



PRESS RELEASE
See attached photo.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Hardy Diagnostics Employee Presents Flag Flown in Iraq

Three-tour veteran returns to career in medical device manufacturing.



Justin Cardoza in the Hardy Diagnostics lobby. Photo by Steve Stuart.

SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA, NOV. 11 – Army Staff Sergeant Justin Cardoza returned from his third overseas tour bearing a gift—a United States flag flown over his Green Zone base in Iraq.

“I wanted to do something for the company since they supported me through my first two deployments,” said Cardoza, a veteran of one deployment to Afghanistan and two to Iraq.

One of the ways Hardy Diagnostics supported Cardoza during his tours was through the company’s

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Adopt-A-Platoon program which gathers donated items from Hardy employees and ships them to service members overseas.

“We want to help support our troops; especially during the holidays when it is really tough to be away from loved ones,” said Kristin Cossa, who leads the Adopt-A-Platoon program at Hardy Diagnostics.

Cardoza knew he wanted to fly a flag during his most recent assignment but when he arrived at his new post he encountered a problem. “They didn’t have a flag pole,” Cardoza said. So, Justin found a way to rig his own flag pole and fly a flag anyway.

This kind of resourcefulness recently earned Cardoza, a six-year Hardy Diagnostics employee, a promotion to Production Manager. “Justin gets things done,” said Kim Lombardi, Director of Manufacturing at Hardy Diagnostics. “He is dedicated and reliable, he communicates well and he’s a great team leader.”

After returning to Santa Maria earlier this year, Cardoza presented the flag to Hardy Diagnostics President, Jay Hardy.

“At Hardy Diagnostics we always welcome veterans to apply for openings. They receive such great training in the military that is of benefit to them and their employer in civilian life,” said Hardy. “It’s been a pleasure working with Justin these past six years; we are the ones who should be giving something to him for his service to our country.”

When asked about his accomplishments in the Army, Cardoza gave an impressive list: building schools, restoring electricity and running water to parts of Iraq cut off by Saddam Hussein, being part of the first election in Afghanistan in which women were allowed to vote, bringing medical aid to remote villages that had never seen a doctor before.

“Being there was humbling,” Cardoza said. “It puts things into perspective and makes me appreciate everything we as Americans have.”

ABOUT HARDY DIAGNOSTICS - Hardy Diagnostics is an FDA licensed and ISO 13485 certified manufacturer of medical devices for microbiological procedures in both clinical and industrial laboratories. Hardy Diagnostics was founded in 1980 in Santa Barbara by Jay Hardy and Robert Shibata after they

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completed their Medical Technology training in the laboratory at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital.

Hardy Diagnostics manufactures over 3,500 different products for the culture and identification of bacteria and fungi. Among its offerings are products used to culture and detect pathogens commonly seen in the news such as *E. coli*, *Salmonella*, *Listeria*, MRSA, and Influenza H1N1. In addition, the company manufactures reagents and media for use by molecular biology researchers. Over 7,000 laboratories throughout the nation are serviced by Hardy Diagnostics.

Today, Hardy Diagnostics employs 180 workers and maintains eight distribution centers throughout the U.S. All manufacturing takes place at its headquarters in Santa Maria, California. The company also exports products to over 40 nations. The company's mission is to "partner with its laboratory customers to prevent and diagnose disease." For more information, visit www.HardyDiagnostics.com.

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