

On The Ground With Charlie Company: Home



BACK FROM FALLUJAH, LOOKING FOR NORMAL

Story By **JESSE HAMILTON** Photographs by **TOM BROWN** THE HARTFORD COURANT

SOUTHINGTON — Here, the Marines seem younger, the years scrubbed from their faces, no trace of Fallujah on immaculate dress uniforms. Like Rip Van Winkle's nap in reverse, the weary men of Charlie Company closed their eyes in Iraq and awoke a few weeks later in a sparkling Connecticut ballroom — well-dressed warriors returned to their prom days. At the annual Marine Corps birthday ball, they fetch drinks for dates in formal gowns, and they joke with their buddies, and the evening glows.

But it's not so easy to trade their war for lighter hearts. Not all have lowered their weapons or dropped their armor since returning to Connecticut in late October. Fallujah is still fresh, and it's hard for some to believe they have made it home. The Marines' celebration is a surface thing, like the fancy uniforms dripping with new medals. Under that surface still breathes that ruined city in the desert and the marks it left on the Plainville-based troops from Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 25th Marines.

Beneath the left sleeve of Lance Cpl. Lino Torres' dress blues, a fresh tattoo on reddened skin — four names of men who won't grow any older. Beneath Lance Cpl. James Lauber's right pant leg, the stitched wreckage of his leg, dotted with angry scars. Beneath almost 23 years worth of medals on 1st Sgt. Ben Grainger's chest, a heart condition that almost separated him from his men. Almost.

PLEASE SEE **MEMORIES**, PAGE A13

When Doctors Deliver Anguish

With Tiniest Premies, A Huge Ethical Issue

By **HILARY WALDMAN**
COURANT STAFF WRITER

The day Gary Horn's son was born three months ahead of schedule and weighing barely a pound, a team of intensive care doctors began a feverish battle to save the baby. Now, David is 13 years old — and Horn has trouble hiding his disdain for the doctors who rescued his perilously premature child. To Horn, the heroic efforts in the neonatal intensive care unit at St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center gave his family a burden, not a gift. "He has no quality of life," Horn says of David, who has cerebral palsy and mental retardation. "He's had a lifetime of surgeries, he doesn't have friends, he doesn't go outside and play. "His life sucks." Horn, of West Hartford, is brutally honest about a question that has vexed experts and ethicists: Is it always right to save an infant who is born too small and too early just because the technology exists to do so? Or, if the baby is facing a lifetime of disability, is there a time when it's appropriate to let the newborn die?

Even within the Horn family there are differences. Debbie Horn, the boy's mother, does not feel the same way her husband does about the doctors who saved her son. "Would I have picked this life for myself and David? Probably not," she said. "But it is what it is."

PLEASE SEE **NEONATAL**, PAGE A6

Four Were Framed With The FBI's Help

\$100 Million In Damages Sought

By **EDMUND H. MAHONY**
COURANT STAFF WRITER

BOSTON — When a flurry of gunshots ended Edward "Teddy" Deegan's misspent life more than 40 years ago, there should have been no mystery about who pulled the trigger. FBI agents had been listening to the murder plot unfold for five months through a microphone hidden in a mob office and through reports from informants. They knew that Vincent "Jimmy" Flemmi and Joseph "The Animal" Barboza, two hoodlums the bureau was recruiting as informants, were behind the conspiracy. But what should have been an open-and-shut case turned into a legal nightmare. Thousands of recently disclosed U.S. Justice Department records show that the FBI, in order to cultivate Flemmi and Barboza as informants, allowed them to frame four innocent men for the Deegan murder.

Armed with those newly obtained records, the framed men — or their estates — are now seeking more than \$100 million in damages from the federal government, arguing that they spent decades in prison because of a morally bankrupt conspiracy between FBI agents and gangsters. Older, grayer, heavier and frailer, the

PLEASE SEE **VICTIMS**, PAGE A6



MOURNING THE LOSS of a fellow Charlie Company Marine, Lance Cpl. Remigiusz Wojdala of Denville, N.J., kisses the dog tags of Lance Cpl. Christopher B. Cosgrove III during a memorial service Oct. 8 in Fallujah. Cosgrove, of New Jersey, was killed Oct. 1 when a car bomb detonated at a checkpoint. **IN PHOTO AT TOP:** Sgt. Jared Taylor of Middletown, at left, and Cpl. Matthew Jodrey of Uxbridge, Mass., embrace at a Marine Corps ball in Southington Nov. 10.

Charlie Company Online: WWW.COURANT.COM/IRAQ

» In an emotional audio slideshow, Charlie Company Marines in Iraq pay their last respects to fallen comrade Lance Cpl. Christopher B. Cosgrove III. In a separate slideshow, the Marines reflect on their seven-month tour of duty in Fallujah. The Courant's extended special report, "On The Ground With Charlie Company," is also available at the website. The report contains all previous stories and dispatches, audio segments, interactive graphics and additional photographs. A message board details the notes of stateside family and friends. A blog by 1st Sgt. Ben Grainger is also online.

IN SPORTS

A Day For Champions

- **The Suffield girls soccer** team, shaking off a midseason loss, finishes the season 19-1 and takes the Class M title, beating Holy Cross. **Page E15**
- **The Cromwell girls soccer** team, winner of two double overtime games this week, battles to a tie with Immaculate and a share of the Class S title. **Page E15**
- **The Bristol Eastern girls volleyball** team takes control early and beats East Lyme for its second consecutive Class L championship. **Page E15**

For full coverage of high school playoff games, see **pages E15-17**

CONNECTICUT

Children Attacked

A Hartford woman is accused of stabbing her three young children. They are expected to survive; the mother's motive is unknown. Meanwhile, police identify the Bloomfield youth shot to death in Hartford Friday. **Page B1**

IN WORLD

It's TomKat, Officially



Holmes wore an ivory silk gown; Tom Cruise, a navy blue suit. The ceremony was Scientology, with a dollop of tradition. And the kiss? It was "never-ending." **Page A2**

The Italian castle shimmered with oil-fed torches, tiny candles — and scads of celebrities. Outside the walls, paramilitary police patrolled under a blaze of fireworks in a murky sky. Katie