

The Marne Express

"Mission, Soldiers, Teamwork"

Volume 2, Issue 9

Serving the Soldiers of Task Force Baghdad

June 19, 2005

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



Uncovered Cache
page 8



Youth Soccer
page 10



Haifa Street baby
page 15

Operation Determined Fury



Spc. Ben Brody

Soldiers from C Co., 1st Battalion, 64th Armor, prepare to enter a house during a raid in New Baghdad, Iraq, June 6.

Desert Rogues root out insurgents

Spc. Ben Brody
2nd BCT PAO

NEW BAGHDAD, Iraq – Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 64th Armor, conducted Operation Determined Fury the first week of June in an effort to root out insurgents in

Central Baghdad. New Baghdad is a diverse neighborhood, populated with Christians, Sunni Muslims and Shiite Muslims. "We're basically doing a week's worth of cordon-and-searches in two days," said Maj. Paul Maxwell, Task

Force 1-64 Armor, executive officer. "Using intel we've gathered, we're targeting houses where insurgent cells are thought to plan (improvised explosive device) attacks."

During the afternoon of June 6, Soldiers from C, D

and E Companies, 1-64 Armor, rolled into a densely populated New Baghdad neighborhood with their M-1 Abrams tanks, Bradley Fighting Vehicles and humvees, blocking the streets

See ROGUES, page 13

FOB Raider transfers over to Iraqi Army Soldiers

Spc. Brian Schroeder
2/10 Inf. PAO

FOB CONSTITUTION, Iraq – A ceremony was held in western Baghdad to officially transfer the authority of Raider Forward Operating Base from Coalition Forces to the Iraqi Army June 9.

"This represents a tremendous growth and ability of the Iraqi Security Forces to assume on their own duties of manning an important outpost," said Lt. Col. Leopoldo Quintas, commander, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armored Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division.

Soldiers from 3rd Brigade, 6th Iraqi

Army Division and Gen. Aziz Swady, the brigade commander, were passed the symbolic torch of control for Raider Base.

Aziz gave a promise to the Iraqi people that they will defend the base with their lives.

"We will never forget the good that the Coalition Forces have done for our city and the good you have done to help our country," Aziz said. "To the people of Abu Ghraib and the Iraqi people, we will be faithful Soldiers and protect our base."

The efforts of the Iraqi Army have had a positive effect on anti-Iraqi attacks in the city of Abu Ghraib.

Since 3/6 IA Bde. became a main pres-

ence in the area in May, the total number of roadside bombs and mortar or rocket attacks have decreased from seven attacks per day to only two per day.

Several key targets and insurgents have also been detained.

Raider Base was initially established in June 2003 under the command of Quintas, after the Coalition Forces advanced to Baghdad in March 2003.

The base served as a stopping point for Coalition patrols in and out of the city.

The base was transferred to the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd BCT in Nov. 2004. Pfc. John Rager,

from 2nd Platoon, B Company, 2/70 AR died July 19, 2003.

Many Soldiers from his platoon were

wounded during the attack on a checkpoint near the base.

See FOB, page 13



Spc. Brian Schroeder

The battalion colors of 2/70th Armor and 2/14th Inf., 2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. are cased during a transfer of authority ceremony in the western Baghdad district of Abu Ghraib June 9.

Marne Six Sends

Maj. Gen. William G. Webster Jr.
Task Force Baghdad Commander

On June 14, 2005, our Army proudly celebrates its 230th Birthday. American Soldiers have answered the call to duty since 1775.

The nation has entrusted us to preserve the peace, protect its freedoms and defend our way of life. American Soldiers have always been motivated by an unwavering belief that they will be victorious.

Our Soldiers understand that our Constitution guarantees our freedoms and must be protected.

The Soldiers serving in Task Force Baghdad are no different.

We draw our military roots and traditions starting with the militia that defeated the British at Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775.

These citizen Soldiers harassed the retreating British till they were close to Boston inflicting one of the highest casualty rates the British would suffer during the war.

The militia then established camp on the Cambridge Common with some Soldiers being quartered

in the halls of Harvard University as they settled in to observe the British.

The success of the militia spurred the Continental Congress into action. On June 14, 1775 the militia at Cambridge was declared to be the Continental Army.

The Congress then authorized the first unit of Continentals to be raised. This first battalion was to be made up of "expert riflemen" and to serve as a light infantry force.

Today, all Soldiers can be reminded of these early patriots and those who followed by a quick review of your unit's heritage, symbols and Warrior's ethos.

The 3rd Infantry Division's patch with its blue stripes represents the Infantry, loyalty and the steadfastness of the American Soldier.

Every day Marne Soldiers leave for missions with this reminder on our sleeves. We are a rifleman first; experts like the first Continentals. We are loyal to our comrades, units and oaths to duty.

We are steadfast in our purpose like the rock on our distinctive unit insignia representing the division's firm stand against the

German offensive at the Marne River in World War I. We carry on the traditions started by those who served before without even reflecting on it because we share a common understanding of what is right and needs to be done.

Our adversaries continue to threaten our way of life and vow to attack us again at home. The Soldiers of Multi-National Division – Baghdad bravely serve our Army while protecting our national interest here in Iraq.

I am extremely proud to be serving with all of you on the Army's 230th Birthday. We are the Army's lead weapon in the war on terror. And you and your Soldiers are the heart of this combat team.

You believe in doing the right thing and your willingness to make whatever sacrifice that is necessary is not only winning this fight, but as many of you have said, it is important for the future of America, not just for the future of Iraq.

You are doing great work!

Mission...Soldiers...Teamwork

Rock of the Marne!

What you don't see could kill you.



Look for secondary explosive devices.



STAY ALIVE

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

Courtesy photo

Vice President Dick Cheney gets a taste of the frosting after cutting a cake during a 2003 ceremony commemorating the Army's 228th birthday at the Pentagon.



The Word on the Street

What's the most important thing your father taught you?

"My dad taught me responsibility and that, for a man, the most important thing is to take care of your family."



Spc. Markus L. Leach
HHSC, STB
Statesville, N.C.

"My dad was a good cook. He taught me how to cook, whenever we'd get together."



Maj. Ingrid Lim Jurich
546th Area Support Med. Co.
Rochester, N.Y.

"My father taught me that you have to respect others and yourself before others will respect you."



Airman 1st Class Amber Hodges
54th Sig. Bn.
Graham, Wa.

"My dad served three tours in Vietnam. He taught me to never give up, no matter what the odds. And the 11th commandment: to thy own self be true."



Spc. Donald Thomas
1st Bn., 121th Inf.
Newnan, Ga.

"My pops is one of those philosophical types. He has given me wisdom about all kinds of stuff like the rights and wrongs of life, that not everything is as it seems."



Spc. Mark Young
1st Bn. 121th Inf.
New Orleans, La.

The Marne Express

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Unsung heroes

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

The construction of homes and buildings represents a skilled ability that has been passed down through the generations.

The efforts of talented engineers continue to baffle our minds due to their ingenuity, creativity, and sophistication of designs.

Engineers are unique indeed with the problem-solving capabilities they bring to the combined arms team.

The 3rd Infantry Division is very fortunate to have among its ranks a host of experts under the leadership of the 36th Engineer Group of Fort Benning, Ga.

These combat and construction engineer Soldiers, dedicated professionals in their own right, are making a big difference in keeping the main supply routes as safe as possible from improvised explosive devices with the employment of their, IED "interrogating" vehicle, known as the "Buffalo."

These hard working Soldiers are constructing buildings, roads, airfields, and are involved in hundreds of various projects designed to improve our quality of life and to increase the force protection

levels inside and outside of our forward operating bases.

The 36th ENG team is comprised of Active, Reserve, and Army National Guard personnel.

Just to illustrate the flexibility of the reserve unit, they successfully reorganized just prior to deploying – transforming from a combat engineer company to a construction company to support the Seahorse and Marne Teams.

We all understand the fact the every Soldier is a rifleman first and this is no different with these engineer warriors.

However, I submit to you that the combat effectiveness of this engineer force multiplier is better measured by its earth moving capability when shaping terrain for construction or counter-mobility efforts, and by its vertical construction projects while providing safe, quality living and working conditions for the Marne combat team.

Today's heroes are from the engineer community and what great teammates they are. Our hats are off to the "Rugged Seahorses" of the 36th Engineer Group and its entire supporting cast of Black Diamonds, Desert Rhinos, and Red Horses.

"Rock of the Marne"



The new Combat Action Badge will be available in clothing sales stores later this summer. The CAB was created for the purpose of recognizing the non-combat occupations in the Army.

Army announces new badge requirements

www.arnews.com
Special to The Marne Express

WASHINGTON — The Army announced this week the eligibility requirements for its new Combat Action Badge.

The requirements are laid out in a Department of the Army letter published on June 3. The letter also discusses changes to the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Combat Medic Badge.

The CAB, whose design features both a bayonet and grenade, may be awarded to any Soldier performing assigned duties in an area where hostile fire pay or imminent danger pay is authorized, who is personally present and actively engaging or being engaged by the enemy, and performing satisfactorily in accordance with the prescribed rules of engagement, according to the specific eligibility requirements.

Award of the CAB is not limited by one's branch or military occupational specialty; however, to receive the CAB, a Soldier must not be

assigned or attached to a unit that would qualify the Soldier for the CIB or CMB.

The CAB's creation was approved by Army chief of staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker on May 2, 2005, to provide special recognition to Soldiers who personally engage or are engaged by the enemy.

"Warfare is still a human endeavor," Schoomaker said. "Our intent is to recognize Soldiers who demonstrate and live the Warrior Ethos."

"The Global War on Terrorism and its associated operations will be the first era of conflict considered for this award," said Lt. Col. Bill Johnson, Human Resources Command chief of military awards. "September 18, 2001, is the effective date for the new award. That is when President Bush signed Senate Joint Resolution 23, authorizing the use of military force against those responsible for the recent attacks launched against the United States."

The CAB should be available late this summer or early fall through unit supply and military clothing sales stores.



Spc. Jennifer Fitts

Above: Spc. Brandon Scurlock, 612th Eng. Bn., from Cambridge, Ohio, backs up his Small Emplacement Excavator truck while cleaning up debris at the Camp Liberty post exchange.

Left: Sgt. Scott Schwartz (left) from New Bremen, Ohio, and Spc. Josh Henline from St. Mary's, Ohio, emplace concrete barriers at the Camp Liberty shopping complex.

Commentary

Soldiers sacrifice so Americans can live in freedom

We give so you can live. While every family member is tucked away in their beds at night, Soldiers are still fighting the good fight. Adapt and overcome is the formula for living in Iraq.

I have met many people who complain about their orders at a restaurant being wrong or it being a little too warm or cold. Some people can't go more than a day without a bath and a primping.

We live in conditions that would horrify the general American public. We almost never have water, and if we do, it's cold. I am staying at a patrol base right now that hasn't served a hot meal in four days. To be hon-

est with you, the list goes on and on.

We sit up all night on guard duty and watch the horizon, protecting the Soldiers dwelling within our base. We smile and joke with each other, and try to make the best of things. We are willing to be awakened at any hour, day or night, to ride out on a mission. I know people back home I can't get out of bed with a fire hose.

There are complaints, but mostly in passing conversation. The thing is that everyone is living in the same conditions, so nobody really wants to hear any complaining. There are a few things we can change, and we do change them. The majority of the situation remains in status quo.

I feel honored to be here serving with these men and women. They are amazing people. I would expect the average person to literally break down and cry at the sight of some of the

things we deal with. But every day, we can see the changes in this country. The Iraqi Security Forces are taking the position at the front of the convoy on almost every mission. This sight makes me confident our work here is fruitful, and we are making great progress.

I miss home, as does every Soldier here. We jump at the chance to communicate with our families and loved ones. All of us want to come home. What we will do when we get there varies widely.

Many of us will not reenlist, but some will. We are individuals with different tastes and backgrounds, and all of us have our own dreams and needs. As Americans, we often take our choices for granted. It is interesting to see the people of Iraq begin to realize that they also have choices, and soon they will be able to make them without

us here. Many things can happen during the transition.

I just hope all of us make it home safe and leave the reconstruction to those who are elected to run this country.

So when your husband, wife, son or daughter tells you everything is alright over here, they are being good Soldiers. Make sure you tell them you love them. They are dealing with a great amount of discomfort, yet they drive on to accomplish their missions. Whether you believe in what we are doing or not, support the spirit of the Soldier. We all want to be home with you, yet we sacrifice our comfort to bring the battle to the terrorists own backyard, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr. is an Army journalist with 1st BCT PAO, 3rd Inf. Div.



Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

Happy *Father's* Day!

"Fathers, be good to your daughters. You are the God and the weight of her world." - John Mayer

"My father gave me the greatest gift anyone could give another person, he believed in me." - Jimmy Valvano

"Blessed indeed is the man who hears many gentle voices call him father." - Lydia M. Child

"Fatherhood is pretending the present you love most is soap-on-a-rope." - Bill Cosby

"The older I get, the smarter my father seems to get." - Tim Russert

"It is a wise father that knows his own child." - William Shakespeare, Merchant of Venice (Launcelot at II, ii)

"A father is a banker provided by nature." - French Proverb

**"Luke, I am your father!"
- Darth Vader, Dark Lord of the Sith**

"I cannot think of any need in childhood as strong as the need for a father's protection." - Sigmund Freud

"By the time a man realizes that maybe his father was right, he usually has a son who thinks he's wrong." - Charles Wadsworth

"Sometimes the poorest man leaves his children the richest inheritance." - Ruth E. Renkel

***Everyone can be a father, but it takes a lot to be a daddy.!* - author unknown**

"One father is worth more than a hundred schoolmasters." - George Herbert.

"I've had a hard life, but my hardships are nothing against the hardships that my father went through in order to get me where I started." - Bertrand Hubbard

A small tribute to my dad

Parenthood helps me realize your sacrifices

Spc. Maria Mengrone
100th MPAD

Many years ago my father crossed el Rio Bravo from Mexico into Texas with only the clothes on his back and a vision of a better future for his family.

The success of his sacrifice meant that my siblings and I would have a guaranteed education, a decent home and more importantly, an opportunity to excel based on our own determination and intellectual merit.

I was very young and naïve and at the time I didn't understand why my dad wasn't there to tuck me into bed. And when he was home on those rare occasions I remember being angry at him for always being exhausted and never making time to join my dollies and I for some homemade tea.

My dad found work wherever he could – from janitorial work to produce handler, he did it all. It wasn't until much later in life that I realized his absence during my childhood was not a sign of indifference, but rather his way of providing all the basic

essentials necessary for our survival and our happiness.

I understand more clearly now that his sacrifice was a selfless act of courage and a demonstration of absolute love. Our future was so important to him that he risked his life crossing that infamous river so that my sisters and I would have all the freedoms he didn't have growing up.

How can I ever repay my father for all his hard work and dedication?

Enlisting to serve my country is a start because all the admirable qualities that my father possesses have been passed on to me.

It is now my duty to my children to preserve all the freedoms my dad so painstakingly worked to achieve for me.

I will always be indebted to my father and I hope that he truly realizes that all my achievements could not have been possible without his unwavering support.

I love you dad.
Feliz Día de los Padres!

Daddy's Little Girl

By Capt. Dominique Butler

The bond between a father and daughter is one every parent can treasure; The love of Daddy's Little Girl can not be measured.

It knows no limits, no bounds, no end,
For "daddy" is the one on whom you can depend.
He's there to tuck you in at night,
He lets you walk to the store alone, but still keeps you in sight.
He's there to teach you how to ride a bike,
He's there to scare off that boy you really like.
He's there to show you wrong from right
He's there to show you how to fight-
Fight your own battle and stand your ground,
How to do the right thing when no one's around.

Daddy's Little Girl is his most precious gift,
One look at the smile on her face can lift-
Lift him to a place of pride and joy
And make him forget about wanting a little boy.

Daddy's Little Girl will grow up to be strong
Knowing that if anything should ever go wrong,
She can turn to him for a helping hand
He'll pick her back up and help her stand-
Stand on her own two feet and hopes she learns
Good and bad things will happen – they kind of take turns.
He'll teach her that bumps in the road are not obstacles to deter,
But are things that a person of good character would prefer-
Prefer to be challenged and face any situation,
Surmounting them all will be Daddy's confirmation.
Confirmation that he did his best to prepare her for the world,
Yet when it's all said and done, you'll still be Daddy's Little Girl.

Father's day in Iraq...

Combat tour strengthens family bond

Sgt. Andrew A. Miller
100th MPAD

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – The man with the Louisiana accent wasn't talking to his son, he was talking about him. Yet his eyes never left his boy. He gazed at him, as if he were still trying to figure him out, despite their 22 years together.

That Sgt. 1st Class Robert T. Fontenot could personally and literally look upon his son is due to a good bit of luck.

Both Soldiers are assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry (Mech.)

The fact that Spc. Cody T. Fontenot is stationed with his dad is something they both appreciate, he said.

Thanks to that luck and appreciation, and in the spirit of Father's Day, the two Bradley mechanics agreed to meet and discuss the rare experience of serving with one another in a combat zone.

Such conversation, involving insight on their feelings and their bond, seemed at first to be less than comfortable for the younger Fontenot. But as the ice broke and melted away, the discussion soon became candid and sincere.

Serving with a family member is somewhat of a mixed blessing, they explained.

"The rank thing can be kind of weird," Cody said. "I can't really argue like I can at home."

"Or try to get out of something," his dad added, smiling.

From the leader's perspective, Robert has to be sure that he considers the welfare of his Soldiers to be as important as that of his son's, he said.

They explained how there's also an increased level of worrying that comes with serving alongside a relative.

"When a mortar or rocket comes in, (Cody) is the first thing on my mind," Robert said.

"You look for where it hit. You worry about your son."

Earlier in their deployment, Robert

was stationed at Forward Operating Base Justice. He and his son rarely saw each other, except when the elder Fontenot would convoy to Liberty each week.

"I would worry about him," Cody said. "It was a relief to see him every time."

Aside from worry and the occasional awkward conflict of family ties versus military professionalism, the men agree that having each other here is a great benefit.

"I've got someone in my unit who I know I can always turn to," said the younger Fontenot.

His father agreed.

"Having someone in your family here is cool," Robert said. "You've got someone you can really talk to. I'm glad he's here with me. I just wish he wasn't here," he added with a laugh.

They admitted other than just making for an easier combat tour, sharing their experiences has created a stronger bond between them.

"At home, we didn't really have much in common," Robert said.

He said his son was a young man who was mostly interested in his friends.

Neither of them ever thought Cody would join the Army. They certainly never imagined they'd be stationed together, especially in Iraq.

As fate would have it, they were. Due to that twist of fate, they have found that they really do have certain things in common.

Robert said he's learned that his son has his father's temper. He's also learned that Cody is a hard worker and a good mechanic.

But Cody's ability to take care of himself is no surprise to his father.

"I raised him to be independent," Robert said.

The conversation drifted toward themes of change, appreciation and the future.

Cody spoke of his bad attitude as a



Louisiana Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Robert T. Fontenot and his son Spc. Cody T. Fontenot during a brief visit to the Camp Tigerland MWR facility. Both men, from Delcambre, La., are M2A2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle mechanics assigned to HHC, 2/156th Infantry (Mech.) during their tour to Iraq.

slightly younger man. He mentioned trouble with the law. He remembered how he used to think he knew everything.

"The best thing my dad ever did for me was to help me straighten my life out," said Cody, with a set of serious eyes. "Without him I probably wouldn't have gotten to go to school or got a good job."

Robert proudly explained that during this deployment, and since his son first joined the Army some three years ago, he has watched his son mature into a man and become successful.

"The best thing my son has done for me was to turn his life around," Robert said.

After merely an hour, the two men had created a clear picture of themselves as Soldiers and as father and son.

They are two men who have been and continue to be changed during their tour to Iraq. They are two men who have been changed by one another.

As their redeployment home to

Delcambre, La. slowly approaches, they both agreed that they're ready to go home.

Cody said he'll want to help his 'old man' out more than before, even when his dad claims he doesn't need an extra hand.

Robert said he'll let his son take his boat out, which sparked a series of smiles and chuckles that couldn't really be explained to a stranger.

Again, Robert could be seen gazing at his son.

The father's look was a peculiar one, and throughout the conversation he occasionally hid it away, only to expose it once again. In fact, it was during its reappearance that the exact nature of his gaze became apparent.

Here was a man who was admiring his son, a grown man.

A father, who, even in a young stranger's presence, shared his feelings toward his son. A father who was bestowing upon his son one of the most rewarding displays of emotion.

That look was pride.

"The best thing my dad ever did for me was to help straighten my life out. Without him I probably wouldn't have gotten to go to school or get a good job."

Spc. Cody T. Fontenot
2/156 Inf.

10th Mtn. Soldiers continue to fight during final operations

Spc. Matthew McLaughlin
2/10 Inf. PAO

CAMP LIBERTY, Baghdad - The months have turned into weeks and the weeks into days, but while redeployment fingers on the horizon, Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division are conducting a variety of combat operations during their final days in Iraq.

Since May 20th, 2nd BCT operations resulted in detaining more than 600 suspected insurgents, said Lt. Col. Michael J. Infanti, 2nd BCT deputy commander. The Commandos recently completed Operation Squeeze Play South, an offensive

operation meant to route insurgents out of Southern Baghdad. The operation was the largest combined Iraqi-Coalition operation in Iraq to date, utilizing four Iraqi brigades and four American battalions, as well as Air Force and Navy support. The operation was meant to both crush the insurgency around Baghdad and prepare the area for replacement units, said Cpt. Bryan McCarthy, a liaison officer from Syracuse, N.Y. with 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment. McCarthy said he and other Soldiers were not dismayed at the operations at the tail end of the deployment, but rather saw the mission as one final chance to

leave their mark in Iraq. "We'll be here until we leave anyway; this isn't interfering in our leaving," McCarthy said. "We rounded up a lot of detainees and we're setting the next unit up for success."

Part of the operation included an Iraqi-Coalition air assault mission to secure an insurgent safehouse. Iraqi units and Soldiers from 4-31 Infantry flew to the target and detained 50 suspected insurgents. The air assault was the first battalion level air assault 4-31 Infantry Soldiers participated in since their previous deployment to Afghanistan. It was also only the second time 2nd BCT Soldiers air assaulted

with Iraqi forces. It was the ultimate culminating event for a successful year for 2nd BCT and 4-31 Infantry Soldiers, McCarthy said.

"This was a great way to end the year together, to do a battalion air assault" he said, noting the importance of the element of surprise. "It keeps the enemy guessing. They never know when they are going to see us."

Variety was key in the operation, as the Commando brigade threw everything they had at the insurgents, including air strikes and close air support. Air Force Jets bombed two bunkers used by insurgents to store



Spc. Matthew McLaughlin
A Soldier from 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment patrols a field after an air assault raid June 5.

Joint operation busts terror cell, yields many suspects

Spc. Erin Robicheaux
256th BCT PAO

BAGHDAD – From May 29 to June 1, Soldiers of the 1st Iraqi Army Brigade and 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, 256th Brigade Combat Team, teamed up to bust terrorist cells in Baghdad.

During the three-day cordon-and-search mission, they captured 47 terror suspects, three of whom were terrorist cell leaders. Some detainees provided sworn statements on terrorists in their neighborhoods. Six AK-47 rifles, 500 rounds of ammunition, and one assault rifle were also found.

Staff Sgt. Jeffery Schmidt, a civilian police officer, was an assessor when his unit, Headquarters Company, 2/156th, joined A Company, 5th Battalion, 1st Iraqi Army Brigade on one of their raids. He said the operation went well and the Iraqi Soldiers have themselves to thank for it.

“They captured a lot of people on their list, and it was good to get them out there and let them get some experience,” Schmidt said. “They just need more repetition, that’s how you learn.”

The three-day joint mission with the U.S. forces was a definite learning event for the Iraqis, according to 2/156th Soldiers who assisted. The Iraqis began with the process of collecting information on their patrols and eventually a target list was developed from intelligence gathered mostly from the civilian population.

Staff Sgt. Howard Wulforst, from Patterson, N.Y., of D Company, 101st Cavalry, attached to 2/156th, said they worked with Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 1st Iraqi Army Brigade. He said once the Iraqi Soldiers had the ball, they never let go.

“We gave them a little bit of space to let them do what they had to do and it was good to see,” he said.

The Iraqis even practiced their medical skills by treating a casualty.

As the vehicles were lined up to move into another area, one of the Iraqi

Soldiers noticed a man underneath a car and pulled him out. Unknown to the troops, the man had jumped off of a three-story building and broke both ankles and his back trying to escape.

“The man was a little disoriented and had clearly been hiding, you could see that he had grease all over his body, probably from the car,” Wulforst said.

He said the Iraqi Soldiers gave the man excellent care and quickly got him out of the area. They evaluated the man’s injuries and brought him to a predetermined spot for the aircraft to pick him up.

“The (Iraqi) platoon sergeant immediately had his Soldiers set up security around the perimeter and the Soldiers around the detainee were clearly caring for his wounds,” Wulforst said. Once the helicopter arrived, the Iraqis moved the detainee onto it without incident.

After he was taken away, the Soldiers searched the man’s home and found his identification. Once his injuries are healed, Wulforst said he will be detained for further questioning.

Staff Sgt. Joshua Robert from Breauz Bridge, La., of A Company, 2/156th, worked with the 1/1 IA Bde. when there was a K-9 unit assigned to them. The dogs were trained to seek out explosives and though they did not find anything, Robert said that using the dogs was still very helpful.

“It let us know that we didn’t miss anything and it was also a deterrent with the suspected targets,” he said.

Robert said the locals appeared more cooperative with the Iraqi Soldiers, as opposed to the raids he and his fellow American Soldiers participated in.

“It seemed like they welcomed them into their houses a lot more than they do us. I guess it’s kind of like the small towns back in Louisiana where you know everybody, they were more willing to talk to them,” Robert said.

Sgt. 1st Class Chuck Spotten, a platoon sergeant for D Company, 101st Cav., agreed with Robert.

“Once the sun came up the civilians brought tea out for the Soldiers, they socialized with the Soldiers, and they



Staff Sgt. Jorge Rodriguez

Iraqi Soldiers of the 1st Brigade, 6th Division Iraqi Army patrolled the streets of Baghdad in search of terrorist cells from May 29 through June 1. Along with Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, 256th Brigade Combat Team, the Iraqi Brigade captured 47 detainees suspected of terrorist activity, or knowing of possible terrorist activities.

gave them water,” he said.

Spotten also described the scene as the convoy passed through the streets of Baghdad.

“As we drove around the streets it was like a Memorial Day parade,” he said. “People were cheering and clapping for their Soldiers and for us. We had a very good feeling driving through town,” Spotten said.

Maj. David Gooch, operations officer for 2/156th from Lafayette, La., said the success of the mission can be attributed fully to the 1st IA Bde.

“They captured every single one of the targets that were brought in,” he said.

Gooch said the U.S. forces were on standby, but in terms of searching the houses and capturing the individual targets, that was done completely by the 1st Bde.

“It shows that they are obviously well

equipped and well trained, and they can accomplish any given task. They can certainly defend this area, they proved that,” Gooch said.

There was no interference from Anti-Iraqi Forces and the nights were free of mishaps from the enemy.

Gooch said the people of the area appeared pleased to see their own forces out winning the war on terror.

“They took commands from the Iraqi Army and seemed to appreciate the fact that their own Soldiers were out there doing it as opposed to the Coalition forces coming in,” Gooch said. “Not just in the events of the night, but when the sun came up you could see they were capable and that the entire neighborhood was happy to see them doing the exact same thing we’ve been doing for the last three years in this country.”

FIGHT, continued from page 5

munitions. No munitions were retrieved, but the number of explosions after the blast imply a large number of explosives were in the bunkers, said Air Force Cpt. Will McCrink, an Air Force liaison with the 20th Air Support Operations Squad, Fort Drum.

“After the bombings we had numerous secondary explosions for several hours, so obviously there were munitions there,” he said. McCrink added that Air Force units also provide close air support during the air assaults as well as most of the mission. “This is the biggest operation we’ve done with 10th Mountain. We put the hurt on the enemy so it leaves the area stable for the transfer of authority.”

More than 230 suspected insurgents were detained during Operation Squeeze Play South. The brigade’s previous mission, Operation Commando Brickyard, detained 440 suspected insurgents in the Abu Ghraib district of Baghdad. Second Brigade Soldiers worked with Iraqi Forces to quell the hostile area. Infanti was quick to note that although 2nd BCT commanded the operations, the large majority of raids and missions were handled by Iraqi forces.

“Contrary to what people believe, this is an Iraqi Army operation,” Infanti said. “98 percent of the suspected anti-Iraqi forces detained are under the control of the Iraqi government. This is a great step forward

not only for the government and military of Iraq, but for the people of Iraq as well.”

Supporting the Iraqi Army was a major roll in the previous operations as well as the entire deployment in Iraq, Infanti said. Assisting the military and Iraqi government in their time of need for the past year just adds to the legacy 2nd BCT will leave in Iraq, said 1st Lt. Eric Rose, a plans officer from Shawano, Wisc. Just because the Commandos are ready to go home doesn’t mean the fight is over, he said.

“They deployed us for a year, we’re going to fight for a year,” Rose said. “Until then our mission is to ensure the success of the Iraqi government.”

**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.



Operation Teddy Drop Pilot gives 'airborne teddy bears' to Iraqi kids

Spc. Derek Del Rosario
Avn. Bde. PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – They can be seen parachuting into various areas around Baghdad. Specially trained individuals recruited during Operation Iraqi Freedom 3, whose primary mission is to bring smiles to the faces of Iraqi children.

These airborne "Soldiers" are actually "Teddy Troopers" or "Para-Bears," stuffed animals with makeshift parachutes jumping into the arms and hearts of children during Operation Teddy Drop.

The commander for this unique operation is Chief Warrant Officer 4 Randy M. Kirgiss, pilot for C. Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment (Assault Helicopter). He started the airborne mission as a way to impact the lives of Iraqi children.

He began the operation in mid-April, inspired by previous humanitarian efforts he had witnessed, as well as by Col. Gail Halvorsen, the "Berlin Candy Bomber" who dropped candy to German children during the Berlin Airlift.

"I got the idea from a lot of my friends who conducted humanitarian missions on some of my previous deployments," Kirgiss said. "In Bosnia, I saw school

supplies donated; in Kosovo, teddy bears were given out. I wanted to model something after the Candy Bomber who parachuted bags of candy to kids. It was from this idea

that Operation Teddy Drop began."

In order for his airborne humanitarian mission to get off the ground, Kirgiss needed support from his chain of command, his unit, and from friends and family to help him gather the stuffed animals. He received complete support in helping him begin his humanitarian efforts.

"Capt. Kirk, C. Co. commander, and Lt. Col. Haraldsen, 4-3 AHB commander, were very helpful - they wanted this to happen," Kirgiss said. "They were very supportive, and they helped me brainstorm ideas to make the operation run safely and smoothly."

In conjunction with his official flight missions, Kirgiss brings boxes of stuffed animals with makeshift parachutes along with him. When he sees a child down

below, he instructs a crew member to drop a Para-Bear.

"There is a mission to be done, but dropping bears doesn't take away from that mission," Kirgiss said. "We have the assets to do both our mission and execute Operation Teddy Drop effectively."

Kirgiss originally told a group of eight friends and family members about the operation. He received help in the form of donated stuffed animals and parachute supplies. The original network of eight grew immensely, and Kirgiss began to receive donations from everywhere around the States, receiving old parachutes and boxes of teddy bears. Kirgiss is even getting a donation from a well-known teddy bear manufacturer.

"Originally, I just wanted my friends and families to look into their kid's closet to find old teddy bears to donate," said Kirgiss. "When unit members started talking and my friends started talking, through word of mouth it just got out and now I get donations from everywhere."

Kirgiss spends most of his free time, usually at night, making the parachutes for the Teddy Troopers. The airborne recruits come in all shapes and sizes, so specialized parachutes usually have to be made. Using material from old, donated parachutes, Kirgiss makes the parachute that is best suited for his troopers so they can complete their mission. It takes Kirgiss around three minutes to make each chute.

The Teddy Drop unit's largest recruit jumped on May 21 as part of the largest drop in the unit's short history.

"We received eight boxes of donated stuffed animals one day. The boxes stacked to my ceiling," Kirgiss said. "The following day we dropped (more than) 200 stuffed animals, including the largest one we have ever received – a bear that was about 3 feet tall and weighed around six pounds. I needed to make a special chute for that trooper."

Kirgiss tries to get the plush toys to all kids, but his main aim is the poorer Iraqi children in the countryside.

"It can be a safety hazard to drop them in the city. We don't want kids running into the streets to get them," said Kirgiss, also the safety officer of the company. "When we can, we try to send the bears to urban and poorer areas, and for each kid we see we send down a bear so there is no fighting among the children."

Sending these Teddy Troopers on their



Spc. Derek Del Rosario

Spc. Benjamin L. Kepenke, C Co., 4-3 AHB, crew chief, prepares a "teddy trooper" that he descends to children below. Operation Teddy Drop is a humanitarian mission that gives teddy bears to Iraqi children.

mission is very fulfilling for Kirgiss.

He enjoys seeing the smile on their faces when they get a hold of their new stuffed animals.

"It's a great thing to see, even from 200 feet above," Kirgiss said. "When we see those kids wave and we send down a bear, most kids will not know what it is at first. Some hide behind their parents, some stay back in hesitancy, but once they see that parachute open, they know what it is and go running toward it. Some even catch them before they hit the ground."

More than 900 Para-Bears have bravely jumped since the start of the operation.

It is Kirgiss' hope to continue the humanitarian mission for the duration of

his deployment and hopefully pass on the operation to the next aviation unit that comes to Taji.

For Kirgiss, it is a personally gratifying experience to be a part of the operation, and an operation he hopes will have an impact on the future.

"It is something I find very fun and constructive," he said. "Talking about it also helps me stay grounded to my two young children. I can't help but think that somewhere down the line we might be influencing the future decision makers of Iraq. This operation is only a small way to show that we are human and compassionate. We are Soldiers, but we are humane as well."

"It's a great thing to see, even from 200 feet above. Once they see that parachute open, they know what it is and go running toward it."

Chief Warrant Officer Randy M. Kirgiss
4th Bn., 3rd Avn. Regt.

Want to surprise someone special?

If so, Military Spouse Magazine is looking for you. Between now and June 24 the magazine is looking for eligible Soldiers (active or reserve, it doesn't matter) to write a "love letter" back home that they may publish in their Sept./Oct. issue. It will be a surprise to the spouse, whom they will contact prior to publishing date. Art possibilities would be the letter itself and possibly a photo or two. So go out and tell that special someone how much you care with a letter to Military Spouse Magazine. Email all messages to www.militaryspousemagazine.com, or RGalvin@militaryspousemagazine.com.

Soldiers watch for insurgents from a distance

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.
1st BCT PAO

MSR TAMPA, Iraq – One of the most effective weapons used by insurgents against Coalition Forces is improvised explosive devices.

IEDs are usually placed along the roadside and detonated when a convoy passes.

Soldiers are constantly patrolling the roadways of Iraq. One of the counter insurgency methods they have begun to employ is to set up observation points to watch the highways for insurgents attempting to set up IEDs.

“Our intent is to kill or capture insurgents placing IEDs on (main supply route) Tampa,” said Capt. Ralph Elder, commander of B Troop, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment. “Our secondary intent is to identify insurgent cells in our area.”

The way the Soldiers accomplish this task is by patrolling the immediate off road area where an IED had been placed.

A lot of times when a convoy passes through, insurgents come up behind them and set up IEDs, said Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Bush, a 5/7 Cav. platoon sergeant. “We set up the OPs to watch for that kind of activity.”

“We walk in the areas where IEDs have previously gone off and look at the terrain features,” Elder said. “We then set up OPs out of the field of vision from Tampa. Many of the OPs that I have seen pretty much sit on the road. That isn’t really an OP to me, that is just denying the enemy movement. Our guys stay hidden and watch the route. If someone drops an IED, we will see them before they see us.”

The Soldiers not only set up patrols off road, but watch it from places where they have a good view of the highway.

“We set up an OP at an old base that was used by the guys before us,” Bush said. “It is a good OP because you can see pretty far up and down MSR Tampa. Insurgents have been using that stretch of highway to set up IEDs.”

The Soldiers teamed up with Iraqi Army elements to help them accomplish this task. Teaching the IA the how to conduct these types of operations is part of handing over the responsibility of security to them.



Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

Pfc. Mitch Shelton, a 5/7 Cav. dismount gunner, keeps an eye on MSR Tampa from an observation point near the highway. Soldiers watch for insurgents stopping along the roadway who may set up explosives when they stop.

“We linked up with the IA on this patrol,” Bush said. “They are doing pretty much the same thing we were. We are trying to bring them along on missions like this so they can be ready to take over when we move out. We are showing them the ropes. Right now, we are pretty much the main force, and they are supporting us. We want to make the transition to where they are the main force and we support them.”

“It is important for the IA to be with us and learn how to properly do patrols,” said Sgt Shannon

Garstka, a 5/7 Cav. Team leader. “By coming with us, they learn the correct way to catch terrorists.”

Bush said his guys were new at this kind of thing when they first got to Iraq, but they have improved greatly through constant patrolling.

“I am satisfied with their performance,” Bush said. “My guys are doing a great job. A lot of the guys are in different positions than they were back in the rear. They are a lot better than they were a few months ago.”

4/1 FA, 1/1 IA Bn. leave 'no stone unturned,' locate cache near Taji

Spc. Matthew Wester
3/1 AD PAO

TAJI, Iraq – Digging in the Iraqi heat is hard work, but it can provide great rewards.

Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division advised

by Soldiers of 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment and 70th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, found that out on May 17.

They conducted a cordon and search operation on a farm in a rural area near Taji, known

for containing weapons caches in the past.

The troops uncovered a variety of weapons and equipment hidden in the ground around the farm including AK-47 rifles, 800 rounds of 20mm ammunition, a large box of circuit boards, flares, an artillery

plotting table, and a mortar sight and tripod, according to Capt. William W. Earl, assistant operations officer for 4/1 FA.

A handful of American troops helped to guide the two companies of Iraqi Soldiers, who spent hours digging for weapons caches.

“We were mainly advisors,” Earl said. “This is an Iraqi push.”

The Soldiers were successful in finding a cache in one part of the site, which motivated them to dig even more.

“Once they found the first cache, they were like kids on Christmas morning,” Earl said. “They were on it.”

The senior U.S. officer on the mission, Maj. Russell K. Sears, 70th Eng. executive officer, described the Iraqi Soldiers as prepared and professional.

Sears helped advise the Iraqi officers during the operation, building the partnership that 3rd Brigade has established with the Iraqi Army.

“We developed the target; Iraqi officers planned and executed,” he said.

Earl described a growing collaboration with the Iraqi officers and a productive relationship.

That relationship also extended to providing equipment for that 1st Bn., known as the “Lion” Battalion, needed to get the job done.

The Iraqi officers saw the

search area contained pools water, so they took the initiative to ask for grappling hooks to dredge the pools for hidden weapons, Sears said.

Additional 70th Engineer Soldiers arrived with the necessary equipment.

The IA troops’ thoroughness, motivation and productivity impressed their American advisors, who pitched in to help dig in the sweltering afternoon heat.

“This just shows the level of competence these guys have,” Earl said. “They are a true product of what we are trying to do out here.”

“They left no stone unturned,” Sears said.

As 1st Bn. moves toward assuming more responsibility for securing their area, 3rd Brigade Soldiers will continue to help guide them in the right direction.

“I hope I get to work with the (1st Bn.) again,” Sears said. “The unit is ready to take responsibility for securing their sector of Iraq.”

The mission was part of an ongoing transition to more combined IA and U.S. Army missions, with Americans in a supporting role and Iraqis stepping up to fight the insurgents in their area.

“The biggest success was this was an Iraqi operation, and they ran it well,” Sears said.

“This kind of operation will continue out there,” Earl said. “We love working with them.”



Courtesy photo

A member of the 1st Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division inspects a flare gun and AK-47 rifle found during the cordon and search of a rural area near Taji, Iraq May17.

Iraqi Soldiers train to defend own destiny

Pfc. Dan Balda
4th BCT PAO

BAGHDAD — The training could be found on an U.S. Army base anywhere in the world.

Soldiers listened to their instructors with rapt attention; happy to receive any feedback, positive or negative, which helped them learn faster.

They knew the faster they learned, the faster they could shed the watchful eye of their teacher and be able to defend the country they love; the country to which they have pledged their lives.

But this was not an American military base with American Soldiers — it was a hot, dusty airfield near Baghdad and the ones paying close attention to the instructor were Iraqi men with their lives and their country's future at stake.

Some of these Iraqi Soldiers have already seen combat with Marines in Fallujah in 2004, others have only fired their weapons at the range. Regardless, everything they learn today could save their lives tomorrow.

Soldiers could not ask questions of their instructor directly, but had to ask an interpreter and have the question relayed to Sgt. Leigh Castle, a communications expert and scout sniper, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry.

"These guys know the things we are teaching them are going to save their lives," Castle said.

The Iraqi Soldiers need to know when they are doing something wrong so they can correct it, but too much negativity can have an adverse affect on the training, he added.

"It's hot, they are spending their day out here just like us in the same conditions, and sometimes you have to give them a little boost to bring them together.



An Iraqi Army squad practices tactical drills at Muthana Airfield May 12.

Pfc. Dan Balda

They have problems just like anyone else and I like to talk to them; to try to understand their issues, but I also have to tell them that we have a job to do and ask for a couple of hours of concentration," Castle said.

Two of the issues the American instructors find themselves dealing with are the language barrier and the habits some of the Iraqi Soldiers have brought with them from their prior service in the military in the former regime, said Staff Sgt. Jason Stoko, a sniper section leader assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Battalion, 64 Armor.

Another issue Capt. Justin Reese, HHT 6/8 Cav. commander, thinks the Soldiers have brought with them is the ineffective use of noncommissioned officers.

"(Under the former regime) the officers did all the work," Reese said. "We are trying to empower their noncommissioned officer corps. That is the greatest challenge sergeants who are not used to getting up taking charge of an organization, are now expected to take the lead."

Regardless of how the Soldiers were taught before, they still maintain the intelligence to learn and apply their new

skills.

"We know what to expect from them as far as training and accountability," Reese said. "We talk to each other about our various experiences and we both learn from each other."

Castle has found one way to hurdle the language gap.

"I can't wait to get out of the classroom to the range because it's a lot more hands-on and you can show them things; a lot of that language barrier goes away. I can grab a Soldier's rifle and show them how I want something done. Then they copy me. Soldiering is universal," Castle added.

1st Lt. Naim Lee, a platoon leader with C Troop, 6-8 Cav., and a native of Crestview, Fla., was surprised by the Iraqi Soldiers.

"I wasn't expecting them to be so willing to learn. They are very eager to learn and easy to teach. It makes you eager to learn if you know you are going to be out there getting shot at. Also, most of them want to make their country better," he said.

Even though Lee's Soldiers are fulfilling a different mission here in Iraq than the one they trained for at Fort Stewart, they are excited to be training the men who are going to take over for them.

"We didn't know we were going to be training these guys, but my guys are doing a great job. Most of us get excited to come out here every day," Lee said.

Lt. Col. Michael Harris, speaking to a fellow Soldier about one of his favorite things he had seen during training, said, "All these Army guys have things in common, no matter what Army you're in. You suck up dirt, you get dirty, you get thirsty, but it's all worth it at the end of the day."

Army Corps Engineers upgrade Baghdad electrical power grid

2nd BCT PAO
Media Release

BAGHDAD — Reliable electric service is high on any Baghdad resident's wish list and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is working hard to make the wish for electricity a reality.

The electric grid in Baghdad was built in the 1950s and 60s, and is in desperate need of modernization and repair, according to Henry Shelton, an ACOE engineer who has been working in Iraq since February 2004.

His team's latest accomplishment was bringing a large electrical substation on-line in East Baghdad, which he said is a huge step in the right direction.

"The Al Ameen substation was designed in 1993 and construction started soon after," Shelton said. "The construction was never completed. When we arrived, it was in total disrepair and the site had been badly looted."

Shelton said that everything from light fixtures to hydraulic pumps had been carted away.

The Al Ameen substation is a 400-kilovolt gas-insulated system—a fully-enclosed system that is more durable and reliable than older, open-air substations.

"This project shows how well we (the Iraqi people) have worked with the coalition to improve the infrastructure situation here," said an Iraqi engi-

neer who preferred not to be identified. "Iraqi workers, working under Iraqi managers and Iraqi engineers have brought this project to completion. In time, the infrastructure projects like this will help us attain a better future for all our people."

The power grid project cost approximately \$100 million to complete, and employed 600 people at its peak construction.

"Ninety-nine percent of our workforce is local Iraqis," Shelton said. "That puts money in the pockets of the local working class, where the money should be."

He described the process of rebuilding the substation as physically demanding and requiring long hours.

"The whole project took about 10 months to complete," Shelton said. "A lot of the time we'd work from 7 a.m. to midnight, or later."

Substations the size of Al Ameen do not produce electricity or deliver it directly to people's homes. Instead, Shelton said, they distribute power to smaller substations which are located all over Baghdad.

As such, he said residents will not initially see any difference in the power grid, but that the substation will be a solid foundation that the rest of the grid can be built upon.

"Al Ameen is providing stable, reliable power to the small-



Courtesy photo

The newly upgraded electrical substation in the Al Ameen district of east Baghdad. The old electrical grid in Baghdad, built in the 1950s and 60s, was in desperate need of modernization and repair.

er substations right now," Shelton said. "The next step is to rewire individual residences — then people will really see the difference."

He said work to rewire

Baghdad homes has already begun and that it is a time-consuming process.

"Rewiring individual houses across an entire city is an extremely labor-intensive task,

so it will take time," he said. "When it's all done, Baghdad residents will have a grid they can rely on. It's really gratifying to see a big project like Al Ameen come to completion."

Civil Affairs team gives uniforms to Iraqi soccer players

Staff Sgt. Craig Zentkovich
2nd BCT PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq – It’s the basic concept of team sports – if you look like a team, you’ll play like a team.

While uniforms for youth sports teams in the U.S. is commonplace, that isn’t the case for kids here in Iraq.

In one sector of Baghdad, though, three teams from Tissa Nissan’s youth soccer league will look like just that – three distinguishable teams.

Soldiers from Task Force Baghdad’s 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion brought smiles to the faces of more than 120 Tissa Nissan youth on May 17 when they delivered soccer uniforms

and balls to players at the district advisory council compound.

The uniform shirts and shorts were donated by the Berkeley Preparatory School in Tampa, Fla., as part of a humanitarian assistance mission conceptualized by Command Sgt. Maj. Willie Grant, 3rd Infantry Division command sergeant major, and Maj. Leela Dawson, Army Public Affairs Southeast, director.

The 443rd also chipped in by giving away scores of soccer balls and pumps so the children, ages 12 through 16, could walk right outside in their new shirts and kick the ball around.

“We rarely get enough matching uniforms to outfit a single team, so to receive a donation of this magnitude is remarkable,” said Sgt. 1st Class Mark A. Lewandowski, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, civil affairs, noncommissioned officer in charge. “You can actually see the pride and excitement on the faces of the players - that’s a great thing to see.”

The chairman of education and sports for Tissa Nissan, Jamal Fadhil, said this is a great gesture from coalition forces and an important ingredient in keeping the children of Baghdad out of trouble.

“They are absolutely excited to get these uniforms,” Fadhil, through an interpreter, said.

“The residents are thankful for all of this – this is a big deal to us.” Fadhil said that soccer was the best thing for the Iraqi youth.

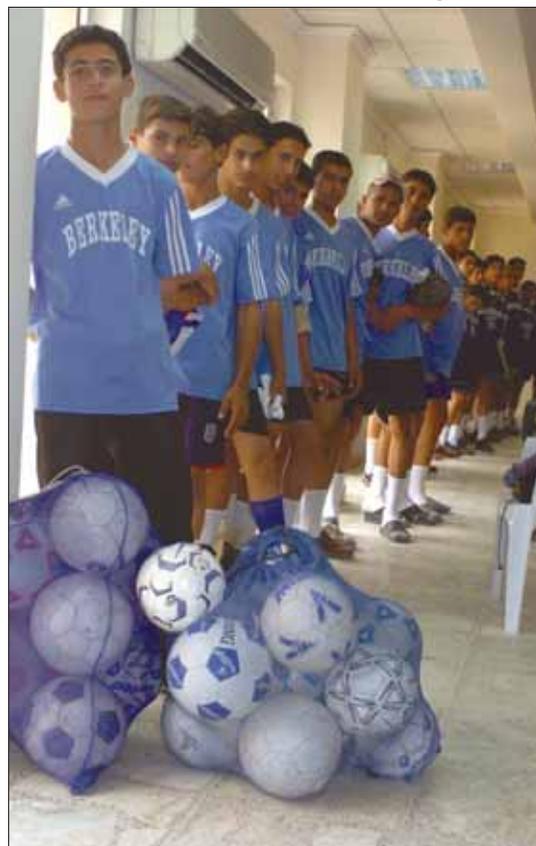
“There are much worse things they could be doing,” he said, and confidently added, “There are possibly a number of future Olympic athletes here.”

As much as Fadhil and the children appreciated what coalition forces had done for them, there was one issue he was hoping could be addressed – a sponsored, goodwill trip to the United States to compete against American youth.

“Last summer, Poland invited (Tissa Nissan youth) to play in their country,” he said. “We played eight games, visited five states and stayed for a month. It was a great experience for all the kids. We would be honored if the United States would offer the same opportunity to us,” Fadhil said.

If that were to happen, one thing is for sure – because of the generosity of a school in the U.S., the Iraqi kids would have uniforms to help them look like the highly skilled team that they are.

“There are possibly a number of future Olympic athletes here.”
Jamal Fadhil
Chairman of education and sports for Tissa Nissan



Photos by Staff Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

An Iraqi youth soccer team poses in the uniforms they received May 17. The 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion and 2nd Brigade Combat Team civil affairs coordinated the donation effort, which included the pictured bag of soccer balls.



Cpl. David Robillard, 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion, sorts through shirts being handed out to Iraqi youth in Tissa Nissan May 17.

Bringing out the smiles in Baghdad



Sgt. Karolina Lajewska

Above: Lt. Col. William Woods, executive officer at the coalition’s Civil-Military Operations Directorate, from New York City helps an Iraqi boy to put on a new pair of shoes during the humanitarian assistance mission that took place in Baghdad’s International Zone on May 11. Left: A local Iraqi girl receives gifts from the 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion during the civil affairs mission in Baghdad’s International Zone.

Iraqi Army aid missions foster goodwill in Sadr City

2nd BCT PAO
Media Release

SADR CITY, Iraq – Iraqi Army and Task Force Baghdad units held one of their largest humanitarian missions in a neighborhood here May 19.

Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division and Task Force Baghdad's A Company, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division distributed 2,000 frozen chickens, 25 soccer balls, hundreds of Beanie Babies and whatever food and candy Soldiers had in their trucks.

"We try to do this about once a month, but this is the biggest one we've done yet," said Staff Sgt. Chhay Mao, A Co., 3/15 Inf. platoon sergeant.

Mao, of Modesto, Calif., explained that Iraqi Soldiers did almost everything themselves that day in preparation for their takeover of half of Sadr City in June.

"They need to be totally proficient at this kind of mission, because they'll be doing it all by themselves in a month," Mao said.

Iraqi and U.S. troops quickly secured an open area near a school and set up concertina wire to keep the crowd a safe distance from the truck packed with chickens.

Iraqi Soldiers divided the crowd into two lines, one for men and one for women, then directed them to the truck to receive two chickens each.

Compared to previous humanitarian drops in other neighborhoods, residents were patient and orderly.

Residents of all ages gath-

ered at the site and nearly everybody who showed up received something.

"It's going really well – I think we've made some friends today," said 1st Sgt. Michael Howle, A Co., 3/15 Inf. "We've even gotten some of the local kids to clean up the empty chicken boxes and put them back on the truck. We'll give them each a soccer ball when they're done."

Howle and other Soldiers from 3/15 Inf. watched the Iraqi troops carefully, taking mental notes to share with the Iraqi Army battalion leadership later.

"The IAB has come a long way in the past few months," Howle said. "I'm looking forward to them taking control of the sector."

Prior to driving off, Soldiers handed out the soccer balls, which children gleefully accepted. They started a pickup soccer game before the trucks even left the site.

Further south in the sector, Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery and 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion conducted a medical capabilities assessment in Village 10 – a remote suburb of Baghdad with limited access to medical care.

More than 40 people were treated for minor injuries and illnesses, said Capt. Scott Baumgartner, 1/9 FA, physician's assistant.

A man was in a car accident a couple of hours prior to the arrival of the medical team and his injuries required stitches, but most of the care was routine, Baumgartner said.

The mobile medical clinic was set up in the Narawhan School of the village.

The medical team was well

received by the village. It is obvious from all the smiles they received that the villagers were very happy to see them, said Maj. Russ Goemaere, 2nd BCT spokesman.

"It's both an honor and a privilege to be able to give something to the Iraqi people that they need," Baumgartner said.

Goemaere said conducting humanitarian missions, like the chicken distribution in Sadr City and the MEDCAP in Village 10, along with developing strong relationships with the Iraqi Security Forces and Iraqi citizens is improving the security situation in Iraq.



An Iraqi Army Soldier passes out frozen chickens during a humanitarian assistance mission in Sadr City, Iraq May 19. The humanitarian mission was the largest-ever for Iraq Army and Task Force Baghdad units.



Photos by Spc. Ben Brody

An Iraqi Army Soldier passes out frozen chickens during a humanitarian assistance mission in Sadr City, Iraq, May 19. Over 2,000 chickens were distributed by Iraqi and U.S. troops. The humanitarian mission was the largest-ever for Iraq Army and Task Force Baghdad units.



Sgt. 1st Class Peter Chadwick

Sgt. Anthony Johnson a wheeled vehicle operator with the 396th Transportation Company, 87th Corps Support Battalion, Division Support Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, is awarded the Purple Heart by Col. Brian R. Layer, DSB commander May 17.

DSB Soldier awarded Purple Heart

Sgt. 1st Class Peter Chadwick
DSB PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – A Soldier with the Division Support Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, was awarded the Military Order of the Purple Heart May 17 soon after he was injured in a bomb attack.

Sgt. Anthony Johnson, a wheeled vehicle operator with the 396th Transportation Company, 87th Corps Support Battalion, DSB, was wounded about two miles from Camp Taji's Castle Gate when his convoy was hit by an improvised explosive device, said Capt. Nadine A. Terese, commander of the 396th.

Johnson was the truck commander for a Palletized Loading System vehicle driven by Spc. Theodore Body.

Johnson noticed something on the road ahead which "didn't look right," said 1st. Sgt. Felton L. Head, the 396th's first sergeant. Johnson took up his position in the ring mount on the truck's roof and manned the 50-caliber machine gun.

When the IED exploded, Johnson was protected by the large metal shield that wraps around the

gunner's position. He was hit by shrapnel in his right hand, which was exposed, said Head.

Johnson slipped down into the truck and noticed that in addition to his bleeding hand, he had pain in his back, said Head.

Johnson told Body what was happening and Body called 1st Lt. John T. Bowmen on the radio to report the injury.

Bowmen, the convoy commander, reported the incident to the gate so they would be ready for them when they arrived, said Head.

Head said the commander's vehicle and Johnson's PLS went straight to the troop medical clinic operated by the 550th Area Support Medical Company.

Lt. Col. Shawn M. Morrissey, DSB's deputy commander, said the command heard the report while in the Tactical Operation Center. Col. Brian R. Layer, the DSB commander, asked if the medics could hold Johnson for a moment before medically evacuating him to the 86th Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad.

Layer pinned the medal on Johnson at the ambulance bay.

Johnson said it was his desire to return as soon as he healed.

Vets lead 'attack' on parasites

Pfc. Dan Balda
4th BCT PAO

For the majority of its storied history, Iraq has been an agrarian society. Even in today's modern society a large portion of Iraqi's population rely on animals for sur-

vival.

With that in mind, Iraqi veterinarians and Soldiers assigned to the 4th Brigade Combat Team set out to help ease some of the local citizens' farm animals discomfort (DATE).

The vets conducted exter-

nal and internal parasite control.

"This time of year the flies are very bad, you'll see them swatting their tails quite a bit and that's very aggravating for them," said Capt. Michael Simpson, a veterinarian assigned to 443rd Civil Affair

Battalion. "Mostly it's a production problem meaning whenever you have parasites it usually brings down their ability to gain weight, or to be comfortable in order to gain weight. For example, they spend a lot of time and energy swatting flies."

In his civilian life, Simpson practices veterinary medicine at a humane shelter in his hometown of Las Vegas. He sees a lot of parallels in the way American's view their pets and how the Iraqis treat their farm animals.

"They look at their animals as a human necessity," he said. "But their pets are also their friends. They won't let on to that but they take a lot of pride in their animals and they take try to take very good care of them. There's a very strong bond between the animals and these farmers."

Cpl. Keith Strong, a civil affairs specialist with the 443rd helped set up the "VETCAP."

"We were out talking to people and they wanted to show us their animals," said the Lakeville, Mass., native. "I figured we already had the vets we just needed the medicine. I passed it along to higher. I wanted to make sure we could help the farmers so I made sure I kept pushing for

this."

The American vets had help from an Iraqi vet as well.

Doctor Bilal Abdul Jabbar wanted to help because, "I think they (the U.S. Soldiers) help the Iraqi people and I try to help my friends and my people. I saw that they wanted to treat all these cows free of charge and this is good for my people. Therefore I am very happy, and it is my pleasure to work with Americans."

Strong thought it was 'just part of the job.'

"That's what we do in Civil Affairs, but I really like helping these people, building a rapport with them. We help them, and they help us with information. Despite it being 104 degrees out here, I'm having a great time."

Simpson enjoyed helping in anyway he could.

"These local farmers don't have a whole lot of money so the army's out here trying to help these guys trying to build better fences, better relationships and just try to be good to these people," Simpson said. "I'm a veterinarian so anything we can do to help animals which further helps people, I'm all for it. These people have a lot of problems with their agricultural needs, and we're just trying to help them out the best we can."



Staff Sgt. Raymond Piper

Capt. Michael Simpson from the 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion and Las Vegas, Nev., native, pours Alfapor onto a cow to prevent flies, fleas and mosquitos from bothering her during a veterinarian assistance program May 19.

1088th Engineers' Buffalo roams IED-ridden roads

Spc. Ricardo Branch
3rd Inf. Div. PAO

BAGHDAD – Driving slowly up and down the streets of Baghdad, the Soldiers of A Company, 1088th Engineer Battalion, 256th Brigade Combat Team, have the dangerous task of preventing improvised-explosive devices from harming coalition forces.

"Our convoy is out actively seeking explosives, while other convoys accidentally run in to them," said Buffalo Commander Sgt. 1st Class Gary Burchfield, A Co., 1088th.

The challenge of finding the explosives laid by insurgents has been made a whole lot easier earlier this year when 1088th received the Buffalo, a machine designed mainly to hunt for IEDs.

"We use the buffalo for route clearance," Burchfield said. "It neutralizes IEDs and makes the roads used by U.S. coalition forces safer for them to travel by just being on the road hunting for them."

"So far its really made a difference," said the Lake Charles, La., native. "Our team has found 35 to 50 IEDs since we have been using the Buffalo."

To assist the Soldiers with finding the explosives before they detonate, the Buffalo comes equipped with an arm which allows them to investigate possible IEDs without getting physically on the ground to look at them.

"It's safer for the Soldiers when you have this machine that can probe the item that's being reported," said Sgt. Jared Provost, Buffalo arm operator, A Co., 1088th Eng. Bn.

The Lake Charles, La., native said many times they'll find the debris being looked at are not an IED, but they'll check regardless to make sure.

"You're on the lookout for anything suspicious," Provost said. "We've found numerous IEDs in various stages of completion. If it looks suspicious, better check it out."

Their searches have yielded numerous explosives such as four-foot pipe bombs, 130mm artillery rounds wired to phones, tank ordnance tied together with detonation cord and various other explosives.

"It makes you feel good when you find one," Burchfield said. "All the long hours spent starrng at the road are worth it when you find and have removed something off the street that could have

taken a Soldier's life."

When not looking for explosives themselves, the Soldiers escort the explosive ordnance disposal teams to suspected IEDs and munitions sites.

"Once, during an escort mission, we pulled up to a reported platter charge," Burchfield said. "As we pulled up to secure the area, (Anti-Iraqi Forces) detonated the IED, which was exciting. There was no damage."

Working hectic schedules, the Soldiers and escorts of the Buffalo, ride out on a continuous basis. The daily travel down the routes they're assigned however, don't come without danger. The Buffalo and its escort team have been engaged by the enemy 12 times with the Buffalo being hit once.

"The convoy we've rode has been hit many times by insurgents shooting small arms fire, rocket propelled grenades, and from IEDs placed along the roads," said Capt. Jim Williams, A Co., 1088th Eng., commander.

Despite the dangers from attacks while out on patrol, the Soldiers of A Co. remain experts in their field and perform their job above all expectations while working the Baghdad beat.

"These Soldiers go outside and look for something that blows up. That takes a lot of courage," Williams said. "They're driving as slow as possible while on the lookout for explosives. It's one of the most dangerous jobs in Baghdad and I couldn't be any more proud of what they do."

Regardless if the Soldiers find one IED or none, they know being on the streets accomplishes one mission in their area of operations, to prevent the loss of life and do their part in stopping the anti-coalition forces harassing Soldiers.

"We go outside the wire to save lives," said Spc. Reginald Mingo, from Opelousas, La., of A Co., 1088th Eng. "With us making the roads safe, civilian and military lives are being saved in the process."



Spc. Ricardo Branch

Soldiers from A Co., 1088th Engineer Battalion, inspect the Buffalo, an armored explosive finder, prior to rolling out on the roadways of Baghdad May 10. The Buffalo is used on a regular basis to decrease the possibility of Soldiers encountering improvised explosive devices on their missions.

FOB, continued from page 1

Rager and the Soldiers were memorialized by naming the base after the 2nd Platoon "Raiders."

Quintas, along with three Soldiers from the Raider platoon, who originally guarded the base, participated in the ceremony.

"This is a tribute to all the Soldiers, U.S., Estonian and Iraqi, who have served at this base," Quintas said. "We are honored to take place in Iraq's history."

Located near the Abu Ghraib markets, FOB Raider was once the former location of the city's municipal buildings.

A malicious and disastrous terrorist attack from a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device destroyed the main seats of the city government, fire department and

police station Sept. 30, 2004.

Quintas said because of its strategic location, Raider has always been a thorn in the side of the enemy.

"Though the misfortune of a VBIED destroyed the main municipal building of the city, this base lives on," Quintas said. "The Iraqi Army is here to stay."

The colors of 2/70 Armor and 2/14 Inf. were lowered, cased and marched off the ceremonial field leaving the Iraqi flag to fly high above the walls of the base.

"Today is a historic day," said Col. Mark A. Milley, 2nd BCT commander. "We gather for this humble ceremony surrounded by mud, dust and the (remnants) of a war. From those ashes, Iraq has risen like a phoenix. The Iraqi colors now stand free and tall."



Spc. Brian Schroeder

An IA Soldier waves an Iraqi flag following the Raider TOA June 9.



Staff Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, inspect crates filled with sub-munitions and fuzes found at a factory in northern Zafaraniya, south of Baghdad, June 5.

ROGUES, continued from page 1

around targeted houses.

Soldiers from C Co. quickly cleared their first house and emerged with two Iraqi men in flexcuffs.

Another team immediately moved in to thoroughly search the house.

"This operation is targeting members of terrorist organizations who've been manufacturing IEDs and (vehicle-borne) IEDs," said Capt. Dustin Baadte, C Co., 1-64, commander. "We've lost four guys so far to IEDs, so we're really pursuing this organization aggressively."

C Co., nicknamed "The Wild Bunch," searched approximately 20 houses and apartments in three locations, finding several small weapons caches.

In one house, Soldiers found three AK-47s and five magazines of ammunition buried in a plastic bag in the front yard.

In the same house, they found bags of auto parts that had been stripped of their ball bearings, a common component of IEDs.

Iraqi Army troops, normally a fixture in Wild Bunch operations, did not participate in the mission, as they are currently involved in Operation Lightning in South Baghdad.

"It's too bad the Iraqi Soldiers weren't here - they help with language and relations," Baadte said. "We still got to remind (anti-Iraqi forces) that we can put 200 Soldiers on the ground at the same time and conduct large, coordinated operations in sector."

The next day, Task Force Soldiers from B Company, conducted a similar mission in a different part of the neighborhood.

The target houses were located in a less populated area with uneven terrain, so instead of tanks, AH-64 Apache attack helicopters circled the buildings during the mission.

B Co. brought along a new asset to assist in searching homes - a German shepherd named Sammy.

"Sammy's trained to find all kinds of explosives and ammunition, as well as people who are hiding," said Sgt. Nicholas Oberle, 35th Military Police Detachment.

"She brings a whole new dimension in how well you can search a house - she can sniff out residues you'd never find."

Oberle, from Eagle, Neb., and Sammy are attached to 1-64 Armor at Camp Rustamiyah, but have worked together for more than a year at Fort Gordon, Ga.

"Every day we train dogs to perform in a combat environment," Oberle said. "She's a happy-go-lucky dog, but she's a hard worker too."

They did not take detainees or confiscate weapons during their searches, but rather took the time to build relations with residents in the area, according to 1st Lt. Brent Dial, B Co. executive officer.

"Every time you go out, it's an opportunity to meet residents of your sector and show them you're looking out for them," Dial, of Bowie, Md., said.

Dial said the success of Operation Determined Fury contributed greatly to the success of Operations Squeeze Play and Lightning, which focus on the larger mission of securing all of Baghdad.

"Every time you go out, it's an opportunity to meet residents residents of your sector and show them you're looking out for them."

*1st Lt. Brent Dial
1/64 Armor*

Useful Arabic Phrases

English	Arabic	English	Arabic
What is your name?	Shunu Ismak	Where is?	Wayn El-?
Good Morning?	Sabah El-Khayr	Yes	Ba-lay, Na-lam, Eay
What's that?	Hi-Shunu	No	La
What's this?	Hi-Shunu	Thank You	Shukran

5/7 Cav. trains IA for success on battlefield

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.
1st BCT PAO

Coalition Forces take on the responsibility of training Iraqi security forces to ensure a smooth transition once they leave the country. Everyday Iraqi and Coalition Forces Soldiers work together in a variety of environments.

Soldiers of C Troop, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment conduct regular training classes at Forward Operating Base Paliwoda for the 203rd Iraqi Army Brigade. The classes are then put into action with an afternoon

patrol to see what the IA Soldiers have learned.

“What we do is run them through a class in the morning, said Capt. Phillip Poteet, B Troop, 5/7 Cav. Commander. “After that we mount up and go on a mission exactly like the class.”

The IA Soldiers receive the same training as Coalition Forces so they can perform on the same level.

“We are tasked with platoon level training,” Poteet said. “Each of our platoons trains one of their platoons. They need to know what we know and be able to accomplish what we do.”

The IA Soldiers are very receptive to the training. Their Coalition Forces teachers said they are fast learners and retain what they are taught very well.

“These guys are real excited about this training,” said Staff Sgt. Jason Stack, a 5/7 Cav. Squad leader and one of the IA trainers. “They haven’t got this kind of attention before as far as training goes.”

The IA had to learn new tactics and techniques to be more effective when working with the Coalition on joint raids and patrols.

“When we first went out, we had to

teach them on the spot,” Stack said. “That kind of slowed us down. They have improved greatly as a whole. Everyone has little things they have to work on, but overall these are really good guys.”

Stack said he enjoys his work, and it is worth it when he see how the IA performs the tasks he has taught them.

“I get a joy out of watching these guys do their own missions,” Stack said. “I like the fact that these guys are starting to get the respect from the people in the city that we do when we are on patrol.”

3rd BCT brings joy, justice to remote towns



Spc. Natalie Loucks

Far Left: Iraqi Army Soldiers cleared four objectives in the towns of Esawid, A Ali, Hambis, and Taiha, while US Army Soldiers stood by for supporting operations May 14. Throughout the day, Iraqi Security Forces confiscated weapons caches and detained suspected insurgents.

Above: Lt. Col. Daniel Kessler, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, stands by one of the 50 men detained by Iraqi Security Forces May Left: Pvt. 1st Class Tiffany Catron (Baucom) from 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division hands out “I Love Iraq” stickers to the children who attend Al Mahasin Mixed School in Al Ali.

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!

U.S. Army doctors give Haifa Street baby hope

Staff Sgt. Raymond Piper
4th BCT PAO

BAGHDAD — A coincidence has given a 4-month-old child a shot at living, thanks to an operation that 86th Combat Support Hospital doctors performed May 4. The surgery reduced pressure created by fluid build up in the brain, a disorder known as hydrocephalus.

During a 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment medical assistance program on Haifa Street, the child's mother brought the baby to the U.S. Army doctors and asked if there was anything they could do for him. Local Iraqi doctors had told her that there was nothing that could be done and the child would most likely die within the next year.

Capt. Daniel Green, a Family Practice Physician and the battalion surgeon for 4/64 Armor said he went to see the child himself so he could evaluate the situation. "The prognosis was dismal at best," he later said.

The child was born without one of the ducts that regulate the flow of cerebral spinal fluid, so with nowhere to go, the fluid built up.

Despite the prognosis, Green went to 86th CSH doctors and asked if there was anything that they could do.

"Through my medical training I knew of a shunting procedure and have seen it done several times. Usually, it's done in the first two weeks of life, not

in the first four months," Green said.

The U.S. Army neurosurgeons just happened to have the exact shunt, a specially-designed rubber tubing with a valve that opens and closes under the right amount of pressure.

Green's fellow doctors scheduled a day for the mother and a couple of the relatives to come to the 86th CSH with a translator and conducted a clinical evaluation of the child.

"We evaluated the child's motor skills, learning skills, functioning ... and did a CAT scan," Green said.

The child's brain damage on the CAT scan was extensive, he said. "There was so much fluid build up in the brain, it compressed all of the brain tissue to a five millimeter thickness to the edge of the skull. It had pushed the bones and stretched the skin as far as they would possibly go."

But at the same time the surgeons felt that there might be some benefit to helping the child. The direct benefit to the

child would be pain relief as the pressure of the fluid decreased.

"You can't ask the child if he is in pain, but it seemed quite evident to

the mother and anybody who looked at him. The pain is from the fluid compressing the brain tissue," Green said. "The sheer relief of pressure from the brain might drastically reduce the pain. If he didn't live a day longer, at least whatever days he continued to live would be



Staff Sgt. Raymond Piper

An Iraqi mother comforts her baby after an operation at the 86th Combat Support Hospital May 4.

pain free or would be with reduced pain."

There was an added benefit to attempting the procedure. If it was successful, it could continue to foster good relations with the Iraqi people and help instill trust that the Americans are here to help.

"Obviously that is not the reason to do surgery or risk a child's life but it was an added benefit to the pain reduction and therefore further encouraged us to offer the surgery to the family," Green said.

After the evaluation, the family had a very tough decision to make. If something went wrong on the table or the surgery wasn't successful, it could hasten the child's demise. Meaning that if the child was left untreated, he

would live six months. There was an increased possibility that he might not have survived the surgery or something could happen after the surgery a week later.

"The family was willing to do it ... even just for the pain control," Green said.

There is always the chance for a miracle, of course. The shunt could relieve so much pressure that he will actually begin to develop normally.

"He will never be a normal child; however, there will still be moderate to severe brain damage and lower extremity paralysis, but we might buy him six more months to a year of life so that further medical opportunities might come available so that we might prolong his life further. That's the

long shot," Green said.

Two U.S. Army neurosurgeons operated on the child in unison.

"In this child you have taken a simple procedure and have taken it to the extreme of dangerous because the anatomy was so badly destroyed over the past four months by the destructive behavior of both his malnourishment and the hydrocephalous that the complications were absolutely extreme," Green said.

Despite the difficulties of the operation, the shunt was operating properly while the child was kept under observation after the surgery to watch for infection. He was released from the hospital, healthier than when he came in, and given a shot for a miracle.

"We might buy him six more months to a year...so further medical opportunities might be available."

Cpt. Daniel Green
Bn. surgeon, 4/64 Armor Regiment

IA Soldiers recover Iraqi history during raid mission



Photos courtesy of U.S. Army

Above: Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division display ancient artifacts recovered during an early-morning raid June 3. More than 30 artifacts looted from the Baghdad Museum during the initial liberation of Iraq in 2003 were recovered from the raid.

Right: A display of the recovered artifacts from the raid June 3. The artifacts were stumbled upon during a routine mission.



2005 Army Birthday message to the troops

On June 14, 2005, we proudly celebrate the United States Army's 230th Birthday. For 230 years, the Nation has entrusted the Army with preserving its peace and freedom, and defending its democracy.

Since 1775, American Soldiers have answered the call to duty. They are imbued with the ideals of the Warrior Ethos and motivated by an unwavering belief that they will be victorious.

Our Soldiers have understood that our Constitution and the freedom it guarantees are worth fighting for. They sacrifice their personal comfort and safety to answer a higher calling: service in the cause of free-

dom, both at home and abroad.

America is at war, and the call to duty pierces the air once again. Our adversaries have declared war on our way of life, attacked our homeland, and vowed to attack us again.

America is threatened, and it is our duty to serve.

America's sons and daughters who are answering the call to duty are engaged in the noblest work of life, protecting our Nation and enabling others to live free.

Today, our Soldiers protect our national interests around the globe, serving in more than 120 countries.

Recently, in joint, combined environments, Soldiers helped

to rescue two nations from oppression, and liberated over 50 million people. Since then, more than 1 million Americans have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, and many are returning for a second or third time. Our Soldiers understand that this is a struggle we must win.

We are humbled by their sacrifices in the service of our Nation. Despite the hardships, and the danger to life and limb, duty calls, and our Soldiers continue to answer.

Our Nation appreciates your courage, your sacrifice, and your selfless-service.

This week the United States Postal Service is demonstrating

support for our Soldiers with a special cancellation stamp that commemorates our Army's 230 years of service to the Nation. They are also assisting in the Freedom Team Salute, a program to send an Army Birthday card to every Soldier. We thank the US Postal Service for their role in recognizing the service of our troops. They are joined by a host of organizations around the country celebrating the Army Birthday.

To our Soldiers around the world, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your families on this 230th Army Birthday.

You are volunteers, doing your difficult duty against an enemy who does not value life,

is afraid of liberty, and desires to crush the individual pursuit of a democratic way of life.

You are playing a crucial role in the War on Terrorism, and your dedication to this noble effort underscores your determined professionalism and tenacity.

We are proud to serve with you, as you place the mission first and live the Warrior Ethos.

You have made our Army the most respected institution in the United States and the preeminent land power on Earth.

Thank you for answering the call to duty.

God bless each and every one of you and your families, and God bless America.

Operation Lightning Soldiers strike at terrorists in Taji

Sgt. Kevin Bromley, Spc. Matthew Wester

3/1 AD PAO

TAJI, Iraq – American humvees take up positions on both sides of a dirt road two hours before dawn while Iraqi Soldiers stream out of a truck following the glow of their squad leader's chemical light.

They quietly run in a column toward a house they intend to search for insurgents and weapons.

Their next search target is the palm grove across the road from the house. All of the troops are determined to scour the entire area for illegal munitions and terrorists.

Elements of 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division; 1st Battalion, 13th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division; and 4th Platoon, 977th Military Police Company, cordoned and searched

a rural area near Taji May 28 and 30.

The Military Police and B Company set the cordon, effectively sealing the neighborhood from vehicle traffic.

"This operation is significant because it places emphasis on the Iraqi Army protecting Iraqi people from terrorists who want the new Iraqi government to fail," said Col. David Bishop, 3/1 commander. "It demonstrates that their government is taking action to solve a problem that affects them."

The searches in Taji are part of a larger Iraqi Army effort, dubbed Operation Lightning ("Al-Barq"), to disrupt the enemy's ability to attack the legitimately-elected government and innocent citizens of Iraq. The first few days of the operation have provided several good leads and resulted in several detainees and weapons confiscations, said military officials.

"The purpose of the operation was to search suspected locations where anti-Iraqi forces construct vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices or improvised explosive devices," said Capt. Charles Querriera, commander of B Company, 1/13 Armor Bn. "We are contributing to the larger effort of disrupting AIF operations."

Querriera said the Iraqi Army's ability to conduct autonomous operations has come a long way and they have started taking more responsibility in security operations.

"They're doing intelligence gathering on their own...it was an initiative on the Iraqi Army's part to disrupt terrorist activity in Baghdad," said Querriera.

"It's a combined operation with the American forces," said the operations officer for 1st Bn., 1st Bde., 5th Iraqi Army Div. "Now we control this area and will follow the terrorists wherever they are."

"We're trying to incorporate the Iraqi Army into our operations so they can get experience in conducting these operations," said Staff Sgt. Michael D. Schnurr, a tank commander for 1/13 and a Johnstown, Pa., native.

"The Iraqi Army is building trust with the Iraqi people," he said. "They're getting out there and experiencing the security techniques and measures they need to take back this country."

Iraqi citizens showed their trust in the Iraqi Soldiers by supplying them intelligence about the activities of terrorists in the area.

"We have some local sources who deal with us because they refuse to have the terrorists here," the Iraqi operations officer said. "They are cooperating with the Iraqi Army to get rid of and eliminate the terrorists."

The local people are mostly farmers, and the combined force of Iraqi and U.S. military units searched the orchards, fields and groves in the area as well as the houses.

"It's a lot different than the city," said Sgt. Raymond Salgado from Carolina, Puerto Rico and an armored

crewman for 1/13 Armor's B Company.

Salgado said the terrain is very different from the urban areas he has operated in and talked about how he had to jump over an irrigation ditch to search a suspicious haystack.

Querriera said there are advantages to working in these areas.

"With the help of aviation, it's easy to pick up people trying to get out of the search area," he said.

"This is the second time in Iraq for this unit. The first time, we were in more of an urban area," Schnurr said. "This is where tankers and infantry make their business, out here in the rural areas."

After a thorough search of the farms and fields, the Iraqi and American troops rallied back at the edges of the cordon area.

Curious children watched from the road as the Soldiers headed back to their vehicles in the mid-morning heat.

Although no weapons were found or detainees taken during the operation, valuable information was gathered which can be used in the future.

"After the operation we were able, through the Iraqi Army, to gather intelligence on other suspects and locations of

other possible weapons caches," Querriera said. "The intelligence gathered will most likely lead to future search operations and I hope the Iraqi Army comes along."

The Soldiers of B Company would welcome the teamwork.

"My Soldiers and I enjoy working with the Iraqi Army," Querriera said. "They know when something isn't right before you do so they are our own early-warning system. Even my guys feel better having them with us."



Photos by Spc. Matthew Wester

An Iraqi Soldier uses a metal detector to find illegal munitions during a search operation near Taji, Iraq. Elements of 1st Bn., 13th Armor, 3rd Bde., 1st Armor Div. worked with the Iraqi troops to gather intelligence, and search for weapons and insurgents in the area.

"The Iraqi Army is building trust with the Iraqi people. They're getting out and experiencing the security techniques and measures need to take back this country."

Staff Sgt. Michael D. Schnurr
1/13 Armor



An Iraqi Soldier of 1st Bn., 1st Bde., 5th IA Div., gains entry to a house to search for illegal munitions during an operation near Taji, Iraq on May 30.

THE FINAL INSPECTION

The Soldier stood and faced God,
Which must always come to pass.
He hoped his shoes were shining,
Just as brightly as his brass.

“Step forward now, you Soldier,
How shall I deal with you?
Have you always turned the other cheek?
To My Church have you been true?”

The Soldier squared his shoulders and said,
“No, Lord, I guess I ain’t.
Because those of us who carry guns,
Can’t always be a saint.

I’ve had to work most Sundays,
And at times my talk was tough.
And sometimes I’ve been violent,
Because the world is awfully rough.

But, I never took a penny,
That wasn’t mine to keep...
Though I worked a lot of overtime,
When the bills got just too steep.

And I never passed a cry for help,
Though at times I shook with fear.
And sometimes, God, forgive me,
I’ve wept unmanly tears.

I know I don’t deserve a place,
Among the people here.
They never wanted me around,
Except to calm their fears.

If you’ve a place for me here, Lord,
It needn’t be so grand.
I never expected or had too much,
But if you don’t, I’ll understand.”

There was a silence all around the throne,
Where the saints had often trod.
As the Soldier waited quietly,
For the judgment of his God.

“Step forward now, you Soldier,
You’ve borne your burdens well.
Walk peacefully on Heaven’s streets,
You’ve done your time in Hell.”

~Author Unknown~

Remembering a comrade in arms 2/70 Armor memorializes fallen Soldier

Sgt. Kevin Bromley
3/1 AD PAO

TAJI, Iraq – 3rd Brigade, 1st Armor Division’s “Thunderbolt” Battalion mourned the loss of Pfc. Wyatt D. Eisenhower, a Pinkneyville, Ill., native, May 21.

Eisenhower, a scout for 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armor Division, died May 19 as a result of an improvised explosive device attack while his unit conducted convoy security operations in Mahmudiyah, Iraq.

“He gave his life for a higher purpose, to serve his country and help the Iraqi people pave the way for a brighter future,” said Col. David Bishop commander of 3rd Bde., 1st Armor Div.

Friends said Pfc. Eisenhower did not fit the mold of the regular Soldier. He left a successful civilian venture to answer a higher calling.

“He was self-retired. He joined the military to be part of something larger than himself,” said Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Mayo.

“With less than 11 months in the Army, he was one of the most technically proficient scouts in the platoon. He digested technical manuals like no other,” said Mayo.

Although the 26-year-old lived the rough and tumble life of a scout in a combat unit, he was capable of great compassion.

“He could be counted on by all of his peers and would give them the shirt off of his back,” Mayo said. “He was a true patri-



Courtesy photo

Pfc. Wyatt D. Eisenhower

ot, serving his country when others in his position could not or would not.”

Pfc. Eisenhower is survived by his father and mother.

9-Line MEDEVAC/CASEVAC

9 LINE MEDEVAC REQUEST

Line 1 – Location of Pickup Site

Line 2 – Radio Frequency, Call Sign

Line 3 – Number of Patients by precedence

A – Urgent
B – Urgent Surgical
C – Priority
D – Routine
E – Convenience

Line 4 – Special Equipment Needed

A – None
B – Hoist
C – Extraction Equipment
D – Ventilator

Line 5 – Number of Patients by type

L+#=Litter
A+#=Ambulatory

Line 6 – Security of LZ

N – No enemy in area

P – Possible enemy in area

E – Enemy in area (use caution)

X – Enemy in area (armed escort)

Line 7 – Method of marking LZ

A – Panels
B – Pyro Signal
C – Smoke
D – None
E – Other

Line 8 – Patient Nationality and Status

A – U.S. Military
B – U.S. Civilian
C – Non U.S. Military
D – Non U.S. Civilian
E – EPW

Line 9 – NBC (or terrain description)

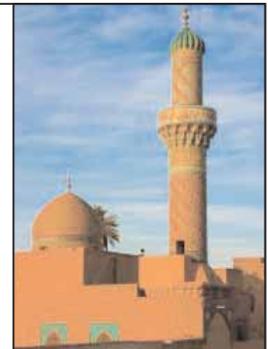
N – Nuclear
B – Biological
C – Chemical

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



Kamaliya sewage project underway

2nd BCT PAO
Media Release

BAGHDAD – In the 9 Nissan District of Eastern Baghdad, two major sewer and water projects are gaining momentum as crews break ground in Kamaliya and Oubaidi.

After completing a thorough site survey, work has begun on a project that will ultimately create a sewer network serving 8,870 homes in Kamaliya, Iraq.

The area has never had underground sewage lines and relies on slit trenches, which leads to sewage pooling in the streets.

“People in Kamaliya are seeing heavy work being done, trenches being dug for the pipes, and it gives them confidence about the city’s future,” said Maj. Alexander Fullerton, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, Infrastructure Cell officer-in-charge. “The project will really improve public health and help cut down on disease-carrying mosquitoes.”

The project will cost approximately \$27 million and will employ 600 local workers at peak construction times.

According to Fullerton, the local district advisory council and neighborhood advisory council played a large part in garnering support for the project from residents.

“The DAC and NAC really sold the project to the community,” he said. “People are really seeing the coalition making a difference.”

The sewage will be directed

out of the neighborhood to collection points away from habitable areas.

As the sewer project takes shape, an existing water distribution system will be rehabilitated.

About 5,435 homes are slated to receive connections to the water main.

The Kamaliya sewer and water project is currently expected to be completed in April 2006.

A similar project is taking place in nearby Oubaidi. It will cost nearly \$14.6 million and employ up to 400 workers.

In addition to the new sewer pipes, three backup generators will be purchased for Oubaidi pump stations at a cost of \$110,000 each.

The project is estimated to provide 12,500 sewer and water connections.

As in Kamaliya, the water lines will go in toward the end of the project.

“There are always complainers, but almost everyone here feels the coalition and Iraqi government are working for a better future,” said an interpreter who works in the area.

1st Lt. Joshua Conary, 2nd BCT, Waste Water OIC, and liaison between the military and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, said the projects are a welcomed advancement.

“I’ve been quite pleased to see the fruits of so much effort come to be,” Conary said. “Especially as it will benefit so many whom have never had a sewer network prior to our arrival here in Iraq.”



Courtesy Photo

Workers work on backfilling and compacting pipe for a sewer network that will serve thousands of homes in Kamaliya when completed next year. The area has never had underground sewage lines and relies on slit trenches, which leads to sewage pooling in the streets.



Spc. Ben Brody

Lt. Col. Steven Merkel, 1/9 FA, commander, and Iraqi Lt. Col. Qussay discuss upcoming missions over a map at the 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division headquarters.

Battlekings MiTT mentor Iraqi Army

Spc. Ben Brody
2nd BCT PAO

BAGHDAD – One of Uday Hussein’s former palaces has a new tenant – Iraqi troops from 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division.

The unit uses the riverfront palace complex to train and to stage operations in North Baghdad, but they are not alone.

Helping train and mentor the young unit is a military transition team from 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery.

“This is a place where the Iraqi Army is really succeeding independently of coalition forces,” said Maj. Terry Cook, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, executive officer. “They are building pro-IA support in the area because people see the coalition is not involved.”

However, Cook and the rest of the MiTT does a great deal behind the scenes at the palace complex.

In addition to providing joint fires, such as attack helicopters, close air support, aerial surveillance and counter-mortar radar, the Battlekings team trains Iraqi medics and troops on essential Soldier skills.

“We try to nudge the IA (battalion) in the right direction, toward how we run battalions,” said 1st Sgt. William Zito, B Battery, 1/9 FA, first sergeant. “We’ve got to guide them dur-

ing the transition from the old regime to the new Iraqi government so they don’t slip back into old habits.”

Maj. Ahmed Gebar, 1st IAB, executive officer, said his battalion is making steady progress in his area of operations.

“Everything is getting better in our sector,” Gebar said. “If things keep going this way, it will be very good.”

He described the MiTT as being very helpful and responsive to his requests for assistance.

“We have a good relationship with the MiTT, everything we ask for, they always try to help,” Gebar said. “I

“The Iraqis here really accomplish the mission. Their reaction time is outstanding - when there’s an attack in sector... they roll out with no delay.”

Sgt. Steven Carpenter
1/9 FA, communications sergeant

have very good, brave men. They need more training and equipment, but they are good Soldiers.”

Whether they need training or not, the Iraqi Soldiers at the palace have impressed the transition team.

“The Iraqis here really accomplish the mission,” said Sgt. Steven Carpenter, 1/9 FA, communications sergeant. “Their reaction time is

outstanding – when there’s an attack in sector, they jump in their trucks and roll out with no delay.”

Carpenter, from Sanford, Fla., said the IAB mirrors the Battlekings because of similarities in their leadership.

“The IAB commander and (executive officer) love to go out on missions and be with their Soldiers, just like Battleking 6 and 5 do,” he said.

Do you have a creative idea for something new 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!

COMBAT BIRTHDAY: 4th BCT celebrates one-year anniversary during deployment

Pfc. Dan Balda
4th BCT PAO

FORWARD OPERATING BASE PROSPERITY, Iraq — The 4th Brigade Combat Team came together to celebrate the brigade's very first birthday on May 27.

Col. Edward C. Cardon, 4th BCT commander, visited various bases in and around the International Zone to share in the festivities with his troops.

"Not since Vietnam or even Korea has the Army asked a unit to create itself in eight months and deploy to a combat zone," Cardon said. "Some people have said this was only possible because of talent in the brigade. I have a little saying: talent hires talent. But talent is nothing if you are not a team, and this is one heck of a brigade combat team."

The 3rd Infantry Division activated its 4th Brigade Combat Team in a ceremony on May 26, 2004 at Fort Stewart, Ga.

Cardon assumed command of the 4th "Vanguard" brigade, bringing a fourth unit of action brigade to the 3rd Inf. Div., which is the first division to reorganize under the Army's new modularity concept.

The 4th BCT is organized to combine combat, combat support, and combat-service-support Soldiers under the same command. Within Vanguard are infantry, armor, cavalry, and field artillery units. The 703rd Forward Support Battalion and 4-3 Brigade Troops Battalion (Sentinel) provide direct support.

The story of the 4th BCT is one that epitomizes the transformation philosophy.

When the brigade began building its ranks, there were only 21 Soldiers providing its foundation.

Over a six-month period Vanguard gained approximately 3,000 Soldiers, received new equipment and conducted three major training exercises. The Army took three different battalions from three different

brigades with three different cultures and joined them together as one team.

Speaking to the assembled Soldiers, Cardon said, "It's your efforts that have made this brigade better. It's the culture that we have in the brigade, a culture of empowerment, a 'can do' attitude, a winning spirit, you can't buy that. That is what you represent out there everyday. Yes, we have some tough days. What impresses me is that every morning we get up, put our uniforms on, get our weapons ready to go, and get back out in the streets doing what we have been asked to do."

Vanguard brigade Soldiers began deploying for Operation Iraqi Freedom 3 during early January 2005.

Upon arrival in Kuwait, 4BCT assumed command and control of 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, the only California Army National Guard air assault infantry battalion in existence.

The unit moved to Baghdad in February and conducted its official Transfer of Authority with two brigades from the 1st Cavalry Division on March 4, 2005.

4th BCT has responsibility for the Karkh, Karradah and Al Rasheed districts of Baghdad which have a combined population of more than 1,440,000 people. The three districts occupy about 66 square miles.

Since assuming control of its sector, the strength of the Vanguard brigade has grown to more than 8,000 Soldiers and currently oversees operations for approximately 16 battalions.

Units now serving in the brigade include the 13th

Infantry (Georgian) Battalion, Iraqi Army forces, the Naval Special Warfare Detachment, and numerous units and service members from the Department of Defense.

Although the Brigade conducts a myriad of missions on a daily basis, three missions have remained constant since its arrival in theater: maintaining a safe environment for those who live and work in the

Vanguard area of operations, helping to rebuild the civilian infrastructure, and training the Iraqi Security Forces.

As of May 18, the brigade completed approximately 8,100 operations including Operation Vanguard Tempest, the largest combined operation between ISF and Coalition Forces ever conducted. This operation, executed on April 11, netted 67 suspected insurgents in the Al Rasheed District.

Taking the lead in training ISF personnel are: 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment (Cottonbalers), 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment (Tuskers), and 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment (Mustangs).

3,000 Iraqi Soldiers have been trained thus far by Iraqi leaders and their American counterparts. These Iraqi warriors will eventually assume full control of the safety and security of Iraq.

"In the end, it is they who will secure Iraq, not us," Cardon said. "We are just helping them. As these units grow, we have to remember that we grew as a unit in 8 months, we are growing these units in six months. I'm proud of the team we have and I'm proud to be your commander."

"Not since Vietnam or even Korea has the Army asked a unit to create itself in eight months and deploy to a combat zone."

Col. Edward C. Cardon
4th BCT commander

'Tigers Brigade' raises colors in Baghdad



Photos by Spc. Ben Brady

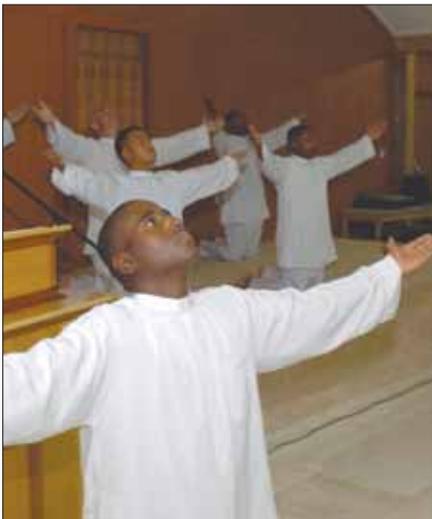
Above: In a traditional way of expressing happiness, a woman throws confetti as an Iraqi Army motorcade passes by. Tiger Brigade, 6th IA Division unfurled its colors in Baghdad June 1.

Right: Brig. Gen. Jawad Romee Aldine (left), 2nd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division commander, and Maj. Gen. William G. Webster Jr., 3rd Infantry Division commander, salute as Tiger Brigade, 6th IA Division raise its colors.





Soldiers of Task Force 1-41 Infantry, 1st Armored Division, attached to 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, conduct a routine patrol during the early morning hours atop an M1A1 Abrams tank in the district of Abu Ghraib. *Spc. Maria Mengrone*



Photos by Spc. Jennifer Fitts

Above: Audience members raise their hands in praise at the Camp Liberty Gospel Extravaganza June 10.
 Left: Members of the Camp Liberty Male Praise Dance troupe contribute their praises at the Camp Liberty Gospel Extravaganza Jun 10..



Photos by Spc. Matthew Wester (above), Spc. Derek Del Rosario (right)

Above: Senior Airman Heather Merkens, a structural journeyman for 557th Expeditionary Red Horse Squadron, Ohio Air National Guard, records a speech for graduating high school seniors in her hometown, Huron, Ohio. Merkens, a government teacher, recorded the video at the request of her students. Right: Spc. James Long, HHC, 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment (Attack Recon) administers an IV to a patient at the Medical Center at Camp Taji.



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

Helping a Soldier/buddy in distress

31D STB Senior Medical Staff
Special to The Marne Express

Many Soldiers can run into rough times. Examples of hard times include seeing dead bodies; hostile reactions from civilians; being ambushed; IEDs; knowing someone that was seriously injured or killed; problems with another service member in the unit; lack of privacy and personal space; family problems; and conflicts with loved ones.

All of us can sometimes feel down, hurt or angry. If you see a buddy upset, fuming or hanging-out alone, you can help them through a painful or sometimes risky time.

Emotionally distracted Soldiers can endanger the mission, the unit, and themselves.

Often, just talking, listening, and focusing on their strengths, is all that people need to find their own answers. There are things you can say and do to help:

1. Be a friend. For example, you

can say "Something seems to be bothering you. Can I help? I can listen if you want to talk."

2. Listen and encourage your buddy to talk about what is bothering them. Try to stay calm and objective.

3. Don't criticize or argue with the Soldier's ideas and feelings. Encourage your buddy to continue telling you what's wrong. Allow time for your buddy to find the right words.

4. Acknowledge your buddy's grievances against others, but don't make it worse by agreeing too strongly. This could intensify the problem.

5. Ask questions to better understand the problem and their feelings. If the talking stalls, summarize what has been said and ask if you have under-

stood it right.

6. Don't give a lot of advice. It is OK to plant the seeds of new ideas but don't drive them in with a hammer. Remember you don't need to have all the answers for your buddy's problems.

7. Praise your buddy's work that they have been doing under such difficult circumstances, and for trusting you enough to talk to you.

Sometimes the problems are too complex to resolve after one talk. Refer your buddy to one of the following:

- Squad leader or other leader
- Chaplain or Chaplain Assistant
- One of the "docs"
- Mental Health Team at your Medical Company or in Combat Stress Control teams in your area.

In Central Iraq, the 24 hour DNVF telephone stress hotline is 302-558-5546. In Northern Iraq, the number is

302-553-9525.

If your buddy gives any hints or clues of thinking about suicide, or seriously harming someone else, remember your Suicide Prevention Training!

Don't act shocked or alarmed. Encourage your buddy to talk to you by using the techniques we have just read about.

If your buddy is currently armed, say something like, "Let me hold your weapon and keep it safe while we talk."

After your buddy has talked as much as they want, say "Would you like to talk to someone else about this? There are docs here that can help you. They can help you more than I can."

Don't leave your buddy alone if you think they might commit suicide or hurt someone!

Secure their weapon and take them immediately to your chain of command or to medical care!

A suicidal person needs immediate attention from professional helpers and you can be that link to get them there.

No place for sexual harassment in today's Army

What does treating a Soldier with "dignity and respect" mean?

Dignity: State of being worthy, honored, or esteemed.
Respect: Treat people as they should be treated.

"Commanders are responsible for the readiness of their units. Quality of trust in a unit directly impacts on that readiness. Commanders will ensure that all Soldiers are treated with dignity and respect and that harassment of or threats to Soldiers for any reason are not tolerated. Those who engage in, ignore, or condone harassment or threats will be held accountable."

CSA Directive dated July 21, 2000

Subject: Dignity and respect for all

"... individual relationships of trust grow the bonds that build unit cohesion. When individual dignity and respect are violated, mutual trust and unit cohesion erode. Harassment of any kind violates individual dignity and tears at the fabric of this trust and the cohesion of our Army."

Gen. Eric K. Shinseki July 21, 2000

What is Sexual Harassment?

Sexual harassment is a form of gender discrimination that involves unwelcome/unsolicited sexual advances, request for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual

nature.

Categories of Sexual Harassment

Verbal: Examples may include telling sexual jokes, using sexual explicit profanity, threats, sexually oriented "Jody calls," sexual comments, whistling in a sexual suggestive manner, describing certain sexual attributes of one's physical appearance.

Nonverbal: Examples may include staring at someone (i.e. "undressing someone with one's eyes"), blowing kisses, winking, or licking one's lips in a suggestive manner. Nonverbal may also include printed material.

Physical Contact: Examples may include touching, patting, pinching, bumping, grabbing, cornering, blocking a passageway, kissing, and providing unsolicited back or neck rubs.

Types of Sexual Harassment

Quid Pro Quo: This is a Latin term meaning "this for that."

Hostile Environment: This occurs when Soldiers or civilians are subjected to offensive, unwanted and unsolicited comments or behaviors of a sexual nature.

Ways to Deal with Sexual Harassment

Direct Approach: Confront the harasser and tell him/her that the behavior is not appreciated, not welcomed and that

it must stop.

Indirect Approach: Send a letter to the harasser stating the facts, personal feelings about the inappropriate behavior and expected resolution (keep a copy for self).

Third Party: Request the assistance from another person. Ask someone else to talk to the harasser, to accompany the victim, or to intervene on behalf of the victim to resolve the conflict.

Chain of Command: Report the behavior to immediate supervisor or others in chain of command and ask for assistance in resolving the situation.

File a Formal Complaint: An allegation of unlawful discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, or sex.

****NOTE**** Sexual Assault is a criminal act & must be reported to the proper authorities (MP, PMO, CID).

What are the two types of complaints?

Informal: Allegations of unlawful discrimination or sexual harassment that do not require written documentation. These complaints may be voiced to the offending party, to someone in a position of authority, or both. The intention is that the offending behavior will cease with no further action required.

Formal: Allegation of unlawful discrimination or sexual harassment that

is submitted in writing to proper authority and processed through official complaint channels with timelines ****NOTE**** Although the processing of EO complaints through the unit chain of command is strongly encouraged, it will not serve as the only channel available to Soldiers to resolve complaints (AR 600-20, Appendix E, Para E-1a (2)).

Alternative Agencies to File Complaints

Someone in a higher echelon of the complainant's chain of command:
Equal Opportunity Advisor
Inspector General
Chaplain
Provost Marshal
Medical Agency personnel
Staff Judge Advocate

What happens to me if I file a complaint against my supervisor or chain of command? Won't they get even?

The Military Whistleblower Protection Act prohibits Department of the Army personnel from taking acts of reprisal against any Soldier for filing a complaint (Para 5-12, DoD Directive 7050.6).

DoD IG Hotline: 1-800-424-9098
DSN: 664-8799
COM: 703-604-8569

Reprisal: Taking or threatening to take an unfavorable personnel action or any other act of retaliation, against a military member for making or preparing a protected communication.

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

DESERT JUSTICE OIF Rewards Program

Capt. Darry Pohlmann
Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

The Operation Iraqi Freedom Rewards Program is a program created by Congress that authorizes the payment of rewards to Iraqis who provide information or non-lethal assistance to U.S. forces which leads to the capture of wanted persons or wanted weapons.

There are several levels of rewards that individual Iraqis could receive.

First, company commanders are authorized to draw \$250 per month to pay "Micro Rewards" of up to \$20 per individual. These rewards can be given on

the spot by a member of the company. Secondly, "Small Rewards" are rewards of up to \$2,500 and are approved by brigade commanders.

Finally, "Large Rewards" are rewards of up to \$200,000 and are approved by either the commander of U.S. Central Command or the Secretary of Defense.

No payment, however, can be made until the information provided is verified and utilized. Any Soldier can nominate an Iraqi civilian to receive the award. Contact your chain of command if you know of anyone that has provided, or is willing to provide information on wanted weapons or persons.



Publishing ethics for Soldiers

Capt. Gary McNeal
Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

Are you considering writing a book or perhaps a few articles on your experiences during Operation Iraqi Freedom 3?

Have you ever been asked to speak for an organization about what you do for the Army or what you did during a deployment?

Many organizations approach Soldiers, inviting them to share some of their experiences.

Publishers look for articles and books relating to the experiences of military members serving in combat zones. Some of these organizations offer to pay the speaker or writer a stipend, or provide all of their food and lodging.

Before you accept such offers you need to understand the ethics regulations that apply.

The Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch, 5 CFR 2635 is incorporated as part of the Joint Ethics Regulation (JER), DoD 5500.7-R.

The JER prohibits Federal employees from receiving payment from any source, other than the U.S. Government, for teaching, speaking, or writing that relates to the employee's official duties. This means that military members may not publish books or articles that relate to their official duties while serving on active duty.

Military personnel may not sign book or movie contracts,

even if the compensation is deferred until after they become civilians. Remember that compensation may include things like free lodging, meals, and other gifts, as well as monetary payment.

The JER does not prevent you from teaching, speaking, or writing for compensation on topics that do not relate to your official duties. So you can write that novel you've been planning for years.

In many cases the JER is clear on when you may teach, write, or speak on a topic, but some situations may not be so easy to determine.

Some of the questions to ask are whether the invitation was extended to you because of your position. Were you asked to speak because you are an officer or an NCO? Did the individual who extended the invitation have interests that may be affected by you in the course of your duties? Will the issues you address include nonpublic information known to you only because of your official position?

If you answer yes to any of these questions, you may not accept any form of compensation for the engagement. If you are unsure about whether to accept such an invitation, you should contact the Law Administrative Department of the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

Also, you should always coordinate with the Public Affairs Office before you make any appearance in an official capacity.

Chaplain's Corner Adversity Coming Your Way

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

Adversity is not on the hot topic list most discussed in people's lives.

In fact, we always want the good news. To have adversity is to suggest one has trouble, one may not be good enough for something, one may be weak, or one is perceived as not being in favor with God.

Many of you reading this have been there. A denied promotion you thought you deserved, an award overlooked, a child disrupting the neighborhood, difficulty in relationships, plans that went wrong somewhere along the line and the blame fell to you unjustly.

Adversity has hit all of us. We feel betrayed, under stress, hurt, angry and question why.

So what do we do when adversity comes?

It is enough to cause some to crumble under the pressure. The mind and will deteriorates to the point where they cannot recover. Individuals become withdrawn, sullen and obtain a victim mentality.

Recently, I had some adversity hit my life. It put me into a shock for a little while and I experienced the feeling of "I can't believe this." To say I was disappointed about this adversity is an understatement.

So what should folks do when confronted with adversity?

I offer some suggestions from a Christian point of view.

First, we are to welcome adversity. You may say, "Chaplain, your crazy!"

What do I mean by welcoming the hard times?

James 1:2 tells us to 'consider it pure joy when you face trials of various kinds.'

God has some sense of humor doesn't He? Yes!

We are to face adversity with joy. You mean the kind of joy that says 'oh yeah, bring

it on', hootin', hollering, shouting joy? Yes!

For believers we learn over time of God's faithfulness. Our faith in Him, our faith that He has seen us through trouble before, our faith in Him that he is always present, our faith that has shown us His steadfastness in all situations is cause enough for joy. The joy also comes from a deep rooted faith that says everything is going to be okay because God is in control. God is sovereign.

Another step is to see that this is cause for our spiritual growth.

James 1:3 says 'the testing our faith develops perseverance.' Adversity helps us with a keeping on attitude with our faith. It is a willingness to see things through to the end of our incident and see God prevail and realize that our life and will is in His hands. It is also the perseverance to see us through to the end of our Christian race. Through our own difficulties we can provide ministry to others.

Thirdly, the last part is that 'perseverance must finish its work in us so that we might be mature and complete,' James 1:4.

I can hear some of you now saying, "Okay God," thanks for using me as a human illustration!"

Yes, we are testimony to God's work.

Each of us is very different. Our individual walk with God is different.

Yet, he wants to bring each of us to the same result, to be mature and complete in our faith.

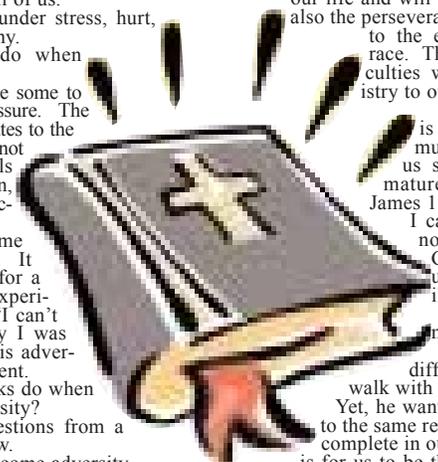
God's desire is for us to be the very best example of Christ like faith and character to others around us.

Doing so doesn't ease the pain of adversity. It does not lessen the disappointment of adversity, but it does lead us to greater depths in our faith.

Life is not measured by a man's success.

God measures our lives by our perseverance during the times we face adversity.

Go with God to new heights in your adversity.



Marne Claims Office Hours
Mon. through Sat.
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Camp Liberty
Legal Services
Center
Building C25

**Division Chapel Services
Camp Liberty**

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

	1st Lt. Michael J. Fasnacht, 1/15 Inf. Staff Sgt. Victor M. Cortes III, 703 FSB Sgt. Charles A. Drier, 1/76 FA Spc. Dustin C. Fisher, 1/76 FA	Pfc. Jeffrey R. Wallace, 1/76 FA Staff Sgt. Justin L. Vasquez, 3rd ACR Spc. Eric J. Poelman, 3rd ACR Pfc. Brian S. Ulbrich, 3rd ACR	
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MLB Draft: 'Black Knights' catcher becomes second Army player chosen in first-year players draft

goarmysports.com
Special to The Marne Express

WEST POINT, N.Y. – When Schuyler Williamson walked off the field at Dick Howser Stadium Sunday following Army's appearance at the Tallahassee Regional, Army's senior catcher wasn't sure if he'd ever play competitive baseball again.

Williamson will be provided the opportunity to extend his baseball career after he was selected in the 26th round of the First Year Player Draft by the Detroit Tigers on Wednesday.

The native of Pensacola, Fla. (Pensacola Catholic H.S.), concluded his West Point baseball career as the holder of 15 Academy single game and career records. He surpassed seven Army career

records this spring and graduated as the Black Knights' all-time leader in at-bats, runs scored, total bases, games played, multiple-home run games, runners thrown out trying to steal and percentage of runners thrown out trying to steal.

"I am very excited to have the opportunity to play professional baseball," Williamson said. "I would have been happy whether I was selected or not. The way I looked at it is that I have a great career in the Army and now have a chance at a great career in baseball. This gives me a chance to pursue a dream that I've held since I was five years old."

"We all couldn't be happier for Schuyler. This is a great and deserving opportunity. Playing professional baseball is one of his life-long dreams."

Joe Sottolano
Army head coach

As part of the U.S. Army's recently implemented Alternative Service Option plan, Williamson will owe two years of active service in the Army, during which time he will be allowed to play baseball in the Tigers' system and assigned to a recruiting station. Following those two years, should he remain in professional baseball, he would be given the option of "trading" the remaining three years of his active-duty commitment for six years of reserve duty. There is also a "buy-out" component that requires reimbursement to the government for educational costs.

"We couldn't be happier for Schuyler," said Army head coach Joe Sottolano. "This is a great and deserving opportunity. Playing professional baseball is one of his life-long dreams and passions, and we're very pleased that he has achieved that goal."

Williamson joins Mike Scioletti as the only two players in Army baseball history to be selected in the First Year Player Draft. Scioletti was chosen in the 43rd round by the Chicago White Sox in 1997.



Courtesy photo
Army Black Knights catcher, Schuyler Williamson, prior to the start of one of the games.



Sgt. 1st Class Ken Waker
Sgt. Ryan J. LaBar takes down Spc. Charles Eich during a kickboxing demonstration at the 3rd Infantry Division MWR May 21.

MUAY THAI KICKBOXING CLASSES

Come join the "Baghdad Boxing Club," and learn traditional kickboxing!

THIS IS NOT AN AEROBIC CLASS!

This is a challenging and fun way to get a good workout and learn practical self-defense.

All skill levels from beginner to advanced welcome!

Grab your PT clothes and move out to the 3rd Infantry Division's MWR Aerobic Room.

Tuesday & Thursdays

1730 - 1900

Classes presented by

Sgt. Ryan J. LaBar, 3rd Signal Co.

Cartoon Corner



There I stand, all alone, just me, and the enemy. I have tracked them for days through the desert. Taking them out one, by one. For I am an army, trained as a killer, serving my country. I complete any mission, no one can match my ski...



Soldier! Stop sleeping! We need you for a important mission!

Zzzz... W... what?



Not too many grinds! Hurry up with that coffee!

Sigh

THE CHRONICLES OF STACK

If you have something you'd like to contribute to the bi-weekly comic strip Contact ricardo.branch@id3.army.mil.



In the Movies



'Ginger Snaps,' bites and claws to cult status on my list

Sp. Ricardo Branch
3rd Inf. Div. PAO

"Out by 16 or dead in this scene, but together forever..." those are the words echoed in the morbid pact between two sisters, Ginger and Bridgette Fitzgerald, the stars of the campy werewolf tale "Ginger Snaps."

Both are outcasts by virtue of their own personalities and obsessed with death. They constantly are coming up with new ways to stage their own demise.

One night, the pair are out planning another morbid caper when Ginger is attacked and mauled by a half-man, half-wolf creature.

The girls escape and the werewolf gets accidentally run over by a van, but that's not the end however. Back at home, Bridgette discovers that Ginger's wounds are already healing by themselves.

As life continues painfully forward, the girls become convinced that the attack has "changed" Ginger. Soon she is sprouting fur from her wounds and developing abnormal physical strength.

To make matters worse, Ginger's new strength, along with her growing "canines," causes her to leap out of her outcast status and begin dating and devouring.

The combination of these incidents

begins to divide the once-close sisters, leaving Bridgette alone and out in the cold.

Ginger is changing into the beast that attacked her, which ensures mayhem and chaos for 108 minutes.

Unlike most campy tales, the stars of this film are not perky and buff victims-in-waiting, as in most teen movies. Sixteen-year-old Ginger (Katherine Isabelle), and 15-year-old Bridgette (Emily Perkins) are a pair of gothic outcasts despised by all the students in their suburban Ontario high school.

But the general disdain they carry from their peers makes them that much more interesting to watch on the big screen. As good as the cast is, though, the real star is the storyline for this awesome screenplay.

This movie was filmed with a small budget, incredibly lackluster special effects and in an easy-to-film area.

It's not what I'd consider a recipe for success, but it's done correctly, ensuring a magnificent film.

Unknown stars (at the time) Isabelle and Perkins shared a unique chemistry on the screen that's easily reminiscent of notable duos like Mulder and Scully, and early Starsky and Hutch.

They worked so well throughout this movie that when Ginger was changing into a werewolf, I could easily relate to the concern displayed by her sister

Bridgette - the dialogue was just that good.

The only thing I didn't like was the ending, which was the average, "stop the monster, thereby saving the day." The final scene was sad but probably necessary for the film to go beyond a simple stand-alone movie into the trilogy that it is today.

Also, the film manages to cover a remarkable range of emotions from anger, deception, envy, happiness and a little bit of love at the end.

If you watch this movie for a good scare you'll be out of luck. "Ginger Snaps" was not really scary, in the way most people think. It's not packed with moments when directors try to scare the audience, just a feeling of terror, dread and melancholy at its core.

It's got originality, a good story, and characters I could relate to (I am not interested in death but certainly can relate to being "left out"), gruesome scenes and the gloomy undercurrent of despair.

If this sounds like a good movie for you, go out and get the wolf.

"Ginger Snaps" will destroy all impressions you have of the staleness coming out of Hollywood these days. It will leave you amazed by its innovation and eager to see more as it bites and claws its way onto your list of favorite movies.

How 'Ginger Snaps' stacks up...

sultry female stars:



intriguing storyline:



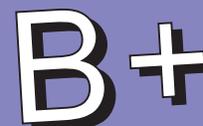
werewolf carnage:



special effects:



The bottom line:



The Book Nook

Mark Spragg's An Unfinished Life: The Marlboro Man Finds His Heart

Sgt. 1st Class David Abrams
3rd Inf. Div.

As a young boy and budding writer, William Faulkner would sit at the knees of his Mississippi relatives, listening with rapt attention to their stories of the War Between the States and Reconstruction.

Those tales, with that distinct Southern vernacular, eventually wormed their way into his fiction and established Faulkner as one of the great transcribers of human speech.

Like the Yoknapatawpha wizzard before him, Mark Spragg has spent the first forty-plus years of his life absorbing the speech and mannerisms of cowboys in Wyoming. Spragg's books (the memoir Where Rivers Change Direction and the two novels The Fruit of Stone and An Unfinished Life) resonate with a particular tough-tender masculinity of Marlboro men.

Spragg, who grew up on a dude ranch near Sheridan, Wyoming, has cracked the code on the closed circle of often-inscrutable males who make their living taming horses, stringing barbed wire and leading fat, pale city slickers on elk hunts.

What Faulkner did for the Mississippi delta, Spragg does for the Rocky Mountain West—accurately transcribing the hard-bit, stoic lives that populate the equally unyielding land.

So, when we come to Spragg's new novel, An Unfinished Life, it's no surprise to find that he has con-

vincingly etched a portrait of a bitter, grief-stricken seventy-year-old rancher named Einar Gilkyson who is counting the days until he can join his wife and son in their graves. His only reason for living is to play nursemaid to his Korean War buddy Mitch who's been disfigured in a bear attack—a mauling which happened as Einar stood by helplessly. As penance, he gives Mitch daily shots of morphine and cleans his bedpan.

Like so many other old men of the New West—the clichéd "dying breed"—Einar and Mitch are living in a landscape (both moral and physical) that's crumbling away.

Einar tries to not be bothered by the influx of young married couples who have moved to Wyoming "for a more natural life" and who drive around their twenty-acre ranchettes in brand-new SUVs.

Even so, his spread outside the fictional Ishawooa is slowly being subdivided into parcels he leases to his neighbors. Since his only child—Griffin, the heir apparent—has died,

Einar knows the land will remain undeveloped only as long as he's there to keep the ranch running—which, at this point, means milking his one remaining cow and selling Mason jars of the milk to the local co-op.

In Spragg's hands, this old cowboy becomes not just words on a page, but a character as real as the icy sting of wind-driven snow on our face. We can hear the carefully held-

back speech slip from between his clamped, stoic lips; we can feel the shape of his weathered, scarred heart. After just three books, this is the kind of character we've come to expect from Spragg's pen.

What's surprising, therefore, in this new novel is the fact that Spragg extends that same authentic voice to a ten-year-old girl named Griff who eventually becomes the central character in An Unfinished Life. The precocious and endearing Griff is the granddaughter Einar's never met. He still holds his daughter-in-law Jean responsible for his son's death in a car accident a decade ago and has written her out of his life while still carrying around the ghost of his son.

Jean and Griff have drifted through life in the Midwest, attracting no-good deadbeat guys who use Jean as a punching bag. The latest one is a scary individual named Roy who, in the space of a few words, manages to turn an apology into an accusation during a morning-after conversation with Jean ("I hate when you back me into a corner...I don't know why I come out swinging like I do.")

Griff keeps a packed suitcase under her bed, waiting for her mother to wise up and get them the hell out of Roy's trailer. Meanwhile, she fantasizes about a tornado sucking Roy up into the sky, even though she knows it's no use:

Dead or alive, her mother would replace him. Before Roy in this trailer in Iowa there was Hank in the trailer in Florida,

and before Hank there was Johnny in the little house that smelled like cat pee, and before Johnny there was Bobby. She can't remember Bobby very well, but there've been four. Everybody's mother is good at something. Her mother's good at finding the same man, no matter where she lives.

Eventually, Roy's fist lands one time too many on Jean's face and the mother and daughter sneak away from the maniacal lover, heading west toward the only place Jean thinks she can hide from Roy's rage: her hometown of Ishawooa. Once Jean and Griff show up on his doorstep, Einar grudgingly allows them to stay at his place, even though the sight of his daughter-in-law continually stabs him with pain and anger over the early death of his son.

That sorrow is salved, however, by the charm of his granddaughter. Griff quickly endears herself to both Einar and Mitch (as well as to the reader) and it's the bond between the two old cowboys and the young girl which becomes the most compelling part of An Unfinished Life.

Griff longs for a stable family life and she finds it in the gruff-but-sweet Einar and the nurturing compassion of Mitch.

Yes, this may sound familiar to fans of Kent Haruf's best-selling novel Plainsong (and, indeed, Spragg gives a nod to Haruf in the book's dedication), but An Unfinished Life is invested with its own unique stamp of what I'm beginning to think is Spragg's trademark: the rough beauty of the authen-

tic West.

The novel takes its title from the epitaph engraved on Griffin's grave, but it's also Einar who has an unfinished life and now, in the December of old age, he must learn how to tie up the loose ends of his life—let go of his bitterness toward Jean, as well as forgive himself for letting the grizzly maul Mitch.

An Unfinished Life has its share of predictable moments, especially when the hot-tempered Roy shows up in Ishawooa and the novel turns into something resembling Sleeping With the Enemy and we realize that we've been mentally casting Julia Roberts or Ashley Judd in that woman-in-peril role.

Instead, the movie version due in December from director Lasse Hallstrom stars Jennifer Lopez and Robert Redford.

Hollywood and hackneyed plot elements aside, there's a lot going for An Unfinished Life.

There is the rich beauty of Spragg's honed writing style, there is the engaging relationship between two grizzled cowboys and a young girl who renews their faith in life, but mostly there is the Faulkneresque way in which the author has captured and retained the details of his own life growing up in Wyoming. Just as Einar, who has preserved his dead son's room and wardrobe, says, "I'm careful about what I throw away," so, too, is Spragg meticulous about the words he chooses to leave on the page.