

The Marne Express

"Mission, Soldiers, Teamwork"

Volume 2, Issue 10

Serving the Soldiers of Task Force Baghdad

July 3, 2005

In this week's edition of *The Marne Express*



Conviction
page 4



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Generosity
page 10

Douglas Wood free at last!



Spc. Chris Foster

Former Australian hostage Douglas Wood, along with Brig. Gen. John Basilica Jr., 256th Brigade Combat Team commander, and Col. Mohammed Faik Rauf, 2nd Battalion, 1st Iraqi Army Brigade commander take some time to for photographs following Wood's rescue by Soldiers from 2nd Bn., 1st IA Bde., June 15. See Story on page 18.

48th BCT ready for mission

Sgt. David Bill
48th BCT PAO

BAGHDAD - Newly arriving Soldiers of 48th Brigade Combat Team, Georgia Army National Guard, are settling into their

base camps and preparing for military operations as part of Task Force Baghdad.

Approximately 4,000 troops have completed five months of intense preparation. Together they form a strong unified team and are

primed to conduct any mission required of them during their deployment here in theater.

Since arriving in the region, 48th BCT Soldiers have conducted individual training, moved unit personnel, equip-

ment and vehicles into position, and worked with the higher command in preparation for full operations within the newly assigned area of responsibility.

"The brigade is ready and

See MISSION, page 18

Local Iraqi firefighters train to save lives



443rd CA Bn.
Media Release

BAGHDAD - Following the explosion of an improvised explosive device, Baghdad's city firefighters quickly show up at the scene. The casualties are hastily loaded into their trucks or ambulances and rushed to the hospital with little or no treatment provided.

It's not because the firefighters don't want to save lives, but rather that they were never properly trained in

basic life support skills.

Now, thanks to training by Task Force Baghdad Soldiers, the city's first-responders can show up at the scenes of terrorist attacks armed with the knowledge and skills to start applying emergency life-saving procedures.

Capt. Michael Gould, a physician assistant on the Public Health Team, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion and a

native of Boston, Mass., became aware of this critical need and decided to act on it. Together with the assistance of his medics, Sgt. Karolina Lojewska, of Chicago, Ill.; Pfc. Vashon Watson, of Trenton, N.J.; and Sgt. Alberto Torres, of New York City, a comprehensive training program was developed.

The civil affairs Soldiers faced some initial challenges. With the cultural and

See FIRE, page 18

Staff Sgt. Michael Didonato, Government Support Team, 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion, trains local Iraqi Fire Fighters how to put out fires June 16.

Sgt. Karolina Lojewska

m7 sends

Say "Yes" to the call of duty

Command Sgt. Major William M. Grant
TF Baghdad command sergeant major

"I solemnly swear to support and defend the constitution of the United States of America against all enemies foreign and domestic ... so help me God."

These are very interesting words especially in the situation in which we find ourselves today. During this time in the history of our Army when recruiting is at an all-time low, the need for great Americans to join or remain in the ranks of this team (the Army) is paramount.

However, the call to duty brings with it responsibility, commitment, dedication, and personal courage.

What does it take to be a Soldier in today's Army?

I would tell you that it takes saying "Yes" regarding those things that are good, true, and team supporting.

We all said "Yes" when our journey began in uniform regardless of how long ago that decision was made. That "Yes" was made with our limited perspective on what the future had in store for us. We say "Yes" when faced with the prospect of promotion, understanding that much more would

be required of us. We say "Oooh yes" when our raises hit the bank, thus increasing our buying power.

Yet, are we continuing to say "Yes" during these times of getting down to the business of supporting and representing ourselves well in light of the opening statement?

The call to duty comes in different shapes and sizes, yet, the endstate is common for all concerned.

I believe that duty comes easy when we understand the "Why" and the impact of an action on the big picture.

I believe it's easy to say "Yes" to the call to duty when one realizes that they are an integral member of the team. Therefore, I believe that Soldiers will gravitate in and around duty in direct proportion to the command climate they exist in.

I believe we are doing well in that area here in the Marne Division.

Are there key points of reference in your professional endeavors that require a "Yes" that would move you to the next level?

I don't normally end in this manner, but consider these ideas to repeated comments from the old "Arsenio Hall Show" - this is something that makes you go "hmmmm."

"Rock of the Marne"

The enemy regularly changes his tactics.

Do you?

STAY ALIVE

0003 IEDs KILL

The Warrior Ethos

- I will always place the mission first
- I will never accept defeat
- I will never quit
- I will never leave a fallen comrade

The Warrior Ethos is a way of life that applies to our personal and professional lives as well. It is a set of principles by which every Soldier lives.

The Word on the Street

What does patriotism mean to you?

"Being loyal to your country, people, and beliefs."



Sgt. Freddie Walker
4th Bn., 1st FA

"Defending fellow Soldiers and preserving freedom."



1st Lt. Jeffrey Hancock
HHC, 3rd Bde., 1st Armor Div.

"Defending our country and the rights and freedoms we enjoy as Americans."



Capt. Andrew S. Lane
1st Bn., 118th FA

"Serving my country."



Pfc. Crystal J. Gilliland
125th FSB

"Giving my life to make sure my family is safe back home."



Pfc. Frank Meza
HHB, 4th Bn., 1st FA

The Marne Express

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Unsung heroes



Chaplain (Maj.) Pete Brzezinski, 2nd BCT, waits to speak at a memorial service at Camp Loyalty. *Spc. Ben Brody*



Command Sgt. Major William M. Grant
TF Baghdad command sergeant major

The moral and spiritual guidance of Soldiers has been and always will be a vital role in ensuring that today's Army is prepared mentally, as well as physically on today's battlefield.

The undertaking of this vital role has to therefore be met by dedicated Soldiers with a lot of heart, which are the many chaplains and their assistants.

Our chaplains from various religious backgrounds work tirelessly, many times behind the scenes in their mission to guide Soldiers in triumph and in tragedy when the mind, body, and spirit need assistance.

The sustainment for all the spiritual needs

of Soldiers in the 3rd Infantry Division is challenging, but you all meet that task and do it well.

To the chaplain's assistants, you all are doing a great job in your dedication to ensure the chaplain can succeed in his mission.

Without you, our chaplains would be hard pressed in getting assistance out to such a large number of Soldiers that they help daily.

The Soldiers of this great division continue to perform extraordinary feats of bravery and heroics with the chaplains guiding us through the trials and triumphs that we face here during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

We're truly blessed to have such a dedicated and hardworking team of chaplains and their assistants working on this great team.

"Rock of the Marne"



Above: Chaplain (Capt.) Steve Hommell, 3rd, 15th Infantry Regiment, hands out toys at a humanitarian assistance drop in Sadr City. *Photos by Spc. Ben Brody (above), Spc. Brian P. Henretta (left)*

Left: Spc. Daisy Calbat, a San Antonio, Texas, native, and a chaplain's assistant with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment (Attack Reconnaissance Battalion), puts Bibles back into their box after mass.

Commentary

An easy question, a complicated answer

I've been asked before what makes me stay in the Army through what will probably be, in its entirety, an almost three-year separation from my husband and I can't seem to explain it.

Why am I in the Army?

The simple answer might be "patriotism."

My patriotism toward the Army is the topic of this commentary, but there's so much more to it than that.

Yes, I am a patriot. I love my country and I'm proud of her. I'm not proud of everything that she's done, but I am proud of her as a whole. I am proud of the ideals that my country stands for; proud of the people who, whatever background they come from, stand beside me and say "I'm an American."

I'm proud of the country that my great-grandparents risked their lives to come to, from Holland, from France, from Poland and from Russia. They saw a golden land, one where dreams grew wild in endless stretches of land.

I still see that original promise that brought them here.

I see those very same dreams, though there are days when those dreams don't shine so brightly, and I wonder if the "American Dream" is a shadow that I've been told to chase

with no hope of actually catching it.

Then, the sun comes out again, and my dreams, so big that only a land as vast as America could hold them, shimmer in the sun like treasures scattered over mountains.

I love my country.

I love her with a fierce pride and a passion that isn't always explainable to someone who hasn't experienced that love.

I love my country enough to answer her call, to put my civilian life on hold to respond to the burden she asks me to pick up, regardless of whether or not I agree with why she's asking me. I love her enough to wear a uniform and to possibly give my life in her service.

But there's more to it than that.

Over the years, I've tried putting it in plain words, with various degrees of success.

I'm a patriot, yes, but it's more than a deep and abiding love of my country and a need to give back to her somehow that keeps me in the Army. It's not the pay; although for the first time in my adult life I am totally out of debt and living more than just barely above the poverty level. It's not the education benefits, since I earned them after my first enlistment. The GI Bill is a lovely thing, but it's not why I stay.

It's not the medical care necessarily, since as a National Guard member, I don't get many medical bennies when I'm not activated.

It's the people – the Soldiers. The good, the bad and the indifferent.

It's that human factor that reaches out, across backgrounds and educations and lives, and binds us together. No matter how fragile those bonds seem, they're still there and they're everlasting.

Get a group of people together and the Soldiers and veterans will congregate, usually trading "No Sh*t There I Was" stories, peppered with obscure acronyms and coarse language.

It's a uniquely shared set of experiences, shared by individuals who are, forever afterwards, part of something bigger than themselves. It's something that honestly defies my attempts to catalogue, classify or quantify. It's almost impossible to truly dissect. I've been asked if I could find such fulfilling camaraderie in another field, and I probably could, as long as certain parameters were met. My alternative calling would have to be challenging, both physically and emotionally and involve things that should suck, but somehow, don't.

I'd require that my other calling involve daily "somethings" that, with rare exception, leave me dirty, tired

and pissed off at stupid stuff, but still has me laughing my butt off at the end of the day.

I could probably find that dream job somewhere else, but I love Soldiers, like no one I've ever loved before. They are, in my mind, my family. I've been through so many things with other Soldiers. I've been hurt by other Soldiers and also held up by Soldiers when I thought I couldn't take any more.

I've fallen in love with a Soldier, someone who understands the why, the what, and the how of the Army, and I wouldn't trade that for anything.

I've cried because of my love of the Army and I've experienced anguished heartbreak, enduring personal sacrifices that made me doubt my future in the military.

I've laughed and cried and made friends who will be part of my life until the day I die.

So, yes, I am a patriot.

But the men and women in uniform beside me show me why I'm proud of my country. My fellow Soldiers remind me day in and day out why it is that I love America and why I stay in the Army.

For that, I thank them.

Spc. Jennifer Fitts is an Army journalist with the 100th MPAD

Process of Elimination Part II

The Murder Conviction

Spc. Erin Robicheaux
256th BCT PAO

CAMP TIGERLAND, Baghdad – May 26, 2005 is a day that will go down in history for the 256th Brigade Combat Team Staff Judge Advocate Office.

In the Central Criminal Court of Iraq, American and Iraqi lawyers worked together by the letter of the Iraqi law and sought justice for the tragic death of Staff Sgt. Henry Irizarry – and won.

As a result, Ziyad Hassin Ali Hammadi was convicted in an Iraqi court of law of murdering an American Soldier and will spend the next 15 years of his life in an Iraqi prison.

On December 3, 2004, infantry scouts of Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment were hit by an improvised explosive device. The attack seriously injured three Soldiers and left Irizarry dead. The gunner on the truck in front of Irizarry's saw the triggerman and, along with air support and the quick reaction force, chased him into a house and detained him.

It was then up to 256th BCT Staff Judge Advocate's Office and the tactical human intelligence teams to extract information from the suspect. Along with evidence collected by the Soldiers at the scene, the legal process of keeping the killer of an American Soldier off of the streets began.

Deputy Staff Judge Advocate Major Roderick Alvendia, from New Orleans, La., worked on the case from start to finish, along with 256 BCT paralegal Spc. Nathaniel Orphey from Lake Charles, La.

Alvendia said considering that a triggerman of an IED is rarely caught at the scene; it was pertinent to get the case moved along as quickly as possible. Among the thousands of cases pending trial at Abu Ghraib, this one was pushed to the front because it



The vehicle that Staff Sgt. Henry Irizarry was riding in was destroyed when an IED was detonated on Dec. 3, 2004 by Ziyad Hassin Ali Hammadi. Irizarry was killed and the other three Soldiers in the vehicle were severely wounded. On May 26 Hammadi was convicted of murder through the Iraqi court system and sentenced to 15 years in prison.

was so important.

"There was a KIA (Soldier killed in action) involved and we knew who the triggerman was, so it was important for us to move it ahead of all the others, and that's exactly what the Central Criminal Court of Iraq did," Alvendia said.

The Central Criminal Court of Iraq, or CCCI, was established to address serious crimes that most directly threaten public order and safety in Iraq, which may include crimes against Coalition Forces by Anti-Iraqi Forces, according to www.iraqcoalition.org.

It is an Iraqi court, which means that there is an Iraqi judge, prosecutor and defense attorney.

American lawyers, known as judge advocates, collected the evidence and put the case together, then gave it to the Iraqi lawyers to try.

The trial process is set up into two phases: the investigative phase, which can be compared to a grand jury, where it is determined if there is sufficient evidence to go to the second phase – the trial.

The investigative hearing is the prosecution's time to present all evidence and submit any information that they feel is important to the case.

Soldiers on patrol with Irizarry and the other victims of the attack were brought in to the CCCI as witnesses for the investigative hearing.

In the judge's chambers, they each gave testimony of the night's events and provided evidence such as pictures, maps and eye-witness accounts. At an intense moment of the hearing, each Soldier was asked to identify the triggerman, who was seated only a few feet away.

Alvendia worked with the Soldiers, and they gathered evidence and made sure that no stone went unturned. He explained the evidence presented in the Iraqi court system is quite different from the American system.

"There are no formal rules of evidence in place and just about any evidence that you find is admissible," Alvendia said. "Anything that you find at the scene or even hear about the person is considered by the judges, that's why it's so important to enter whatever you have. These judges aren't concerned with excluding evidence, as we see sometimes in the United States."

Once it was determined by the investigative judge that there was enough evidence to go to trial, the case was given to a panel of three trial judges

who ultimately determined the fate of Hammadi.

"Though the defense attorney speaks on behalf of the defendant, he does not ask any questions, nor does the prosecution," said Lt. Tyler Stone, a Navy liaison officer for the CCCI.

"The Iraqi court is kind of based on the inquisitional system, which means that unlike

the American system where the attorneys do the questioning and the judges almost act like referees, the three judges on the panel

drive the questions," Stone said. "There are no objections."

The defense attorney and prosecution may suggest questions to the panel of judges, but in most cases, they will only give a closing argument.

Normally, no more evidence is entered beyond the investigative hearing, but in an unorthodox move, the panel allowed Stone, who worked with Alvendia and the witnesses on the case, to enter what is called "victim-impact evidence."

"What I'm trying to do is to give them (the judges) a sense of 'Hey, this person wasn't just a number or a rank, or even a Soldier.' This person was a human being who had a wife, kids, a new grandchild,

and the ending to his life, though noble in service to his country, was tragic how it occurred with the IED," Stone said.

He entered photos of Irizarry showing his life as a Soldier, as a husband and father, and even entered photos of his funeral in his hometown of Waterbury, Conn.

On May 26, the legal team, who worked so closely on the case, and a handful of Irizarry's fellow 1/69th Inf. Regt. Soldiers, crowded into the main courtroom at the CCCI.

After the prosecutor and defense attorney read their closing arguments, the chief judge announced in Arabic the long-awaited verdict. Anxious Soldiers and lawyers instinctively turned to the interpreter, who said, "Guilty, 15 years."

Alvendia said that though a 15-year conviction may sound low for a murder case, there are many factors to consider.

For example, a life sentence in Iraq is 20 years, and the conditions in an Iraqi prison are not comparable to that of an American prison.

He also said he believes although Hammadi was not put away for a full life sentence, he will be in prison for the rest of his life.

Hammadi's case was the second murder conviction for crimes against an American Soldier since the CCCI was created.

Alvendia said the success of this case and the justice that

"We won playing by their rules. An Iraqi Insurgent tried in an Iraqi court by Iraqi judges and lawyers, was convicted of murdering an American Soldier."

Maj. Roderick Alvendia
Deputy SJA, 256th BCT

was served is due largely in part to the patrols – the Soldiers literally on the battlefield who collect evidence and put their

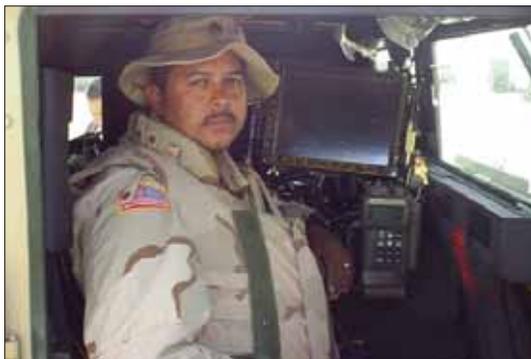
packets together.

"If we want to continue to get convictions on future cases, we need to pay attention to details as much as possible involving the crimes the Iraqis commit against American forces," Alvendia said.

He also said that every little piece of evidence is extremely important, since the Iraqi judges consider everything that is turned in.

All in all, Alvendia and the legal team feel that the outcome is an extremely successful one.

"We won playing by their rules," he said. "An Iraqi insurgent tried in an Iraqi court, by Iraqi judges and lawyers, was convicted of murdering an American Soldier – that's a success."



Staff Sgt. Henry Irizarry from Waterbury, Conn. of scout platoon, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, attached to 256th Brigade Combat Team was killed by an IED on Dec. 3, 2004.

Independence Day: America's birthday



www.fourth-of-july-celebrations.com
Special to The Marne Express

History of Independence Day

Schoolchildren in America learn the basic history of the events surrounding the Fourth of July, but the details of this monumental occasion in American history somehow fall through the cracks.

Although July 4th is celebrated as America's official split from Britain's rule and the beginning of the American Revolution, the actual series of events show that the process took far longer than a single day. The original resolution was introduced by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia on June 7, 1776, and called for the Continental Congress to declare the United States free from British rule. Three days later a committee headed by Thomas Jefferson was

appointed to prepare an appropriate writing for the occasion.

The document that we know as the Declaration of Independence was adopted by Congress on July 4th although the resolution that led to the writing of the Declaration was actually approved two days earlier.

All of this had occurred with some of the delegates to the Congress not even present; New York, for example, did not even vote on the resolution until July 9.

Even more interesting is the fact that not a single signature was appended to the Declaration on July 4th. While most of the fifty-six names were in place by early August, one signer, Thomas McKean, did not actually sign the Declaration until 1781.

Nevertheless, July 4th was the day singled out to mark the event of the

United States establishing itself as a nation.

Only four American holidays are still celebrated on their proper calendar days: Halloween, Christmas, New Year's and Independence Day. Of all the secular holidays, the Fourth of July is the only one whose celebration date resists change. Even in more provincial times, suggestions to alter the day of the festival to the preceding Saturday or the following Monday when July 4th fell on Sunday were protested.

The feeling about the sanctity of America's Independence day was best expressed in a quotation from the Virginia Gazette on July 18, 1777: "Thus may the 4th of July, that glorious and ever memorable day, be celebrated through America, by the sons of freedom, from age to age till time shall be no more. Amen and Amen."

Paper, pencils and compassion

68th CSB Soldiers aid villagers

Sgt. Kevin Bromley
3/1 AD PAO

TAJI, Iraq – Task Force Baghdad Soldiers helped a small community get on the road toward basic education needs for their children. To do so, the Soldiers had a unique road to travel themselves.

As U.S. Army humvees rolled down the dusty rural route to Jorfa Al Melleb, children and adults popped out of their mud-brick houses to wave and give the ubiquitous thumbs-up sign as they passed. Although the Soldiers of 68th Corps Support Battalion, and Team 4 of B Company, 403rd Civil Affairs Battalion continued down the road, they did not leave the residents behind in their dusty path.

Jorfa Al Melleb is an impoverished rural community northwest of Baghdad. Its residents lack most of the basic necessities of life.

"They seem to get excited when we roll into town, especially when we pull up to a school ... they know we are going to pass out supplies," said Capt. Alex Rammage commander of A Company, 68th CSB.

The Task Force Baghdad units scheduled the visit to bring many of the 1st through 3rd graders of Al Hilla Elementary School much needed paper, pencils and other supplies to assist them with their studies.

Capt. Adrian J. Crimmins, the 68th CSB supply officer, moved into the small adobe style school building and went from classroom to classroom passing out the supplies to legions of smiling children.

"The supplies came from my mother's hometown, White River Junction, Vermont," Crimmins said. "She put the word out around the hospital, and they sent them to me."



Photos by Sgt. Kevin Bromley

Sgt. Kevin J. Hammer a Kansas National Guard Soldier from the 137th Transportation Company treats a child with a severe burn during a humanitarian aid mission in Jorfa Al Melleb, Iraq May 14, 2005.

These types of humanitarian missions are important to communities like Jorfa Al Melleb because the schools are unable to purchase the supplies they need.

"It was very difficult to get school books and the price is very high...we couldn't get enough for the students and it was very poor quality," said a school administrator.

Assisting the region's schools by providing supplies is only one facet of the civil improvement and assistance programs initiated by Coalition Forces.

There are several other projects designed to help improve existing education infrastructure and refurbish or build new school houses.

"We have a plan to build another building across the street to house our secondary school," said another administrator.

Iraqi children need new schools and improvements to existing structures to provide a healthy and safe learning environment.

"We have projects to add to

this school and others, but money is tight and more responsibility for these projects was turned over to the Iraqi Ministry of Education as the new government expands its influence," said Capt. Mark Jeffery, commander of Civil Affairs Team 4.

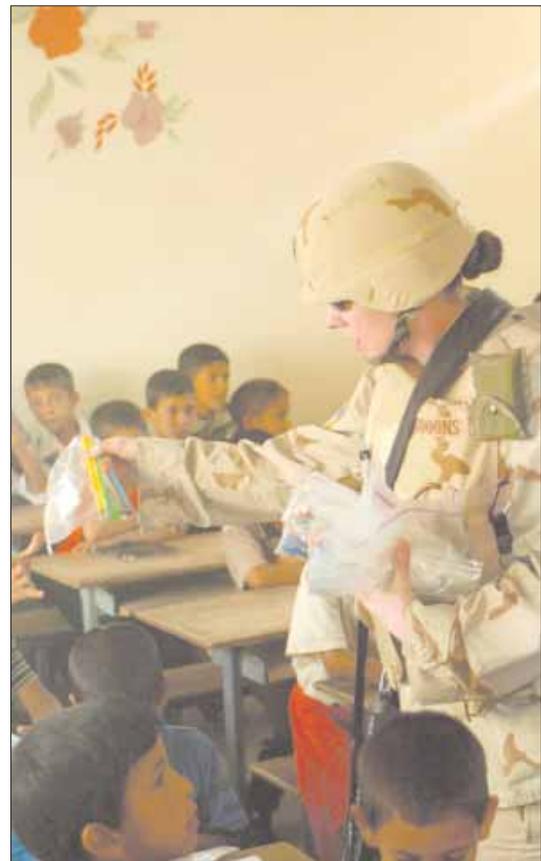
During the visit to Jorfa Al Melleb, a child walked up with a severe burn on nearly six inches of his leg.

68th CSB medic, Sgt. Kevin J. Hammer of Rossville, Kan. opened the back of his medical truck and began treating the boy's wound.

"It's okay you'll be alright," said Hammer, comforting the boy as he cleaned the wound with a sterile solution.

The boy winced in pain and clutched his brother's shoulder while Hammer worked. The medic rubbed an antibiotic salve on the wound and wrapped it with clean gauze.

"Tell him he has to keep it on for at least four days," Hammer told the boy's brother.



Capt. Adrian J. Crimmins of Ft. Carson, Colo., and the supply officer for 68th Corps Support Battalion, passes out school supplies donated by her mother and her mother's co-workers at a Veteran's Administration hospital.

A wound like this in a region without adequate sanitation and medical facilities can easily become infected.

"The boy's leg had a pretty serious bacterial infection spreading through it, another three days or so without treatment and it could develop into gangrene," Hammer said as he lifted the boy off of the tailgate and set him down.

"It's always a good feeling when you can help these people," he said.

Another benefit of humanitarian missions is the morale boost that Soldiers get from helping the Iraqi people.

"Usually, I provide logistical support to Soldiers ... and never get to work with the Iraqi people," said Sgt. First Class Cynthia Washington, a supply specialist from Headquarters, Headquarters Detachment, 68th CSB. "This is my first humanitarian aid mission and it's exciting ... very exciting."

'Citizen and the Law' show goes on air in Baghdad

Master Sgt. Gregory A. Kaufman
3d Inf. Div. PAO

BAGHDAD – Attorneys from the 3rd Infantry Division Staff Judge Advocate Office visited officials at Radio Sawa to observe the first recording of a new talk radio program called "The Citizen and the Law" June 3.

The hour-long program (with 15 minute breaks for news at the top and bottom of the hour) will soon begin airing every Sunday morning.

The premise behind the show is for people to call a hotline and ask a question or describe a legal problem they're having. The call is recorded and given to a team of eight Iraqi attorneys who specialize in different areas of law, such as family law, criminal law, general law and legal aid.

The Iraqi lawyers listen to all the questions, research the topic, then write out their responses. Every week two of the attorneys will sit down with a host at the radio station to record the questions and answers that are aired on the show.

"We want to ensure the Iraqi people know they have an institution of law," said Col. William Hudson, staff judge advocate, 3rd Inf. Div., a resident of Richmond Hill, Ga.

"They need to have confidence in the legal system," he said. "Most people listen to the radio and every medium we can use to get the word out helps in a fledgling democracy."

"The radio station is excited about

the show, too. No other radio station in Iraq has anything like it," Hudson added.

Radio Sawa is a popular station in Baghdad. The majority of the station's listeners are 18 to 40 years old who like the mixture of Arabic pop music, talk radio and news.

"Don't forget Iraq was ruled by a dictator for nearly 40 years," Hudson said. "Lots of people are going to have questions about how the law works and what rights they have under the newly-elected Iraqi government."

Some examples of questions people frequently have are evictions and property disputes, and how criminals

are being sentenced after they're brought to justice.

"For example," Hudson said, "say a person hires a contractor to fix the roof on their house and the guy does a lousy job. The homeowner can call our hotline, tell one of the Iraqi attorneys what happened and find out what kind of legal redress is available to them to get the problem solved."

Hudson thinks the radio program will eventually grow to include law professors and even judges.

"We want this to be a lasting program that will continue to air long after we leave," Hudson said. "Maybe it can be a live call-in show one day. After all, look at how 'Court TV' has taken off in the United States."

Who's to say it couldn't happen here?"



Cleaning time...



Spc. Jeremy D. Crisp

Master Sgt. Kerrethel Avery, chemical operations non commissioned officer-in-charge, 36th Engineer Group, 3rd Infantry Division, sprays down a vehicle during training on the Army's new Falcon fixed-site decontamination system at Camp Liberty, May 30.

No Soldier left behind

Sgt. Matthew Maupin

"I will not leave a fallen comrade"

These well known words from the Warrior Ethos ring true for Sgt. Matt Maupin.

Maupin is an Army Reserve Soldier from 724th Transportation Company who was captured April 9, 2004 during Operation Iraqi Freedom 2.

Sgt. Maupin – we are still looking for you and we will find you.

You have not been forgotten.



Communication Soldiers make connection

Spc. Matthew Wester
3/1AD PAO

TAJI, Iraq – Two Soldiers emerge from a specially made humvee which contains a large, box-like rear compartment with dozens of thick cables and electrical wires connected to it.

They move swiftly over the wires, ducking under camouflaged netting to a tall antenna and adjust its position while listening on a hand-held radio for feedback regarding the antenna's reception.

The Soldiers are communications specialists for 1st Platoon, 596th Signal Company, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division. Their job is keeping the brigade and other troops at Camp Taji linked and communicating every minute of the day and night.

"My platoon is responsible for a large amount of the phone and data communications at Camp Taji," said Capt. Stephen M. Bjorkman, 1st pl. leader, and a native of Emmett, Idaho. "Our responsibility is to make sure the systems are running."

Bjorkman referred to the units his platoon serves as "subscribers."



Spc. Matthew Wester

Pfc. Bryan Galloway, a multi-channel systems operator and maintainer for 1st Platoon, 596th Signal Company, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division adjusts a radio system at Camp Taji, Iraq.

"We provide a network to ensure that the subscribers have voice and data (communications)," said Staff Sgt. Larry L. Jones from Detroit, Mich., a senior node center operator for the platoon.

The highly skilled Soldiers must keep communications up and running at all times, which requires constant monitoring and attention to detail.

"On an average day, we maintain the systems, look at the network diagrams and make sure the links are all up," said Spc. Eric Schreiner, a node center operator from Dunedin, Fla. "Out here on deployment, we're running the systems 24-hours a day. I don't think a lot of people realize that."

"We process a lot of calls," Schreiner said. "It can vary between 5,000 to 6,000 calls in a 12-hour shift."

The communication specialists maintain that level of productivity even though the sweltering heat and swirling sand in Iraq can be hard on the equipment.

Bjorkman said his troops devote a full day once a week to inspecting the condition of their antennae, cables and other communication devices.

"The hotter it gets, the more wear and tear the equipment takes," Bjorkman said. "If it's 120 degrees outside, it can get even hotter in the communication shelters."

He explained that his Soldiers primarily use air conditioning to cool the communication hubs, called "node centers," and he has even seen Soldiers use damp t-shirts to protect vital components in extreme heat.

"The switching shelter is kind of the brains of it all, and if it gets too hot, it will shut down," Jones said. "We've got commercial air conditioners and insulation to make sure that doesn't happen."

Sandstorms, which are common in Iraq, also interfere with communications functions.

Pfc. Bryan Galloway, a multi-channel systems operator and maintainer for 1st Pl., said antennae need adjusting after high winds and storms.

These small adjustments can make a big difference in signal quality.

ence in signal quality.

Bjorkman said that if the signal were off somewhat, subscribers using phones would have large delays or gaps in the transmission of their conversation.

It isn't just forces of nature that disrupt transmissions.

"We run a lot of cables and we've had a lot of cables cut," Bjorkman said. "People don't notice them (or) think they can drive over them with tracked vehicles. That just doesn't work."

That problem was solved with some creativity.

Bjorkman's Soldiers positioned the cables above vehicle traffic, using trees and poles to support them.

That kind of ingenuity is sometimes necessary from the members of the platoon during a deployment when they are out in the field performing their jobs.

"In garrison we're basically just maintaining the equipment," Jones said. "Out here

we're actually operating our equipment and doing what we like to do best."

Schreiner said during training exercises in the United States, the phone lines don't see as much use as they do during actual real-world deployments.

"It's kind of a life line out here, either for the war-fighters to communicate or even for morale calls home," he said.

Schreiner believes the 596th troops are able to provide that "life line" because they are part of a tight-knit group, are professional, and everyone knows their jobs.

Bjorkman attributes the efficiency of his unit to hard work.

"A lot of times our Soldiers are out in the heat of the day doing fairly unpleasant things to make sure other Soldiers have voice and data communications," he said.

"I'm extremely proud of them, and I know they are going to continue to do a great job for the rest of the deployment."

"It's kind of a life line out here, either for the war-fighters to communicate or even for morale calls home."

Spc. Eric Schreiner
596th Signal

Salman Pak leaders discuss projects with U.S. Army

Spc. Ben Brody
2nd BCT PAO

AL KANASA, Iraq – During a May 27 mission near Salman Pak, south of Baghdad, Soldiers from C Troop, 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division met with local leaders and discussed the state of affairs in the village.

The meeting was an unprecedented gathering of influential residents of al-Kanasa, which has no neighborhood advisory council.

The NAC, common in larger towns, is an important link between town representatives, residents, and Iraqi and Coalition Forces.

C Troop maintains a 24-hour presence in the area at a nearby pontoon bridge, and is sensitive to the needs of the local population, said Capt. Brett Bair, C Troop, 3/7 Cav. commander.

"This meeting is a good way to find out what's going on in the village and whether they need water and power," said Bair, a Buffalo, Okla., native. "Everything you do here revolves

around the community."

The Soldiers waited at a local schoolhouse while residents went to afternoon prayers at an adjacent mosque. After prayers, they filtered into the school and sat at small desks as Bair greeted them.

Through an interpreter, Bair discussed the local water project that is underway, which will eventually bring clean water into the town.

Although the schoolhouse was powered, some residents complained about spotty electricity at night.

As residents pledged their support to form a council of respected leaders, they thanked the Soldiers for

coming to see them.

"It's your town – you pick your leaders," Bair said. "We just want to help."

After the meeting's completion, C Troop moved down the road to the pontoon bridge to meet with other 3/7 Cav. Soldiers and Iraqi Intervention Forces troops.

The bridge is manned by IIF and C Troop forces, who are essential to the

area's security, said 1st Sgt. Anthony Broadhead, also of C Troop.

"We've had few incidents since we set up the OP – it's very effective," Broadhead said.

C Troop set up the observation post as part of a joint mission to rid the Salman Pak area of insurgent forces.

According to military records,

since the onset of the April operation, insurgent activity in Southern Baghdad has dropped considerably.

"We're going to work on one thing at a time – starting with organizing a committee to find out what needs fixing," Bair said. "Now that the town's security situation is stable, we can get the utilities projects moving."



Spc. Ben Brody

Capt. Brett Bair, C Troop, 3-7 Cav., commander, greets tribal leaders at a school in Al-Kanasa, Iraq, May 27. Soldiers visited the school and met with residents to assess the town's needs.

Tip-offs lead to capture of insurgents, weapons

Spc. Natalie Loucks
3rd BCT PAO

FOB WARHORSE – Iraqi civilians are increasingly reporting terrorist acts against coalition forces according to Maj. Dean Wollen, intelligence officer of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Liberty.

Local citizens of the Diyala Province have provided Iraqi and Coalition Forces with information resulting in the capture of high valued targets, pin-point locations of insurgent weapons and equipment, as well as locations of road side bombs.

“There is a positive momentum,” said Maj. Ed House, operations officer for 3rd BCT. “People are tired of getting blown up, tired of their kids not being safe going to school, tired of not having a functioning government, tired of not being able to live their lives.”

Iraqi and Coalition Forces have located approximately 60 percent of all improvised explosive devices before detonation and 25 percent of those found were due to tip-offs from Iraqi citizens, Wollen said. That is a 17 percent increase over the last two weeks.

“There is strength in numbers,” House said. “People are becoming more positive about reporting and are willing to take on the insurgents.”

House recalled one incident when an Iraqi citizen noticed an insurgent planting an IED in front of his house. After confronting the insurgent, the explosives were removed and the terrorist fled.

On a separate occasion, another citizen observed two insurgents delivering munitions to a shack for storage. When the insurgents left, the man collected the items and took them to Forward Operating Base Normandy. When the resident was offered a reward he declined.

“The current trend is reporting incidents and unusual happenings tied to insurgent activity,” House said.

Although the reports are usually brought to the local Joint Coordination Center, Iraqi and Coalition Forces have also been notified directly.

Reports from the JCC are called into the local police station and from there are dispatched accordingly House explained.

During IED incidents, the Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal team responds to the site where they inspect and defuse the device. If the Iraqi police feel they cannot defuse the bomb, coalition forces will be called in for technical assistance.

“Iraqi citizens believe in their army and police and have no problem reporting suspicious activity,” House said.

As security responsibilities transition to Iraqi authorities, the Iraqi people are beginning to under-

stand that their own security forces are a credible deterrent against the insurgency.

“People trust the Iraqi forces more and are getting over the bad impressions they had during Saddam Hussein’s era. They are also realizing that Coalition Forces are not in their country as occupiers” House said.

House said the U.S. military has gained credibility from the Iraqi citizens because of the professionalism demonstrated by Soldiers as individuals and units.

“Our Soldiers are trained to be individual ambassadors, to treat people with dignity and respect,” he said.

Wollen, the brigade’s intelligence officer, believes the civil manner demonstrated by U.S. Soldiers aids in the respect and faith shown by the people of Iraq.

Recently, 3rd BCT was involved in a combat operation to search for high value individuals and weapons caches.

Wollen said local leaders were so impressed by the professionalism that American and Iraqi Soldiers demonstrated that they turned in a number of terrorists.

Although there is an increase in reports on terrorist actions and the people of Iraq are aiding in the security and freedom of their nation, some level fear still exists.

“These insurgents have no problem killing their own people,” House said.

Wollen said the “real heroes” are the Iraqi citizens who take a stand against the insurgents.

“It takes someone very courageous and who loves their family and their country very much to take a chance like this,” he said.

Rewards are offered to citizens who can provide information to the JCC, IA, IP and Coalition Forces which leads to the capture of high valued individuals and weapons caches.

Wollen said the amount of the reward depends on the quantity of ammunition or explosives and the type of individual involved.

Names of citizens reporting insurgent activities are kept confidential.

3rd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. Task Force Freedom has put out a list of wanted individuals with their corresponding reward value.

“Iraqi citizens believe in their army and police and have no problem reporting suspicious activity.”

Maj. Ed House
3rd BCT, operations officer

Useful Arabic Phrases

English	Arabic	English	Arabic
What time is it?	Kam ALsaaha	That looks nice	hatha JameeeL
Where am I?	AeeNa ANa	That’s ugly	Kabeeh
Who are you?	Man Anta	You’re Welcome	Afwon
How much?	Kam ALSaar	Congratulations	Tahanenna

FACT: Many Soldiers are seriously injured or killed in vehicle roll-over accidents because they failed to practice their vehicle roll-over drills. Leaders should not assume Soldiers are trained in roll-over drill procedures.

Practice your drills and STAY ALIVE!

Iraqi Army conducts historic air assault mission

Spc. Brian Henretta
Avn. Bde. PAO

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Army Soldiers, working with Coalition Forces aviation assets, conducted the historic first air assault by Iraqi Army forces June 1.

Approximately 35 Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division inserted into a landing zone near several small towns and villages outside Baghdad to conduct raids looking for bomb and vehicle-borne IED-making materials and specific persons of interest, said Capt. Jennifer Reynolds, commander of B Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment (Assault Helicopter Battalion), and a resident of Austin, Texas.

The IA Soldiers were trained, supported and transported by pilots and crew chiefs from B Co., 4-3 AHB. The mission was viewed as a great success by everyone involved.

The process of teaching the Iraqi Soldiers how to conduct an air assault mission began with hours of training the previous day.

“We trained them the same way we train U.S. Soldiers,” said crew chief Spc. John Carrico, from Indian Mound, Tenn. “We practiced entering and exiting the aircraft, what to do during the approach to a landing zone and establishing a perimeter.”

Crew chief Sgt. Mark Bilon, a native of Dededo, Guam, said the IA Soldiers were fast learners and their training went very smoothly. The only real challenge was the language barrier, but that was overcome with the use of interpreters he said.

“The Iraqis were very motivated and excited during the entire process,” Carrico said.

Their excitement was apparent on the day of their mission.

When the Blackhawks touched down in the pick-up zone, the Iraqi forces hurried inside. Many of them cheered during the aircraft’s takeoff.



Spc. Brian Henretta

As UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters from Bravo Co., 4-3 AHB, 3rd Infantry Division’s Aviation Brigade approach the pick-up zone, members of the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division wait patiently for the signal to move to the helicopters at the end of a successful mission.

The Iraqi troops were flown to a landing zone secured by Coalition and Iraqi Forces. From there they joined U.S. Soldiers from K Troop, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment to conduct the raids and searches of nearby villages, said Reynolds.

The mission was a resounding success for the members of 4-3 AHB and the U.S. Soldiers were proud to be a part of history for the Iraqi Army.

“I’m all about helping Iraqis and helping facilitate their training,” said Bilon. “These are my favorite types of missions and I hope we can do more of them. I’ll do anything to help a buddy.”

Bilon’s comments were echoed by Reynolds.

She said she prefers flying assault missions and feels very good about helping train the Iraqi forces so they will be able to take over their country’s security.

256th doctors offer hope, health to Mansour area

Spc. Erin Robicheaux
256th BCT PAO

BAGHDAD – “Unfortunately, treating diabetes isn’t something that you can do in one day,” said Dr. (Maj.) Marc Dahman as he finished examining an Iraqi patient at his ad-hoc clinic.

On June 9, Dahman, of C Company, 199th Forward Support Battalion, and a group of medics from the 256th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, joined forces to bring health care to the people of the Mansour area of Baghdad.

Caring for cases such as diabetic patients were common obstacles

throughout the course of the day for Dahman, of Chicago, Ill.

“He had diabetes and didn’t know it,” Dahman said. “This was his first diagnosis, and his situation is very traumatic. In a case like this, where it needs to be under control very soon, all we can do is identify the problem and strongly encourage the patient to see a civilian doctor.”

The problem is the treatment for diabetes and other cases seen by the Task Force Baghdad doctors required continuous monitoring, and this is something that was not possible for the medics.

Spc. Jonathon Gandy from

Mansfield, La., a medic with Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 156th Armor Regiment, is also a pre-med student at Louisiana State University at Shreveport. He agreed there were many ailments which required more extensive treatment than the medics were equipped to give.

“One man came in with an old wound from the Iran/Iraq War – he got shrapnel in his left arm and it became disfigured,” Gandy said.

The man had lost movement in his arm and it was virtually useless.

“He needs a prosthetic replacement, and we just don’t have the resources to do that,” he said.

There is hope for the people, though, said Lt. Col. Joseph Dore, 256th BCT surgeon from Charlotte, N.C.

“We can recommend them to the Iraqi health care system, which is actually pretty advanced,” Dore said.

But the cost for health care is an issue for a lot of the patients that the 256th medics see.

If the patient’s needs exceed the capacity of the Iraqi providers, the Iraqi Assistance Council at the embassy may be able to help, said Lt. Col. Virginia Yates, 3rd Inf. Div. surgeon.

Gandy said even though the functionality of a field clinic is not as advanced as a hospital or traditional doctor’s office, there are a number of

illnesses that are treatable.

“We can cure acute illnesses such as bronchial infections, colds, sinus infections, things like that,” he added.

But even if the patient cannot be treated with the resources of the 256th, the medical staff can still ask questions, conduct physical examinations, and in most cases diagnose the patient there on site.

A positive change that has occurred since the 256th BCT’s earlier clinics is the abundance of pediatric medications now available.

During the past few months, the brigade’s medical personnel have received donations of medications from hospitals, doctors’ offices, and even the 256th troops’ colleagues.

“We started out with nothing and we really had no idea how these clinics were going to work, or even what types of patients we would see,” said Staff Sgt. Jessica Kelly, from Lafayette, La.

Kelly, the assistant to the brigade surgeon, quickly learned that the majority of their patients would be children.

Gandy recalled seeing a number of children at this clinic, in particular.

“A lot of them had bronchial infections, and that’s something that we could cure with antibiotics,” he said.

“With each (clinic) you learn,” Kelly said. “Now we will be able to pass all of our knowledge onto the next unit, which is something that we didn’t have.”



Spc. Erin Robicheaux

A local man lets Spc. Jonathon Gandy listen to his heart and takes his vital signs during a medical screening clinic in Al Mansour June 9.

From the high seas to the Iraqi desert

Sailors and Soldiers share spirit of generosity

Pfc. Laura M. Bigenho
42nd MP Bde. PAO

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq – The Singapore Navy, U.S. Navy and U.S. Soldiers from the Hawaiian Islands combined their logistical savvy and compassion across thousands of miles to bring donations to an Iraqi village in need.

During repeated visits, Soldiers from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 299th Infantry Regiment, Hawaii Army National Guard have delivered more than a ton of food and water to residents of Al-Hamdania.

The infantry Soldiers hand out the basic staples not only out of necessity, but also as a way of expressing their appreciation by giving back to those in the small community who have shown them kindness in return.

Their humanitarian missions for the village are possible thanks to a generous donation from the Singapore Navy's *Royal Singapore Ship Resolution*, one of many Coalition Forces assets providing support during Operation Iraqi Freedom 3.

The initial idea for the donation project was conceived weeks ago by Dr. (Capt.) Matthew Yeo, the ship's doctor, during the crew's stop in Bahrain en route to Singapore.

Yeo suggested to Lt. Col. Bernard D. Miranda, the ship's commander at the time, that they do something kind for the people of Iraq. After much planning and lots of hard work, the project was set in motion.

Pallets of food and bottled water were offloaded from the *RSS Resolution* for temporary storage near the port.

Coordination through the American Red Cross of Bahrain, and Chaplains from U.S. Naval Forces Central Command and Multi National Corps-Iraq ensured that the supplies found their way to several different units serving Iraqi villages in their area of operations.

"Everyone involved in this chain of events was eager to help because this was such a worthwhile project," said U.S. Navy Chaplain (Lt. Cmdr.) Russell Graef. "It was all made possible because of the generosity of the Singapore Navy and the efforts of our U.S. military going above and beyond."

Transporting the *RSS Resolution's* donations to the Baghdad area was merely the beginning of the goodwill mission. Once in theatre, the MNC-I Chaplain's staff coordinated the final stages of delivery.

Continuing the unique journey from a Singapore ship to U.S. Army trucks, the supplies ended up with Soldiers from the Hawaiian Islands.

Capt. Paul T. Agena, commander of Co. B, 2nd Bn., 299th Inf. Reg., said his Soldiers are always looking for ways help out residents of Al-Hamdania, a predominately Sunni neighborhood just west of Baghdad International Airport.

His unit is responsible for patrolling the neighborhood of about 250 residents; one of many communities that have suffered from insurgent attacks.

"The community has been pretty helpful to us," Agena said. "They have provided food for my Soldiers and



Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Odoardi, 2nd Battalion, 299th Infantry Regiment, of Ewa Beach, Hawaii, receives help unloading donations for the village of Al-Hamdania from an eager Iraqi boy.



The crew aboard the *Royal Singapore Ship Resolution* donated numerous pallets of food and water for distribution to Iraqi villages during their stop in Bahrain en route to Singapore.

have even baked bread for them." Agena hopes that by conducting more humanitarian missions, relationships between the villagers and his Soldiers will continue to improve so they can work together to rid the area of insurgents. Villagers who are neutral in giving Soldiers information may

and cocoa beverage powder from the unit's cargo vehicle.

Children of all ages flocked to the Soldiers as they pulled up to the sheik's house where the goods were delivered and later distributed to the villagers.

The infantrymen opened a case of Girl Scout cookies, tossing several boxes to impatient children as an attempt to distract the dozens of youngsters from the downloading efforts.

The delighted children scattered, running inside their homes to share their latest treasure with their families. Others tore the boxes open immediately, unable to resist temptation.

"We're just trying to show them that we're here to help," said 2nd Lt. Justin Otto, Co. B platoon leader.

Otto, who has patrolled the village for at least two months, said he has already noticed a significant and positive difference from when he first patrolled the area.

The fact that villagers are beginning to call Soldiers by their names, as opposed to yelling out, "Mohammed" or "Hey you," is one of the many signs that they are heading in the right direction, he said.

"Everybody's starting to open up and realize that we're not there to harm them; we're there to actually help them," Otto explained.

Agena said his infantry guys enjoy going out looking for the bad guys and performing their humanitarian missions.

"It gives us a good feeling," Agena said.

The fact that the supplies ended up at their intended destination is no small feat considering the complex coordination between the different organizations and the logistical uncertainties of moving the goods on the roads of Iraq.

Graef, who was involved in earlier planning phases, said he was pleased with how the project came to fruition.

"It is great for U.S. Naval Forces Central Command to be able to work with Coalition Forces, the Air Force and the Army to complete the delivery in this chain of goodwill," Graef said.

Although the missions are proving successful little by little, Otto said he is realistic and recognizes that they are only a small building block in the ongoing efforts toward constructing a stable and safer environment for Iraq's citizens.

Future plans for Al-Hamdania include building another school, putting in fresh water wells, paving the roads and building bridges over the canals the villagers frequently use.

"(This mission) was a short-term fix for a long-term problem," Otto said. "Once we get those wells in, I think we'll see an even greater success."

In addition to the long-term projects they have planned for the village, the Soldiers of the 299th have several upcoming humanitarian supply missions. Three pallets of food and water remain from the Singapore Navy's donation that the Soldiers intend to deliver to other parts of the village in the near future.

Sgt. 1st Class Brenda Benner, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO, also contributed to this article.

Pfc. Laura Bigenho

Courtesy photo

be more likely to volunteer information in hopes of getting free goods, Agena said.

The mission quickly transformed into a group effort taken on by the Soldiers and excited villagers as they downloaded countless cases of Girl Scout cookies, bottled water, Milo mix

Joint operation snares terrorists

256th BCT PAO
Media Release

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Soldiers of 4th Battalion, 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division; the 1st Iraqi Intervention Force, and 1st Ministry of Interior Commandos captured suspected Anti-Iraqi Forces during cordon-and-search missions June 8.

Soldiers from 4th Bn., 1st IA Bde., along with A Company, 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, 256th Brigade Combat Team, cordoned off a targeted section of homes in the Ameriyah District for 1st IIF to search.

They brought in four detainees and materials believed to be used for making improved explosive devices and bombs. One of the suspects was positively identified by IIF personnel as a terrorist from Falluja, who is believed to conduct rebel activities out of the Abu Ghrahib District.

Capt. Aaron Duplechin, commander of A Co. 3/156th Inf. Bn., said the mission was successful from the very beginning. His Soldiers worked with more than 400 Iraqi Security Forces to detain AIF members and confiscate bomb making materials.

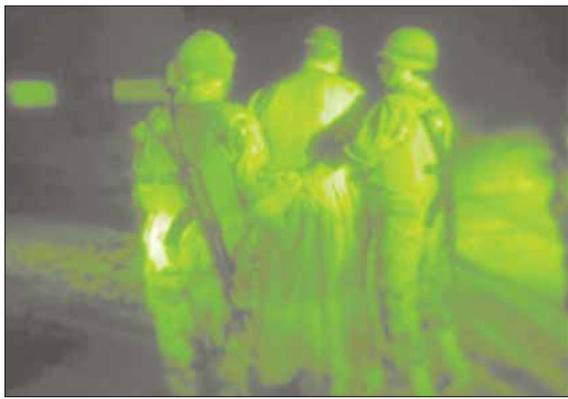
“The ISF took the lead by searching house to house throughout the entire area,” said the Moss Bluff, La., native. “This was a welcome sign to the local populace, because it meant that their Army was taking a more active roll in securing Iraq.”

On the morning of June 9, 1st MOI Commandos captured one suspect with help from 256th BCT Soldiers. Task Force 3-156 set an outer perimeter for the Commandos to conduct their searches for AIF and weapons caches.

“The ISF took the lead by searching house to house throughout the entire area.”

Capt. Aaron Duplechin
A Co., 3/156th Inf.
commander

“This was a joint operation that demonstrated the improved capabilities of the ISF and Coalition Forces and was another successful step toward Iraq securing itself,” said Lt. Col. Clifford Kent, Task Force Baghdad spokesperson.



Staff Sgt. Jorge Rodriguez

Two Soldiers with 1st MOI Commandos escort a detainee to the holding facility. The Commandos conducted cordon and search missions along with E troop, 101st Cavalry and 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment.

“Top Gun” crew right on target

Spc. Tracy J. Smith
48th BCT PAO

FOB ST. MICHAEL, Iraq – Most of the time the Howitzer crew sits and waits patiently for the telltale sound. That distinctive sound a trained ear detects indicating that a big boom is on its way.

“When you hear the hydraulics rev-up that’s when it’s about to pop off,” said Sgt. Chris Poole as he explained the waiting process for the call to fire.

Poole is the ammunition section chief for A Battery, 1st Battalion, 118th Artillery, 48th Brigade Combat Team of Springfield, Ga. His responsibilities include ammunition accountability and issuing 155mm rounds to the Howitzer gun crews.

Keeping up with the Soldiers of gun 1/3 is a challenge for Poole because they are the “Top Gun.”

Once the incredibly loud boom fades and the distant rumble of a hit is heard, Spc. Cory Whitfield, a wheel and track mechanic, turns his attention to the Howitzer that created all of the commotion.

“They’ve popped off three rounds already,” he said.

Whitfield, a Rincon, Ga. native, and other support team members of A Btry. are busy building up their living spaces at FOB St. Michael. They are living where the action is, so they easily keep track of how fast the Howitzers fire.

They are noticeably impressed with the crew’s skills.

The crew’s ability to function as a tight team did not happen overnight. The formation of the “Top Gun” crew of Fields, Clark, Dennard and Rivera took time.

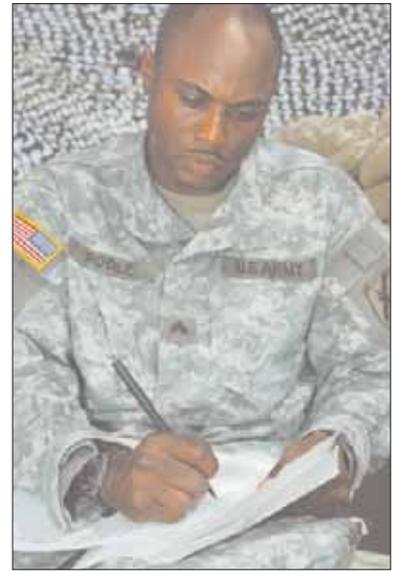
These Soldiers have lived together for the past seven months. They admit this adds to their ability to function as a cohesive unit.

“We trust each other,” said gunner Cpl. David Clark. “We know how we move and react.”

Clark, a business owner from Offerman, Ga., looked to his three “brothers” for reassurance of his statement. They whole heartily agreed.

“A family...that’s what we are,” said driver Spc. Luis Rivera. “That way, when its time to react fast, I know they got my back.”

That is part of the reason why they are the “Top Gun” Howitzer crew.



Spc. Tracy J. Smith

Keeping up with the ammunition accountability is the responsibility of Sgt. Chris Poole. Poole, the ammunition section chief for A Btry., 118th Artillery Battalion has his hands full keeping up with the “Top Gun” crew.

At least that’s the impression one gets from their nods of agreement.

Besides their unity, they are highly skilled at what they do.

The crew was tested at both Fort Stewart Ga. and the National Training Center at Fort. Irwin, Calif. as they prepared for their deployment to Iraq.

They passed the Army’s strict standards within the system known as the Army Regulation Training Evaluation Plan.

“We maintain the same intensity level as we did during those competitions,” said Sgt. Ricky Fields, the crew’s section chief.

“You’ve got four men, that’s what we put our pride in (the ability to fire) our guns.”

The days are long, the nights of rest too brief. This is why they live where they work. They have no issue with doing what ever is necessary to excel at their mission.

“We got a job to do,” Clark states assertively for the group. “It sounds corny but we find an element of fun in everything we do.”

A squawk comes across the radio and all eyes divert as their ears strain to hear the voice emitting from the speakers. It’s instructions regarding their next mission.

“We bond the best and rise above the rest,” Clark said proudly as he and his crew took their positions.

As always, the Howitzer crew was right on target.

“You’ve got four men, that’s what we put our pride in (the ability to fire) our guns.”

Sgt. Ricky Fields
A., Btry, 1/118th Artillery
crew section chief

**Uphold the Warrior Ethos. Obey all regulations and general orders. Serve with honor.
“Rock of the Marne!”**

Media tour water, electric, sewer projects in Rusafa

Maj. Russ Goemaere
2nd BCT PAO

BAGHDAD – A tour of essential service projects in Rusafa in east Baghdad was conducted for members of the media June 7 and 9. The tours showed completed projects and those still in progress that are being accomplished for the benefit of the Iraqi people.

For security reasons, the locations of the six stops were not provided to the media prior to the tour. Each location was selected to illustrate how the projects are impacting the local population.

The purpose of the selected tour routes and projects was an honest look at what the brigade's area of operations looks like, said Lt. Col. Jamie Gayton, 2nd Brigade, Troops Battalion commander, 3rd Infantry Division.

"We will show you what our area looks like after a project is completed and take you to a location where projects are just now beginning," Gayton told the media group. "A lot of work has been done in this area, by the Iraqi people, their government and the Coalition. I hope you can appreciate how far this country has come in the last two years."

One stop on the media tour was Mahalla 745, a small community in the 9 Nissan district that never had a sewer system. The project here was to build a sewer network, pave the roads and provide curbs and storm drains. The project was completed in January 2005.

Gayton asked one local man who was surrounded by his family what he thought of the improvements.

"We are all very happy with the project," said the Iraqi man who preferred not to be identified. "We got it from you (U.S. Army) and from God. The children can now play and we can walk and drive without dealing with all the (sewer water)."

"I like to ask the people what their needs are and what they would like to have done in the future," Gayton said.

The Iraqi man, who has seen the positive effects of basic service projects, asked about future water projects in community.

Gayton replied that the brigade is working with the neighborhood and district councils to develop a priority for projects in the neighborhood. They understand that water projects should be a priority.

The completed sewer and road project benefits more than 6,500 people and cost approximately \$2.7 million. The project, which employed nearly 75 local civilians, started in August of 2004 and was completed about five months later.

Another tour stop was the Al Ameen 400-kilovolt power substation which balances and evenly distributes the load on the national electrical grid. The redundancy will eventually help increase the hours of power available to Baghdad residents.

The substation covers an area larger



Maj. Russ Goemaere

Local workers dig a trench in Oubaidy, which is in the process of receiving a sewer and water network. Some villagers have lived in the town for 35 years and have never had a sewer network or running water, one resident said.

than four football fields. More than 600 Iraqis were employed on the project and the investment was more than \$57 million, taking nearly a year to complete.

The facility is considered one of the state-of-the-art substations in the world, said Henry Shelton, a quality assurance representative for the Army Corps of Engineers.

En route to the next stop, Capt. Bill Clark of the Corps of Engineers explained that the road the convoy was traveling on was actually a dike network built decades ago to deal with floods from the nearby Diyala River.

Another tour stop on the route had the media group traveling to a mahalla (village) near the outskirts of Sadr City. Batoul is the name of the community, and like Mahalla 745, the children greeted the party with smiles and waves as Soldiers took their pictures.

Gayton said the community exemplifies how well the Iraqi government is planning for its future, as evident by the sea of power lines and poles that transverse the area.

"As the area is expected to grow, the government has built power lines to deal with the expansion," Gayton said, pointing out a grid work of power lines that are lined up for future homes to be wired into.

The mahalla is pleased with the project, according to a 30-year-old resident, who explained that many families in the neighborhood have their

own wells for water, but they have hopes for city water to be hooked up soon.

Gayton listened attentively while his interpreter translated. Gayton then replied to the man that improvement projects take place one step at a time. The Iraqi man maintained a sense of patience in regard to waiting for more projects to come to his town.

"When I hear of another town receiving water, electricity or sewer projects, I am filled with a sense of hope," he said. "When a neighborhood close by benefits, I know it will not be long before a similar project will impact in this neighborhood as well."

The Amari Water Project was yet another stop on the tour route.

Using approximately \$3.4 million from funds captured from Saddam Hussein's former regime, a water compact unit was built to provide water to approximately 2,000 homes and up to 20,000 people. A water compact unit is a small water treatment plant which, in this case, gets its water from a river and distributes it to a relatively small area.

A guard at the plant said all the connections have been completed and everyone was happy with the work.

Next on the media tour was the town of Oubaidy, which is in the process of receiving a sewer and water network. Some villagers have lived in the town for 35 years and have never had a sewer network or running water, one resident said.

Gayton said the project will cost nearly \$14.5 million and take a year to complete.

The group stopped and talked to some of the workers who were busy operating a backhoe as they worked on a manhole.

"We work six days a week and are excited about both the job we have and what we are providing to the commu-

nity," the supervisor at the site said.

Each tour day included a visit to a sewer lift station in Sadr City where all 15 sewer lift stations were recently rehabilitated. The project cost was a few hundred thousand dollars for each site, but the completion of the project, along with roads, pipe line repair, curbs and storm drains, dramatically reduced the amount of raw sewage that seeps onto city streets.

In April 2004, the main source of sewage removal in Sadr City was evaporation, said JD Benoit, project engineer for the Sadr City Sewer reha-

bilitation project. Sewage flows to treatment plants. The government must now begin working to modify the system

to handle the increase in population that Sadr City has seen since the 1970s, when the system was designed. Benoit said the sewers in Sadr City were neglected for the past 15 years.

Gayton closed out the day's event by telling the media, "The goal for us is to show the Iraqi people that their government is working for their future and that with the Coalition's support with reconstruction, it is helping show them that tomorrow will be better than today ... and that there really is a light at the end of the tunnel."



Lt. Col. Jamie Gayton

"A lot of work has been done in this area, by the Iraqi people their government and the coalition."

Lt. Col. Jamie Gayton
2nd BCT commander



Sgt. James Sawyer, 50th Medivac, 44th Medical Command and a lead guitarist for "Off The Wall" jam together for the Soldiers stationed at Camp Taji, Iraq.

When music reaches Iraq

'Off The Wall' comes to Taji

Sgt. 1st Class Ken Walker
100th MPAD

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Hundreds of Soldiers enjoyed a rock show by the veteran United Services Organization touring band "Off The Wall." The band played a set lasting over an hour and a half and entertained the troops with songs including everything from hip-hop and country, to rock classics from Jimi Hendrix.

The six-piece group, mid-way through their Iraq tour, visited Soldiers at various Morale, Welfare, and Recreational service locations on Taji while their road crew set up their equipment.

As word got around about the unscheduled performance, Soldiers came by the MWRs to visit the performers and step away from their daily routine. Soldiers received autographs, talked about cars and guitars, and for a brief period escaped the psychological boundary of Iraq.

Spc. Roger Brown, an administrative specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 87th Combat Support Brigade from Miami, Fla., received an autographed promotional flyer by Michelle Velasco, vocalist for the band.

Brown said he tries to go to all the music acts that come to Camp Cooke, Taji, especially the USO shows.

"Having our photograph taken with the Soldiers and autographing promotional flyers is a simple and easy thing we always make time for," Velasco, from Los Angeles said. "We are here for the Soldiers."

During the evenings' performance, Velasco

belted out classic rock and songs currently on the Billboard charts.

One highlight of the evening occurred when Sgt. James Sawyer, 50th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) 44th Medical Command, joined the band on stage to play the harmonica. Sawyer and the lead guitarist of the band traded riffs throughout several songs.

The audience witnessed an unrehearsed jam session that was fantastic. Sawyer accompanied the band as well as taking center stage with the band backing him. The weather was not the only thing hot that night, Sawyer and his harmonica were smokin'.

Another great part of the show was a Jimi Hendrix tribute.

Two guitarists, one with a tattoo of Hendrix on his arm and the other with a left-handed neck on a right-handed guitar (Hendrix played left-handed), were obviously dedicated to the music of the late great guitarist.

After the band's performance, they spent more time visiting the soldiers, autographing and talking about their music and their show. The group motivated the troops by providing as much one-on-one interaction as possible for those serving their country.

Touring for the USO has taken the band around the world. The "Elusive Comfort Tour" will take the band to ten countries in 39 days. This is their third USO tour through Iraq and their sixth USO tour together.

"Off The Wall" played and sang their guts out for the Soldiers in Taji. It was a great show for those curious and lucky enough to attend.

3/1 Soldiers follow in a hero's footsteps

Spc. Matthew Wester
100th MPAD PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Noncommissioned officers of 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division competed to join the prestigious Sgt. Audie Murphy Club June 18.

The club, whose namesake is famous for his extreme bravery during combat in World War II, is a professional organization for Army NCOs.

The competitors had to appear before a board of senior NCOs, led by 3rd Brigade's command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Philip Johndrow.

The command sergeants major of all the brigade's battalions were on the board and asked the Soldiers questions on a variety of military topics.

They tested candidates' knowledge of the Warrior Ethos, fundamentals of leadership, drill and ceremony and other topics related to leading troops.

They also presented hypothetical situations the applicants might face as leaders. The board then evaluated the NCOs' solutions to these problems.

All the staff sergeants and sergeants first class who participated volunteered for the chance to join the select group of Sgt. Audie Murphy Club members.

"The noncommissioned officers selected (for the club) are the best in the Army," said Command Sgt. Maj. Carlos

Alers, of 3rd Brigade's 1st Battalion, 13th Armor Regiment.

Staff Sgt. Samuel Cortijo, of the 3rd Brigade's 125th Forward Support Battalion, said it was good to get feedback from the board members about what he needs to do as a troop leader.

"It opened my eyes to a lot of things I need to do," he said.

The Soldiers were able to participate in the board even though they are serving in a war zone performing their required duties.

It was very important that the Soldiers get a chance despite the deployment, said Alers.

"The fact that the Soldiers are deployed shouldn't stop them from getting this opportunity," he said.

Alers added that the Soldiers' experiences during deployment helped them gain some of the knowledge and skills the board was looking for.

The selection process was a confidence-builder for the NCOs involved.

"It means a pat on the back," said Staff Sgt. George Traver, of the 3rd Brigade's 596th Signal Company, who appeared before the board. "It helps let you know you're doing what you need to be doing."

It is challenging to gain entrance to this elite organization.

Twelve Soldiers applied, but only three were admitted as new members of the club.



Staff Sgt. George Traver, of 596th Signal Company, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, sits at attention during a board held at Camp Taji to select new members of the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club June 18.

Soldiers! Do you have something to submit to the entertainment page? Perhaps you have a good movie or book review you would like to share expressing an opinion not seen in an everyday review. Whatever the case, your submissions are always welcome! Contact: ricardo.branch@id3.army.mil.

Anthrax vaccines now voluntary

Sgt. Andrew A. Miller
100th MPAD

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – The Department of Defense has been doing everything possible to send anthrax vaccines all over the Middle East and Korea.

Under a new, voluntary vaccination program, however, service members in high-risk areas will have a choice as to whether or not they will be vaccinated.

The Defense Department announced it would resume its stalled Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program May 3, and service members in Iraq could expect to see it implemented in the next few weeks, said Maj. Benjamin H. Ervin, a division medical operations officer serving with Headquarters and Headquarters Support Company, Special Troops Battalion.

The option to decline the vaccine is the principal change to the program, Ervin said. According to an April 25 Defense Department memorandum, service members who decline the vaccine are not subject to punishment and they will remain deployable. They can not be processed for separation and will maintain all their benefits.

The same directive that guarantees a choice, however, also mandates a recommendation.

“...individuals will be informed that their military and civilian leadership strongly recommend anthrax vaccination, but personnel are not required to be vaccinated under the [current program],” stated the memorandum, signed by Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz.

That recommendation is included in a pamphlet of which service members will become familiar. The informational pamphlet is the only mandatory feature of the new program.

“We have to ensure that people are getting the information they need to make a decision,” Ervin

explained.

Outside the option to decline, little has changed about AVIP.

The vaccination process itself remains the same. There is still a series of six doses administered over 18 months and supplemented by annual booster shots. The vaccine is still considered safe and effective by the Food and Drug Administration.

Ironically, it was the FDA’s approval of the vaccine that stopped the original vaccination program.

The former AVIP was halted in December 2003 following a ruling of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. The court declared that the FDA’s approval of the vaccine, because it lacked a necessary 90-day public comment period, was incomplete.

This injunction effectively degraded the vaccine’s status to “investigational” and therefore rendered AVIP illegal in the face of a 1998 law designed to protect service members from investigational and unapproved drugs.

In a statement clarifying the reason for this injunction, district judge Emmet G. Sullivan wrote, “While the policy of submitting comments on an agency’s proposed order may be unusual, it is the course the [FDA] chose to take and this Court shall ensure that the agency follows through on its commitment to the public.”

The Defense Department, in compliance with the injunction, had to halt its anthrax vaccination program. However, the court clarified it’s injunction in April this year to allow AVIP to resume on a voluntary basis.

“We are pleased to be able to again protect our per-

sonnel against anthrax,” said Dr. William Winkenwerder, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

There is no question that the Defense Department has fought to see a voluntary program approved. How long the vaccination program will be voluntary, though, remains to be seen.

The voluntary basis of the program appears to rely on the anthrax vaccine’s “investigational” status. That status, in turn, depends on the missing 90-day public comment period that is required for approval of the vaccine.

That requirement has since been satisfied. The FDA began receiving comments in late 2004 and ended its effort March 29. The agency is now evaluating the comments it received.

If, the FDA again approves the vaccine, and the court lifts or changes its injunction, AVIP may once again be a mandatory program.

In the meantime, service members have a decision to make.

According to the Department of Defense, the threat of a biological attack still exists, especially in the Central Command area of responsibility and on the Korean peninsula.

“This is a personal choice that Soldiers are going to have to make,” Ervin said. “Soldiers will have to consider the information available and make their decision.”

For more information visit the following websites for further guidance www.anthrax.mil, www.vaccines.mil, or email vaccines@amedd.army.mil.

“This is a personnel choice that Soldiers are going to have to make. Soldiers will have to consider the information and make their decision.”

Maj. Benjamin Ervin
HHSC, STB

48th BCT reenlistment Soldiers in Iraq



Maj. John Groth, 48th BCT Personnel Officer administers the oath of reenlistment to (left to right:) Spc. Jermaine Pickett, Spc. David Jarvis, Sgt. Steven Powell, Spc. Rodriquez Kegler, Pfc. James Williams, Pfc. James Overstreet at the Al Faw Presidential Palace June 19.

Sgt. David Bill



Abusers beware "Rocky" is watching you

Spc. Jennifer D. Fitts
100 MPAD

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Military personnel who have a few free minutes at work may spend that time surfing the Internet, checking e-mail and catching up on the latest sports scores. Sometimes, the surfing isn't so innocent, and government computers are used to view or download pornographic materials.

Soldiers are prohibited from possessing pornographic materials in theater by General Order One. This includes downloading any pornographic material from the World Wide Web.

Despite this, Marne Soldiers are being caught using government computers inappropriately, or with pornographic materials on their personal laptops.

According to Chief of Military Justice Maj. James J. Gibson, 3rd Infantry Division, those who use their work computers, or military servers to download pornographic materials are in violation of Article 92 of the Uniformed Code of Military Justice; Disobeying a Lawful General Order, as well as the unauthorized use of government resources.

If someone downloads inappropriate images for temporary viewing or is in possession of pornography dealing with minors, the UCMJ is supplemented with a federal statute, allowing harsher sentences.

Gibson said punishments for pornography violations range from administrative punishment, such as a bar to re-enlistment or a letter of reprimand, to non-judicial punishment such as a company or field-grade Article 15, to court-martial in cases of child pornography.

Unit commanders have some flexibility with regards to punishment, said Gibson. He added that "the volume (of pornography) and the Soldier's history" is usually taken into account.

"Of the cases I've seen, Article 15s are most common," Gibson said. "But every commander is a little different."

"Whether it's money or whatever the punishment," Gibson said, "there will be ramifications

down the line."

According to Gibson there has been a recent increase in violations. Whether the increase is due to more Soldiers downloading unacceptable materials or perhaps better enforcement of the existing policy is not known at this time.

Maj. Dan Burnett, of the 3rd Inf. Div. Information Assurance Cell, said a network tool, known to most Marne Soldiers as "Rocky is Watching You!" Web Sense has been approved by the Multi-National Force-Iraq Headquarters to "minimize Internet use when mission and operational needs are impacted by bandwidth utilization."

Web Sense is used to "shape bandwidth usage," he explained. It ensures that Soldiers who need the Internet to complete their day to day missions have it available to them.

"Imagine 2,000 computers, all on the same amount of bandwidth you'd get at home with a DSL or cable modem," Burnett said.

According to Burnett there is a huge demand on the internet infrastructure in the 3rd Inf. Div. area of operations and that most days the system runs at more than 90 percent capacity.

He added that from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. the system usually operates at 98 to 99 percent capacity and individuals who download unacceptable materials clog up the system.

Soldiers who use government computers to download pornographic materials may be confident that their activities are being lost in the huge volume of Internet traffic generated in the division's area of operations, which includes numerous forward operating bases.

This is simply not the case.

Burnett said a Soldier's confidence is in constant jeopardy, even though the IA cell is "not allowed to monitor every site (Soldiers) go to."

Web Sense categorizes websites as "adult materi-

al," "adult content" and "nudity," all of which are blocked. He said there are some sites, however that slip through the cracks as "uncategorized."

These "uncategorized" sites are often investigated at the end of the day, and anyone who used their

work computers to skirt Web Sense may be in for a shock when that data is examined.

"It's pretty obvious," Burnett said. "Since jpegs use more bandwidth, sites that have a lot of pictures come up on the radar real quick."

Some of those sites are pop-up ads, a "one-time hit" Burnett said.

"Those aren't reported, but if there are consistent spikes in usage, IA looks a little deeper into who's looking at

what."

For investigating inappropriate Web sites, the IA cell uses Web Sense, which logs the Internet address of every site that Soldiers access.

"We can get the history for that computer," Burnett said. "Where that computer has surfed, who used it, how long they used it and what they downloaded."

Burnett warned if there are more than a few hits on a website by the same Soldier "like 10 or 15," he said, "the IA cell has an obligation to report the abuse to the offender's commander and to the prosecutor with jurisdiction over the offender."

"It's very apparent who the abusers are and where they're going to," Burnett said.

When Soldiers are caught with pornography materials, or when they are caught using work computers to download improper materials, they usually find it's just not worth it, Gibson said.

"(The legal problems) can affect your career," Gibson explained. "It will affect you in some way, even if it's just the embarrassment of explaining to your commander why they (IA) have your work computer before you get an Article 15."

"Of the cases I've seen, Article 15s are most common. But every commander is a little different."

Maj. James J. Gibson
3rd Infantry Division
chief of military justice

Farmer turns in large weapons cache to Soldiers

Task Force Baghdad PAO
Media Release

BAGHDAD, Iraq – A local farmer helped save countless lives when he reported, and later delivered, a large weapons cache to Task Force Baghdad Soldiers June 16.

The Iraqi man called officials from 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division and told them of the weapons cache. The farmer then transported the cache to an agreed-upon location and handed it over to U.S. Soldiers.

The cache included 400 hand grenades, 45 rocket-propelled grenades, two RPG launchers and a box of ammunition.

This weapons find is another example of the Iraqi people getting involved in a positive way in their own security, said Lt. Col. Steven Merkel, 1/9 FA commander.

"In the past two weeks, we have seen the number of tips on enemy activity

given to us from the local Iraqi people skyrocket," Merkel said. "Just as importantly, the information is timelier and more specific than the majority of what we received previously."

"I have had the opportunity in the past two days to meet with local leaders in Zafaraniya and in Mad'ian," Merkel said. "In each case, I explained how important it is that the Iraqi people report suspicious activity to the Iraqi Security Forces or to Coalition Forces. According to Merkel, the local leaders indicated they feel the momentum shifting away from the terrorists and they applauded everyone's efforts to make Iraq more secure for the people.

"Perhaps Dr. Mohammed J. Al Rubeyi, the Chairman of the Karradah District Council which includes Zafaraniya, said it best: 'The Iraqi people have the opportunity now to make a difference so that tomorrow is better for our children than yesterday has been for us.'" Merkel concluded.



Courtesy photo
A local farmer helped save countless lives when he reported, and later delivered, a large weapons cache to Task Force Baghdad Soldiers around midday June 16.

ISF and TF Baghdad officials continue to encourage all Iraqi citizens to report suspicious behavior by e-mailing baghdadtipshotline@yahoo.com or calling one of the TIPS hotlines at 07901737723 or 07901737727.

Soldiers! Keep you're combustibles, such as pressurized aerosol cans of paint, cleaners, and the like, in shaded areas. Intense heat has recently caused fires.

Do you have a creative story idea for something in The Marne Express? Do you have a funny or exceptional photo you want to share with others? If so, contact brenda.benner@id3.army.mil All submissions are welcome and valued!

IPs train for 'hardest cop job in the world'

Pfc. Dan Balda
4th BCT PAO

BAGHDAD – Soldiers assigned to the 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion forged an early bond with the Iraqi policemen they helped train.

Despite the language and cultural barriers, this bond was created because of a commonality the Soldiers shared with their Iraqi charges. Many of the civil affairs Soldiers are police officers in their civilian lives.

One such Soldier, Staff Sgt. Daniel MacDonald, a team sergeant, has plied his trade on the streets of Philadelphia as a police officer.

"Cops in the States are like brothers and it's the same thing here," MacDonald said. "I look at it as helping my brothers out, keeping them safe. They probably have the hardest cop job in the world. Hopefully, some of the stuff I teach them will save their lives one day."

MacDonald and his cohorts invited the IPs to the firing range at Forward Operating Base Prosperity to practice and learn skills that should make their jobs easier, but more importantly, safer.

This was not the first time the civil affairs team had worked on police tactics with the IPs, but it was the first time they had

brought them to Prosperity to train, said Maj. James Joos, the 4th Brigade Combat Team Civil Affairs commander.

"The intent is to help the IPs increase their skills; the skills they initially learned at the police academy," said Joos, a civilian policeman. "As Reservists, many of us are police officers. Many of us have been police officers for many years in dangerous cities in America and we believe that our experience can be passed on to the Iraqis."

Mac Donald and his fellow Soldiers helped teach skills and procedures that can't be learned in books alone.

"We taught them how to conduct a frisk, weapons retention, use of a nightstick or a baton, how to stop a car, and how to place your vehicle when you are stopping a car," MacDonald said. "We also taught them how to watch people's eyes, what to look for in a car when you stop them ... Cop 101 stuff."

Joos said the goal was to train the IPs so they could pass on their new knowledge to the other policemen in their units.

"Some of these guys are already very skilled with their weapons," Joos said. "It will be those guys to train their fellow officers later – they see how

they carry themselves and look up to them."

MacDonald has seen a marked improvement in many different areas since the civil affairs Soldiers have been working with the IPs.

"From where they were when we got here to where we are now, it's like two different groups of people," MacDonald said. "When we first got them, they had no attention span. Their uniforms were unkempt. Now they are hyped up, they look sharp, they're a lot better with their weapons, a lot more enthusiastic."

The IPs' level of professionalism has also impressed MacDonald.

"I'd take these guys out with me back home," MacDonald said. "These guys are hardcore. These guys are as hard as any cop in the world now, especially with what they see."

As a civil affairs Soldier, MacDonald interacts with the people of Iraq on a regular basis. He said the increased skill level of the IPs is welcomed by the people he has spoken with.

"I go out in the neighborhood and talk to the people," MacDonald said. "Their opinion of the police has gone up 100 percent, real positive. We were going into some rough areas and the people really



Staff Sgt. Raymond Piper

Staff Sgt. Steve Despiegelaere, a member of the 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion and Minneapolis, Minn., native, clears the weapon of an Iraqi Police officer's AK-47 during a training exercise at Camp Prosperity.

appreciated having the cops around."

Warrior's Walk memorializes the fallen



Courtesy Photo

Fort Stewart's "Warrior's Walk" memorializes fallen Soldiers who were assigned or attached to 3rd Infantry Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom 1 through 3. Currently, there are 100 Eastern Red Bud trees planted with granite markers along Cottrell Field honoring each Soldier who died in service to their country.

IA Soldiers capture car bomb assembly site

2nd BCT PAO
Release

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces arrested eight suspected car bomb manufacturers and seized a nearly-completed car bomb, bomb-making materials and weapons during a cordon-and-search operation in Baghdad June 15.

In the opening phase of a major sustained operation, dubbed Operation Overload, 3rd Battalion, 1st Brigade Iraqi Intervention Force and D Company, 1st Battalion, 64th Armor, 2nd Brigade Combat Team discovered a significant cache of explosives, weapons and equipment at the site of a terrorist “car bomb factory.”

The nearly-completed car bomb consisted of eight 125 millimeter mortar rounds, a remote detonating system and a timer.

Inside the house where the car was parked Iraqi Special Commandos found more car bomb making materials, including 10 mortar rounds, 50 pounds of high explosives, 3,000 feet of detonation cord, 20 blasting caps and 10 firing devices.

Lt. Col. Kevin Farrell, commander of both 1/64 Armor and the overall joint operation involving more than 1,500 Iraqi and U.S. forces, said the benefits of the Operation Overload offensive are significant.

“First, Coalition Forces will kill or capture insurgents making improvised explosive devices and vehicle-borne IEDs in the area of east Baghdad,” Farrell said. “Secondly, the Iraqi people will see Iraqi and American security forces working closely together.”

Based on a tip from a local resident, elements of the IIF and D Co. approached a home where they had been told car bombs were being produced.

One Soldier quickly evaluated the car parked in front of the house and assessed it to be a car bomb. An artillery round was found in the partially opened trunk.

Earlier in the day, an Iraqi Police patrol captured seven terror suspects during a cordon-and-search operation in the Shawra Wa Um Jidir district of northeast Baghdad. The IPs also found one rocket-propelled grenade launcher, 29 AK-47 assault rifles, four bolt action rifles, four cases of ammunition, three boxes of mortar fuses and 15 old regime insignia stamps.

In north Baghdad, Iraqi Army Soldiers, acting on a tip from a local citizen, detained four more terror suspects and seized another partially-constructed car bomb. The car bomb consisted of 20 artillery rounds fused with detonation cord.

The Soldiers took the four suspects into custody for questioning and impounded the car.



Spc. Ben Brody
Spc. Barton Johnson, 2-3 BTB, military intelligence analyst, counts out \$17,900 in sequential \$100 bills found in an Iraqi home during a search June 11. U.S. currency is often used to fund insurgent attacks.

1/9 FA uncovers weapons cache, terrorist financier nabbed in process

Spc. Ben Brody
2nd BCT PAO

BAGHDAD – Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division conducted a large raid in south Baghdad, uncovering a weapons cache which led to the arrest of several men June 11.

A Battery, 1/9 FA, found 15 60-millimeter mortar rounds and one 122-millimeter artillery round in a barren field behind a small house, approximately 500 meters from a suspected launch site for rocket attacks against Camp Rustimiyah.

Inside the house, Soldiers found \$17,900 in U.S. \$100 bills. Approximately \$8,000 was in sequential bills.

“The former regime had a lot of sequential U.S. currency, so that’s probably its origin,” said intelligence analyst Spc. Barton Johnson, B Co., 2nd BCT Brigade Troops Battalion. “The insurgency is being paid for with funds like these, so it’s a big piece of evidence against this guy.”

2nd BCT legal personnel were on hand to

assist in proper evidence collection, which can greatly affect the chance of securing a court conviction for offenders.

“The Soldiers are good with evidence collection, but I’m making sure we preserve fingerprints and get pictures,” said Capt. Margaret Kurz, 2nd BCT attorney. “Pictures and sworn statements are everything in Iraqi courts – it’s crucial that we get a picture connecting the suspect with the evidence.”

After an explosive ordnance disposal team secured the mortar and artillery rounds, a man pulled his car into the driveway and was stopped and searched by 1/9 FA quick reaction force Soldiers.

He was detained after his car was found to contain several AK-47s and large-caliber handguns.

“The operation today was designed to disrupt the support network for the insurgency,” and we’ve done that,” said Lt. Col. Steven Merkel, 1/9 FA commander. “This goes a long way toward keeping our Soldiers safe and keeping the people of Iraq safe.”



Courtesy Photo

Part of a weapons cache is scattered across a dusty floor. During a cordon-and-search operation June 15, Iraqi Security Forces and Task Force Baghdad Soldiers arrested eight suspected car bomb manufacturers and seized a nearly-completed car bomb, bomb-making materials and weapons.

“The operation today was designed to disrupt the support network for the insurgency, and we’ve done just that.”

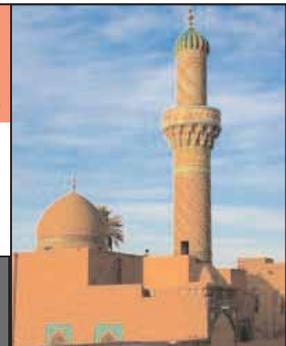
Lt. Col. Steven Merkel
1/9 FA commander

Cultural Awareness Courses

Third Infantry Division Civil Affairs Section (G-5) is now offering cultural awareness training courses to enhance Soldiers’ understanding of the local culture, religion and history. Classes held on location, with a minimum of 15 people.

For more information, contact Sgt. 1st Class Brian Rauschuber, or Dr. Al Abedelazim, 3rd Inf. Div. Civil Affairs section.

VOIP- 242-4047
Iraqna cell phone- 790-119-6105



Australian hostage grateful to Iraqi, U.S. Soldiers

Spc. Erin Robicheaux
256th BCT PAO

CAMP TIGERLAND, Iraq – “I’m so glad to see you blokes!” beamed an elated Douglas Wood in his thick Australian accent. Held hostage by terrorists for six weeks, Wood was rescued June 15 by Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 1st Iraqi Army Brigade, while conducting cordon-and-search missions to locate and destroy terrorist cells in the Al Adel neighborhood of northwest Baghdad.

The IA brigade was assisted by Task Force Baghdad’s 256th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

“The 256th Brigade conducted comprehensive offensive operations for the past month in some of the most hostile neighborhoods of Baghdad,” said Brig. Gen. John Basilica Jr., commander of the 256th BCT. “Most of these operations were joint combat patrols with Iraqi Army units. We provided military transition teams who advised each unit and partnered with them in combat operations.”

Hours after his rescue, Wood was still giving the “thumbs up” gesture to the Soldiers who found him hidden under a blanket.

“Mr. Wood had just been freed and given his whole life back, and of the six or seven times that he and I spoke, all he could talk about was that a group of IA Soldiers found him and what a great job they’d done,” said Capt. Randy Green from Bossier City, La. Green, who is with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 156th Armor Regiment, 256th BCT, is the senior advisor to 2/1 IA and was with the Iraqi unit throughout the duration of the mission.

“He just couldn’t stop talking about the Iraqi Army and how he couldn’t believe that’s who rescued him,”



Sgt. 1st Class Brenda Benner

Former hostage Douglas Wood awaits his helicopter transport to a military medical facility after being rescued by Iraqi and U.S. Soldiers June 15.

Green said.

Wood was kidnapped in late April by terrorists claiming to be with the Shura Council of the Mujahedeen of Iraq.

At approximately 10 a.m. on June 15, the Iraqi Soldiers were preparing to search a house when they saw movement inside. They approached, and after knocking repeatedly on the door, surrounded the house with 10 Soldiers and breached the entrance. Fifteen Soldiers of the 2/1 raced in, attacked by terrorists firing bullets at their heads. The terrorists, however, were no match for the IA Soldiers and were ultimately subdued.

When Soldiers questioned them

about the figure under the covers in the bed next to them, the terrorists said it was a sick female. Wood later told U.S. Soldiers that when they were aware of military forces coming into the house, his captors threatened to shoot him if he moved or made a sound.

The terrorists, who claimed they were guards for a 15-man cell, told the Iraqi Soldiers they had previously murdered three other hostages just two weeks earlier, one of whom was a Ministry of Interior general.

During Wood’s rescue, Soldiers also recovered 20 hand grenades and assorted firearms and ammunition.

Extracting Wood from the site was

a challenge.

The terrorists told Green and IA commanders they called their friends, who were on their way to stop the forces from bringing Wood to safety.

“We set up a perimeter with (U.S. Soldiers) on the outer cordon,” said Green. “If they were going to get to Iraqi Soldiers, they were going to have to get through us first.”

In the end, Wood was transported to the 256th BCT medical facility on Camp Liberty with no further engagements with the terrorists.

Cpl. Ryan Simon from Baton Rouge, La., of C Company, 1/156th Armor was at the scene when the IA brought Wood out of the house. He said at first he felt disbelief, followed by utter gratitude for the man’s life.

“When it was radioed in about what was happening, I thought, ‘Yeah, right.’ But when I saw him and saw that this was real, I was just so overwhelmed,” Simon said.

Staff Sgt. Jeremecia Perry from Bossier City, La., of HHC, 1/156th Armor, said this event is a definitive sign that the Iraqi Army is headed in the right direction.

“The Iraqi Soldiers are doing great things for their people and getting the bad guys out of their neighborhoods,” he said.

Green agreed that at least one man knows the strength of the Iraqi Army, and that Wood testified to it over and over again.

“Mr. Wood had this constant look of disbelief, of joy and elation all at once, and he could not stop talking about the Iraqi Army,” Green said.

“This is proof positive of the courage and competence of the new Iraqi Army,” Basilica said. “They are making excellent progress and have done a super job. This was a great day for the Iraqi Army.”

FIRE, continued from page 1

language barriers, the Soldiers needed to find Iraqi publishers who could translate the American instruction manuals. In addition, the training equipment and the basic life-saving bags had to be purchased on the local economy.

Everything came together when an Iraqi doctor responded to the calls for help. She simply wanted to help her people, especially if it meant saving their lives. Finally, at the end of May, the Soldiers were able to start the first



Sgt. Karolina Lojewska

Iraqi firefighters learn how to take a blood pressure during the Basic Life Support Class. The training was organized by the Government Support Team and the Public Health Team, HHC 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion in May and June, 2005.

class.

Staff Sgt. Michael Didonato of Manasquan, N.J., who works for the Government Support Team, was given the responsibility of getting the firefighters into the International Zone. He also trained to properly use the equipment on fire trucks donated by Japan.

The firefighters trained on tasks such as CPR, proper trauma assessment, bleeding and shock control, airway management, splinting fractures and immobilizing patients. After the classroom instruction they were evaluated on what they’d learned.

“After a while, they started to understand the concept of the ABCs — airway, breathing, and circulation,” Lojewska said. “They are starting to follow our rules and guidelines and perform proper assessment on their patients — that is our goal.”

Once they completed their training, the firefighters received a certificate from the Public Health Team and a fully equipped BLS bag. With the supply shortages that firefighters face, the equipment they receive in their BLS bags is occasionally the only gear they have on their ambulances or fire trucks.

To date, the Public Health Team has already graduated three classes, totaling 70 firemen. On each graduation day, Gould reminds the firemen of what an important job they have.

“Back in the rear, we always have heard about the brave Iraqi firefighters who risk their lives to save their own people, so I am glad we can help out and do this training,” Gould said.

Firefighters representing all of Baghdad’s districts show up for the classes. Their chief, who comes out with them for the first class and their graduation, hopes to have all his firefighters trained by the end of the year.

“We are grateful to the American people, the U.S. Army and all the Coalition Forces for helping out my people,” said the fire official, who wished to remain anonymous.

MISSION, continued from page 1

we look forward to getting into the fight and taking over the area of responsibility,” said Lt. Col. Mark London, 48th BCT operations officer. “The brigade is close to completing the transfer of equipment. Some of our units have started to do ‘right seat rides’ and after five days they will transition to ‘left seat rides’ with the transition of authority to come shortly after that.”

48th BCT Soldiers are getting acclimated to the camp and to the various activities that are required of them during their deployment.

Desert Storm veteran Sgt. Cleveland Carter of E Troop, 108th Cavalry said everyone is prepared because of their previous training, and that, coupled with their experience will allow them to perform their missions well.

The brigade’s task forces are focusing on providing support and training to both the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police.

According to Lt. Col. Thomas Carden, 48th BCT information operations officer, training the Iraqi Army is the most important mission the brigade has.

“We are setting up relationships with the Iraqi Army now,” Carden said.

London said the Iraqi Army is doing very, very well and that its Soldiers are “brave and courageous.”

“We have selected very good people to take on the role of instructors and mentors,” London said. “We will have a great impact on the Iraqi Army and have them trained to a higher level and ready to take over responsibility of this area.”

FACT: IEDs are the number one killers of coalition forces. Stay Alert, Stay Alive

Suicide: An added killer on the battlefield

Pfc. Dan Balda
4th BCT PAO

FOB PROSPERITY, Iraq – Serving your nation at war, in a far off country is a stressful ordeal in and of itself. Add to that the pressures from the home front such as bills and family issues and you've compounded an already difficult situation.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, more than 30,000 people in the United States die by suicide every year. It is the country's 11th leading cause of death and is often characterized as a response to a single event or set of circumstances.

However, despite these popular misconceptions, suicide is a much more involved phenomenon. The factors that contribute to any particular suicide are diverse and complex, so efforts to understand them must incorporate many approaches, according to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, www.afsp.org.

One of the approaches incorporated by Chaplain (Maj.) Blake Bowers, 4th Brigade Combat Team, and a resident of Smyrna, Delaware is one of the easiest.

"The most important aspect of suicide prevention is caring for other people," Bowers said. "I think when you take the time to care about people and take an interest in their lives, you are going to do a lot to prevent suicides."

The statistics, Bowers said, tell us

that 80 percent of people who are suicidal will always show some sort of sign. Sometimes it can be as simple as a slip of the tongue by the person as "You guys would be better off without me."

Usually the signs tend to be more subtle, such as small changes in personality or habits, such as someone who usually eats small portions of food suddenly gorging themselves during meals. Changes in sleeping patterns are sometimes noticeable also. A suicidal person might read books about death or suddenly start talking about it a great deal. He or she might start worrying about losing control or going crazy, or start giving away their favorite things.

If a number of these signs are noticed together, that would be an indicator to start asking questions.

"I think a lot of people are afraid to ask someone if they are contemplating suicide," Bowers said. "That, however, is the best question you can ask someone who you are worried about."

Bowers said people tend to hide the outward signs such as cutting their arms or wrists or they will hide the pills they are trying to take.

"Here in Iraq, it is a little more dangerous because of the live ammunition everybody is carrying around," Bowers said. "Statistically speaking, males use guns to commit suicide and females choose to take pills. I think you just have to confront people but

do it in a caring and friendly way."

Bowers advises to remind them that everyone makes mistakes, but that it's most important to talk to them and listen when they need you.

"The best thing you can do is find a friend you can talk to," Bowers said.

"Sometimes those friends are peers, sometimes they are subordinates, sometimes they are superiors, nevertheless if the person has demonstrated care and fairness in the past, and you approach them with your problems and your issues. Those leaders should be willing to listen."

Bowers suggests two other places Soldiers can turn to for help.

"We as chaplains have a spiritual aspect we put on things," Bowers said.

"From my perspective there is no situation too big or too small that God can't handle."

Military mental health professionals provide another helpful alternative as well.

"A lot of us think that by going to mental health it's going to be a smudge on your record, or that it's a

sign of weakness," Bowers said. "I think that it's a sign of strength. You're able to admit that you have some weaknesses. We all get down

from time to time; we all get depressed from time to time."

When a Soldier visits mental health personnel on their own, it's much like visiting a chaplain. It's very confidential. The only time they might share your visit with

your chain of command would be if you were a danger to others, along with being a threat to yourself," Bowers said.

When you hear someone say they are hopeless, helpless or worthless, that is the time to step in. Sometimes it just takes a basic greeting.

"Often times we meet someone and ask them how their day is going. We expect to hear 'good,' but sometimes people walk by and say, 'it's not a good day,'" Bowers said. "We keep on walking like we're not hearing what they are saying. Instead we should listen, turnaround and say, 'Hey, I heard what you just said, is there any way I can help?'"

"A lot of us think that by going to mental health it's going to be a smudge on your record...I think it's a sign of strength."
Chaplain (Maj.) T. Blake Bowers
4th BCT

Terrorist car-bomb attack fails



Sgt. Kevin Bromley

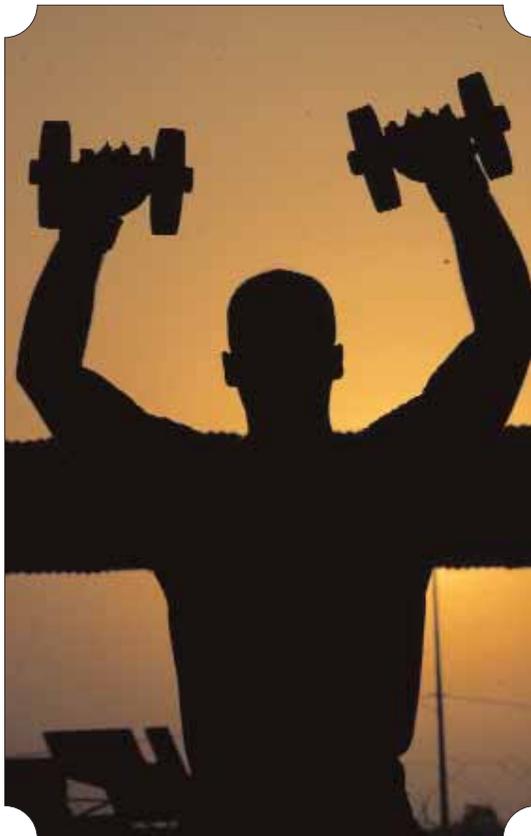
Above: A Task Force Baghdad Soldier views the aftermath of a terrorist attack against the Iraqi Army in a rural area north of Baghdad, June 14. Aside from the terrorists, no one was killed in the attack.

Left: Wreckage smolders along the side of a road in a rural area north of Baghdad, June 14. A terrorist attack against the Iraqi Army occurred shortly after noon when two cars, heavily laden with explosives were detonated by Anti-Iraqi Forces as an Iraqi Army convoy passed.



Spc. Mark Bickel, HHOC, STB, 3rd Inf. Div., lights up the targets with an M249 squad automatic weapon at Butler Range June 10.

Spc. Patrick Heney



A Soldier from 3rd Battalion, 156th Armor, lifts weights during the sunset's glow at Camp Hawk.

Sgt. Thomas Benoit



Members of the 3rd Infantry Division's trombone quartet, "The Rock Slide," take a break from their Memorial Day performance for photographs with their commanding general. From left to right: Staff Sgt. Kevin W. Twyeffort, Staff Sgt. Nathan J. Currie, Maj. Gen. William G. Webster Jr., Spc. Benjamin Solis and Staff Sgt. Charles D. Curry.

Sgt. Andrew Miller



Sgt. James Bradford, a training noncommissioned officer for Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, checks his e-mail for news from home. Bradford regularly uses the internet at the Freedom Calling and Computer Center to keep in touch with family and friends in Belzoni, Miss.

Spc. Matthew Wester

THE MARNE BLOTTER REPORT

1. On 23 May 2005 Sgt. Virginia Perry, 341st Postal Company pled guilty at a General Court-Martial to false official statement and 9 specifications of wrongful appropriation. She was convicted in accordance with her pleas of one specification and 8 specifications of the greater offense of larceny by a military judge. The military judge sentenced her to reduction to E-1, forfeiture of \$1000 per month for 18 months, confinement for 18 months and a Bad-Conduct Discharge

2. On 16 June 2005, Sgt. Michael Boudreaux, B, 3/156 Infantry Battalion,



pleaded guilty at a Special Court-Martial. He was convicted of failure to obey a General Order and

Wrongful possession of hashish and valium by a military judge. The military judge sentenced him to be reduced to E-1, to forfeit \$823 pay per month for 7 months, to be confined for 7 months and to be discharged with a Bad-Conduct Discharge.

3. On 18 June 2005, Pfc. Emily Hamilton, HHC, 1088th Engineer Bn pleaded guilty at a General Court-Martial to failure to repair, and use and possession of hashish. She was convicted of the charges she pled guilty to and distribution of valium by a military judge. The military judge sentenced her to reduction to E-1, total forfeiture of all pay and allowances, confinement for one year and a Bad-Conduct Discharge.

4. On 20 June 2005, Cpl Douglas Pearce, B co., 70th Engineer Battalion pled guilty at a Special Court-Martial. He was convicted of failure to obey a lawful general order and failure to obey an order by a military judge. The military judge sentenced him to reduction to E-2, forfeit

\$923 pay per month for 2 months and to serve hard labor without confinement for 7 days.

5. On 21 June 2005, Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Bryant, HHC, 2/156 Infantry Battalion pled guilty at a Special Court-Martial. He was convicted of a violation of a lawful general order and dereliction of duty by a military judge. The military judge sentenced him to reduction to E-4, forfeiture of \$300 pay per month for 6 months and confinement for 6 months.

6. On 21 June 2005, Pvt. Zachery Salangang, HHC, 1/9 Field Artillery Battalion pled guilty at a Special Court-Martial. He was convicted in accordance with his plea of Failure to obey a lawful general order and misbehavior of a sentinel by a military judge. The military judge sentenced him to reduction to E-1, forfeiture of \$823 pay per month for 6 months, confinement for 6 months and to be discharged with a Bad-Conduct Discharge.

Marne Medical Mentor ... a prescription for good health from your Docs in the Rock

Tips to control a potential heat injury

Decision to accept risk is made at appropriate level

- Made in accordance with appropriate MACOM regulations

Identified controls are in place

- Update WBGT hourly when ambient temperatures is 75 degrees
- Adhere to work/rest cycle in high heat categories. Rest in shade
- For tasks requiring continuous effort, adhere to guideline and allow several hours of rest afterwards
- Training event incorporates good prior planning

Monitor and enforce hydration standard

- Encourage frequent drinking, but not to exceed 1 1/2 quarts per hour or 12 quarts per day. Make water more palatable, if pos-

sible by cooling.

- Do not allow Soldier or trainee to empty canteens to lighten load (consider imposing a penalty in time events).
- ensure Soldiers are well hydrated before training. Ask about urine; urine is clear if well hydrated.
- Check Riley (water) Card or Ogden Cord frequently.

Monitor and enforce eating of meals

- Ensure all meals are eaten during the meal break.
- Ensure adequate time to eat and drink meals.
- Table salt may be added to food when the heat category is high. Salt tablets are not recommended.

Execute random checks

- Spot checks by Cadre, Senior NCOs and

Drill Instructors.

- Enforce "battle buddy checks-" need to be aware of each other's eating, drinking and frequency of urination.
- Plan placement of leaders to observe and react to heat injuries in dispersed training.

Follow clothing recommendations

- Heat category 1-2: No restrictions
- Heat category 3: Unblouse trouser legs, unbuckle web belt.
- Heat category 4-5:
 - Unblouse trouser legs, unbuckle web belt.
 - Remove t-shirt from under BDU top or remove BDU top down to t-shirt (depending whether biting insects are present).
 - Remove helmets unless there are specific safety reasons to keep them on (ex: range).
- MOPP 4: Add 10 degrees to WBGT index for easy work, add 20 degrees to WBGT for moderate and hard work.

Soldiers! The only requirement to drive an NTV in Iraq is a valid driver's license from any state.

DESERT JUSTICE

Building the foundation for the Iraqi Judicial System

Capt. Robert Nye
OSJA

Operation Hammurabi II is a unique mission designed to improve the functionality of the Baghdad area judicial system by providing key equipment and establishing inter-court connectivity. The project is part of the Department of State's and the Department of Justice's national "Rule of Law" initiative. Baghdad is the focus of the initiative, it being the template for all other systems in Iraq.

Operation Hammurabi II began in March after the brigades assessed each court in their respective area of operation. The assessments found the courts functioning, but with lots of room for improvement.

Computers had been provided by 1st Cavalry Division, but they weren't being used due to lack of operational knowledge. Phones did not work due to lack of landlines. Files were strewn everywhere in piles, inside and outside of the courthouses. Limited power availability reduced the number of work hours. Many of the courts operate in small cramped rooms, with parties waiting out in the hallways

for their cases to be called.

Since April, the command judge advocates and their operational law teams have been gathering resources to upgrade the deficiencies in their respective courts.

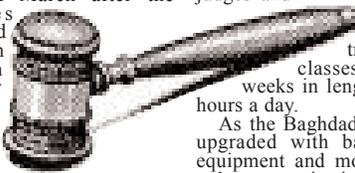
Generators, phone lines, computer servers, Arabic computer software, file cabinets, computers and accessories are currently being provided to each court. Legal representatives of the Government Support Team, led by Lt. Col. Mc Quade, have established basic computer training for all the judges and

administrators. The classes run two weeks in length for two hours a day.

As the Baghdad courts are upgraded with basic office equipment and modern technology, monitoring of their progress will continue.

Iraqi attorneys working for the Office of Staff Judge Advocate will visit the Baghdad courts every two weeks to monitor the number of cases completed and the number of people involved in both sides of the court system and the number of new cases generated.

The OSJA will couple the resulting information with tailored polling data to determine the effectiveness of the improvements and the functionality of the Baghdad judicial system.



Chaplain's Corner

When we face tragedy

Chaplain (Maj.) T. Blake Bowers
4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div.

Many of us have experienced multiple tragedies in life. Some have not. When we face moments in life like this what do we do? It almost seems unbearable.

Job from the Old Testament gives us a model on handling tragedy. He suffered the loss of all his children and possessions at once.

First he mourned. His custom was to shave his head and tear his clothes. This was the greatest form of grief and mourning.

We must mourn. God put within us emotions. We sometimes want to suppress our grief, hide our emotions, not shed tears because we can't let our friends see what we think is our perceived weakness.

Friend it is no shame to shed tears. It is our natural reaction. It is normal. Grieve, cry, and mourn the tragedy. It is the healthiest remedy to our hurt.

Job worshiped God. He fell prostrate to offer his worship to God. He offered his hurt, pain, despair, and misery. I know of no other who understands death like God. There is no other who can soothe hurt, pain and misery like God. I know of no other except God, that gives comfort, hope and assurance even in the midst of tragedy.

Worship is our opportunity to commune with God. It is our opportunity to have that scared blessed fellowship that comes with a kindred spirit. God has designed us with a need for him. In the depths of our hearts, when we are most exposed, most raw, most vulnerable, we can be intimate with a God who knows and sees all. Job saw that even in his hurt and pain, God gave life and blessings and life and blessings were God's to take.

Job retained his integrity with God. He

placed no blame on God. Just when a few things were going wrong was not just the time to throw in the towel and say to God 'you're cruel, look at how faithful I have been to you and look at what you have done to me.' He kept his integrity with God.

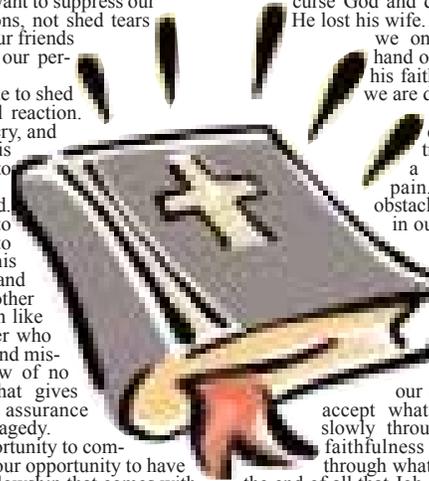
How much can one man take and absorb you wonder.

Job endured more. After being stripped of his wealth and his children, he was stripped of his health. Painful boils developed on his skin. The sole relief was to scrape himself with broken pottery. His home was now the town dump. His wife was at the end of her rope. She told him to curse God and die. She had given up.

He lost his wife. His response was 'shall we only accept good at the hand of God.' Job maintained his faith in God. Friend when we are down to the last straw of life, when we feel we cannot take more tragedy, God provides us a faith that despite hurt, pain, misery and other obstacles, enables us to go on in our life.

We do not always understand why it might happen to us. I don't have the answer to all the whys. I do know that in our tragedy we must mourn, worship, retain our integrity with God, and accept what comes our way and slowly through our faith in God's faithfulness move on with life through whatever we face ahead. At the end of all that Job endured he came to this truth. Job is recorded in the scriptures as saying 'My ears had heard of you, but now my eyes have seen you' (Job 42:5). In his grief and tragedy God revealed himself to Job in a new and fresh way. Job's relationship with God was immeasurably changed.

In your tragedies trust God and God will show himself to you in a greater way.



Engineer Chapel Camp Liberty

Sunday	Wednesday
0845 Roman Catholic Mass	1900 Bible Study
1000 Traditional Protestant	Friday
1230-1430 Latter Day Saints	2100 Prayer & Praise
1900 Traditional Protestant	Saturday
	1000 Reunion & Suicide Brief

Tiger Chapel (256 BCT)

Sunday

0900 Roman Catholic Mass
1030 Contemporary Mass
1300 Gospel Protestant
1500 Traditional Protestant
1900 Non Denominational Christian
2130 Evening Christian Service

Wednesday

1930 Wicca Circle-Briefing Tent

Saturday

1900 Catholic Mass

Wed & Sat

1030 Reunion & Suicide Brief

Division Chapel Services Camp Liberty

Mon. - Fri.	Sunday	
12 p.m. Catholic Mass	9 a.m.: Contemporary Protestant	3 p.m.: Gospel Protestant
Saturday	10:30 a.m.: Roman Catholic Mass	5 p.m.: Church of Christ (non-instrumental)
10 a.m.: Seventh Day Adventist	1 p.m.: Lutheran	8 p.m.: Collective Protestant

In Memory of ...

Cpl. Stanley J. Lapinski, 3/7 Inf.

Sgt. David J. Murray, 1088 Eng. Bn.

Sgt. Anthony G. Jones, 36th Eng. Grp.

1st Lt. Noah Harris, 2/69 Armor

Cpl. William A. Long, 2/69 Armor

Spc. Arnold Duplantier II, 1/184 Inf.

Sgt. 1st Class Christopher W. Phelps, 1/3 ACR

Spc. Joseph M. Tackett, 1/76 FA

Pvt. Charles A. Kaufman, 1/128 Inf.

Soldiers celebrate Army's 230th birthday, re-enlist

Spc. Jennifer Fitts
100th MPAD

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – In 230 years, the U.S. Army has evolved from 10 companies of “expert riflemen” serving as light infantry at the Siege of Boston during the Revolutionary War, to half a million highly trained men and women serving in 252 military occupational specialties all over the world.

During Army birthday festivities June 14 at Camp Liberty, 14 Soldiers from 3rd Infantry Division and 256th Brigade Combat Team reaffirmed their commitments by reenlisting to support the Army mission in Iraq and where ever else they may be called to serve.

Sgt. Major Craig T. Lott, Multi-National Division-Iraq retention sergeant major, said reenlistment numbers have been high thanks to a strong retention campaign in Iraq.

“We’ve had about 2,000 reenlistments in theater, Lott said. “It’s a total team effort with Soldiers and leaders working together.”

The Army currently offers appealing bonuses for troops who are contemplating a few more years of service.

“The average Soldier gets \$10,000 for reenlisting,” Lott said.

“I really didn’t want to get out,” said Spc. David H. McAnn, from E Troop, 101st Cavalry, 256th BCT. The 36-year-old Rochester, N.Y. native has spent 16 years in uniform.

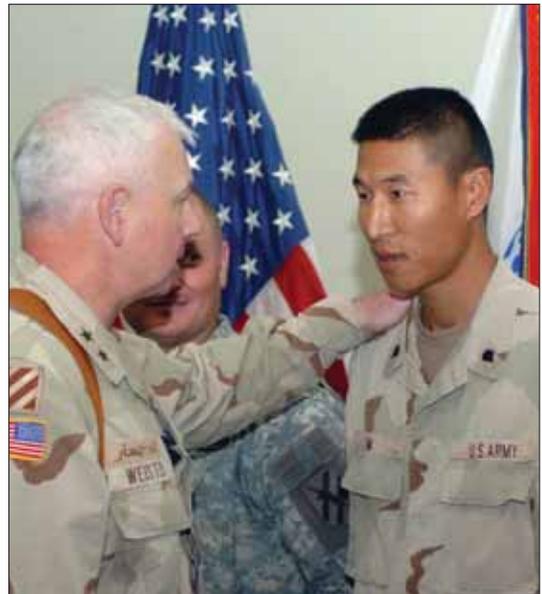


Pfc. Emily Caraballo, 20, a Human Resource Clerk with Division Support Brigade from Elizabeth, N.J. and Lt. Col. Terry Rice, 54, the 603rd Aviation Support Battalion commander continue the tradition of the oldest and youngest members making the first cut into the cake celebrating the Army's 230th birthday at Camp Cooke, Taji, Iraq.

Besides financial incentives, Soldiers have many different reasons for staying in uniform. Camaraderie is one of them.

Spc. Dong H. Im, Headquarters Support Company, 92nd Engineer Battalion, said he really enjoys being in the Army. “I have great NCOs and

great friends,” Im said. “I stay because of the other Soldiers,” said Spc. Thomas S. Stratton. The 30-year-old Soldier from Marietta, Ga., E Troop, 101st Cavalry, indicated two other Soldiers, one of which who was reenlisting with him. “If they go, I go,” he said.



Maj. Gen. William G. Webster, 3rd Infantry Division commanding general, offers congratulations to Spc. Dong H. Im. The Los Angeles, Ca. native, part of Headquarters Support Company, 92nd Engineer Company reenlisted on the Army's 230th birthday June 14.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Raymond Piper

Above: Spc. Shelley Glass from B Company, 703rd Forward Support Battalion and Atlanta, Ga., native, Chaplain (Capt.) Raynard J. Churchwell, 4-3 Brigade Troops Bn. chaplain; Lt. Col. Robert M. Roth, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment commander and Parkhill, Ky., native; 4/64 Armor Command Sgt. Maj. Clarence Stanley, a Nescopek, Penn., native; Pfc. Jason Ainscough, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Brigade Combat Team and Bishop, Calif., native, and Sgt. Matthew Tallie, B Co. 4/64 Armor and Augusta, Ga., native, cut a cake celebrating the Army's 230 birthday at Forward Operating Base Prosperity, Baghdad, Iraq, June 14.

Right: Soldiers stand up and proudly sing “Happy Birthday” for the Army's 230th Birthday June 14 at FOB Prosperity, Baghdad, Iraq.



SHOOTING FROM THE THUMBS: THE GAMER'S REVIEW

'Devil May Cry 3:' Gluttons for punishment rejoice!

Sp. Ricardo Branch
3rd Inf. Div. PAO

These days when I sit down to play a video game I can usually destroy it inside and out within a couple of hours.

Like Capcom veteran game series "Onimusha" or "Resident Evil," which offers me and the hard core gaming elite numerous hours of challenging puzzles and stellar action to test our skills.

Those games are good but not great.

However, Devil May Cry 3 brings something new to the screen for anyone wanting a challenge, or the biggest butchering of their life.

It left me amazed after the first hour with its stellar action and steeped difficulty.

Demon-swordsman Dante (the game's hero) jumps around the screen like an acrobat on acid and almost any cool move possible to defeat an enemy is available for him to dispatch his foes.

From running on walls to

where your guy is upside down sailing over his victim-in-waiting (allowing you to rain destruction from your weapons upon him), there are many cool ways to take them down.

As my blistered fingers and disheveled hair give testament there has not been a game this challenging for me in a long, long time.

As I'm only a third of the way through now, I'm constantly facing death.

Make no mistake though, no matter how good you are, in this game you will die and it will be often.

Having played the first, then its sequel, I had mixed feelings about this game.

The first outing of Dante, in DMC1, was a gem among gems.

In the first game you could use Dante's trademark sword to upercut your victim into the air and finish him off with a succession of shots from your twin handguns (Ebony and Ivory).

That game took me about

three weeks to beat.

It's successor DMC2 brought Matrix style moves with running along walls to spice the mix up. It also did the players a big injustice with the difficulty being significantly lowered.

It took a total of three days for me to beat everything the game had to offer. Even the "Dante must Die" difficulty setting was a joke in DMC2.

With that in mind I didn't know what to make about this new sequel.

"Will this game be insanely difficult, or a cake walk like the second entry Devil May Cry 2?"

Those two questions were at the top of my mind when I stuck "Devil May Cry 3" in my Playstation 2.

Thankfully the developers didn't deviate from the tried and true form of the series by sticking with what worked in the first - lots of enemies and tight confining areas to practice your many moves.

There are even four types of

styles in the beginning that offer a large assortment of moves to master like, Trickster, Gunslinger, Sword Master and Guard Royale.

Initially, you'll really have to master all the styles to prove that your skills are truly worthy.

Without a doubt, this is the sequel that players been waiting for, but only the greatest of gamers will beat it.

This game stands to be one of the greats on the pillars of action excellence, but if you get frustrated to the point of throwing your controller don't buy it, since you'll be dying a lot.

This game is one heck of a ride and if you're good, like to be challenged and love rock ensembles in your video game endeavors, get it.

Devil May Cry 3 will have you cheering throughout it's entirety as you go out and vanquish those unfortunate enough to get in your way to prove that even the devil may cry when facing your onslaught.



The Bottom Line

A+

The Book Nook

'Huck Finn:' The American classic does it again

Sgt. Andrew A. Miller
100th MPAD

Revealing its age, the first page of this literary classic was yellow and it was completely blank, save two inscriptions.

One was written in pencil, and it read: "Life along the Tigris, or is it the Euphrates? God bless the Mississippi."

The other inscription was printed in bold, capital letters. It read: "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn."

If a book exists that is more "apple pie American," I haven't read it.

Mark Twain's "Huck Finn" is the masterpiece of one of America's most celebrated authors. Through dialects that are uniquely American, Twain immortalizes the antebellum Mississippi River and the people who lived along its banks.

Under the guise of a "boy's book," Twain's mastery of words treats us to an intimate look at all the simple beauty and the ugliness of that time and place. Flowing from the north to the south of the Midwest, we float along, stopping in different towns and cultures in search of adventure. With Huck Finn and his runaway-slave companion, Jim, readers experience a huge new world with borrowed innocence.

Such innocence and its parallel honesty are what make this story so real.

After being treated to a few chapters of Huck's reasoning and Jim's simple views, adult readers might forget their cynicism and drift down that mighty river left with nothing but truth.

Though they lie to him and are convincing to most, Huck can see two temporary companions for what they are: "full of flappedoodle." Jim tells of his former status as a rich man for

once having \$14. In those cases and throughout the book, the reader knows they are right.

It is perhaps appropriate, in view of the ultimate impact of his story, that Huck begins his adventure with such judgment. Stolen from his foster mother, Miss Watson, by his alcoholic father, Huck knows he is in for trouble ("I made up my mind I would fix up some way to leave there..")

After the first of many daring escapes, Huck fakes his death and holes up on nearby Jackson's Island. At first he has no further plans but to live on the island. But before long, he is confronted with a situation that drives him away from his home without looking back.

Huck learns that another runaway is living on the island too, and it's someone he knows. Miss Watson's slave, Jim, had discovered he was to be sold off and sent south, so off he ran to the island. The runaways pair up and began new, carefree lives. That is, until they find out that Jim has been blamed for Huck's murder and bounty hunters are headed for Jackson's Island.

Another quick escape launches their raft down the Mississippi and into the Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. Traveling at night and hiding by day, Huck and Jim's first days on the raft are among peaceful waters, but the river steadily picks up and rages.

It's not long before the runaways come upon their first real adventure - a wrecked steamboat. Against Jim's wishes, Huck takes a stand and decides to get on board in search of treasure ("Do you think Tom Sawyer would ever go by this thing? Not for pie, he wouldn't. He'd call it an adventure-that's what he'd call it; and he'd land on that wreck if it was his last act.")

Of course, they found more than

they were looking for.

Huck and Jim eventually become the closest of friends, though not without these sort of disagreements.

In such instances, readers witness a scene that contrasts with today's reality - a grown man and a young boy calmly debating as equals. This sort of talk is equally alien to their world, but only because Jim is a slave and Huck is white.

Twain doesn't add any fluff to the mentality of slave-owning culture. There are many depictions of the cruelty of slavery, and the author lets history speak for itself. Years in captivity have taken their toll on Jim, and he is consistently humbled by Huck's willingness to help him. Huck is torn on many occasions, between what he has been taught and what he knows is right.

Eventually Jim is captured, and Huck has to decide between betrayal and a daring rescue. Huck has always been given to "wickedness" in the sense that he doesn't always fall in line. He's tried many times to reform his wicked ways, but to no avail.

Jim's capture drives him to conviction ("I was a-trembling, because I'd got to decide, forever, betwixt two things, and I knowed it. I studied a minute, sort of holding my breath, and then I says to myself: 'All right, then, I'll go to hell.'")

The rescue was on. These days, it might not sound like much for a boy to listen to his conscience and rescue a man from slavery, but Mark Twain began writing The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn in 1876. Back then, the idea that a rural Southern white boy would act this way was a profound idea indeed.

Profound and scary. In 1948, literary critic Lionel Trilling wrote: "Huckleberry Finn was once barred from certain libraries and schools for its alleged subversion of morality ... in point of fact

Huckleberry Finn is indeed a subversive book - no one who reads thoughtfully the dialectic of Huck's great crisis will ever again be wholly able to accept without some question and some irony the assumptions of the respectable morality by which he lives..."

The greatness of this story comes from its ability to serve numerous purposes.

Firstly, this is a story meant to entertain. It does just that, and with its boyish perspective of mature events, it can entertain anyone, not just children.

The story is also important because it is among the first and most significant to celebrate the American language and culture. At least four distinct dialects are used to tell the story, and none are suggested to be better or inferior versus the other.

Finally, this is a great story because it defines the freedom that was to become synonymous with our country.

Like Huckleberry Finn himself, Twain realized that American freedom had a long way to go, even while he celebrated the culture that would eventually take it there. This is explicitly evident from Jim's rescue.

Simply put, freedom is symbolized by life on a raft along the Mississippi.

Like freedom, Huck's process was slow, but reversing against the current proves difficult indeed.

Although Huck's story is celebrated as an American classic, it is also distinguished among all literature world wide.

As such, it makes for an outstanding read whether you are from America or Timbuktu, or near the Mississippi, Danube, Mekong, Tigris or Euphrates Rivers. Open the classic and let Mark Twain's literary current carry you away.