

History Royal Gimlet Clan and Gimlet Stick



“DUTY”

21st Infantry Regiment, “Gimlet”



Every unit in the United States Army has a nickname. These nicknames are often derived from battles past or other significant events in the unit’s history. A special designation in the U. S. Army is a "nickname granted to a military organization" which has been authorized by the Center of Military History and recognized through a certificate signed by the Chief of Military History. Once approved, these designations may only be used by the officially recognized units. So, how did the 21st Infantry Regiment earn the nickname Gimlet?

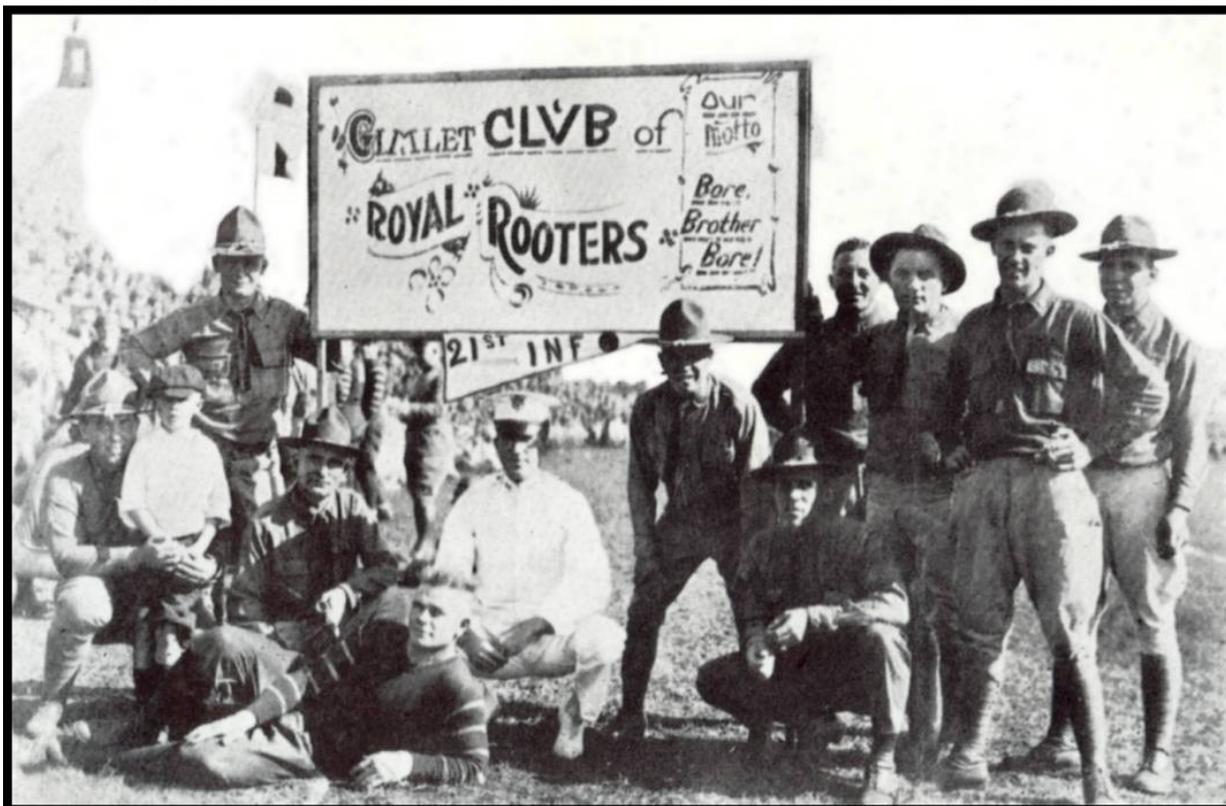
The Gimlet nickname traces its lineage back to inter-service rivalry on the athletic fields of the early 1920s. In 1921 a group of about twenty men organized under the leadership of Private Eugene Riley, E Company 21st Infantry Regiment, for the purpose of supporting the regimental athletic teams. This group called themselves the Gimlet Club of Royal Rooters and had for its motto “Bore Brother Bore!” The ancient “Gimlet” tool became the iconic symbol of toughness for the Royal Rooters, thus the regimental nickname Gimlet.

“Bore Brother Bore!”



“The Gimlets”

" The Origin of the Gimlet Clan 1921 " motto "Bore Brothers, Bore." "The Gimlets."



Left to Right:

1. unknown
2. Mickey Beardon, Jr. (Mascot) son of Bandleader Beardon
3. Conway, 3rd baseman
4. Lomasney
5. Atherton, 2nd baseman and quarterback
6. 1st Lt. Norman McNeill, coach and catcher
7. Kline, boxing promoter
8. Mintinez, boxer
9. Cohan, boxer
10. Eugene Riley
11. Shaffer, pitcher
12. F. Thomas

Led by PFC Eugene Riley, 21st Infantry Regimental teams dominated every opponent they faced in every sport. Because of their tenacity on the athletic fields, these men became known Army wide as Gimlets. This group spread rapidly and the 21st Infantry Regiment soon became known as "Gimlets" throughout the Army.



Gimlet

A "Gimlet" is an ancient tool with a grooved twisted shank and screw point, appearing somewhat like an auger, used to bore holes in rock for dynamite. These holes were then filled with explosives to blast the rock apart; thus, cutting away sides of entire mountains to make room for railroad tracks or roadways. The 21st Infantry regimental teams so dominated every team in every sport that throughout the 1920s they became known as Gimlets. Gimlet teams were tougher than rock and would bore holes through their opponents on the athletic fields.

The Gimlet Stick, carried by members of the regiment is a visual reminder of the all around toughness presented by soldiers of the Gimlet Regiment. The 21st Infantry Regiment is the only regiment authorized to incorporate its nickname into its official title and wear the Gimlet Stick as part of the uniform in accordance with regimental SOP. Furthermore, the Gimlet Stick is recognized by the Department of Heraldry as part of the Gimlet uniform, for those who have successfully earned the right to wear it. The Gimlet Stick may only be worn on designated occasions while serving with the 21st Infantry Regiment “Gimlet.”

Since 2006 at Schofield Barracks Hawaii home of the 1-21 Infantry Battalion to become a member of the Royal Gimlet Clan a soldier must now earn the right to be inducted into the RGC and wear the coveted Gimlet Stick. In 2006 then Battalion Commander LTC Matthew Kelley instituted the mighty “Gimlet Challenge.” Prospective soldiers must first undergo the mighty “Gimlet Challenge” to prove their mettle before they are awarded their Gimlet Stick. Once the prospect has negotiated and successfully completed the challenge the soldier is then inducted into the Royal Gimlet Clan by way of a special ceremony. After the induction ceremony the Gimlet Warrior has thereby earned the right to wear the cubed and twisted “Gimlet Stick” for the time the Gimlet is assigned to the 21st Infantry Regiment “Gimlet.”

Induction into the Royal Gimlet Clan is done by way of the Gimlet Punchbowl Ceremony, and is only witnessed by other members of the Royal Gimlet Clan. Each ingredient of the punch, or Grog as it is called, represents a period of the 21st Infantry Regiment’s legacy, a Battle Streamer flying from the colors, but more than that, it represents the men who came before, that make up soldiers called, “Brother Gimlets.” Every drop of ingredient which is poured into the ceremonial punch bowl represents every drop of blood, sweat, tears, and sacrifice ever bared by Gimlet Brothers who have come before.

At present the 1-21 IN, 2/25 SBCT at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, is the only active 21st Infantry Regiment battalion to require the “Gimlet Challenge” as a precursor to induction into the Royal Gimlet Clan and subsequent award of the Gimlet Stick. The Gimlet Challenge is a rite of passage for the soldiers of 1-21 IN. It serves as a link to the unit’s proud lineage, fostering esprit de corps and the traditions of the Royal Gimlet Clan. The Gimlet Challenge focuses on individual soldier skills - the core competencies which are the ground work for lethal, disciplined, and capable Squads and Platoons. Teams negotiate 11 events, road marching a total of over 12 miles before the challenge is complete.

Upon completion of the grueling endurance trial, candidates are inducted into the Royal Gimlet Clan and awarded their ceremonial Gimlet Stick. The Gimlet Orderly, Sgt at Arms, and Gimlet Gopher are responsible for planning and running the Gimlet Clan ceremonies, and they are care keepers of the Battalion Gimlet Stick ensuring it is maintained, present at every battalion run and battalion formation, and taken on deployments and exercises.



At present the 3-21 IN 1/25 SCBT has no requirement for the Gimlet Challenge. The Battalion Commander authorizes Officers and Senior NCOs to purchase and wear their Gimlet Sticks at battalion formations and military social functions.

According to interviews with former Battalion Commanders, command staff and senior NCOs the association has determined that the two Gimlet Battalions which served in Vietnam [3-21 IN (L) and 4-21 IN (L)] did not authorize the Royal Gimlet Clan or award Gimlet Sticks during the Vietnam War. However, Gimlet Sticks were the wear of battalion command and staff, company grade officers and senior NCOs of the 4-21 Infantry Regiment Gimlet Lightfighters assigned at Fort Ord, CA, from 1986 to 1993.

The same criteria appears to be true for Gimlets of WW II, Japan, Korean War; however, the tradition was brought back for post Korean War Gimlets assigned to Korea. Records are spotty as to Gimlets assigned to Fort Stewart, GA [2-21 IN (M)], Fort Riley, KS [2-21 IN (M)], Germany [1-21 IN (M)], 1st and 2nd Battle Groups 21st Infantry Germany as well as 21st IN Battalions during the Cold War era as to whether the Gimlet Clan was functioning and Gimlet Sticks were awarded. If any Gimlet has additional information with regard to the Royal Gimlet Clan and award criteria for wear of the Gimlet Stick during their time with a Gimlet Battalion, please contact the association so that changes can be made.

As far as can be determined each Gimlet Battalion sets its own criteria and standards when it comes to the individual award and wear of the Gimlet Stick. Each battalion maintains a large replica of a Gimlet Stick in its Battalion Headquarters and when a Gimlet Battalion deploys the Gimlet Stick deploys with the battalion. Once again, if former Gimlet Warriors have any knowledge about the big Gimlet Stick during their time assigned or attached to a Gimlet unit let the association hear from you.





3-21 Infantry Battalion 1/25 SBCT, Gimlet Stick at Battalion Headquarters in Afghanistan.



1-21 Infantry Battalion 2/25 SBCT formation Iraq, Gimlet Stick lower right.



“Bore Brother Bore!”



Bonds of Brotherhood

The Bonds of Brotherhood are eternal. Don't lose touch with your Gimlet Brothers with which you proudly served. Only soldiers who have shared the military experience of serving together in American's armed forces are aware of the fraternal Bonds of Brotherhood that bind them together forever. Gimlets who have endured the rigors of training, readying for combat, sharing the trials and tribulations thereof, and then survived combat, are tied together forever by that special bond of brotherhood. Gimlets of 21st Infantry Regiment who forged those bonds of brotherhood with their blood, sweat and tears share an everlasting bond: Gimlet Brotherhood. There is something special about the Gimlet Brotherhood that Gimlets share. The saying goes in the 21st Infantry Regiment "Gimlet," "Once a Gimlet, always a Gimlet." And that is true throughout a Gimlet's life and into death – the bond is an eternal one.



The Essence of the Gimlet Soldier is demanding training, physical and mental toughness, loyalty to the nation as well as each other, and a selfless commitment to live up to the regimental motto, "DUTY," and its battle cry, "Bore Brother Bore!"

"Bore Brother Bore!"



Gimlet Challenge a rite of passage

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii -- For some, it's about proving their ability to master Soldier skills. For others, it's about team building. But for all of the members of the 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, completing the "Gimlet

Challenge" is a journey to finding their true place among their Royal Gimlet Clan brothers.

The Royal Gimlet Clan is made up of members of the 21st Inf. Regt. that have completed the "Gimlet Challenge" and earned the right to carry the "Gimlet Stick."

The "Gimlet Stick," recognized by the Department of Heraldry as a part of the uniform while serving in the 21st Inf. Regt., was once used to bore directly into solid rock in order to place explosives and demolish large rocks, and even sometimes sides of mountains, to make way for roads and railroads. Today, it represents membership in the Royal Gimlet Clan. The Clan earned their nickname, "Gimlets" because its members are tougher than rocks and bore through their opponents, according to regimental history.

The "Gimlet Challenge" is a physical, mental and emotional test which all Soldiers of the 21st Inf. Regt. must complete before they are considered members of the Clan. The challenge was made up of approximately 10 events to include providing first aid to a casualty, completing a grenade training range, crossing a body of water and demonstrating knowledge of regimental history, all while reacting to changing conditions on a 12-mile course.

This challenge was originally used as a rite of passage, but has turned into a productive way to build teamwork and camaraderie among Soldiers, especially after returning from deployment.

"Their experience as a small team while going through this is absolutely crucial during the reset period," said 1st Lt. Scott Guo, the officer in charge of the "Gimlet Challenge." "It's when we begin to build our small units, starting with basic fire teams."

Soldiers who had yet to be inducted into the Clan were broken up into more than 30 teams of three to five Soldiers. Team 28 prepared to embark on its journey into Clan history. Sgt. 1st Class Emmanuel Nieves was the non-commissioned officer in charge of the team comprised of himself and three other Soldiers from Alpha Company, 1-21 Inf. Regt. Spc. Joshua Herrera, Spc. Coady Stanbery and Pvt. Justin Young had all trained for this and were ready to prove themselves worthy of carrying the prized "Gimlet Stick".

They began their challenge with a 4.5-mile trek to the first checkpoint, where their ability to provide first aid was put to the test.

The team arrived at the checkpoint to pained screams for help. Spc. Justin Fireshaker, of Alpha Company had a simulated injury to his right arm, which the team had to properly treat.

This exercise was intended to ensure that Soldiers could execute basic lifesaving techniques to successfully treat their fellow Soldiers under battlefield conditions when they deploy, said Staff Sgt. Matthew Coates, the NCOIC of the first aid lane.

Nieves immediately took control of the situation by directing the Soldiers of his team to assess the casualty, dress the wound with an Israeli Trauma Bandage and use a Combat Application Tourniquet to prevent further blood loss.

"The team performed well, they assessed the casualty and they applied the dressing and tourniquet properly," said Spc. Gary Bennett, the evaluator for the first aid event.

By successfully completing their first task, these Soldiers were one step closer to their goal. After approximately six miles and additional obstacles the team took part in an explosive experience navigating their way through the grenade evaluation lane.

The Soldiers do not typically get a lot of hands-on training time with grenades, said Sergeant Angel Velez, NCOIC of the grenade exercise. With grenades being part of the Expert Infantryman Badge testing it is important that the Soldiers are given ample training time with them.

The team was broken down individually between four stations: a 35 meter throw, a 20 meter trench throw, putting a grenade into a bunker at close range and being able to identify five different types of hand grenades.

By the time they completed one more event, locating a target by shifting from a known point and radio operating procedures, they had passed many of their fellow teams, and moved into the top five.

Their next major task was to cross 25 meters of water by constructing a raft from their ponchos to transport their gear and weapons safely and effectively. As they arrived at Richardson Pool they were greeted with water hoses to remove the dirt, sweat and stains that covered their uniforms before heading into the pool.

Ensuring that the raft is built in accordance with the ranger handbook will ensure their gear is functional after they cross, said Staff Sgt. Michael Condit, the NCOIC of the raft event.

Team 28 immediately went to work, unpacking boot laces and ponchos from their bags. Before long, their gear was laid out on the ponchos and they tied them tightly closed.

Water splashed all around the team as they and their raft entered the water. They fought against the weight of their boots and uniform as they struggled to keep afloat and cross the 25 meter stretch.

Once across they moved to the medics at the end of the pool. With the amount of distance they have covered, and the distance they still had before them, it was important to ensure they were still healthy enough to compete.

After the team had completed a majority of the challenges, the cadre informed them that their leader had just been injured and could no longer carry his gear or walk. As the team redistributed his load, Nieves climbed onto the nearest Soldier's back and the team headed to the next point.

The difficulty was apparent. The Soldiers had to transfer Nieves every few hundred yards to keep up their pace, moving him from one Soldier's back to the next.

A look of relief could be seen in the Soldiers' eyes as they saw the final objectives a few hundred meters away, but their challenge wasn't over yet. Now their knowledge of battalion and regimental history would be tested.

"It's important the Soldiers within the battalion know where they come from and what they're about," said Staff Sgt. Keelan Finnigan, NCOIC of the battalion history event.

The team began answering rapid fire questions. They knew some, but not all of the answers. They would have to make up for those questions that went unanswered.

As a large log was placed upon their chests and they struggled to lower and raise it in a sit-up like fashion as quickly as possible, they could see the final event from where they were: the M240B, medium machine gun station.

The team only had only minutes to clear the weapon of any ammunition,

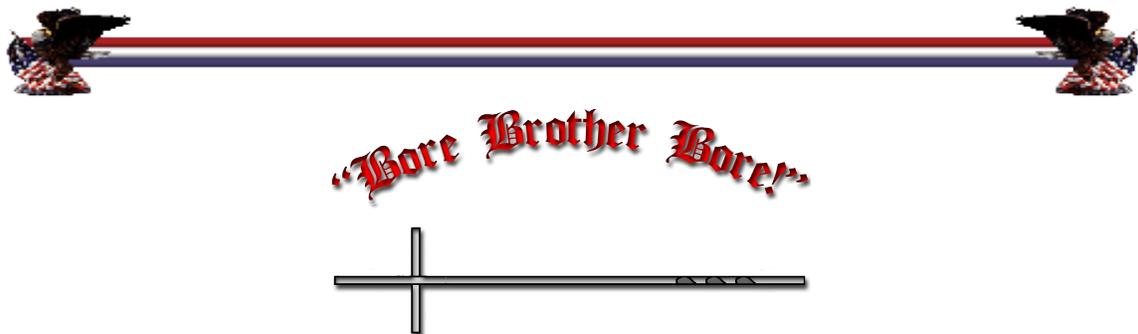
disassemble the weapon, sort the parts, reassemble the weapon and complete a functions check to verify it was in proper working order.

The team was able to perform this task flawlessly and well under the allotted time. They were in the final stretch.

Their gear was on and their spirits were high as they moved quickly back to the starting point, less than a mile away.

Cheering, clapping and smiles all around as the members of team 28 approached the finish line. With a final time of four hours and 49 minutes the team that started 28th early in the morning had finished 3rd in the "Gimlet Challenge". Now they could rest, change their uniforms, and prepare for the long awaited ceremony. They would soon be inducted into the Royal Gimlet Clan.

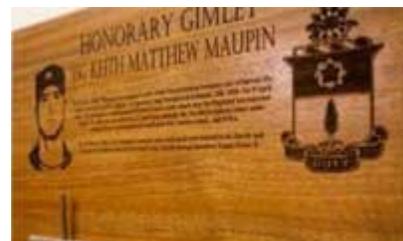
There was a sense of pride and accomplishment in the room as veterans of the battalion welcomed the new inductees into the Royal Gimlet Clan. They had earned the right to wear the coveted "Gimlet Stick." The company commander personally handed each Soldier their "Gimlet Stick" for completing the challenge. They are no longer simply Soldiers in the Gimlet battalion; they are members of the Royal Gimlet Clan. They too, are tougher than rocks and can bore through anything. They are Gimlets.



Honorary Gimlet and Gimlet Stick for SSG Matt Maupin

Once-missing Soldier inducted into 'Gimlet' brotherhood

Staff Sgt. Matt Maupin was inducted into the Gimlet brotherhood as an Honorary Gimlet. Maupin was captured in 2004 in an ambush on his convoy north of Baghdad International Airport and was missing for four years until soldiers found his remains north of Baghdad in March 2008.



(U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Brock Jones, MND-B PAO)

Reporter: Staff Sgt. Matt Maupin recognized, honored by the Soldiers who helped bring him home

Email Address: By Staff Sgt. Brock Jones, MND-B PAO

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – A plaque made of reddish-hued Hawaiian Koa wood, engraved with the face of Staff Sgt. Matt Maupin and adorned with a silver T-shaped Gimlet stick, now hangs in the narrow hallway of the headquarters of 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment “Gimlet.”

Maupin, a U.S. Soldier missing in Iraq since 2004, whose remains were found during an operation headed by the 21st Inf. Regt. in March, was recently made an Honorary Gimlet by the regiment following a four-year long search involving many units. Maupin and the Soldiers of 1st Bn., 21st Inf. Regt., 2nd Striker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, will forever share a piece of common history.

The series of events that culminated with the hanging of the plaque began in April 2004, when Maupin’s convoy was ambushed north of Baghdad.

“(2004) was a different time, obviously, in Iraq,” said Lt. Col. Mario Diaz, a native of Sierra Madre, Calif., who serves as commander of 1st Bn., 21st Inf. Regt., 2nd SBCT, 25th Inf. Div. “It was very contentious to go out and conduct operations.”

“Staff Sgt. Maupin’s unit was a transportation unit. They were conducting a convoy and during that operation ... their convoy was attacked, a pretty significant ambush, along an extended portion of one of the main supply routes right in front of the Baghdad International Airport area,” said Diaz.

Following the ambush, it was determined that Maupin had been captured by the attackers.

From the day Maupin went missing, an ongoing and vigorous search mission was passed down to each successive unit assigned the operational responsibility of the northern Baghdad and Abu Ghraib areas – the area from which Maupin went missing.

Early in 2008, as 1st Bn., 21st Inf. Regt. took over operations from the departing unit, they were given the enduring task of searching for Maupin alongside their day-to-day operations, working with the special task force that had been established to search for all missing U.S. personnel in Iraq.

“Over the years, there was an extensive search operation, both immediately after the event but also ongoing from the services,” said Diaz. “There was also this specialized task force that was composed of a lot of different people working a lot of different things combining intelligence, interrogation reports, analysts that looked at videos, voices, everything,” said Diaz. “All the things you’d want to think that we can do as a country and as a military, all the CSI stuff that you see, they were really doing and they were doing it in a manner that at certain points became information that we had to act on.”

During Operation Trojan Honor II, named by Diaz in honor of Maupin’s high school mascot, viable information came to light pertaining to Maupin’s whereabouts and trickled down to the hands of the leaders and Soldiers of Company B, 1st Bn., 21st Inf. Regt. Acting on gathered intelligence about the whereabouts of a potential American Soldier’s remains, the Soldiers of Co. B, along with a group of engineers from 2nd Platoon, 84th Engineer Company, 2nd Striker Cavalry Regiment, out of Vilseck, Germany, moved into an area they hadn’t been to before to search for the alleged remains.

“It was a clear day,” said Sgt. 1st Class Juan Vargas, a native of Stockton, Calif., who serves as platoon sergeant, 3rd Platoon, Co. B, 1st Bn., 21st Inf. Regt. “For the most part, the area we went in to, we

weren't too familiar with. Guys were on their toes. Guys expected the worst. It was something that we really had the steel-eye look on our faces."

Though they didn't come into direct contact with the enemy, getting to the area they needed to search took them longer than expected.

"During the route clearance, (the engineers of 2nd Platoon, 84th Eng. Co.) ran into six improvised-explosive devices, and that slowed up the movement, I think, for about an hour and a half while they reduced that threat," said Capt. Jeffery Higgins, a native of Jacksonville, Fla., who serves as commander of Co. B, 1st Bn., 21st Inf. Regt. "We also ran into an unexploded ordnance. Either someone had thrown it on the side of the road for the Coalition to pick up or it was an IED. I don't know."

"It ended up being a long day, and by the time we got to where we needed to search, we didn't have a whole lot of time," Higgins said.

In the last area, the Soldiers and leaders of Co. B and of 84th Eng. Co. searched as the sun was falling toward the horizon. They found various indicators that led them to believe they had found the remains of a U.S. Soldier.

"With any human remains, there is the ultimate respect that people have on the ground in recovering those remains," said Vargas. "I think that was one of the main concerns that the platoon had was to (recover the remains) honorably, respectfully."

With all the dignity and respect befitting a fallen comrade, the remains were carefully collected and taken to be forensically tested.

It was not until a few weeks later that the Soldiers, who had been on the ground during the recovery, received confirmation that what they had found was indeed the remains of the man they had set out to find.

"When we left (the search area), we were not 100 percent certain that we had him," said Higgins. "I think we all felt pretty good about it, but no one walked out of there saying it's definitely him. Forensics had to prove it.

"It was within about two weeks after we had conducted the mission that we found out for sure that we found him."

As the confirmation that the remains they had found were indeed Maupin's, the reality was both good and bad news to the Soldiers, who had been on the ground during the actual recovery.

"We were happy to bring him home," said 1st Lt. Taylor McMaster, a native of Portsmouth, N.H., who serves as platoon leader with 2nd Pltn., 84th Eng. Co., 2nd SCR. McMaster's platoon cleared the routes of the IEDs on the way to the search area and, once there, helped with the recovery operation on the ground.

"It felt good to know that we had been a part of bringing him home. It brought closure. Obviously it was not a good end, but it was welcome closure," said McMaster.

Finding Maupin's remains, although a sad reality as it finally confirmed his death, served as a welcome victory following a string of setbacks to Co. B and provided them a much-needed boost.

"The month prior (to finding Maupin), we got hit by an IED and the morale was real low. I mean, it was tough," said Vargas. "And then it came up to finding Maupin, and it was just a sense of something good that we had done that just put a fire back into the platoon and, I think, the company."

In the blast suffered by Vargas' platoon, four Soldiers died and six were wounded. Finding Maupin's remains was a bitter-sweet victory for a platoon that had suffered such a devastating blow.

"It was a tangible kind of victory for us. In this environment, there's not a lot of those," said Higgins. "That IED killed four of our Soldiers and wounded six others, who haven't returned to duty yet. We lost 10 guys in one day, and it hit the platoon probably the hardest because that's where they're from, but it really hit the company hard.

"Getting the opportunity to do a mission like this ... was kind of a turning point for the company. After that loss, having the opportunity to go do this really turned the company around and gave us that tangible victory that I think we needed to remind us of what our mission here is for," he said.

The ironic coincidence of a platoon that had recently suffered the loss of 10 of its Soldiers also being the same platoon that was able to find a lost Soldier was something the company could "sink its teeth into," said Diaz.

"(Finding Maupin) was very cathartic in a sense. It was a big win for them," he said.

It was a big win for the Soldiers involved, but finally being able to bring Staff Sgt. Maupin's remains home was a day of gratitude and mourning and relief for the Maupin Family, who had suffered through more than four years of not knowing the whereabouts of their son and brother.

"I have spoken with the Family through video teleconferences and understand their commitment and what they have done from day one, how they have dealt with this and how they have just really been unbelievable," said Diaz. "I was so impressed.

"They were just very thankful and to me, and I couldn't believe it. Here they are thanking me for something I had the honor to be a part of."

Impressed by the Family's commitment and gratitude, Diaz felt the need to return that gratitude. He told the Family that his unit has a very visible symbol that represents them called the Gimlet Stick that they are awarded and get to wear as part of their uniform – one of the few such items recognized by the Army. He then told them about his desire to make their son an Honorary Gimlet.

"I said that it's a very significant thing, at least for us, and on a few occasions in the past there have been honorary Gimlets for guys that used to be in the regiment who did something else or who had some interaction with (the regiment). I said 'I've decided that I am going to offer and induct Staff Sgt. Maupin in the roll of honor as an Honorary Gimlet.' That, I think probably more than anything else, was the most emotional part for them," said Diaz. "That's the time where a couple of tears were shed, and they were very, very thankful."

For those in the Gimlet Regiment, making Maupin a part of their brotherhood as an Honorary Gimlet was a fitting gesture of their connection and their newly created common ground.

"I think it's just a good way of saying you're not forgotten, and you're our brother, and we won't forget the sacrifice you gave to the country and the Army," said Sgt. Kristoffer Price, a native of Logan, Utah, who serves as a team leader with 3rd Pltn., Co. B, 1st Bn., 21st Inf. Regt., about Maupin's induction. Price's team was on the scene when Maupin was found.

"It also builds a common history for people in the unit," said Capt. Joseph Loar, a native of Tiffin, Ohio, who was serving as platoon leader of 3rd Pltn., Co. B, at the time of Maupin's discovery. "(Making Maupin an Honorary Gimlet) is a big thing, and a lot of people put a lot of effort into it to be able to attach ourselves to that in a meaningful way. It builds esprit de corps, not just for my platoon, but for the whole regiment."

The web of events that brought together an unlikely group of infantrymen, engineers, a fallen Soldier and his Family are hard to fully comprehend. What isn't hard to understand is the significance of this one successful mission and the impact it has had on all involved.

“We do some important things every day still, but what we did here is something that's probably going to define our deployment. It's going to define, for a period of time, leaders and the Soldiers in the unit,” said Diaz. “It demonstrates some true American values, some Army values, the Warrior Ethos about never leaving a fallen Soldier, never leaving a comrade behind.”

Mabel Clare Craft wrote that Hawaiian Koa wood was the “mahogany of the Pacific, the ‘royal tree,’ fit to make you weep.” In looking at Staff Sgt. Maupin's face carved into the plaque made of Koa, his name engraved on the shiny Gimlet stick and knowing the events that led to bringing him home to his Family, one cannot help but think that this particular piece of Koa wood is certainly “fit to make you weep” and was the perfect choice for such a moment – “royal” wood fit for a king and for a Soldier finally gone home.

Some recollections from former Gimlets about the Royal Gimlet Clan and Gimlet Stick:

From COL Mark Dewhurst: “While I was in Command of 1-21 from 2002-05, we worked hard to keep alive the traditions of the Gimlet Clan. Initially, when I arrived, the Gimlet Stick was purchased by Officers and Senior NCOs. Those in the Gimlet Clan sometimes purchased them for other NCOs or Soldiers. The induction was mainly for officers and Senior NCOs (E7 and above). We expanded it to all ranks and the main criteria was desire to join and in good standing within the Battalion. The stick cost around \$125.00 in 2002 but during our deployment to Thailand COBRA GOLD in 2003 we were able to acquire a much cheaper version (in my opinion better than the \$125.00). The cost went down to somewhere between \$20 and \$25. This made joining the Royal Gimlet Clan more attractive.

You will see from the script we had a Gimlet Orderly (junior officer), Gimlet Sergeant at Arms (E5) and a Gimlet Gopher (E1 to E4). They were selected by various contests. The officer contest was a game called Moriarty (spelling?) brought back from a Gimlet deployment to Australia by then Battalion Commander, Dave Shanahan. A comical event where the contestants were blindfolded and while laying on the ground with one arm locked with each other their free hand holding a pillow sack one would call out to the other Moriarty 3 times and then try to hit the other guy blindfolded. The winner would be the Gimlet Orderly. The Gimlet Gopher was chosen by disassembling and assembling a M16/M4 blindfolded with the winner being selected the Gopher. I cannot recall how we selected the Gimlet Sgt at Arms but it was a military skills event. I must say though that each event was a bit rigged so to speak. A certain group of Gimlet Royal Clan leaders not the CMD Group would have this part all set and then inform the CMD group before the ceremony who the winners would be. We had a non-alcoholic version of the grog and you would use your canteen cup to drink the grog.

The Gimlet Orderly, Sgt at Arms, and Gimlet Gopher were responsible for planning and running the Gimlet Clan ceremonies and the care keeper of the Battalion Gimlet Stick ensuring it was maintained, present at every BN Run and BN formation, and taken on deployments and exercises.

Our BN policy was to wear the Gimlet stick on your right side connected to the waist belt on the last duty day of the week or other prescribe unit formations. The highlight of this was when our

Soldiers would wear their sticks at their primary leadership development course graduation after being told they could not by the NCO Academy Sgt Major – during the ceremony you would see our Soldiers slide their sticks down from their torso and then you would see the reflection of the stick in the sun. This was not an act of defiance, but more of pride in the unit. Even when our Soldiers would be walking in the Division area they would be told by other NCOs to remove the stick and they would not – a source of pride. The 25th ID DIV CSM at the time supported the Gimlets wearing their sticks.

When I left command we had almost half of the BN with Gimlet sticks and members of the Gimlet Clan.”

Battalion Commander 1-21 IN, then LTC Mark Dewhurst, COL Mark Dewhurst

From CPT Betts S1 1-21 IN, “We order the Gimlet Sticks in bulk and they are made to order for \$40 each. The process takes about two weeks from order to receipt. The manufacturer is overseas, his name is Noppakhun Phunthong and he uses the email snoopp501@hotmail.com. He also does not speak very good English so this can sometimes be an interesting process. Once we place the order he sends us an invoice and we wire him the money.”

Tristan K. Betts
CPT, IN
Battalion Adjutant

CPT Betts, “I’d be more than happy to assist with this. This year's Gimlet Challenge went well. We had some support from the 2nd BDE Public Affairs office, and you'll see I've included a link to the video they put together for us (<http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=1905689736710>). At the induction ceremony I had Regimental Association forms passed out as the inductees signed the clan ledger that we've got. That might be of limited help to us. I flipped through it, and while it was apparently started ten years ago it also looks like it fell into disuse for a period. At the ceremony we named a new Gimlet Orderly, SGT at Arms, and Runner. I think it would be helpful if I got them involved in this as well, both for their education and also to ensure that when I leave in February responsibility is positively handed off. As part of that, I'd like to promote some more contribution to the Association by some of our new/current Gimlets. Mentioning Association leadership you previously alluded to a need for some younger members to step up. If you could highlight some of those opportunities for me I think I can help. If I can put out details of what is needed I think there are definitely some of our younger Gimlets who would be willing to contribute.”

CPT Betts, S1 1-21 IN

From former 1SG Bruce Liscombe HHC 4-21 IN Fort Ord: “The 4-21 Infantry had a formal initiation ceremony at the Ft Ord “O” Club during my time with the battalion. You had to be E-8 or above to be initiated and a minimum of one brother that was already in the Brotherhood to conduct the ceremony. The day I got initiated the BN S-3, MAJ Teague, conducted the ceremony as he was inducted into the Gimlet Clan when he was assigned to the 21st in Hawaii. The others inducted were the Battalion Commander LTC Mike Hanna, BN XO MAJ Robert Frusha, CSM Donald Daniels, CPT William Clark BN Chemical Officer, CPT Bruce Clingman ASST S-3, CPT Harvey Hennington BN Chaplain, CPT James Lampton BN S-4, CPT David Knospe HHC CO,

2LT Jose Mangrobang BN PA, LT Robert Williams HHC XO, CPT Paul Humphries C Company CO. I remember it was a very formal initiation in dress blues and Gimlet punch (Grog) was served. Then we all were presented our Gimlet sticks which were engraved with our name and rank. We were required to have them on us at all functions Battalion level and higher. I remember the S-3 got all the information from the 1-21 Infantry in Hawaii.”

1SG Bruce Liscombe, formerly HHC 4-21 IN Fort Ord

SGT Alan Light, “When I received my Gimlet Stick in Iraq we did not have Alcohol for the grog due to “in theater policies”, however I assure you the grog drink was still disgusting. The alcohol was substituted with NA beer. So for those of us going through the Gimlet indoctrination in Iraq we didn’t have the benefit of alcohol to numb the blow of the terrible taste of that concoction. We made it work though.”

Alan Light, formerly HHC 1-21 IN

CPT Tiongco, B 3-21 IN 1/25, “I received my Gimlet Stick towards the end of 2010. Gimlet 6 had been wanting to do a "Gimlet Challenge" similar to "Spur Rides" that the CAV does or "Prop Blasts" like I did back at Fort Bragg in the Division; but with the calendar being as hectic and jam packed as it was prior to deployment we did not have the opportunity to do this. However, after completing several Company and Battalion Level training exercises that fall (one included a trek up "Donnelly Dome" at the end of a BN STX Lanes TNG Event), the boss worked it out for any Gimlet within the Battalion to order one, custom engraved, with their name and rank. I am not sure if a record has been kept of who has received a Gimlet stick or not. It's been customary for us all to wear our Gimlet sticks to BN/BDE events, and also as a part of our uniform every Friday when we were back in garrison. I have mine with me here in my office and have worn it several times.

We also had a ceremony back in the late summer of 2010 to unveil the big "Gimlet" that is currently overseas with us and will again be mounted atop the rock in front of the BN HQ when we return. Gimlet 6 instituted responsibilities for the Senior NCO and Junior LT in the Battalion to be the keeper and holder of the big Gimlet. He'd probably be able to provide more detail about that if it's something you're interested in. The big Gimlet is also currently adorned with the ID Tags for all of the fallen Gimlets of this tour. It has also spent time at all of our FOBs/COPs/ and outlying areas at least once.”

I hope this helps a little bit with your query on the Gimlet Stick.

BORE BROTHER BORE!

CPT Tiongco, B 3-21 IN 1/25

MAJ Lance Oskey, “I received my Gimlet stick without fanfare ... it was more or less mandatory, was inscribed, and was worn on Fridays by all Officers. We did not have a Gimlet initiation or competition associated with the GIMLET stick.”

Hope this helps.

Lance Oskey, formerly with 3-21 IN

CPT Scott Heal, “As I recall, each officer was responsible for purchasing their Gimlet stick and were required to wear it every Friday and at all battalion functions (still have mine). As I recall, there wasn’t any sort of Gimlet Challenge that took place. I don’t remember any mention of the Royal Gimlet Clan. A better source of information may be our Battalion Commander at the time, Kevin Hyneman.”

Scott Heal, formerly 3-21 IN

CPT Adrian Castro, “During my time at 1-21, the Royal Gimlet Clan was in full effect and the Gimlet stick was awarded a couple times a year to Soldiers in good standing. The head of the Royal Gimlet Clan at the time was SGM Errol Snyder. 1-21 IN, serves as the regiment's historian and maintains historical objects from various parts of Gimlet history, but I never saw a list of individuals that were awarded the Gimlet Stick. I was awarded my engraved Gimlet Stick prior to deploying to Iraq and Royal Gimlet Clan members wore them to all Battalion functions and every Friday. Even during our OIF deployment in 2004, we wore our Gimlet Sticks proudly on Fridays. If I remember anything more I will let you know.”

Adrian “Ace” Castro, formerly 1-21 IN

MAJ Saatkamp, “As far as the Gimlet Stick, we purchased them ourselves and had our names laser engraved on them...usually with our position. There was no formal presentation that I can recall.”

MAJ Saatkamp, formerly 3-21 IN

1SG Juan C. Vargas, “Being a member of the Royal Gimlet Clan has evolved over my time as a Gimlet, when I first joined the Battalion in Jan 02 it was highly encouraged that soldiers join the Clan. Back then there was no Gimlet challenge, soldiers volunteered to be a member of the club. We paid \$100 for the gimlet stick and it was engraved with your rank and name. There was a ceremony to induct all new members with GROG present.

There is a log book that new inductees sign in at the day of the GROG ceremony. That book is dated back to 2002. The question would be if all newly inductees signed into that ledger.

In 2006 1-21 implemented the Gimlet Challenge with LTC Kelly as the Battalion commander. A very good event, it’s physically challenging and tested in the unit history.

I will have to research the record for the unit being awarded the Gimlet Stick. I am currently still in B CO, 1-21 IN.”

Juan C. Vargas
First Sergeant
B CO, 1-21 IN BN, 2-25 ID

CPT Betts, “You are correct, LTC Diaz did make SSG Maupin an honorary Gimlet, with a stick. If I'm not mistaken, there is still a plaque in the HQ with his name inscribed and his stick

mounted. The name is still the Royal Gimlet Clan. I wasn't aware of any traditions of the other Battalions. I do know that we have the "Big" Gimlet stick, of which I can try to get you a picture of that as well as the design for the individual Gimlet sticks. Right now we don't particularly have a Regimental historian, though we do have the Gimlet orderly, and this is supposed to be part of his job. I will talk to LT Brend about it.”

CPT Betts

CSM Dickie, “I was part of the Royal Gimlet Clan from 1988 on. I was the first enlisted soldier ever to receive the Gimlet stick in 1988. It started out as Officers only. The tradition is to wear it on the side of your belt loop every Friday when in Garrison. There are no orders associated with it now. They were setting up quarterly induction ceremonies and you could now purchase it and then receive it when you went through the induction ceremony. The S-1 had by laws written down and the scenario of the event. You could probably contact the current S-1 for 1/21 and get a copy of that. When I returned to 1/21 as the BN CSM in 1999 LTC Gould was the Battalion Commander and could probably give you more information. He ran a great program when he was there.”

James Dickie, formerly CSM 1-21 IN

MAJ Burch, “I joined 1-21 IN BN in 2002. I served as A/S3, S1 and HHC Cdr in the unit till 2006. I joined the Gimlet Clan right after our COBRA GOLD deployment in early 2003. I deployed and served with 1-21 as the HHC Cdr during OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM in Kirkuk. We did have a large BN Gimlet stick as you asked. Attached are a few photos.”

MAJ Burch, formerly 1-21 IN

Michael Gould, “I will dig up what I can find about the Gimlet Clan and the Gimlet stick. When CSM Jim Dickie and I were in command, you had to be nominated but there was no “ritual or rites of passage.” We did give sticks that had rank, name and unit engraved on it (that was while I was in Command, 1998-2000). When I was in command, we were the only activated Gimlet battalion, so we had the Unit Stick (big one) for 1st and 2nd Battalion, not sure if 3rd had one. I will see if I can get some pictures. Insert photo sent”

Michael G. Gould, former BC 1-21 IN