

Army soldiers return to Central Texas post

KILLEEN, Texas (AP) — After a year in Iraq, Army soldiers have returned home to Fort Hood, where they were greeted by a television documentary crew and a cheering crowd of family and friends.

The last 150 soldiers from the 21st Combat Support Hospital and reservists from the 607th MP Battalion in Grand Prairie arrived at the Army's largest post on Tuesday night.

Hospital unit deployed in March 2003 to Iraq, where medical facilities were set up in Balad and Mosul to care for injured U.S. military personnel.

"They treated over 3,000 patients, all while receiving routine enemy fire consisting of mortars and rocket-propelled grenades, so I feel they did a great job," said Lt. Col. Robert Mitchell, 1st Medical Brigade executive officer.

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— Sgt. Richard Bingham U.S. Army

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Felice Babers of Dallas eagerly awaited the arrival of her husband, Sgt. Ricky Babers, a reservist.

"It was hard having him gone. He was in the reserves and they made him active duty; we weren't expecting that," Felice said in Wednesday's edition of the Killeen Daily Herald. "I just prayed and hoped for the best for all of the troops. I'm ecstatic he's coming home."

As soldiers entered Starker Gym, camera crews filmed the welcoming ceremony for a special live documentary by Public Broadcasting Service. The documentary, "Life and Death in the War Zone," has followed the hospital's medical personnel and staff as they treated combat injuries.

A group of 13th Corps Support Command soldiers also flew into Robert Gray Army Airfield, along with 210 4th Infantry Division members aboard flights that landed earlier Tuesday, said Col. Dan Shanahan, the division's rear detachment commander.

Other returnees included about 80 members of the 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment and 11 soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 131st Field Artillery Regiment, said Lt. Col. Bill MacDonald, the 4th Infantry's public affairs officer.

National Guardsmen assigned to the division's Task Force Ironhorse were also on the flight.

MacDonald said about 64 members of the 299th Engineer Battalion and 50 members from the division's 502nd Adjutant General flew in earlier Tuesday along with some members from the 16th Signal Battalion.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Contraceptives missing from Houston warehouse

HOUSTON (AP) — A surprise audit of the city's south side pharmaceutical warehouse has discovered that thousands of packages of birth control medications and other medical supplies are missing.

Findings of the Sept. 8 audit were released by city officials on Tuesday.

The warehouse, which supplies the city's eight health clinics, stocks items such as birth control pills and prescription antibiotics. The supplies are worth \$500,000.

Auditors found discrepancies among 57 of the 60 items reviewed. Out of the 57 items, auditors found shortages in 45, but discovered more inventory than was listed in the records for the other 12 products.

The largest shortages were found among oral contraceptives, with 8,619 packages unaccounted for, and foam contraceptives. Officials said 5,086 packages were unaccounted for.

Judge orders genetic testing in divorce case

HOUSTON (AP) — A person born as a man but now legally a woman was ordered Tuesday to undergo genetic testing before moving forward with an attempt to void a marriage with another woman.

Linda Gail Carter, born James Howard Murphy, wants a union with Constance D. Gonzales voided after the pair were married by a minister in Las Vegas in October 1998. Carter had her gender legally declared female more than four months before the wedding, and has a Texas driver's license that identifies her as female.

Gonzales, who says she lived in Houston with Carter until March 2003, filed for divorce, which if granted would recognize the marriage. Carter claims the marriage should not be recognized because Texas does not recognize same-sex unions.

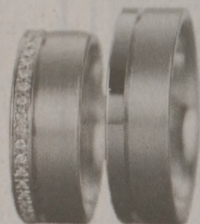
A Texas appeals panel ruled in 1999 that a person's sex is determined by chromosomes.

State District Judge Lisa Ann Millard gave Carter until March 22 to undergo chromosomal.

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