

# The Marne Express

"Mission, Soldiers, Teamwork"

Volume 2, Issue 13

Serving the Soldiers of Task Force Baghdad

August 14, 2005

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



Happy feet  
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Marne 5K race  
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Spc. Matthew Wester

Sgt. 1st Class James Huff, a platoon sergeant for D Company, 3rd Battalion, 172nd Infantry Regiment, Rhode Island National Guard, searches for contraband under a bed during an cordon and search July 16 near Taji, Iraq.

## Rhode Islanders hit the streets

Spc. Matthew Wester  
3/1 AD PAO

TAJI, Iraq – Rhode Island never gets this hot.

For Rhode Island National Guard Soldiers of D Company, 3rd Battalion, 172nd Infantry Regiment, the Iraqi heat has been a challenge, but integrating with other units has gone smoothly.

The infantry company is attached to 1st Battalion, 118th Field Artillery Regiment, 48th Brigade, Georgia National Guard, which is supporting 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division.

"Three-quarters of my unit are prior active-duty Soldiers, so they seamlessly transitioned to what they once were," said Capt. William H. Tuttle IV, D Co. commander from Warwick, R.I. "I have not seen any difficulties in working with an active-duty component at all. They're very professional, and so are we."

The 1/118th FA took over responsibility for a portion of 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division's area of operations previously patrolled by 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

"Working with (3rd Bde.), they brought us in like family," said Lt. Col.

Don B. Beard, a Humboldt, Tenn., native and 1/118th FA commander. "They support us like we're just another unit."

All the combat units in 3rd Bde. are working side-by-side with the Iraqi Army, and 1/118th FA is no different.

"I typically perform combined operations with the Iraqi Army every time I go out," Tuttle said.

During a July 16 cordon-and-search mission near Taji, the battalion's B and D companies teamed up with C Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 6th Division,

See **SOLDIER**, page 19



Spc. Erin Robicheaux

Two Soldiers from the 1st Iraqi Army Brigade carry a flower wreath to place on a memorial dedicated to the memory of four of their fallen brothers August 4.

## Top Iraqi, American officials honor IA martyrs

Spc. Erin Robicheaux  
256th BCT PAO

CAMP JUSTICE, Iraq – As a special monument was unveiled Aug. 4, Iraqi and U.S. officials honored four Iraqi Army Soldiers who gave their lives for the security of Iraq during the Ashura holiday.

Lt. Gen. David Petraeus, commander of the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq; and representatives from the offices of the Prime Minister of Iraq and the Minister of Interior, along with family members of the Soldiers, attended a ceremony at

Camp Justice, home of the 1st Iraqi Army Brigade, 6th Division.

Doctor Ahmed Chalabi, Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister, said the country owed a great debt to the four Soldiers and their families, and promised the Iraqi government would care for them in gratitude for the Soldiers' gift to the country.

"Words fall short to express the great sacrifice these Soldiers have made, and our work is to help those they left behind," he said. His office donated one half million dinar to the families.

The Deputy Prime Minister also

See **HONOR**, page 19

# Marne Six Sends Know your General Order number 2

**Maj. General William G. Webster Jr.**  
*Task Force Baghdad Commander*

We are now in the 6-8 month point of our mission.

This has been the period when units have experienced spikes in sexual harassment.

Great teams can be torn apart by misconduct and specifically sexual harassment ... don't allow it!

Teammates of great teams don't take advantage of their teammates ... they look out for each other.

Sexual harassment and taking advantage of our teammates by other members of the team will not be tolerated at any level!

Mission ... Soldiers ... Teamwork

Rock of the Marne!

**14 March 2005**  
**General Order Number 2 (GO-2)**

Title: Visitation and Cohabitation in living areas for U.S. Department of Defense personnel assigned to Task Force Baghdad, or present within the Task Force Baghdad Area of Responsibility (AOR).

Purpose: To identify relationships and conduct which detract from unit cohesion and professional command climate because they are improper or have the perception of being improper.

Applicability: This policy applies to all United States military personnel while assigned to Task Force Baghdad or present in Task Force Baghdad's AOR. This policy also applies to all United States Department of Defense personnel under the operational control of the Commander,

Task Force Baghdad and present for duty in the USCENCOM AOR.

1. Statement of Military Purpose and Necessity: Army Regulation 600-20 prohibits relationships which compromise or appear to compromise the integrity of the supervisory chain of command; cause actual or perceived partiality or unfairness; involve or appear to involve the improper use of rank or position for personal gain; are or are perceived to be exploitive in nature, or create an actual or clearly predictable adverse impact on

discipline, authority, morale or the ability of the command to accomplish its mission. High operational tempo combined with the hazardous duty faced by Task Force Baghdad Soldiers and other forces in the Task Force Baghdad AOR makes it necessary to restrict certain activities in order to maintain good order and discipline and ensure optimal readiness.

2. Prohibited Activities: In accordance with and in addition to AR 600-20, the following activities are prohibited:

a. Soldiers are prohibited from participating in relationships not required by the mission, to include same gender and different gender relationships, which violate AR 600-20 as stated above.

b. Soldiers are prohibited from having visitors of the opposite gender in their living quarters. Soldiers are prohibited from visiting the living quarters of members of the opposite gender.

c. Visitation of any nature is prohibited in living quarters of non-Department of Defense personnel or coalition forces. Entry into living quarters of civilian contractors or other non-Department of Defense personnel serving with,

See ORDER, page 21

**Find the potential  
Improvised  
Explosive Device.**



**Answer: E  
All of the above.**



**STAY ALIVE**

0006

IEDs KILL

## The Word on the Street

What have you learned since being deployed to Iraq?\*

"I've gotten a great opportunity to learn medic skills at a level I wouldn't have reached at Fort Stewart."



**Spc. Joshua Drummond**  
2/3 BTB  
Colorado Springs, Colo.

"You can't do things here individually, you need to work as a team. Cohesion builds strength."



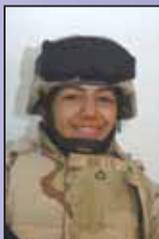
**Sgt. Vondrena Foster**  
HHC, 2nd BCT  
Henderson, S.C.

"It taught me to value my family. I had a son two months ago, and it showed me the value of life."



**Pfc. Matt Bonds**  
HHC, 2nd BCT  
Rainer, Ore.

"I've learned the true importance of the basic military rules - clean your weapon, drink water, show up to guard duty on time."



**Pfc. Tania Nieto**  
HHC, 2nd BCT  
Los Fresnos, Texas.

"I learned to save money while you can. I make more here than I do in garrison, so I'm saving now so I can buy a house."



**Sgt. Anthony Bradley**  
2/3 BTB  
Evansville, Ind.

## The Marne Express

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# WAR IN IRAQ: Why the Rebels will lose

No wonder public support for the war is plummeting and finger-to-the-wind politicians are heading for the exits: All the headlines out of Iraq recently have been about the rebels' reign of terror.

But, lest we build up the enemy into 10-foot-tall supermen, it's important to realize how weak they actually are.

Most of the conditions that existed in previous wars won by guerrillas, from Algeria in the 1950s to Afghanistan in the 1980s, aren't present in Iraq.

The rebels lack a unifying organization, ideology and leader.

There is no Iraqi Ho Chi Minh, Fidel Castro or Mao Tse-tung. The top militant is Abu Musab Al Zarqawi, a Jordanian who has alienated most of the Iraqi population, even many Sunnis, with his indiscriminate attacks on civilians.

Support for the insurgency is confined to a minority within a minority — a small portion of Sunni Arabs, who make up less than 20 percent of the population.

The only prominent non-Sunni rebel, Muqtada Al Sadr, has quietly joined the political process. The 80 percent of the population that is Shiite and Kurdish is implacably opposed to

the rebellion, which is why most of the terror has been confined to four of 18 provinces.

Unlike in successful guerrilla wars, the rebels in Iraq have not been able to control large chunks of "liberated" territory. The best they could do was to hold Fallujah for six months last year.

Nor have they been able to stage successful large-scale attacks like the Viet Cong did.

A major offensive against Abu Ghraib prison April 2 ended without a single U.S. Soldier killed or a single Iraqi prisoner freed, while an estimated 60 insurgents were slain.

The biggest weakness of the insurgency is that it is morphing from a war of national liberation into a revolutionary struggle against an elected government.

That's a crucial difference. Since 1776, wars of national liberation have usually succeeded because nationalism is such a strong force.

Revolutions against despots, from Czar Nicholas II to the Shah of Iran, often succeed too, because there is no way to redress grievances within the political process. Successful uprisings against elected governments are much rarer because leaders with political legitimacy can more easily rally the

population and accommodate aggrieved elements.

Look at Sri Lanka, the Philippines, El Salvador, Colombia, and all the fragile democracies that have endured major uprisings that recruited a larger percentage of the population and controlled more territory than the Iraqi rebels — without winning.

Other democracies, such as Israel, Turkey and Britain, have also survived brutal insurgencies.

This does not mean that the Iraqi uprising will be quickly or easily defeated. Although most guerrilla movements fail in a democracy, a few thousand or even a few hundred dedicated killers can set off bombs indefinitely. And even if the Iraqi insurgents can't take over the entire country, they might be able to carve out a jihadist mini-state or spark all-out civil war.

Coalition Forces cannot hope to achieve a military victory in the near future. All they can do is provide breathing space for local institutions to take root so Iraqis can take over the fight for their own freedom.

So far, progress has been rapid on the political front and not-so-rapid in the deployment of security forces, which the Coalition didn't emphasize

until last year.

We are finally seeing the emergence of some impressive Iraqi forces, such as the Wolf Brigade Commandos of the special police, who pursue insurgents all over the country, and the Iraqi Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 6th Division, who have pacified Haifa Street, a one-time insurgent stronghold in Baghdad.

The biggest advantage the insurgents still have, aside from their total disdain for human life, is that they can get reinforcements from abroad to make up for their heavy losses. The Coalition needs to do a better job of policing the Syrian border and pressuring Damascus to crack down on the influx of jihadists.

But, even if the border gets sealed, pacifying Iraq will be a long, hard slog that will ultimately be up to the Iraqis.

The U.S. needs to show a little patience. If we don't cut and run prematurely, Iraqi democracy can survive its birth pangs.

This commentary has been published with permission.

**Max Boot is a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.**

## Unsung heroes Drivers, Transporters, Logisticians

**Command Sgt. Major Lucius Gosha**  
Acting TF Baghdad command sergeant major

Our great transporters continue to prove their worth by keeping our Army moving and supplied with invaluable resources needed for our Soldiers to perform their missions. Truck drivers have the awesome responsibility of distributing 3rd Infantry Division activities of supply and support.

These logisticians press forward on a daily basis to bring us the necessities and comfort items we need or want, all while enduring the hazardous conditions of life on the road here in Iraq.

Exhibiting their expertise, these true profes-



Pfc. Ryan King, a heavy wheel vehicle operator with 3rd Platoon, 104th Transportation Company, 87th Corps Support Battalion, Division Support Brigade, checks the lifting system on his truck. The Lynchburg, Va. native was performing "after action" checks upon completion of a mission.

sionals emulate the Soldier's Creed, as they always place the mission first and never quit.

Whether it's conducting aerial re-supply missions or hauling heavy loads on oversized trucks, Marne drivers have faced surface to air missiles, improvised explosive devices, rocket propelled grenades and small arms fire. They bravely travel hundreds of miles in order for us to have the equipment we need to deploy, redeploy, or to merely sustain operations.

Transporters provide us with an amazing variety of cargo, from life-saving medical equipment to the weapons we require to engage and defeat the insurgents in close combat.

The outstanding men and women of the Transportation Corps truly epitomize the "T" in teamwork. They demonstrate their teamwork while performing their day and night delivery missions at each of the many Forward Operating Bases.

For those of us who have taken a ride on the Marne Train with only what we could carry on our backs, we truly know the value of getting a timely re-supply of bullets, beans, and water.

These cargo-pushing Soldiers exhibit time and again their dedication to their task when it comes to supporting Rocky's finest. They are mission-focused on providing logistical support, both military and civilian.

Our transporters, logisticians, air loaders, supply specialists, and heavy machinery operators are the heroes that keep the flow of supplies coming to the Marne Division.

Thank you for what you do each day!  
Rock of the Marne.



Photos by Sgt. Victor Soto  
Sgts. Marvin E. Chestnut, left, and Leon L. Fabers, both heavy wheel vehicle operators with 104th Transportation Company, 87th Corps Support Battalion, Division Support Brigade, secure the ramp on their trailer before heading out on the road. The two S.C. natives, Chestnut, from Myrtle Beach and Faber from Charleston, were moving equipment for the Iraqi Army.

### Is your previous GT score holding you back? Want to improve your score ASAP to obtain a better MOS or to reenlist?

General Technical Study Sessions are underway and filling up quickly. This three-week course covers the areas of the GT portion of the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test. GT scores are calculated by the combination of arithmetic reasoning, word knowledge and paragraph comprehension.

Next class: Aug 29 - Sept 16 ASVAB testing Sept 17  
Time: Mon-Fri 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (includes a lunch break)  
Where: Bldg 117, Camp Victory (near the gym)  
POC: tammi.morrison@iraq.centcom.mil DSN 318 822-2633

What you need: A copy of your Enlistment Record Brief or 2-1 file. Priority will be given to Soldiers looking to reenlist directly after class graduation.

Upon course completion Soldiers will be awarded a Certificate of Training for 80 hours to use toward increasing their promotion points.

Have experience at the chalkboard or the podium? We are seeking additional instructors.

# Roughriders' maintenance keeps tanks rolling

Sgt David Bill  
48th BCT PAO

MAHMUDIYAH, Iraq – In the sweltering heat of central Iraq where tools get too hot to touch, they are literally put into ice chests to cool off. Such heat defying treatment could be enough to make mechanics wish they were a socket wrench, a crowbar or a pair of vice grips.

Braving the heat, mechanics from Task Force Roughrider's maintenance team battle triple digit temperatures to keep all types of vehicles rolling so the troops can continue their missions.

"Keeping the vehicles on the road is our biggest challenge" said Staff Sgt. Steve Hullett, from Conyers, Ga. "We work on everything in the area to include Iraqi vehicles," said the maintenance platoon sergeant of A Company, 1st Battalion 108th Armor Regiment, of the 48th Brigade Combat Team.

"In the humidity of Fort Stewart, we always had trouble with the turret, but in the heat of Iraq, it has been the hull" said Sgt. 1st Class Phil Padgett, from Dalton, Ga., the motor sergeant for A Co.

Working in the motor pool on the M1A1 tanks and humvees where there is little or no shade and where everything gets extremely hot, even before noon, is a tough environment. Sometimes a vehicle with a mechanical problem comes to the maintenance bay or motor pool having just completed an all-night mission. The goal of the Roughriders team is to have it ready for

the next day's mission.

"It's (about) personal pride when you can see a vehicle you've worked on overnight roll out on time the next day," Hullett said.

On this day, Hullett and Padgett were focused on two M1A1s with two very different problems. One tank had hydraulics trouble, while the other had an intermittent electrical glitch. Since they didn't have any junior enlisted mechanics available to complete the work, the noncommissioned officers tackled the tanks themselves.

Working together through the heat and cramped space of the engine compartment, they started on the hydraulic problem first.

They deduced from the tank commander's description of "I just heard a ping and then everything quit working," that the main hydraulic pump was the culprit. Their quick diagnosis came from their combined years of mechanic experience.

They tightened a loose fitting on the pump. When that alone did not solve the problem, they deduced that the pump had burned up and replacing it was the best option.

Padgett started on the other tank's electrical problem while Hullett worked on removing the hydraulic pump from the gear box.

Hullett found the exact problem. The drive shaft on the hydraulic pump that leads into the gear box had sheared off.

While these two tanks were being repaired, close by, a third tank from Troop E, 108th Cavalry was having its

"pack pulled," which means removing the engine and transmission. Although the task might seem overwhelming to the mechanically challenged, pulling packs usually takes three properly trained maintenance Soldiers less than an hour to complete.

"The engine is probably blown," said Spc. Sherod Morrison, from Atlanta, who was supervising the procedure. "Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services would catch many of the problems that are brought to the maintenance teams," Morrison explained. "We're just fixing them so they can continue the mission."

Hullett said his team is trying to conduct PMCS on vehicles for other than the original problems they come in for.

Keeping up with the hectic repair schedule is a challenge because their PMCS includes checking or replacing air filters, tracks and road wheels in addition to the repairs.

"These guys are really great," said Capt. Michael Esola, an Individual Ready Reserve officer from Manville, N.J., who serves as the battalion maintenance officer.

"Parts are flowing and vehicles are getting fixed." As the sweat-soaked Roughriders turn their ice-cooled wrenches and screwdrivers, their supervisors are praising all of the extraordinary behind-the-scenes efforts that keep the vehicles of 108th Armor operational in a constant sand-laden environment.

As Padgett wittingly said, "It's not like Jiffy Lube here."

## Baghdad neighborhood shows signs of recovery

Spc. Christopher Mallard  
4th BCT

BAGHDAD – Along Market Street in the Abu Dschir area of south Baghdad, shop owners are open for business.

Appearing at times more like a promenade with long pedestrian walkways, the old dilapidated stucco shops are set far back from the street. Color-tiled planters line the median and separate oncoming traffic. Snarled power lines, propped in some places by leaning poles, bring electricity to these same shops.

During the mid-day heat, Iraqis gather at the shops, finding new appliances, household wares and tools for sale.

Next door is a display of pre-paid cell phones, while outside against the curb a fruit stand offers watermelons, dates, apples and grapes from the agricultural sector of Arab Jobour.

Across the street and below a wide billboard, where a woman is shown modeling a bridal gown, a man in a traditional white robe sits on a stool sipping a smoothie, blended from locally grown fruit.

This area is one of the more economically-challenged neighborhoods, or

"muhallas," that make up Al Rasheed.

This past July 14 was the anniversary of the Baathist rise to power.

After a decade of sanctions, the economic impact on the country is still evident and is well documented. But often overlooked, with the media focus on large-scale reconstruction projects, is a smaller revolution of commerce that is taking place in the neighborhoods around Baghdad.

With the toppling of the regime also went the command economy.

Most Iraqis had adjusted to the dramatic decline in goods and services offered during this era. The dual economy, which has all but disappeared in the last two years since the Central Bank began printing the new dinar, has dramatically shrunk the black-market which existed for years.

"This was a situation that resulted in an abnormal economy, there was no organized balance of revenue and inflation made it nearly impossible to purchase even the most basic goods," said Mohammed A. Chehour, U.S. contractor working as an interpreter and who also holds a Masters Degree in Political Economy.

Today, the shops along Market Street in Abu Dschir, offer Chinese vacuum cleaners, Korean television sets and Kuwaiti bottled soda for sale. Border countries such as Syria, Jordan, Turkey and Kuwait provide most of the products to Iraq. Long-time associations with China and Korea can still be seen in the display of some products.

During Saddam Hussein's reign, most of the manufacturing base was used for the production of military products resulting in a current balance of trade, which to this day still remains heavily tilted toward imports.

"Competition is a sophisticated mindset after 20 years of a stifled bureaucratic process and will take time before it can take root," said Mohammed.

Cheap products were the first to make it to these new markets, but experts believe a greater diversity of products is on its way and will be seen in the coming years as security improves.

Security, however, is still the biggest factor in building up the local markets. It has become an issue that is vocalized at District Council meetings and discussed by commanders in the field.

Along Market Street, unexploded ordnance and improvised explosive devices have been found and there is active debate as to whether the "squatter" stands near the curbs are too close to the moving traffic and should be encouraged to relocate.

More than a year ago, the U.S. Army, with the help of local contractors, helped construct nearly 168 market stalls which could be used for commercial and retail purposes. But in a country where the tradition of the bazaar has been around for more than 1,000 years, it is slow to convince merchants to back away from the street where they are familiar and comfortable doing business, even if it is for their own safety as well as that of Multi-National Forces.

Adding to the security issue is the break down in essential services, especially garbage collection. Soldiers of A Company, 425th Civil Affairs Battalion, a unit out of Santa Barbara, Calif., are currently working this issue with 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team.

At a recent Neighborhood Council meeting, 1st Lt. Cameron Murphy, assis-

tant civil affairs officer of 1st Bn., 184th Inf. Bn., named trash collection as the number one problem facing this muhalla. He said he is convinced that his brigade will approve a project to employ approximately 75 people.

If approved, the trash clearing will focus on the area of Abu Dschir, especially Market Street and Power Line Road, which officials said appears to be the worse sectors for dumping and debris.

With unemployment still hovering around 60 percent, finding young men productive ways to occupy their time is one of the more important tasks facing civil affairs team leaders.

These days, U.S. Army officials said their function is to encourage Iraqis to find solutions to the most pressing problems in their own communities and provide assistance in working these issues to assure outcomes that are mutually beneficial. This is all part of the transfer of power.

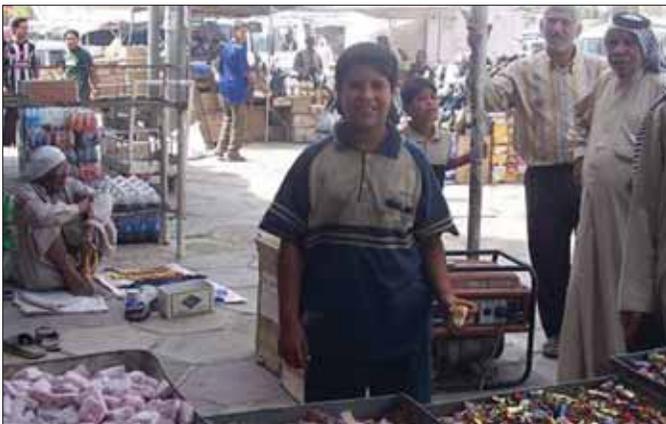
Maj. Carlos R. Molina, who recently assumed duties as a CA team leader responsible for this neighborhood, said he is encouraging the International Chamber Of Commerce to set up an office in Abu Dschir.

At the same Neighborhood Council meeting, he explained to members how the ICOC could be an important tool to "provide training and influence with the leaders of other governments, bringing greater foreign investment into Iraq and at the same time helping to open markets in these same countries."

But more importantly, an association like the COC in the area could open up dialogue, encourage fair business practices, and add a knowledge base for these small shop owners as well as public relations and commercial advertisement.

Revitalizing the local economy is nonetheless underway. CA units said prices are remaining stable and the dinar is presently trading at more than twice its pre-Operation Iraqi Freedom value.

Secondly, consumers are optimistic. The opportunity to purchase, at reasonable prices, air conditioners, washers, driers, a family computer, and the basic goods necessary to return to normalcy remains a steady focus for the Army as Iraq rejoins the community of nations on the path to economic recovery.



Courtesy Photo

An Iraqi boy stands in front of a candy stand at the Abu Dschir market in Al Dora in July. The activity at this marketplace is a positive sign for Iraqis that normalcy is returning to their country and that they are on the path to economic recovery.

# Win or lose goals translate in any language

**Spc. Dan Balda**  
4th BCT PAO

The similarities were easy to find. So much so, that the soccer match had the appearance of a typical game played anywhere, on any given day.

Players fought for openings in the defense, cheered their teammates, cajoled for calls, and flopped when they thought the referee needed a little help making the "correct" call.

Although the competition itself was routine in nature, the playing field and its surroundings were far from typical.

To one side of the field, was a pile of rifles, flak vests and Kevlar helmets near the requisite water jug. Later, during the match, play was temporarily halted when a dust storm created by a UH-60 Blackhawk proved too difficult to play through. A large swamp took up one quarter of the field where a pipe



A Baghdad University player attempts to score against the American team.

**"The games are a great way for the Iraqi people to see the Soldiers without all their battle rattle ... playing a game that they can compete in."**

Capt. John Agnello  
4/64 information operations

had burst, causing laughter when unsuspecting players, intensely focused on the game, became entrenched in the muck.

The joint soccer team of Soldiers assigned to 4th Brigade Combat Team and U.S. Marines assigned to protect the American Embassy was created for two reasons: recreational purposes and a way to interact with the wide variety of people the service members

come into contact with on a daily basis. Some of the teams they play are made up of players drawn from Coalition Forces such as British, Danish and Italian forces. They also play Iraqi teams. For example, they have played a team made up of employees from a local radio station.

In one of their most difficult matches, they went head-to-head with the Baghdad University team, which included some members of the Iraqi Olympic team; the same team that captivated the world during the Athens Olympics.

According to the Federation Internationale de Football Association, the soccer world governing body, 240 million people play soccer in 200 countries all over the world. These are just a few of the reasons why soccer spans the chasm of language, ethnicity and religion.

"Initially, we started the team as a way to build relations with people in the International Zone and the Iraqis," said Staff Sgt. John Travis, the information operations noncommissioned officer in charge for 4th Battalion, 64th



Photos by Spc. Dan Balda

1st Lt. Marietta Squires attempts to steal the ball from a Baghdad University player.

Armor Regiment. "It's a lot of fun. I enjoy talking with the other guys, such as the Brits and the Danes to see how things are going."

Travis, a native of Paden City, W.Va., also views the games as a healthy diversion from work.

"For the guys who are manning the checkpoints and going out on patrols, it's a good way to wind down and relax, run around and burn off whatever frustration they might have," he said.

According to Travis, the games can be somewhat intense with each team battling for the win.

"It can get a little rough, but part of the game is trying to get the ball and win," Travis said. "Yeah, we take the games seriously ... but as soon as that last whistle blows everybody is shaking hands and taking pictures together."

Many of the Iraqi players bring their families and friends to cheer them on while they play.

"The games are a great way for the Iraqi people to see the Soldiers without all their battle rattle, without their weapons, playing a game that they can compete in," said Capt. John Agnello, officer in charge of the 4/64 information operations section. "It shows that we are just like them; we like to compete in sporting events and we like to win."

Agnello, a native of Fairport, N.Y., said the team plays hard and that the players expect the same from the other competing teams.

"Regardless of what happens during the game," he said, "as soon as the whistle blows we are going to shake hands and thank them for giving us a tough game - win or lose."

## Acts of Kindness: Infantrymen build relationships

**Capt. Andrew Lane**  
Task Force 1-118 PAO

TAJI, Iraq - The infantrymen of 1st Platoon, D Company, 3rd Battalion, 172nd Infantry Regiment, Rhode Island National Guard, patrol the towns and streets just outside of Baghdad looking for enemy insurgents or signs of their activity.

These Soldiers, who are attached to 1st Battalion, 118th Field Artillery Regiment of 48th Brigade Combat Team, must be prepared to defend themselves and handle any situation that may arise.

Although they are ready for combat, they are also ready to reach out to the people in the community they patrol.

Recently, 1st Lt. Dave Disi, 1st Platoon leader, had an opportunity to do just that with his Soldiers.

"We were at a night traffic control point to catch curfew violators in cars," he said. "When we arrived, the locals were watching television outside a coffee shop. They started to gather around and talk to us."

Soon afterwards, Disi said,

their children came out and his troops gave them Beanie Babies and candy.

"I got about half the Beanie Babies and candy from my sister-in-law, who is an elementary school teacher in Long Island, N.Y., and my aunt, who is a retired Wisconsin school teacher," Disi said. "We got the other half of the toys and candy from a storage warehouse at Camp Taji."

"This crowd was nice and approachable, some are not," Disi said. "In fact, here the local people even aided us with the traffic control point by helping to tell the drivers to stop for us."

After about an hour on the ground with the town's residents, their replacements arrived in the area and the Rhode Islanders went back to Camp Taji.

"We are happy to give back to the community as long as the community is receptive," Disi said. "We returned to the town just a few days ago and saw the same people as friendly as ever. Hopefully, we can continue this good relationship together."

The infantrymen of D Company have detained a few insurgents in their area and now

they enjoy a relatively calm setting compared to other areas of Iraq. Regardless, they search

every day to find more terrorists and stand ready to defend their area along with its residents.



Capt. Andrew Lane

(From left to right) Rhode Island National Guard infantrymen Spc. Andrew Ferrara, Spc. James Holbrook, and 1st Lt. Dave Disi of 3rd Battalion, 172nd Infantry Regiment, hand out stuffed animals and talk to local residents about their community to help build better relationships.

# Providing Tawaita children 'happy feet'

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

TAWAITHA, Iraq – Soldiers from F Company, 26th Forward Support Battalion, brought smiles to Tawaita children as they distributed hundreds of shoes and toys near a landfill July 23.

The community of squatters who live in the landfill, located near the Rasheed Airfield, often suffer foot injuries caused by walking over sharp debris without shoes.

The F Co. troops, who operate in direct support of 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, set up a perimeter to secure the site and quickly began fitting children with sneakers.

"It's a great thing to come out and do something to raise the standard of living out here a bit," said Capt. Charles Price, commander of F Co., 26th FSB. "This area is all landfill, and bad guys drop bodies and explosives here all the time – it's a dangerous place to live."

The mission was made possible from donations by church groups and family members at Fort Stewart, Ga. A church group in Pennsylvania also donated approximately 300 pairs of sneakers to the effort, while Lt. Col. Steven Merkel, 1/9 FA commander and native of Fort Wayne, Ind., coordinated for clothing donations from Fort Stewart.

Chaplain (Capt.) Charlie Lee, 1/9 FA, brought stuffed animals along on the mission. The little creatures were a big hit with residents of all ages.

"This place reminds me somewhat of Korea after the war," Lee, of Buffalo Grove, Ill., said. "As a chaplain, I want to help share what we have with the neediest Iraqi people."

Lee fitted several ecstatic children with running shoes and watched them dash off to show their families.

"This kind of thing builds good relationships – you can tell everyone really appreciates it," Lee said.

Although it was F Co.'s first purely humanitarian mission in Iraq, Soldiers said they were well prepared for the crowd that quickly gathered around the



Spc. Ben Brody

**Soldiers from F Co., 26th FSB, toss stuffed animals to children during a humanitarian aid mission in Tawaita, Iraq, July 23.**

humvees.

"We never announce these things beforehand, which makes it safer for everyone," said Staff Sgt. Guillermo Blanco, F Co. patrol noncommissioned officer in charge. "These people here are just trying to survive. They don't have anything, so it makes me feel great to see the little kids smile when they see our trucks coming."

Blanco, from El Salvador, fitted children with shoes

and helped keep the crowd orderly as Soldiers tossed water bottles, food rations, clothing and stuffed animals from the cargo bed of a light-medium tactical vehicle.

After their mission, Price contemplated the long-term significance of the operation.

"To win this country over to peace and democracy, it all starts with the kids," said Price, of Columbus, Ohio. "Ten years from now, these kids will be creating the future direction of Iraq."

## 3/7 Cavalry troops recon new routes in Tawaita

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

TAWAITHA, Iraq – Some units within 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, are trading areas of operation in Baghdad, and for Soldiers of 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry, that means they get to do what cavalrymen do best – reconnaissance and scouting missions.

Troopers from B Troop, 3/7 Cav., scouted new routes in Tawaita, gaining familiarity with their new area of operations July 27.

"We're looking for any suspicious activity in the area and interviewing people to get a sense of the security situation here," said Staff Sgt. Zak Ingle, B Troop, 3/7 Cav. section sergeant. "Talking to people of influence in town also (gives) you a good idea

of what infrastructure projects are needed. Sewer, water and electricity are the main needs around here."

According to a map, the area B Troop searched appeared to be a desolate network of farmers' fields, but their recon revealed a maze of dirt roads and collections of homes along a canal.

Soldiers on recon missions are also responsible for recording the locations of mosques and schools using global positioning systems, or "pluggers." The information is used during mission planning to ensure the safety of residents.

"We definitely became familiar with a lot of roads that aren't on the maps," said Ingle, of Sisters, Ore. "Recons are crucial to understanding the area. I like to know every nook and cranny of my AO. If we have to run down some dirt path to engage a mortar team, I don't want to have to look at a map or a pluggger and wonder where I am."

Driving armored humvees bearing the scars of previous attacks, the troopers examined a number of suspicious objects

to ensure there were no improvised explosive devices on the route.

One crumbling building was spray-painted with "UXO," a military acronym for unexploded ordnance. Troopers found two deactivated mortar fuses inside.

"We look for IEDs, not just so we don't hit them, but so the next convoy doesn't either and so they don't injure any civilians,"

**"We look for IEDs, not just so we don't hit them, but so the next convoy doesn't either and so they don't injure any civilians."**

Spc. Cory Fincher  
B Troop, 3/7 Cav.

said Spc. Cory Fincher, a Dallas resident and a driver with B Troop, 3/7 Cav. "We'll try and find the village leaders and talk to them about insurgents, but we'll also hand out some candy to the kids and let them know

we're here to help."

As the convoy drove past homes in the dusty fields, children waved and held their thumbs up. Farmers cheerfully let the troopers look through their fields.

"I like being out here in the country, going down roads no one's gone down before," Ingle said. "It's great doing what we're trained to do – recon is what every cav scout loves best."



Spc. Ben Brody

**Staff Sgt. Zak Ingle, B Troop, 3/7 Cav., section sergeant, examines ruins near a road in Tawaita, Iraq, July 27. Ruins and abandoned buildings are often used by insurgents to store weapons.**

Ensuring logistical success

# Supply Soldiers keep Aviation Brigade well-stocked

**Spc. Derek Del Rosario**  
Avn. Bde. PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – It can be easy to take the little things for granted. Many people don't give a second thought to who provides the water we drink, the pens we write with, or the ink cartridges we use for our printers.

It is the job of supply personnel to ensure that Soldiers are well stocked with essential equipment needed to do their day-to-day job. The supply office representative's responsibility includes the distribution of pen and paper, but it also entails larger items such as vehicle parts, fuel and ammunition.

The supply room personnel of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment (Attack Reconnaissance) have been making sure that the battalion's Soldiers are prepared to do their duties, whether it is at the office, motor pool or flight line.

The 1/3 ARB supply office has a representative for each company in the battalion. This ensures that a supply specialist is paying attention to each of the companies' supply needs. Carson, Calif., native Spc. John Atwater, of HHC, 1/3 ARB, is the B Company representative. He said his responsibilities extend to more than giving out office supplies.

"We also have to handle hand receipts, equipment inventory and process the requests of the company," he said.

Pfc. Nathan George ensures that all the supply needs of D Company are taken care of. The Little Rock, Ark., native feels that hand receipts are the most important part of supply.

"We handle all supply-related issues like issuing, receiving, adjusting the property book and hand receipts," said George. "Hand receipts are very important here in supply. It holds people accountable for all equipment."

In order to receive certain supplies, Soldiers fill out a supply request which goes through their appropriate supply representative. The representative will either send the request through supply channels for approval, or provide the item himself if it is readily available.

Spc. Jonathan Mitchell, HHC, 1-3 ARB representative, said the supply personnel usually check the warehouse every day to follow up on arriving orders.

"Each representative is responsible for the shortages of their respective company," Mitchell said.

One very important service the supply representatives perform for the battalion is providing water. At least three times a week, they pick up bottled water, a service that A Company representative Pfc. Juachau T. Cogdell feels is vital.

"Our water runs are very important because of this overwhelming heat," said the Lumberton, N.C.,



Spc. Jennifer Fitts

**Pfcs. Juachau T. Cogdell (left) and Diyuan C. Robins, both supply representatives of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment (Attack Reconnaissance), unload supplies for storage in a Connex container.**

native. "Water is more essential now than ever. The summer time is when people should be extra conscience of staying hydrated."

While staying hydrated during the summer heat is important, Mitchell recognizes that the representatives' water runs are important all year round.

"On my pick up day I usually get six pallets of water for my company, and I think it is important to maintain that standard," said Mitchell. "You can dehydrate during winter just as in the summer-time; I think that is often overlooked by Soldiers."

Being a company's supply representative can come with some challenges, but for Cogdell, it is all a learning experience.

"It can be hard to handle the last minute requests, like if someone requests a radio by 6 a.m. the next morning and it's already 10 p.m. the night before," Cogdell said. "But I am learning a lot out here. I think I have become more organized and disci-

plined. When you have to handle so many supplies, you learn a lot about organization."

Each unit supply specialist received eight weeks of specialized training to handle and maintain the supplies they issue. They received three weeks of familiarization of supply forms, instructions and reports; two weeks of learning an online automated system for hand receipts, and another three weeks of armor school instruction, a learning experience that Mitchell feels is very valuable in his line of duty.

"In the armor school, we learned about different type of weapons, how to identify them and how to break them down. In the end, we have the knowledge to become assistant armors," Mitchell said. The training is important because it allows the representative to identify the items that they are supplying, he added.

No matter which class of supply they are issuing, the supply representatives of HHC, 1/3 ARB all seem to agree that they play an integral role in the battalion's mission.

"We do what we can to help out the companies. Everyone needs supplies, from the Soldiers in the office to the mechanics on the flight line," Atwater said. "Everyone here plays a part in supporting the battalion. Without us, the mission can't be done."

**"Our water runs are very important because of this overwhelming heat. Water is more essential now than ever."**

Juachau T. Cogdell  
A Co., 1/3 ARB

**No  
Soldier  
left  
behind**

## Sgt. Matthew Maupin

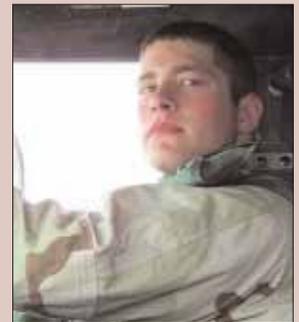
**"I will not leave a fallen comrade"**

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

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

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

You have not been forgotten.





Photos by Spc. Brian Henretta

(top) An Iraqi Lt. Col. with the 5th Infantry Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army analyses a simulated battle board during a command post exercise.

(left) Officers in the 6th Iraqi Army monitor simulated troop movement in the tactical operations center, during a command post exercise.

# Preparing for the Future

## Iraqi, U.S. Army officers conduct command post training

Spc. Brian P. Henretta  
100th MPAD

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Iraqi Army officers and command staff, who will soon be responsible for sectors within Baghdad, are now a step closer to achieving their goal.

Approximately 50 officers from Iraqi 6th Army Division and an additional 20 from 5th Iraqi Army Brigade participated in a three-day command post exercise that ended July 13. The CPX was designed to train the officers how to run an organized tactical operations center.

The exercise put the Iraqi officers in various scenarios they will encounter in future real-world missions.

Their 3rd Infantry Division Military Transition Team instructors presented situations that dealt with improvised explosive devices, vehicle-borne IEDs, prison breaks and public demonstrations, said Sgt. 1st Class Willie J. Smith, TOC operations sergeant with Headquarters and Headquarters Operations Company, Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Inf. Div.

“The end state is to get them to operate within the 3rd Infantry Division’s staff while maintaining their own identity,” said Lt. Col. Brian Duemling, a Coalition Military Assistance Training Team member.

Another significant portion of the exercise was demonstrating how to set up a TOC.

“We used both Iraqi and U.S. equipment and gave them a model,” Duemling said. “Theirs is similar to ours, with a few changes, but they were very receptive and eager to listen to suggestions we made.”

They learned to set up according to a standard layout, and how to install and use communications equipment, maps and graphics. From there, they began processing and reacting to information given to them by deploying the necessary Soldiers and communicating the information to higher or lower levels. Smith said the training provided a realistic look at what to expect when an event occurs and that military officials said they gain confidence every time they train.

The CPX scenario also included prisoner care and abuse, laws of war and training with members of the media to get them used to releasing accurate informa-

tion to the public, said Lt. Col. Glenn Kapiloff of the Coalition Military Assistance Training Team.

“These guys never knew what G-5 (Civil Affairs) was,” Kapiloff explained. “They didn’t have anything like that in their old Army, so it’s good to give them experience dealing with the media and the public.”

Kapiloff said the instructors were especially challenged by the more experienced Iraqi officers.

“The colonels and other experienced officers had to learn to break old habits,” said Duemling. “Under Saddam’s army, there was no questioning anything. There was one way to do things and you followed orders. We are teaching them that our Coalition is successful because we think outside the box and come up with creative solutions to problems.”

The trainers showed them how to implement after action reviews; a practice unheard of in the old Iraqi Army.

“It was hard at first to get them to discuss shortcomings,” Kapiloff said.

Despite their initial hesitation, the Iraqis showed significant growth in their ability to critique themselves. Now they talk freely about what they did well, what mistakes were made, and what they can do to prevent those errors in the future, said Duemling.

The CPX was merely the latest step for this group of Iraqi 6th Army Div. Soldiers. The unit was assembled earlier this year, and has come a long way since their first days, their U.S. counterparts said. The U.S. advisors enjoy working with the Iraqi officers and are thrilled at the progress they have made since arriving.

“When these guys showed up in February, they showed up in civilian clothes from various backgrounds and no one really knew each other,” Kapiloff said. “Now they work as a cohesive unit.”

The Iraqi officers are preparing for their activation marking the beginning of their responsibilities around Baghdad. Their future missions include patrols in the city, including assisting the U.S. Army

in patrolling the International Zone, said Lt. Col. Saber Alobaidy, 5th Iraqi Army Brigade public affairs officer.

“Our Soldiers and officers are ready to do the mission,” he said. “Our unit is a good unit, and we will honor our division. We want to help the people of our country be safe, and we thank our instructors for helping us get ready.”

Duemling said mutual respect was the key to connecting with the Iraqi officers. It wasn’t easy at first, but the persistence of the instructors paid off. Their success is demonstrated by how far along the Iraqis have come since the beginning.

“If you can earn their respect like we have been able to do, they will try to do everything for you,” said Duemling.

The instructors gained the Iraqis’ respect by treating them as equals, talking to them on a personal level and showing that they genuinely care about them and their country’s future, said Duemling.

This group knows the Americans are sincere and trying to help them, said Kapiloff.

“After we get them to trust and open up to us, we learn a lot from them,” Duemling added. “One of the most insightful ideas came from a

colonel who said the key to the Iraqis’ success was putting the right people in the right leadership positions. It seems like a simple statement, but it really means a lot. He didn’t just mean putting experienced officers into a position; he was referring to people of good character.”

Good character is something exemplified by the Iraqi officers.

Kapiloff said these are the right officers in the right positions.

As such, the training exercise brought the Iraqi officers one step closer to the leadership roles that will help the 6th Army Div. assume its future responsibilities.

**“Our Soldiers and officers are ready to do the mission. We want to help the people of our country be safe.”**

Lt. Col. Saber Alobaidy  
5th IA Bde., PAO

# 92nd Engineers build barracks for IA Soldiers

Sgt. Andrew A. Miller  
100th MPAD

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HONOR, Iraq – With the smell of sawdust owning the air, the Soldiers cut and hammer away at their latest project, which aims to turn water into wine.

Well, maybe not exactly. Carpentry, electrical and plumbing specialists from B Company, 92nd Engineer Battalion are transforming a parking garage into a barracks. This complicated project and others like it are critical to the ongoing shift of responsibility from U.S. to Iraqi units.

The newly converted barracks will soon be a home for Soldiers of the Iraqi Army.

Sgt. 1st Class Sheila Stewart of B Co., noncommissioned officer in charge of the site, said projects like these have special importance. She sees her work here as a way to help the Iraqi Army along, thus reducing the burden and perhaps the need for her fellow American Soldiers.

Her commander agrees. “Anything we can do to get (Iraqi Security Forces) set so they can take on the responsibilities for their mission helps,” said Lt. Col. Keith Landry, 92nd Eng. Bn. commander, who was visiting his troops and the work site.

This is not the first project Soldiers of 92nd Eng. have tackled in support of the Iraqi Security Forces. It is, however, significant.

“This is probably the largest single project that we’ve worked on,” Landry

said. The former garage will be divided into 20 large rooms with a total capacity of more than 800 Soldiers, he added.

Stewart said her engineers are more than up to the task.

The Soldiers began the project June 21 and plan to complete the transformation in just over a month, Stewart said.

To accomplish their mission, the engineers are building walls, running wires, and repairing an existing drainage system. The carpenters, electricians and plumbers of the crew each face unique challenges with this project.

Spc. Michael A. Hasselbrick, an electrician with B Co., said Iraqi wiring is a little different than in the U.S.

“In the states, cables are labeled,” said Hasselbrick. “Not here,” he added with a smile.

But Hasselbrick is lucky, he said, because his supervisor has experience with electrical work here from a previous tour of duty. Accordingly, he was able to watch and learn from the veteran.

If it wasn’t for Staff Sgt. Martin Clark, he said, “I would have been lost.”

Several Soldiers at the site said they value these kinds of challenges.

“It’s a good experience,” said Hasselbrick, “you learn a lot when there are so many obstacles to overcome.”

Supplying this massive project has been a challenge, although that job is



Sgt. Andrew Miller

Sgt. Ciro G. Romero and Pfc. Timothy J. Russo mark their next cut July 14. Romero, of Queens, N.Y., and Russo, of Newport Richey, Fla., both serve with B Company, 92nd Engineer Battalion. More than a platoon of B Company Soldiers are currently turning a parking garage into a barracks for Iraqi Army Soldiers.

now nearly complete.

“We’ve sent out several (large cargo trucks) and trailer loads full of wood,” Landry said. “Right now we’re just waiting on the air conditioner units to finish the project up.”

Currently, Soldiers working on the project seem to be enjoying themselves as they work, despite the cruel heat.

With all the familiar sights, sounds and smells of a construction site in the

U.S., it might be easy to concentrate on work and forget where the site lies on the map. As all the works adds up, an old parking garage slowly begins to look like a military barracks.

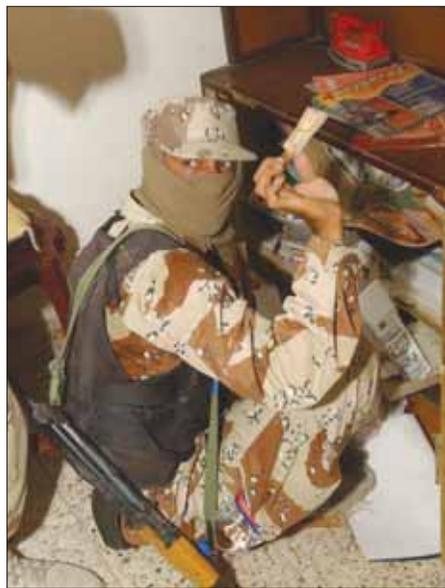
Whether they are building for their fellow U.S. service members or for their Iraqi allies, Landry said, the 92nd Eng. crews love to get out and do their job.

“We’re doing a lot of good things here,” he said proudly.

# Operation Thunder Cat I nets 171 suspected insurgents

1Lt. Taysha Deaton  
256th BCT PAO

Baghdad, Iraq—From July 26 through July 30,



Spc. Timothy Belt

An Iraqi Soldier with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Iraqi Army Brigade searches a home in the west Abu Ghraib district of Baghdad during Operation Thunder Cat I.

Soldiers of the 256th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division and the 1st and 3rd Iraqi Army Brigades, 6th Division, conducted combined offensive operations called Operation Thunder Cat I, a series of cordon and attack missions resulting in the capture of 171 suspected insurgents.

This operation was a part of a much larger Task Force Baghdad operation called Operation Thunder. The focus of this operation and future operations is to disrupt and destroy the insurgency, according to the Commander of the 256th Brigade Combat Team, Brig. Gen. John Basilica, Jr.

“This operation was primarily an Iraqi Army mission, beginning with intelligence gathering, all the way through to the capture and detainment of the Anti-Iraqi forces,” he said. “My brigade provided staff assistance to the Iraqi Security Forces and added combat power if needed.”

Of the 171 suspected terrorists, 33 were specific brigade level targets of the 1st Iraqi Army Brigade, captured by Soldiers from 2nd, 4th and 5th Battalions.

“Operation Thunder Cat I was an outstanding opportunity for the Iraqis to demonstrate their continued development into a fully operational combat unit,” said Maj. Stuart Burruss, from New Orleans, executive officer for 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, who worked with the 5/1 IA during this operation.

“The 5th Bn. leaders did an outstanding job preparing for and executing the mission,” he said. This was proven by their performance, both technically and tactically sound. It was also shown by the high morale of the junior leaders and Soldiers, Burruss added.

One of the most successful operations belonged to 3rd Battalion, 3rd Iraqi Army Brigade, who captured 45 detainees in the west Abu Ghraib district of Baghdad. Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry Regiment, 256th BCT, supported the mission by providing outer security.

Capt. Kurt Merseal from Steeleville, Mo., commander of C Company, 2/130th Inf. Bn., said the IA showed significant improvement throughout Thunder Cat. “The Iraqi Army has progressed so much as a team and unit, and it is satisfying for me to assist them in accomplishing our collective goal,” he said.

“I noticed that the IA has improved their situational awareness, as well as working together as a team,” said Staff Sgt. Ronald Floyd, a squad leader for C Co., 2/130th Inf. Bn., from Villa Grove, Ill. “As they improve, it helps Coalition forces and Iraqi citizens move forward.”

Joint missions involving forces from different commands creates challenges in planning, execution and reporting which adds significant complexity to the operations, explained Basilica.

Operation Thunder Cat I was the first time these challenges were managed using state of the art computer networks to coordinate the efforts of the three brigades.

“The Iraqi Army has done a superb job and I am very proud of what they accomplished. The measure of success for this operation is not only the number of insurgents captured, but proof positive of the Iraqi Army’s growth as a military force. It is also a clear indication that they are becoming stronger and more capable as a team,” Basilica exclaimed.

“I noticed that the IA has improved their situational awareness, as well as working together as a team.”

Staff Sgt. Ronald Floyd  
C Co., 2/130 Inf.

# U.S., Australian Soldiers teach Iraqi logistics course

Sgt. 1st Class Peter Chadwick  
DSB PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – The Australian Soldiers at the Iraqi Army Support and Services Institute are getting closer to working their way out of a job. Their plan is to turn the classes completely over to the Iraqi Army.

“The quicker we get this job done, the quicker we go home,” said Lt. Col. Warren S. Jolly, a member of the Royal Australian Engineers.

Their goal is near because the courses at the logistical training school are almost entirely taught by Iraqi instructors.

But that wasn't the case when the first class kicked off in March. In fact, just 10 weeks prior to that first class, there wasn't much of a school building.

“We arrived with very little building capacity and no roads,” said Jolly, a Bendigo, Victoria native.

Jolly said his team gradually built up the institute with supplies and engineering support they scrounged from a variety of sources.

In addition to preparing the institute's physical facility, Jolly's team had to develop the curriculum, while being mindful of the students' training needs.

“We had to make sure we were building an Iraqi system,” he said.

Jolly discussed the type of distribution and logistical support system the Iraqis can use with his partner at the Division Support Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Lt. Col. William R. Keeton.

Keeton, who is now the Iraqi Security Force coordinator for DSB, said his involvement began during a chance encounter with a few Australian Soldiers at a dining facility. Having spent two years as an instructor in Australia, he introduced himself.

The next thing Keeton knew, Warrant Officer Paul Anderson, an Australian at the logistics school and a former student of his, was knocking on his door at the DSB Support Operations section.

“They asked me to look at their courses,” said Keeton, who officially left Support Operations for his new position at the end of May.

The courses weren't quite complete for the beginning of the March course.

Jolly said they were at the point of developing the next class the night before it was taught.

“We were just keeping in front,” Jolly admitted.

They took a two-and-a-half week break after the first course for a thorough after action review and



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Chadwick

An instructor at the Iraqi Army Support and Services Institute here gives direction to a student driver during a Transportation Services class. Nearly 600 Iraqi Soldiers have graduated from the school since it opened in March.

for preparing the next course.

Jolly said they trained the first class themselves, but that was a temporary situation.

“We made it clear they needed Iraqi instructors trained as soon as possible,” Jolly said.

An Iraqi major, who is the senior instructor for the Iraqi Army officers, said they are short of Iraqi Army instructors, but they are maintaining a high standard. All potential instructors take a test. If they don't pass, they don't teach.

The instructors weren't the only ones who had to pass a test, Jolly said. The senior noncommissioned officers taking the transportation services course were also tested on their driving abilities before being allowed to enter the class.

Jolly said there are two sides to the institute, the supply side and the transportation side. Previously, the Iraqi Army performed these two logistical areas separately. The curriculum is showing the Iraqi Army providers how to integrate their logistics systems.

Jolly said they have completed three basic officers' logistics courses, for first and second lieutenants and three NCO transportation courses since March. They are completing their first senior officer's course for captains and majors.

By the end of July, the institute will have graduated nearly 600 students.

An Iraqi major, with more than 30 years in the Iraqi Army, is the chief Iraqi instructor. He said the Iraqi Soldiers are taking a wealth of knowledge with them when they graduate.

In providing that knowledge, the chief Iraqi instructor is driven to make the IASSI the best school in the Iraqi Army through high standards for his subordinate teachers.

“Only the best can be instructors,” the Iraqi major said.

He went on to say the classes continue to improve through cooperation between the Australians and

the Iraqi Army cadre.

In the spirit of that cooperation, Keeton was able to inject some missing blocks of instruction into the officers' course.

When he looked over the course for the new senior leader class, Keeton said he noticed they didn't have instruction on leadership.

“I told them I could modify the classes I had taught in Australia to fit the Iraqi course,” Keeton said.

He was able to present some of those classes as a guest speaker. He was impressed with the Iraqi Army officers' reaction to his class.

“It was very encouraging to see the enthusiasm of the leaders,” he said.

Keeton, who plans to teach at the college level in Australia when he retires, said it's gratifying to instructors when they see the lights come on in the students' eyes.

The Iraqi major said teaching is also his passion. “I am very happy when I teach,” said the major, who took a downgrade in rank to come to the school. “Everything is running smooth but they still need more teachers before the Iraqi Army can totally take over the institute.”

Jolly said the Iraqi Army instructors and the Australians continue to work together to develop the courses while waiting for the Iraqi cadre to develop. He said it is important that the Iraqi instructors are at ease with the process if they're to take over.

“Once you give the Iraqis very clear guidelines, they are comfortable,” Jolly said.

With those guidelines came the added tool of computer classes to help the Iraqi teachers further develop the courses after their Coalition Forces partners are gone.

Jolly said the Australians are nearly ready to step away completely now that the Iraqi instructors are teaching 90 percent of the classes.



A student interjects a point during the lecture portion of a class at the Iraqi Army Support and Services Institute. The senior Iraqi Army instructor said the Iraqi Soldiers are taking a wealth of knowledge with them from the school.

Uphold the Warrior Ethos. Obey all regulations and General Orders. Serve with honor.  
“Rock of the Marne!”



Photos by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

(above) The hands of Miami, Fla., native Luis Benitez, A Company 3rd Soldier Support Battalion, passes the last bill to a Soldier receiving advance pay at the finance office here July 28. (right) Despite a power outage, Spc. Kenlinzo Jackson, Pfc. Aubrey Gonzales and Pfc. John Prettyboy (left to right), all of A Company 3rd Soldier Support Battalion, provide customer service by window light at the finance office July 28. Jackson is a native of Phoenix City, Ala., Gonzales of Sugarland, Texas, and Prettyboy of Billings, Mont.



## Marne finance office first of its kind in Iraq

DSB PAO

Media Release

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – The 3rd Infantry Division finance company is the first of its type to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“We are the first Army finance company to deploy under the Army’s transformation process,” said Maj. Richard Santiago, company commander for 3rd Finance Company, 3rd Soldier Support Battalion, Division Support Brigade.

Santiago, whose unit was formerly known as the 24th Finance Battalion, said the finance company consists of a little more than 130 Soldiers and is composed of six finance detachments geographically dispersed throughout Iraq.

The Soldiers were assigned throughout a variety of U.S. Army posts before they deployed to Iraq.

Santiago, who is from San Juan, Puerto Rico, said 3rd Fin. Co. itself is comprised of the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, along with A and C Detachments. Each detachment is comprised of Soldiers from three Georgia military installations: forts Benning and Stewart, as well as Hunter Army Air Field.

In addition to the Marne Soldiers, Santiago said the company is augmented by troops from three units outside the 3rd Inf. Div., including troops from Fort

Drum, N.Y., South Korea, and the Florida Army National Guard.

The 3rd Fin. Co. nicknamed “The Marne Paymasters,” integrated these three units while ensuring a successful transfer with their predecessors, the 15th Finance Battalion, said Sgt. Maj. William D. Hall, 3rd Finance Company sergeant major.

When their company replaced a battalion, the Paymasters knew they had a substantial job ahead of them.

“We are currently providing finance support to active-duty and Reserve Component Soldiers, Airmen, Marines, U.S. contractors and Coalition Forces during OIF 3,” Santiago said.

Adapting to the new transition and modularity, Soldiers of 3rd Fin. Co. were up to the challenging task.

“Our Soldiers flawlessly maintained accurate accountability of more than \$122 million weekly while supporting contracting, developmental funds for Iraq, Commander’s Emergency Response Program, paying agent and cashier operations at nine remote locations with no loss of funds,” Santiago said.

Spc. Sam H. Kriegler, a finance specialist with 3rd Fin. Co., said he checks documents and tracking transactions when they first come into his office.

Then they’re checked again by the

next internal control point – another step in the quality assurance process, said Kriegler, who lives in Hinesville, Ga.

More importantly, the unit’s internal quality controls are attributed to its pre-deployment planning regarding effective customer service.

Consequently, one of the first OIF 3 priorities for the Paymasters was setting up their own Accountable Dispersing Station Number before deploying to Iraq, said Sgt. 1st Class Danny D. Young, non-commissioned officer in charge of internal control and military pay.

Young, a Battle Creek, Mich., native, said the account tracking tool gives them a direct link with the Defense Finance and Accounting System at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind. so they can quickly clear up any pay problems that come along.

Customer service is the key. Santiago said the unit’s meticulous tracking resulted in excellent performance ratings during two Quality Assurance Inspections and that the Paymasters have displayed solid improvements in both Finance Operations and customer service.

“During this deployment, our Soldiers processed timely deployment entitlements for more than 98 percent of the 3rd Infantry Division’s Soldiers and other supported units within 30 days after arrival into theater,” Hall said.

Additionally, Santiago said they pro-

vide basic check cashing services, as well as casual pay for Soldiers needing ready-available cash.

Sgt. Brenda L. Cohen, a finance NCO, said the unit has a good system for casual pay.

Military customers are allowed to draw up to \$350 of casual pay per calendar month, said the Ocala, Fla., native. Once the customer’s withdrawal history is verified and the casual pay is approved, the clerk enters the pay request into the Deployable Dispersing System, and the customer is on their way to the cashier’s cage.

The DDS is another first for the 3rd Fin. Co.

The system assists in tracking customer transactions accurately. Working long hours, the Santiago said the Paymasters have successfully implemented the new system in all of their remote locations.

Additionally, they simultaneously introduced the use of U.S. Treasury checks into their finance operations.

Santiago said the Treasury checks are very helpful for contractors. This optional form of payment keeps them from carrying around large sums of cash.

He said they also plan to have an electronic fund transfer system in place in the near future and hope to disperse Iraqi dinars for local contractors before redeploying.

## Emergency Relief Program pumps \$161 Million into communities

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Media Release

BAGHDAD – A potential \$161million will soon be added to the Reconstruction Program coffers.

The Commander’s Emergency Relief Program is a set-aside allocation of money that allows commanders on the ground and Iraqi community leaders to work together toward immediate quality of life enhancements for Iraqi citizens.

“It’s a powerful community-based initiative that functions as a non-lethal weapon against insurgency and terrorism,” said George Guszczka, program manager at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division. CERP is essentially a military version of traditional non-government organizations, such as the American Red Cross, that provides community-based relief immediately.”

Guszczka said systems are important but they take time.

“It’s difficult to explain to parents who need drinking water today for their family ... that we’re building a large capital water project that will be completed in December 2006,” Guszczka explained. “They need

drinking water today.”

Representatives of the Gulf Region Division and its three districts in Mosul, Baghdad, and Tallil work with local Iraqi counterparts to prioritize the needs of the people.

“Each district has their maneuver units, and those Soldiers and Marines are in the towns and on the streets everyday ... they know the Iraqi citizens,” Guszczka said. “They see them and talk to them, and learn what their immediate needs are.”

Col. Rick Jenkins is the commander of the Gulf Region North District. He explained that the maneuver commanders look for small infrastructure projects aimed at completing the “last mile” for delivery of electricity or water or other basic needs to Iraqi homes and businesses.

“CERP funds have also been made available to the [Iraqi] Provincial Reconstruction and Development Committees,” Jenkins said. “The PRDC there recommended that three water treatment plants in one district be rehabilitated; for a cost of approximately \$175,000. These and additional projects will be done with money provided by the CERP, contributing to the ability of the Iraqi local and provincial government to deliver essen-

tial services to their constituents.”

Additionally, in Jenkins’ district area, 78 CERP projects – funded for \$4.9 million – will add three classrooms to 27 schools and six classrooms to 51 schools, all of which are expected to be completed in September.

In the Gulf Region Central District, an \$89,000 outpatient clinic is being built with funding from the program. Also, in the central district area, seven CERP projects for a cost of \$1.4 million are scheduled to replace voltage lines throughout Sadr City.

According to Guszczka, CERP money can be used for a spectrum of needs: from buying supplies to expanding schools; from clean-up projects to medical equipment, streetlights, and water towers, as well as reconstruction projects.

“It affords our engineers the opportunity to work directly with Iraqi professionals in their neighborhoods,” Guszczka added. “It’s an exciting program.”

At the time of Iraq’s transition to sovereignty June 2004, there were approximately 200 reconstruction projects underway.

Today, there are more than 2,600 projects started, valued at more than \$6.2 billion. More than 1,450 projects are finished, with a total value of \$1.4 billion.

# Soldier serves two combat tours ... 36 years apart

**Spc. Matthew Wester**  
3/1 AD PAO

TAJI, Iraq – There are plenty of Soldiers here who have served two combat tours, but not many who served one of their tours in Vietnam.

Master Sgt. Lanie Ray Vickers, 58, operations noncommissioned officer for A Company, 490th Civil Affairs Battalion, which supports 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, is back in a war zone after more than three decades.

The last time he was in combat was 1969.

“Everyone says life is a big circle and I believe it,” Vickers said.

He was drafted into the Army at 17, served 32 years total in active duty and reserve units, and was called back from the Individual Ready Reserve to serve in Iraq this year.

“I got the bonus tour,” the Wilkesboro, N.C., native said. Vickers considers this deployment, “just one more adventure.”

The Army has changed in many ways since Vickers began his military career as a Special Forces medic in 1968.

He said Soldiers in the field have more effective protection against enemy fire

because of Kevlar helmets and individual body armor.

“The IBA is much better, Vickers said. “The helmets are better today. The old steel helmets wouldn’t stop a round, but I’ve got a lot of confidence in the Kevlar and the IBA.”

Vickers said the food has definitely improved since the Vietnam era.

“(Meals-Ready-to-Eat) are better than the old C rations ... we developed a lot of names for the old C rations,” he joked.

Vickers said getting in touch with friends and family was tough during his time in Vietnam.

“I remember waiting for a phone for five hours in Da Nang,” he said.

Overall, Vickers thinks he is living more comfortably in this war zone than in the jungles he patrolled in Vietnam.

“Here, compared to Vietnam, this is like luxury,” he explained. “You go do your mission, and you come back to great food, an air-conditioned room, and a shower. To me, it’s like living in a luxury combat hotel.”

Soldiers have also changed – and Vickers believes that is a good thing.

“In the old, draftee Army, there were a lot of people who didn’t want to be there,” Vickers said. “The new Army ... today everybody is here because they want to be. They’ve got better attitudes. The Soldier of today is a better Soldier.”

For any Soldier, deploying to a combat zone is stressful. That is something that hasn’t changed over the years.

“I think the way you feel is pretty much the same,” Vickers said. “You’re in a strange place, always aware, always cautious, always on guard.”

Tactical awareness is something he stresses to the younger Soldiers in A Company, who see Vickers as a mentor and a valuable part of their unit.

“I’ve gone to him a lot with questions and stuff like that,” said Spc. Nicholas Kohl, a public affairs specialist for A Company from Rock Falls, Ill. “He’s helped me out numerous times. I look up to him a lot. He is like a fatherly figure.”

Vickers assisted Kohl with getting accustomed to firing an M-4 rifle when the company was training to deploy to Iraq. His helpful hints improved Kohl’s marksmanship, an essential soldiering skill.

“He is our operations sergeant, so we depend on him for a lot,” said Spc. Rita R. Raymond, a supply specialist for A Company from Clyde, Texas. “You feel a lot safer because he has a lot of combat experience.”

“When we were training, we used him as a sounding board for different scenarios,” said Maj. Ana L. Christian, A Company commander and Tampa, Fla., native.

The lower enlisted troops also admire his work ethic and professionalism.

“Not once did I see him go to the back of the (physical training) formation,” Kohl said. “He would keep up with the rest of us.”

“When we were out in the heat at Fort Bragg, he was out there running,” Christian said. “He is definitely a ‘lead by example’ Soldier.”

Vickers recognizes that his military career is winding down, and he pointed out an ironic similarity between its beginning and its inevitable end.

“With my draft notice in 1968 and my mobilization notice from 2005, the first sentence was the same, ‘pursuant to presidential orders ...’” he said.

Vickers plans to stay in the IRR until he turns 60, and he knows that could mean another tour overseas.

“If I do get called again (to active duty), I’ll go,” he said.

If the seasoned veteran does receive his third notice, many younger fellow troops stand to benefit from his experience. They, no doubt, will be mentored by one of the best senior NCOs around.



Spc. Matthew Wester

Master Sgt. Lanie Ray Vickers (left), operations noncommissioned officer for A Company, 490th Civil Affairs Battalion, which supports 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, inspects a pistol for Spc. Rita R. Raymond, a supply specialist for A Company from Clyde, Texas. Vickers, a Wilkesboro, N.C., native, was drafted into the Army at 17, served 32 years total in active duty and reserve units, and was called back from the Individual Ready Reserve to serve in Iraq this year.



**Showing we care ...**

Sgt. Thomas Benoit

Hoping to lift childrens’ spirits, Lt. Col. Joseph Dore from Charlotte, N.C., the 256th Brigade Combat Team’s brigade surgeon, hands out toys and stuffed animals to young cancer patients at General Children’s Hospital during a humanitarian mission in Baghdad July 31. The hospital’s medical staff also received several reference manuals.



Photos by Spc. Matthew Wester

(left) Sgt. Janeice M. Brooks (left), a medic for C Company, 125th Forward Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, instructs a group of medics on how to administer an IV at "Cobra" troop medical clinic at Camp Taji. The staff members of the clinic participate in training exercises regularly. One trauma episode recently put the Soldiers at the clinic to the test, as they treated and stabilized three Soldiers injured in a bomb blast on the afternoon of July 8.

(above) A patient holds his hand still while his pulse is monitored at "Cobra" troop medical clinic at Camp Taji. The clinic provides all the services of a battalion aid station plus lab, dental, x-ray and trauma services.

# 'Cobra' Clinic: *Trained for the routine, ready for the unexpected*

**Spc. Matthew Wester**  
3/1 AD PAO

TAJI, Iraq – "You never know what is going to roll up to the door," said Capt. Jacqueline L. Graul, brigade nurse for 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division.

Graul is part of the staff at "Cobra" Clinic, run by C Company, 125th Forward Support Battalion, which provides medical care for Soldiers and civilians alike.

The clinic's medical team has a very diverse mission.

The staff conducts morning and evening sick calls; supports explosive ordnance teams and provides medics at the battalion and company levels within the brigade, according to Capt. Michelle L. Auck, a physician's assistant for C Company from Bowling Green, Ohio.

Cobra Clinic provides all the services of a battalion aid station plus lab, dental, x-ray and trauma services, said Capt. Peter A. Ramos, commander of C Company.

The clinic is equipped with a trauma room, which can be set up quickly to treat emergency cases, and examination rooms used for private patient consultation and routine medical examinations.

Ramos, of Fort Riley, Kan., said the majority of his company's mission has been sick call.

"We have had some trauma," he said, "but thankfully, it hasn't been much."

One trauma episode recently put the clinic's medical specialists to the test when they treated and stabilized three

**Soldiers** injured in a bomb blast on the afternoon of July 8. The staff was training for the same kind of incident that very morning.

**Shifting** from everyday troop medical clinic duties to trauma care happened quickly as the medical providers put their training into action.

"It was an adrenaline rush," Auck said. "All the training came together, and everybody knew what they were doing."

"With everyday sick call it isn't as intense," said Sgt. 1st Class Delores A. Livingston, noncommissioned officer in charge and a Charleston, Mo., native.

"With trauma, we go head-to-toe with each patient," she said. "(The medics) didn't leave anything undone. Everybody double-checked everybody else."

When trauma cases come in, teams are assigned to deal with each patient. Team members have specific responsibilities during treatment and stabilization.

"Everybody on the trauma team has a role and prepares in advance of the casualty" said Dr. (Maj.) Gregory Martin, a San Antonio, Texas resident and clinic physician for C Company.

Once the trauma teams go to work, they are all business.

Martin explained that one medic is in charge of giving the casualty oxygen and stabilizing the head, another cuts off the clothing over wounds and looks for extremity injuries, and a third monitors vital signs, while the physician performs an overall assessment of the patient.

**"It was an adrenaline rush. All the training came together and everyone knew what they were doing."**

Capt. Michelle L. Auck  
C Co., 125th FSB

## Useful Arabic Phrases

### English

How long have you been here?

How long have they been there?

### Arabic

Ish-ged Sar-lek lh-na

Ish-ged Sar-il-hum ih-na-ak

# 3/15 Inf., IAB keep Sadr City safe

Spc. Ben Brody  
2nd BCT PAO

SADR CITY, Iraq – Infantrymen from 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry, patrol the streets of Sadr City, while the Iraqi Army also patrols – independently. The result is safer streets in what was once a hotly contested area.

After a change in their area of operations, troops from B Company, 3/15 Inf., became acquainted with their new neighborhood during a patrol July 28.

“It’s a lot of work, getting to know a new sector – we gather intel on insurgent operations, assess how receptive the locals are to our presence and develop informants,” said 1st Lt. Jason Schwab, B Co., 3/15 Inf. platoon leader. “We try and impress upon them that it’s in their best interest to help us, because the people that kidnap and extort them are the same ones planting bombs in the roads.”

During the patrol, Schwab, from Gillette, Wyo., stopped into the Al-Kanasa Police Station and spoke with a warrant officer about the neighborhood.

“The people we talk to in the neighborhood have been pretty helpful and want things to get better in Sadr,” said Sgt. Lee Minyard, also of B Co. “They’re starting to realize we’re here to help them.”

Minyard, from Augusta, Ga., pulled security throughout the patrol, which took the dismounted infantrymen through the streets and alleys of Sadr.

“We tell people that it’s up to them to make a difference in their communities,” said Staff Sgt. Christopher Brisley, B Co. section leader. “They’re so used to relying on one leader to make all the decisions, but they’re gradually taking the initiative. Once Iraq makes it through all this, it’ll be a great country.”

Brisley, from Glennville, Ga., remarked that the dusty streets of Sadr City had rivers of sewage running through them six months ago.

“People see the improvements, and it makes them happier to see us than they were when we arrived in Iraq,” he said.

The infantrymen stopped at a high school to assess its condition and to determine if insurgents were storing their weapons inside.

Finding the school clear, Schwab spoke to the principal about insurgent groups in the area. Later, he gave a child some candy to bring him to a local leader for a similar conversation.

“Building a rapport with influential people here is the best thing we can do right now,” Schwab said. “Intelligence from the locals is the most effective means of deterring terrorist activity in sector.”

While the infantrymen conduct their patrols and the Iraqi Security Forces plan and conduct their mis-



Photos by Spc. Ben Brody

Wearing a ballistic face shield on his helmet, Sgt. Chad Vallance, B Co., 3/15 Inf., team leader, scans for trouble during a patrol in Sadr City, July 28.

sions in Sadr City, the quick reaction force always stands ready to aid either unit if they need additional firepower.

Soldiers from C Company, 3/15 Inf., staff the QRF and maintain a constant state of readiness.

“We’re expected to be out the gate in 15 minutes, but our record is six,” said Sgt. Tim Wing, C Co. gunner. “It’s exciting – no one else can do that.”

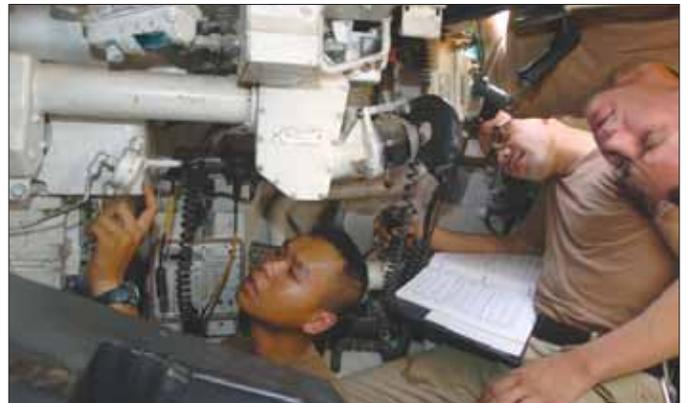
Wing, from Ashtaville, Ohio, and his team can usually be found at the motor pool, waiting for the call.

The QRF has both M1 Abrams battle tanks and humvees at its disposal, and despite Sadr’s narrow streets, some of the Soldiers prefer the tanks.

“The Abrams drives like a big Cadillac – it’s smooth as can be, even over rough terrain,” said Spc. Christopher Hyde, a C Co. driver. “Traffic parts like Moses at the Red Sea when a tank is coming through.”

Hyde is from Poteet, Texas. The QRF is in constant communication with their own unit as well as the Iraqi Army Battalion, but they work much more with 3/15 Inf., according to 1st Lt. Timothy Martin, C Co. platoon leader.

“The IAB has their own QRF, and they’ve been launched several times,” Martin, of Wilson, Okla., said.



Pfc. Qiwan Liang learns tank operations under the instruction of Spc. Christopher Hyde and Sgt. Justin Bailey, all of C Co., 3/15 Inf.’s quick reaction force.

“We’ve only been out to help them once. They can pretty much take care of themselves out there.”

Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3/15 Inf., have spent months helping to prepare Iraqi troops for duty in Sadr City, and the progress is showing.

“They’ve come a long way in the past six months,” said Capt. Zan Hornbuckle, HHC, 3/15 Inf. commander. “They’re now a fairly proficient infantry battalion.”

Hornbuckle, from Tifton, Ga., has overseen much of the IAB’s training, and said they consistently perform complex missions well.

“In the last two weeks, they’ve

(conducted) two large cordon-and-knock operations which were big successes,” he said. “They’re building relationships with the local Iraqi Police, which is crucial to operating effectively in Sadr.”

Hornbuckle said the IAB leaders are working hard to reach a common goal – to get the IAB to the level of expertise where U.S. guidance is unnecessary.

“It’s been a lot of work to get them where they are today, so it’s a rewarding feeling to see them taking initiative and operating on their own,” Hornbuckle said. “They’re proud of what they’ve accomplished, and that pride makes them a stronger unit.”

**“They’ve come a long way in the past six months. They’re now a fairly proficient infantry battalion.”**

Capt. Zan Hornbuckle  
HHC, 3/15 Inf.

# Camp Liberty Fire Department committed to 256th BCT

**Spc. Erin Robicheaux**  
 256th Brigade Combat Team PAO



Chief Stan Cole, from Henry County, Ga., senior site leader for the fire departments throughout Camps Liberty and Victory, and Brig. Gen. John Basilica, Jr., commander of the 256th Brigade Combat Team, cut the ribbon at the dedication of Victory Complex Fire Department, Station One on July 15. Firemen of Station One work in the area of the 256th Brigade Combat Team.

CAMP TIGERLAND, Iraq – Sometimes even heroes need to be rescued. The firemen of Victory Complex Fire Department, Station One, will be there if that time comes.

The firefighters are based in Camp Tigerland, home of Soldiers of the 256th Brigade Combat Team. The 21 personnel come from a variety of backgrounds. Some were full time firefighters in the states, while others volunteered or were paid for singular responses.

Chief Stan Cole from Henry County, Ga., senior site leader for the fire departments throughout Camps Liberty and Victory, said in order to come to Iraq, firefighters must meet national professional standards through the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress or the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualification. Additionally, the individual's experience is taken into consideration.

"You could have a firefighter with three years of experience who works for a department that runs 25,000 calls a year, or you could have someone with 20 years under them, but only answers 5,000 calls," he said. "It's all looked at when deciding who's best for the job."

Cole feels he does have the best people working for him. They proved this recently when they responded to a call on Camp Tigerland.

Soldiers of B Company, 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, 256th BCT were outside burning secret documents in a barrel, when the fire got out of control and spread to their operations center. Before long, the building

went up in flames. Within moments the firefighters from Station One responded and took control of the situation.

The department does much more in addition to responding to firefighting calls, said Ben Bendiburg from Marietta, Ga. They conduct daily training which either involves practice scenarios requiring them to physically respond accordingly, or mental training involving training classes or written exams.

"We do inspections throughout Camp Liberty on smoke detectors and fire extinguishers, for example, and we also conduct fire prevention training for civilians and Soldiers on the base," said Bendiburg.

According to Cole, they respond to rescue calls as well, such as overturned vehicles, incidents involving hazardous materials, and in some cases, downed aircraft.

"We have the capabilities to do the same things as back in the states. The whole idea is to be a full service fire department," said Cole.

It has not always been this way, however, according to John McMillan, from Fairmont, W. Va., a 13-year fireman who came to Iraq over a year ago. He said the provisions have come a long way.

"Last year we had no equipment, not even fire trucks," he said. "We spent a lot of time helping set up the base, putting out concertina wire, filling sandbags, whatever the Army needed us to do."

McMillan said after a year, the logistics finally caught up. When he first arrived, he and the other 70 firefighters lived in tents. Currently there are over 500 on the staff and they live in trailers or at

the fire stations.

Recently, Station One, located in Camp Tigerland, held an official ribbon cutting ceremony, and the honor belonged to Brig. Gen. John Basilica, Jr., commander of the 256th Brigade Combat Team.

Spc. John Fike, from Shreveport, La., a mechanic with Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 156th Armor Regiment, is a volunteer fireman with Caddo Parish Fire District One. He became friends with the employees of Station One.

"When you have something in common like the history of the fire department, you feel comfortable talking to people in the same situation," he said.

Fike said the friendship evolved into a brotherhood, and sometimes they get together at the end of a long day to unwind. "We barbeque, play pool, watch movies, and just hang out," he said.

According to Cole, his firefighters have a very strong bond with one another, an element that is almost required in their line of work.

"I think the biggest challenge for us all is that we come from different backgrounds and regions, and we all have different ways of doing things," said Cole. "There's more than one right way to do a lot of things in this business and if you're not working together as a team, in spite of the fact that you're doing the right thing, you'll be pulling against each other."

Cole said his team came together in an outstanding manner.

"These guys train hard and put everything into it, and when the real deal happens you want them to step up – and they do," he said. "I'm very proud of them."



(above) Chief Stan Cole, from Henry County, Ga., senior site leader for the fire departments throughout Camps Liberty and Victory, reads a dedication at the ribbon cutting ceremony of Victory Complex Fire Department, Station One, in Camp Tigerland. The firemen of Station One serve Soldiers of the 256th Brigade Combat Team.



(right) Firefighters work to control a blaze which consumed the B Company, 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry, 256th Brigade Combat Team tactical operations center July 18.

# IPs refine leadership skills during seminar

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

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Two dozen high ranking Iraqi police officers participated in a leadership seminar with their U.S. Army counterparts at Baghdad Police Headquarters July 23. The seminar, conducted by officers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 42nd Military Police Brigade, was the first in a series designed to strengthen and enhance leadership within the Iraqi police force.

Although Iraqi police leaders have been making significant progress, Col. Richard Swengros, 42nd MP Brigade commander, and Gen. Razaq, Baghdad police chief, felt the Iraqi leadership would benefit from additional training.

The seminar, titled “Police Leadership in an Insurgency Environment,” covered how to be an effective leader, with a focus on four major areas: leadership traits, principles, habits and challenges.

Gathered around a large rectangular table, Razaq opened the session with welcome remarks, followed by Swengros, who explained the intent of the seminar.

Razaq, who’s been Swengros’ counterpart for the past eight months, enthusiastically said, “This (seminar) is a step toward getting to know each other and being able to share ideas and opinions of leaders.”

Following his remarks, Swengros encouraged the group to ask themselves a relatively simple question: “Why should leaders discuss leadership?” The immediate response was silence, but the answer became evident in a series of exercises which followed the question.

Breaking up into four small groups, the Iraqi police officers and U.S. Soldiers gathered around dry erase boards, brainstorming concepts of leadership. Everyone compared their lists, then regrouped to discuss the results.

The seminar provided Iraqis a chance to retune and focus their leadership skills, while learning more about fighting crime in an insurgency environment. The hardest obstacle for Iraqis to overcome is being able to listen more to their subordinates, which



Photos by Pfc. Laura Bigenho

**Iraqi police leadership and U.S. military police officers, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 42nd Military Police Brigade, Fort Lewis, Wash., during a break at the leadership seminar at Baghdad Police Headquarters.**

isn’t easy to do in a society that is accustomed to dictatorship.

“They need to develop their leadership so that they are more willing and open to take input from their subordinates,” said Capt. Christopher Hormel, Iraqi Police Station (IPS) operations officer, HHC, 42nd MP Brigade. “A good leader develops his subordinates because they are the future leaders of Iraq.”

“As the growing capabilities of the (subordinate) police continue to grow, the leadership has to grow, adapt and increase its capabilities,” Swengros said.

Razaq plans to take those words and utilize them by setting a good example while continuously training his leaders and subordinates. He took information from the seminar to pass down the chain of command, ensuring that his police men and women would be trained on the information.

“I am very happy for the joint effort and coordination between me and Col. Swengros,” Razaq said. “Through this seminar we have gained new knowledge about leadership.”

The leadership seminar was the first



**An Iraqi policeman writes responses given by his fellow policemen during a group discussion at a leadership seminar held at Baghdad Police Headquarters.**

in a series to come that will continue to help the Iraqis strengthen and develop their security forces.

“Very little surprises me with the Iraqi police in terms of what they can

accomplish when they have the tools, basic knowledge and confidence,” Swengros said. “In a short time, they will be much better at operating on their own at all levels of police.”

## National Guard Soldiers receive Combat Infantryman Badge

**Capt. Leyland C. Torres**  
TF 2-130 Inf. Regt.

BAGHDAD – Nearly 30 soldiers from Task Force 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry Regiment, attached to 256th Brigade Combat Team, were awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge July 28 for combat action in Baghdad.

The 28 Soldiers are assigned to the 2nd and 3rd platoons of B Company 2-130 Inf. Regt., known as the “Blackhawks.”

The National Guard unit is from Effingham, Ill., and has been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom for 18 months.

The CIB was established on Oct. 7, 1943 by the Secretary of War and is awarded to infantry Soldiers in the rank of colonel and below who are engaged in actual ground combat with the enemy.

These Soldiers are the first to receive the award in the unit since World War II when the Blackhawks served with distinction in the Pacific Theater of Operation.

The badges were awarded by Lt. Col. Mark C. Jackson, from Frankfort, Ill., battalion commander of 2-130th Inf.

“I am extremely proud of these Soldiers and the work

they are doing,” Jackson said. “They are making a difference for the people of Iraq and are placing themselves in harm’s way on a daily basis in order to complete their mission.”

B Co. commander, Capt. Eric Kampwerth, of St. Louis, Mo., spoke to his Soldiers about the work they have accomplished. He also cautioned them not to let their guard down and to continue forward with their mission.

“To a man, they should all be proud, both of individual achievement and what the company has performed daily in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.”



Courtesy Photo

**Lt. Col. Mark C. Jackson, from Frankfort, Ill., battalion commander of 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry Regiment, attached to the 256th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, pins the Combat Infantryman Badge on Sgt. 1st Class Timmy McNaught from Mahomet, Ill., the 3rd platoon sergeant of B Company, 2-130th Inf.**

# Iraqi girl gets treatment for burn scars

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

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq – When two forces meet each other in battle, casualties are an inherent risk as innocent people get caught in the crossfire. In many situations, the innocent have no means of getting reparations for the damage they have suffered.

In one little girl's case, help was requested and given.

Maysa Saud Mohammed was burned when her house caught fire during a battle between Coalition Forces and the forces of the former regime during Operation Iraq Freedom I.

The idea to coordinate medical care for Maysa first came to light when her mother, Nesum Hussein Mohammed, met with the 1st Brigade Combat Team legal affairs team to submit a claim for cash to pay for medical care.

"Her mother came into the (office) looking for some compensation for some burns her daughter received during the war in 2003," said Capt. Matt Aman, 1st BCT legal counsel. "I realized that what she really needed was medical treatment. I coordinated with Capt. Chad Marley, our brigade surgeon, and he coordinated with the plastic surgeon (at Forward Operating Base Speicher) to arrange a visit so that she could be fitted with some sort of apparatus to reduce the scarring."

Helping Maysa was not only a step toward community relations with the Iraqis, but also a way to give a little girl

a chance to feel better about herself when she becomes more aware of her condition.

Aman said providing help was "the right thing to do."

"Certainly, when she gets to be a teenager, she is going to be much more concerned about it than she is now," said Col. Lewis Walker, 228th Command Support Hospital commander. "What we're trying to do is to get these scars to flatten out in appearance, so when she becomes socially interactive, when she starts dating or considers marriage, she (will be) much less conscious of it."

While Walker was not able to treat Maysa for her burns, he said he would be able to treat her scars cosmetically. Any other possible procedure would prove to be difficult and painful.

"At this late date intervening in her case would involve mostly just ordering some compression garments for the scars, they're too big to surgically remove," Walker said. "If I did remove them, I'd then have to skin graft the area, that involves removing skin from elsewhere, complicating the issue regarding scarring, and essentially doubling her wound size. We're going to work through supply and try to get them (compression bandages) here as soon as we can."

Maysa's mother wanted compensation I order to take her daughter to a local doctor, but Aman felt Maysa would benefit more from medical attention than any monetary compensation.

"Her mom wanted money, but I said



Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

Maysa Saud Muhammed has her pulse taken by Staff Sgt. April Williams, a medic with the 228th Command Support Hospital during a visit to FOB Speicher. Maysa was seen by Coalition Forces medical providers for scarring from a burn she suffered when her house was on fire.

'look, that's not going to help you, she needs the medical treatment so that she can live a normal life.' We're able to provide that to her."

Maysa was ecstatic when she heard she would be able to see a doctor for her scars.

"When she came back for me to break the news to her that we were

going to be able to help her out, she was bouncing off the walls. This is just one of the reasons we're here, and I'm glad to do it."

While Maysa was too shy to offer a comment, Nesum said she was very happy to bring her daughter to the doctor and she appreciated all that Coalition Forces are doing here in Iraq.



Courtesy Photo

Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment provided food, utensils and cleaning supplies to Kindi, a neighborhood north of the International Zone, July 22.

## Task Force Baghdad Soldiers provide food to residents

Capt. John J. Agnello  
4th BCT

BAGHDAD – Elements of 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, provided food, cooking utensils and cleaning supplies July 22 to residents of Kindi, a neighborhood north of the International Zone.

The supplies were delivered in the form of a Rhode pack, a sustenance package of more than one ton of food and supplies that included rice, beans, canned fish and meat, vegetables, cooking oil,

dessert treats, pots and pans, serving utensils, and propane stoves.

"We have delivered other various items to this neighborhood before, but never to this scale," said Capt. Wiley Hammer, troop commander and native of Knoxville, Tenn. "These people are in need, so we try to help them out with whatever way we can."

There are three different types of Rhode packs: construction, sustenance, and office supplies. The sustenance packages can feed more than 2,000 people a little more than one meal, said Maj. Daniel Canales, 4th BCT civil-military operations officer.

The entire package has the potential of feeding 40 to 50 families.

The delivery received a warm welcome from the local community with many thanks from the town leaders.

Soldiers from Force Troop, 2nd Battalion, 278th Cavalry Regiment, attached to 4/64, headed up the operation with assistance from the battalion's Forward Support Company and Civil Affairs Team.

The operation lasted approximately three hours and when the Soldiers departed, the word "Shukran! (Thank you!)," echoed from all the townspeople.

# Tennessee Guard Soldiers deploy as a family

**Spc. Dan Balda**  
4th BCT PAO

BAGHDAD — A younger Chris Cartwright and his older brother John Cartwright Jr. are riding around on a tank with their father, John Cartwright, during his National Guard unit's drill weekend.

They are having the time of their lives, but as young boys, they're oblivious to the impression this ride will make on their lives.

Fast forward 20-odd years, and the boys, like their father, are serving in U.S. Army Reserve Troop F, 278th Regimental Combat Team, and are deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 3.

They now ride on Abrams tanks with their father. There's just one caveat: despite the fact that both boys are grown and are now noncommissioned officers — Chris a sergeant, Junior a corporal — their dad, surprisingly, is now their first sergeant.

Both sons enjoy working with their father despite the good-natured ribbing they endure for being the first sergeant's kids.

Junior is stationed in a different area because the unit does not want all the family members serving in the same area for security reasons. But that doesn't

mean he is exempt from the teasing.

"We catch heat all the time for being the first sergeant's kids, even though I am hundreds of miles away," Junior said. "It hasn't really affected me at all. I just work hard, and I know I've done my job."

The family is used to working closely with each other.

Their father owns a construction and contracting business in their hometown of Bristol, Tenn. He employs Chris and works with Junior whenever the job permits. "They've been working with me since they were boys," John said.

Chris enjoys working for his father saying, "It helps bring us closer together."

Talking to all three men, it is easy to picture them at a job site, sharing a cup of coffee and a joke. They tease each other with the reckless abandon only family members will allow.

But the jokes stop when dad dispenses his wisdom gained over a lifetime of service to his country.

John has been in the Army for 35 years and has been with the unit 25 years, making him the longest-serving member of the troop. He sees his whole troop as family.

"We've always wanted

to be deployed together," John said. He said he feels that the unit cohesion goes a long way in making the time go by faster. "The whole unit feels like a family, so having my boys here is just an extension of that."

John's wife is a little worried about them all being deployed together, but as he says, "There is not much she can do about it."

The duration of the deployment is the longest time Junior has been away from his father and younger brother.

"It's weird being stationed away from them and wondering what they are doing and how they are handling everything," he said. "They are always wondering what I'm doing. We have instant messenger so that helps a little bit."

The brothers don't worry much about being in danger, but their father is admittedly a little worried about his boys.

"It's a lot harder on me, being a first sergeant and a father, than it is on them," John said. "I haven't run into it yet, but it could be hard sending my boys out on a dangerous mission."

"He couldn't keep me off a mission if I really wanted to go out," Junior said. "I'm going out one way or another."



Spc. Dan Balda

1st Sgt. John Cartwright (right) and his two sons, Cpl. John Cartwright Jr. (left) and Sgt. Chris Cartwright, are all assigned to the same Army Reserve unit, Troop F, 278th Regimental Combat Team, and are currently attached to the 3rd Infantry Division for Operation Iraqi Freedom 3.

## Service members gain citizenship in Al-Faw palace

**Spc. Jennifer D. Fitts**  
Avn. Bde. PAO

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq — In a former dictator's palace, surrounded by the remnants of the old regime, more than 130 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines raised their right hands to swear an oath of citizenship to a country founded on the ideals of freedom and democracy.

America's newest citizens came from all over Iraq to participate in the ceremony. They represent lands as diverse as Africa, South America and Asia. More than half of the men and women present at the naturalization ceremony in Al-Faw Palace joined the military after Sept. 11, 2001.

For new U.S. citizens Sgt. Sahadat I. Khan and Chaplain (Capt.) Felix K. Kumai, two Soldiers from Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, the July 25 ceremony marked the end of their journeys which were filled with hard work and frustrations.

Khan, of 603rd Aviation Support Battalion, and originally from Kingston, Jamaica, moved to the United States eight years ago to find a better life and "get away from bad influences."

Since he'd always wanted to be a Soldier, Khan enlisted in the Army shortly after arriving in the U.S. Over the past three years, he has made repeated attempts to pursue his citizenship, but his case was delayed by deployments.

"I tried to become a citizen on numerous occasions ... my case would get terminated due to no response," Khan said. During this deployment, Khan was in the middle of another attempt at obtaining his citizenship when yet another roadblock popped up.

He received a letter stating his case as "pending" while he was stationed at Logistics Staging Area Anaconda as a liaison officer. Since all citizenship cases require an interview, and knowing he would miss the date because of the deployment, Khan didn't want this effort to end up dismissed as well.

"The biggest challenge was finding the right peo-

ple to help (me)," he said. "The local legal office pretty much went to bat for me to get my case completed."

Khan encourages Soldiers who are thinking about obtaining citizenship to pursue the challenge.

"Do it! I mean if you're in the military, you made a commitment to put your life on the line to defend the country," Khan said.

Having one less worry on his mind has helped with Khan's morale during this deployment.

"It's like getting rid of one of the biggest monkeys that's been riding my back for a while," Khan explained.

For Kumai, of 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, getting his citizenship was necessary to continue his work as an Army chaplain.

Kumai came to the U.S. from northern Nigeria six years ago to pursue his education, obtaining his master's degree, and later his doctorate. Although the region where he was born is primarily Muslim, Kumai felt a calling to the Catholic Church.

Joining the Army in New York, Kumai saw it as an opportunity to accomplish great things in his life.

"I love Army discipline, and I wanted to be physically fit," Kumai said. "I knew the Army would afford me the opportunity to maintain that physical discipline and would be an opportunity to serve God in a very different and very, very challenging ministry."

Just as it was with Khan, the interview process was the biggest hurdle for Kumai to overcome on the road to his citizenship. Kumai started the process last year, but was already deployed when the letter with his interview date arrived in theater.

"I was given an interview date of March 16, but the letter came here (Iraq) on the 17th," Kumai said.

To keep the process going, Kumai contacted his legal team. He said trying to coordinate things through e-mail was his biggest challenge, but that he just "trusted everything to fate."

For Soldiers considering pursuing their U.S. citizen-

ship while deployed, Kumai recommends they work with their legal office and their chain of command.

"They've (the legal personnel) been exceptionally good and I'm sure that we were able to pull this off because of them."

Kumai, who viewed the upcoming ceremony as a motivator during hard times in the deployment, said the positive reactions from his family, and the support from his brigade and battalion helped him during the difficult rounds of e-mails and paperwork.

Kumai said his family "shouted with joy" upon hearing the great news that his quest was finally over.

"Fill out that form, start that paperwork," Kumai advised. "There are good Soldiers here who are really willing to help make this happen."



Spc. Jennifer Fitts

(From left to right) Lt. Col. Pedro Almeida, commander of 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment (Attack Reconnaissance), Chaplain (Capt.) Felix K. Kumai, Headquarter and Headquarters Co., 1-3 ARB, Col. Ronald D. Tuggle, 3rd Aviation Brigade commander, Sgt. Sahadat I. Khan, Headquarters Support Company, 603rd Aviation Support Battalion, and Lt. Col. Terry L. Rice, 603rd ASB, are all smiles after the naturalization ceremony here on July 25.



Spc. Erin Robicheaux

A memorial monument donated in honor of four fallen Soldiers of the 1st Iraqi Army Brigade stands in the center of the parade field at Camp Justice, headquarters for the 1st Iraqi Army Brigade, 6th Division.

**HONOR**, continued from page 1

said the sacrifices of these Iraqi Soldiers should not be taken in vain, and all citizens of Iraq must join the fight against terrorism. He extended his hand in the name of the Prime Minister to the people of his country to help in the fight against evil.

The success is already proven, he said – in fact, the very spot where the memorial now stands was once the same location of the 5th Intelligence Branch of the old regime.

“This was one of the most feared terrorist areas in all of Baghdad,” Chalabi said. It is now the headquarters of the 1st Brigade, commanded by Brig. Gen. Jalil Khalaf Shwayel and Command Sgt. Maj. Hassan Abdul Kadum.

“The 1st Brigade is the hope of the Iraqi people,” Chalabi said.

The four fallen Soldiers were killed in three separate incidents since the liberation of Iraq in 2003.

While on a mission in the vicinity of the Al Mufty Mosque in Wazeera,

Sgt. Basheer Adil Khamees Ali Al Hayali and Warrant Officer Naseer Abid Mohsin encountered a terrorist approaching a traffic point.

They “heroically prevented the advance of the terrorist, thus protecting the pilgrims of Ashura,” said a document distributed by the 1st IA Bde.

The publication also praised Sgt. Saif Ali Husain Ameen, who shot a suicide bomber four times in the chest, while on a security mission at Antar Square. The terrorist detonated his explosives and took the life of the young sergeant. Saif’s

actions saved the lives of many Ashura pilgrims.

Sgt. Ali Majid Khalaf Menati was tasked to establish a traffic control point in the vicinity of Al Iskan during the elections. He was killed when he noticed a suspicious man and interrupted his path to search him. While Sgt. Menati performed his duty, the man detonated a bomb taking both their lives. Menati’s actions also saved the lives of countless Iraqi citizens.

Lt. Gen. Daham Radi Al-Assal, a representative of the Ministry of Defense, was also in attendance at the unveiling. He said the fallen Soldiers were the flag of Iraq who wrote, with their blood, the story of this country.

“They spread success and freedom throughout all of Iraq with their sacrifices, and they will never be forgotten,” he said.

Petraeus, said the successes of the 1st IA and heroism of the 1st Bde. Soldiers honored with the monument are proof of the training and mentorship programs established over the course of the last year.

“The mission is to help the Iraqi military force, not fight the fight for them,” Petraeus said.

Petraeus said the numbers speak for themselves.

Last year at this time, only three active IA battalions stood in existence, now there are more than 100, and the number continues to rise.

“This is proof that the American and Multi-National Forces are doing what it takes to give the power to the Iraqi Army,” said Petraeus. “This is a fight for the Iraqi people and its forces.”

**“They spread success and freedom throughout all of Iraq with their sacrifices.”**

Lt. Gen. Daham Radi Al-Assal  
Ministry of Defense

**SOLDIERS**, continued from page 1

Iraqi Army to search for and detain suspected terrorists.

“The purpose of the mission was to find bad guys in two different locations,” Beard said.

Tuttle said the aim of the mission was for two different elements to search two target houses simultaneously and detain the suspected terrorists who were hiding there.

Before dawn, American and Iraqi Soldiers rolled into the target area, secured entry and exit roads and searched the objectives.

The troops worked together to search the houses thoroughly and gather information from local residents, all while keeping the cordon area secure.

Helicopters, providing air cover, alerted Tuttle that some of the suspects were fleeing through the palm grove behind D Co.’s target house. Staying true to the teamwork ethos of the mission, he dispatched a combined team of Iraqi and D Company troops to apprehend them.

After finishing with the houses, the Soldiers investigated a factory complex to make sure it wasn’t

being used to manufacture car bombs.

Tuttle said the mission was a success, netting a targeted suspect and valuable intelligence that will help shape future operations. He was impressed with his Soldiers’ performance and the way the Iraqi troops carried out their part of the mission as well.

“I have very professional Soldiers, who have never let me down,” Tuttle said. “The Iraqi Army is right up there in their standards and professionalism.

They have a willingness to learn, which is so important to us to help shape them into an army (that) will hopefully take over and conduct these operations independently someday.”

Beard agreed. He said the Iraqis are good Soldiers who know how to cordon and search and that they pick up on training procedures quickly.

His Soldiers have also picked things up quickly, putting the training they received at Fort Stewart, Ga., to good use on real-life missions in Iraq, and fitting in with their active-duty comrades and Iraqi Army partners.

“We really are an ‘Army of one,’” Tuttle said. “Soldiers are Soldiers.”

**“The Iraqi Army is right up there in their standards and professionalism. They have a willingness to learn, which is important to us.”**

Capt. William H. Tuttle IV  
D Co., 3/172 Inf. commander



Spc. Matthew Wester

A Soldier, of C Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 6th Division, Iraqi Army searches through mechanical parts in an abandoned factory complex during an operation on July 16 near Taji, Iraq.

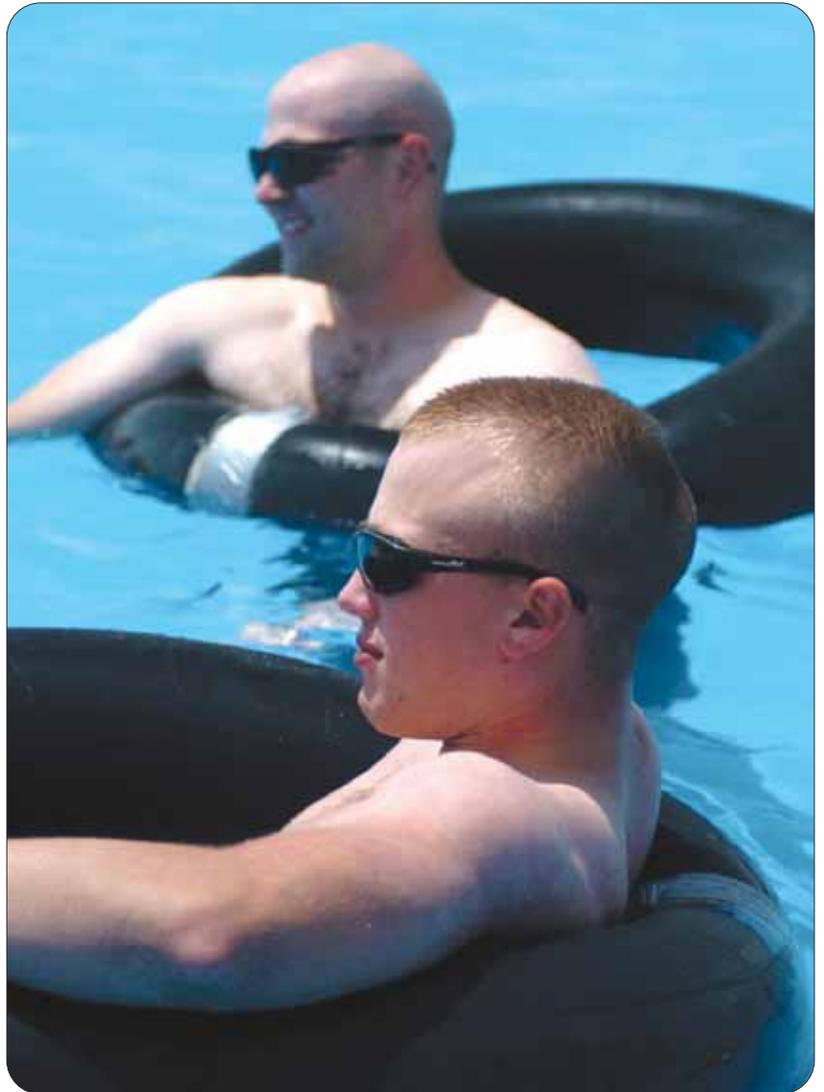
**FACT: IEDs are the number one killers of Coalition Forces. Stay Alert, Stay Alive**

**Save your eyesight!! Wear protective goggles or safety glasses during appropriate tasks. Be smart!**



*Sgt. Thomas Benoit*

Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division stationed at Camp Hawk are conducting pre-combat checks and pre-combat inspections before maneuvering onto a furniture store in Ameriyah.



*Spc. Matthew Wester*

Sgt. Ben D. Williams (front), from Omaha, Neb., and Sgt. Patrick Finnerty, from Camp Hill, Pa., relax in the Camp Taji pool on July 30. The Soldiers, both carpenters for C Company, 92nd Engineer Battalion supporting 3rd Infantry Division, see the pool as a great relief from the triple-digit temperatures in Iraq.



*Spc. Matthew Wester (above),  
Capt. Raymond Hill (right)*

(above) Pfc. Marshal K. Mathis, from Fruit Heights, Utah, transfers fuel from one refueling truck to another at Camp Taji, Iraq on July 30. Mathis is a petroleum supply specialist for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 13th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division. (right) Capt. Raymond Hill, 1/184th Inf. public affairs officer and native of Turlock, Calif., poses with Iraqi children during a humanitarian mission to the Al Dora neighborhood of Baghdad July 26.



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

# Exercise, healthy dieting achieves optimal health

D-i-e-t is definitely a four-letter word for many who truly enjoy eating.

What's the best diet?

There are so many out there. Low carb? Low fat? No white flour? Vegetarian? No sugar?

What's a body to do?

Many of us hate to diet because we feel hungry when we cut down on the amount of food we're eating. When we also cut out certain food groups, such as cutting carbohydrates on a low carb diet, we feel deprived and we may exclude the important nutritional components of a healthy diet.

Research shows that people who are able to keep off large amounts of body weight (over

60 pounds) for more than ten years have two things in common.

First, they change their eating habits by adhering to a diet high in fiber. Their diets have more fruits and vegetables to add fiber and less fat resulting in a lower calorie intake. Reducing the fat in your diet is one of the fastest ways to reduce the calories you consume.

Accomplished dieters also exercise five days per week for at least 30 minutes. Our body weight is the result of calories taken in versus calories burned. The fact that we gain weight when we eat more calories than we burn is not news to anyone. However,

we may be underestimating where we can cut out unnecessary calories.

Here are a few examples that can make decreasing your calorie intake less painful.

The goal is to adopt changes that you are willing to continue throughout your life for life-long weight control.

One of the least noticeable changes is to decrease the calories consumed in beverages.

This is done by switching to skim milk instead of low fat or whole milk, using artificial sweeteners instead of sugar and drinking diet drinks instead of sugared drinks. To give you an idea of how much this can help, switching from

two sugared soft drinks to two diet soft drinks per day can result in a reduction of 3,500 calories or one pound of body fat in eleven days.

You would have to jog 30 to 35 miles before you could burn 3,500 calories. In one year that amounts to a 30 pound weight loss.

Reducing the fats in your diet can also help. Tomato sauce on pasta has about 100 calories less than cream sauce. Fat free dressing can have 100 less calories than regular dressings. Reducing 100 calories per day roughly amounts to a 10 pound weight loss in one year.

And finally, as we previously explained, people can keep

extra weight off for many years to come by changing their eating habits AND exercising regularly.

Many of us become less active as we age. This causes us to lose muscle and have a lower metabolism. Increased activity raises our metabolism and increases our muscle mass so we burn more calories, even after we've completed our exercise sessions.

Maintaining a healthy body is really not as difficult and agonizing as it seems. With a little honest effort, you can increase the quality of your life while increasing your chances for longevity.

As the advertisement goes ... just DO IT!

### ORDER, continued from page 2

employed by, or accompanying the force is prohibited.

d. Cohabitation between opposite genders is prohibited; Soldiers may not take up short or long term residence in unassigned rooms with members of the opposite gender.

3. Exceptions: This order is not intended to deter normal team building associations. Unit commanders may grant exceptions to this policy for unit sponsored esprit de corps activities or mission requirements on a case by case basis. All other requests for exceptions will be processed through the chain of command to the appropriate brigade commander for approval and then forwarded through the Staff Judge Advocate to the Commander, Task Force Baghdad. When submitting exceptions to this policy, lawfully married couples will submit duplicate requests through each spouse's chain of command which specifies unit of assignment, FOB and current living quarters for both spouses. In addition, lawfully married couples will specify whether the exception is for cohabitation or visitation.

4. Punitive Order: Paragraph 2 of the General Order is punitive. Persons subject to the UCMJ may be punished hereunder. Civilians serving with, employed by, or accompanying the Armed Forces of the United States in the Task Force Baghdad AOR may face criminal prosecution or adverse administrative action for violation of the General Order.

5. Effective Date: The General Order is effective immediately. All previous versions are rescinded.

6. Expiration: This General Order will expire when rescinded by the Commander, Task Force Baghdad or higher authority. In the event this order conflicts with any higher authority, the offending language will be stricken, however, remaining portions of the order will continue in effect.

## Mail call builds, maintains troop morale

Office of the Inspector General  
Special to The Marne Express

"Mail call, mail call" is the command Soldiers look forward to hearing every day from their first sergeant as it is the time that they receive their mail from friends and loved ones from back home.

However, the Inspector General reports that few Soldiers receive their mail in this way.

The Inspector General recently completed an inspection of mail operations throughout Multi-National Division-Baghdad and "all is well" in the delivery of mail to the Soldiers within the area of operations. The IG reports that most Soldiers receive their mail through established mailrooms manned by unit mail clerks with the responsibility of picking up and delivering the mail.

The purpose of the inspection was to determine if there were any issues with mail operations within MND-B and report findings to the Commanding General. Specifically, inspectors reviewed the procedures for mail opera-

tions that are followed by personnel responsible for its timely delivery and to determine if there were any delays in particular types of mail. Soldiers were interviewed to determine their level of satisfaction with the average delivery time for letters and packages.

The report revealed that Soldiers are very satisfied with the service they are receiving. They stated that mail deliveries are much better now than during their previous deployments.

Delivery times are consistent across MND-B. Letters take an average of eight to 10 days to get to their intended addressee, whereas packages take a little longer, averaging 14 to 21 days.

One issue that the IG addressed with the 3rd Soldier Support Battalion commander was the possibility of increasing "mail rodeos" to outlying Forward Operating Bases to increase outgoing mail services for Soldiers living in these outlying areas.

Lt. Col. Pamela Charvat stated the 341st Postal Company currently conducts mail rodeos to nine outlying locations at least once a month and increased the frequency to those loca-

tions based on inspection results.

One perception about mail operations was addressed by the IG and can be put to rest here. The perception is that mail is not getting to the major hubs (the FOBs responsible for pushing the mail to the units) on a daily basis. The IG checked into this and there are days when trucks do not move when the leadership has decided the road conditions are not safe - condition black - and when the delivery situation does not warrant taking the additional risk. Additionally, there are instances where there is simply no mail to push to the major FOBs, and therefore, no convoy is required.

Other than these two instances, the mail moves without fail.

Mail is an integral part in building and maintaining good morale for our Soldiers.

Our leaders understand that dynamic well, and it shows by the emphasis they have placed on this important quality of life issue for Soldiers. The inspection revealed without question that mail operations are alive and well throughout MND-B.

## Woman loses wedding ring in Iraq care package

Associated Press  
Special to The Marne Express

ROSWELL, N.M. - Among the candy, shampoo, bandages and snacks, Nicole Vargas accidentally packed a pricey surprise in her care package for soldiers in Iraq - her wedding ring.

Vargas, who runs the Roswell Rocha and Vargas Adopt-a-Soldier volunteer program, said the diamond-and-gold ring slipped off her finger while she was packing a box of treats several weeks ago.

Vargas' husband Ralph recently purchased the ring in honor of the couple's 16th wedding anniversary. Nicole

Vargas decided to wear the ring right away, even though it was a bit loose.

So far, Vargas, a stay-at-home mother, has shipped 4,100 pounds of goodies and toiletries to U.S. soldiers in Iraq with the help of donations from local businesses.

Vargas is hoping a keen-eyed Soldier will find her ring and send it back.

"I'm gonna send the soldier who finds it a major package, like 100 pounds. I'll put a crock pot in there and some dry beans and all sorts of stuff. It will be my best care package ever," she said.

If you find her wedding ring contact the Division Public Affairs Office at DSN 318-847-1855 or VOIP 242-4093.

**Soldiers! Fires are often started due to negligent practices. Be aware, practice fire safety.**

## DESERT JUSTICE

### Managing personal affairs

Army Regulations require a Soldier to provide continuous support to his or her dependent family members. Extended deployments often cause significant stress on a family or marriage, which can lead to arguments about support. This guidance will answer the most common questions about a Soldier's support obligations.

Where does it say I have to support my family? AR 608-99 sets certain requirements on how a Soldier manages his personal affairs. You are required to: 1. Maintain reasonable contact with family members; 2. Conduct yourself honorably with regard to parental commitments; 3. Provide adequate financial support to family members; 4. Comply with all court orders.

What is "adequate support?" It depends. The amount of support is determined by a court order or an agreement between you and your spouse. If neither exists, AR 608-99 provides minimum support amounts based on your rank.

Can my spouse and I agree on a support amount? Yes. A written financial support agreement, signed by both parties, will satisfy AR 608-99. The written agreement does not have to follow any particular format, it can be a formal separation agreement or just a letter, but it must clearly indicate an agreement to provide financial support.

I don't have a court order or a written agreement. Now what? In this case, AR 608-99 will lay out the amount of support you owe. If your dependent family members live in government family housing, you do not have to provide any additional support. However, as soon as your spouse or family moves out of government quarters, you will be required to pay support.

My family just moved out of government quarters. What do I have to pay? You are required to pay an amount equal to your BAH II - with dependents. The exact amount depends on your rank and is the same no matter where you are stationed in the United States. This is true even if you do not receive a BAH allowance.

How should payments be made? Payments are due on the first of every month and can be made in cash, check, money order or EFT.

However, an allotment is the best way to make these payments since it allows for easy verification and tracking.

What happens if I do not pay? Your command may take adverse action against you. Your obligation to pay begins the moment your family moves out of Government quarters even if your spouse does not make a demand for payment. If you do not pay, and your spouse contacts your command, your command will order you to follow the regulation. If you do not comply, you can be charged with a violation of UCMJ Article 92, Failure to Obey an Order or Regulation. In addition, if you fall behind in payments, you can receive adverse action for the same infraction. However, an obligation to pay support based on AR 608-99 cannot be enforced in court. In other words, your spouse cannot sue you for back payments unless those payments were under a court order or support agreement.

Can I be released from the AR 608-99 obligation? Yes, in very limited circumstances. Your battalion commander may release you from your obligations under 608-99 for any of the following seven reasons: 1. A court order was issued by a court without jurisdiction; 2. A valid court order did not contain a financial support obligation; 3. The income of the spouse exceeds the military pay of the soldier (however, this does not affect the obligation to support children); 4. The Soldier is the victim of substantial abuse; 5. The supported family member is in jail; 6. The Soldier has been making support payments to spouse for 18 months; or, 7. The supported child is in the custody of another who is not the lawful custodian.

In addition, your brigade commander, in extreme circumstances, may release you from your spousal support requirement for a reason not mentioned above. Any request for release must be supported by substantial evidence that release is justified.

This is a very basic overview of AR 608-99. Remember, you are required to follow this regulation whether you think it is fair or not. Failure to do so could lead to non-judicial punishment or even a court-martial. For more information, contact the Division Main Legal Assistance Office at VOIP 242-4568.



## Chaplain's Corner

### It is entitled "A Postcard's Insight"

Chaplain (CPT) Tyler Wagenmaker  
TF 1-156, 256 BCT

In my battalion's command & staff meetings over the past couple months, I've been reading from some old postcards that I had bought at antique shops. All of these postcards were written during World War I and World War II. They give a great glimpse (albeit brief) at life back then, at another time, during another war.

One thing I noticed about these Soldiers was that they had very nice handwriting! Most of them, anyway. There was something about what was taught in schools back then that emphasized, more than they do today, the importance of nice handwriting. And it definitely shows.

Some of the postcards have military notations on them from the military's official sensors. Portions of the postcards have been scratched out by these sensors, from what I can gather, because the Soldier had revealed a location from where he was writing in Europe. If I look real close, I can barely make out some of the letters underneath the sensor's handiwork.

I have enjoyed sharing the messages from the postcards with my battalion's leaders because I enjoy history. It tells us so much about where we've been, and what others in similar situations have done. It

reminds us of the heritage we have as Americans, the good and the ugly.

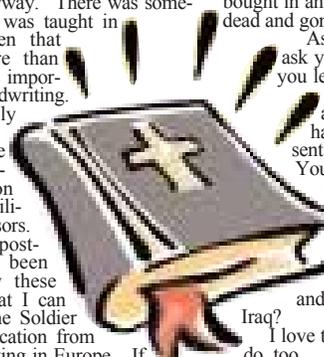
And that's important to remember, especially as my battalion is looking to return home shortly. For, through their and your wartime experiences, our history as Americans has grown through the postcards we have sent home. Through emails, handwritten letters, and from interviews with hometown newspapers, the lives of today's men and women service members here in Iraq will be studied by future generations, as our postcards are bought in antique stores after we are long dead and gone.

As a Chaplain, I would like to ask you, what type of heritage are you leaving behind for future generations? What type of faith are you passing along? What have the letters and postcards sent home spoken about you? Your values? Does your pen write of an abiding faith in the Lord? Do your emails communicate your need for God? What will your grandchildren, and their grandchildren, read of you and your time spent while in Iraq?

I love to read history. Many others do, too.

I pray that, by God's grace, future generations, when reading my words, would know that I was a Soldier who spoke daily of my need for Christ. That my God was and will be the One who sustained and will sustain me.

That's my prayer for myself. And my prayer for you as well.



## In Memory of ...

- Sgt. Christopher J. Taylor, 1/41 FA
- Sgt. Milton M. Monzon Jr., 3/3 ACR
- Pfc. Ramon A. Villatoro, 3/3 ACR
- Staff Sgt. Jason W. Montefering, 3/3 ACR
- Spc. Ernest W. Dallas Jr., 3/3 ACR
- Sgt. James O. Kinlow, 2/121 Inf.
- Staff Sgt. Carl R. Fuller, 2/121 Inf.
- Spc. Jacques E. Brunson, 2/121 Inf.
- Sgt. John F. Thomas, 2/121 Inf.
- Spc. Adam J. Hartig, 3/69 Armor
- Spc. Edward L. Myers, 3/69 Armor
- Spc. John O. Tollefson, 411 MP Bn.

- Spc. Adrian J. Butler, 411 MP Bn.
- Pvt. Ernesto R. Guerra, 4-3 BTB
- Spc. Robert A. Swaney, 3/3 ACR
- Pfc. Jason D. Schewerman, 1/30 Inf.
- Sgt. Ronnie L. Shelley, 2/121 Inf.
- Sgt. Jonathon C. Haggitt, 2/121 Inf.
- Sgt. 1st Class Victor A. Anderson, 2/121 Inf.
- Staff Sgt. David R. Jones Sr., 121 Inf.
- Spc. Terry L. Ganey Jr., 648 Eng.
- Pfc. Matthew V. Gibbs, 648 Eng.
- Staff Sgt. Charles H. Warren, 648 Eng.

You may be gone, but you're not forgotten. We will continue the fight ...

## Religious service and prayer schedule for Camp Liberty

### Division Chapel

- Mon. - Fri.  
12 p.m. Catholic
- Mon., Wed., Fri.  
6 p.m. Reunion & Suicide Brief
- 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. Church of Christ (noninstrumental)  
8 p.m. Collective Protestant

### Engineer Chapel

- Wednesday  
7 p.m. Bible Study
- Friday  
9 p.m. Prayer & Praise
- Saturday  
10 a.m. Reunion & Suicide Brief
- Sunday  
8:45 a.m. Roman Catholic Mass  
10 a.m. Traditional Protestant  
12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Latter Day Saints  
7 p.m. Traditional Protestant

### Tiger Chapel

- Wednesday  
7:30 p.m. Wicca Circle - briefing tent
- Wed & Sat  
10:30 a.m. Reunion & Suicide Brief
- Saturday  
7 p.m. Catholic Mass
- Sunday  
9 a.m. Roman Catholic Mass  
10:30 a.m. Contemporary Mass  
1 p.m. Gospel Protestant  
3 p.m. Traditional Protestant  
7 p.m. Non Denominational Christian  
9:30 p.m. Evening Christian Service

Dedicated runners compete during ....

# 'The Rock of the Marne' 5K Race

Spc. Derek Del Rosario  
100th MPAD

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Soldiers were up early to race the sunrise during the 3rd Infantry Division "Rock of the Marne" 5K run held August 7.

Approximately 60 runners participated in the race which was organized by the 3rd Inf. Div. in conjunction with the Morale, Welfare and Recreation department. Runners were separated by gender and four age brackets: 17-20, 21-27, 28-39 and 40 to above. Top finishers in each category received T-shirts and Army and Air Force Exchange Service gift cards. First place finishers in each category additionally received a certificate of achievement signed by Maj. Gen. William G. Webster Jr., Task Force Baghdad commanding general.

It was the fourth race that Brunswick, Ga. native Sgt. 1st Class Belinda Rhanes, noncommissioned officer in charge of 3rd Inf. Div. MWR has helped organize. She said each race has been a privilege for her.

"I get a lot of joy in seeing Soldiers coming out and participating like this," Rhanes said. "Most of these people come out to run, just to run ... it is a good morale booster."

One participant, Staff Sgt. Jeff Ferris of B Battery, 1st Battalion, 126th Field Artillery and Milwaukee native, used the opportunity as a training tool for a race he plans to run during his Environmental Morale Leave.

"I am very happy with my (race) time," Ferris said. "Here at Camp Liberty, I run twice a day, and I will usually run twice around the lake. I plan to run in the Lake Front Marathon when I return home next month."

Circling "Z" lake once, race participants started and finished at the base of "signal hill." The training run for Ferris paid off, as he recorded a personal best 5K time of 20 minutes, 42 seconds.

The top honor however, went to Staff Sgt. David Bice of 206th Engineer Company and a Frankfort, Ky., native, whose impressive time of 17 minutes, 5 seconds was the overall winning time of the race. The avid runner was very modest about his win.

"I love to run so it was no big deal,"



Soldiers from the Camp Liberty/Camp Victory complex take off for the loop around "Z" lake during the 3rd Infantry Division's "Rock of the Marne" 5K race August 7. Staff Sgt. David Bice, of 206th Engineer Company, won the race in 17 minutes, 5 seconds.

Photos by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

Bice said after completing his fourth race in theater. "I race for health and fitness. I like to run marathons. My biggest aspiration is to run a marathon in New York City."

The top honor for female runners went to 2nd Lt. Tammy Lancaster, 108th Military Police Company and Rowlett, Texas, native, who crossed the finish line with a time of 22 minutes, 47 seconds. Despite her accomplishment, Lancaster feels there is room for personal improvement.

"I felt I was slow for what I'm used to," Lancaster said. "I can usually run a 5K in under 22 minutes. As a marathoner, I am running all the time to get faster. I think races like these are good, especially for competitive runners."

**"As a marathoner, I am running all the time to get faster. ... races like these are good, especially for competitive runners."**

2nd Lt. Tammy Lancaster  
108 MP Co.

While races like the "Rock of the Marne" 5K can be good training opportunities for competitive runners, Ferris feels they are beneficial for other Soldiers too.

"Races like these are definitely a morale booster," Ferris said. "It's a getaway from our daily job and it is an



2nd Lt. Tammy Lancaster, of 108th Military Police Company and a Rowlett, Texas, native, had the fastest women's finish in the 3rd Infantry Division's "Rock of the Marne" 5K race. Lancaster finished with a time of 22 minutes, 42 seconds. For her accomplishment, she received a certificate presented by Kirk Bentley, a Kellogg Brown and Root MWR representative, which was signed by Maj. Gen. William G. Webster Jr., Task Force Baghdad commanding general.

excellent stress reliever. I plan to participate in more races in the future."

"We try to have a race every month," Rhanes said. "Since we first started them in March, we have

noticed an increased number of Soldier participation."

More troops running around "Z" lake in circles - it's a trend that Rhanes hopes to continue.

**C O M I C S**

**C A M P M E D I O C R A C Y**

Panel 1: A soldier asks, "You can't come in here like that! You could be sweaty!"

Panel 2: The soldier replies, "You can't come in here like that! You could be dusty!"

Panel 3: The soldier asks, "You wanna go to chow?" The other soldier replies, "How are we supposed to eat with a level 5 bio-hazard suit on?"

Have something you'd like to contribute to the bi-weekly comic strip? Contact [ricardo.branch@id3.army.mil](mailto:ricardo.branch@id3.army.mil).

The Book Nook

'Dog in Night-Time' offers a unique perspective

Spc. Derek Del Rosario  
100th MPAD

Imagine you are on the game show, "Let's Make a Deal." The host, Monty Hall, shows you three doors. Behind two of these doors are gag gifts, two goats, but behind one of these doors is the prize you are shooting for: a brand new car. Monty Hall asks you which door you would like to choose, door one, two or three.

For hypothetical purposes, let us say you choose door two. At this point the host then reveals door three, and behind it is a carrot-eating goat. Now you know the car is behind either door one or door two - your original choice. Then the host asks you, "would you like to switch your original choice and pick door one?"

What do you do?  
Do you switch to door one, or do you stick with your original choice of door two? One train of thought might be, "well, door two was my original gut instinct so I am going to stick with it," or "well, it doesn't matter if I switch because it's a coin flip on which door hides the car." If you were thinking either of these thoughts, you would be wrong. You have a statistical advantage, a 66 percent better chance, of winning the car if you were to switch to door one.

Don't believe it?  
This is just one chapter that is

featured in "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time," the debut novel of Mark Haddon. While the chapter about "The Monty Hall problem" might lead readers to think that this book is about statistics, it is actually a very fascinating, first-person look into the life of an autistic teen.

The protagonist is Christopher, an autistic 15-year-old boy who can square the number two more than a thousand times over in his head, but he cannot understand such things as sarcasm or metaphors.

Think Dustin Hoffman's character in "Rain Man" and you can picture the character in this book, a math genius who has a hard time grasping human emotion and behavior.

The story begins when Christopher finds his neighbor's pet poodle dead, impaled by a pitch-fork in his neighbor's back yard. What progresses is a murder mystery story combined with a coming of age, self-discovery novel that allows readers to live vicariously through Christopher, giving them a first-person look at life as an autistic teen.

It's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" meets "The Catcher in the Rye."

Haddon, who worked with autistic children prior to become a published writer, does an excellent job of giving readers an insight to the frustrations and thought processes of autistic people. We

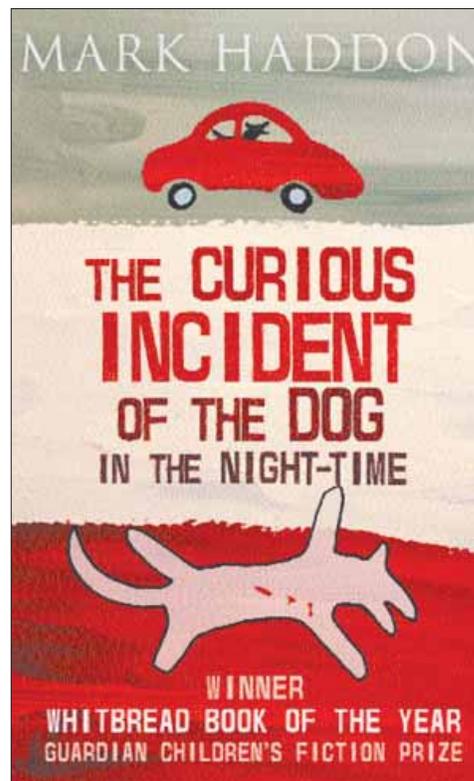
see Christopher trying to solve the mystery of the dead dog, and in the process, we discover all of these emotions unfolding between himself and his separated parents.

Christopher cannot understand them, but we as readers can.

We understand the emotional conflict of his parents, the frustrations of a single father trying to raise a son, and the emotional toll it can have on a child.

Because this book is written from a first-person point of view, the writing style is very simple. The book includes charts, drawings and diagrams to help convey what Christopher is thinking. The sentence structure is straight forward, but that doesn't mean this book is boring or simple. It is an easy read with many complexities. I often found myself thinking about how many emotions and feelings would be coursing through a person's head if he were in the same situation as Christopher.

Haddon is a very unique writer, and it is in his simple writing style that we appreciate the artistry of his writing. He perfectly combines human emotion with humor to produce a novel that is both insightful and fun. It is a page-turner that never drags and even though it might not be a statistical fact, it is my opinion that you'll be fascinated with this book and finish it with a much wider perspective of humanity.



Top 10 things to never say for missing P.T.

By Spc. Ricardo Branch

The power died out in only my side of the trailer.

I had a fight with the voice in my head... He won, so I couldn't go.

I thought today was Tuesday, the day we don't do P.T.

I was in a burger eating contest last night at the chowhall.

I was abducted by aliens and probed for 2 hours before being released after P.T.

I already did P.T. while I was sleep walking around camp.

I'll do P.T. when you give me a promotion.

I just ate 5 omeletes before P.T. .... believe me you wouldn't want me to be there.

The emperor of Baghdad does P.T. for no one!

But I thought P.T. was cancelled due to a lack of interest.



In the Movies



'Tilt' keeps poker enthusiasts on edge of seats

Spc. Derek Del Rosario  
100 MPAD

Banking off the Texas Hold'em boom of the last couple years, ESPN looked to the writers of "Rounders" to make a nine episode mini-series on poker in the sin city. The result was "Tilt", a three-disc set that combines drama with the World Series of Poker.

Michael Madsen ("Sin City," "Kill Bill") plays the main antagonist, Don "The Matador" Everest, a poker icon who is hoping to "earn" the top spot of the poker world by regaining a World Series championship bracelet.

He'll do whatever it takes to get it. Viewers get an inside look at the underground and corrupt poker world, as the Matador uses his group of poker players to cheat people out of big money at the table by exchanging hand signals and signs.

The three supporting actors are relative unknowns. Eddie (Eddie Cibrian), Clark (Todd Williams), and Miami (Kristin Lehman), are young poker players who have been cheated out of big money by the Matador and want revenge for their losses.

The corruption goes deeper and viewers soon realize that it involves much more than just poker, because when money is involved, everyone wants their stake. The Matador works with the casino and local police to weave his web of deceit. This leads to intimidation, backstabbing and murder. Thrown into the mix is an out of

town cop (Chris Bauer) who looks to find closure on the death of his brother, who is believed to have been killed by the Matador.

Madsen provides a good performance as the corrupt poker king. He portrays the sly, deceitful snake to perfection and he turns out to be the character you love to hate.

Of the young trio going against the Matador, Eddie provides the most dynamic character. Cibrian is the eye-appeal for the ladies, but this is a good-looking lad that all viewers can root for. Williams (Clark) and Lehman (Miami) have excellent supporting roles. Viewers have the opportunity to watch their motivations and story lines unfold as well. The result is an edgy and perhaps accurate look at poker in Las Vegas.

The DVD extras are on par, but nothing spectacular. Deleted scenes and an alternate ending will have you watching for another hour after the final episode.

It also includes a taping of the 1998 World Series of Poker championship - but remember, this was prior to the Texas Hold'em poker boom, so viewers don't get the table cams to see what the players are holding until after the hand is over. The show also features notable poker professionals whom fans will recognize.

This DVD will appeal mostly to poker enthusiasts, but it has drama for everyone as well. If you like the series "Las Vegas" or "The

Sopranos," you might find this series appealing.

For poker players - it is a must see. Being a poker junkie myself, I often found myself pausing the DVD to take a closer look at the cards on the table. If you watched the World Series, World Poker Tour or Celebrity Poker on television, or if you just miss the days when you had pocket aces staring back at you from the card table, you can bet this DVD will be as worthy as a monster pot.

