

## 141<sup>st</sup> welcomed home from Iraq

After serving one year “boots on the ground” in Iraq, Darrell Schulz and Lowell Rader at long last safely planted their boots on the ground at home in February. Schulz works as a general mechanic II at Basin Electric Headquarters, and Rader is an equipment attendant at Leland Olds Station (LOS). Both serve in the North Dakota Army National Guard Company C 141 Engineer Combat Battalion. The 475 members of the 141<sup>st</sup> were mobilized on Dec. 18, 2003, and started their one-year “boots on ground” timetable on Feb. 14, 2004.

The soldiers of the 141<sup>st</sup> arrived home over the course of several weeks in February. Schulz arrived home Feb. 8, Rader on Feb. 16. Schulz returned to his job at Headquarters on March 1, and Rader returned to LOS on March 14.

The 141<sup>st</sup> earned renown and respect in Iraq for its success in clearing roadside bombs as part of Task Force Trailblazer. According to the North Dakota Army National Guard, the soldiers of the 141<sup>st</sup> covered more than 400,000 kilometers on their patrols through north-central Iraq – the equivalent of traveling from the Earth to the moon – since assuming the Trailblazer mission in March 2004.



Basin Electric Headquarters employees wear yellow to welcome Darrell Schulz (center front) home from Iraq.



Shift Supervisor Albert Weisbeck (standing) thanks Lowell Rader for his service in Iraq as Rader's wife Julie and Plant Manager Curt Melland (far right) look on.

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## Employees donate to tsunami relief effort



Debris and devastation were widespread in Banda Aceh, Aceh province, Sumatra island, on Dec 28, 2004.

Though half a world separates Basin Electric from the islands in the Indian Ocean, the distance wasn't enough to stop employees from reaching out to the victims of the Dec. 26, 2004, tsunami. From Jan. 11 through Jan. 21, employees donated \$1,526 to the American Red Cross Tsunami Relief Fund. The Red Cross vowed 100 percent of every dollar donated would

go directly to relief and recovery efforts. The Red Cross used donations to provide tsunami survivors with nutritious food, basic supplies such as tents and hygiene items, basic healthcare and support to cope with the trauma.