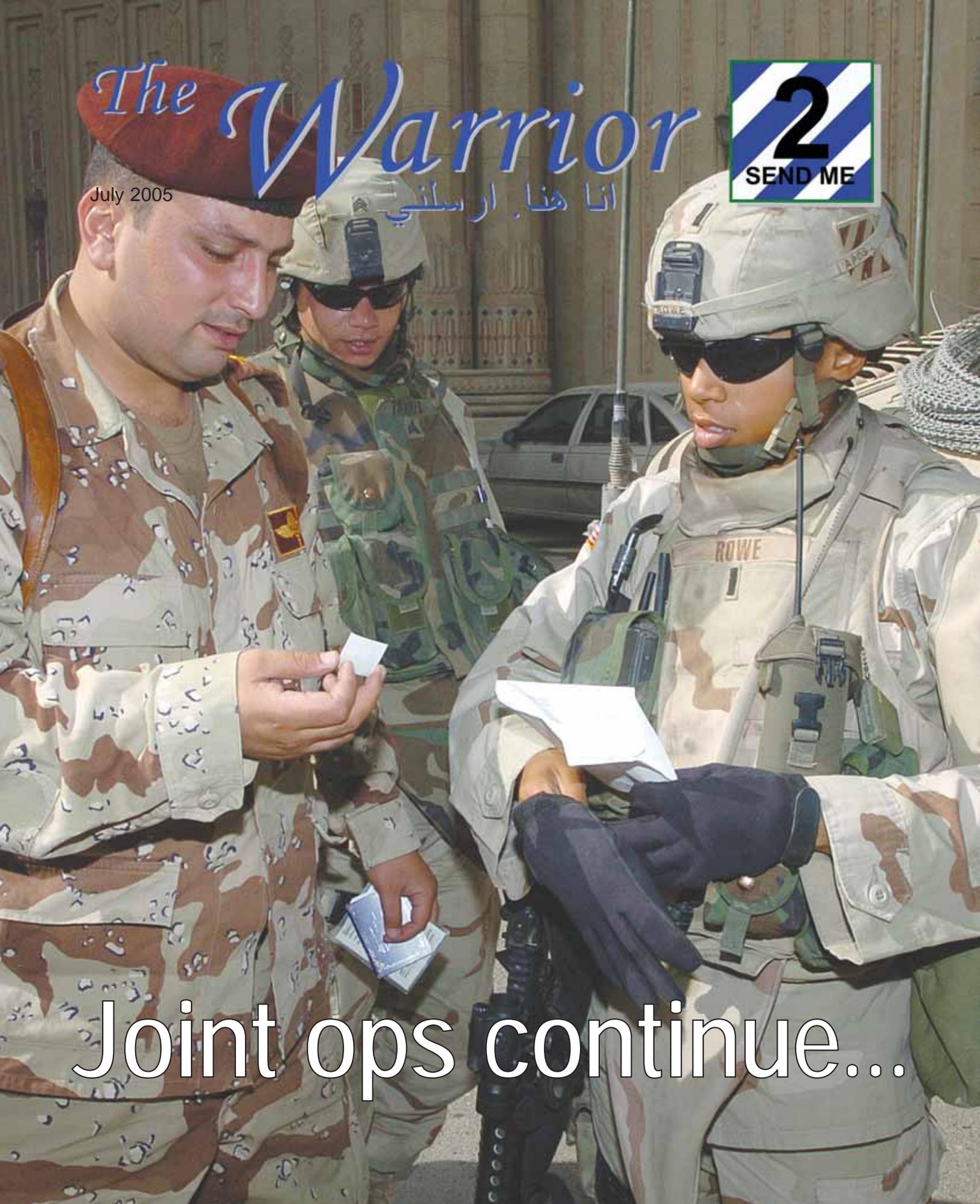


# The Warrior

July 2005

انا هنا ارسلني



## Joint ops continue...

Brigade PSD

Battlekings down south

IED Awareness

# Contents

*The Warrior July 2005 Volume 2, Number 6*

## Cover Story

8



**Soldiers, POB and IA tracking down terror -**  
2-3 BTB MPs and 3-15 Inf., join POB and the Iraqi Army on numerous raids in Adhamiya.

On the cover: An Iraqi Army captain and 1st Lt. Lauren Rowe, 2-3 BTB, MP platoon leader, examine evidence collected during a raid June 26.

## Features

4 **Roughrider PSD** - Soldiers keep 2nd BCT command group on the road, secure

6 **448th CA on mission** - Civil Affairs Soldiers provide humanitarian assistance and aid to the Iraqi people.

10 **The Fight Continues** - 1-9 FA conducts multiple cordon-and-knock missions south of Baghdad, netting terrorists and caches.



14 **Baghdad services improve** -  
With the hard work of local Iraqis, and quality control from the Army Corps of Engineers and 2-3 BTB, electricity and trash service in Baghdad is improving.



16 **Independence Day Talent Show** - Loyalty Theater hosts another round of Spartan BCT talent.

17 **2nd BCT postal workers** - Working hard to get it there fast.

18 **How it comes together** - A look at Iraq's long road toward a democratic government.

20 **'5 Cs' for IEDs** - What Soldiers should do when encounter an IED.





**Monthly**

- |    |                   |    |                          |
|----|-------------------|----|--------------------------|
| 2  | Spartan 6         | 23 | Take Motrin, Drink Water |
| 3  | Words from home   | 24 | News                     |
| 22 | From the Chaplain |    |                          |



# Maintain your focus

Spartan Warriors,

July has almost passed; it's hard to believe we have been here 7 months. I know the 120-degree temperatures, the IED threat, rock throwing, etc., make the hours go slow when you're on mission, but the weeks seem to pass quickly. We still have a lot to do, especially when you consider the major milestones coming up over the next five months (constitution completed, constitution referendum, national elections, and right/left seat rides). With 7 months under our belts, everyone is efficiently and effectively executing their mission, and the Spartan Warriors continue to make a positive difference in Rusafa (East Baghdad). So what should we be concerned about?

One, treat every mission like it is your first. The minute we think something is routine we will overlook something and it could cost lives. The Big 4 still and always will apply: 1. Know your task and purpose; 2. Always do PCCs/PCIs; 3. Rehearse your mission; and 4. Pause for risk mitigation before LDing.

Two, NO MORE NEGLIGENT DISCHARGES. After 8 months in combat, there are no "accidental discharges." Spartan Warriors know the standard and will follow correct procedures. Use the buddy check to standard and we will not have a negligent discharge. I do not care how much of a hurry you are in, use the buddy system. Failure to follow proper weapons clearing procedures will result in an unforgivable accident/fatality.

Three, maintain treating everyone with dignity

and respect. This sounds obvious, but for some reason once the halfway point hits, equal opportunity and sexual harassment issues crop up. These types of issues tear down good teams fast, so do not go down that road.

Four, maintain the moral high ground. We have worked too hard to trash our great efforts. All it takes is one instance of prisoner abuse, civilian abuse, or unprofessional behavior, and we will have significantly increased our risk. We are on path to reach the remaining 10% of the population that we must co-op in order to get the actionable intelligence we need to completely neutralize the enemy. Always choose the harder right over the easier wrong, and let's reel in the remaining 10% - ASAP.

Fifth, do not take for granted the Rear Detachments and Family Readiness Groups efforts. They are quietly and very effectively executing thankless tasks that allow all of us to focus on our mission.

Finally, always remember we have Spartan Warriors who have paid the ultimate sacrifice and it is our duty to honor their legacy by executing all our missions successfully, and to the best of our ability.

Oh yeah, one more thing - thanks for continuing to be the best. God Bless you all.

DiSalvo

SEND ME!



## The Warrior

The official magazine of the  
Spartan Brigade Combat Team and its Soldiers

The Warrior is a monthly magazine published in the interest of the servicemembers of the 3rd Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team. The Warrior is an Army-funded magazine authorized for members of the U.S. Army under the provision of AR 360-1.

Contents of The Warrior are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense or Department of the Army.

2nd BCT Commander  
Col. Joseph DiSalvo

2nd BCT Command Sgt. Maj.  
Command Sgt. Maj. Gabriel Berhane

2nd BCT PAO  
Maj. Russell Goemaere

Editor, The Warrior  
Staff Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

Staff Writer  
Spc. Ben Brody

For this issue of *The Warrior*, we were presented the opportunity to highlight a poem by the spouse of a Spartan Soldier. It's reminder to all of us that there are loved ones back home who are unyielding in their support.

**Staff Sgt. Craig Zentkovich**  
Editor, *The Warrior*

## *A poem to the Soldiers*

*My heart goes out to each and every one of you  
To all the soldiers, their wives and their children too*

*We will stand by your side for as long as it takes  
To free the Iraqis from their past mistakes*

*To help all the children so they can play without fear  
The women, the men and their fallen tears*

*You are our soldiers that fight for our freedom everyday  
Our warriors our heroes making a difference along the way*

*You always take the bad and turn it into what is good  
No matter what the cost; we would help you if we could*

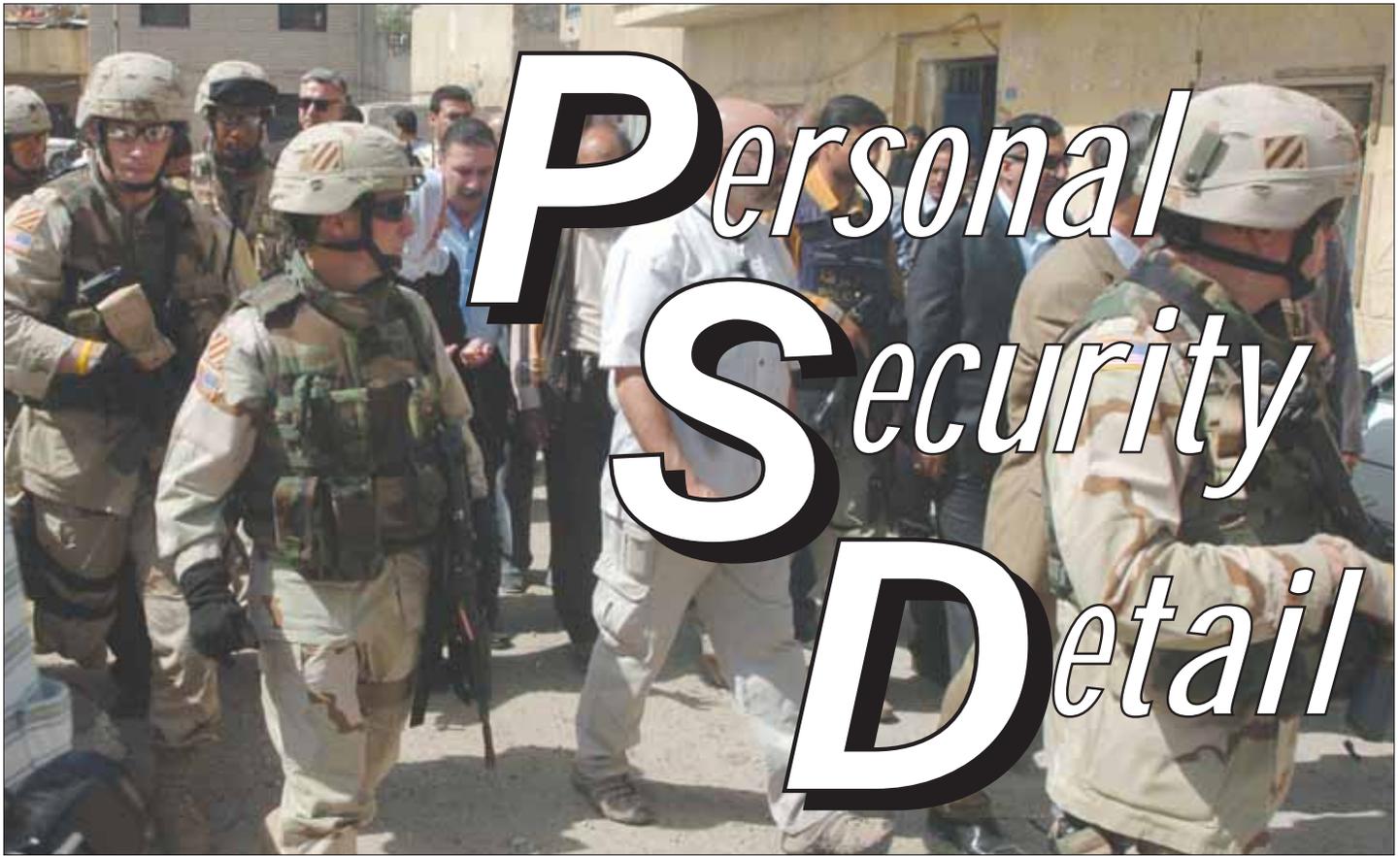
*We share the laughter the sadness and the love  
As do our fallen heroes that watch over you from above*

*We love each and every one of you for all that you do  
You put your life on the line everyday - we salute each of you*

*I think I am really trying to say that you all are not alone  
Every wife, father, mother and child are praying from their home*

*Well its time for me to close now with this poem I give to you  
We salute you, we love you and we miss you all  
And we hope that you come home soon.*

*By Suzanne Santiago  
Assassin 1-9 FA Spouse*



## *2nd BCT headquarters Soldiers get command staff where they need to be, safely*

Story and photos by Spc. Ben Brody

CAMP LOYALTY, Iraq – A group of hand-picked, combat-tested Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, are charged with a special mission: keeping the Spartan command staff safe.

“The deputy commander has a lot of freedom of movement, and it’s our job to take him wherever he wants to go and keep him safe,” said Staff Sgt. Robert Sentz, HHC, 2nd BCT, Bradley section leader. “We go along on raids and checkpoints and look at infrastructure projects. Sometimes we’ll just check the atmospherics – like go see how friendly people are down some alley in Kamiliya.”

Almost everyone on the personal security detail is an infantryman or a tanker by trade, and nearly all have combat experience.

“We bring a lot of experience to the table from previous deployments,” Sentz, of Detroit, Mich., said. “Specialist (George) Woods is a veteran of (Operation Iraqi Freedom) one, two and three.”

Out on patrol, Lt. Col. William Wood, 2nd BCT, deputy commander, stops frequently to speak with locals, and the PSD is right with him, watching everyone and everything.

“We call him ‘Wild Bill’ because he always wants to go out and see places we haven’t been yet,” Sentz said of Wood. “Sometimes we’ll go out three times in a day, and we’re lucky if we get three days off a month.”

Interacting effectively with the Iraqi public almost always requires a good interpreter, and the PSD has that in Spc. Tommy, a Soldier who grew up in Baghdad.

“I lived in Baghdad until I was about 16, so I know a lot about the city and its people,” said Tommy, who doesn’t go by his birth name for security reasons. “The people here are amazed that there are Iraqis in the U.S. Army. They all think the Army would discriminate against me, but now they have a new idea.”

Tommy, who is also a humvee driver, said he is proud to serve in his former home, and feels his duties help both the U.S. troops and the Iraqi people.

Sentz proudly displays a calendar with nearly every day for the past six months annotated with a combat patrol his team has been on.

Sentz’s PSD section is equipped with Bradley Fighting Vehicles as well as humvees, and they will occasionally take the hulking tracked vehicles to a large operation.

During a battalion-sized mission, Wood will act as a



**(Opposite page) Flanked by members of his PSD including Spc. Wesley Waste (left), Col. Joseph DiSalvo walks to his vehicle while in Sadr City. (Above) Staff Sgt. Robert Sentz provides security for Lt. Col. William Wood, 2nd BCT, deputy commander, while at the Rustimiyah Sewage Treatment Plant. (Right) Spc. Matthew Williams, PSD gunner, hands stuffed animals to a young Iraqi girl. (Bottom right) Spc. Tommy (center), who lived in Iraq until he was 16 years old, serves as an interpreter for Wood and a local Baghdad cleric.**

liaison between the battalion commander on the ground and 2nd BCT assets, like attack helicopter support.

The PSD also escorts VIP guests of Spartan BCT through the Spartan area of operations and is responsible for their security, according to Sentz.

While out on patrol, PSD members do everything they can to improve local perceptions of coalition forces, said Spc. Matt Williams, PSD gunner.

“We try to win hearts and minds every chance we get,” Williams, from Lacrosse, Wis., said. “We’re always giving out candy, humanitarian assistance bags and soccer balls – the kids love us.”

Williams, who was a member of his company commander’s PSD during OIF I, said he enjoys getting out and seeing the Baghdad area every day.

“I definitely like going out and seeing the changes in sector firsthand,” Williams said. “Yeah, they have work to do and they need protection, but the city’s come a long way since last time I was here.”

Williams and his comrades transport the command group anywhere and everywhere, allowing them to gain a more complete understanding of the battlefield and the troops under their command.

“Wherever he goes, we go too,” Williams said of Wood. “We’ll do whatever it takes to bring him home.”



# New Spartan civil affairs unit, on mission with 1-9 FA, provide humanitarian assistance and medical care for local residents

Story and photos by Spc. Ben Brody

TAWAITHA, Iraq – In the shadow of al-Rasheed airfield, a community neglected by the former regime works to build a better life under the new Iraqi government.

Garbage lies strewn in Tawaiatha's streets and unexploded ordnance litters the barren fields.

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, launched Operation Paradise City June 30, a cordon-and-search of many homes and fields in this area, just south of Baghdad.

At the same time, Soldiers from 448th Civil Affairs Battalion, a Washington reserve unit, as well as troops from 1-9 FA's CA team, provided humanitarian and medical aid to area residents.

"It makes a difference at the ground level," said Sgt. 1st Class J.R. Jetton, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1-9 FA, CA team member. "The guys come in early and bust in, looking for weapons – then we set up and it makes them realize that we're here to help and keep them safe."

Jetton, of Moore, Okla., helped hand out Beanie Babies, bags of food, water bottles and other treats to the young and elderly alike.

"The beanie babies are a big hit," Jetton said. "The kids love days like this."

Medics from 1-9 FA and 448th CA Bn. provided some medical treatment to residents during the mission.

Staff Sgt. Sean Stout, 448th CA Bn., medic, bandaged some cuts and scrapes on children's feet while the rest of his team tossed water bottles to the eager crowd.

A man who said he broke his leg a year ago approached Stout on crutches, and complained that his leg was not healing properly. Stout gave the man some pain medication and a list of exercises to do.

"This guy broke his leg, and due to lack of medical care in the area, it was never set properly," Stout, of Pascagoula, Miss., said. "I gave him some range-of-motion exercises to do, and explained to him that if he doesn't do them, he's going to be crippled for life."

Sgt. Blandon Green, HHB, 1-9 FA, medic, said the most common medical complaints he receives are of asthma, foot injuries and infections.

"The air is full of dust and other particulate matter, so we always see asthma sufferers around here," Green, of Xenia, Ohio, said. "A lot of people don't have shoes, and they cut their feet on all the scrap metal lying around."

"Bottled water goes a long toward keeping people here healthy, especially babies," Green added.

Green said he would return later in the day with additional medical supplies.

"I'm going to bring back some inhalers for the people with asthma," Green said. "We sometimes bring shoes for people here... doing this kind of thing makes a family smile."

On their way out, the Soldiers received information from residents that explosive munitions had been dumped at a nearby junkyard.

Soldiers found heaps of rusted weapons parts, including a large anti-aircraft gun and ballistic missile engine parts. None of the equipment was in serviceable condition.

Across the street, Capt. James Hock, 1-9 FA, project manager, found about 20 live high-explosive rounds for an anti-aircraft gun. He brought the munitions to explosive ordnance disposal Soldiers at Camp Loyalty.

"The anti-aircraft rounds probably wouldn't do a terrorist much good, but it's still important to get them off the street," Hock said. "We don't want kids playing catch with high explosives."

# 448th C



**Sgt. 1st Class Jerome Jackson, 448th Civil Affairs Battalion, hands bags of food to residents of Tawaiatha, Iraq, during a humanitarian mission, June 29.**



# A Bn. aids Tawaittha



(Above) A child holds two stuffed animals he received from civil affairs troops. (Left) 1st Lt. Scott Alpaugh, B Btry., 1-9 FA, platoon leader, heads a soccer ball his platoon donated to children in Tawaittha.

(Above) Staff Sgt. Sean Stout, 448th Civil Affairs Bn., medic, helps a child put a bandage on his foot.

(Left) Stout examines a man with an arm injury during a humanitarian assistance mission in Tawaittha.

# Joint raids net terror suspects

Story and photos by Spc. Ben Brody

ADHAMIYA, Iraq – Iraqi and American troops raided 24 houses in Adhamiya, resulting in the capture of 16 suspected insurgents, June 26.

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, led the early-morning raid.

1st Lt. Michael Sehzue, E Company, 3rd Battalion, 15th

Infantry, executive officer credited the success of the complex mission to the hard work of Iraqi troops, and increasing reliability of intelligence reports.

“We obviously caught a lot of our targets by surprise, which means no one is tipping them off,” Sehzue said. “That’s a sign of greater pro-

fessionalism in the ranks.”

U.S. military police troops from 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Brigade Troops Battalion’s MP platoon, helped facilitate communication and helped locate the target buildings.

“We suspect these men of being bomb makers, and we’re going to question them about that,” said an IA captain known as “Captain O.”

Residents in the dense neighborhood greeted Iraqi troops warmly, offering them cold water as a respite from the infamous Baghdad summer heat.

“This is a 99.9 percent Iraqi-run operation,” said Capt. Kevin Jackson, E Co., 3-15 Inf., commander. “We provided a quick reaction force and had two platoons from Delta Company set up an outer cordon.”

Jackson, from Troy, Mo., said he also coordinates attack aviation to support the IAB’s missions.

Soldiers from D and E companies, 3-15 Inf., work with the IAB on a regular basis, providing mentorship and training.

“Living here, we’re seeing the IAB making progress firsthand,” said Staff Sgt. William Zapfe, E Co., 3-15 Inf., platoon sergeant. “We do



An Iraqi Army soldier from 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 6th IA Division, pulls security during a search in Adhamiya June 26.



**(Above) Iraqi Army troops scale a property wall while (right) an IA soldier patrols along a wall during a search in Adhamiya June 26.**

(after-action reviews) with the IAB all the time. They're picking things up quickly and getting much better at mission planning."

Adhamiya was a center of Sunni and Baath Party influence, and some people in the area are still loyal to

Saddam Hussein, according to Sehzue.

"This was an area full of Saddam's friends, and some of them are still around," Sehzue said. "You still hear gunfire around the palace, but it's been less lately."



**Maj. Terry Cook, 1-9 FA, speaks with an Iraqi Army colonel in Adhamiya during an Iraqi-led search June 28.**

# Battlekings south



Spc. Milton Gonzalez, B Btry., 1-9 FA cannoneer, cuts a padlock during a search of homes in Jisr-Diyala, Iraq, June 27.

# search towns of Baghdad

## 1-9 FA scours the countryside throughout June looking for terrorists and weapons caches

Story and photos by Spc. Ben Brody

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, and Iraqi Public Order Brigade troops participated in Operation Dry Sweep the first week of July.

The operation, which included all combat units from 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, was intended to find illegal weapons and to deter Anti-Iraqi forces activity in the Southern Baghdad area.

Hundreds of Iraqi and U.S. Soldiers descended on the areas in the early morning darkness, knocking on doors, greeting residents and searching homes.

The Public Order Brigade is a paramilitary wing of the Iraqi Police. Their troops are easily distinguished from typical IPs by their green camouflage and AK-47s.

“The missions are largely executed by the POB guys, we just mentor them and provide some additional security,” said Staff Sgt. Albert West, B Btry., 1-9 FA, squad leader. “They’re a big help as far as interacting with the locals goes – people are glad to see them working hard.”

The Battlekings’ participation in the mission was spread out over several days.

### Raid yields weapons caches

Operation Bow Country was conducted July 5, and involved a search of dozens of homes and large agricultural areas in Zafarania, a loosely populated area in South Baghdad.

The joint force discovered a cache containing six AK-47s, an RPK machine gun, two rocket-propelled grenades with a launcher and two pistols.

Later in the morning, Soldiers found another cache with nine AK-47s wrapped in burlap and plastic, 1,000 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, a protective vest and a 122mm artillery shell.

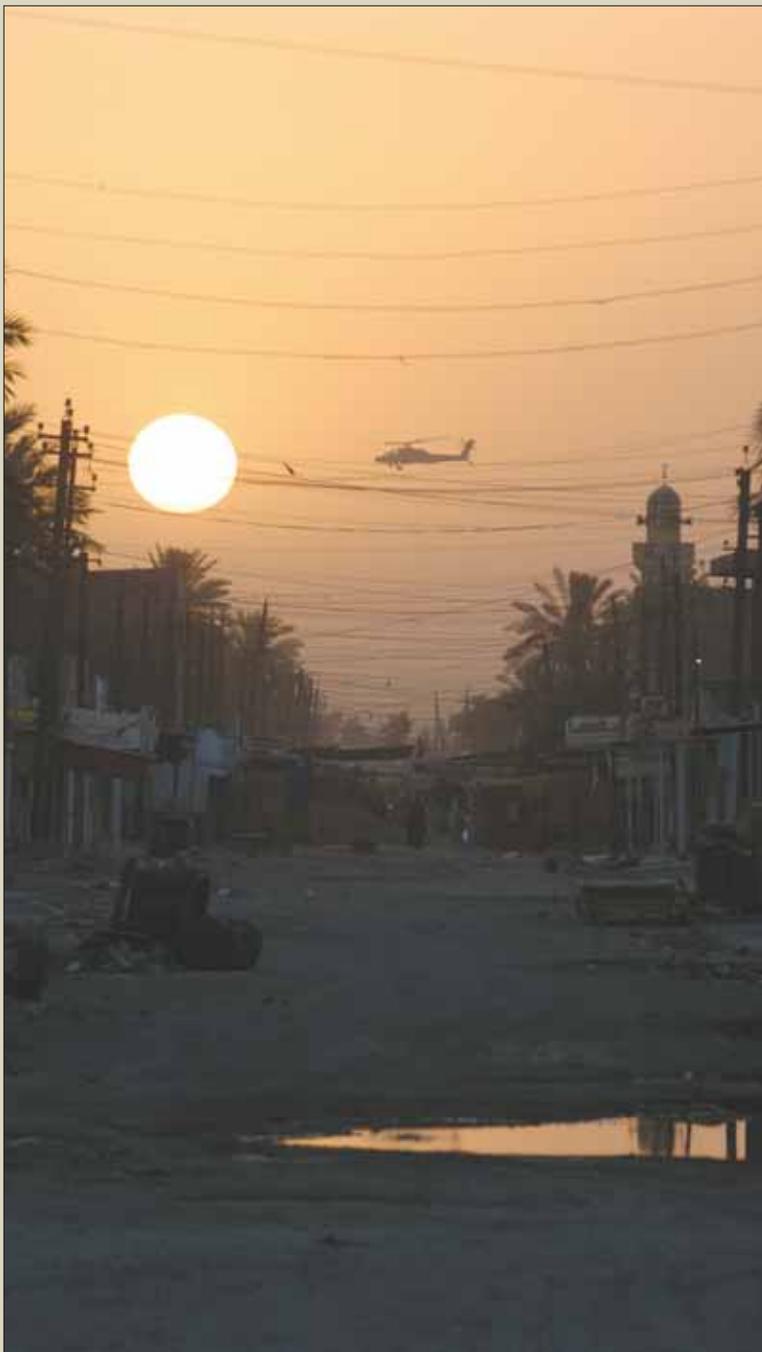
One suspected insurgent was detained in connection with the second cache.

“We found a lot of extra-ammunition violations, which seemed to be because people didn’t know that they’re only allowed one magazine and 50 rounds for their AK-47,” said Capt. Todd Smith, A Btry., 1-9 FA, commander. “We used loudspeakers to broadcast a message, in Arabic, that explained why we confiscated their ammunition.”

Smith said of the nearly 50



**Staff Sgt. Albert West, B Btry., 1-9 FA, confiscates excess AK-47 ammunition during the search of a home.**



**(Above) Command Sgt. Maj. Tony Smith, 1-9 Field Artillery, shines a spotlight on Iraqi Police and U.S. troops searching a house in Jisr-Diyala early June 27.**

**(Left) An AH-64 Apache flies low over Jisr-Diyala, supporting the ground mission.**

houses that A Btry. searched, many of them expressed support for the coalition and Iraqi forces.

“The POB commander told me it was the best operation yet, and he’s a hard guy to please,” Smith added. “We have a great rapport with the POB guys – they’re part of the team.”

### **Weapons found, insurgent financier detained**

Soldiers from 1-9 FA conducted a large raid in Southern Baghdad June 11, and uncovered a weapons cache which led to the detainment of several men.

A Battery, 1-9 FA, found fifteen 60mm mortar rounds and one 122mm artillery round in a barren field behind a small house, about 500 meters from a suspected launch site for rocket attacks against Camp

Rustimiyah.

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

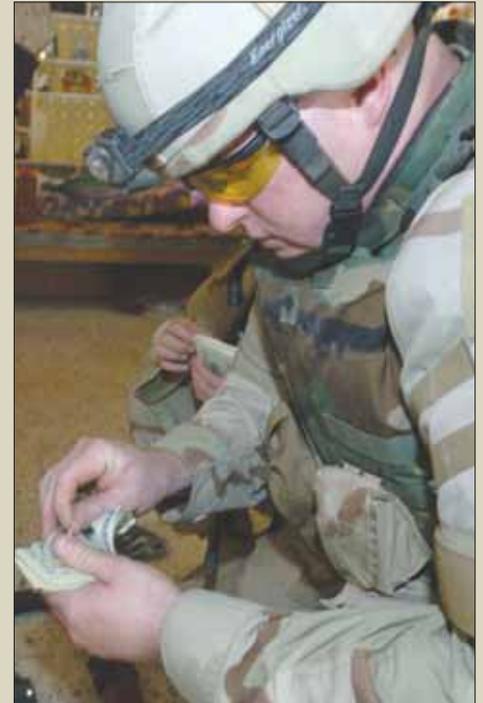
“The former regime had a lot of sequential U.S. currency, so that’s probably its origin,” said Spc. Barton Johnson, B Co., 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Brigade Troops Battalion, intelligence analyst. “The insurgency is being paid for with funds like these, so it’s a big piece of evidence against this guy.”

Spartan Brigade Combat Team legal personnel were on hand to assist in proper evidence collection, which can greatly affect the chance of securing a court conviction for offenders.

“The Soldiers are good with evidence collection, but I’m making sure we preserve fingerprints and get pictures,” said Capt. Margaret Kurz, 2nd BCT, attor-



**(Above) Public Order Brigade officers and U.S. troops cross a fence near Salman Pak, during a search of the area June 24. (Right) Spc. Barton Johnson, 2-3 BTB, military intelligence analyst, counts out \$17,900 in sequential \$100 bills found in an Iraqi home.**



ney. “Pictures and sworn statements are everything in Iraqi courts – it’s crucial that we get a picture connecting the suspect with the evidence.”

After explosive ordnance disposal secured the mortar and artillery rounds, a man pulled his car into the driveway, and was stopped and searched by 1-9 FA quick reaction force Soldiers. He was detained after his car was found to contain several AK-47s and large-caliber handguns.

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



**(Above) Soldiers from B Btry., 1-9 FA, and Iraqi Public Order Brigade troops search an old chicken farm and warehouse in Zafaraniya for weapons during Operation Bow Country, July 5. (Above right) Public Order Brigade officers help each other cross a fence during the mission.**

# *A common goal for Baghdad...*

## Trash-free streets

Story by Staff Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

Sweeping and dumping trash from homes into the streets - for most Americans, this is culturally unacceptable; for many Iraqis, this has been the standard.

Along with human waste and other sewage, solid waste has inundated Baghdad's streets for decades, contributing to sewer backups, disease, and a tainted water supply.

With the establishment of all-Iraqi contracted neighborhood dumpsters, trash collection and removal teams, and trash transfer points, the practice of littering the streets is slowly starting to change.

"This is a complete change in their culture, mindset and behavior," Lt Col. Jamie Gayton, 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Troops Battalion, commander, said. "As long as it was outside their door, it was not their problem."

Trash removal was the focal point of essential service support for 1st Cavalry Division when they arrived in Baghdad, and has continued to be a priority for the 2nd Brigade Combat

Team, according to Gayton.

"Anytime you step into a big problem, you've got to roll up your sleeves and get to work," he said. "The hardest thing for us to do is convince the Iraqi people that trash needs to be cleaned, and make them understand that this also means employment opportunities for neighborhood residents."

The process for cleaning the streets has required Spartan engineers and their predecessors, along with technical advisory teams from Baghdad University, to evaluate sector by sector, mahalla by mahalla, and determine what needs to be done and where.

The United States Agency for International Development subgroup in Iraq, the Office of Transition Initiatives, provides surface cleaning grants for the sectors. The grants cover a 60 - 90 day one-time cleaning of a sector or mahalla.

After the subsequent cleanup, a long-term contract is established. This contract includes trash removal from a

centralized neighborhood location two times per week, as well initial transport to a trash transfer point and, eventually, the landfill. Trash transfer points are located in five districts of East Baghdad: Sadr City, 9 Nissan, Adhamiyah, Rusafa and Zafaraniyah.

On average, Iraqis produce .8 lbs. of trash per day. Multiply that by the three million-plus that live in the 2nd BCT sector, and the need for surface cleaning is transparent, according to 1st Lt. Morgan Smith, 2-3 BTB, solid waste project manager.

"When trash is disposed of properly, streets are clean, sewers are clear, and water (stays clean),"

Currently, there are 96 surface cleaning projects ongoing in the Spartan Brigade area of operations, employing 6,800 Iraqis. In the second week of June, 946,000 lbs. of trash were collected in East Baghdad - 418,000 lbs. more than was collected six weeks ago.

The reason for the spike in trash collected, Smith explained, was "a Macro Collection Plan, conceived by technical advisory teams, was put into effect and advertised throughout Sadr City and 9 Nissan." She added that more efficient management at the transfer stations has also improved the process.

According to Gayton, this is yet another sign that things are improving in Baghdad.

"We're absolutely making progress," he said. "The main roads outside and cutting through Sadr City, for example, are very clean.

"(Residents) are beginning to clean their streets and take pride in their neighborhoods by bringing their trash to collection points - not shoveling it out their doors."

As the mindset of Iraqis and their trash continue to improve, the cleanliness of their streets increases. Progress continues.



2-3 BTB Photo

**Local Iraqi laborers from Sadr City, hired by Iraqi contractors, put trash from the street into the bed of a tractor-pulled trailer. The trash is brought to the Sadr City transfer station before being hauled to the landfill north of Baghdad.**

# Improved power

Story by Spc. Ben Brody

Reliable electric service is high on any Baghdad resident's wish list, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is working hard to accomplish that task.

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

His team's latest accomplishment was to bring a large electrical substation online in East Baghdad, which he said is a big step in the right direction.

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

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

The Al Ameen substation is a 400 kilovolt Gas-Insulated System, which is a fully enclosed system that is more durable and reliable than older, open-air substations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Al Ameen is providing stable, reliable power to the smaller substations right now," Shelton said. "The next step is to rewire individual residences – then people will really see the difference."

He said work has already begun rewiring Baghdad homes, but that it will take time to complete.

"Rewiring individual houses across an entire city is an

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



2-3 BTB Photo

**A newly-installed transformer is fully functional at the Al Ameen power substation. The project, which cost \$100 million, included the installation of a 400 kilovolt power distribution system.**

"It's really gratifying to see a big project like Al Ameen come to completion."

# Bring on the talent!

## Loyalty brings out its best and brightest for an Independence Day talent show

Story and photos by Spc. Ben Brody

CAMP LOYALTY, Iraq – Soldiers from Camp Loyalty turned out en masse at the Independence Day Talent Show put on by 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, and MWR at the Loyalty Theater July 3.

Building on the success of the Memorial Day Talent Show, this one featured 19 acts that ranged from the sublime to the ridiculous.

Soldiers were treated to original rap and folk rock, as well as a number of covers. Opera, African beats and an interpretive movement piece were among the acts.

In the solo act category, Staff Sgt. MacArthur Wilson, HHB, 1-9 FA, won first place for a blistering rap that had the crowd jumping in the aisles. Staff Sgt. Charles Gilley, HHC, 2nd

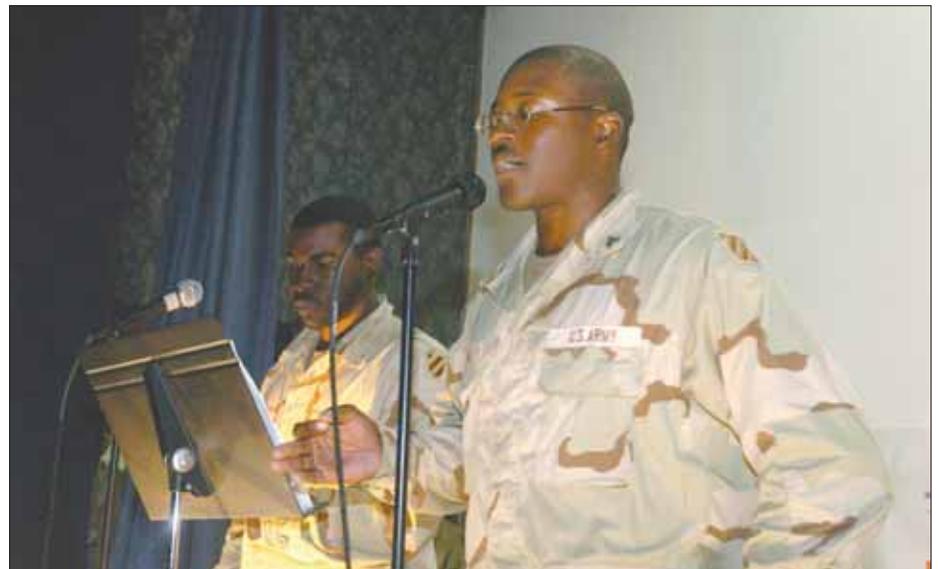
BCT, took second place for a medley of popular Johnny Cash tunes from “The Man in Black” to “One Piece at a Time.”

In the group act category, Pfc. Lashon “\$ Bill” Billingsley and Staff Sgt. James Breland, both of HHC, 2-3 BTB, took first place. Second place went to Fed Up, a hard rock number featuring HHB, 1-9 FA’s own Spc. Luke Roach, Pfc. Brett Yarborough, Pfc. Derek Martin and KBR’s Betim O.

First place in the miscellaneous category went to Sgt. Tarek Atkins and Pvt. Chaz Robinson, both of F Co., 26th FSB. Spc. DeJuan Bryant of HHC, 2nd BCT, took second place for his poetry and mime performances.



**Staff Sgt. MacArthur Wilson, HHB, 1-9 FA, electrifies the crowd as "Willie Mac" at the Camp Loyalty talent show. The performance earned him first place overall.**



**(Above) Pvt. Chaz Robinson and Sgt. Tarek Atkins, both of F Co., 26th FSB, sing at the Camp Loyalty talent show, winning a top prize. (Left) Pfc. Brett Yarborough, HHB, 1-9 FA, blazes through a riff as a member of Fed Up, which took second place in the group competition at the Camp Loyalty talent show, July 3.**

# *Spartan postal company...*

## Handling your package with speed and care

Story and photos by Spc. Ben Brody

CAMP RUSTIMIYAH, Iraq – Soldiers in Iraq have several options when it comes to staying in touch with friends and family back home – phones, email, instant messaging and “snail mail.”

But Soldiers in 2nd Brigade Combat Team agree – letters and care packages from home are what they look forward to the most.

At Camp Rustimiyah, Soldiers from 26th Forward Support Battalion and 729th Adjutant General Company (Postal) work every day to ensure mail is delivered to 2nd BCT as quickly as

possible.

“Mail comes in from major hubs in New York, Miami, Chicago and Dallas to the Joint Military Mail Terminal – Iraq, then it gets pushed down to us,” said Sgt. Jose Estrada, 729th AG Co., mail operations noncommissioned officer in charge. “We sort all the mail and make sure it gets on its way to the right place.”

Many factors affect whether the postal team gets mail from JMMT-I, but when mail comes, it generally arrives in the middle of the night. The next morning, the postal team pulls large bins full of packages from a shipping container and gets to work sorting them by battalion.

Estrada, from El Paso, Texas, said by changing the way the shipping containers are stacked has cut down on damaged mail considerably.

“The hardest thing is when we get mail with bad addresses or missorted mail,” said Spc. Charity Noles, 729th AG Co., postal clerk. “We make every attempt to locate the addressee, which is a time-consuming process. If all else fails, we’ll send the mail back.”

Noles, from San Diego, Calif., and others from the postal company regularly travel to Camp Loyalty, Camp Hope and Butler Range to weigh and affix postage to outgoing packages.

When the 729th AG Co. finishes

sorting mail, Soldiers from 26th FSB convoy to 2nd BCT’s camps, carrying 20-foot-long milvans full of mail.

“Our mail handlers all have to go through a week-long class on the proper procedures,” said Sgt. 1st Class Rhuell Pringle, A Company, 26th FSB, truckmaster. “The most important things they learn are accountability and responsibility – Soldiers love their mail and you can’t disappoint them.”

As any 2nd BCT Soldier knows, the mail doesn’t come every day – and according to Soldiers from 729th AG Co., 26th FSB and unit mail clerks, the blame falls incorrectly on them.

“All kinds of things disrupt the mail – routes go black, trucks break down, planes don’t fly – when that happens, we don’t get any mail to sort and push out,” Noles said. “We find out about it when the mail truck doesn’t show up.”

Estrada said the amount of mail that comes in is steady and manageable, but anticipates more at the end of the year.

“The amount of mail that comes in now looks like a lot, but it’s within reason,” Estrada said. “The amount that comes in over the holidays is just unbelievable.”

Estrada and his team arrived in Iraq about the same time as 2nd BCT and will continue to provide them with reliable mail service throughout their deployment.



(Above) Spc. Lucio Ayala, 729th AG Co. (Postal), brings in new mail at the Camp Rustimiyah Post Office, June 7.

(Right) Spc. Charity Noles, Spc. Christine Bergstrom and Pfc. Mariana Magana, all of 729th AG Co. (Postal), sort packages.



# How it comes together

## Democracy takes shape in post-Saddam Iraq

Story by Maj. J. Stone

The Spartan Brigade Combat Team has been in Baghdad for six months now, and the Iraqi political situation has changed significantly during our time here. We arrived on the heels of the national elections of the Iraqi Transitional Government and are rapidly approaching the first national election for a permanent Iraqi constitution and government. To see how historic this election is, it is pertinent to examine the political history of Iraq.

Formerly part of the Ottoman Empire, Iraq was occupied by Britain during the course of World War I. In 1920, it was declared a League of Nations mandate under UK administration, and a year later Britain installed Emir Faisal as King of Iraq.

In 1958, a group of army officers killed the British-imposed king and the Iraqi monarchy was overthrown in a coup led by General Qasim, and proclaimed a republic.

From 1958 to 1968, there was a series of military coups until the Ba'ath party coup lead by Ahmad Hassan al-Bakr assumed power. The Revolutionary Command Council was put in place as the center of national power. Saddam Hussein asserted his authority by personally executing those who, in the RRC, potentially opposed his assumption of power. Hussein officially assumed power from al-Bakr in 1979.

US citizens take for granted the

peaceful transition of national leaders. But in most of the world, as in Iraq, the peaceful transition of national leadership is a significant milestone.

The national elections this December will be a historical event and every Spartan Soldier will, in one way or another, be a part of it.

In a country where kings, dictators and military strong men were the norm for centuries, this election for a freely independent government is precious.

In one short year, the ITG has the monumental task to develop and write the history of the Iraqi people. The American people and the entire world will be watching the results of this historic act.

The Transitional Administrative Law, written by the Coalition Provisional Authority, is the current law of Iraq.

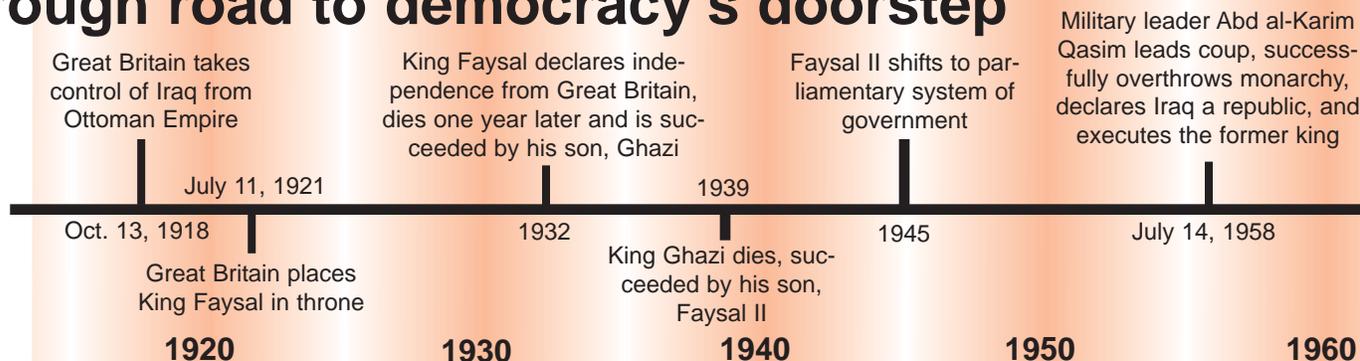
The newly-elected Iraqi Transitional National Assembly, the



AP Photo

Members are sworn in during the opening session of Iraq's Transitional National Assembly in Baghdad March 16 - the first freely elected parliament in half a century

### A rough road to democracy's doorstep





The New



The Old

Iraqi legislation, met for the first time on March 16. The TNA will draft the first national constitution by Aug. 15, and will eventually replace the TAL. This event is a daunting task. Change in the Iraqi culture is slow going and the sensitive subjects of religion, human rights, and the composition of future governments will be difficult topics for the majority of the Iraqi people to agree on.

On Oct. 15, the final draft of the constitution will be presented to the Iraqi people for approval in a general referendum. The approving referendum must meet two milestones for approval:

A simple majority of voters nationwide must approve it

It must not be rejected by two-thirds or more of the voters in three or more of Iraq's 18 governorates (Provinces).

If the referendum successfully ratifies the Constitution, elections for a permanent government will be held by Dec. 15.

Shortly after the Spartan Brigade BCT returns to Fort Stewart, the newly elected Iraqi government will be sworn in. This historical event will be the first time in Iraqi history a freely-elected, permanent, independent government will govern in Iraq, and the Spartan Brigade can add another chapter in its rich legacy by being an instrumental part of this experience.

## UPCOMING MILESTONES

**AUG 15**

First draft of national constitution

**OCT 15**

Final draft of constitution presented to Iraqi people for approval

**DEC 15**

Election for a permanent government if constitution is ratified by referendum

Government overthrown by army, Ahmad Hussan al-Bakr named president

Feb. 1963

July 17, 1968

al-Bakr resigns, names Saddam Hussein his successor

July 16, 1979

Coalition forces capture Baghdad, ending Saddam and Ba'ath Party rule

Jan. 30, 2005

April 9, 2003

Free, democratic elections held throughout Iraq

Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party rebellion

1970

1980

1990

2000

# Safety!

# CAUTION

# C

## ‘Five Cs’ simplify IED fight

By Staff Sgt. Mark St.Clair (MNC-I Public Affairs)

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq – Five potentially life-saving words are being driven home to Coalition service members and civilians throughout the Operation Iraqi Freedom theater.

Confirm, clear, call, cordon, and control are the “Five Cs” that represent a simple set of guidelines that Coalition forces can and should use when encountering a suspected improvised explosive device. “The reason we teach the Five Cs is because they make an easy to remember guide for (service members) to follow if they suspect or find an IED,” said Alex Szigedi, operations officer, Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Task Force, Camp Victory.

Using methods like the Five Cs simplifies IED awareness and “helps in the decision-making process, helping it become second-nature. They’re also on the IED Smart Card,” said Lt. Col. Ted Martin, chief, JIEDDTF. The IED Smart Card is produced by the Victory-based IED Working Group.

The IED Working Group, led by British Maj. Gen. Mark Mans, MNC-I deputy commander, meets weekly. Liaisons from major subordinate ground units, information operations delegates, ordnance-destruction contractors and others come together to discuss advances being made in the

IED fight, changes in insurgent tactics and the most important issue: how to get valuable information down to where it matters — the troops on the ground.

“We’d never encountered anything like (IEDs) on the battlefield, and we’re not shy about going to people with expertise,” said Lt. Col. Ted Martin, chief, JIEDDTF. Some of the “people with expertise” have been Coalition soldiers in the British army, who have been dealing with IEDs in theaters like Northern Ireland for years. The British used a Four-C model to counter IEDs in the past, and Coalition forces in Iraq used that as a framework and adapted it to the present fight, said Martin.

### Confirm

The first step when encountering a suspected IED is confirming its existence. If service members suspect an IED while performing 5- and 25-meter searches of their positions, they should act like it could detonate at any moment, even if the suspected IED turns out to be a false alarm. Using as few people as possible, troops should begin looking for tell-tale signs of IEDs – like wires or pieces of ordnance sticking out of the ground. As Martin said, “There’s no place like Iraq when it comes to ammunition on the ground.” So what

looks like an IED may be a piece of unexploded ordnance but it should be treated like an IED until it is determined that it’s not.

While searching, troops should try to stay as safe as possible, using anything available for protection. If a better view is needed while searching, soldiers should move as safely as possible while maintaining as much distance as they can from the suspected IED to continue searching. Rifle scopes, binoculars and even cameras can be used to search from a safer distance. It also may be helpful to ask local Iraqis for information, but troops should never ask them to search too. Personnel should never try to touch a suspected IED and should never try to do the job explosive ordnance disposal technicians are specially trained to do.

### Clear

If an IED has been confirmed, the next step is to clear the area. The safe distance is determined by several factors: the tactical situation, avoiding being predictable and moving several hundred meters away from the IED. Everyone within the safe distance should be evacuated. If more room is needed, such as when the IED is vehicle-borne, soldiers should clear a wider area and constantly direct people out of the dan-

ger area. The only people going near the IED should be those who are there to diffuse it, such as EOD personnel. While clearing the area, soldiers should constantly be on the lookout for secondary IEDs. If any such devices are found, they should reposition to a safe area and report the find to the ranking service member on the scene. Soldiers should try not to set patterns while performing clearing procedures, so the enemy will not be able to learn from our tactics and techniques. By not setting patterns and monitoring non-Coalition personnel watching the situation, troops are better protected.

## Call

While the area surrounding the IED is being cleared, a nine-line IED/UXO report should be called in. The report is much like the nine-line report used for medically evacuating casualties, and includes the necessary information for the unit's Tactical Operations Center to assess the situation and prepare an appropriate response to clear the IED as the threat.

## Cordon

After the area has been cleared and the IED has been called in, Soldiers should establish blocking positions around the area to prevent vehicle and foot traffic from approaching the IED; make sure the safe area is truly safe by checking for secondary IEDs; and make use of all available cover. The effected area's entire perimeter should be secured and dominated by all available personnel, and any available obstacles should be used to block vehicle approach routes.

Troops should scan both near and far and look for an enemy who may be watching and waiting to detonate the IED. Insurgents often hide in locations where they can see the

device and ascertain the right moment to detonate. Personnel should randomly check people leaving the area to deter attacks, again avoiding setting patterns. Establishing obstacles to control approaches to security positions is another tactic the JIEDDTF stresses, since insurgents may try to attack local security forces using a vehicle-borne IED.

## Control

Since the distance of all personnel from the IED directly affects their safety, service members should control the site to prevent someone from straying dangerously close to the IED until it is cleared. The task force stresses that no one should leave the area until EOD gives the "all clear."

While controlling the site, make sure all the troops in the area know what to do if attacked with small arms or rocket-propelled grenades.

If troops are a part of a patrol or convoy that finds an IED, they should remember the Five Cs in order to deal with the situation as quickly and safely as possible.

An IED that is found is still an IED attack, said the JIEDDTF. By finding the IED, it's the enemy's attack that has been disrupted.

"(The Five Cs) reinforce IED awareness and training. It's a checklist that helps you think; it's a common-sense thing ... to help people remember the proper steps when encountering an IED, said Szigedi.

(Editor's note: Information in this article was provided by the Joint IED Defeat Task Force.)

## Use the five C's to secure an IED site.

**Confirm : the device**

**Clear : the area**

**Call : EOD**

**Cordon : the perimeter**

**Control : site access**



**STAY ALIVE**

0035

IEDs KILL

# Discovering Personal Discipline

**Chaplain (Capt.) Ric Thompson**  
2-3 BTB Chaplain

Many people look for success to come the easy way. It is evident in the types of advertisements we see all the time: "The Quick and Easy Way to Financial Freedom," or "Lose 30 Pounds in 30 Days," or "Great Abs in Just 5 Minutes a Day!"

These ads are a reflection of how we often view discipline in our culture today. We want success without too much effort. However, true success rarely comes without hard work and discipline.

Discipline is an essential ingredient for successful living. In fact, a lack of discipline is the main reason people do not reach their full potential in life. It directly contributes to the failures we experience in both our personal lives and in our careers.

A lack of personal discipline is also the number one reason people run into financial problems, have ruined or strained relationships and suffer from many health problems such as obesity, heart disease, and even some types of cancer.

The lack of personal discipline very quickly leads to a life of bad habits, unhealthy attitudes, and little or no success.

Think about it this way: personal discipline is a lot like the operating systems in our computers. The Windows operating system is what we use to direct and control every aspect of a computer's functions. Without an operating system a computer has a lot of power and potential but nothing to direct it.

The same is true of an individual. A person who lacks discipline is very much like a computer without an operating system. There is a lot of power and potential, but no real direction.

Of course, people have an advantage over computers. Each of us has the ability to make choices and

plan the direction we want to go in life. Yet without discipline we lack the ability to live up to our potential. Personal discipline is the key to successful living.

But at the same time, there has to be a reason behind our disciplines. Proper motivation is necessary for personal discipline to be of any value. We do not become disciplined for the sake of discipline.

Personal discipline must be based on our goals and on what is most important to our lives. For example, if our faith is important to us, then we need to develop the spiritual disciplines of prayer, bible study and worship. If our goal is to be physically fit and healthy, then we need to be disciplined about our diet and exercise.

Personal discipline is the key to successful living. The Apostle Paul spoke about personal discipline in his first letter to the Corinthians. He writes, "Remember that in a race only one person gets the prize. You also must run in such a way that you will win. All athletes practice self-control. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we practice self control to win an eternal prize... I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I

fear that after preaching to others, I myself might be disqualified." (1 Corinthians 9.24-27 NLT)

His point is simple. If we practice self control and discipline, we win. But if we don't, we end up being disqualified in the end.

We have passed the half-way point in this deployment, and now is the perfect time to develop some disciplines that will improve our lives. Reflect on your goals and begin developing disciplines that will help you accomplish them.

If we persist and don't give up, a life of personal discipline can help us accomplish what is really important and enable us to truly become the kind of people God intends for us to be.



## Comedy comes to 2nd BCT

Comedienne Jenni McNalty performs a stand-up routine at Camp Loyalty, Iraq, June 5. Also performing for the Soldiers were Mimi Gonzales and Yoursie Thomas. The three traveled to nearly all the U.S. bases in Baghdad during their tour.



# VACCINES: A shot of the facts

**Maj. Robert Meadows**

*2nd Brigade Combat Team Surgeon*

Vaccines. I know everyone out there is convinced that there is an Army conspiracy and medics just like to stab people. Well some might, but vaccines remain the most important preventive medicine measure in our arsenal to keep soldiers healthy. During the next several months there will be a huge push in the brigade to get all soldiers up to date. Here is the straight scoop on the eight vaccines that are relevant here. There are many other vaccines available (actually 111) that are given when soldiers are scheduled to PCS or deploy to other areas where a particular disease is present.

**Hepatitis A.** Either a two- or three-shot series. If given in the two-shot series, after the initial shot the second shot is given between six and 12 months later. If given in the three shot series (called TwinRix which is a combination of Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B), after the initial shot additional shots are given at one month and six months. Once a series is complete, you never have to receive this vaccine again.

**Hepatitis B.** A three-shot series given at irregular intervals. After the initial shot, additional shots are given at one month and six months. Once the series is complete, you never have to receive this vaccine again.

**Typhoid.** A single shot that needs to be repeated every two years.

**Tetanus.** A single shot that needs to be repeated every 10 years.

**PPD.** A screening test for exposure to Tuberculosis. This does not prevent the disease, it only tells whether you have been exposed. A single shot repeated every year or more often if you are at high risk of exposure. The inoculation site needs to be checked for a reaction 48-72 hours later.

**Influenza.** A single shot that needs to be repeated every year.

**Smallpox.** A single inoculation (three or 15 jabs) that needs to be repeated every 10 years.

**Anthrax.** A six-shot series given at irregular intervals. After the initial shot additional shots are given at two weeks, four weeks, six months, 12 months, and 18 months. Once the series is complete, an annual booster is still required. If you have previously received Anthrax, the series will pick up from where it was stopped. You will not have to repeat shots.

Whether or not you have previously received Anthrax, I am sure you have heard about it and the court cases about whether or not the military should administer it to soldiers. Here is the truth about Anthrax. Most of this information is in the briefing you will receive before being asked if you wish to receive the Anthrax vaccine.

The Army began Anthrax vaccines in 1997 because they recognized the threat of Anthrax. The program was slowed in 2000 due to a vaccine shortage but

resumed in 2002. The vaccine program was challenged and halted in court in Dec. 2003 due to questions about its effectiveness against the inhaled form of Anthrax. The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) issued a "Final Order" later that year stating that the vaccine was approved for "all routes of exposure" [including inhalation] and the program was restarted in Jan. 2004. In Oct. 2004, the program was again stopped by a judge because the FDA did not allow the required "public comment period" before issuing the Final Order. The FDA and the courts have granted the military authorization to administer the vaccine on a voluntary basis during the public comment period which is ongoing. That is where we stand now. Most people expect the FDA and the courts to re-issue the Final Order and the military to resume the mandatory program after the public comment period ends.

The history of Anthrax. Anthrax is a bacteria that is obtained by contact with spores. It naturally occurs in livestock, has been known as a disease for centuries, and can be inhaled, ingested, or caught through skin contact. The first animal vaccine was developed about

1900 and the first human vaccine was licensed in the USA by the FDA in 1970.

Both these efforts significantly reduced naturally occurring Anthrax. There have been 18 separate human safety trials with the vaccine since licensure and it has been demonstrated to be both effective and safe. On the other hand, Anthrax has been shown to be both available and deadly. There have been both accidental and intentional releases of

"weaponized" Anthrax. In 1979 in Russia, Anthrax was accidentally released causing 77 people to become ill of which 66 died (86% fatality). In 2001 Anthrax was released in the east coast of the USA causing 11 people to become ill with inhalation anthrax of which five died (45% fatality rate). Large scale studies with monkeys have demonstrated a 95% survival rate in immunized monkeys and 0% survival in monkeys that had not been immunized. There have been no demonstrated side effects of the Anthrax vaccine other than local irritation and larger reactions from people allergic to one or more of the components of the vaccine.

I encourage all soldiers to volunteer for this vaccine, however the Anthrax vaccine is currently voluntary – you will not be subject to disciplinary actions if you refuse it.

One of my observations since taking this job is that soldiers are never quite sure what vaccine they just received, but they are always sure they received the one I am just about to give them. If you have your PH731 (yellow shot records) bring them with you when you get vaccinated. Make sure your vaccines are entered on you DD2766 (deployment medical jacket).

If you have any questions about your immunization status, please check with your unit aid station.



# Stateside

## Hospital sued over man's deadly faint

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - A California woman is suing a hospital for wrongful death because her husband fainted and suffered a fatal injury after helping delivery room staff give her a pain-killing injection. Jeanette Passalacqua, 32, filed the suit against Kaiser Foundation Hospitals and Southern California Permanente Medical Group Inc. in San Bernardino County state court last week.

In June 2004, Passalacqua's husband, Steven Passalacqua, was asked by Kaiser staff to hold and steady his wife while an employee inserted an epidural needle into her back, court papers said.

The sight of the needle caused Steven Passalacqua, 33, to faint and he fell backward, striking his head on an aluminum cap molding at the base of the wall.

Jeanette Passalacqua delivered the couple's second child, a boy, later that day. Steven Passalacqua, however, suffered a brain hemorrhage as a result of his fall and died two days later, the lawsuit said.

The suit seeks unspecified damages related to Steven Passalacqua's death and to Jeanette Passalacqua's emotional distress at being widowed with two young children.

Because Passalacqua was solicited by Kaiser to assist in the epidural, the lawsuit said, the hospital "owed him a duty to exercise reasonable care to prevent foreseeable injuries resulting from his participation."

## Teacher skips school for wrestling career

NEW YORK (Reuters) - A New York City school teacher apologized and resigned on Friday after admitting he pursued a career as a professional wrestler when he had told his boss he was on leave to care for a sick relative.

Matthew Kaye, a social studies teacher at Benjamin Cardozo High School in Queens, had his mother call in sick for him last Dec. 16, according to a report issued this week by the New York City School District's Commissioner of Investigation.

When he returned to school after winter break, the report said, he informed the assistant principal that he had gone to California to care for his sick sister.

But the teacher's Web site revealed he had another life as a wrestler named Matt Striker.

"I recently realized that dream on Dec. 16 when I touched down in Tokyo to start my inaugural tour for the Zero One Company. I cannot express in words what this tour has meant to me as a person and as a professional wrestler," the Web site said. Again in February, Kaye used a doctor's note as an excuse for a no-show at school, but his Web site entries for those dates showed photos of his appearance at a Pro Wrestling World Smackdown in Philadelphia.

On Friday, Kaye apologized on his Matt Striker Web site.

"Look at the facts, God gave me gifts and I choose to use them to touch people's lives. I choose to make the world better by entertainment and education," he said.

## No more cover-up of nudes at U.S. Justice Dept

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The cover-up is over at the U.S. Justice Department.

After more than three years of being blocked by large blue drapes, two Art Deco aluminum statues of semi-nude figures in the building's Great Hall can be seen again.

The "Spirit of Justice" and the "Majesty of Justice," which loom over the stage in the Great Hall, were blocked from view by curtains installed by the department in January 2002, when former Attorney General John Ashcroft was in office.

The curtains were quietly removed on Friday after a decision by Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, Justice Department spokesman Kevin Madden said.

At one end of the stage is a 1930s-era female statue representing the "Spirit of Justice." Although she wears a toga-style garment, one breast is exposed. At the other end of the stage, a male statue represents the "Majesty of Justice," and has a cloth draped by his waist. When they were

covered up, officials working for Ashcroft — a devout Christian — said the move to spend about \$8,000 for curtains to cover the figures were made for "TV aesthetics."

The decision to install the curtains sparked a myriad of jokes and Ashcroft became fodder for late-night comedians. After he took office in February, Gonzales was asked frequently when and if he would remove the drapes. His answer was usually that he had more important issues to deal with than the statues.

When Ashcroft announced plans to restructure the Justice Department to focus on terrorism after the Sept. 11, 2001, hijacked plane attacks, photographers took pictures showing him with the towering female statue in the background.

The most famous picture of the female statue came in the 1980s, when Attorney General Edwin Meese released the final report of his commission on pornography.

## San Diego death linked to silicone injection party

SAN DIEGO (Reuters) - A 45-year-old transgender woman who received illegal silicone injections at a party in a private home in San Diego has died after nearly a month on life support, the county medical examiner said on Monday. Patricio Gonzalez, who police said received silicone injections to her hips, buttocks, cheeks and lips, died on Sunday. Gonzalez and at least nine other people were injected at a so-called "pumping party" on June 19, police said.

"Pumping parties," where people seeking a more feminine appearance have silicone injected into their bodies, have been on the upswing in the last few years, experts say. The silicone used at the parties is often industrial-grade material like floor sealant.

The FDA banned direct injections of silicone in 1992 and the substance has been known to migrate within the body and cause illnesses. Gonzalez and another transgender woman received more silicone than the other party guests and suffered immediate respiratory problems, prompting the Los Angeles-area woman who was administering the silicone to flee.

# Around the world

## Melon causes truck crash; 1 dead, 30 hurt

PHNOM PENH (Reuters) - A melon caused a Cambodian truck to overturn, killing one person and injuring 30, officials said Thursday.

The melon rolled under the truck's brake pedal and the vehicle overturned as the driver tried to unjam it, they said.

The overloaded truck, which crashed Wednesday, was carrying workers, fruits and vegetables from a local market in the remote and hilly northeastern province of Monduliri.

"The driver could not use the brake to slow the truck," policeman Ieng Tum told Reuters by telephone.

"The truck overturned as the driver was trying to get the fruit out from under the pedal brake," he said.

## Hundreds of sheep follow leader off cliff

ISTANBUL (Reuters) - Hundreds of sheep followed their leader off a cliff in eastern Turkey, plunging to their deaths this week while shepherds looked on in dismay.

Four hundred sheep fell 15 yards to their deaths in a ravine in Van province near Iran but broke the fall of another 1,100 animals who survived, newspaper reports said Friday. Shepherds from Ikizler village neglected the flock while eating breakfast, leaving the sheep to roam free, the Radikal daily said.

The loss to local farmers was estimated at 100,000 new lira (\$74,000).

## Brilliant...just brilliant...

BERLIN (Reuters) - A German thief effectively signed his own arrest warrant after photographing himself at the scene of a crime and accidentally leaving the pictures for police to discover.

Police in the northern town of Neumuenster said the youth stole a digital camera during a break-in in nearby Rendsburg and took the photos before discarding the device nearby.

"We don't know if it was down to a series of unfortunate events or whether the thief couldn't get to grips with the technology," police said in a

statement Monday.

Officers found photos which could only have been taken by the perpetrator, including pictures of the 17-year-old, whom they recognized from previous offences.

"The evidence was fairly compelling so he had to admit it," said police spokesman Soenke Hinrichs.

## Booze-fueled car theft leaves man high and dry

BERLIN (Reuters) - Police in Germany thought they had an open and shut case of drunk-driving when the dazed and confused owner of a wrecked car appeared before them badly hung-over and wearing nothing but his underpants.

But in fact the 54-year-old man had been the victim of a bizarre car theft which saw him driven around, while passed out drunk in the trunk of his Ford, by a car thief who was himself inebriated and high on marijuana.

The intoxicated robber later dumped his passenger by the side of the road in a sleeping bag, before turning the car over several times and escaping unharmed.

Officers had found the demolished car hours before the owner awoke half-naked on a pavement, wondering how he had got there.

"People are always making up stories," said a police spokesman in the western city of Dortmund Monday. "So for the first three days we suspected him."

Then a 31-year-old man arrived at the police station and confessed he had stolen the car after finding the owner lying in the open trunk snoring loudly.

The man related to astonished officers how he had drunk between four and five litres of beer and smoked several joints — at the same party as his victim — before taking off in and crashing the car without suffering any injury.

## A real nightmare...

LONDON (Reuters) - A teenage sleepwalker was rescued after being found fast asleep 130 feet up on the arm of a crane, police said Wednesday.

Emergency services were called to a building site in London after a passer-by spotted the 15-year-old girl curled up on top of a concrete counterweight high above the ground.

The teen-ager, who has not been named, had climbed up the crane and walked across a narrow metal beam while fast asleep during the incident, which happened on June 25.

It is believed the teen-ager had walked out unnoticed from her home near the site in Dulwich, southeast London.

She was brought down in a hydraulic lift after a two-hour rescue operation.

"Police and London Fire Brigade attended and the woman was brought down from the crane at around 4 a.m. and taken to hospital for precautionary checks," a police spokeswoman said.

The girl was unharmed and later went home.

## Woman in car crash already dead?

TOKYO (Reuters) - A young mother found at the scene of a car crash near Tokyo in which her husband and infant son were killed had already been dead for at least a day before the accident happened, police were quoted as saying Sunday.

The bizarre discovery was made after emergency crews who rushed to the scene found the body of Rie Ishikawa, 28, already in a state of rigor mortis, Kyodo news agency reported.

The family car crashed early Sunday on a highway in Sawara, Chiba Prefecture.

Ishikawa's husband, Masayuki, 32, survived the initial crash after the car hit a concrete wall then rebounded and hit the lane divider in the center of the highway, Kyodo said.

But the impact threw the couple's three-year-old son Masamune out of the car from the front passenger seat.

When the father got out of the car to find him, both he and the child were struck by oncoming vehicles and killed, police were quoted as saying.

The woman, who was in the back seat of the car, was believed to have died one or two days before the accident, police were quoted as saying.

# *To Our Fallen Warriors*

## ***Soldier's Creed***

*I am an American Soldier.*

*I am a Warrior and a member of a team. I serve the people of the United States and live the Army Values.*

*I will always place the mission first.*

*I will never accept defeat.*

*I will never quit.*

*I will never leave a fallen comrade.*

*I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills. I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.*

*I am an expert and I am a professional. I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.*

*I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.*

*I am an American Soldier.*



*Spc. Rafael A. Carrillo  
1-64 Armor  
Killed in action  
June 28*



*Spc. Benyahmin Yahudah  
1-64 Armor  
Killed in action  
July 13*



*Sgt. Arthur McGill  
1-9 FA  
Killed in action  
July 19*