

# The Herald

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## Off to Iraq

### Guardsmen left last week

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
 Staff Writer

Keisha Turner used to complain when her husband Brent Turner left his shoes behind the sofa. Now she misses those same shoes.

Angela Holder won't wash the tee shirt husband Grant Holder left on the bedroom floor. It smells like him.

Both men, serving with the 505th North Carolina National Guard unit, left last week for Iraq along with several other soldiers from Kings Mountain.

The men were quickly called to duty and attached to a unit from Fort Bragg. Their families know they are in Iraq but details are limited. When they'll be back is another mystery. Reports indicate eight to 18 months but nothing is certain.

"They could be back or they could stay longer. You don't know until it happens," Keisha Turner said.

Just as the Turner and Holder families were adjusting to the citizen soldiers' return six months ago from homeland security duty in Virginia and Maryland, they were called back up.

"We were just getting back to how it was before the first time," Keisha Turner said Friday.

During the homeland security tour, families visited about once a month. Calls home were frequent. Now the men are half a world away with limited communication to the outside.

"We thought going to Virginia and Maryland was hard, at least we could talk to them," Keisha Turner said.

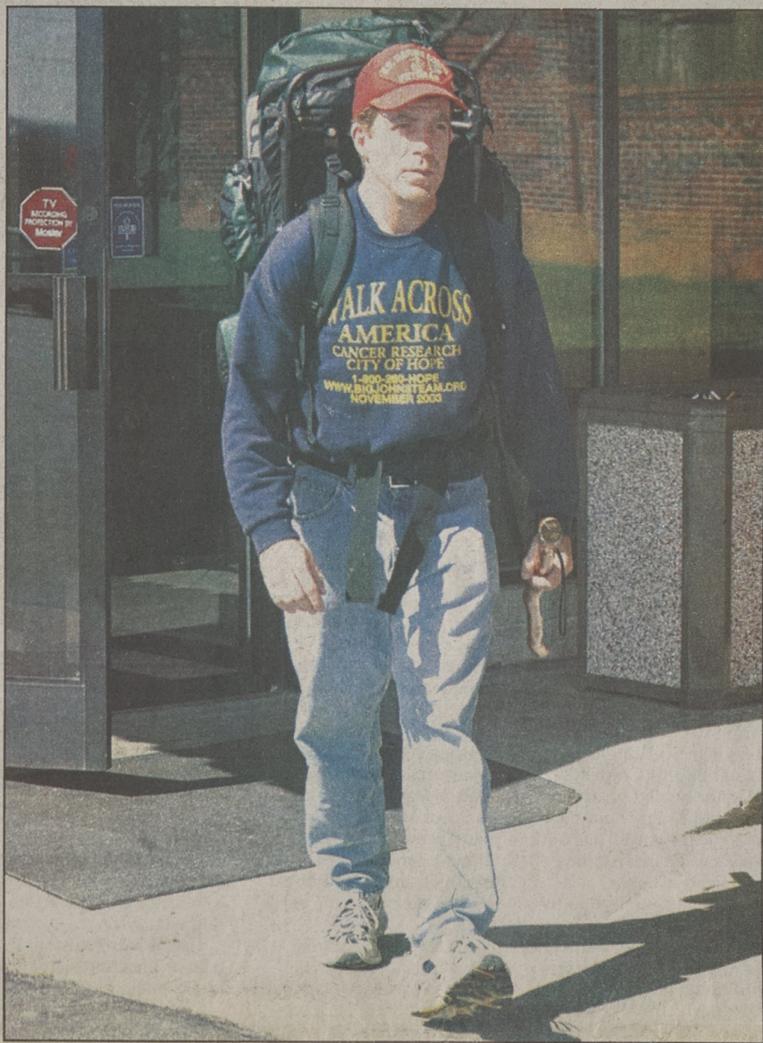
Since her husband left last week, Angela Holder has automatically reached for the phone to call him like she did during the first deployment.

"You go to pick it up then you realize you can't," she said.

Two days before the men got their most recent

See Iraq, 3A

## WALK ACROSS AMERICA



GARY STEWART / HERALD

Jim Hickey leaves Comfort Inn in Kings Mountain to continue his walk across America to raise awareness of cancer. Below, he talks about his experiences.

## New Jersey man hopes to raise awareness of cancer

By GARY STEWART  
 Editor of The Herald

While area folks are forming teams to walk all night in the upcoming Relay for Life, New Jersey resident Jim Hickey is walking from Virginia Beach, VA to Los Angeles, CA to raise awareness of and funds for cancer research.

Hickey, 42, has spent the last six years of his life walking. His first two attempts to walk across America ended when he failed to get necessary support for long, hot walks across the far west and desert.

This time, though, he has lined up support teams all across the country and he fully expects the third time to be a charm.

Hickey came through Kings Mountain last week, spending Thursday night at The Comfort Inn. He left late Friday morning on his way to Shelby, then to Asheville, Nashville, TN and St. Louis, MO.

When he reaches St. Louis, a support team is expected to join him to carry water, food and supplies for him as he journeys west. He hopes to complete his trip by Christmas.

"I used to put a time limit on my walks, but not this time," Hickey says. "The pressure is hard enough and a timetable just makes it harder. You're vulnerable to injuries and weather and other things, and you have to stop sometimes to make it work. But I really hope to be there by Christmas. I've spent the last six Christmases on the road, so Santa Claus owes me."

Hickey got the idea to walk across America after his father Lawrence died of prostate cancer on September 5, 1995. On September 4, 1996, just one day shy of the first

anniversary of his father's death, Hickey's brother had prostate surgery. He recovered.

"We had my father home the last sever-

See Walk, 3A



Brent Turner stands with his wife Keisha Turner and their sons Holden, Ryan, front, and Matthew and the family's dog Lexie last week at Fort Bragg.

## City is developing a policy on reimbursing stolen items

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
 Staff Writer

The City of Kings Mountain is developing a formal policy for reimbursing individuals who have items stolen while on city property, City Manager Gary Hicks said Tuesday afternoon.

This comes after questions were raised when a Kings Mountain police officer was reimbursed when his wallet was stolen while he was at the police department.

Officer Roger Goforth was reimbursed \$1,600, according to Police Chief Melvin Proctor.

Proctor said Goforth had taken his wallet out of his pocket when he was completing a yearly personal

information update. Goforth realized his wallet was missing when he later stopped to make a purchase. He told Proctor he did not remember returning it to his pocket while at the department.

Proctor said he conducted an investigation and it appeared the wallet was taken at the police department though it could not be determined who took the wallet.

"I felt strongly he should be reimbursed. He's no different than a citizen," Proctor said. "I talked with Gary Hicks and Mickey Cory and they said it was the right thing."

Proctor said he welcomes the policy which would give formal guidelines and would appoint someone to approve reimbursements.

## Second KM water lake recommended

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
 Staff Writer

Kings Mountain may build a second water impoundment. Engineers from HDR Engineering, Inc. presented a report to the utility committee Tuesday afternoon.

The engineering firm recommended a site near Moss Lake below where Muddy Fork Creek and Persimmon Creek flow together, 300 yards upstream of the Stony Point Road crossing.

The firm presented three options. A 520 acre, 3,910 million gallon reservoir would cost \$16.5 million; a 943 acre, 16,400 million gallon reservoir would cost \$25.1 million and a 480 acre, 2,400 million gallon reservoir would cost \$12.4 million. These numbers include the cost of purchasing property and construction.

The project would take between eight to 10 years due to the permitting process, according to engineer Marshall Taylor. Waiting to begin the project would drive costs up, he said.

The land is forested and undeveloped. Some is being used for agriculture though Taylor described it as "primed for residential development."

"Things could happen to foreclose the option (of purchasing land around Muddy Creek). There's no time to plan and move like the present," engineer Scott Alpert said.

Currently the watershed's environmental classification has no development nor discharge restrictions though Taylor urged the city to begin the process which would change that. The new restrictions would be similar to those on Moss Lake, he said.

That process would take 18 months to two years if other effected local municipalities do not attempt to block the reclassification, Taylor said.

He also urged the city to begin the land and conservation easement process and apply for watershed protection grants.

"I think we should strike while the iron is hot if we want this. We will never outgrow our need for water," City Councilman Howard Shipp said.

An impoundment on Muddy Fork Creek would enable Moss Lake to stay near full pond during droughts, according to the

engineers. Without a second water source, engineers predict Moss Lake can continue to supply the city's water for the next 50 years with only one failure though the lake level could drop dramatically at times.

"For Kings Mountain alone you probably have enough for 50 years. It (Moss Lake) might not look pretty," Alpert said.

Former City Councilman Jim Guyton spoke out against development along water impoundments.

"That's the consequence of house building around the lake, then the city catches blame," Guyton said.

Guyton questioned the cost of a second impoundment and said that the city does not make money from the sale of water.

After the city council hears the report during its Tuesday night meeting, it can ask the Rural Center for a \$40,000 grant, according to Alpert. This would cover studies of the land acquisition process, impact of increased withdrawals on Moss Lake and where to locate a dam.

Additional grant money is available from the Clean Water Trust Fund to help secure easements and buy land around the proposed impoundment.

The cost could be shared with other municipalities in the region, according to Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey who was at Tuesday's meeting. Possible partners include Shelby, Cherryville and Cherokee County. A private public partnership is another option.

Despite the lessening need on behalf of industries for water, Murphrey contends a reliable water supply is an incentive for economic development.

Kings Mountain's neighbors are already showing an interest in purchasing water. Utility Committee Chairman and City Councilman Rick Moore said Cleveland County was interested in purchasing water from Kings Mountain.

Cherryville officials plan to attend Tuesday's meeting. According to Moore, Cherryville can purchase water from Kings Mountain for less than it can treat water. Cherryville's nearest lines are 4.5 to 5 miles from Kings Mountain lines, according to Water Director Walt Ollis.

"I think we got the horse," Moore said.



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD

Scott Alpert, an engineer with HDR Engineering, Inc. of the Carolinas, presents a study recommending Kings Mountain build a water impoundment on Muddy Fork Creek.