingman that sent a care package over there."

Hatch is part of a special group of Army soldiers called a forward operational assessment team. The teams are sent all over Iraq to question soldiers about and evaluate the effectiveness of new technology, equipment and weapons in the field.

During his last tour, his team was gathering information on mine resistant vehicles, vehicles that can withstand a blast from a mine or improvised explosive device. He was also working on a precision-guided artillery round.

Last October, a rocket hit Hatch's vehicle while he was driving on base. He had just been promoted nine days before. The rocket was one of 14 that were launched at the base in an attempt to hit Gen. George Petraeus, who was visiting at the time.

"I remember seeing the flame, but it was the noise that scared me the most. It was so loud that I thought it was going to snatch my soul from my body," he said. "The truck had so many holes in it. It was like swiss cheese."

Hatch was one of the lucky ones. At least 44 soldiers were wounded and four were killed in the rocket attack. The seven insurgents responsible for the attack were captured.

Hatch's team is not supposed to be involved in battles, they're not supposed to be involved in firefights or go on patrol.

But there's no escaping it out there, he said. "Everyone's on the battlefield."

He suffered a compressed spine, mild traumatic brain injury and permanently lost around 20 percent of his hearing in his left ear.

Doctors at first weren't sure if he would be able to walk again.

"I was crying, not because I thought that I would never walk again, but because I thought my career with the Army was over," he said.

Hatch comes from a long line of army men who specialized in artillery. His father, grandfather and great uncle were all in the army and all lived in Kingman.

"I always wanted to be in the military," he said. He remembers watching the Memorial Day parades as a kid with his parents.

Hatch has served nearly 12 years in the military and plans to spend the rest of his life serving.

His wife recently signed up for Officer Candidate School, something that really surprised him, but



Courtesy

Gen. George Petraeus and Maj. Josef Hatch shake hands. Hatch was injured while on duty in Iraq by a rocket attack that was intended for Petraeus.

for duty in Iraq.

"I'm not over there to fight for oil. I'm fighting Islamic insurgents," he said. "And I'm ready to go back there again. I would rather fight them in their backyard than ours."

Things in Iraq have changed since his first tour there, he said.

"You can tell. When you fly over places, there are more soccer fields, more buildings, more things being built," he said.

"Korea is beautiful," he said. He credits that beauty to the troops who served in the Korean War and afterwards, who worked hard to bring the country back around. But it took a long time to do so.

"I just hope we can do the same with Iraq," he said.



after talking with some of his military buddies it seemed to make sense.

"They were always telling me that she would make a good commander," he said.

While he has been gone on duty, she has earned two college degrees and raised their two children. She would even send him the kids' homework to look over.

"Whoever said 'that absence makes the heart grow fonder' must have been in the military," he said. "Every time our marriage seems to settle down, I'm sent off to someplace else. And every time I come back it's like we're newlyweds all over again."

He struggled, successfully, to stay in Iraq and finish his tour while he healed from his injuries. It took him nearly a month to be able to walk and function normally again. He still has some mild memory loss.

The most surreal thing about the whole experience, he said, was when he woke up next to a little Iraqi boy who had lost both of his legs and most of his family to IED.

Hatch and the others that were injured in the attack also received a visit from Petraeus.

"The first thing he asked me is if I had called my wife, and he knew my wife's name," Hatch said. "I know he probably had some aide or someone like that look that up, but he took the time to have someone research that."

He received the Purple Heart Medal for his injuries in May.

Hatch returned to the U.S. in April. He has another few weeks of leave before he returns to duty at a special school for non-commissioned officers in the states. After he finishes, he may return



In Memoriam

Dustin Kelby Burnett, US Navy

It is with great sadness that I report that we lost one of our own ... Bullhead Patriots and Patriot Guard Riders conducted a deployment escort and ceremony for Dustin and his family on March 22nd.

More details will be provided as they become available.

Please keep the Burnett family in your prayers.

***Following is the article from:
Mohave Daily News Online Edition:***

Top Story

Combat claims local sailor

From staff and wire reports

Monday, June 23, 2008 12:27 AM CDT

BULLHEAD CITY - The U.S. Department of Defense Sunday announced the death of Navy Hospitalman Dustin Kelby Burnett, 19, of Fort Mojave.

Burnett died Friday while conducting combat operations in Farah Province, Afghanistan, according to the Associated Press.

He was assigned to the 1st Marine Division Detachment in Twentynine Palms, Calif.

He was a 2006 graduate of Mohave High School, where he played football.

No further information was immediately available.

From Heather Ching:

With tears blurring my eyes I regret to inform you of the loss of 19 year old Navy Corpsman Dustin Burnett. Only three months ago, on March 22, we celebrated his deployment where he was given a key to the city, and said 'I want to go fight to give the freedoms we have to others'. Well Dustin, you did and you have reminded us that 'all give some, but some give all'.

I met with Debbie and her requests are clear. 'We are to throw a BIG celebration of Dustin's life'. So, with that said, our mission is clear Patriots! Let's show our Hometown Hero in Heaven how Bullhead celebrates!!!! Updates will come as soon as I can send them.

***Heather Ching & Rich Poliska
Founders, Bullhead Patriots
SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!!!!!!!!!!***



Chaplain's Corner:



***In Memoriam
Dustin Kelby Burnett, US Navy***

More details will be provided as they become available.

Please keep the Burnett family in your prayers.



Please give thanks for:



• Dianne Donenfeld's son Bill is home from Iraq!

Please pray for:

- ***Our Servicemen and Women and our Brothers and Sisters in arms who are being treated / are recovering in military and VA hospitals.***
- ***Chapter 975 & 785 members and families***
- ***Brien "Rich" Richards for the Lord's touch and care with health items and for his beautiful wife, daughter and granddaughter Diane, Brianne and little Kaeley that I had the pleasure to meet last week. Rich is a recipient of the Silver Star and Purple Heart for his combat service in Vietnam as an Airborne Ranger who walked point while serving with the 2nd of the 502nd 101st Airborne Division. Hoooooahhhhh! All The Way Ranger!***



- ***Gunny "Ooooooraaaah!" Gene Crego for the Lord's care and assistance with some medical items***



- ***Major Bill "Monsoon" Mimiaga for the Lord's care and healing***



- ***Sgt Kenny Bower US Army***



• ***PFC Garrett Kelly US Army***



• ***SPEC Ryan Smith US Army***



• ***Airman 1st Class Joshua Wages***



• ***Chief Petty Officer Gil McGillivray***



• *Spec Anthony Martinez*



• *Airman 1st Class Ralph Lopez*



• *Spec Rehta Woelfer*



• *Airman Christopher Coyner*



• ***Airman Scott Weaver***



• ***USMC Tony and Nicole***



• ***PFC Keith Stein***

•



• ***PVT Kerilyn Schwartzkopf***



• ***SPC Sidney Born***



• **Major Josef Hatch**



• **Spec Martin Carlill**

God Bless our "Troops in Harms Way....." and God bless Those brave men and women who gave all.....

Email prayer requests to chaplain@vva975.org and be sure to indicate if they are confidential or for public display in the "Chapter 975 Dispatch"



Well that's it for this edition, keep sending pictures and articles for the Dispatch!

Lord Bless and keep you until we meet again!

Philippians 4: 6

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let

your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. NKJV

***Tom Hanlon
Chaplain
Mohave County Chapter 975
Vietnam Veterans of America***

**www.vva975.org
chaplain@vva975.org**

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