

Virginia museum hosts "Gathering of Eagles"

Museum showcases 115 working pieces of military armor

By Philip Schreier
Special to the *Iraqi Destiny*

NOKESVILLE, Va. - Saturday, Oct. 25 was a warm and sunny day in the midlands of Northern Virginia where the Virginia Museum of Military Vehicles hosted its annual open house event.

Nearly 600 visitors roamed around the lush green fields inspecting many of the museum's 115 working pieces of military armor and listened attentively as Screaming Eagle veterans of past and present conflicts recalled some of the historic events in which they personally participated.

Highlighted guests included two members of the 101st Division's Easy Company, of the famed 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, the unit made famous by Stephen Ambrose's 1992 best selling book *Band of Brothers* (and subsequently a 10-hour HBO movie) as well as two 101st battalion commanders recently returned from Iraq.

Sgt. Darrell "Shifty" Powers and Cpl. Forrest Guth (Co. E, 506th PIR) both spoke of the D-Day airborne jump into Normandy on June 6, 1944 as well as the fierce fighting they witnessed in Holland, Haganeau and Bastogne.

Reflections on spending Christmas in Belgium and var-

ious souvenirs they continue to treasure made for an interesting question and answer session following their initial presentations.

Former modern-day battalion commanders, Lt. Col. Christopher Hughes (2nd Bn, 327th Inf.) and Lt. Col. Lee Fetterman (3rd Bn., 187th Inf.) then spoke of their units involvement in the attacks on An Najaf and southern Baghdad, respec-

tively.

Both officers praised the courage and discipline of their men in combat and expressed their heartfelt desire to rejoin units that they most recently rotated out of, following their traditional two-year tours as commanders.

Currently they are both working at the Pentagon.

The formal scheduled presentations drew to a close follow-

ing a small ceremony at the museum's impressive flagpole.

Each of the four guests were given a small handful of soil or sand from battlefields where they had fought, and together they mixed it with the soil at the base of the flag pole. SGT Powers and CPL Guth passed on their good wishes to those currently serving in Iraq by saying, "Hang Tough", a traditional 506th salutation.



Bill Vanderpool

Screaming Eagles from past and present took part in the "Gathering of Eagles," which showcased 115 working pieces of military armor. From left to right, Lt. Col. Christopher Hughes, 2nd Bn, 327th Inf., Cpl. Forrest Guth, Co. E, 506th PIR, Lt. Col. Lee Fetterman, 3rd Bn., 187th Inf. and Sgt. Darrell "Shifty" Powers, Co. E, 506th PIR.

Iraqi Destiny Staff

Commanding General
Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus

Div. PAO
Maj. Hugh (Trey) Cate

NCOIC
Staff Sgt. Mark Swart

Editor
Spc. Joshua M. Risner

Journalists
Pfc. Thomas Day
Pfc. Chris Jones
Spc. Blake Kent
Spc. Mary Rose Xenikakis

This Army funded newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army overseas. Contents of the "Iraqi Destiny" are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). The "Iraqi Destiny" is produced by the 40th Public Affairs Detachment, Fort Campbell, Ky. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Public Affairs Officer. It is published weekly, on Thursday afternoons, by the Civil Military Operations Center Public Affairs Office (CMOC-PAO), Unit 96044, APO AE 09325-6044. Contact us at: joshua.risner@us.army.mil or at DNVT (320) 581-6723