

The Eagle and The Crescent

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Transition to Self-Reliance

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Deputy Secretary of State visits Fallujah



Cpl. Christi Prickett Deputy Secretary of State Robert B. Zoellick and three ambassadors met with the interim Fallujah council Wednesday. The discussion covered subjects such as the reconstruction of the city, security and future expectations. Zoellick headed to Baghdad after the visit to meet with other government officials.

Cpl. Christi Prickett
II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward)

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq - The city of Fallujah has made an impact on the world. With the highly publicized battle in the past, the focus has turned to rebuilding. A surprise visit by the Deputy Secretary of State Robert B. Zoellick is proof.

Zoellick and ambassadors Richard Jones, Ross Wilson, and William Taylor, met with some members of the interim Fallujah City Council during a recent visit here to discuss the progress of the city.

The meeting lasted more than an hour and covered topics such as reconstruction, security, the city council itself and expectations from the people of the city.

"I came here to see the city with my own eyes before

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CLB-2 Marines receive Purple Hearts

Sgt. Juan Vara
2nd Marine Aircraft Wing

AL ASAD, Iraq -- Three Marines assigned to Combat Logistics Battalion 2 were presented with Purple Hearts on Tuesday for wounds received in action in the Al Anbar Province in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Colonel William S. Aitken, battalion commanding officer, presented Lance Cpls. Aaron B. Alejo-Havens, Matthew A. Lawrence and Craig T. Gulley with the medals

at a ceremony held at the battalion's motor transport lot.

Lawrence and Alejo-Havens, assigned to the battalion's Transportation Support Company, were on a truck that was part of a convoy traveling toward Forward Operating Base Al Qaim on March 18 when they ran over an anti-tank mine.

A motor transport operator from Glen Ridge, N.J., Lawrence was driving the vehicle and ran over the mine with the right-front tire. When the explosion occurred, the vehicle was shaken up and Alejo-Havens

was knocked unconscious.

The vehicle caught on fire and Lawrence tried to escape but his door was jammed. He then noticed Alejo-Havens was unresponsive and jumped over to revive him. Once Alejo-Havens regained consciousness, both of them sprinted from the vehicle to an area where Navy corpsmen treated their wounds to the best of their abilities.

They boarded a humvee that took them to Al Qaim and from there they received

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Fri 15 April	Sat 16 April	Sun 17 April	Mon 18 April
 Low: 72F High: 89F DUST Sunrise 0636D Sunset 1937D	 Low: 63F High: 87F DUST Sunrise 0635D Sunset 1938D	 Low: 60F High: 85F DUST Sunrise 0633D Sunset 1939D	 Low: 59F High: 85F DUST Sunrise 0632D Sunset 1939D
 ILLUM 39 %	 ILLUM 48 %	 ILLUM 58 %	 ILLUM 67 %

Morale Corner Camp Fallujah

Worship Services & Bible Study Schedule

Friday

6 p.m. - Catholic Mass
6:30 p.m. - Catholic hour social

Saturday

5:15 p.m. - Catholic Confession
6 p.m. - Catholic Mass

Sunday

7:15 a.m. - Catholic Confession
8 a.m. - Catholic Mass
8:30 a.m. - Latter Day Saints
9 a.m. - Protestant Worship
9:15 a.m. - Protestant Communion
10:30 a.m. - Protestant Contemporary
11 a.m. - Non-Denominational
1 p.m. - Gospel Service
6:30 p.m. - Latter Day Saints
7:30 p.m. - Intro to Old Testament

MWR events

R&B Night: There will be an R&B night held at the MWR recreation center tonight from 9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Hip Hop Night: Come out to the recreation center for some hip hop music, Saturday night from 9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

3-on-3 Basketball: A 3-on-3 basketball scrimmage will be held Saturday at the MWR recreation center court from 9 to 11 a.m. and 3 to 5 p.m. at the MWR basketball courts.

Movie Night: Every day at 3 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. a movie will be played at the recreation center back room. For more information contact the MWR supervisor at: crystal.nadeau@halliburton.com

II Marine Expeditionary Force (FWD)

Maj. Gen. Stephen T. Johnson, Commanding General
Sgt. Maj. Gary W. Harris, Sergeant Major

Public Affairs Director...Lt. Col. David A. Lapan
Deputy Director.....Maj. Sean D. Gibson
Public Affairs Chief.....Master Gunnery Sgt.
Constance S. Dillard
Press Chief/Editor.....Staff Sgt. Ronna M. Weyland

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Sgt. Juan Vara

Sergeant Maj. Joseph M. Davenport, Combat Logistics Battalion 2 sergeant major, reads the Purple Heart citation as Lance Cpls. Aaron B. Alejo-Havens, Craig T. Gulley and Matthew A. Lawrence report to Col. William S. Aitken, battalion commanding officer, to have the medals pinned Tuesday. The three were wounded in action in the Al Anbar Province.

Heart, from Page 1

medical air transport to a hospital in Balad.

Alejo-Havens, an air delivery specialist from Kerman, Calif., is on his first deployment to Iraq and had volunteered to be the assistant driver that day. In preparation for this deployment, he received training on convoy operations at a Combined Arms Exercise conducted last year at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, Calif.

“Our ‘gunny’ said he wasn’t going to let us go in any convoys,” he said. “Things were going slow for us (air delivery specialists) and later he let us volunteer. That was my first convoy here.”

Lawrence, already a combat veteran, is here on his second tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He is a reservist originally assigned to the 6th Motor Transport Battalion out of Red Bank, N.J., and served in Iraq when the war started.

“I was concerned about something like this happening,” said the recent graduate

of the University of New Hampshire, “but that wasn’t going to stop me from going on missions.”

Gulley, a military policeman assigned to the battalion’s military police detachment, was part of a convoy heading toward Camp Korean Village on March 25 when the humvee he was riding in was hit by two 155 mm mortar shells.

Everybody in the vehicle was injured and three of the Marines were flown to a larger medical facility. Gulley and Lance Cpl. John E. Rapacz, a military policeman as well, received wounds and concussions caused by shrapnel and debris and were treated at the medical facility at Camp Korean Village.

A Springhill, Fla., native, Gulley is on his first deployment to Iraq and had been on several convoys before without any incidents. “I’ve been pretty lucky,” he said. “In a sense I’m still lucky.”

Rapacz, from Orlando, Fla., was to be presented the award at the same ceremony, but operational commitments didn’t allow him to be present.

New ECP accommodates Fallujah

Lance Cpl. Aaron P. Mankin

II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward)

FALLUJAH, Iraq -- A heavy flow of traffic leading into the city of Fallujah can be seen every day. Children are returning to schools, families are moving back into their homes and consumers are filling the marketplace. The influx of activity from the city populous has created a need for quicker access to their city.

"The city is growing rapidly," explained 1st Lt. James W. Nolan, entry control point construction officer and platoon commander, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, 2nd Marine Division and Islamorada, Fla., native. "Rebuilding can be seen every

day. As the city continues to rebuild and grow, more people need access to their city and they need it faster."

Entry control points manage the flow of traffic entering the streets of Fallujah.

Iraqi Security Forces work alongside Marines to guard these gates to the city.

Vehicles are inspected and personnel are searched before they are allowed to pass through.

Recently materials from two other ECP locations were reallocated to build a more efficient ECP and help speed up the flow of traffic.

"We are providing a larger area to help support the need that's required for this area," said Sgt. Willard C. Wilbanks, squad leader for Company B, 8th Engineer Support Battalion, Combat Logistics Brigade 8, 2nd Force Service Support Group (Forward).

The engineers with 8th ESB built sea huts on the grounds of the ECP to shelter future forces who will be responsible for running the location.

"In five days we built 10 huts," said Wilbanks, a Florence, Ala., native. "Some of the Marines here are learning as they go. We even had to cut down trees lining the center of the road before we could get started."

The new ECP location is expected to prove itself as a more strategic position.

"Our previous location could be overlooked by a bridge and was more vulnerable to attacks," said Nolan. "The location we have here is better and more secure."

Security remains a priority for the Marines as completion of the project draws near.

"We will be holding rehearsals to practice before we open the ECP to the public," said Nolan. "Playing out different scenarios will help prepare us and make sure the ECP is in [proper] operating order. We can take [the] chance to fix anything we need to."

The ECP system is designed to limit the ability of insurgents to infiltrate the city of Fallujah.

"We won't allow the insurgents to get a foothold here," said Nolan.



Photos by Lance Cpl. Aaron P. Mankin

(Top) A crane places concrete sections along the road near a new entry control point in Fallujah, Iraq.

(Right) Cpl. Dallas R. Waters, fire team leader, Company B, 8th Engineer Support Battalion, Combat Logistics Brigade 8, 2nd Force Service Support Group (Forward), shovels sand into a barrier to ensure added protection for the Marines on watch.



Service members say goodbye to pope

Lance Cpl. Evan M. Eagan
II Marine Expeditionary Force (FWD)

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq -- In remembrance of Pope John Paul II, the third longest reigning pope of the Catholic Church, a memorial service was held Friday at the base theater here.

More than 40 Marines and Sailors gathered to celebrate the life of the religious leader who became pope in 1978 and led the Catholic Church for more than 26 years.

Those who gathered shared in some of the pope's favorite prayers, songs and readings from the Holy Scripture. A slide show highlighting his life was scheduled, although due to an electrical problem, it was not played.

Chaplain (Lt. Cmdr.) John Hannigan, II MEF Headquarters Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) presided over the 45-minute service.

"The pope wasn't into ornate, flowery types of things," said Hannigan.

"We wanted to do something simple in keeping with the pope, who was a simple, down-to-earth man. He stood for what God wanted him to stand for: truth, justice and peace."

Hannigan had the unique opportunity of meeting and working with the pope while in his native Chicago.

"I said mass with the pope in the late 1970s with some other priests from the area," he said. "[The pope] was very warm and very down to earth. You could tell right away he was a man of faith."

For those attending the service it served as a way to pay their final respects to the pope who passed away April 2, at the age of 84.

"I didn't get a chance to see the funeral on television so I came here today," said Lance Cpl. Joe McGinty, information operations, Regimental Combat Team 8, 2nd Marine Division. "He was the epitome of the perfect catholic and leader, and he helped a lot of people and countries," added the Augusta,

'He stood for what God wanted him to stand for: truth, justice and peace.'

Chaplain (Lt. Cmdr.) John Hannigan II
II MEF Headquarters Group

Ga., native.

For Lance Cpl. Lawrence Hurtado, heavy equipment operator, II MHG, the pope was an inspiration.

"He did a lot of good things that people could strive for," said Hurtado, a Pueblo, Colo., native. "He set a lot of goals and he accomplished them."

Hannigan read a short biography covering the obstacles John Paul II faced, from his parents' deaths in his youth to his struggle to free his native country of Poland from communism.

"This service was very good," said Hannigan, after the memorial. "It made me aware of facts about the pope that I didn't know and it informed others as well."

Catholics and admirers from around the world went to the Vatican to view Pope John Paul II one last time. Many of them waited hours to catch a glimpse before the funeral mass on Friday.

Before ending the service here Hannigan reminded those who attended the challenge for the church is not to find someone who can fill the shoes of John Paul II, but someone who can be the messenger of Jesus Christ.



Lance Cpl. Evan M. Eagan

Chaplain (Lt. Cmdr.) John Hannigan II Marine Headquarters Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), leads Marines and Sailors in prayer during a memorial service held for Pope John Paul II at the base theater at Camp Fallujah, Iraq, Friday.

Keeping an eye on the desert plain

Cpl. C. Alex Herron
2nd Marine Aircraft Wing

AL ASAD, Iraq -- For all service members, and civilians here, their first line of defense for approaching enemy is the tower Marines on duty 24-hours a day. The Marines keep their eyes peeled for any suspicious activity posing a threat to the personnel and aircraft of Al Asad.

A group of more than 200 Marines from India Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marines, 4th Marine Division, a reserve unit from Buffalo, N.Y., augmented by Marines from the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing man the posts in eight-hour shifts; standing in the rain, sandstorms, extreme cold or brutal heat they are always on watch.

These Marines are attached to 2nd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, which provides base security.

“Our Marines stand in those towers with no breaks, fighting the elements and not able to sit down,” said Gunnery Sgt. Ronald Morgan, tower chief. “People play games and have movie nights without ever thinking about the fact the only thing between the insurgents and them is an 18- or 19-year-old Marine standing a post, keeping them safe.”

Every shift begins with a brief where the Marines get information pertaining to their towers each day. They also discuss enemy intelligence important to each post. Tower assignments are received and are shuttled to relieve the previous watch.

“We try to change things up for our Marines as much as possible,” Morgan said, an augment from Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, S.C. “It is hard enough to stay interested in the desert for hours on end so we try to put them at different towers and pair them up with different Marines to break up the monotony.”

The augments from the 2nd MAW are all from aviation jobs and volunteered for duty in Iraq, serving as part of the security detail supporting the Global War on Terrorism.

“The Marines here from the 2nd MAW are all ordnancemen and aircraft mechanics just like the ones in squadrons,” Morgan said. “They just stepped up to the challenge, were willing to work outside their box, to do something different. Each of these Marines has taken on a little more responsibility to help out the Marine Corps when it needed a few extra Marines to secure the base.”

The main mission of the “tower” Marines is to stay vigilant observing patiently for any insurgent activity. The Marines

understand their role as a watchdog for the base.

“Our post is mainly an observation post,” said Cpl. Robert McGregor, an augment from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 251 out of MCAS Beaufort. “Our role is to watch the terrain. When we see headlights or something we can’t determine, we call it in and the Quick Reaction Force will check it out.”

India Company had been anxiously waiting to get in the fight since 2003. Every day seemed liked it could be the day the unit would get the call to deploy, according to Lance Cpl. Justin Haag, tower sentry with 3/25.

The 3/25 Marines arrived in Iraq ready to rid the cities of insurgent activity, but after arriving they quickly became aware of their mission; it was nothing like they had planned.

“Our mission isn’t exactly what we thought, but it is vital to the overall goals for Iraq,” said Cpl. Nick Hennings, infantryman, 3/25.

“Any mission that we get is important to the stabilization of Iraq,” Haag said. “This might not be what we had in mind, but whatever the Marine Corps needs us to do we are going to do it to the best of our ability.”

The Marines who make up the tower detail are manning an important post to Al Asad. Keeping insurgent activity on the run outside is vital to the overall goals of the 2nd MAW.

These Marines stay alert and are always aware of their surroundings. Although many of their days pass by without incident, they maintain a watchful eye, constantly peering into the distant sands. Their presence alone sends a message to the enemy: Terrorists are not welcome, beware of the Marines



Cpl. C. Alex Herron

Lance Cpl. Justin Haag, tower sentry, uses his binoculars to get a better view of some activity while standing in his tower, Tuesday.

Local police candidates screened

Lance Cpl. Evan M. Eagan

II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward)

FALLUJAH, Iraq- Marines patrol the streets of Fallujah every day providing security for military operations and maintaining the general stability of the area. With Iraqis taking control of their own government and rebuilding the city, there are many responsibilities ahead, to include a force that can police the region.

With the help of Iraqi Security Forces, Iraqi Police Section, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), local citizens are receiving an opportunity to man the force.

More than 200 potential Iraqi police candidates were screened April 9 and 10 at the Civil Military Operations Center located in the heart of city.

"We're looking for people with no obvious bad ties," said Maj. David Barnes, ISF, IPS and Columbia, S.C. native. "Anyone tied to

criminal activity or human rights violations, we do not want. Out of the whole group we might get 90-100 [qualified] people."

Before II MEF (FWD) took command, DynCorp International, a contracted security company, was in charge of processing and training the police candidates, said Ross Deck, international police liaison officer, DynCorp International.

The screening process consists of three stations.

"They come in and fill out paperwork, which has a background check and a literacy test," said Barnes. "Then they have their picture taken. After that they are run through the BAT [Biometrics Automated Toolset] network."

The BAT network is a way of identifying and tracking individuals and is currently being used throughout Iraq and Afghanistan. It consists of fingerprinting, a photo and an iris scan.

"The iris scan takes a picture of the eye and is 99.9 percent accurate," said Cpl. Robert Johnson, 21, ISF instructor, Regimental Combat Team 8, 2nd Marine Division and Good Thunder, Minn., native. "If they have been [screened] in the past, their information pops up on the screen from a huge database and we will know exactly who they are."

Because of the efficiency of the BAT network, a few applicants were identified as having ties to criminal activity and were taken away for further questioning.

The next step of the screening process is conducted at the East Fallujah Iraqi Camp where the ISF Marines and civilians get a better idea of who will be considered for further training.

"When they get to the advanced screening at the EFIC they do a physical exam, physical fitness test and a more in depth interview," said Barnes. "There, we can see what their physical abilities are and get a better idea of who they are."

Once the screening at the EFIC is completed, a final decision is made to determine who goes on for formal police training.

"The Marines of Iraqi Security Forces, RCT-8 and the Iraqi Ministry of Interior review their books and make the final decision of who will be sent to Jordan for an 8-week police academy. From there, they will be sent out to work in the outlying areas and cities," said Barnes.



Photos by Lance Cpl. Evan M. Eagan

(Above) An interpreter takes the names of Iraqi Police candidates at the Civil Military Operations Center Saturday.

(Right) A candidate for the Iraqi Police gets his fingerprint scanned during the initial screening held at the CMOC Saturday.



VIP, from Page 1

I travel to Baghdad,” said Zoellick, appointed Feb. 22. “We are trying to improve life for the local people. I want to have a sense of the things happening in the city.”

The city council was glad to meet the Deputy Secretary of State and the ambassadors, said Shaik Kahlid Hamood Mahel al Jumaly, city council chairman.

“We hope to show you the things that have happened before and the things of the future,” he said. “We want you to be able to come to the city on a third or fourth visit, and not have to wear armor or a helmet at all.”

The Shaik began the meeting by speaking about the priorities of the city.

“Safety and peacekeeping take the first priority before reconstruction. It has been almost four months and there have been no incidents of violence or terror, with the exception of a few minor incidents,” said Mahel.

Optimism for the city was high with the other council members as well.

“We are very serious about having these things move forward,” said Maj. Gen. Mahdi Sabeeh Hashim, commander of the Iraqi Police. “The final result is that the city wants to move forward.

Fallujah is looking toward itself to build a better city.”

Compensation payments were a major topic of the meeting.

“We have already given out over 3,000 compensation payments to date,” said Mahel. “We plan on raising that number next week to around 1,000 payments a day. People want us to show the progress being made. It is a slow process, but it is being made.”

After passing a newly constructed water and sewage facility on his quick tour through town, Zoellick asked the first of many questions directed toward the lifestyle of the people.

“Do the people have safe drinking water?” asked Zoellick.

The council was hesitant to answer.

“No. Not everyone,” explained the chairman. “The system from before isn’t efficient enough. It’s in very bad shape. The pipes are too small, but again, it is being worked on.”

Zoellick asked how the people are getting their food. The question brought up some concerns.

“Restrictions at check points are hurting the food products from reaching the city,” said the Shaik. “One way to solve that, which we are working on, is forming a list of people who deliver food so

those people can make it through the check points faster. The traffic problems need to be worked on as well.”

Mahel wanted Zoellick to know the council is not asking for anything personal right now. However, they will take any help the coalition forces will offer.

The council is missing some major components to be able to operate as a fully functioning unit.

“We have no communication, no budget, no vehicles,” said Mahel. “Due to the recent elections, this council is very strong because we were elected by the people. We are doing our best to fix these issues, but we will need help.”

Zoellick left the council members with some final thoughts before leaving the meeting.

“I’ve learned a great deal. We have to try to work together to create an environment where people can reconstruct, opening businesses and make a living,” he said. “They will look to you to try and have a sense of what is most important. I know it won’t be easy. It will ultimately depend on the people of Fallujah, not the United States...we can help but the [Iraqi people] have to make it happen.”

Caught in the Spotlight

Corporal Jonathan K. Clarke enjoys his job. As a combat cook with II MEF Headquarters Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), he has a passion for what he does.

“I love to cook. For me it’s spiritual. I consider it a form of worship,” said the 22-year-old.

Since arriving at Camp Fallujah last month, Clarke has spent little time in the kitchen and more time guarding its door.

“I’m here to provide security for the Marines [who] eat here,” said Clarke. “We work long hours, but it’s rewarding.”

The North Philadelphia, Penn., na-

tive tries his best to greet everyone who dines in the facility he helps protect.

Clarke is the fourth son of nine children and before he enlisted, spent time as a licensed massage therapist.

During his free time, Clarke writes poetry and hopes to one day be a pastor. As a pastor he plans on using his poetry to communicate his faith.

“I just love making people happy,” explained Clarke. “That’s what I’m going to try and do. And I will. I won’t fail. I was never taught to fail. How can you do something you were never taught to do?”



Lance Cpl. Aaron P. Mankin

MPs patrol, provide security, press on

Cpl. C.J. Yard

2nd Force Service Support Group (Forward)

CAMP TAQADDUM, Iraq -- Imagine patrolling the treacherous roads of Iraq on a daily basis, stopping at commonly used Improvised Explosive Devices sites and putting your life at risk to check a block of concrete along the road not there the day before.

Now, imagine yourself in the lead vehicle of a 20 to 30 vehicle convoy, driving down the same roads, but this time it's at night. All you can wonder is: Do my headlights reach far enough ahead to see anything in the road? Did the other military policemen patrol this far out on their security patrol to deter insurgents from placing IEDs? Could the approaching car be a suicide bomber with a vehicle borne IED?

This is what the MPs of Bravo Company, 2nd Military Police Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 25, 2nd Force Service Support Group (Forward), encounter every day doing their part in the Global War on Terrorism. For two weeks, the teams named "Evil Eye," patrol convoy routes to detect IEDs and deter insurgents from placing IEDs along the road. After their two weeks of daytime security patrols, the teams are then employed as convoy security during nighttime convoy operations.

"I love what we are doing," said Cpl. Zack Doty, vehicle commander and native of Graham, N.C. "We are making sure convoys can travel these routes safely. We don't only do security patrols, though. We also do [personal security detachment] route reconnaissance missions and nighttime convoy security as well."

Security patrols are generally defensive in nature, but the MPs are prepared to counterattack if necessary. MPs patrol main supply routes in their up-armored High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles with heavy machineguns, such as the M2 .50-caliber machinegun and the M240-G machinegun.

The heavy machineguns are a last resort for the gunners when applying escalation of force.

This Standard Operating Procedure is drilled into the MPs to ensure the safety of the Iraqi citizens.

Gunnery Sgt. Sean Spatar, 3rd platoon's platoon sergeant, reminded the Marines to remain vigilant on their security patrol.

"Every day we go out there, you have to be observant; keep your eyes open," said the Logan, Ohio native. "The day that we get complacent is the day something is going to happen."

Over the course of 10 days conducting security patrols, the MPs found three IEDs, five pieces of unexploded ordnance and wires with an actuator on the top of them. Along with the wires they also found a pouch filled with receipts and documents, some of which were photos of the person who put them there, according to Spatar.

When the Marines of the team are not patrolling MSR, they are providing convoy security at night.

For Doty, providing convoy security is what he likes most and has come to terms with the danger.

"I would rather do convoy security. You're more apt to see

action at night," he said. "So far though, we haven't seen much of anything, which is a good thing. But, going to war; that's why people come into the Marine Corps."

The HMMWVs the MPs call home for hours at a time are dispersed to provide quick response to any hostile intent or attempt to hinder the progress of the convoy.

"We've got a really good truck," said Lance Cpl. Jonathon Burks, a military policeman. "I think we've got the best truck out here; we're the most disciplined truck. We're more like a family."

Burks' current deployment puts him in Iraq for the second time, and he is patrolling the same routes he did during his previous deployment.

"I love it out here," said the 20-year-old, nicknamed Boomhower after a TV show cartoon character because of his tendency to become incomprehensible when he gets excited. "This is like my second home now, and I would rather be out here, feeling like I'm serving a purpose, than pulling gate duty back in the states. That's still doing something, but here I feel like I'm making a difference."

The teams have been together for four months. They went through various training exercises, such as a combined arms exercise, stability and security operations training at March Air Reserve Base and Military Operations in Urban Terrain.

"I've got a good group of guys here. They are doing really well and I am very proud of them," said Sgt. Keith Littreal, Alpha team leader, 3rd platoon and Greensboro, N.C., native. "They are doing great things and never cease to amaze me."



Cpl. C.J. Yard

Second Lt. David Crabbe (left), convoy commander for Combat Logistics Regiment 25, 2nd Force Service Support Group (Forward) listens as Chaplain (Lt. Cmdr.) Timothy Hogan, and Southgate, Mich., native, reads a scripture and prays with the Marines who will be conducting a re-supply convoy.