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National Museum of the American Indian

Master Sergeant Chuck Boers
Iraq Powwow photographs

2024

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	Master Sergeant Chuck Boers Iraq Powwow photographs
Date:	2004 September 17- 2004 September 18
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.428
Creator:	Boers, Chuck , Master Sergeant (Photographer)
Extent:	6 Photograph (digital)
Language:	No linguistic content; Not applicable .
Summary:	This collection contains 6 digital photographs depicting the Inter-Tribal Powwow held in Al Taqaddum, Iraq, September 17-18, 2004, by the U.S. Army's 120th Engineer Combat Battalion (headquartered in Okmulgee, Oklahoma). Photographs were shot by Master Sergeant Chuck Boers.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Gift of Sergeant Debra K. Mooney (Choctaw Nation Of Oklahoma), 2005.

Separated Materials

The photographs in this collection include depictions of items that NMAI acquired for the object collections including a ball stick (NMAI object [26/5138](#)); a drum (NMAI object [26/5148](#)); a tomahawk (NMAI object [26/5139](#)); a flag of the Cherokee Tribe of Oklahoma (NMAI object [26/5130](#)); and a Muscogee (Creek Nation flag (NMAI object [26/5149](#)).

Processing Information

Collection processed by Emily Moazami, Head Archivist, 2024.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Master Sergeant Chuck Boers Iraq Powwow photographs, image #, NMAI.AC.428; National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Access to NMAI Archives Center collections is by appointment only, Monday - Friday, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. Please contact the archives to make an appointment (phone: 301-238-1400, email: nmaiarchives@si.edu).

Conditions Governing Use

Permission to publish materials from the collection must be requested from National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center. Please submit a written request to nmaiphotos@si.edu. For personal or classroom use, users are invited to download, print, photocopy, and distribute the images that are

available online without prior written permission, provided that the files are not modified in any way, the Smithsonian Institution copyright notice (where applicable) is included, and the source of the image is identified as the National Museum of the American Indian. For more information please see the Smithsonian's [Terms of Use](#) and NMAI Archive Center's [Digital Image request](#) website.

Biographical / Historical

Master Sergeant Chuck Boers joined the US Army in 1982 and has been a member of the 55th Signal Company (Combat Camera Unit) since 1993. While on leave from his regular duties, he documented the Al Taqaddum Inter-Tribal Powwow, September 17-18, 2004, in Al Taqaddum, Iraq, held by the U.S. Army's 120th Engineer Combat Battalion (headquartered in Okmulgee, Oklahoma). These digital images were donated to NMAI by Battalion members and their chaplain, Sergeant Debra K. Mooney (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma), in 2005.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains 6 digital photographs depicting the Inter-Tribal Powwow held in Al Taqaddum, Iraq on September 17-18, 2004 by the U.S. Army's 120th Engineer Combat Battalion (headquartered in Okmulgee, Oklahoma). The photographs were shot by Master Sergeant Chuck Boers.

The images include depictions a a game of stickball in Camp Taqaddum, Iraq; a drum circle; portraits of Native soldiers in dress regalia; a tamahawk throwing contest; a portrait of the U.S. Army's 120th Engineer Combat Battalion posing with a flag of the Cherokee tribe of Oklahoma; and a portrait of two soldiers [Muscogee (Creek)] posing with a flag of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Cherokee
- Muscogee Nation (Creek)
- Soldiers

Cultures:

- Cherokee
- Muscogee Nation (Creek)

Places:

- Iraq

Container Listing

428_000_dig_D00141: [Photograph of a game of stick-ball in Camp Taqaddum, Iraq., 2004 September 17 - 2004 September 18](#)

1 Photograph (digital)

Photographer: Boers, Chuck , Master Sergeant

Notes: Soldiers from the 120th Engineer Combat Battalion (headquartered in Okmulgee, Oklahoma) playing a game of stick-ball in Camp Taqaddum, Iraq. Sticks (NMAI object [26/5138](#)) are made from broken mallets. Photo taken by Master Sergeant Chuck Boers during the powwow events held at Camp Taqaddum, Iraq in September 2004.

428_000_dig_D00142: [Photograph of drum circle at Camp Taqaddum, Iraq, 2004 September 17- 2004 September 18](#)

1 Photograph (digital)

Photographer: Boers, Chuck , Master Sergeant

Notes: Drum circle during powwow at Camp Taqaddum, Iraq. Four soldiers from the 120th Engineer Combat Battalion (headquartered in Okmulgee, Oklahoma) wearing ribbon shirts made from found materials at the base, and using a drum fashioned from a 55-gallon oil drum cut in half and covered with canvas from a sleeping cot (NMAI object [26/5148](#)). Behind them is a flag procession and fellow soldiers looking on. Photograph by Master Sergeant Chuck Boers September 17 or 18, 2004.

428_000_dig_D00143: [Portrait of soldiers from the U.S. Army's 120th Engineer Combat Battalion, 2004 September 17- 2004 September 18](#)

1 Photograph (digital)

Photographer: Boers, Chuck , Master Sergeant

Notes: Outdoor portrait of soldiers from the U.S. Army's 120th Engineer Combat Battalion (headquartered in Okmulgee, Oklahoma), wearing dress regalia (ribbon shirts and dresses) made from materials found at the base. Photograph by Master Sergeant Chuck Boers September 17 or 18, 2004, during the powwow events held at Camp Taqaddum, Iraq.

428_000_dig_D00144: [Photograph of a tomahawk throwing contest, 2004 September 17- 2004 September 18](#)

1 Photograph (digital)

Photographer: Boers, Chuck , Master Sergeant

Notes: Soldiers from the U.S. Army's 120th Engineer Combat Battalion (headquartered in Okmulgee, Oklahoma) participating in a tomahawk throwing contest. Man throws a tomahawk (NMAI object [26/5139](#)) at a wooden post while others look on. Photograph by Master Sergeant Chuck Boers during the powwow events held at Camp Taqaddum, Iraq on September 17-18, 2004.

428_000_dig_D00145: [Portrait of soldiers from the U.S. Army's 120th Engineer Combat Battalion, 2004 September 17- 2004 September 18](#)

1 Photograph (digital)

Photographer: Boers, Chuck , Master Sergeant

Notes: Outdoor portrait of soldiers from the U.S. Army's 120th Engineer Combat Battalion (headquartered in Okmulgee, Oklahoma) posing with a flag of the Cherokee Tribe of Oklahoma (NMAI object [26/5130](#)). Photograph by Master Sergeant Chuck Boers during powwow events held on September 17-18, 2004 at Camp Taqaddum, Iraq.

428_000_dig_D00146: [Portrait of Muscogee \(Creek\) soldiers posing with flag, 2004 September 17- 2004 September 18](#)

1 Photograph (digital)

Photographer: Boers, Chuck , Master Sergeant

Notes: Photograph depicting two soldiers [Muscogee (Creek)] from the 120th Engineer Combat Battalion (headquartered in Okmulgee, Oklahoma) posing in front of a military vehicle and holding the flag of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (NMAI object [26/5149](#)). Photograph by Master Sergeant Chuck Boers during the powwow events held at Camp Taqaddum, Iraq on September 17-18, 2004.