

July 15

NEWS RELEASE



Community Hospital Laboratory Receives a Thank You from Overseas

Grand Junction, CO - When Major Chris Bukala answered his country's call to service, Community Hospital's laboratory and the Mesa County Health Department were there to back him up. These two entities collected donations to purchase Major Bukala a top of the line tactical vest personal body armor for his current deployment to Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan where he is a veterinarian for military dogs.

Similar body armor was purchased for Chris Lindley, director of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Division at the Colorado Department of Public Health, by staff members prior to his deployment to Iraq. This equipment saved his life.

On Friday, July 17 at 1 p.m. in the Community Hospital laboratory, a plaque sent by Major Bukala as a thank you, will be presented by his wife Deb Bukala, a laboratory employee at Community Hospital, to those employees who participated in the collection. The plaque contains the flag that was flown over the Craig Joint Theatre Hospital in Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan on September 11 where Major Bukala is currently stationed.

Major Bukala graduated in 1972 from the Air Force Academy and went to veterinary school at CSU. He served in the Air Force for 13 years and reenlisted in 2007 with the 96th Regional Readiness Command at age 58.

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