

Kevin Newberry went to Gulf in August

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Staff Sgt. Kevin Newberry, a 1980 graduate of Dallas Senior High School, has been in the Mideast since August with the U.S. Air Force.

The son of Willard and Helen Newberry of Dallas, Kevin worked for a short while during the summer following graduation then enlisted in the Air Force in July, 1980. He left in September of that year for training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas and is now in his 11th year in the service.

Following his basic training at Lackland, Kevin was assigned to Las Vegas, Nev., which he enjoyed but later was sent to Korea. After a tour in Korea he came back to the States and was stationed in Utah until he was sent overseas for another year in Korea.

A year later he returned to the United States and was assigned to the 17AMU in South Carolina where he worked on computer systems. When he went to the Mideast, it was to continue working on the computer systems in airplanes. It is referred to as "avionics" on the F-16 fighter planes, according to his mother.

"When Kevin left for the Mideast, for the first couple of weeks we didn't hear from him but after four to six weeks he and his wife, Lisa,



KEVIN NEWBERRY

set up a time schedule where she had a number and a time she would call him every other week. We could also call him until this past week, but now no calls can go through," she explained.

"When Kevin first landed in the Mideast, wherever he is, he said he would be home in a month. Later he told us two months and then said the men would come home on rotation. The last time he said it was indefinite when he would get home. It's amazing how many men and women from the Back Mountain have been touched by this

war," said Mrs. Newberry. Kevin married a girl from the Philippines four years ago and the couple has an eight-month-old daughter, who was only several months old when he left. His wife lives near the base in South Carolina and has no family there, only friends they have made on the base. "Lisa came up to be with us over the Christmas holidays and stayed until about two weeks ago when we took her back to South Carolina. We miss her and the baby so much but she thought she might get more information about Kevin if she were near the base. They are very helpful to the families of the servicemen there," Mrs. Newberry said.

"Kevin is living in a tent and in his letters he talks about how he is trying to make himself comfortable. I have sent him sunscreen and lotion because he is out on the flight line and he has had a lot of packages with snacks, cards and books," his mother said.

"He misses his family and being around for family celebrations but I believe mostly he misses seeing his daughter and being with his wife. The time is going by and the baby is now at the age where she does something different everyday and he is missing that. We all hope the war is over soon and all of the men and women come home," Mrs. Newberry concluded.



CHILDREN DISCUSS WAR - They are only kindergarten age but the children above have questions and ideas about the war in the Mideast. Last Friday they shared these thoughts with one another during class. From left, above, first row, Tonya Hoopengardner, Ryan MacMillan, Tommy Dougal, Cody Keefe, Sarah Killian, Niki Winters; 2nd row, Loni Piekanski, Jillian Krakosky, Teddy Mosier, Camille Valvano, Michelle Pribula, Krystle Matthews, Jamie Sulewske. Absent from photo: Caitlin Bessmer, Devon Rother, Adam Schoonover. (Post Photo/Charlot M. Denmon)



STUDENTS DISCUSS WAR CONCERNS - Dallas Elementary third grade students voiced some of their concerns about the war in the Persian Gulf last Friday with their teachers. Above, members of Mrs. Utter's third grade discuss the major oil spill in the Gulf. (Post Photo/Charlot M. Denmon)

Kids

(continued from page 1)

"Our houses are too far away to be bombed," said Camille Valvano, but Niki Winters wasn't sure. "Maybe some of the bad people will bomb some of the houses."

"I feel bad for the soldiers because some might be afraid they will be killed and they won't see their moms or dads anymore," said Devon Rother.

Teddy Mosier spoke up and said, "My Uncle Barry is over there and I talked with him on the telephone. It's scary. There is bombing and everything going on."

"Some people like Saddam Hussein believe in war and want to fight," said Jamie Sulewske. "They should want peace instead."

Adam Schoonover interjected and said "We have a little boy staying with us whose parents had to go to the war and he is scared. He is afraid for them."

Miss Pribula explained to the children how far away from the war they were and that they needn't worry and told them they would all hope it would end soon.

Dallas third graders express concerns

Later Friday afternoon at the Dallas Elementary School, 48 third grade students met with their teachers, Mrs. Utter and Mrs. Hayden, to discuss the latest developments in the war in the Mideast. Like the younger children at Little People they had concerns and questions

"Some people like Saddam Hussein believe in war and want to fight. They should want peace instead."

Jamie Sulewske

about the war. One of their priorities was the recent oil spill caused by Saddam Hussein. "Saddam Hussein is affecting the environment," said Colleen Murphy. "He is getting people down, they can't play like they did."

Adam Peeler agreed with her and said the oil spill will kill the fish in the Gulf and suffocate some of the other animals in the water. "We won't be able to get some of the nice fish or birds anymore," Adam said.

The majority of the children raised their hands when Mrs. Utter asked how many of them watched the war on television and 22 of the 48 students said they had close relatives in the Mideast.

A third-grade student named Laura said the oil is polluting the water and the people can't drink it. "There are special plants there and the oil is killing them," she said. "The Saudi desert needs the water and they take the salt. Our soldiers need to have water."

"Saddam Hussein is not fair to the people," said Tony LaNunziata. "He is stubborn and he must have something wrong with his brain; it's not normal for him to fight and kill people."

"I think maybe we did the right thing because he might have taken all of the oil and other countries won't have any for heat or cars or anything," said Courtney Abbot.

Sarah Nichol, another third-grade student, said, "I think our President is doing the right thing getting him out of Kuwait," and Aaron Petracchini agreed, "It's not nice for Hussein to take over a small country and harm the children."

Emily Malick said Saddam should withdraw from Kuwait. "He probably wouldn't listen because he would be humiliated. It would hurt his pride."

When asked by the teachers why they thought the United States was in the Mideast, Colleen Murphy said, "We are free to do what we want and we want to keep it that way. We have freedom of choice."

Zack Gallagher said, "We are fighting for peace."

Courtney Abbot said she thought he should be killed and then he would have no power. Greg Stanislaus showed the effects of constant television coverage. "It's the first war that is on TV and it's frightening to watch it and see the planes and the tanks."

POW's

(continued from page 1)

tion and treated him as well as they could to cure his wounds.

Balash also said the POW's told him in addition to physical torture, solitary confinement was the cruelest of mental harassment. They said the prisoners worked out a code and tapped it on the wall so whoever was in the next cell would know who was there. The POW's were also told from the beginning that not everyone would be returned from Vietnam.

"The Geneva Convention Prisoner of War agreement is only a piece of paper," Balash said. "World War II, Korea, Vietnam; prisoners in all of them were tortured. I don't see any reason why the Iraqis wouldn't do the same."

Not all prisoners are released when peace comes. "In every war some of the prisoners have never been returned. It is in black and white in Washington that when the Russians liberated an American POW Camp, prisoners were sent to labor camps in Siberia," stated Balash.

Balash says the war in the Persian Gulf is not like Vietnam. "This is a different type of war," Balash explained. "There is the terrain,

and more high-tech weapons and our service personnel are well-trained, but the Iraqis are seasoned veterans of an eight-year war and their life is insignificant to them. It is an honor to die for their country or cause. Most of our men are not combat veterans. That could make a difference."

But the Vietnam veteran thinks allied forces will prevail "I believe most of our personnel will hold their own with their training and we have equipment more updated than most of the Iraqis although they have some that was purchased

Vets

(continued from page 1)

I support them 100 percent."

Chester Kuni is a three-war veteran. He served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam and has two discharges.

Kuni agreed that the conflict in the Persian Gulf is different from previous wars.

"Communications, laser bombs, cruise missiles, Patriots, night vision, there's no comparison. It's

from Russia, France and even the United States," Balash continued.

Balash said that there are still 2,294 MIA's from the Vietnam conflict; 8,000 from Korea and 389 POW's never returned from Korea.

"We don't want to see the same thing at the end of this war. There has to be an accounting from the Mideast immediately by making deals with the countries just as the United States has done for other things in the past. We return the prisoners of war and the other countries should be made to do the same," Balash said.

a technological war. It will be much better if we can get him to surrender with our air power. A ground war will be brutal, but I believe we will win," Kuni said.

"The President is doing a good job," said Jerry Machell, Dallas. "I support him all the way." Machell is a Vietnam veteran. "This is a different kind of war. Everything is computerized."

Back Mountain soldiers in Operation Desert Storm

Listed below are the names and former addresses of some of the Dallas and Lake-Lehman graduates now serving in the Mideast. Readers who know others who could be added to the list should contact The Dallas Post at 675-5211.

Former Lake-Lehman students serving in Saudi Arabia:

- David Womelsdorf, Sweet Valley
- Jeffrey Ruzicki, Lake Silkworth
- Matthew Christiano, Sweet Valley
- James Hutchins, Lehman
- Thomas Duffy, Lehman
- Adam Clark, RR 3, Harveys Lake
- Brian Powell, RR 2, Hunlock Creek
- Brian Titus, RR 2, Harveys Lake
- Ronald Cross, Sweet Valley
- David Eddy, Hillside Avenue, Harveys Lake
- Thomas Mushala, Lake Silkworth
- Jeffrey Seiber, Shavertown
- Shawn Straka, Oak Hill
- Robert Rogers, Noxen
- Colin Evans, RR 3, Harveys Lake
- Matthew West, Sweet Valley
- Matthew McCormack, Noxen
- Joseph Smith, Lake Silkworth
- Michael Brin, Loyalville
- Robert Moosic, Shavertown

Dallas District students serving in Saudi Arabia:

- John Mitchell, Dallas
- Brian Baker, Kingston Township
- Jeffrey White, Meadowcrest, Trucksville
- David Mayeski, Orange
- Kevin Newberry, Dallas
- Mark Lubinski, Dallas
- Kurt Lupinski, Trucksville
- Martin Barnoski, Dallas
- Brian Mathers, Trucksville
- Steven Carr, Trucksville
- Dave Cezasco, Dallas Area
- Tina Charney Kravits, Dallas
- Bonnie Futch, Kingston Township
- Joseph Piskorick, Kingston Township
- Mark Mihalchick, Dallas Area

- William Wink, Kingston Township
- Thomas Landon, Kunkle
- James Buckley, Dallas
- Peter Williams, Shavertown
- Lisa Williams, Fernbrook

- Jeffrey Spudis, Trucksville
- Michael Newell, Dallas
- Bernard Banks III, Trucksville
- Carson Gramley, Beaumont
- Kathy Walsh, Dallas

SUPPORT GROUPS, SERVICES FOR DESERT STORM FAMILIES

Weekly and daily, groups are being formed to provide support, counseling and financial assistance to families whose fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, husbands or wives, have gone to the Mideast.

Some of them are:

- Mercy Center - Every Tuesday, 7 p.m.-Support Group
- Shavertown United Methodist Church-Open 8 a.m.-10 p.m.-Silent Prayer
- St. Paul's Lutheran Church-Open daily 7:30 a.m.-Prayer Vigil; Doors open 9:15 a.m.-8 p.m. for prayer
- St. Therese's Church-Daily Noon-2 p.m. Blessed Sacrament exposed Monday-Friday
- St. Stephen's Episcopal Church-Open Noon daily for Prayer
- Trinity Presbyterian Church-Prayer for all Service Personnel every Sunday
- Gate of Heaven Church-Rev. Michael Sullivan or Rev. William Cusick-Counseling by appointment
- American Red Cross-823-7161 for location of support groups
- U.S. Army support group network-800-542-9254
- Salvation Army-Counseling, food, rent or utility assistance
- Hospice St. John-823-2144
- Lutheran Welfare Service-800-468-9136

Desert Help group plans meeting

Operation Desert Help will hold its second support group meeting for families of the 300th field Hospital Unit, all 402nd Military Police, and 424th Military Police February 28 at 7 p.m. at the U.S. Army Reserve Center, Hanover Industrial Estates.

The group is asking families to bring a photo of their loved ones in Saudi Arabia. An E.T. computer portrait will be set up at the meeting, to take photos. Anyone wishing a computerized picture for tee-shirts, mugs, etc., or family portraits may do so.

Sgt. May or Bob Franklin will be available throughout the day to answer questions at 825-0481; also Judy Yashkus at 825-3690.

Committee members are Barbara Maxwell, Bobby O'Donnell and Elaine Ray.

SAVE 25% TO 50% and more

Town & Country's Great MID-WINTER SALE

Everybody loves a SALE, especially when it's a REAL SALE! At Town & Country, the price tags tell the story! Sale tags are stapled to the original price tags to show you how much you save! You'll see tremendous values on all five floors. Many one-of-a-kind floor samples now sale-tagged at cost and below cost for immediate clearance.

Even custom orders are "on sale"! Place your order during the sale and receive discounts of 25% to 40% below factory list. Now is the perfect time to get that piece you've always wanted — exactly as you want it!

The sale that gives you our best at the lowest prices of the year!

Open Mon. & Thurs. 9:30 A.M. to 9 P.M.
Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat. 9:30 A.M. to 5 P.M.
Sunday by appointment only

253-257 South Main Street, Wilkes-Barre

Save on these famous brands:

- Pennsylvania House
- Henredon
- Sherrill
- Karastan
- Lane/Venture
- Dixie
- Stiffel
- Karges
- Union National
- Emerson Leather
- Richardson Brothers
- Century ShowPlace
- Hickory Chair
- Action Recliners by Lane
- and many more

Phones:
Wilkes-Barre 823-0138
Scranton 693-2357

FREE PARKING
FREE DELIVERY
CREDIT TERMS AVAILABLE
DECORATOR SERVICE