

Dog House

WEB PAGE: WWW.OKCGUARDDOGS.COM

MASTHEAD DESIGN BY: KENDALL "DEDGOAT" JAMES

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November 2011

Legion Post 73 Needs Donations For Food Baskets

As it has been for years, the American Legion Post 73 is gearing up to deliver food baskets to needy families this Christmas season.

They are requesting non-perishable food items, i.e. can goods and packaged food items for their food baskets. (No out-of-date items please.) In addition, they have a separate fund raiser to purchase the meat items for these baskets.

The funds for meat items will be raised from the proceeds of the sale of "Rada Cutlery".

Catalog orders for the cutlery will be received in time for delivery prior to Christmas.

Rada has been making kitchen knives for America's cooks since 1948. The catalog will be circulated at our October Guard Dog Meeting and hopefully you will find something you would like to order.

So please bring those non-perishable food items to the American Legion (November) and browse through the Rada Cutlery catalog. Your support on this project is greatly appreciated.

Shooter's Ride



Here's to you Shooter! It was a great ride, great weather, beautiful sites, wonderful people. Couldn't have been any better.

See more photos on pages four, five and eight.

45th Inf Div Assn Reception A Second Year Success

For the second year, the 45th Infantry Division Association hosted a "Come and Go" reception, during the 2011 Annual Reunion. The Oklahoma National Guard Auxiliary sponsored the reception. We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation for their generosity.

Thank you to all of the Guard Dogs who attended the event. The Division veterans enjoyed your visit very much.

Special invitations were extended to current day "Thunderbirds" from the Oklahoma Army National Guard. This afforded the opportunity for "Past Thunderbirds" to meet "Present Day Thunderbirds." Share stories of past "Thunderbird campaigns" with active day veterans of "Desert Storm," "Iraqi Freedom," and "Enduring Freedom." Attendees enjoyed food, drink, camaraderie, and music by the "Kory Day Band."

The 45th Infantry Division Association President and Board of Directors would like to extend a special note of appreciation to Major General Myles Deering, The Adjutant General of the State of Oklahoma, for his command emphasis and support of this event. We would also like to thank the Joint Force Headquarters Staff and all of the Oklahoma Army National Guard Commanders and Command Sergeants Majors for their support and attendance.

For those who do not know what a bucket seat is...



Central Chapter Guard Dog Support Group

Attention Central Chapter Support Group Members:

Yearly dues are due

(Actual period is July 2011 to June 2012)

Dues are \$15.00 dollars, or 60 quarters, or 150 dimes, or 300 nickles, or 1500 pennies, or one check payable to "Cindy Bargas".

Please pay at the next Chapter Meeting you can attend.

Thanks in advance ... Cindy (CB)

1/279 Continue Combat Ops in Afghanistan

As we roll into the end of September the days are definitely getting shorter, and the nights colder. We are likely about 30-45 days out from snow covering the mountains throughout the province. This change in the weather will be a welcome relief by many soldiers. As many of you know the Task Force is deployed to Paktya Province which is a border province with Pakistan and the long time tribal home of the Jalaluddin Haqqani, leader of the Haqqani Network. The Haqqani Network has been receiving a lot of news back in the states recently as one of the most effective, determined, and violent terror organization in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

During the month of September TF Creek participated in two Battalion clearing operations. The first was Operation Creek Mayhem in the Zormat District of Paktya Province. Teams Lakota and Buffalo in conjunction with their partnered Afghan National Army and the National Police, cleared an insurgent stronghold and disrupted enemy operations for several weeks. The operation was a success yielding cache finds, detainees, killed and wounded insurgents, a significant down turn in insurgent activity in the proceeding and following weeks. Most importantly the operation demonstrated to the people of Zormat the capabilities of their security forces and extended the reach of local governance in the area. This was immediately followed by Operation Warrior Flood in the mountain districts of Ahmed Kheyl, Jaji, and Lija Mangal.

Teams Crazy Horse and Osage, work with Afghan Army Commandos, Afghan Border Police, and US Special Forces. Again Warrior Flood resulted in the area being cleared of insurgents and losses for the enemy.

During other combat operations in September, Team Lakota in Zormat lost three American Heroes in our fight to bring peace and security to Afghanistan. SGT Bret Eisenhower, SPC Christopher Horton, and PFC Tony Potter. Please keep these soldiers and their families in your prayers. I appreciate the support that the families and communities back in Oklahoma are providing our soldiers currently serving here in Afghanistan.

Movin' On!, Chuck Booze, LTC, INF, Commanding

Editors Note: The Thunderbird legacy lives on! This has been re-printed from the 1-279, Task Force Creek newsletter, September issue. Our thanks to BG (RET) Tom Mancino for sharing it with us. Also our heartfelt thanks and prayers go out to the men and women of the 279 and the rest of the 45th Inf Bde in Afghanistan during their deployment.



279th Commander LTC Booze, center, discusses ongoing combat operations with Brigade Commander, COL Chris Toner in Zormat District, Paktya Province, Afghanistan.



Team Crazy Horse was ambushed on the first day of the operation while convoying to Ahmed Kheyl District Center.

All 11 crew served weapons fired on the insurgent position instantly. 2nd and 3rd Platoons dismounted their 60mm mortar systems and fired at the enemy. The 105mm artillery unit located at COP Herrera responded immediately by firing onto the enemy position. The insurgents were completely suppressed and suffered multiple casualties.

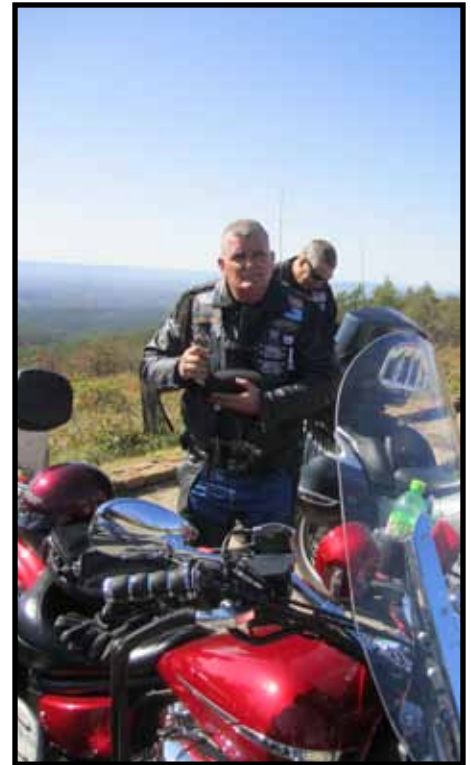
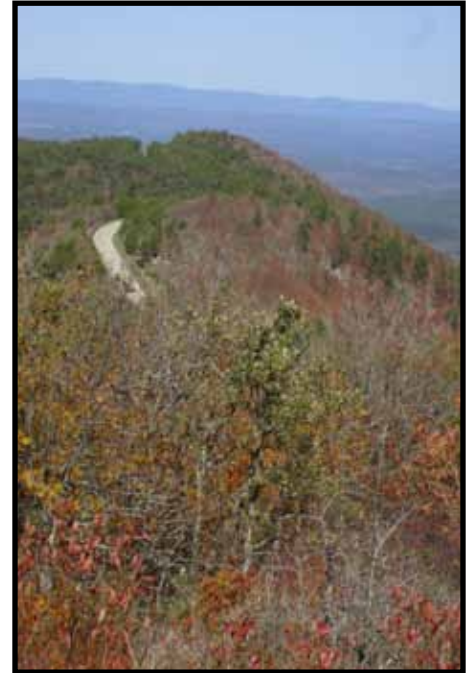
After the villages of Kuzah Shestah and Tarkanai were cleared, Team Crazy Horse was tasked with a follow on mission of clearing Mirazi Kalay, a village located on Route Chimpanzee.

Woman Veteran Of The Year



Oklahoma's 2011 Woman Veteran of the Year is none other than MAJ (Ret.) Vicki Jones. Vicki was chosen by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs from nominees submitted by all the veterans organizations in the state. Sharing her honor is husband LTC (Ret.) Paul Jones and son Sam. Congratulations Vicki!

Some More Photos



Selflessness is in your nature.

Naturally, we want to say thanks.

All veterans, active and retired military personnel receive a 25% discount at OK state parks.

To honor the sacrifice and dedication of the U.S. Armed Forces, Oklahoma State Parks are offering discounts to all active and retired military personnel and veterans. Right now, get 25% off all lodge rooms and cabins at Oklahoma's network of state parks.

This is your chance to do a little trout fishing, observe glorious fall foliage, relax by the fireplace or make memories with your family. But hurry, this offer expires on February 29th, 2012. Don't miss your chance to experience Oklahoma's natural beauty and relaxation. Book your trip today!

To redeem your discount:

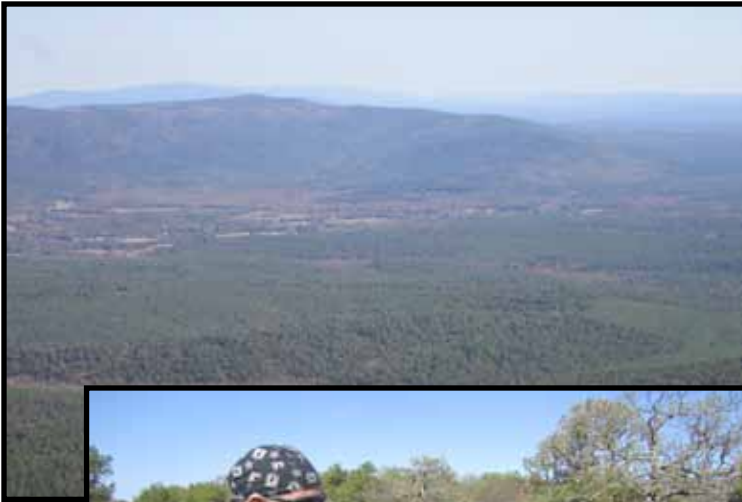
Visit Oklahomaparks.com to book online and enter code UUSA in the promotional code box. Valid military ID or proof of service required upon check-in. For a listing of phone numbers for state parks with cabins and lodges visit TravelOK.com.

Discount is only good towards one room that is occupied by military personnel. It cannot be transferred and is not eligible for group bookings. No other discounts can be combined with this special promotion.

OKLAHOMA
STATE PARKS

Just Say'in

Money cannot buy happiness but...somehow, its more comfortable to cry in a Mercedes Benz than it is on a bicycle.



And More Photos

Central Chapter Guard Dog Event Calendar for 2011

Event Dates and Times are subject to change.

-1 Jan ————— Polar Bear Ride or Guard Dog Chilly Willy Ride
 19-Jan ————— **Monthly Meeting, American Legion Del City**
 -8 Feb ————— ABATE Capital Breakfast 0730 State Capital, OKC
 ————— (date not confirmed)
 13-Feb ————— Candy Ass Run, OKC Harley Davidson World
 16-Feb ————— **Monthly Meeting, American Legion Del City**
 4-13 Mar ————— Daytona Bike Week
 16-Mar **Monthly Meeting, American Legion Del City**
 26-Mar —NGAOK Poker Run CCGD poker Run **(Mandatory)**
 20-Apr ————— **Monthly Meeting, American Legion Del City**
 23-Apr ————— Guard Dogs, Central Chapter group
 30-Apr ————— NGAOK Poker Run, Tulsa **(Mandatory)**
 7 May ————— Fire Fighters Museum Poker Run-OKC
 14-May —Kyle Brinlee Ride, Pryor OK **(Mandatory)**
 18-May **Monthly Meeting, American Legion Del City**
 21-May —Central Chapter group mystery ride?
 22-May —Rolling Thunder El Reno VFW
 30-May —ABATE capital Run-
 30-May —45th Museum Memorial Day Rally

15 Jun ————— **Monthly Meeting, American Legion Del City**
 18 Jun ————— Guard Dogs, group ride Road Capt's choice
 20 Jul ————— Monthly Meeting, American Legion Del City
 23 Jul ————— Guard Dogs, group ride Snoopy's Choice
 8-14 Aug ————— Sturgis Rally (leave OKC 6 Aug 11)
 17-Aug **Monthly Meeting, American Legion Del City**
 26-28 Aug ————— Guard Dogs, overnight ride to Eureka Springs
 21-Sep **Monthly Meeting, American Legion Del City**
 17-Sep —Wounded Warrior Poker Run-Ardmore (date not Confirmed)
 28 Sep/1-Oct ————— Bikes, Blues, and BBQ—
 2-Oct ————— American Legion Poker Run Del City
 19-Oct ————— **Monthly Meeting, American Legion Del City**
 28-30 Oct ————— Loyd (Shooter) Sigle Memorial ride (Talimena Drive)
 11 Nov —45th Museum Veteran's Day ride
 16 Nov **Monthly Meeting, American Legion Del City**
 4 Dec ————— Naysayer Toy Ride OKC (Date not Confirmed)
 10 Dec —Shawnee Toy Ride (Date not Confirmed)
 16 Dec **Monthly Meeting, American Legion Del City**
Holiday Party

Two OKARNG Soldiers Killed BY IED Blast

OKLAHOMA CITY - The Department of Defense today released the names of two Oklahoma Army National Guard Soldiers killed on Tuesday in Afghanistan. The Soldiers were assigned to Company F, 700th Brigade Support Battalion, 45th Infantry

Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), based in Tulsa, Okla.

Spc. Christopher D. Gailey, 26, of Ochelata, Okla., and Pfc. Sarina N. Butcher, 19, of Checotah, Okla., died after an improvised explosive device (IED) detonated near their military ve-

hicle while their unit was on a resupply mission. Two Soldiers were also wounded during the incident in Paktia Province and are expected to recover from their injuries. The families of the killed and wounded were notified by military officials on Tuesday.

Spc. Gailey enlisted in the National Guard in June 2004 and subsequently graduated from Caney Valley High School in Ramona, Okla., in May 2005. He had previously deployed to Iraq in 2007-08 and was a motor vehicle operator.

During his seven-year career in the military he received several military awards and decorations including the National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" Device, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal and the Oklahoma Long Service Ribbon (5 years).

Pfc. Butcher is the first female Oklahoma National Guard Soldier to be killed during wartime and is also the youngest Oklahoma Citizen-Soldier to die in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. Women were first allowed to join the Oklahoma National Guard in 1971. Pfc. Butcher joined the Guard in April 2010 and was an automated logistical specialist. She attended Checotah High School and will be promoted posthumously to the rank of specialist. During her 18 months in the Guard, Pfc. Butcher was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon and the Oklahoma Good Conduct Medal.

In all, 14 Soldiers from the 45th have died in Afghanistan since the Brigade's 2,200 Soldiers and Airmen deployed there in June. In all, 19 Oklahoma Army National Guard Soldiers have died in Iraq and Afghanistan since 9/11.

Doggin Around With The Three Rivers Chapter

Les "Not Yet" Shahan - President Gary "Terrapin" Lester - Vice. Pres.



Hi All,

I'm a new member to the Three Rivers Guard Dogs, joined September 2011, but not new to riding. I have been riding since I was about 14 but didn't get serious about it until gas prices jumped 3 years ago to \$3.00 + a gallon. Anyway...I want to say hi and thanks to Les "Not Yet" Shahan, President of the Three Rivers Chapter in Muskogee, for inviting me and my husband to join. I'll try to do a good job getting out the information/photos from our rides and events to the other members so they know what we've been up to in our Chapter.

During our last Chapter meeting we had two volunteers willing to start up our Support Group. These two new official Support Group Members are Belinda Boling and Tina Lester. Belinda is the wife of our Treasurer, Robert "Peachy" Boling and Tina is the

Wife of our VP, Gary "Terrapin" Lester. Let's give them the recognition they deserve for stepping up and taking on these positions.

During that same meeting we also welcomed two new prospects, Michael Taylor and Jason Hackworth. Mike works at the VA and after talking to Les went out the very next day and bought a bike so he could be part of our family. Jason comes to us from Camp Gruber. So, we wish you a warm welcome gentlemen, its great to have you.

For all of those wanting to know when our next ride will be, we will be having a Turkey Ride on November 12. We will be riding to Molly's Landing in Catoosa and all Chapters are invited. Come out and meet and greet all of the new members and have a good time.

Also our next Chapter meeting is November 8th , 7 pm, at Paul's Diner, all are invited.

And finally, all of us here at the Three Rivers Chapter want to express our deepest condolences to Jennifer "Snoopy" and James "Smerf" Martin in the loss of their son Gabby. You are in our hearts and prayers, we will be there in force to support you in your time of need.

---TINA CURRIER
THREE RIVERS PAO

Motorcycle Safety Tips and Techniques

Prime Directive - Never Hit The Bike In Front Of You

BY: JIM R. DAVIS – WRITER FOR MOTORCYCLE SAFETY/DYNAMICS WEB SITE ... WWW.MSGROUP.ORG

Group riding has lots of benefits for its participants, and a few new responsibilities.

For example, recently we heard about a group ride that turned sour when the lead bike failed to recognize where he was supposed to make a left turn and drove past that road. The second bike in the group did recognize the turnoff and decided to make it. He turned left and the third bike promptly ran into him.

What went wrong? It was argued that if nobody was following too closely then the actions of bike two would have saved everybody in the group (other than the lead bike) from having to make a U-turn and there would have been no accident.

Probably true, but almost any group rider with experience understands that it is up to the leader to make decisions about when and where the group will change directions. It might well have been that the leader had a reason for failing to make that turn. He could, for example, have realized that the group was going too fast to safely make that turn. (If anybody in the group understands the danger to a group of making sudden moves it is an experienced lead bike.) Further, what if the second bike did not willingly make that left turn - that he had a mechanical problem such as a flat tire that caused it. Since all members of a group are expected to follow the direction set by the lead bike, UNLESS IT IS INTO DANGER, all other bikes in the group (other than the drag bike) should have attempted to avoid bike two and continue behind the leader.

An example: The past State Director for GWRRA in Texas was once leading a ride in which he took a turn too fast and left the road. Not one single rider behind him followed - they were

experienced group riders, not just 'chicken'. You are, ultimately, responsible for your own ride from a safety point of view.

Bike two, in the accident described earlier, was way out of line to unilaterally decide to take over lead position - to mutiny, if you will. However, the fact that the third rider ran into the second rider suggests that she was either riding too close to the second rider, or was inattentive, or was so confused by the unorthodox behavior of bike two that she could not react fast enough to prevent the accident. Whatever the reason, bike three broke the prime directive - 'Never hit the bike in front of you!'

When you are riding in a group as other than lead or drag bike your principal activity is 'station keeping' - maintaining proper distance between yourself and the bike ahead of you. Since the vast majority of accident threats present themselves to you from the front, each person should be encouraged to focus their attention primarily in front of them. In other words, it is dangerous to spend too much time watching your rear-view mirrors. Thus, the prime directive.

That said, if you accept the prime directive and assume that all the other riders have done the same, then you are also tacitly acknowledging that you trust the rider behind you. But, of course, you may never have ridden in a group with that person before. You may not have even met that person before. Further, it is common practice to put the weakest and least experienced riders towards the back of a group. Is that not setting up for an accident?

Not at all! The weakest/least experienced riders are in the back because

these are the people most likely to have an accident. Thus, they are placed towards the back so that such an accident can put the fewest other people as possible into danger. It also allows the drag bike to observe how these riders handle themselves and to work with them at stops about the little things that they may be doing wrong.

As to their potential danger to the riders in front of them, that can be managed. Let me give you an example of savvy group riding behavior by an experienced rider who became concerned that the bike following was too close to her. She simply used a hand signal telling the bike behind her to slow down.

Even though most of us have CBs, we tend to use hand signals as well - to keep those without CBs informed. While there is a stated rule that all hand signals must be passed back, most individuals in a group ride tend never to originate such a signal thinking that this is just one more job of the lead bike. The exception to this is the case where an individual rider in the group notices a hazard in the roadway and points to it so that all behind will be alerted.

An individual group rider CAN ALWAYS initiate a hand signal telling the person behind him/her to slow down. This is the way to reduce concern about an inexperienced rider in the rear driving too close to the bike ahead of him. On the other hand, nobody but the lead bike is entitled to originate a hand signal telling the person behind him/her to speed up. (This is another way of saying that spacing in a group is usually specified in terms of minimums ('no closer than 1 second') - the riders can individually

Continued on Page Eight

And Some More Photos



Take A Moment To Remember

Our Heroes ...

Oklahoma National Guard War Deaths 2004 - Present

May 11, 2004 (Iraq)

SPC Kyle A. Brinlee, 21, of Pryor

Feb. 19, 2007 (Afghanistan)

SGT Buddy Hughie, 25, of Poteau

Sept. 18, 2008 (Iraq)

SGT Daniel M. Eshbaugh, 43, of Norman
CWO Brady J. Rudolf, 37, of Oklahoma City
CPL Michael E. Thompson, 23, of Harrah

July 29, 2011 (Afghanistan)

2LT Jared Ewy, 33, of Edmond
SPC Augustus J. Vicari, 22, of Broken Arrow

Aug. 2, 2011 (Afghanistan)

SSG Kirk Avery Owen, 37, of Sapulpa

Aug. 4, 2011 (Afghanistan)

SGT Anthony Del Mar Peterson, 24, of Chelsea

Aug. 13, 2011 (Afghanistan)

2LT Joe L. Cunningham, 27, of Kingston

Aug. 14, 2011 (Afghanistan)

1LT Damon Leehan, 30, of Moore

Aug. 16, 2011 (Afghanistan)

SPC Joshua M. Seals, 21, of Porter

Sep. 9, 2011 (Afghanistan)

SPC Christopher Horton, 26, of Collinsville
SGT Bret Daniel "Ike" Isenhower, 26, of Lamar
PFC Tony Potter, Jr., 20, of Okmulgee

Sep. 15, 2011 (Afghanistan)

SGT Mycal L. Prince, 28, of Minco

Sep. 25, 2011 (Afghanistan)

SPC Francisco Briseño -Alvarez Jr., 27
Of Oklahoma City

Nov 1, 2011 (Afghanistan)

SPC Christopher Galley, 26, of Ochelata
PFC Sarina Butcher, 19, of Checotah

The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example. - Benjamin Disraeli

From Page Seven Prime Directive

decide to use a larger space.)

The prime directive, if flawed, errors on the side of conservatism. It mandates that attention be primarily directed towards the front. It mandates that you not follow too closely. It makes you think about what the bike ahead of you (closest ahead of you, not literally 'straight ahead') is doing or might do next rather than what the lead bike is up to. It gives you a modest suggestion about what to do if *you* are about to have an accident. (i.e., if you are riding in the right track, and there is a hazard in the road ahead of you, the prime directive forces you to tend to turn towards the right to avoid that hazard - thus, taking you farther away from the closest bike ahead.)