

# ProRodeo Sports News

June 25, 2010

## FEILD OPERATIVE

### Bareback rider took a bit of America to soldiers

BY JOHNNA ESPINOZA

**K**aycee Feild is a 23-year-old Utah cowboy who likes hunting, fishing and snowmobiling. He loves his family and friends, and he likes to have fun. He makes his living competing in America's original extreme sport – ProRodeo. He sounds like the All-American kid. So, it should come as no surprise that he would jump at the chance to visit U.S. soldiers in Kuwait and Iraq.

“The most important thing was connecting with soldiers, being positive and smiling. Bringing a little home to them is what we did,” said Feild, who visited nine U.S. bases. “We talked about home. That is what the soldiers liked the most.”

Listening to Utah hunting stories and what it is like to ride bucking horses for a living was a welcome break for those serving in Iraq.

Feild was the ProRodeo representative among those who participated in the Wrangler National Patriot Tour, May 27-June 3. Jeff Chadwick, Wrangler's director of Western special events, also was on the tour.

“They were so appreciative to have someone set their boots in their sandbox and tell them, ‘Thank you for everything you do for us;’ Chadwick said. “We’re also saluting them at rodeos and Western events across the country and raising money for their fallen and injured comrades and their families.”

Feild, a two-time Wrangler **NER** qualifier who is ranked No. 2 in the PRCA World Standings, was so moved by his visit to Kuwait and Iraq that he hopes to go back.

“I want to go over again – anywhere – if they have another trip,” said Feild, who now wears a Wrangler National Patriot Tour patch while he competes. “It was neat. There were a lot of cowboy fans.”

Feild signed autographs, did a few roping demonstrations and posed for a lot of photographs, along with thanking soldiers for

their service.

The Patriot Tour group traveled by Blackhawk helicopters and large planes, and Feild said he never felt in danger. He also was able to visit a base hospital that thankfully wasn't busy.

“There weren't a lot of soldiers there, because since the (Iraq Parliamentary) elections in March, the war has calmed down tremendously,” he said.

Raising awareness about the service of men and women in the Middle East was among the goals of the tour.

The Wrangler National Patriot program was started in 2009 with a \$50,000 donation from Wrangler in memory of 16-time World Champion Jim Shoulders, a longtime friend of Wrangler.

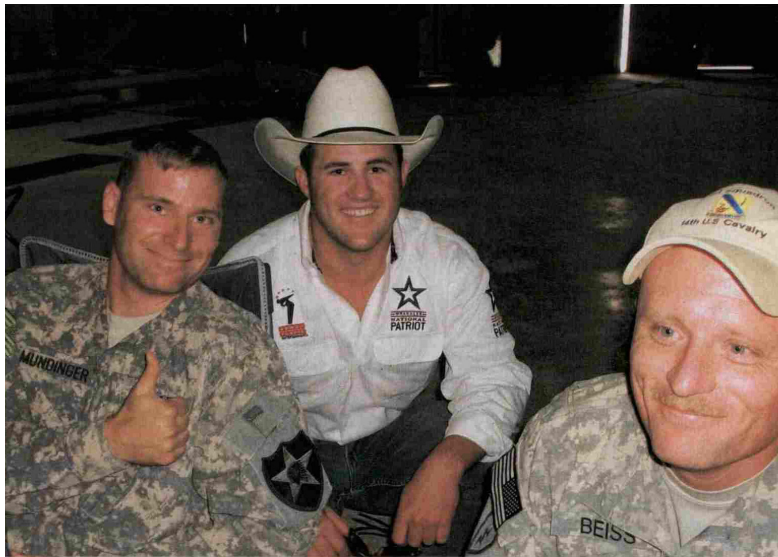
Wrangler is encouraging rodeo fans to purchase Patriot clothing and accessories, including T-shirts, Western woven shirts, blouses, ball caps, hat stickers and bandannas, which will be available at Western specialty retailers that carry Wrangler Western wear.

Wrangler will donate a portion of the proceeds to charities providing support to military veterans and their families.

Rodeo committees also can get involved. They can create their own fundraising campaigns and donate to local, state or national military charities or to recommended ones, such as the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, Operation Homefront and Fisher House.

“We have a high level of pride and respect for the individuals serving in the U.S. military who show heroism every day in an effort to protect our country,” said Phil McAdams, president of Wrangler Specialty Apparel. “This is our chance to give back to those veterans who have suffered injuries fighting for our country's safety and freedom, and to their families who have lost a loved one while on duty. It is a cause we believe will resonate with the Western industry and rodeo community in particular, and one they will get behind with sincerity.”

## ProRodeo Sports News continued



**Above:** Bareback rider Kaycee Feild poses for a photo with soldiers at a U.S. base in Iraq. The Payson, Utah, cowboy and two-time Wrangler National Finals Rodeo qualifier is among those who thanked U.S. troops for their service during the Wrangler National Patriot Tour. Wrangler is selling clothing and accessories to raise money for military charities.

**Right:** Wrangler Director of Western Special Events Jeff Chadwick (back row second from right) and bareback rider Kaycee Feild (back row second from left) traveled to nine U.S. bases in Iraq as part of the Wrangler National Patriot Tour. Chadwick and Feild are encouraging support for military charities.  
-Photos by AFEWranglerNation



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