

# The Marne Express

"Mission, Soldiers, Teamwork"

Volume 2, Issue 3

Serving the Soldiers of Task Force Baghdad

March 27, 2005

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Express*



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## Checking on the troops ...



*Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft*

Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, watches a demonstration put on by a member of 36th Engineer Group during his visit to Camp Liberty March 14. Myers also re-enlisted three 3rd Inf. Div. Soldiers while he was here.

## JCS chairman visits Liberty

**Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft**  
*Associate Editor*

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq — Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, paid a visit to Multi-National Division —

Baghdad headquarters and Soldiers here March 14.

With Myers were Lt. Gen. Walter L. Sharp, DJ-5, Paul W. Hanley, STRATCOM director, and Col. Rodney Anderson, executive officer.

In attendance from the

division's command group were Maj. Gen. William G. Webster Jr., Task Force Baghdad commanding general; Col. Larry Burch, Chief of Staff; Col. William Hudson, Staff Judge Advocate; Col. Robert Grymes, effects coord-

inator; Lt. Col. Ronald Frost, personnel officer in charge; Lt. Col. Robert Taylor, security officer in charge; Lt. Col. Jonathan Charlton; operations and

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Gone but not forgotten ...

## 4/1 Artillery remembers fallen Soldiers

**Spc. Matthew Wester**  
*100th MPAD*

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — "Moski and Farnan, Beast Platoon will never forget you," said Sgt. 1st Class David Wells, the platoon sergeant of two Soldiers killed in action and remembered March 1.

These simple words captured the essence of the memorial ceremony for Spc. Jason L. Moski, a Columbia, S.C., native and Spc. Colby M. Farnan of Leavenworth, Kan., both members of Beast Platoon, B Battery, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division.

Moski and Farnan died Feb. 25 during a dis-

mounted sweep for improvised explosive devices, near Tarimiya, Iraq. IED sweeps are designed to make the roads safe and are a key part of the mission in Iraq.

Hundreds of members of 4/1 Field Artillery and other units lined up in formation to listen to their leaders describe the sacrifice of two fallen brothers-in-arms.

"Farnan and Moski took a stand," said Lt. Col. Richard Bowyer, commander of 4/1 Field Artillery. "They took a stand to do the right thing every day, without fear, without hesitation, knowing full well the dangers they faced." "They represent all that is good with our

**See GONE, page 10**



*Sgt. Kevin Bromley*

(Left to right) Maj. Gen. William Webster, Brig. Gens Karl Horst, Mark O'Neill and Ronald Chastain, and Command Sgt. Maj. William Grant pay their last respects.

## 1/9 FA Battlekings set up TCPs in Baghdad outskirts

**Spc. Ben Brody**  
*2nd BCT*

BAGHDAD — Soldiers from A Battery, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, set up traffic control points around the outskirts of Baghdad as part of an effort to stop the transit of illegal firearms and explosives Feb. 27.

The battery is divided into four teams that routinely conduct such missions, but the evening of the 27th was the first time all four patrolled simultaneously.

"Our primary mission tonight is to disrupt (insurgent) activity and provide safer neighborhoods in the area," said

1st Lt. Emory Hayes, A Btry. platoon leader. "This area is somewhat of a hotbed of activity — it's very important that we maintain a strong presence here."

Each team traveled in humvees and Field Artillery Support Vehicles, which are large, tracked vehicles designed to follow Paladin howitzers into battle.

As the 1/9 vehicles blocked off one rural road, a line of cars slowed to a halt under the direction of troops on the ground.

One by one, the artillerymen searched approaching vehicles, and with the help of an interpreter, interviewed

the drivers.

After an hour or so, the Soldiers moved to a different location and set up another TCP.

The second location was much more secretive, set up on a dark desolate road. Troops turned off all their lights, except for someone holding a flashlight to signal approaching vehicles.

One driver was motioned to continue through the checkpoint, but stopped and told the interpreter he had information on insurgent activity in the area. Soldiers took a statement from the man

**See TCPs, page 4**

## Nasty weather can yield pleasant diversions

**Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft**  
Associate Editor

This is my first time over here in the wild brown yonder, and although it's unusual for me to develop preconceived notions about any monumental experience I'm about to undertake, I have to admit that I did have a few rather vivid ones about this place.

NONE OF THEM involved rain.

Correct me if I'm wrong, but isn't the word "desert" defined as "a dry, barren, often sandy region that can naturally support little or no vegetation"?

Well, that's what my Webster's New Riverside University Dictionary says.

And I can tell you that not a single word in that definition refers me to such key terms as "wetland," "sludge-lined sinkhole" or "hell."

Which it should have, seeing as how all of those terms could have been applied to this place for at least three consecutive days of the three weeks I've spent here.

But, in keeping with my bright, optimistic (*coughsarcasticcough*) way, I spent those days NOT wallowing in weather-induced depression, NOT stomping around emitting frustrated, growling, grunting, generally unpleasant noises, and NOT considering the many ways I seemed to resemble the Swamp Thing

more and more as each moment passed.

What did I do instead?

Why, I came up with fun things to do in the mud, of course!

I mean, we might as well be prepared for the next freak rain/hailstorm that comes around, right?

Now, before you all start recalling your favorite mud-related activities and begin lining up to lecture me on General Order Number Two, keep in mind that these suggestions are ALL tasteful, modest and entirely void of nudity.

I've lost you, haven't I? No matter.

I have enough confidence in myself and my brilliant imagination to continue on my own:

• Underwater VolleyMudball: I'm sure we all observed the volleyball courts fully submerged behind Pad 17. Why not just make the ball itself out of mud (since a regular one would soon be covered in it anyway) and try to swim up to the net and spike that baby? Nobody's nose would get broken, that's for sure.

• Mudslinging: Since most of us have already done this in the figurative sense, let's just make it more literal. Instead



of going out of your way to speak badly of someone, simply pick up a handful of mud and launch it emphatically at the source of your anger. This is much more fulfilling than throwing harsh words could ever be, and scarring emotional effects would be replaced with the much more easily-launders effect of a dirty uniform.

replaced with the much more easily-launders effect of a dirty uniform.

• Mud Wading: Everybody's doing this inadvertently while walking from place to place, so it makes sense to just turn it into a premeditated pastime. All you have to do is seek out the deepest, vilest mud puddles and bound joyfully into them, possibly emitting shrieks of joy while doing so. After emerging from the muck, give everyone you meet a loving hug, thereby spreading the merriment to those around you.

• Mud Bathing: Lots of people in other countries pay good money to lounge in piles of sludge ... we can do it here for free! So go ahead, find a comfy spot, slap some cucumbers over your eyes and settle in for a day of spa-quality treatment.

• Shoe-Scavenging: I'm sure I'm not the only one who's noticed an abundance of divorced flip-flops basking in the sun, having been abandoned by previous owners who obviously deemed them a burden while trudging through the slime. I prefer to look at them as "free footwear," which could be quite useful as soon as I become that desperate.

There, you see, there are a whole bunch of entertaining things to do in the mud that won't result in an Article 15!

Go ahead, give 'em a shot. If you need me, I'll be in my mud bath ... trying on shoes.



Jake Lester

Why not make your local motor pool a local swimming pool?

## Unsung hero ...

**Command Sgt. Maj. William M. Grant**  
3rd Inf. Div. Command Sergeant Major

Today's shout out goes to the 3rd Infantry Division's medical staff.

This is the finest group of consummate professionals ever assembled. Their sincere concern for the physical and mental well-being of our Marne Brothers and Sisters is unmatched.

You have coordinated and executed the supplying of the Israeli Bandages, combat application tourniquets and other medical supplies that tremendously increase our Soldiers confidence in respect to medical care.

Thanks again for your commitment.  
"Rock of the Marne."  
"Striving to Reach the Mark."

Pfc. Ricardo Branch

**Pfc. Juan Cardenas**, a medic in Headquarters and Headquarters Support Company, 3rd Inf. Div., tightens the valve on an oxygen tank in the division medical aid station at Camp Liberty.



## Marne Express

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# The Word on the Street

### Who do you consider an unsung hero, and why?



"My five brothers, they keep me going and the reason I wake up and want to get back home."

**Spc. Devin B. Richter**  
1/156 Armor Bn.  
Shreveport, La.



"The staff of Maxim Magazine, because they do so much for us."

**Pfc. Joseph F. MacLachlan**  
92nd Chem. Co.  
Ringwood, N.J.



"My mother, because she molded my brother and I into who we are today."

**Sgt. Erin M. Debaun**  
92nd Eng. Bn.  
Orlando, Fla.



"My dad, because he supports me in all I do, and my mom, because she pushes me to strive for more."

**Spc. Deidra P. Nerve**  
HHSC, STB  
Franklin, La.



"My entire family; they instilled my beliefs and the love for my country."

**Spc. Michael D. Riley**  
HHOC, STB  
Cincinnati, Ohio

# 4th BCT to build on 1st Cav.'s hard work

Pfc. Dan Balda  
4th BCT

FOB PROSPERITY, Iraq – 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, passed responsibility for the International Zone to 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division March 4.

“We have worked together to ensure that 4th Brigade will continue and complete all the projects that the 3rd Brigade started,” said Col. John M. Murray, 3rd BCT commander. “(4th BCT) will continue to work with the local governments of Karkh and Karadah to identify new projects to help the Iraqi people.”

The Kenton, Ohio, native also said 4th BCT will continue setting the conditions for Iraq’s government to fully establish itself.

Maj. Ross Coffman, 4th Bde. operations officer, said this will be accomplished by using a training methodology in which the unit works with the Iraqi security services to share information and training. The goal is to transition to the security forces doing most of the work while 4th BCT provides a supporting role.

“This will ensure that no matter where you are in the country, the Iraqi populous knows that it is the Iraqis, not the Americans, doing the yeoman’s work, day to day to make this country safe,” Coffman said.

The BCT has replaced 5th Brigade Combat Team and 3rd Brigade Combat Team. It will be responsible for the area south of the IZ from the Tigris River to Baghdad International Airport to include the IZ, the seat of government power, Coffman said.

There are two reasons 4th BCT will be able to maintain responsibility over such a large area, according to Coffman.

“The first reason we can take over for two BCTs is the two brigades have done such a good job with the Iraqi security forces,” he said. “They have really laid the groundwork for this with their work with the Iraqi security forces. This allows us to have fewer Soldiers on the ground.”

“The other reason is due to the reorganization and the capabilities of the brigade allow us to operate over a larger battle space and that’s mainly because we have increased the capabilities at the brigade and battalion level,” the Williamsburg, Va., native continued. “This allows us to do multiple operations simultaneously, thereby increasing the level of safety in our AO.”

Besides the obvious security-minded matters, there are other goals 4th Brigade will work towards.

“We will support the Iraqi forces during the constitutional referendum and constitutional elections,” said Col. Edward Cardon, brigade commander. “We are working towards the day where there will be no Multi-National Forces in Baghdad. This is why the training of the Iraqi Army is so important.”

He continued, “What we are trying to build, the terrorists are trying to destroy. We are not working against time, we are working with the level of proficiency of the Iraqi battalions. Whether that is tomorrow or six months from now, when they are ready, they will assume responsibility.”

The Vanguard Brigade will also continue where 1st Cav. left off, helping to raise the quality of life for the Iraqi people.

“1st Cav. has done a tremendous job in helping

the Iraqi people,” Murray said.

More than \$90 million has been designated for the improvement of essential services, such as sewers, fresh water delivery, electrical distribution and solid waste management along with numerous other projects.

“Altogether these projects alone brought basic infrastructure necessities to more than 200,000 people in Karkh, Karadah and Zafaraniya and employed thousands of Iraqis from the neighborhoods where the projects were done,” Murray said.

Among the myriad of military operations conducted with the Iraqi security forces, Murray said he is extremely proud of watching the 302nd Iraqi Army Battalion develop from conducting squad-level operations to battalion operations.

“Now as a part of the 40th Iraqi Army Brigade they are conducting fully independent operations and are completely responsible for the security in many areas of the Karkh district,” Murray said.

Of all the significant events Murray was privy to, he said he is most proud of the Jan. 30 elections.

“These were the first free, democratic elections in this country in over 50 years,” Murray said. “Seeing normal Iraqi citizens, being protected by Iraqi Security Forces, heading to the polling stations, voting and waving their ink stained fingers despite terrorist threats was the most awe-inspiring moment of my deployment here.”

“I am profoundly grateful that my Soldiers and I

“The 1st Cav. Division has made this transfer really simple; they have really set us up for success.”

Maj. Ross Coffman  
4th BCT operations commander

were here to share and contribute what we could to accomplish one of the most historic moments in this proud country’s history,” he added.

Coffman believes the job set before the Vanguards will be that much easier, thanks to the unit they are replacing.

“The 1st Cav. Division has made this transfer really simple; they have really set us up for success,” Coffman said. “It’s a difficult task, but due to the great communication between the two units. We are undoubtedly trained, capable and ready to accomplish this mission.”



Pfc. Dan Balda

Col. John M. Murray, the commander of 3rd BCT, 1st Cav. Div., shakes hands with Col. Edward Cardon, the commander of 4th Brigade, 3rd Inf. Div., to symbolize the transition of authority after the ceremony March 4.

## Army Secretary Harvey visits Camp Liberty Soldiers

Spc. Erin Robicheaux  
256th BCT

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq — Soldiers of Task Force Baghdad welcomed a distinguished guest for breakfast March 18 at the Tiger Den Dining Facility.

Secretary of the Army, Honorable Francis Harvey, visited with the troops to hear their experiences.

Spc. Jon Vandebogert, of B Battery, 126th Field Artillery, which is attached to the 256th Brigade Combat Team, was chosen by his leadership and peers to represent them for the event. Vandebogert, one of four Soldiers chosen, said that during his one-on-one conversation with Harvey, he was made to feel that he was an important part of the global war on terror-

ism. “He was very interested in my civilian life and asked me a lot of questions. When he realized that I was a National Guard Soldier, he told me he’s noticed that the Army is truly becoming an Army of one, and that a lot of National Guard troops are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan,” Vandebogert said.

Harvey later recalled a realization he recently had while attending a briefing in Afghanistan with the 76th Brigade, who is in charge of training the Afghan National Army.

“In the middle of the briefing, I suddenly realized that it was a National Guard unit and there was no difference in the organization, the dedication, or the commitment,” he said.

He went on to compliment the contributions of the National Guard and Reserve units involved in the war on terror by saying that all Soldiers, active duty or otherwise, realize

that they are a part of something important and that they are spreading democracy and freedom. He mentioned that he has also heard talk from Guard and Reserve Soldiers of making a permanent transition to active duty.

The Secretary of the Army praised the troops for what they’ve done to help the Iraqi people in rebuilding their homes, rebuilding their security force, and rebuilding their government. He enlightened Soldiers on the big picture regarding the projects they’ve participated in and how the momentum is picking up. The military, and security overall, in the country of Iraq has grown significantly due to the presence of Multi-National Forces, according to Harvey. For example, 150,000 Iraqi troops are trained, equipped, and organized into 96 battalions, with a projected 50,000 preparing for training. The goal is to have 300,000 security personnel, and Harvey attributes this

to the teamwork of Iraq and the United States.

“We’re starting along that line of doing it together and eventually, they will do it alone, and this is just tremendous progress in the area of security and stability,” he said.

In addition, the Iraqi government has seen great success, according to Harvey, first with the elections, and recently, with the first meeting of the Iraqi Interim National Assembly.

Following the breakfast, Harvey viewed a demonstration by the 612th Engineer Battalion. of the 36th Eng. Group on the Buffalo, a minesweeping vehicle that is the latest technology for effectively recognizing improvised explosive devices.

Following the demonstration, Harvey told the Soldiers, “if I were an insurgent, I’d be really discouraged; I have two words to describe what I have seen in the last day: solid progress.”



Spc. Erin Robicheaux

Spc. Jon Vandebogert, B Btry., 126th FA, talks to the Honorable Francis Harvey, as Harvey inquires about his life over breakfast.



**TCPs, continued from page 1**

and sent him on his way. "We search cars, houses, people – we're looking at everything when we're out on patrol," said Spc. Jonathan Mardis, A Btry., cannon crewmember. "A lot of times people give us information that we follow up on."

As the artillerymen perform missions more in line with infantry or military police tasks, Mardis, from Atlanta, Ga., said his battery has undergone a lot of different training to prepare them for Iraq.

Like most artillerymen in Iraq right now, Mardis said he misses his Paladin, but is quickly learning his new role.

A chorus of chirping frogs and howling dogs was silenced by a speeding car racing toward the TCP.

The Soldiers shouted, waved flashlights and finally fired a warning shot, at which point the driver slammed on his brakes and stopped.

Five somewhat inebriated men emerged from the sedan, and appeared relieved to be alive after nearly running through the TCP.

The artillerymen questioned them, removed and dumped the open beers and told them to drive home carefully.

"It's my main priority to keep my Soldiers safe," said Sgt. Anthony Brown, A Btry. gunner. "Communication is everything out here. Keeping (everyone) safe means keeping them informed."

"If they're not informed, they won't know what's going on or what to expect," he said.

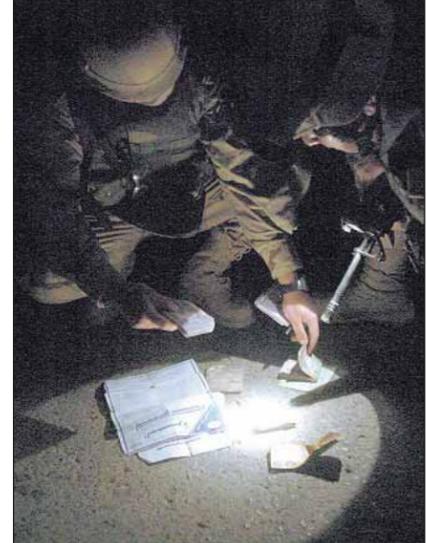
Brown, a native of Pittsburgh, Pa. and a veteran of OIF 1, said he thinks Soldiers have to be even more vigilant now than in 2003.

The patrolling troops again moved to set up another checkpoint, where they intended to enforce the curfew in effect in that area.

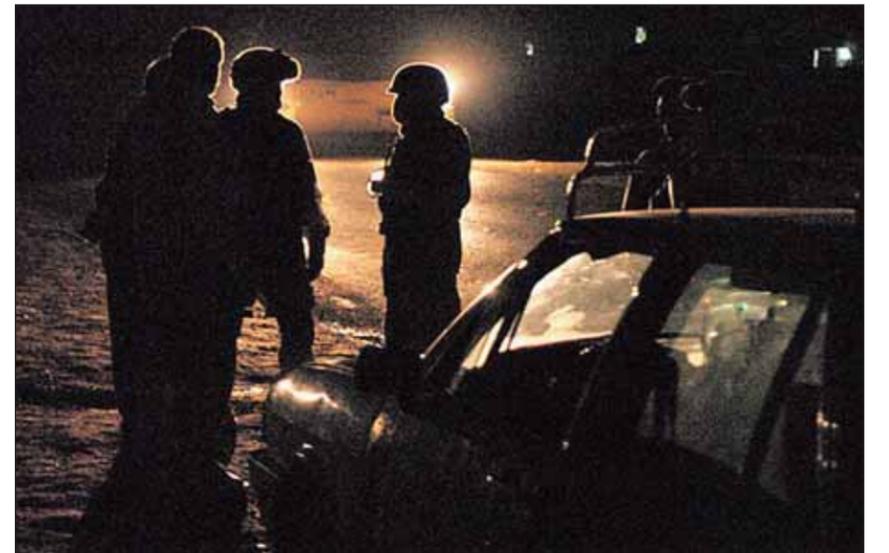
Only one vehicle was found breaking curfew, and after searching it, Soldiers sent the individuals on their way home.

"The locals' response to our presence varies a lot from place to place," Hayes said. "The poorer areas are mainly Shia, who are generally favorable to us. In the more well-to-do areas, the Sunni areas, we usually get a much less friendly welcome."

"The most important thing on these missions is to present a hard target and never form routines," he added. "That's the key to keeping (them) one step behind."



Photos by Spc. Ben Brody  
Soldiers from A Btry., 1/9 FA, inspect documents and money found on a man stopped at a traffic control point.



Above: Soldiers from A Btry., 1/9 FA, and an interpreter speak with motorists stopped at a traffic control point in Baghdad.

Left: Spc. Joel De Leon, A Btry., 1/9 FA fire direction coordinator, attaches the barrel of a .50-caliber machine gun before leaving on a patrol from Camp Patriot, Iraq, Feb. 27.

# No Soldier left behind

## Spc. Matthew Maupin

***"I will not leave a fallen comrade"***

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

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

Spc. Maupin – we are still looking for you and we will find you. You have not been forgotten.



# Soldier reaches out to 'golden child'

By Spc. Erin Robicheaux  
256th BCT

CAMP LIBERTY, Baghdad — Throughout Operation Iraqi Freedom, U.S. Soldiers have seen what war can do to a country and its people.

Staff Sgt. Jessica Kelly, 256th Brigade Combat Team, is reaching out to one local resident to help make a difference.

"He's never going to walk again, but I just want him to be as comfortable as possible for what time he does have left."

For the past two months Kelly, brigade surgeon assistant, has been working to get help for a 17-year-old boy who was injured at the start of the war.

During the United States' initial entrance into Baghdad, planes dropped shells during an air raid and the boy, Malik, was within range when one exploded. Shrapnel pierced his back and went into his spinal column, leaving him paralyzed from the waist down.

When Kelly first examined him, he was also suffering from secondary complications to the paralysis.

"On our initial visit we (medics) found him laying on a clay floor," she said. "He had old bandages that were being washed and reused and he had horrible sores on his legs and hips."

The medics gave Malik intravenous antibiotics, cleaned his sores and

changed his bandages.

The sores were a result of lying on the hard floor and not being turned frequently enough — the worst bed sores she had ever seen, Kelly said.

Malik had a lot of tissue loss and bone was exposed on each hip.

As Kelly and the medics left, she vowed to get help for him and his family and she promised them she would be back.

She wrote her report and submitted it to her commanding general, who approved Malik as a "Golden Child" status." This meant that his case would receive special attention.

As the report was making its way up through the channels, Kelly did not put Malik's family on the back-burner. She made several visits to them, dropping off bandages, sterile water and antibiotics for his wounds.

Recently, Kelly got the news that the approval had been granted to give Malik and his family \$2,500.

Their home was destroyed during the air raids, so right now they are living in an abandoned school with three or four other families.

"Hopefully this money will get them out of the school and set up a little bit," said Kelly.

The children's father is elderly and unable to work, and the next son in line is 10 years old.

It will be a while before he is able to bring an income



Spc. Erin Robicheaux

Staff Sgt. Jessica Kelly, 256th BCT, puts new dressings on Malik's wounds.

into the house.

The money from 256th may go a long way to keep the family somewhat comfortable until the younger son is able to support them.

A few days ago, Soldiers brought Malik a bed and restraints for his wheelchair to help him sit upright. Kelly also performed wound care and applied new dressings to his injuries.

She said what she is most excited about is that two local physicians are going to actually go to Malik's home, pick him up and take him to

the paralysis center in Baghdad.

There are many scenarios that could help give him a prolonged and better quality of life. One option is to take his leg, something the doctors would like to avoid. Ideally, they would like to do skin grafts and rehabilitation, but it is unsure how successful that will be. They are also unsure of how much time he has left.

"It's hard to say what his life expectancy is," said Kelly, "he could die within the year or live for many more years."

She says that it all depends on the kind of care that he receives.

Thanks to Kelly, Malik and his family are getting a second chance.

She says that the gratitude from his mother and sister are more and more evident with each visit and that their reactions let her know that she is making a difference.

"When his mom kisses me and praises Allah that I'm here, I can't think of a more noble cause to be away from my own family, than to be doing this."

# Schumacher known as 'Golden Dragon for life'

Spc. Matthew McLaughlin  
10th Mtn. Div.

CAMP LIBERTY, Baghdad — In the "here today, deployed tomorrow" world of Fort Drum, N.Y., home of the 10th Mountain Division, there are a few unchanging facts of life: the winters are unbearably cold, deployment tempo is high, and "Sergeant Shu" remains with 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment.

Since enlisting April 1991, Sgt. 1st Class David J. Schumacher, a platoon sergeant with B Company, 2/14 Inf., has been with the Golden Dragons, one of the most deployed battalions in the most deployed division since 1985. In fact, the last time 2/14 Inf. deployed without Schumacher was 1967 in Vietnam.

"The fact that he's been in (the battalion) for 14 years, that's an oddity," said Sgt. Todd Stoner, 2/14 Inf. "That just doesn't happen."

Schumacher, an Easton, Penn. native, arrived at Drum in April 1991 as part of a cohort unit, meaning a majority of his company from basic training was stationed together there. The years passed

and Soldiers came and went, but Schumacher remained at 2/14 Inf., even after all his fellow "cohort Soldiers" left.

"A lot of them got out around the same time," Schumacher said. "I made a lot of great friends. I kind of had to make whole new friends."

The division's history of deployments, or rather the history Schumacher was a part of, initially prevented him from moving to a new duty station. His first deployment was a humanitarian mission to aid Floridians after Hurricane Andrew hit the state in 1991.

He returned for a stabilization period only to deploy again in 1992 to Haiti. He deployed again in 1993 to Somalia, where 2/14 aided Rangers under assault in the battle made famous by "Blackhawk Down."

His fourth deployment in four years — another trip to Haiti — sealed the deal for him. He was a Golden Dragon for life.

"It seemed like every time it came time to move, stabilization came up," Schumacher said. "If we're not the most deployed unit in the Army, we're close.

The water doesn't get stale around here."

Eventually, family life deterred Schumacher from reassignment. He met his future wife, Robin Whitmore, a Brownville, N.Y., native.

They married in 1993 and have two children, Michael and David.

After seven years without a change of duty station, the Schumacher's bought a house in Brownville in 1998. Regardless of a possible change of duty station, Schumacher said he will probably retire there.

"I felt it was a real comfortable place," he said. "I would like to remain at Fort Drum. Who knows what's on the horizon?"

More deployments were on the horizon for Schumacher after Somalia. He deployed to Bosnia in 1997 and Kosovo in 2001.

He then deployed to Iraq in March 2003 and again in June 2004. His experience with the Golden Dragons made him a living historian for younger Soldiers and Soldiers new to the unit, he said.

"Lots of people preparing for the boards come up to me and say, 'What year were we in Haiti?'"

Schumacher said many Soldiers have told him experiencing only one duty station will hinder his career. He disagrees, crediting his multiple deployments with 2/14 Inf. as a strong reason why he will be promoted to master sergeant in April.

"Being deployed to so many theaters ... I have so much experience now," Schumacher said. "I saw all of it."

His knowledge of combat situations isn't the only benefit he has for his Soldiers, Schumacher said. Living at

Drum for so long made him a sort of North Country sage.

"I can tell them which hunting and fishing spots to go to, which bars to go to and stay away from, where not to buy a car," he said.

As a platoon sergeant in Iraq, Schumacher's experience continues to benefit him. Soldiers ask him often how his present deployment measures up to previous deployments.

"Sometimes a Soldier will say, 'Hey, Sergeant Schu, does that remind you of Somalia?'" he said. "I say, 'Yeah, that (rocket propelled grenade) was kind of heartwarming.'"

Of all his deployments, Schumacher said this has been the hardest. He and B Company spent most of the summer quelling insurgency in Sadr City, formerly a highly volatile area in Iraq. B Company lost five Soldiers, more than any company in 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

Despite the hardships, Schumacher reenlisted indefinitely in November. He also noted several Soldiers from his company reenlisted during the deployment.

"As rough as we've had it ... we had five, maybe six, reenlistments," he said. "That says something for what we're doing over here."

Schumacher deployed more times as a part of the most deployed battalion, in the most deployed division in the Army, than any 2/14 Inf. Soldier.

He spent more time in Iraq in the last two years than with his family and loved ones. Why does he do it?

"I can't see myself doing anything else," he said. "The things I get to do as a platoon sergeant you can't find in any other job. Who else, besides a Soldier, would understand it?"



Spc. Matthew McLaughlin

Sgt 1st Class David Schumacher (right) converses with Staff Sgt. Jimmy Swanson, both 2/14 Inf., after a patrol March 7.

# Comics keep Victory Soldiers in stitches

Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft  
Associate Editor

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq — Here in Baghdad, stress and tension are commonplace among Soldiers, and without the comforts of home, sometimes it's not too easy to get rid of those feelings.

But when comedians Colin Quinn, Steve Byrne and Robert Kelly stepped onto the stage March 13, any somber thoughts were drowned out by hundreds of Camp Victory Soldiers' howling laughter ringing happily through the night air.

Quinn, who is well-known from his years on NBC's "Saturday Night Live" and from his Comedy Central show, "Tough Crowd with Colin Quinn," made his first appearance in Baghdad in 2004.

Apparently, one trip just wasn't enough, though, and Quinn's return found Soldiers ready for a laugh waiting in lawn chairs at the foot of the stage.

"I was here last year, and I love what you've done with the place," he said as he greeted his audience. "This is where civilization began ... and it stayed that way."

He went on to encourage Soldiers, upon returning home, to "walk into any job you want, and kick the other guy out of it."

"Tell them, 'I sacrificed for you, now get out,'" he said.

Coming to perform for deployed troops, Quinn explained, was "the least I could do."

"When I first found out we could come over here, I said, 'Anytime I can be doing anything for them, I'll do it.'"

"You guys are probably my best audience," he continued. "When I think about the sacrifices (Soldiers) are making over here, and then they come up and thank me — I say thank you ... I know it sounds cheesy, but it's true."

Quinn said it surprised him during his first trip here to see "how many of the troops are such nice, good people."

"From the stories the American media gives us, it was amazing for me to come over here and not see them trying to (mess) people up," he said. "They try to put such a bad light on what's going on over here, but after the elections (went so well) ... even the media, as much as they wanted to make it a bad thing, they couldn't."

There were certainly no bad tidings to report during the show, which ran close to two hours, nor afterward during a "meet-and-greet" in the Victory gym, as Soldiers had the opportunity to get pictures signed and chat with Quinn, Byrne and Kelly.

"They were hilarious," said Pfc. David Salas, an Altus, Okla., native assigned to 35th Signal Brigade, 18th Airborne Corps. "I give props to any-

one who wants to come all the way out to Iraq, to the middle of nowhere, to give a show for the troops."

Unlike Quinn, this was Byrne and Kelly's first time in the country, and both said the event had an impact on them.

"It was probably the most humbling experience I've ever had," Byrne said. "We were at Camp Korea, and we were five hours late because of flights, but these guys waited all that time to see us, and they were one of the best crowds I've had ... it's such a huge contradiction for you guys to thank us."

Kelly said the performances he gave here over the weekend "changed my life."

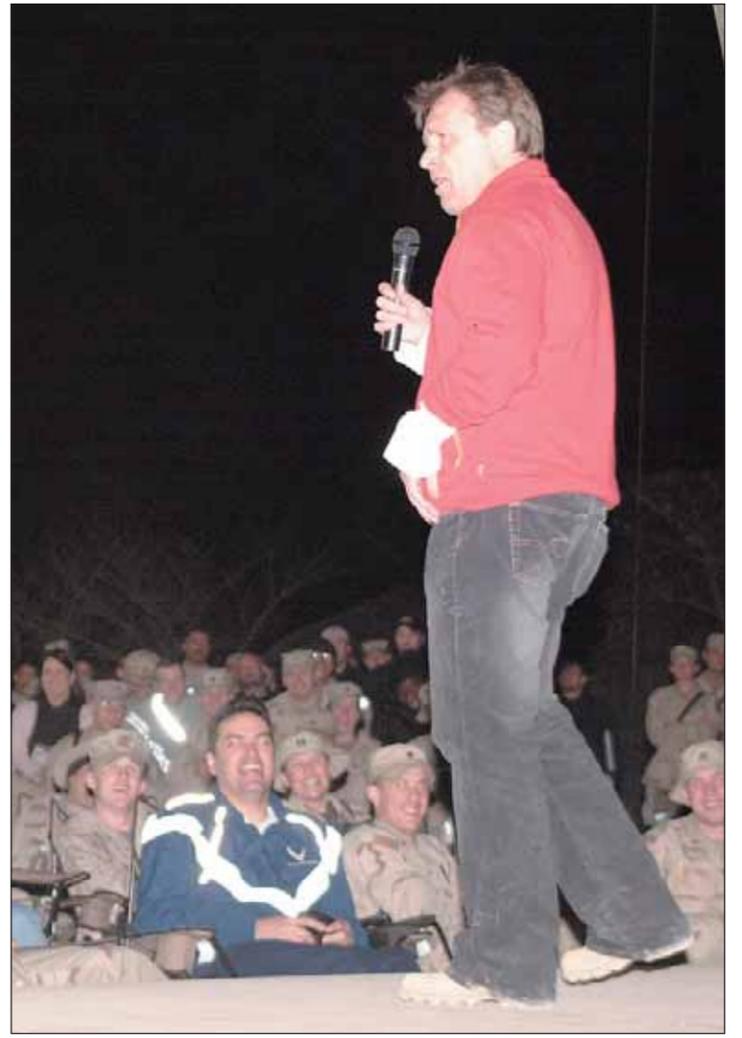
"I've done a million shows," he said, "but doing it for you guys ... when you say 'Thank you,' you really mean it."

"We appreciate you more than you could ever appreciate us," he added.

The comedians' topics ranged from politics to partying, and nothing was sacred, but according to many Soldiers, the evening's pleasure was all theirs.

"It was a really great show; I really enjoyed it," said Sgt. 1st Class Luis Rosado, 166th Aerial Support Group, from Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico. "It shows that they really care about servicemembers."

Capt. Shane Stadtmiller, Task Force 134, from Marion Center, Pa., echoed Rosado's



Sgt. Andrew Miller

Comedian Colin Quinn entertains a crowd of Soldiers at Camp Victory March 13.

sentiments.

"Any time a celebrity is willing to just make the plane trip, it shows that they don't just say they support the troops, but that they actually do support the troops," he said.

Quinn said the biggest challenge he's had is having to

deal with cynical people back in the States.

"It's almost shameful to be patriotic in the U.S. these days," he said. "I feel like the amount of sacrifice the Soldiers are making is so amazing ... I hope they remember they should be proud, and stay proud when they come home."



Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft

Quinn shakes hands with Spc. Samuel Stalions, Golconda, Ill., while he and colleagues Steve Byrne and Robert Kelly take time after the show to meet fans and give autographs.



Photos by Spc. Matthew Wester

Soldiers of C Troop, 1/11th ACR cordon off a lane of a Baghdad street in order to search a suspicious vehicle during a patrol through the Sha'ab neighborhood.

# 1/11th ACR patrols through Baghdad



Staff Sgt. Daniel D. Gililland, sniper for C Troop, 1/11th ACR, provides security on the roof of an Iraqi Police station in the Sha'ab area of Baghdad while officers from his unit meet with Iraqi officers downstairs.

**Spc. Matthew Wester**  
100th MPAD

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – “Wheels up’ is at 1400!” an officer shouted to a group of troops gathered in a tight horseshoe around a command humvee.

The Soldiers, members of C Troop, 1st Squadron, 11th Cavalry Regiment, were getting last-minute instructions, looking at maps, and checking weapons and vehicles to prepare for a patrol through the Sha’ab neighborhood of Baghdad.

This isn’t their first time around the neighborhood.

“We rolled out with 39th (Brigade Combat Team, Arkansas National Guard) every day, patrolling and doing right-seat rides,” said Spc. Anthony Munoz, a native of Phoenix, Ariz., and the driver of the commander’s vehicle during patrols. “We took over the job and that is what we do now.”

“We put boots on the ground, make contacts, and build a rapport with the

community,” said Capt. Loyd W. Brown, C Troop commander.

The convoy sliced through traffic, passed streets crowded with people and lined with furniture shops, food peddlers and apartments.

Their first stop was an Iraqi Police station protected by huge blast walls and vigilant Iraqi gunners on the roof.

“We go to each district, and go to each (Iraqi Police) and (Iraqi National Guard) station,” Brown said. “We share information, so we can work together. They’re very good at doing patrols and taking care of the neighborhood.”

After meeting with the Iraqi Police, the troop moved on to a local apartment complex where hundreds of children swarmed the vehicles, asking for candy and wanting to talk with the Soldiers.

The kids were excited when a gunner passed out small Iraqi flag stickers and key chains.

The sun started to set as

the troopers rolled out to their final stop - an Iraqi army bunker.

Capt. Brown consulted with IA officers and the Soldiers of C Troop had some time to interact with their ING counterparts as they provided security for the bunker.

“We stop in to see what’s going on,” said Sgt. Ugo Carlos a gunner from Santa Anna, Calif. “They’re a helpful bunch of guys.”

“So far I’ve been impressed,” Brown said describing the ING. “They’re a good source of information, and an asset to any mission.”

“They just want to secure their country,” he said.

The Soldiers stayed alert as the patrol wound down and the convoy headed back to Camp Taji.

This was just one of many missions C Troop will carry out over the course of their tour in Iraq.

Brown believes they are ready to do the job.

“My guys look professional, are professional and we’re prepared,” he said.

## Useful Arabic Phrases

English	Arabic	English	Arabic
Yes	na’am	Hello	MARhaban
No	la	What?	maa
Please	men FADlek	When?	mata
Thank you	SHUKran	Where?	AYNa

# Stay alert, stay alive

## 1/13 Armor finds deadly explosives

**Spc. Matthew Wester**  
100th MPAD

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – A group of Soldiers moves slowly along the side of a Baghdad road. They are alert as their eyes scan the sandy ground and dense undergrowth.

“We got wires!” a voice yells out, and the other troops quickly move to their armored vehicles.

They just found the biggest killer of American troops in Iraq – an improvised explosive device. These Soldiers are members of the 1st Battalion, 13th Armored Regiment and 70th Engineers, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division.

They conducted an IED sweep March 7 along a stretch of highway known for being riddled with explosives.

“We protect this road because insurgents put out IEDs and try to get the convoys coming through,” said Capt. Greg Spencer, commander of A Company, 1/13 Armor.

Spencer said four explosive devices were found on the road in the previous seven days.

At the beginning of the sweep, the troops dismounted from their M-113 armored personnel carriers and immediately searched the wreckage of a car bomb previously detonated by insurgents. Gunners manned their turret-mounted M-240 Bravo machine guns as they watched for any sign of trouble.

Then, they fanned out and looked closely at the trash littering the shoulder of the road and the palm grove to their left.

The Soldiers know this ground very well and pay attention to every detail they can about their surroundings.

“They become very adept at it,” Spencer said, describing the skills of his team. “They know every crater.”



*Photos by Spc. Matthew Wester*

**An EOD team detonates an IED found by 1/13th Armor Soldiers in northern Baghdad March 7. Minutes later, someone detonated a second IED a few meters away as Soldiers moved closer to inspect the detonation site.**

Those skills were put to the test when Sgt. Jonathan Wolford and Sgt. Joshua L. Jenkins, both combat engineers with 2nd Platoon, Alpha Company, 70th Engineers, came upon a hollow palm log resting near a small bridge recently repaired after being damaged by a Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Device.

Jenkins stooped down, looked into the log and saw something inside.

“I thought it was just trash,” Jenkins said. “Then I put two and two together and figured I found something.”

Jenkins called out to Wolford, who was looking in

the same log from the other end.

“As soon as he said, ‘Sgt. Wolford,’ I saw red wires, alligator clips, and a black box,” Wolford said.

“I’m not scared of explosives, but I have respect for them,” he said. “If you see me running, it’s for a reason.”

The two noncommissioned officers let the rest of the group know of the suspected explosive device, a safe cordon area was established using M1A1 tanks, M-113s and Bradley fighting vehicles, and an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team from 766th Ordnance Company was called to dispose of the

device.

The EOD team used a robot to survey the log.

“We call him Johnny Five,” Wolford said, referring to a robot from the movie “Short Circuit.”

Once it was established an IED was inside, the robot placed explosives on the log, and EOD detonated the device in a huge cloud of dust and debris.

The fireworks weren’t over yet. Thirty minutes later, another explosion rocked the cordon area.

Someone triggered a second device across the median from the first one, as three Soldiers moved toward the

exploded log to inspect it.

No Soldiers were harmed by the blast.

After a group of Bradley fighting vehicles secured the site of the second blast, regular traffic along the route continued. If it wasn’t for the work of the Soldiers of 1-13 and 70th Engineers, the IEDs could have been used against coalition vehicles or personnel.

These Soldiers made sure that didn’t happen.

“We did our job,” Wolford said.

Capt. Spencer agreed.

“It’s a very tangible mission,” he said. “Every day they go out and save lives.”



**Above: Sgt. Jonathan Wolford, a member of A Company, 70th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, scans a road from the turret of an armored personnel carrier.**



**Capt. Greg Spencer (right), commander of A Company 1/13 Armored Battalion, and Spc. Bladimir Joseph search through the wreckage of a previously exploded car bomb.**



Photos by Pfc. Dan Balda

Brig. Gen. Karl Horst, 3rd Inf. Div. assistant division commander (maneuver), grasps the ID tags of a fallen Soldier during a memorial service at Camp Falcon March 5.

# Final farewells



The Mustang firing squad salutes Choi and Giles during the memorial service.

## Mustangs honor fallen brethren

**Pfc. Dan Balda**  
4th BCT

Two fallen Soldiers were remembered during a memorial ceremony held March 5, at Camp Falcon.

"This afternoon we are here to honor and pay tribute to two modern day heroes," said Chaplain (Capt.) Theiring Alexander, 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment chaplain.

Pfc. Min Soo Choi and Pfc. Landon Giles, both of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 6/8 Cav. Regt., were killed while on a recon patrol, when an IED detonated near the vehicle they were riding in, said Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Taylor, battalion sergeant major.

Choi and Giles were awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal and Combat Infantry Badge.

Lt. Col Michael Harris, the battalion commander addressed his Soldiers as the bright sun attempted to break through their pain.

"We've gathered together as a troop many times in our unit's short history, safety briefings and unit runs, unfortunately we've also

come together when there has been a death in our organization," Harris said.

He shared the way he felt from losing two of his troops.

"I made it back to my room before I was overcome with emotion over the loss of two fine men," Harris said. "In our profession there will undoubtedly be sad times. There are dozens and dozens of glorious days, days when you are just bursting with excitement from being a Soldier, from being part of America's team."

Capt. Justin Reese, Choi and Giles' company commander, shared his thoughts and recollections with the assembled mourners.

"Based on their attitude and work ethic, they were a pair of very promising Soldiers," Reese said. "Pfc. Choi traveled across an ocean in hope of becoming a citizen. He traveled across another ocean to answer the call to help others. And now after brightening so many Soldiers' day with his quiet gentle demeanor he leaves us with fond memories of our all to brief time together; our symbol

of freedom, opportunity and hope which brought him into our lives."

Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-NJ, lauded Choi's "bravery and gallantry" before presenting his parents, Jong Dae and Jae Wha Choi, with posthumous citizenship for their son.

"Pfc. Giles knew the day he showed up that we were a serious group, training for a serious mission," Reese said. "Yet he had that special gift to make those around him laugh and make a hard time go easy. We will, as they would have hoped for carry on."

Reese asked the assembled Soldiers to not let anger cloud their judgment.

"We will continue in a way that will make Pfc. Giles and Choi proud of our conduct," Reese said. "I for one will miss their smiles and their courage."

Harris reminded everybody of the ideals Choi and Giles gave their lives for.

"Our actions in Iraq are making a great difference," Harris said. "Our actions during our year here will set the conditions for a safer world for generations to come. Men, I am proud to be a member

of the greatest division in the world. I remind you to remain focused on what is ahead of us, do not dwell on the past. God bless Pfc. Min Soo Choi, God bless Pfc. Landon Giles, God bless their families, and God bless those who volunteer to make the world a safer place."

Fighting back his tears, Pfc. Morris Dixon, a close friend of Giles, shared some of his fondest memories of his fallen comrade.

"Giles embodied what all men should be: responsible, hardworking, compassionate, Dixon said. "He always had a desire to learn things outside of his scope of knowledge."

Paraphrasing the book of Ecclesiastes, chapter three, Chaplain Alexander reminded the attendees of the guidance the Bible gives for losing someone near and dear to their hearts.

"There is a time to mourn... a time for healing, a time for sorrow and a time for joy, a time for dancing a time for war and a time for peace. Their faces will forever be etched in our hearts and minds."



Soldiers assigned to 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment, salute their fallen comrades during the memorial service.



Members of HHT, 6/8 Cav., mourn for their brothers during the service March 5.

## Soldiers deliver donations, offer local students essential tools for education

Staff Sgt. Raymond Piper  
4th BCT

FOB PROSPERITY, Iraq – 1st Cavalry Division Soldiers lent a helping hand to the children of the al Waten Boys School and the al Qadisiyah Girls School in the 215th Apartment Complex in the International Zone Feb. 23.

Members of 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment and their comrades from 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, delivered a truck-load of book bags, each filled with a variety of numerous school supplies.

“We’re providing supplies and bags that are much needed for them to continue their education,” said Lt. Col. Robert M. Roth, 4th Bn., 64th Armor Regt. commander. “I think it shows the people that we care and want to help them anyway we can. “One of the most important things we can do is education.”

The Parkhill, Ky., native added, “Education is the key of success to whatever profession you take up. They know that, and we know that, so it’s a win-win situation.”

One of the underlying themes, according to civil affairs officer Capt. Alexander Rasmussen, is to create a positive relationship between the Soldiers and the local community, specifically the students.

“It lets the students know who we are and that we have families back at home,” the Crownpoint, Ind., native explained. “They get to see us in a different light and see that we care about them.”

Abo Alla, secretary for the neighborhood advisory council, said the children are very happy.

“They feel that they received a gift to help them to continue their studies,” Alla said.

“The Iraqi people feel they have a friendship with the American Soldiers, especially here.”

Rasmussen said there is much emphasis placed on family and togetherness within the Iraqi culture.

“In that light, knowing how community is so important to them, we need to recognize that and bond with them to let them know that we will be there and work side by side to rebuild this country,” he said.

Roth added more insight. “There are (neglected) schools and run-down facilities because of years and years of oppression by a ruthless dictator that kept money only for the few that supported him while the rest of the country went without anything,” Roth said.

“We try to infuse anything we can, whether it’s book bags, money or a fresh coat of paint to get things back up and running.”

He added, “It’s a holistic approach, helping the people and teaching the people to help themselves ... so that one day Iraq can become a great, great nation.”



Staff Sgt. Raymond Piper

An Iraqi school girl looks through the school supplies given to her by Soldiers from 4/64 Armor, 3rd Inf. Div. and 3/8 Cav. Trp., 1st Cav.

JCS, continued from page 1



Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, gives Sgt. Brian Tumey, Sgt. Erin Debaun and Spc. Nigel Griffin the oath of reenlistment in the 3rd Infantry Division main headquarters March 14.

plans officer in charge; Lt. Col. Roy Tunnage, logistics officer in charge; Maj. Thomas Whitaker, civil affairs officer in charge; and Lt. Col. Francis Huber, communications officer in charge.

Webster briefed Myers about some 3rd Inf. Div. accomplishments since arriving in theater, then introduced him to 2nd Lt. Jeremiah Weiker, 36th Engineer Group.

Weiker and other 36th Eng. Grp. Soldiers then gave a demonstration of the Iron Claw, the Buffalo and other engineer achievements, giving Myers the opportunity to climb inside the vehicle and check it out for himself.

After the demonstration, Myers headed inside the division main headquarters building to swear in

three Marne Soldiers who had chosen to reenlist that evening.

Sgt. Brian Tumey, Headquarters and Operations Company, Special Troops Battalion, Spc. Nigel Griffin and Sgt. Erin Debaun, both of Headquarters Support Company, 92nd Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy). All three of the re-enlisting Soldiers are Operation Iraqi Freedom 1 veterans.

After the swearing-in ceremony, Myers presented Webster with a plaque as a symbol of his appreciation.

On his way out, he paused to take a photo with his team in front of the 3rd Inf. Div. mascot, Rocky the bulldog.

“You’re doing a good job,” he said to Webster. “This is a great division.”

GONE, continued from page 1

Army and our country, and their stand was not in vain,” Bowyer continued. “In their own way they have left a lasting mark on each of us who serve and with their families.”

Some of the Soldiers and officers who served with Farnan and Moski shared the ways these Soldiers left a lasting mark on their lives.

“To us he was a friend,” Wells

said, describing Spc. Moski.

“He was the irreverent artist whose drawings would always make you laugh,” Wells said. “He was the low-key comedian who could always put a bright spin on the worst situation.”

According to Wells, Moski was a devoted family man, who is survived by his wife and young daughter.

Wells also shared his memories of Spc. Farnan.

“Farnan always spoke with reverence about his parents and never missed the opportunity to spend weekends at home in Missouri while at Ft. Riley,” he said.

The Soldiers’ battery commander, Captain Ty Martin, gave his perspective on what it was like to lead these two warriors as they fulfilled their duty in Iraq.

“Without doubt, Spc. Farnan and Spc. Moski were great Soldiers and a pleasure to work with,” he said. “To lead such men is an honor that few experience.”

Martin encouraged his men to let these model Soldiers be their example and offered some advice on how to deal with their loss.

Martin said, “Please consider the advice of Teddy Roosevelt when he said, ‘Life brings sorrows and joys

alike. It is what a man does with them, not what they do to him, that is a test of his mettle.”

That mettle will be tested because the 4/1 FA and all the Soldiers of 3rd Bde. have a mission to complete here.

Captain Brian Reed, the 4/1 FA chaplain, gave the Soldiers at the memorial words of encouragement to honor Farnan and Moski by continuing this vital work.

“Don’t let Spc. Farnan and Moski’s sacrifice be in vain,” he said. “Help each other accomplish the mission these two set out to do as well.”

Reed told the Soldiers it was time to get in “the zone” as they took over full control of combat operations in their area of responsibility.

“Find that zone as you honor these fallen comrades,” he said.

Many troops chose to honor them individually at the end of the memorial.

They filed past a display of Farnan and Moski’s helmets, identification tags, boots, medals and rifles.

Some rendered a hand salute and some also paused and touched the tags and helmets.

They took this chance to reach out and say goodbye to the brothers they lost, but will not forget.



Sgt. Kevin Bromley

Spc. Colby Farnan and Spc. Jason L. Moski’s helmets rests atop their rifles in a place of honor during the two Soldiers’ memorial ceremony March 1.

Enemy, nevermore ...

# Raven UAV gets the drop on IEDs

**Staff Sgt. Raymond Piper**  
4th BCT

The Raven could very well be "the little engine that could" of the unmanned aerial vehicle fleet.

Weighing in at four and a half pounds with a five-foot wingspan and stretching a mere 38 inches in length, the Raven is by far one of the smallest aircraft in the Army.

Still, its aerial reconnaissance value has quickly earned the respect of battalion commanders in Iraq and has filled a niche at the battalion level when larger UAVs are unavailable.

"The system is developing the confidence of the leadership," said Maj. Chris Brown, Kuwait Raven Equipping Detachment officer in charge. "We had one commander's team find an (improvised explosive device) on its first mission, and the commander has been sold ever since."

The Raven flies various missions that aid in force protection. It is

flown to search for IEDs, provide reconnaissance for patrols and flies the perimeter of camps.

"the Raven works very well," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Steve Schisler, Raven integration and customer service officer.

Schisler explained that the Raven is best employed in conjunction with ground forces. "If you have guys doing a mounted or dismounted patrol in a city or a small town, you can have the Raven flying overhead providing far side security."

He continued, "The patrol can't see past the building 100 meters in front of them, but the Raven can. The Raven can see beyond the building ... to where two terrorists with their AK-47s are running to engage the patrol. The Soldiers can then respond to the intelligence rather than respond to an attack."

The UAV is small and can be transported easily in three small cases that fit into a ruck sack. The crew can bring it with them and operate wherever the patrol goes.

Schisler's role with the Raven had him travel throughout Iraq to provide customer service to units who flew the UAV.

The longest continuous operation Schisler recalled was for more than 10 hours.

Where large UAVs need space to taxi and land, the Raven is launched by hand and requires one pilot and a second person to monitor the incoming information.

Brown said, "The Raven is not MOS specific, but rather the question is who can the unit use?"

One example Brown gave was the food service specialists in Iraq have a

smaller role because the food services are contracted to Kellog, Brown and Root.

"One of the best pilots in the 1st Cav. is a cook, but that doesn't mean we don't have ...

scouts operating the Raven," he said. "Some of these kids have been raised with Playstation in their hands and are better able to handle watching a screen and controlling the aircraft."

A single Raven costs about \$35,000 and the total system costs \$250,000 but that is a cheap OH-58C, Brown said.

"With this system, we replace a helicopter and crew that's down range and put a system at risk rather than people," he added.

**"If you have guys doing a mounted or dismount patrol in a city or a small town, you can have the Raven flying overhead providing far side security."**

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Steve Schisler  
Raven customer service officer



Photos by Staff Sgt. Raymond Piper

Above: Maj. Chris Brown, Kuwait Raven Equipping Detachment officer in charge, goes over the basics of operating the software for the Raven unmanned aerial vehicle with operators from 4th Brigade Combat Team.

Right: Sgt. 1st Class Austin Bergen, a 1/76 FA, checks the Raven over after assembly.



Above: Bergen assembles the Raven unmanned aerial vehicle.

Left: Sgt. 1st Class Hayden H. Deland, 4th BCT, attaches the nose camera to the Raven UAV as Bergen looks on.

# 1/69 Soldiers remember fallen friends

**Spc. Brian Schroeder**  
*Task Force Baghdad*

CAMP VICTORY, Baghdad – Soldiers gathered here March 8 to celebrate the life of two fallen brothers in arms. Spc. Wai Phyo Lwin and Spc. Azhar Ali, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment Headquarters Company scouts gave their lives in support of bringing democracy and peace to Iraq.

Lwin and Ali were both immigrants to the United States.

Lwin, a Buddhist from Burma and Ali, a Muslim from Pakistan, both loved being Soldiers and both felt that serving in the Army was the best way they could show they were Americans, said Cpt. Christopher Daniels, Headquarters Company, 1/69 Inf. commander.

“They had the opportunity to bring freedom to a country that never had freedom,” Daniels said. “They know what this was like because of the lack of freedom from their childhood.”

Both Soldiers served in the scout platoon of HHC and were inseparable friends. Other members of their platoon said they were always seen together, whether they were eating, relaxing or preparing for the next mission.

“These guys were (the) best of friends,” said Sgt. Jason Olmo, HHC Co., 1/69 IN squad leader. “In life or death you could not separate these two.”

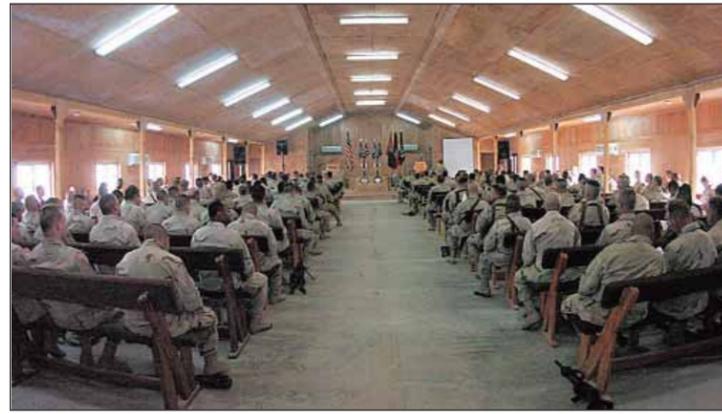
Lt. Col. Geoffrey Slack, 1/69 IN commander said Lwin and Ali’s bravery and courage exemplified the tradition of the “Fighting 69th.” He read the “Rouge Bouquet,” a poem Joyce Kilmer wrote after the 69th suffered its first multiple combat deaths during World War I:

“...Comrades true, borne  
anew, peace to you!  
Your souls shall be where the  
heroes are  
And your memory shine like  
the morning-star.  
Brave and dear,  
Shield us here.  
Farewell!”



A Soldier holds on to the identification tags of Spc. Azhar Ali. Ali and Spc. Wai Phyo Lwin.

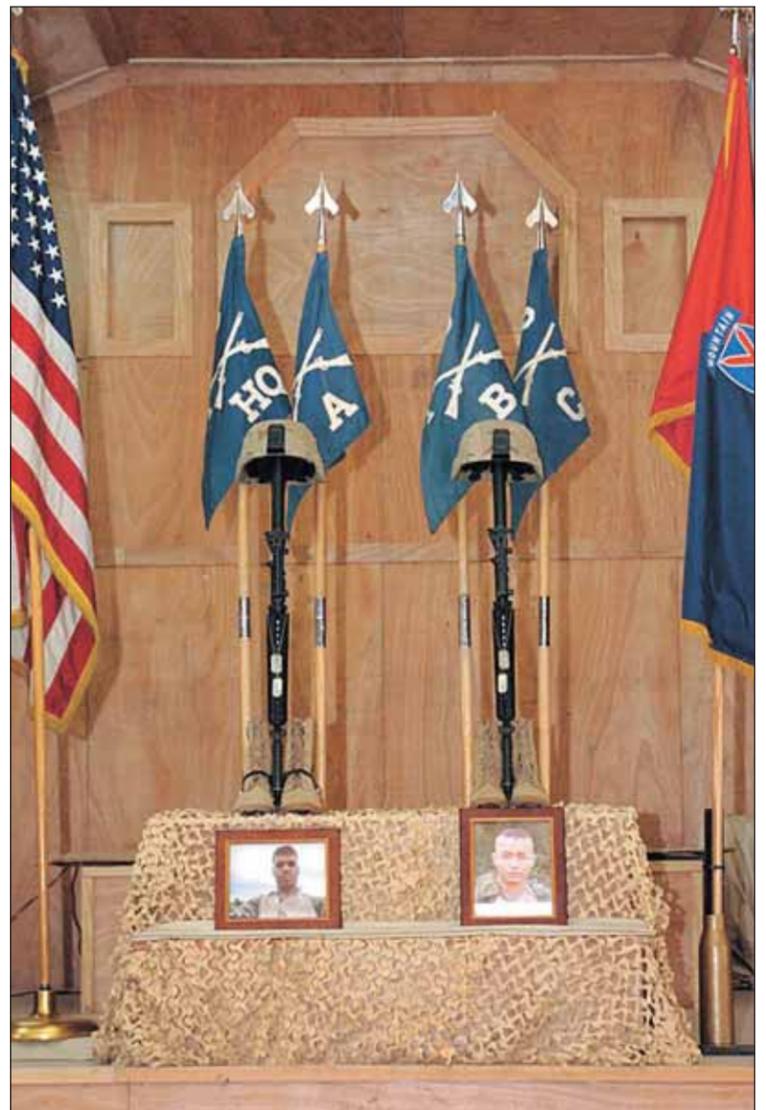
*Photos by Spc. Brian Schroeder*



Soldiers gathered in the Tigerland Chapel for a memorial ceremony to remember the lives of Lwin and Ali.



Above: Three Soldiers salute the memorial for Spc. Wai Phyo Lwin and Spc. Azhar Ali, 1/69 Inf. scouts. Lwin and Ali were remembered as inseparable best friends in both life and death. Right: Lwin and Ali’s photos were set in a place of honor before 1/69 guidons, along with their helmets, boots, medals and identification tags during the service.



# 82nd Soldiers get ready to head home

**Pfc. Mike Pryor**  
82nd Abn. Div.

BAGHDAD, IRAQ – The plane that brought the Soldiers home sits empty on the runway, its long journey complete.

Inside a nearby hangar, the Soldiers stand at attention, the smiles on their faces growing wider by the second.

The families they haven't seen in months are now only a few feet away from them.

"Dismissed!" shouts their commander, and the happy anticipation in the room gives way to joyful chaos. Family members swarm around the Soldiers.

Wives and husbands embrace with tears in their eyes. A father in desert camouflage holds his infant son in his arms for the first time.

These images of homecoming have become familiar sights on the nightly news as units continue to redeploy from missions in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

But they don't tell the full story. Because the process of redeploying doesn't end when a Soldier steps foot on American soil and it begins long before he or she leaves theater.

Redeployment refers not just to a Soldier's movement from a combat zone to garrison, but to the entire process of adjusting to life back in the rear. In its entirety, the process is known as reintegration.

To make the adjustment period easier, the Army requires every Soldier to undergo reintegration training while still in theater.

"Reintegration training is the means by which we ease the transi-

tion between combat and garrison life for our Soldiers and their families," said Staff Sgt. Joseph Osinski, a human resources manager and reintegration training instructor with 3rd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division.

Osinski's battalion, which was deployed to Iraq in December 2004, began conducting reintegration training in early March in preparation for its upcoming redeployment to Fort Bragg, N.C.

The training was conducted by the battalion's Reintegration Training Team, which included representatives from the Human Resources, Staff Judge Advocate, chaplain, intelligence, and medical departments.

The team spent a week traveling between the different company areas, holding several classes a day at each location.

Every Paratrooper in the battalion was required to attend the training, which included briefings on financial and legal issues for redeploying Soldiers, suicide and risk awareness, family and relationship conflicts arising from deployments and operational security.

Another major component of the training was the Post Deployment Health Assessment, an in-depth survey of the paratroopers' physical and mental health.

Reintegration training is designed to anticipate the whole spectrum of issues Soldiers face during redeployment, said Maj. John Bride, Battalion Surgeon, who gave the briefing on

**"There are very few briefs that everyone can relate to on an equal level. Reintegration training is one of them. There's something in there for everyone."**

Maj. John Bride  
3/325 Abn. Inf. Regt. battalion surgeon

suicide awareness.

"It encompasses everything from guidance on how to fill out a travel voucher worth \$3.50 a day to tips on how to prevent suicide."

"There are very few briefs that everyone can relate to on an equal level. Reintegration training is one of them. There's something in there for everyone," Bride added.

Bride received the training during his last deployment. He didn't take it very seriously, he said, until he got home and realized how much of it applied.

When Bride returned home, he found that his wife had been doing the taxes, paying the bills, and running the household – and she liked it! She resented the fact that he expected to just come in and take over.

Other things were different, too. When Bride had to watch the kids alone for a few hours while his wife went shopping, he was overwhelmed.

"I was ready to go back to Iraq," Bride said. "That's when I realized there are stresses and there are issues, and these reintegration classes are important."

Because of that experience, Bride volunteered to teach more classes during this deployment's reintegration training. He ended up teaching the class on suicide prevention as well as overseeing the PDHA.

Spc. Aaron Sutliff, battalion legal specialist, gave the paratroopers their legal brief.

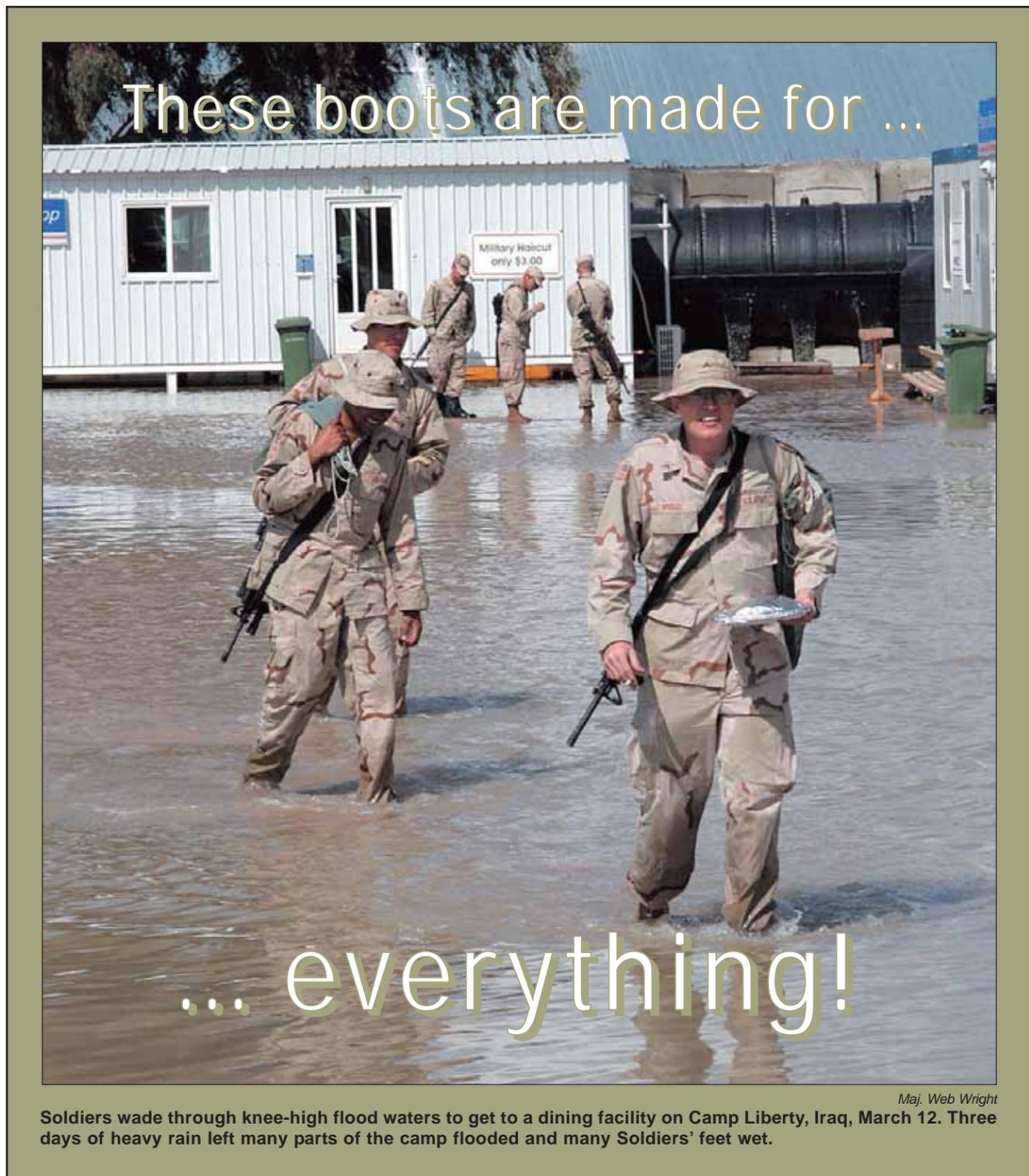
He said reintegration training is important because it gives Soldiers the tools they need to overcome the hidden obstacles that redeploying presents.

"When you deploy, you expect the stress and you prepare yourself to handle it. But nobody expects redeployment to be stressful. Everyone thinks they're going to go home and everything will be perfect. But of course it's not. Our number one goal is to get people back to their normal way of life," Sutliff said.

It was a beautiful spring day on the first day of training, and with thoughts of being home in a few weeks dancing in their heads, some of the paratroopers had a hard time treating the classes as anything but a pure formality.

But veterans of the last deployment – and redeployment – like Sgt. Richard Mouser of Headquarters Company knew how valuable the training was.

"There wasn't a Soldier in there who didn't relate to at least something that was said," Mouser said. "Believe me, they're getting a lot out of it."



Maj. Web Wright

Soldiers waded through knee-high flood waters to get to a dining facility on Camp Liberty, Iraq, March 12. Three days of heavy rain left many parts of the camp flooded and many Soldiers' feet wet.

## 15-day EML begins soon

**Pfc. Ricardo Branch**  
3rd Inf. Div.

All Task Force Baghdad Soldiers who are on orders for 365 days or more in the theater of operation are authorized 15 days of leave to the respective leave addresses of the individual's choosing.

The allotted timeframes for the Environmental Morale Leave program are from April 1 up to 30 days prior to redeployment.

Before starting R&R however, Soldiers are required to attend briefings outlining their unit's specific traveling requirements.

Soldiers will then be issued a plane ticket, at government expense, to the airport nearest their leave location.

They will then depart from Kuwait International Airport to one of three main gateways for EML: Frankfurt International Airport, Atlanta International Airport or Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. Then take connecting flights if needed to their final destination, even to countries outside the U.S.

Those choosing EML in foreign countries must have a valid passport or visa.

Authorized luggage for EML travel consists of the following: one duffel bag (not to exceed 50 pounds) and one carry-on item.

Desert battle dress uniform is the recommended travel attire so that personnel assistance points representatives (located at the three main gateways) can better identify arriving Soldiers to sign them out for leave.

The 15-day leave then begins the day after arriving at the final destination and terminates the day before the returning flight.

Remember that while traveling, Soldiers are ambassadors of the United States, and as such, should act accordingly to bring respect upon themselves, the Army, and America.

Soldiers requiring additional information should contact their unit's S-1 personnel for further guidance.

# Iraqi Soldiers train in close quarters combat

By Spc. Brian Schroeder  
10th Mtn. Div.

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – A platoon of A Company, 303rd Battalion, 40th Iraqi Army Brigade, Soldiers participated in a live-fire, close quarters combat exercise Feb. 28 at Forward Operating Base Hawk.

The live fire was a culmination of three days of training

taught by the 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division's "Commando" Advisory Group.

The three-day training event began with the IA Soldiers zeroing their weapons by firing a series of three-shot groupings until they were satisfied with their efforts.

On the second day, they practiced close quarter marks-

manship and reflexive fire drills, which is responsive engagement and firing at a variety of targets.

The final day of training culminated with a three-part exercise.

First, the Soldiers received sand table instruction on how to properly approach a room with a four-person fire team, or stack.

Following that, they moved

on to a "glass house," which was a life-size blueprint of the actual structure they would learn to clear.

In the final phase, the Soldiers performed close-quarter enter-and-clear battle drills; first without ammunition, then with loaded magazines.

"These guys are doing an outstanding job," said Master Sgt. Owen Meehan, CAG non-commissioned officer in-charge. "They are proficient with what they are doing now. They are doing much better than I thought they would at this point."

Members of the CAG coach and mentor Iraqi Soldiers of the 303rd on simple skill level tasks ranging from squad movements to first aid.

One corporal in the platoon, who has been in the IA for more than a year, said the knowledge he has gained from the CAG has greatly improved his marksmanship skills.

"They are teaching us how to enter and secure a building without taking too many casualties," he said. "We are learning how to shoot well and how to conserve our ammo."

The IA Soldier said the training they are receiving is no comparison to the training they received while serving in Saddam Hussein's army.

One Iraqi sergeant, who requested anonymity for his own safety, said the training they received in the old army was more exhausting than helpful.

"[The old training] would push us and make us tired without teaching us anything; it did not mentally prepare us for combat," the sergeant said. "This training gives us specific skills and mentally prepares us for battle. It is impossible to forget and will stay in our minds always."

The proficiency of their training carries over into their daily patrols on the infamous Haifa Street in the Western Baghdad district of Kadhimyah.

The 303rd's presence along the precarious stretch of road has had a calming effect against the anxiety of those who must travel the dangerous road.

Their successful efforts were noticed by the Iraqi Ministry of Defense, who awarded each Soldier of the battalion a bonus of one month's salary for their adeptness in securing the street.

Staff Sgt. Joseph Myer, CAG assistant plans NCO said he attributes the rapid learning and success of the battalion to the platoon leaders and sergeants taking charge and instructing their troops.

"Our role is to advise the Soldiers," he said. "We show [the platoon leaders] how to do the task and they instruct their Soldiers. It's probably the most high-speed training they have ever done. If they are going to take charge, we let them take charge. It's their own guys, their unit and their army."



Spc. Brian Schroeder

Master Sgt. Owen Meehan, of the 10th Mtn. Div. CAG, instructs an Iraqi squad leader with 303rd Bn., 40th IA Bde. Meehan and other Soldiers from 2nd Bde., 10th Mountain coach and mentor the IA battalion.

## Patrol thwarts potential large-scale attack

3rd Inf. Div. Press Release  
Special to The Marne Express

BAGHDAD — A potential large-scale attack was thwarted March 14 in the Al Rasheed district two days before the first session of the Transitional National Assembly, according to Task Force Baghdad officials.

U.S. Soldiers from 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment discovered a truck that contained 13 suicide-bomber vests, 20 x 107mm Russian rocket warheads, 9 x improvised grenades, 8 x improvised bombs, modified propane tanks filled with explosives, 4 x sticks of PE-4, 2 x bicycle bombs, a

couple hundred pounds of propellant, miscellaneous number of electric blasting caps, tools, medical supplies and improvised-explosive device making equipment.

"This operation was a success because we removed a significant amount of terrorist materials off the street that could have had devastating effects and potentially killed hundreds of innocent people," said U.S. Army Maj. Ross Coffman, 4th Brigade Combat Team Operations Officer.

"Top-notch technology and teamwork between the Iraqis and multinational forces paved the way for safer conditions for the first session of the [Transitional National

Assembly]."

"This operation was a success because we removed a significant amount of terrorist materials off the street that could have had devastating effects and potentially killed hundreds of innocent people," U.S. Army Maj. Ross Coffman.

The truck was discovered by an airborne platform on the east side of the Tigris River in southeastern Baghdad. The coverage tracked the truck's movement until forces could arrive on the scene.

The Combined Explosives Exploitation Cell was dispatched to the site and conducted an emergency detonation after exploiting the site.



Courtesy photos

Top: A Task Force Baghdad Soldier holds up one of the 13 suicide-bomber vests. The vests were part of an explosive and IED-making cache uncovered by Soldiers of the 6/8 Cav. Regt. in the Al Rasheed district of Baghdad March 14.

Above: Thirteen suicide-bomber vests were part of an explosive and IED-making cache.



Task Force Baghdad Soldiers display 107 mm Russian rocket warheads, part of a cache found March 14 in Baghdad.

# Tuskers train IA to fight



Pfc. Dan Balda

Top: Staff Sgt. Pete Peters, 4/64 Armor, teaches an Iraqi National Guardsman the proper posture during reflexive live fire training, March 12 at Camp Independence. Above: Peters teaches an Iraqi National Guardsman the proper posture.

Pfc. Dan Balda  
4th BCT

CAMP PROSPERITY, BAGHDAD, Iraq — “There is a list for people who are in the (Iraqi army soldiers) that the terrorists want to kill,” said Sgt. 1st Class James Uas, an interpreter with D Company, 302nd ING battalion, 40th Iraqi Army Brigade. “My name is second on that list. If somebody kills me they will get \$1,000.”

So is the life of an Iraqi Soldier while undergoing reflexive live-fire training March 12, at Camp Independence.

“We are teaching the ING how to do reflexive fire,” said Staff Sgt. Pete Peters, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment. “It’s the same training all the Soldiers in the division receive before they come over here to Iraq. We do this training so that they can go out on the Iraqi streets and do patrols on their own.”

Even though 4/64 has been working with this group for a short while, they have been able to focus on more advanced training due to the fact that the previous American unit did such a great job with the ING.

“We’ve been working with them for a couple of weeks, they had a lot of training in advance,” Peters said. “It’s been real easy for us to just jump in and continue their training. 1/9 Cav. did a great job of bringing this group up to where we didn’t have to change anything when we took over for them.”

Instead of taking an entire battalion of ING and training them all at the same time, the Soldiers use the “train the trainer” method. After learning how to properly use the training, the assorted Iraqi platoon leaders, platoon sergeants and section sergeants, go back to their squads and platoons to share what they have learned with their troops, Peters said.

“They have been getting real good since we’ve got here,” he added. “They are real quick learners. They want to succeed and to achieve something special. They have a huge desire to learn.”

Capt. Mark McClellan, scout platoon leader for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4/64 Armor, likens their motivation to why people join the U.S. Army but there is an

extra incentive.

“They understand that they are here to take their country back from the insurgents and terrorists, and to make Iraq a better place,” he said. “I believe that some of them join up because of the money, just like in the U.S. Army, but most do it because they want to help their fellow Iraqis.”

Uas agrees with McClellan.

“I have been working with the Americans for two years,” he said. “It’s been very nice, I get to help people and kill terrorists. I like my job. Before, in Saddam’s army, nobody really liked their job. In one month we made two dollars, now I make \$400 a month. It’s very different, now I can eat or go out and have fun with people. I love my job a lot.”

McClellan has already seen the fruits of his and the ING’s labors.

“I’ve already seen it on Haifa Street,” he said. “People are cleaning up their own streets, putting in their own sewer systems. This ING group is the one that cleaned up Haifa Street. They are the ones taking grenades and getting shot at, and they have a lot of pride behind what they are doing right now.”

Uas has enjoyed working with the Army thus far regardless of the danger factor.

“I have been working with the Americans for two years,” he said. “It’s been very nice, I get to help people and kill terrorists, I like my job except when we get attacked. A grenade went off behind me and I had all kinds of marks on my weapon.”

Uas hasn’t been back to his home in one week because he has been staying at Independence training or going out on patrols.

“I do this because I like to kill terrorists,” he said. “I like to help people, I like to help kids.”

McClellan has seen an improvement in their military skills, he said. But the real success is out on the streets.

“You can see how proud they are when they drive around in their trucks with the Iraqi flag flying in the wind, and people in the streets are waving to them,” he said. “One time we came back from a patrol and there were all these children cheering for their troops. You could see the smiles on the Iraqi Soldiers’

## Crew chiefs prove pivotal to Avn. Bde.

Spc. Derek Del Rosario  
Avn. Bde.

Even with all the improvements and enhancements that have been made to Army aircraft over the years, the high-tech machines wouldn’t even get off the ground without the finely-tuned crews who bring them to life.

By properly caring for their equipment and learning its capabilities and their jobs inside and out, these Soldiers make themselves essential to the Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division mission.

The first line of defense in maintaining the brigade’s helicopter fleet is the role of the crew chief.

Before a pilot even enters the cockpit of a helicopter, the crew chief is on the flight line working on the helicopters to make sure they are mission-ready.

Pfc. Francis S. Tun, a crew chief in C Co., 1st Battalion, 3rd Attack Reconnaissance Regiment (known as 1/3 ARB), feels he plays an integral role to the pilot’s mission.

“Crew chiefs have to keep track of all inspections and maintenance and make sure they are not overdue,” said Tun. “Constant maintenance is important to make sure the birds can fly and the pilots can do their missions.”

Many crew chiefs believe that making sure a pilot can complete his mission is their primary goal, and they have to make sure that everything on the helicopter is ready so that a pilot can get in

a helicopter and be ready to go.

Crew chiefs need to have extensive knowledge of the helicopter in order to find and fix problems. They identify a system that’s down and then find out which section can fix it.

While crew chiefs in ARBs work on Apaches, those in General Support Aviation Battalions like 2nd Battalion, 3rd General Support Aviation Regiment and 4th Battalion, Assault Helicopter Regiment, work with Blackhawks and Chinooks.

Crew chiefs on Blackhawk helicopters both maintain the aircraft and fly them during missions. Blackhawk and Chinook crew chiefs also must qualify with M60D machine guns and man them during missions.

“We maintain the Blackhawk so it can get to its destination,” said Sgt. Cardron F. Nixon, an A Co., 2/3 GSAB, crew chief. “When in flight, we scan our sectors for any potential enemies.”

In addition, Blackhawk chiefs take care of passengers by making sure they are strapped in and the back of the aircraft is secure, said Spc. Matthew S. West, another A Co., 2/3 GSAB, crew chief.

Flying in the Blackhawks can present obstacles, though, according to West.

“Our job can be difficult during dusk,” he said. “It’s too light outside to use night vision goggles and just dark enough to obstruct vision.”

Being part of the aircraft crew might seem like an extra duty, but flying in the

Blackhawks is a reward in itself for some crew chiefs.

“There’s nothing better than flying, it’s why I work here,” said Spc. Nathan B. Dennis, A Co., 2/3 GSAB. “I get to see a lot of Baghdad and meet interesting people, such as Iraqi government officials.”

Crew chiefs’ routines can be anything but typical, and they have to be able to adapt to the situation at hand.

“We have a list of missions we have to do, but sometimes a mission request will come in and we have to work quickly,” Dennis said. “In my job, you learn how to be flexible.”

Dennis and his equivalents put in many hours on the flight line. As long as pilots are flying, crew chiefs have to be working to help ensure the helicopters are operational.

“We don’t get off of work until the maintenance is done,” Tun said. “Usually we’ll have someone bring us lunch so we can continue to work on Apaches.”

On days with early missions scheduled, crew chiefs will sometimes have to come in the early mornings and put in 12-hour-plus days, West said, but despite the long hours, the Soldiers depend on each other to stay in good spirits.

“We have a good crew and we keep each other up,” said Nixon. “We joke with each other to keep our morale up. It’s a great benefit to be working with great people.”

All the time and hard work is well worth it, as the crew chief gets much gratification in the job they do.

For Tun, it is a great honor to be a crew chief.

“It is honorable to be a crew chief because we are working for the pilots,” Tun said. “It makes me feel good to see a helicopter land. When pilots come back from a mission — that’s what matters the most.”



Spc. Derek Del Rosario

Spc. Nathan B. Dennis, A Co., 2/3 GSAB, installs a panel on a Blackhawk while Sgt. Cardron F. Nixon oversees.

# Women veterans: a proud heritage

Joan A. Furey

Center for Women Veterans

From the days of the American Revolution to the conflict in the Persian Gulf and today, throughout the World, American women have and are honorably serving in defense of our Nation. In times of war and peace, women have willingly responded to their country's call. Their contributions are characterized by individual and collective acts of self-sacrifice, patriotism, dedication and personal heroism. Yet, how many of us are familiar with their contributions, adversities and struggles? How many of us are aware that women were present on the battlefields of the Great War, in the mud at Anzio and at the fall of Bataan? Women served in Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, Somalia, Bosnia and other places our Armed Forces have gone.

Not all-military service takes place in the arena of war; however, a majority of military personnel both men and women, has performed military service during peacetime. Although their role is often perceived as less glamorous than those who are associated with wartime service, their contribution is no less important. Unfortunately, women who have served in the military are rarely acknowledged in paintings, statues and memorials commemorating America's military history and the word "veteran" is rarely associated with women.

The 1980 Census was the first to ask American women if they had served in the Armed Forces... and more than 1.2 million said, "Yes." These women represented 4.6% of the veteran population, more than half of whom served during a period of war.

So, why is it that women veterans are invisible? Why is their military service and sometime heroic actions seldom recognized or honored? It is, in large part, because of preconceived social stereotypes and cultural mores. Throughout history, military service has been recognized as a synonym for "combat" or "war." And "war" has always been considered as a masculine activity. Yet, if we seriously looked at the characteristics so valued in war: steady nerves, sound judgment, courage, tenacity, patriotism and sacrifice, we will find that they are traits found and exhibited by members of both sexes. A review of the history of women in the military demonstrates this fact very clearly.

Although not officially recognized as members of the Armed Forces until 1901, the involvement of women in military-related activities and matters in this country dates back at least to the Revolutionary War. It was then that Mary Hayes McCauly earned her nickname, Molly Pitcher, by carrying water in a grog to her husband and other American artillerymen. Her fame, however, is credited to when her husband collapsed in battle and she immediately took his place firing a cannon until the Battle was over. Deborah Sampson, disguised as a man, enlisted in the Revolutionary Army and fought in several engagements for three years. Injured twice, she treated her own wounds to avoid detection, but after being rendered unconscious and near death by a musket ball, the treating doctor discovered her true identity and she was quietly discharged from the Army.

Like the women who would follow her, Deborah Sampson served bravely and returned home quietly. Little did she know that she was setting a standard of behavior that would persist for close to two centuries.

During the Civil War, women like Clara Barton contributed their energy and demonstrated their commitment to country and honor on both sides of the war effort. Although most women served as cooks and nurses, other women became scouts and spies in their effort to support their side.

Clara Barton contributed significantly to the establishment of a level of care for wounded Soldiers that paralleled the contributions of Florence Nightingale during the Crimean War. After the War, Clara Barton established the first National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, and went on to found the American Red Cross.

Other women heroes of the Civil War included Dr. Mary Walker, who gave up her medical practice to go with the Union Army as a nurse because women could not be doctors. She later volunteered to be a spy was captured by the Confederacy and held prisoner for four months. Dr. Walker was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for her actions, although it was later rescinded. She refused to return the medal and wore it proudly until her death. In 1976, the U.S. Congress restored this honor and Dr. Mary Walker became the only woman in our Nation's history to be awarded the highest military award for Valor in War.

In 1898, during the Spanish-American War, 1,500 nurses, under civilian contract, provided outstanding care in the field and on what may have been the first hospital ship, the Relief. One of the nurses, Clara Maas, assisted with the research into yellow fever transmission. In volunteering to be bitten by an infected mosquito, she was the last human subject to be used in these experiments and the only one to die. These studies paved the way to the development of a vaccine that later saved thousands of lives.

The outstanding care provided by the nurses during the Spanish American War resulted in the formulation of the Army Nurse Corp in 1901, followed by the Navy Nurse Corp in 1908. Many of these women saw duty during World War I, served close to the front lines and were wounded or gassed. World War I also saw women serving outside the Nurse Corp

for the first time. Volunteers were recruited to assume some of the clerical duties routinely done by men. This call for volunteers resulted in over 12,000 volunteers for the Navy and others for the Marines. 10,000 of these women were assigned overseas. They had no rank, no benefits and no entitlements. Still, they volunteered, they served and at the end of the War, when they were no longer needed, they returned quietly to civilian life.

Women's role in the military faded once again and although

spend 37 months in prisoner of war camps. During captivity, they spent untold hours performing heroic deeds that ultimately resulted in many lives being saved.

No story of women's military service during World War II would be complete without acknowledging the 900 women who voluntarily joined the Women Air Force Service Pilots. Organized in 1942 at the request of General Hap Arnold, these women logged more than 60 million air miles. They served as flight instructors for men; ferried airplanes from the US to Europe, including high-speed fighters, bombers and P-47 thunderbolts. They also had the dubious privilege of towing targets for male fighter pilots so that they could practice on a moving object while using live ammunition.

In an unbelievable example of discrimination based on gender, these women received no support from the military, except for their pay, and were not even eligible for medical care or insurance in the case of an on the job injury. Thirty-eight WASPS were killed in

airplane crashes and many more injured, but these women received no benefits and, upon their death, could not have a US flag draped over their casket. In 1977, Congress granted the surviving WASPS veteran status.

The Korean War, though often overlooked in history, once again saw women serving, both in the hospitals and in support roles. The development of the Air Evacuation System for combat casualties and the expansion of the roles of the flight nurse were pioneered during Korea and ultimately this system would make a significant difference in the casualty care system during Vietnam.

Vietnam was our Country's longest war. The perception that women, if there at all, were assigned to "safe" places demonstrates our ignorance of women's contributions once again. From the rice paddies in the Delta to the jungles of the DMZ, women served in hospitals, MASH units and support areas across the country. Eight women were killed in action. Towns such as Pleiku, Da Nang, Chu Lai and Phu Bai became and remain as much a part of the memories and stories of the women who served in Vietnam as they are of the men that served with them. So were the experiences of death, disease and disillusionment. Vietnam redefined war; there were no front lines and no safe places.

The Vietnam war changed many things in this country, but

perhaps the organization it most changed was the U.S. military.

The advent of the all-volunteer Army and the increasing demand for technologically skilled Soldiers, the feminist movement and the successful service of women, contributed to the change of the military structure of the early 1970's. It became apparent that women were not just on active duty serving in insignificant supporting roles during wartime, their ongoing contributions were recognized as essential. By 1991, and the War in the Persian Gulf, over 11 percent of the active duty military and 13 percent of the reserve forces were women.

But change was still underway. Although women had participated in the invasion of Grenada, and in Operation Just Cause in Panama, they did not receive the public and media attention they did during Operation Desert Storm.

The war in the Persian Gulf was a true tuning point for women in the military.

For the first time, they were called upon to demonstrate their effectiveness and serve in positions previously reserved for men. Positions such as: manning patriot missile placements, flying helicopters on reconnaissance and search and rescue missions and driving convoys over the desert close to enemy positions. Women were called upon to do all of these jobs and more.

Women were exposed to the same dangers as men. Close to 35,000 women served in the Persian Gulf, and they served well. The success of their service can probably be best measured by the fact that many new positions and career specialties have been opened to women in recent years.

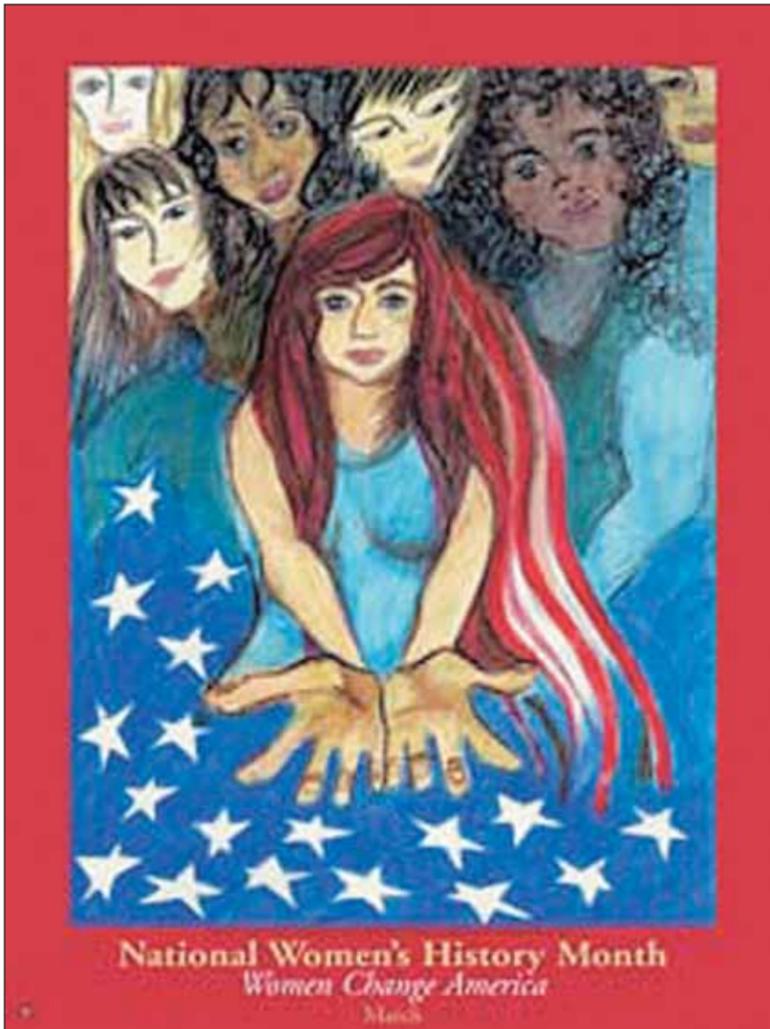
The history of women in the military is a history of love of country, service, commitment, dedication and courage and it includes sacrifices that have largely gone unrecognized. But perhaps, that is changing.

On Veterans Day in 1993, a bronze statue of three women and a wounded Soldier was dedicated on the Mall in Washington, DC. This statue, in close proximity to the Vietnam Wall, was placed there in honor of the 265,000 women who served during the Vietnam era. It was a historic moment in time; for it was the first time our country has bestowed national recognition upon women who answered their country's call.

Then, in October 1997, the Women in Service to America Memorial was officially dedicated at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery. This grand memorial was 11 years in the making and recognizes the honorable military service of women throughout history.

From the Revolutionary War to the present, America's women veterans have been invisible heroines. They are true examples for future generations that securing our country's liberty and freedom are everyone's responsibility.

As a nation, we must pay tribute to the American women; our grandmothers, mothers, and sisters, aunts and friends, who have served their country through military service; for indeed theirs is a proud and honorable heritage. They must be recognized for their contributions to the freedoms we so enjoy today.



the Army and Navy Nurse Corps continued to exist, women who served still did not receive the rank, pay or benefits as the men did.

Then, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor.

As America confronted the need to mobilize all of its resources for war, once again the need for women in the military became apparent and the Women's Army Auxiliary Corp was established. Within a year, WAACs would be fully incorporated into the Army and become the Women's Army Corp with its members receiving rank, pay and appropriate benefits. Women served throughout the theaters of war-operation. As secretaries, interpreters, intelligence operatives they willingly served wherever they were assigned. Nurses once again were on or near the battles and front lines. Their dedicated service and untold sacrifices were present at Anzio, Normandy, in France, Germany and in the South Pacific.

Over 200 military nurses were killed by hostile fire, including 6 Army Nurses who remain buried at the beachhead on Anzio. Several hundred received military decorations for heroism and bravery, including the Silver Star and Bronze Star.

In a seldom-told story of heroism, 81 military women remained on the islands of Bataan and Corregidor to care for the wounded during the fall of the Philippines. Captured by the Japanese, they were to

# Army divers clear bridge-threatening debris

Pfc. Abel Trevino

28th PAD

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — Battling the elements and the murky depths of the Tigris River, divers from the 511th Dive Team spent days attempting to raise a sunken pontoon as rain and hail pelted them.

The pontoon that collapsed has stopped traffic from crossing the civilian bridge and has forced all traffic to cross on the bridge 100 feet downstream, which was designed for military traffic only.

"The pontoon sunk to the bottom, therefore creating a hazard for the American bridge," U.S. Army 1st Lt. Richard Wertz, 511th Dive Team commander. "The pontoon is causing the entire civilian bridge to fail and is heading towards the American bridge, [which will] cause the American bridge to fail."

Divers took two days to survey the sunken pontoon and an additional four days to surface it.

"We did a survey with scuba gear on to identify all the holes; there are about 29 holes on the deck," Wertz said. "We can't find any holes on the bottom because the pontoon is sitting on the bottom, so there's probably a small hole on the bottom."

On the first day, divers assessed damage to the pontoon and attempted to surface it by pumping water in the main chambers out.



Sgt. Brandon Kraemer

Debris was one of the obstacles that caused the limited visibility the divers had to face as they attempted to patch the pontoon.

"Divers installed the patches over the hatches with holes cut out so we can put in our pipe that we are going to eventually feed down [to] our pump so we can suck the water out of it and let air in," said Staff Sgt. Ernest Lee Vance, 511th Dive Team non-commissioned officer in charge.

As water is pumped from

the pontoon, air will fill the empty space and the pontoon will float to the surface. The job was difficult for the divers due to the conditions of the Tigris River.

"The current was just incredible, so we had about two, maybe three, inches of visibility. To see what we were doing we had to have our faces right on [the pon-

toon]," Spc. Sean Rowly, one of divers who attached the PVC pipe to the pontoon, said. "Other than that, just trying to hold on and not get whipped away or have my buddy thrown into me was [difficult]."

Wertz said the water was moving at around three knots per hour, creating the strong currents divers fought to

work in.

March 7, after four days of fighting the currents of the Tigris, 511th raised the sunken pontoon, which was so hole-riddled that it took numerous patches before it was capable of floating, according to Capt. Christopher Taylor, 814th Engineer Company commander.

## 365th engineers earn Purple Heart after IED attack

Spc. Jennifer Fitts

100th MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Explosions tearing through a busy road construction site caused combat engineers to get a little closer to their work than they expected when hitting the dirt and asphalt as mortars landed among them and their equipment on March 7.

When the four mortar rounds came whistling in, Soldiers from C Company, 365th Engineer Battalion, a National Guard unit from Scranton, Pa., attached to Ft. Stewart's 92nd Engineer Brigade, had moved dirt, cut rebar and mixed cement for two days to repair three large holes on a critical supply route.

The craters, measuring from four to twelve feet deep and spreading 30 to 50 feet in diameter, were caused by

improvised explosive devices. Their presence reduced the road to one usable lane, snarling traffic in both directions.

Insurgents, intent on destroying the road repairs and taking lives in the process, waited until the critical stage of the process to launch their attack.

"We were bringing up the grade, leveling it out and starting to set rebar and forms to pour the concrete when the mortars hit," said Sgt. 1st Class Richard E. Raubenstine Jr., a York, Pa. native. "I believe it was a window of opportunity and that they took it."

Raubenstine said there was no direct fire or other contact with the attackers, but that two Soldiers were injured during the mortar attacks.

"Everything happened so fast, it's kind of hard to remember," said Hawaii National Guard Spc.

Togiimoana S. Niusulu, one of the injured Soldiers.

Niusulu, from American Samoa, said he was pulling security near a humvee when "there was a big boom ... so loud you didn't know which way it came from."

"It could have been grenades from a vehicle passing by ... I didn't think it was mortar rounds," Niusulu said. "Then another boom went off, then one right after another and I took cover behind a humvee."

"Between the second and the fourth (boom), I felt something hit my hand," Niusulu said of his injury. "I thought it was a rock or something. I wasn't really worried about it at the time."

Shortly after the attack, Niusulu noticed a hole in his glove, and underneath it, a hole in his hand, but didn't think much of it at the time.

"I didn't want anybody to know, because when we were pulling security we heard somebody calling. 'Medic,' so somebody (else) was really injured. I didn't want anybody to worry about me."

After loading up to leave the scene, someone else noticed the hole in Niusulu's hand.

"My squad leader heard him and then everybody got worried for some reason," Niusulu said.

The injured Soldier who required immediate attention from the medics was combat engineer Sgt. Richard Kalepa who remembers hearing and feeling "two loud boom booms right in a row."

After taking cover near a humvee, Kalepa started off in the direction of the blasts to check if others were hurt.

"I remember taking two, three steps and there was another simultaneous 'boom boom' by me," Kalepa said.

The Honolulu native was knocked to the ground by the blasts, the majority of the force hitting along his right side. He crawled to an equipment truck and took cover behind it. After

waiting to see if there would be any more attacks, Soldiers in the area began to check themselves and one another for injuries.

"That's when I noticed I was bleeding profusely from the right side of my cheek," Kalepa said.

Another NCO at the scene took over and performed buddy aid on Kalepa.

"I was trying to get my bandage out of my cargo pocket, but I was just out of it," Kalepa recalled. "He took over."

The medics began to treat Kalepa for shock and to control the bleeding. "The medic did a good job, reassuring me that everything was going to be all right."

Not as serious, but still important to the mission, two pieces of equipment were damaged in the attack, one with radiator damage, the other with a cracked windshield.

The day after the mortar attack, crews finished work on the second hole, where the mortars landed, and the project was completed on time. All three holes were filled and the road re-opened in the five days scheduled for the project.

Both Niusulu and Kalepa will be awarded the Purple Heart, and this attack has simply strengthened the determination of these Soldiers to continue their mission.

Talking about the attack afterwards, Niusulu said, "Everybody was more focused, nobody was sitting around."

Kalepa said this hasn't changed the way he sees his mission or discouraged him. "I still feel we have a job to do. I believe in what we're doing, regardless of what happened. We haven't even scratched the surface of what we can do here."

"It just pushed us... we had to speed things up a little bit on day four. It didn't interrupt us that much," said Raubenstine. "We were there to do our job ...and we'll continue the mission."



Spc. Jennifer Fitts

Sgt. Richard Kalepa, of Honolulu, and Spc. Togiimoana S. Niusulu, of American Samoa, were injured in a mortar attack on a critical road repair project. Both Soldiers are deployed with C. Company, 365th Eng. Bn., Pa., National Guard.

# Medics hold 'element of surprise'

**Spc. Erin Robicheaux**

*Task Force Baghdad PAO*

CAMP TIGERLAND, Baghdad — With no advance warning, medics of the 256th Brigade Combat Team suddenly appear in neighborhoods, bringing medical care to the people of their Baghdad area — whether it's holding treatment clinics or bringing wheelchairs or other supplies to ailing individuals.

"We always try to surprise them when we go," said Lt. Col. Joseph Dore, 256th BCT's Surgeon. The Charlotte, N.C., native said that showing up without warning is safer for the potential patients, because there is a chance that anti-Iraqi forces would try to sabotage the clinic, thus injuring the very people the doctors are trying to heal.

Dore finds that getting there and then making an announce-

ment over a loudspeaker makes for a more effective event. There is less chance of insurgents attacking if they have no knowledge ahead of time.

Spc. Melodi Holliday from Hammond, La., is a medic with C Company, 199th Forward Support Battalion, and this was her first time working with local nationals and the children of Baghdad continued to surprise her throughout the day.

"They're not like American children," she said, "they almost have an older mentality, and seem like adults in little bodies."

Dore is grateful to be able to help the people in the community, especially knowing that they don't get medical care very often, if ever. For him, a successful medical operation is one where he can see as many patients as possible.

"As long as we can win over some hearts and minds when we do this, it's a success," he said.

For Holliday, an X-ray technician in civilian life, her experiences in Baghdad have shed new light on her occupation in the United States.

"I'm going to take a lot of patience back home with me," she said. "Even though we had interpreters, not being able to speak the same language as the patient was a barrier. It made me appreciate the simplicity of my civilian job, in regards to communication."

The locals of the Bany Zaid community were not the only ones surprised on a recent medical mission.

On the way back to Camp Liberty, the Soldiers of the 256th were anticipating hot showers after being out in the rain all day, when the Plans Officer for 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment



*Photos by Spc. Erin Robicheaux*

**Spc. Melodi Holliday applies a splint to a little boy's jammed finger. Holliday is a civilian X-ray technician in Hammond La.**

noticed something suspicious. "There was a car in front of us that was going very slowly, and what made me pull it over was that it didn't have a license plate."

Maj. David Gooch, from Abbeville, La., said that the locals usually cooperate with convoys when instructed to get off the road, and when this one did not, he pulled them over. Inside the car were four middle aged men. When instructed, three of the men exited the car quickly, but one stalled.

"I actually thought that searching them would be a pretty quick process, but when I noticed the front passenger fiddling around by his feet, I started to get suspicious."

After searching the vehicle, Gooch and his Soldiers found a shovel with fresh mud on it, a video camera, and some wire and wire cutters.

This may seem like enough evidence to bring the suspects in for questioning, but according to Gooch, it wasn't enough—at first.

"I almost let them go in the beginning, because I knew that even with all that we'd found, it wouldn't hold up in an Iraqi court."

But he and his Soldiers were persistent, and in no time, the medical team found what it was looking for.

In the glove compartment, Gooch discovered documents

with Arabic writing, and he asked his interpreter to translate. The interpreter's reaction was all that the medics needed to hear.

"Arrest them, arrest them!" he shouted. "They're terrorists!"

When the Soldiers began to search the man, his suspicious behavior set off internal alarm bells. It wasn't long before they found evidence of Anti-Iraqi activity.

"Our task force has encountered over 100 IEDs, so we know what they look like," said Gooch.

The Iraqis were also listening to a tape of terrorist propaganda, which confirmed the Soldiers' suspicions that the men were up to no good.

Maj. Rico Alvendia, Deputy Staff Judge Advocate for the 256th BCT, happened to be part of the capture. While the New Orleans, La. native can't work on the case because he was involved in the capture, he will still play a role in the legal process, as a witness.

"I think we were fortunate to run into the insurgents on the way back from the medical mission," he said. "They will be prosecuted and I'm looking forward to being a witness."

When asked what he was thinking as they approached the suspects and pulled them over, one Soldier said, "All I thought was, 'Surprise!'"



**Lt. Col. Joseph Dore, from Charlotte, N.C., 256th BCT Surgeon, listens to a little boy's respiration.**

## With U.S. training, Iraqi Soldiers 'ready for any mission'

**Spc. Matthew Wester**

*100th MPAD*

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — "This training is good for my Soldiers," said Lt. Col. Sabah Kadhem, commander of the 307th Battalion of the Iraqi army. "If a Soldier is not trained, he can't defend his country."

At Hawk Base, near Camp Taji, Iraq, U.S. Soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 1st Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division are doing exactly that — training Iraqis to defend their own country.

The base is staffed with a cadre of Soldiers from 4/1 FA's A and B Companies, who teach the Iraqi Soldiers the skills they will need to secure their area of northwest Baghdad.

"The Iraqis complete two weeks of training here," said Capt. Daniel Getchel of Vale, Ore., a 4/1 FA officer supervising the training at Hawk Base. "We train them to get proficient, and then turn the company back over to their unit."

Getchel said the Iraqis start with individual skills.

"They work on skills like patrolling, reacting to contact, casualty evacuation, and basic soldiering skills," he said.

Then, the Iraqi troops move on to squad-level tasks, and finally work on

training at the company level.

"They're working well together," said Sgt. Cozae Banks, an Atchison, Kan., native and member of the 4/1 FA training cadre.

"We're trying to teach them a certain standard of discipline," Banks said.

The cadre tries to instill discipline in the troops, but doesn't have to spend much time motivating them.

According to Getchel, they are already highly motivated when they arrive for training.

"I've seen an increase in esprit de corps, morale and motivation," he said. "We've had Iraqi Soldiers who have been wounded in combat come back for training"

He has also seen an increase in the amount of equipment available to the troops, who are now issued uniforms, physical training clothes, running shoes and two pairs of boots.

The Iraqis break in those new boots on the training lanes at Hawk Base.

On one of the lanes, the American trainers supervised as an Iraqi army squad cleared a group of buildings of other Iraqi Soldiers posing as insurgents. The cadre acted as observer-controllers and let the Iraqis test their skills.

"We're in more of an evaluative role," Getchel said.

"This is a squad (situational training

exercise)," said 1st Lt. John Sackman from Boise Idaho, an Alpha Company trainer.

Like many cadre members, Sackman is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom 1.

He worked as a civil affairs officer and thinks his experience with the Iraqi culture has helped him train Iraqi troops and officers.

"I've had lunch meetings with them (Iraqi officers) and introduced new teaching methods," he said.

Sackman underscored one his main training goals.

"We're trying to teach initiative down to the lowest levels," he said.

One of the IA non-commissioned officers showed this initiative on the squad lane.

"He was dissatisfied with the performance of his squad, so he is leading by example through this training," Sackman said, as the sergeant showed his troops how to fire and maneuver.

After the exercise, Sackman gathered the cadre and troops together to discuss successes and focus areas as part of an American-style after-action report.

"This terrain was chosen because it is difficult. You are making definite progress," he told the Soldiers.

"Keep on moving with a sense of purpose," Banks added. "You're doing a good job."

**"My Soldiers are very happy when they catch an insurgent because they are helping the future of Iraq."**

*Lt. Col Sabah Kadhem  
307th IA Bn. commander*

As the IA troops formed up to march back to their barracks, Getchel summed up his thoughts about the partnership with the IA.

"If we put out great effort, these can be great troops," he said. "If they know what the mission is, and they've rehearsed it, they can execute. They're some of the bravest people I've met."

Lt. Col Kadhem agrees. "They are now ready for any mission," he said. "My Soldiers are very happy when they catch an insurgent because they are helping the future of Iraq."

For the rest of the year, the Soldiers of 4/1 FA will be at Hawk Base to teach them how.

# Soldiers can take a load off with IBAs

**Spc. Jennifer Fitts**  
100th MPAD

Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division have been issued the Interceptor Body Armor system.

Although its fit is better than some of the previous protection vests, the IBA can still be bulky and awkward to wear.

Even though the new plates in the IBA vests are considerably lighter than in earlier versions, the pounds still add up.

A basic IBA system, with a full basic load of ammunition, two protection plates and the Kevlar lining can weigh 20 pounds or more, depending on the size of the vest.

Attaching radio pouches, grenades and the other essentials can cause Soldiers to feel like they're carrying the weight of the world on their shoulders.

There are a few simple tips Soldiers can use to make sure they're as comfortable as possible while wearing their IBA.

- Make sure that Soldiers are wearing the right size vest. Vests that are too big can slide around the torso, even when the side straps are completely tightened, creating fatigue and pinching.

If a Soldier is wearing a vest that is too small, the

sides will not overlap properly, reducing protection and comfort.

- Reduce the amount of "stuff" Soldiers are carrying, either on a load bearing vest, or on the IBA itself.

With the modular pouch system, it's easy for Soldiers to overload themselves.

It might be nice to be able to carry three days worth of snack food along with a radio, ammunition and first aid dressings, but those extra pouches just add to the chances of getting stuck on vehicle doors and seatbelts, not to mention the increased weight.

- Fasten the IBA correctly. The front should fasten evenly along the Velcro strips, and the snaps should line up.

The easiest way for Soldiers to correctly fasten their IBA is to loosen the side straps completely, then readjust the sides after fastening the overlapping front panels.

A vest that is fastened incorrectly will hang unevenly from the shoulders, making the vest feel heavier on one side.

- Tighten the sides of the IBA until it is snug.

Soldiers should be able to breathe normally, but the IBA should not swing like a bell when worn.

A snug-fitting vest reduces unnecessary movement on the Soldier's body and reduces fatigue in the back

and torso muscles.

It also helps keep the vest close to the Soldier's body when entering and exiting humvees or other vehicles.

The easiest way to adjust the sides of the IBA is with the help of a buddy.

The individual wearing the IBA should put the vest on, and then, with the side straps fully extended, lift the IBA off their shoulders.

A buddy should then tighten the side straps evenly, until the IBA is snug to the wearer's body.

The front side panels of the IBA should overlap the back side panels and both should lie smoothly along the side of the body.

If no buddy is available, Soldiers can lean forward at the waist and tighten the straps themselves, making sure that the left and right sides are still even.

Female Soldiers may find wearing a compression sports bra helps any discomfort from the upper part of the front strike plate, as does keeping the upper side straps slightly looser than the lower straps.

Soldiers in Iraq need the protection their IBA vests offer.

Making sure that the vests are fitted properly, are the right size and have the right amount of gear attached to them can decrease aches and pains at the end of a mission.



*Spc. Jennifer Fitts*  
Before a mission, Pfc. Jared W. Sanders, Headquarters and Headquarters Operations Company, Special Troops Battalion, makes sure the front panels of his IBA are going to lie smoothly.

## Women's History Month observed at Liberty MWR

**Spc. Jennifer Fitts**  
100th MPAD

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – "Being in a male dominated industry such as the Army is ... and to have a day or a month dedicated to recognizing the accomplishments and dedication of women in the armed services is something everyone should take pride in," said Cpt. Dominique Butler, Headquarters and Headquarters Support Company, Special Troops Battalion. "As women in the Army we're the minority. There's a time to acknowledge what we can bring to the table."

That time here was the evening of March 19, when women and the ways that they have changed history – both in and out of the military – were celebrated with an highly-attended event at the Camp Liberty Morale, Welfare and Recreation tent.

During the presentation, which was sponsored by the 3rd Infantry Division Equal Opportunity office, women from Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell to Condoleezza Rice were honored for the changes they brought about in history – Blackwell was the first woman awarded a medical degree in North America in 1849 and Rice is the first female wartime secretary of state.

Female veterans, including those who have given their lives in service during the Global War on Terrorism, were commemorated with a slide show. Two veterans, Spc. Frances M. Vega and

Spc. Michelle M. Witmer, have been memorialized by having buildings named for them on Camp Liberty.

Capt. Dalmyra Jessamy, HHSC, STB was the keynote speaker during the presentation, and was given a standing ovation by the crowd that had gathered for the event.

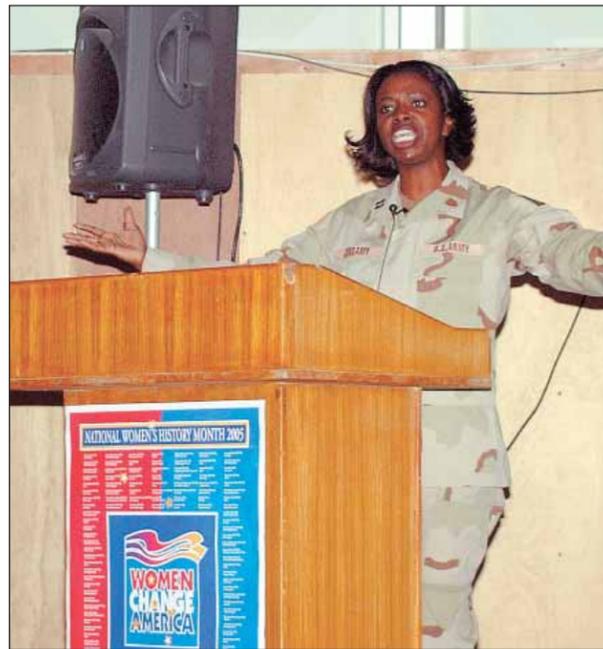
Butler read Maya Angelou's poem "Phenomenal Woman," and said despite her incredibly busy schedule since arriving, volunteering to participate in the women's program was almost an automatic decision.

"When I found out about the program I didn't hesitate, told them, 'Just tell me what to do, and I'll be there.' I volunteered to recite ... 'Phenomenal Woman' because I had read that poem before, was familiar with it."

"It just speaks to me," she continued. "It's a testament to women ... their struggle to achieve and maintain a certain status in life. If it inspired someone, that's great. It's a powerful poem."

Butler also commented that a celebration of women is not an event solely reserved for the fairer sex, and was glad that didn't seem to be the case during the evening's festivities.

"I was very pleased to see a lot of male participants in the crowd," she said. "That shows that they understand that there is a kinder, gentler side of the Army where it's okay to put aside a little time in our day to better understand the people you serve alongside."



*Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Brenda Benner*  
Capt. Dalmyra Jessamy, keynote speaker during the Women's History Month event at the Camp Liberty MWR, gestures with passion during her speech March 19.



Female and male Soldiers of all ranks and from all types of civilian and military backgrounds gathered at MWR to honor the legacy of great women past and present. Those in attendance gave Capt. Dalmyra Jessamy and Capt. Dominique Butler an enthusiastic round of applause.



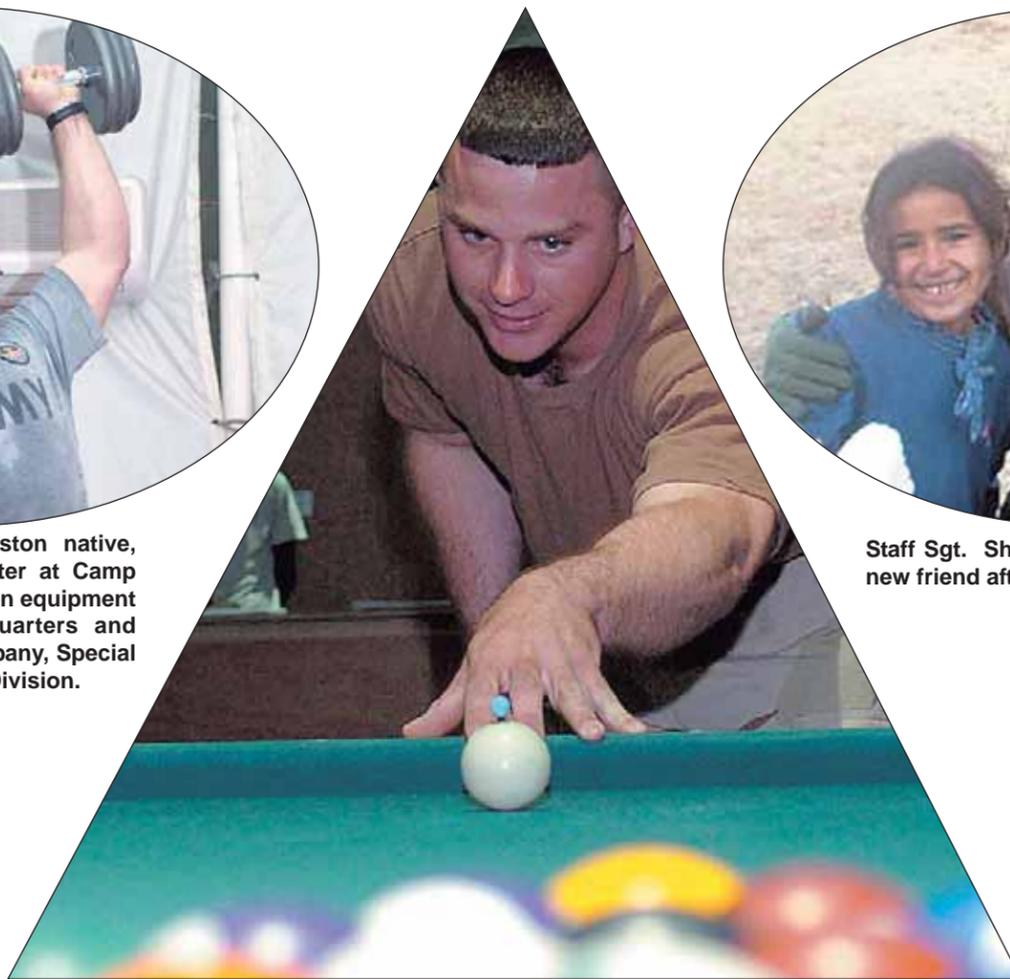
A Soldier looks over a sewer leakage. Sewer problems continue to plague neighborhoods in many of the under developed cities of Iraq.

*Courtesy photo*



*Sgt. Andrew Miller*

**Spc. Derek W. Frazier**, a Boston native, pumps it up at a fitness center at Camp Liberty. Fraizer is a construction equipment operator assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Operations Company, Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division.



*Spc. Jennifer Fitts*

**Staff Sgt. David M. Carpenter**, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 13th Signal Battalion, lines up to take a shot at the morale and welfare recreation facility at Camp Liberty.

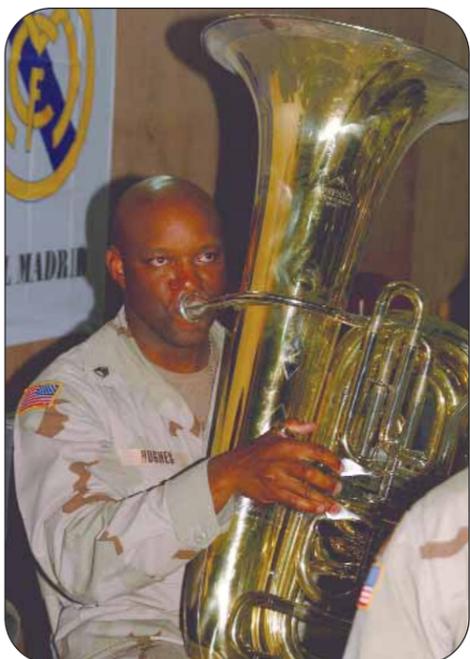


*Courtesy photo*

**Staff Sgt. Shaun Warren** gets a hug from his new friend after giving her a hat and toiletries.

*Sgt. 1st Class Brenda Benner*

**15-year military band veteran Staff Sgt. Jeff Hughes**, who is new to the "Rhythm of the Marne" 3rd Infantry Division band, lays the foundation during "Stars and Stripes Forever" with his upright tuba.



*Spc. Jennifer Fitts*

**Sgt. Adam L. Schwarzer**, Atchison, Kan., digs for the front tow hook on his truck to drag it out of a newly-dug drainage ditch, while **Spc. Michael A. Hasselbrink**, Paris, Tenn., watches from the relative safety of the cab. The Soldiers, from B Company, 92nd Engineer Brigade, enlisted the help of a bulldozer to get the truck unstuck.



## Close encounters of the wrong kind

**Spc. Jennifer Fitts**  
100th MPAD

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – With warmer weather rapidly approaching, Marne Soldiers will likely come face to face with some of Iraq’s deadly desert-dwellers.

Although troops have enjoyed cool weather since arriving here a month ago, the climbing temperatures signal an increase in the numbers of snakes, spiders and insects present in living and working areas, especially on dirt trails and unimproved areas such as motor pools.

Recent heavy rains have also brought out the snakes. Soldiers have spotted the unwelcome guests in flooded areas



**Saw-scaled viper**

of Pad 10.

“Now that it’s getting warm, the snake situation is real,” said Rob Perry, 3rd Infantry Division deputy safety director. “They’re going to come out to get warm in the sun in the mornings and seek shade during the hottest times of the day.”

It’s not possible to remove all of the native insects and reptiles, so everyone must take precautions to avoid being bitten or stung. Simple measures can mean the difference between a close encounter that results in an interesting memory, and one that involves medical treatment.

Most importantly, Soldiers should provide any snakes or insects they see a wide avenue of escape. Although it may be tempting to harass and poke at them, the results can be painful or even fatal.

Many snakes in the area, such as the sand viper, have aggressive and irritable attitudes and have

been known to attack rather than flee. Insects and spiders may sting or bite first and then run to safety.

The frequent and correct use of insect repellent on clothes, equipment and skin is an important step in eliminating problems with insects and spiders. Uniforms and equipment should be treated with permethrin, while repellents containing DEET are for skin surfaces. Be sure to follow the application directions given on all products.

Cleaning up living and working areas by properly disposing of trash and storing food in airtight containers can help lower the rodent and small insect populations which, in turn, become possible food sources for the larger insects and snakes.

Soldiers on patrol can prevent accidental run-ins with poisonous critters by watching where they step and where they place their hands.

Snakes like to burrow beneath loose



**Levantine viper**

sand or dirt to stay cool in the heat of the day. Reaching into dark crevices without looking first could result in a painful bite, as could kicking over piles of rocks or wood.

If mission circumstances necessitate sleeping outdoors, sleep off the ground and use both mosquito netting and insect repellent to deter bites and stings. Sleeping bags should be shaken out before settling in for the night. Make certain to do the same to boots and clothing before getting dressed.

Although Soldiers have to share the desert with all sorts of hazardous creatures, it is possible to minimize any negative impacts snakes, spiders and scorpions may have on daily missions by simply using caution and common sense.

## Your defense against Baghdad’s biting bugs

**Capt. Dereck Irminger**  
Div. Surgeon Section

The end of the rainy season and the coming of the summer temperatures also signals the coming of mosquitoes and sand flies.

In Baghdad, mosquitoes are a nuisance pest and sand flies can transmit leishmaniasis. Sand flies are about 1/3 the size of mosquitoes and can crawl through an untreated bed net.

Mosquitoes and sand flies are most active from dusk to dawn.

Leishmaniasis is caused by a parasite that gets into people when infected sand flies bite them.

There are two kinds of disease: cutaneous (skin) and visceral (internal organs).

The skin form is seen as a sore that will not heal, even after several weeks to months and antibiotic treatment. The visceral form is seen as fevers that will not go away (often with high spikes twice a day) even after several weeks and antibiotic treatment.

There is no vaccine or preventive drug.

The best way to protect yourself against these biting insects is to use the DOD insect repellent system.

If you are sleeping in exposed areas you should sleep under a permethrin treated bed net. Contact your unit supply section about obtaining these items.

### DOD Insect Repellent System

*Protects against sand flies, mosquitoes, ticks & other biting arthropods*

**1**

+

**2**

+

**3**

=

**MAXIMUM PROTECTION**

- 1** Treat uniform with permethrin. Use Impregnation Kit (IDA) (NSN 6840-01-345-0237) or Aerosol Spray Can (NSN 6840-01-278-1336). Treat bed net with Aerosol Spray Can.
- 2** Apply DEET lotion to exposed skin. Use NSN 6840-01-284-3982.
- 3** Wear uniform properly to cover as much skin as possible and prevent access through openings in the clothing: roll sleeves down, tuck pants into boots, tuck undershirt into pants.

## Evidence can be key to getting a conviction

**Capt. Gary McNeal**  
SJA

Detainees suspected of committing crimes against Coalition Forces or the Iraqi people are tried before the Central Criminal Court of Iraq.

U.S. military prosecutors assist in the preparation of cases and help move them through the system.

Detainees appear before an Iraqi magistrate for a preliminary hearing.

The magistrate questions witnesses and the detainee, and examines evidence.

If the magistrate finds there is sufficient evidence, the detainee will be bound over for trial before a three judge panel.

The judges will examine the evidence and either convict or release the detainee.

If convicted, the sentence is usually handed down immedi-

ately.

Evidence is the key to getting a conviction.

The better the evidence, the better the chances are for a conviction.

The CCCI requires at least two sworn statements from individuals with first hand knowledge of the detainee’s actions and AIF connections be presented.

An example of a statement that would not be sufficient would be “a reliable contact reported that...” or “person x told the informant that...”

The problem with these types of statements is that they are not reliable.

The individual that made them is not present in the court for examination by the magistrate.

The CCCI requires that the statements and eyewitness testimony be from someone who actually knows of the detainee’s activities and con-

nections or who actually witnessed the detainee commit a crime.

In addition to sworn statements physical evidence should be presented such as photos and diagrams along with items seized at the operation site if possible.

If you are involved with handling evidence do not move weapons and other contraband until photos are taken. Photograph detainees with the items.

Take photos of the operation site and the surrounding area so that the CCCI can see how the location of the detainee relates to where a weapons cache was found, an IED was placed, or other activities were conducted.

Label rooms where contraband is found as A, B, C, and then photograph them with the items inside.

Label the photos A,B,C to correspond with the rooms

and place evidence from those rooms in bags marked A,B,C.

As an example, after a cordon and knock operation you detain two individuals in a house.

There is a small cache of weapons found in a back room of the house, and a larger cache including small arms, mortar rounds, and other explosives hidden under a tarp in a garage near the house.

Draw a diagram of the entire area.

Take photos of the weapons caches with the detainees. Label the photos. Place corresponding labels on packages that you place the evidence in.

Get sworn statements from individuals who know the detainees and know of their activities.

Photograph the entire area so that the Court will see how the house where the detainees were found corresponds with where the weapons were

found in the garage.

Diagrams are another great way to give the court situational awareness.

A rough diagram can be drawn while at the operation site and cleaned up afterward. Remember to include distances and measurements.

For instance, if you find a weapons cache in a garage 50 yards from a detainee’s residence, mark that distance on the diagram.

Label the names of the detainees and where they were found on the diagram to demonstrate their relationship to the weapons cache.

Evidentiary standards are established principals of law in the CCCI.

Taking more time at a secured operation site to gather solid evidence will pay off later in the CCCI and get the conviction. Just remember, PSD: photos, sworn statements, and diagrams.

## DESERT JUSTICE

### PCAs can make up for lost items

**Spc. Jennifer Meadows**  
OSJA

Following the recent heavy rains, many Soldiers filed claims for water damage. The Command Judge Advocate for 4th Brigade processed several such claims.

Water damage from heavy rain and flooding is a prime example of one of the basis for filing a Personnel Claims Act claim.

In order to start the process you need to file a PCA claim with the Staff Judge Advocates' claims office.

The damage to, or loss of property must be incidental to service.

In a deployed environment many instances are incident to service. Examples of some situations that may allow a claim include: loss of baggage during transport to or around the area of operations, damage to personal items caused by combat activities or the theft of personal property.

The PCA is a morale program and is not intended as an insurance policy.

As a result, recovery is sometimes limited.

The biggest limitation is reasonableness.

You can claim only for the loss or damage to items that

were reasonable to have in a deployed environment.

For instance, you can recover for a few stolen DVDs, but not for 100 of them.

You could receive money to replace a broken TV, but not if it is a \$4,000 plasma screen model.

There are other reasons that your recovery might be limited.

For example, if your laptop is broken and can be fixed, you will receive the cost of your repair, not the cost of replacement.

Also, items more than six months old will be depreciated according to a set formula.

To file a claim, all you need to do is stop by the Legal Services Center on Camp Victory North or see one of your brigade legal teams.

You will need to bring proof of ownership (receipts, sworn statements, inventory forms), proof of loss (Commander's Inquiry, police report, baggage report), and proof of value (advertisements of similar value).

You will receive a Claims Packet to complete. Your claim will then be adjudicated and if approved, you will receive payment by electronic funds transfer.

If you have questions, please contact Spc. Jennifer Meadows, VOIP: 242-4568.



## Chaplain's Corner

### Deployments and the communication cycle

**Chaplain (Maj.) Bill Kilmer**  
Avn. Bde.

Relationships are never easy and maintaining one while one person is deployed is even more difficult.

Communication is an important part of developing relationships for you and your loved ones while you are deployed.

Being far from home, communicating with family and friends becomes even more important for your well-being and the well-being of the relationship.

Writing letters, sending post cards, and mailing packages are all ways you can let your family know how you are doing while you are deployed.

I like to define communication as the sending and receiving of messages.

There is a cycle to communication.

As messages are sent by Person A, they are received by Person B and then Person B sends feedback to Person A in the form of another message and so the cycle continues.

Many times I have sat with couples who are having problems in their marriage but they don't know why they are having so many problems.

One of the biggest hurdles they have to get over is that neither one is listening to the other, and so there is a breakdown in the communication cycle.

Communication with your family is important to your emotional well being and to theirs as well.

Talking on the phone, sending letters and trading emails, are all good ways to communicate or send messages.

An important part of communication is not only the sending of messages, but also the receiving part of the cycle of communication.

Knowing how the other person will receive the message you send is critical to better communication and relationship building.

An example: You may be excited about a DVD you were able to buy at the PX here and want to tell your spouse back home about it.

But, the day you call, the children have been cranky for the last week because it has been raining and they can't play outside, your spouse isn't feeling great anyway and then they hear you talking about going shopping at the store, buying something just for you, and being able to sit and watch an entire movie all by yourself.

In the last month, your spouse may not have been to any store but the commissary or Kroger – then, just to buy groceries – and the children were with them, screaming all the way down the aisle.

Your spouse may not have had time to see anything on TV

but "SpongeBob SquarePants" while the children were watching it.

And at the same time your spouse was also doing three loads of laundry, (wash, dry, fold AND put them away) and getting dinner ready.

All you did was say something about a DVD you bought at the PX, but that wasn't what your spouse heard from you.

See how important it is to understand how the person will receive your messages?

Write lots of letters, trade emails, and send packages home.

When you send and receive messages with your family, remember the communication cycle.

How you send the message may not be the way it is received.

Think about how the messages you are sending will be received and consider changing the message so the receiver can understand what you are trying to communicate.

Relationships take work to build, even when you are deployed.

*Editor's note: Last issue's "Chaplain's Corner" was incorrectly attributed to Chaplain (Lt. Col.) James White. Chaplain (Capt.) Tim Valentine was the correct author.*

### Claims Office Hours

Monday through Saturday

9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Camp Liberty

Legal Services Center

Building C25

### Division Chapel Services Camp Liberty

#### Friday

7 p.m. Jewish Service

#### Saturday

10 a.m.: Seventh Day Adventist

#### 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.: Christian non-instrumental

8 p.m.: Collective Protestant



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

### 'Eye armor' a must-have for prescription wearers

**Maj. David Sloniker**  
Div. Surgeon Section

The Army procured several effective brands of ballistic eye protection to reduce eye trauma while conducting combat operations. These include the Wiley-X, Venture II, ESS goggles, and UVEX XC.

For prescription wearers, the UVEX XC is the only approved product that has an optical insert for prescription lenses for military use. The UVEX XC protective eyewear system consists of a

lightweight rigid frame and lens assembly that weighs 1.3 ounces, and uses an interchangeable lens.

The UVEX lenses cover the eye and have been treated with anti-fog. The UVEX XC kit includes the frame, clear and gray (sunglasses) ballistic lenses, and carrying case. To get the UVEX XC Kit contact your unit supply.

There are several ways for Soldiers to provide Division Optometry with their prescription in order to obtain the inserts:

- Any Soldier who came to one of the

mass UVEX vision screenings on Ft. Stewart prior to deployment has a prescription already on file. Just notify Division Optometry of your requirement for new or replacement inserts.

- Provide by email or mail a written prescription from their doctor, civilian or military. The prescription can also be found on the invoice that came with any military issued glasses.

- Send or present a spare pair of glasses to Division Optometry to read the prescription off of your current glasses. The glasses will be promptly returned.

- Get a new exam at Camp Taji or the 86th Combat Support Hospital in the International Zone.

Protective eyewear should be worn at all times when outdoors or performing eye hazardous duties. The ESS goggles, which are worn over glasses for prescription wearers, are the recommended eye protection for use outside the perimeter since they provide the greatest coverage and protection.

For further information contact Capt. Michael Ventura at 242-6493 or e-mail [michael.ventura@us.army.mil](mailto:michael.ventura@us.army.mil).

## Your Savings Deposit Plan: a gift that keeps on giving

**18th Soldier Support Group**  
Special to The Marne Express

The Savings Deposit Program provides an opportunity for servicemembers to deposit an amount up to their current unallotted pay into a government savings program that earns 10% annual interest, compounded quarterly.

The program pays interest

on amounts up to \$10,000.

Soldiers performing official duties in designated areas may participate in the program.

To be eligible, the Soldier must meet designated criteria for the area and the applicable contingency operation.

Generally, Soldiers on orders contemplating duty for more than 30 days, can make their initial deposit after arrival into

the theater for up to the amount of that month's pay. DoD Financial Management Regulation, Volume 7A, Chapter 51 outlines requirements for various contingency operations.

Active component Soldiers may contribute through allotment (preferred method) or cash deposits (cash or negotiable instruments).

Reserve component Soldiers may only contribute through cash or personal checks.

Monthly deposits are limited to an amount up to net unallotted current pay and allowances.

Agents with a power of attorney authorizing them to start, stop or change allotments may start an SDP allotment of behalf of the deployed member once the deployment entitle-

ments are showing in the Soldier's pay account.

Agents with a power of attorney authorizing them to make investments on the Soldier's behalf may deposit cash, money orders, traveler's checks or cashier's checks.

Agents may not deposit personal checks nor make withdrawals from the SDP.

## In Memory of ...

Staff Sgt. Ricky A. Kieffer, 1/182 FA  
Sgt. Paul M. Heltzel, 2/156 Inf.  
Spc. Matthew A. Koch, 70th Eng. Bn.

Spc. Adriana N. Salem, 3rd FSB, DSB  
Pfc. Lee Lewis, 3/15 Inf.



## Army sweeps Rebel Games' day 3

www.goarmysports.com  
Special to The Marne Express

KISSIMMEE, Fla. – Army's 5-2 victory over IUPUI, called in the sixth inning because of heavy rain, completed its second sweep at the Rebel Games following Day 3 of competition in showing a 4-2 mark, while leveling its overall record to 7-7.

Senior Leigh Harrell helped write the headlines in both games of the day pitching effective relief innings.

It earned the Army right-hander the win in the Black Knights' 3-2 eight-inning victory over Youngstown State in the first game of the day, while picking up the save against IUPUI in the second game.

Lindsay March went 2-for-3 and drove in two runs, Nikki Posey was 2-for-3 with an RBI and run scored, Lindsey Romack was 2-for-2 and scored once and Lauren Gobar homered in leading Army's 11-hit attack against the Jaguars.

Gobar greeted IUPUI's Angelica Espinosa with a leadoff solo blast, her first home run of the season and career eighth, in staking Army to a quick 1-0 lead in the top of the first inning.

But IUPUI parlayed a hit and two Army errors to tie the game 1-1 in the bottom half of that frame.

Espinosa stranded Army runners over the next two frames before the Black Knights erupted for three runs on four hits off her in

the fourth inning to snap the tie in pulling ahead 4-1.

March closed out that uprising with her two-run single delivering Posey, who doubled home the first run, and Romack, who beat out a bunt.

Starter Kelly Trout (1-0) needed help from Harrell in the bottom half of that frame to preserve her first win of the season after loading the bases with two outs.

Chris Stauffer came in first in relief, but had hard luck walking in the first run. She gave way to Harrell who ended that threat by getting the clean-up batter to ground out to the second baseman.

After the first batter in the fifth inning was safe on an error, Harrell retired the side

en route to picking up her first save of the season and career fourth.

The Black Knights chased Espinosa in the top of the fifth after she walked leadoff batter Melissa Garza.

She moved around on back-to-back fielder's choices before being delivered by Mary Ann Kearney's single to left field.

After Army, which hit safely in all six innings, batted in the top of the sixth, the game was put on hold for 20 minutes because of heavy rain before being called.

Army returns to action at the Rebel Games taking on Northern Colorado 8:50 Thursday morning followed by Wisconsin-Green Bay in Day 4.



Courtesy photo  
Lindsay March, Black Knights, drives in a run against the Jaguars March 16.

# COMING SOON

Starting with the next issue of *The Marne Express*, we will be featuring a brand-new column called Rocky's Hydrant.

Who is going to write this column? Why, YOU are!

If you have any gripes, questions or constructive criticism about - well, anything at all - we're inviting you to let us know.

Just make sure your comments meet the following criteria:

- 1) No foul language - you don't want all those nasty words to crowd out the point of your message, do you?
- 2) If you have a problem, offer a solution - anybody can hate a situation; we want to know how you would fix it.
- 3) Keep it concise - save the rambling diatribes for your buddies; we don't have enough space for that here.

## AND HERE'S THE BEAUTY OF IT:

Nobody has to know who you are! If you would like to remain anonymous, just tell us. If not, please supply your name, unit and hometown, so everyone can thank you for your helpful suggestions.

E-MAIL [emily.wilsoncroft@id3.army.mil](mailto:emily.wilsoncroft@id3.army.mil) with your submissions.

We're looking forward to hearing from you!

## Cartoon Corner



The Marne Express is looking for artists for a bi-weekly comic strip! Contact [ricardo.branch@id3.army.mil](mailto:ricardo.branch@id3.army.mil).



## In the Movies



# 'Hitch' a memorable first date

**Pfc. Ricardo Branch**  
3rd Inf. Div.

These days there aren't many movies that I'd take a lady to see. (Not to worry, since I'm here in the desert for a year's worth of movie viewing weekends.)

The last movie that was actually decent in my opinion was "40 Days and 40 Nights;" if that's any indication of what I like to see in a "romance" flick.

Most movies in the romance genre lately seem to lack the key ingredient of comedy to lighten a sappy mood. In my mind, a few laughs go a long way in making a romance movie worth its weight in Jujubees.

Veteran actor Will Smith, known to many as an action-adventure icon, was originally famous for his sarcastic comedic flair. Those of you who are familiar with "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" can relate to what I'm talking about.

So, sitting down with his latest movie in my hand, I had high hopes.

The movie begins with Alex "Hitch" Hitchens (Will Smith) the self-proclaimed "date doctor," who helps those trapped in the endless dating game.

In three dates, Hitch identifies their common mistakes and gives them dancing and kissing lessons. Eventually, each of his pathetic clients walks away with "the girl" on his forever grateful arm.

Following a simple method, Hitch imparts his knowledge based merely on observation, not experi-

ence. He relies on his common sense to coach several loveless losers desperately searching for true love.

Surprisingly, Hitch lost his first love to another guy and the pain from that experience repeatedly kept him away from the dating scene ... until now.

Enter the lovely gossip columnist Sara (Eva Mendes), who captures Hitch's attention from their very first meeting. A series of unfortunate dates does nothing to break the couple's belief that they might have found "the one" in each other.

Meanwhile, Hitch has a new pitiful client, Albert (Kevin James), an overweight accountant who wants to woo the love of his life, celebrity Allegra Cole (Amber Valletta).

The date doctor pulls off the seemingly impossible — teaching Albert how to get Allegra to notice him. But that's the easy part.

Most difficult is convincing Albert to relax enough so that Allegra won't be turned off during a date with a goofy guy who lacks self-confidence.

Meanwhile, Sara is writing her "date doctor" story, which could spell the end for Hitch's career because everyone will then want his assistance due to his celebrity rather than those who truly need his help.

If you think you know where "Hitch" is going, you're probably right. Like most romantic comedies, this one is light on surprises, although it's



Courtesy photo  
**Hitch (Will Smith) shares a moment with Sara (Eva Mendes) in a scene from the movie "Hitch."**

hilarious at times.

The dash into the pharmacy for some Benadryl for Hitch's food allergy reaction, and the scene involving Sara getting kicked in the head during a date to Ellis Island are just a few the highlights of this charming romance tale.

My advice to anyone wanting to see a good movie is to give this one a try.

I was entertained throughout "Hitch," and if I was in the States, I'd definitely consider this movie a good contender for a Friday night date.

## Crossword: Doubletalk

The theme words in this puzzle have two meanings — one military, one civilian.

1	2	3	4		5	6		7	8	9	10	
11					12			13				
14					15			16				
17												
					18							
				19	20				21	22	23	
24	25	26	27					28			29	
30							31	32				
	33				34	35						
			36									
					37				38	39	40	41
42	43	44			45				46			
47					48				49			
50					51			5				

**Across**

- 1. Blue-ribbon beer
- 5. Baseball great Cobb
- 7. Do push-ups
- 11. Letters on a crucifix
- 12. Half of a toy
- 13. Indian royalty
- 14. "Right away," medically speaking
- 15. Dr.'s helper
- 16. "Once \_\_\_\_ a time ..."
- 17. Some chases?
- 18. Baby plant
- 19. "\_\_\_\_, out"

21. Consume

- 24. Concealed
- 28. Human prototype
- 30. Buttery spread
- 31. Puerto Rico, for example
- 33. "Keep it on the down \_\_\_\_"
- 34. Football tries
- 36. Lunchtime, for some
- 37. Soldiers' get-togethers?
- 42. Just okay
- 45. "\_\_\_\_ and fro"
- 46. Graven image

47. Thought

- 48. Article
  - 49. Actress Suvari
  - 50. A must-have
  - 51. Prefix for govt. civ position
  - 52. Not in order
- Down**
- 1. "\_\_\_\_ posh!"
  - 2. Against
  - 3. Applaud oneself
  - 4. Baby of the first family
  - 5. Male model of color

6. Over there

- 7. Illegal activity?
- 8. Smart smack
- 9. Lennon's second love
- 10. Hold down
- 19. Do, \_\_, mi
- 20. \_\_\_\_ a roll
- 22. National dentists' grp.
- 23. Lay on the beach
- 24. A third of Santa's saying
- 25. Unhealthy
- 26. "In excelsis \_\_\_\_ ..."
- 27. Get files?

29. Dr.'s suffix

- 31. Not out
- 32. Gilligan's "\_\_\_\_ Minnow"
- 34. Rover's accessory?
- 35. Ogres are like them, some say
- 38. Father \_\_\_\_
- 39. Troubled times of March
- 40. Long times
- 41. Kill a dragon
- 42. Greed is a deadly one
- 43. Song of praise
- 44. "Oh, say, can you \_\_\_\_"

**Last Week's Answers:  
Comics to Movies**

**Down:**

- 1. Incredible Hulk
- 2. Elektra
- 3. Blade
- 4. Spiderman

**Across:**

- 6. Punisher
- 5. X-Men
- 9. Batman
- 4. Spawn
- 5. Daredevil
- 8. Superman
- 10. Catwoman