

Pawnee Tradition honored by the Pawnee/Bravo Company



A ceremony was held on Oct. 15 to honor the decision of the Bravo Company 486th Civil Affairs BN of the U.S. Army to alter their name to reflect Pawnee tradition.

Other units include the Alpha/Apache, Charlie/Comanche, HQ/Seminole and the Delta/Dakota.

The Bravo/Pawnee Company presented a plaque to the Pawnee Nation during an official ceremony held at the Tulsa Armed Forces Reserve Center. During this time, Pawnee Nation President Marshall Gover honored the soldiers with a flag representing the Pawnee Nation Tribe. A Cedar Ceremony offering blessings on those present was conducted by Jason Campos and Allen Moore.

SFC David Murphy, team sergeant with the Bravo/Pawnee Company, provided some background about the regiment. The 486th Civil Affairs Company started in July of 1955 as a U.S. Army Reserve unit based in Tulsa, Okla. and serving primarily on overseas missions.

Since 9/11, the 486th Civil Affairs Battalion has been involved in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operations in the Horn of Africa.

A member of the command, Specialist Pearle Hare, is the daughter of Karen Haymond, enrollment assistant for Pawnee Nation, and Walter Hare, Yankton Seneca. Hare's son, Ian Ralph Cramer, is 7 months old.

"We chose the Pawnee Tribe due to the rich history and because we identify with the members as warriors fighting for freedom," said 1st Sgt. Daniel Gilliss. "As my team researched the different tribes, the main thing that caught our interest in Pawnee was the Tribe's history of battle and the members' abilities to successfully combat hostile forces to protect their families and lands."

Native American soldiers have helped defend the freedoms of many from the time of the American Revolution up to the most current battles including Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As shared by Addison Erwin Sheldon in his publication, *History and Stories of Nebraska*, around 1864, the Pawnee Chiefs formed a military alliance with the U.S. and allowed men to serve as Pawnee Scouts under the leadership of Major Frank North.



Among other assignments, these men were initially offered protection services for the Union Pacific Railroad. The Scouts performed this assignment with honor and counted the defeat of a Cheyenne war party that had derailed a train at Plum Creek among their many conquests. As stated in the book, *US Army Frontier Scouts 1840-1921* by Ron Field, the Pawnee Scouts one of the most triumphant Indian reserve regimens.

The four tribes of the Pawnee coalition include the Chaui or Grand Pawnee, the Pitahauerat or Tapage Pawnee, the Kitkehahki or Republican Pawnee and the Skidi or Wolf Pawnee.

“On behalf of the Pawnee Nation, I’m very honored to be represented by the brave men and women of the Bravo/Pawnee Company,” Gover said. “It’s truly a privilege to be associated with individuals that carry such honor and pride. I’m also proud of our Tribe members that have either previously served or who are currently representing our Country. I ask that all Tribe members keep these men and women in their prayers as they stand ready to fight on behalf of our Nation.”

Photo Captions

Picture Top Left: 1SG Daniel Gilliss, B Co 1SG; Mr. Charles A. Lone Chief Jr., Pawnee Business Council (PBC) Vice-President; SPC Pearle Hare, Mr. Marshall Gover, Pawnee Nation president; LTC Paul Gass, 486th BN CDR, Mr. Richard Tilden, PBC Council Seat 1representative; CPT Thomas Rains B Co CDR.

Picture Top Right: Members of the Bravo/Pawnee Company visit with Mr. Charles A. Lone Chief Jr., PBC vice-president.

Photo Credit: Toni Hill

Additional Sources: www.olden-times.com/oldtimenebraska/n-csnyder/nbstory/story30.html.

Release Date: 3/9/2012

Media Contact: Toni Hill, Communications Manager

Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma

Phone: 918.762.3621 Cell: 918.399.1344