



44th Medical Command

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The 128th Med Co (GA) Participates in National Guard Birthday Celebrations

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CAMP Liberty, Iraq, December 15, 2008 — Members of the 128th Medical Company (Ground Ambulance) were privileged to be a part of the 372nd Birthday Celebration for the National Guard. The festivities started on 13 December 2008 at Al-Faw Palace in Camp Victory, Baghdad, Iraq with a ceremony honoring the National Guard's long and illustrious history. Representatives of many of the National Guard units currently serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom were in attendance. The ceremony started with an invocation by CPT (CH) Sastic, MSARNG, and was followed by the history of the National Guard. After the MND-B band played the National Anthem, COL Sheridan (NYARNG) and MG Cannon (MIARNG) spoke. MG Cannon had the honor of cutting the birthday cake and presenting pieces to the oldest and youngest members of the National Guard in theater. PFC Tucker of the 128th Medical Company (GA), Alabama Army National Guard, was selected to cut the cake as the youngest National Guard Soldier in theater. MG Cannon had the pleasure of reading the oath of reenlistment to over 200 National Guard Soldiers before the ceremony closed with remarks by COL Fountain (OKARNG).



The festivities did not end with the reenlistments and cake. We were given the opportunity to burn off the calories from the cake the very next morning with a 3.72 mile Fun Run. Several hundred people from all branches of the military turned-out to celebrate the National Guard's Birthday with sweat and free t-shirts. The first 400 people to register for the run received a commemorative tan long-sleeve t-shirt with the National Guard logo on the back. The 128th Medical Company (Ground Ambulance) provided



Back (L-R): 1LT LaVorgna, SSG Schwan, 2LT
Entrekin, CPT Fike, 2LT Foster, SPC Barrow
Front (L-R): SPC Street, SGT Grimes, SPC Hood, SGT
Stamps

medical support for the event and had five people participating. 1LT LaVorgna led the 128th pack by placing 19th overall in the run. 2LT Foster and CPT Fike were competing with each other to see who could catch 1LT LaVorgna. 2LT Entrekin and SSG Schwan ran their hearts out to catch up to CPT Fike and 2LT Foster.

The medics assigned to provide support to the event had an enjoyable time as well. SGT Stamps and SPC Street were assigned to wait for the runners to pass mile 1.5 and then follow the last in the ambulance to provide medical care if necessary.

They stood on the road cheering on the runners and took pictures of the 128th people as they ran by. MSG Sanders, SGT Grimes and SPC Barrow were stationed at the start and finish lines to provide medical services as necessary. They too cheered on the runners as they started and completed the race as well as photographing the 128th people as they finished. They were recognized by the coordinators of the event with one of the tan shirts as thanks for their support. We at the 128th Medical Company (Ground Ambulance) out of Ashland, Alabama were excited and honored to participate in the celebration of the National Guard's 372nd birthday, and we are all proud to call ourselves members of the Army National Guard.