THE MOUNTED
RIFLEMAN
3d ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT MAY 2005

Partnering for the Future

THE MOUNTED RIFLEMAN

Published monthly by the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment

71ST REGIMENTAL COMMANDER
Col. H.R. McMaster

XVII COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR
Command Sgt. Maj. William Burns

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
Maj. Gary Dangerfield

PUBLIC AFFAIRS NCOIC/EDITOR
Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

REGIMENTAL ARTIST
Spc. Meredith Nunley

The Mounted Rifleman is the official publication for the Troopers, Noncommissioned Officers, Officers, family members and friends of the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment. Views expressed herein are those of the authors.

The Mounted Rifleman is the primary Command Information tool of the Regimental command leadership. Its mission is to foster esprit de corps, enhance morale and keep Troopers informed throughout the Regiment.

About This Issue

Three months into our deployment of Operation Iraqi Freedom III, the Regiment has made a significant impact on the lives and the pursuit of freedom for the Iraqi people. Despite moving operations from Camp Striker to our current 'home' at Forward Operating Base Sykes, the troopers of this great Regiment has remained focused on both their individual and collective missions.

The month of May has been one of joy and pain. The joy of Maverick Platoon taking a wounded Iraqi citizen, shot by ruthless cowards aiding the insurgency, to their Squadron Aid Station for medical care; and the thanks given by his family.

There was joy in the town of Yusafyiah as Capt. Jennifer Rael and Capt. Joseph Bernier, both of Medical Troop, Support Squadron, participated in a Medical Civil Affairs Project providing much needed medical and dental care.

The joy on the faces of the troopers when famed country musician Toby Keith travelled to FOB Sykes and performed a live concert singing fan favorite, 'American Soldier,' which chronicles the trials and tribulations of members of the armed forces.

The joy of celebrating the Regiment's 159th birthday by the 71st Regimental Commander, Col. H.R. McMaster as he cut a cake commemorating the occasion.

Finally the joy of introducing Command Sgt. Maj. William Burns as the Regimental XVII Command Sergeant Major continuing the legacy of enlisted men given the charge of enforcing standards and discipline for which the Regiment is reknowned for.

But there was pain as well. Pain for losing four more troopers, Cpl. Stephen Saxton, Predator Battery, 1st Squadron, Sgt. Jacob Simpson, Fox Troop, 2nd Squadron, Cpl. Charles Wilkerson, Predator Battery, 1st Squadron, and Spc. Joshua Brazee, Howitzer Battery, 2nd Squadron. All these heroes paid the ultimate sacrifice for serving our nation and will not be forgotten.

The Regiment has accomplished so much in the month of May, but there is still more to be done. We will continue working with our Iraqi counterparts in "Partnering for the future."

-- The Editor

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Left: Country musician Toby Keith performs for the troopers of FOB Sykes during a live concert held May 15. See related article and photos on Pages 26-27. Cover: Capt. Michael Davis, and Lt. Jassim Abbas, Commandor of the Iraqi Intervention Forces, discuss tactics on the first day of Operation Tigerwalk. The armys joined together for the 1st full day of Operation Tigerwalk south of Baghdad, Iraq.

FEATURES

4 71ST COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT
Col. H.R. McMaster recaps the Regiment's accomplishments throughout the month of May.

6 XVII REGIMENTAL COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
Command Sgt. Maj. William Burns discusses his leadership style and introduces himself to the troopers of 3d ACR.

9 TIGER SQUADRON
Cpl. Stephen Saxton rememberd by his leaders, peers, and subordinates as a warrior.

16 SABRE SQUADRON
Combat Camera photographers capture two days with Sabre Squadron's Eagle and Fox Troop.

19 THUNDER SQUADRON
Lt. Col. Russ Brown labels his troopers as "the heart and courage of America."

20 LONGKNIFE SQUADRON
Lt. Col. Douglass Pavek praises not only the aircrews, but the contributions of every Soldier of his Squadron.

23 MULESKINNER SQUADRON
Medical Troop Soldiers participate in Medical Civil Affairs Project benefitting youth of Yusafyiah.

24 REMINGTON TROOP
Capt. David Rozelle describes the mission and functions of the different Regiment staff offices.

28 CHAPLAIN'S CORNER
Babylon's biblical history has comparisons and ties to today's current landscape.

29 RETENTION - STAY 3D ACR
Sergeants Gary and Lily Boaz, Medical Troop, make reenlisting a family affair in combat zone.

30 SAFETY
Who's afraid of leishmaniasis? Know the facts, preventive measures of grisly disease..

32 REGIMENT HISTORY
Regiment celebrates end of World War II in Europe during May of 1945 after 274 days of combat.

Cover photo by Craig Walker

A message from the
71st Colonel of the Regiment

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Col. H.R. McMaster, 71st Regimental Commander, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, prepares to cut the cake commemorating the Regiment's 159th birthday held May 19 at FOB Sykes, Iraq.

I am writing this message as we are about to hold a special dinner in celebration of the Regiment's 159th birthday. Our troopers are building on the reputation and distinguished record of our Regiment through their discipline, toughness, professionalism, and compassion for the Iraqi people.

We have accomplished much in a short period of time in two critical, widely separated areas of operation in South Baghdad and Western Ninewa Province.

In the southern area of operations, the Regiment conducted a detailed reconnaissance alongside Iraqi Army troops. The Regiment had the great privilege of serving with the Second Battalion, Seventieth Armor Regiment – a unit that has been fighting hard in a tough area.

To concentrate our efforts in problem areas, the Regiment conducted several large operations named Rifles Recon, Tiger Walk, Bolt Down, Brush Back, and Stifling Blow. These operations and everyday reconnaissance and security efforts severely disrupted the enemy.

Although statistics in a counterinsurgency are of limited value, they provide some idea of the effects of our operations. In a three week period the Regiment captured 35 insurgents, killed or captured 8 triggermen, detected and dismantled 47 roadside bombs and two car bombs, and identified and destroyed 17 ammunition caches.

Our air ground operations prevented attacks against our forces and Iraqi forces as well as Iraqi civilians who have suffered so greatly at the hands of the terrorists.

The security that we, along with the Iraqi Army, were able to provide encouraged many Iraqi's to come forward and point out the enemy.

The Regimental Headquarters, most of Longknife, and Tiger Squadron completed the mission in South Baghdad, and passed on a comprehensive assessment

of the area to the 3rd Infantry Division as we headed north to our new area of operation.

Because the mission in South Baghdad is so critical and because there is an equally important mission in Ninewa Province, the Regiment left behind Thunder Squadron, Renegade Troop, Predator Battery, a platoon from Sapper and a tank platoon from Dragon Company as well as teams to train the Iraqi Army.

Thunder Squadron and Renegade will continue to serve the 3rd Infantry Division, and the other units will move north in about one month. We do not like being separated from our fellow troopers but our troopers in Baghdad are conducting a vital mission in a very important area. We will stay in close contact and track each others' operations.

Sabre led the Regiment north and has been conducting very effective operations alongside 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry, a great unit that has joined the Regiment temporarily.

In less than a month, Sabre has broken the enemy's grip on a critical city in Ninewa Province by capturing insurgents, detecting 24 IEDs, and destroying any enemy foolish enough to engage them.

The Regiment is joined by other professional and dedicated units including elements from the 16th Signal and the 94th Engineer Battalions.

In Baghdad and Ninewa we are doing what cavalry units do best – conducting reconnaissance and security operations.

We are also partnered with courageous Iraqi soldiers, police, and border defense forces who refuse to be intimidated by those who would have Iraq return to the brutality of the past.

In Ninewa, the Regiment has joined a very effective and experienced team in Task Force Freedom and we will conduct operations alongside another of our Army's elite combat formations, the "Lancers" of the 1st Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division from Fort Lewis, Washington.

The core of Task Force Freedom is the commander and staff of the 11th Cavalry Regiment. Our "Blackhorse Brothers" have welcomed the Regiment warmly and it is great to be in the company of our fellow cavalrymen of the Fourteenth and Eleventh Regiments.

All of us know that service to our nation and our fellow troopers entails risks and sacrifices. Since my last message, our Regiment lost Sgt. Stephen Saxton from Predator Battery, Sgt. Jacob Simpson from Fox Troop, Cpl. Charles Wilkerson from Predator Battery and Spc. Joshua Brazee from Howitzer Battery.

We will honor our fallen troopers with our deeds. We pray that their families will find comfort in fond memories and their loved one's selfless service to our nation. We will always remember our good fortune to serve alongside courageous troopers who are willing to make sacrifices for their fellow troopers.

Sgt. Simpson, Sgt. Saxton, Cpl. Wilkerson, and Spc. Brazee gave their lives to free 26 million and protect our own children from terrorists who consider no Americans innocent. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families as well as with our injured troopers.

Command Sergeant Major John Caldwell continues to make progress as he recovers from wounds sustained during a combat patrol in April.

All of us have been working harder to try to compensate for the loss of a leader who has inspired all of us through his example and absolute dedication to soldiers and families.

While all of us are confident that RCSM Caldwell will recover fully from his wounds, it is also clear that he will have to focus on that battle – returning to full health – in the months ahead.

We will draw strength from John Caldwell's example as we continue the important mission that we began under his leadership.

As you know, Command Sergeants Major are immensely important to a unit. It is Command Sergeants Major who upholds the standards and discipline that permit soldiers to accomplish the mission in combat and return home to their loved ones.

I have selected Command Sergeant Major William Burns, a distinguished cavalryman, to fill the critical position of XVII Regimental Command Sergeant Major of the Brave Rifles.

It is the greatest privilege for Command Sgt. Maj. Burns and I to serve alongside the troopers of the Regiment. As Brave Rifles troopers have done for over 159 years now, we will press this fight alongside the professionals who have joined our team.

All of us deeply appreciate the support of our families and friends as we continue our mission.

BRAVE RIFLES!

One Tough Warrior

RCSM WILLIAM BURNS BELIEVES SINCERELY IN IRON DISCIPLINE. HE ALSO BELIEVES THE NCO CORPS SHOULD ENFORCE STANDARDS. MORE IMPORTANTLY, HE UNDERSTANDS THE IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPING LEADERS. INTERVIEW AND PHOTO BY SFC DONALD SPARKS

Command Sgt. Maj. William Burns, XVII Regimental Command Sergeant Major, share a moment with Sgt. Maj. Johnathan Hunt. Burns was selected by by Col. H.R. McMaster, 71st Regimental Commander, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, to assume the duties of the unit's highest enlisted duty position.

In his message introducing the XVII Regimental Command Sergeant Major, Col. H.R. McMaster described the importance of the position and role of command sergeants major.

McMaster wrote, "It is Command Sergeants Major who uphold the standards and discipline that permit soldiers to accomplish the mission in combat and return home to their loved ones. They mentor our noncommissioned officers and are the primary advocates for Soldier well being and development. The Command Sergeant Major is also the primary source of candid advice and wise counsel for commanders."

On May 4, the 71st Regimental Commander announced Command Sgt. Maj. William Burns as the XVII Regimental Command Sergeant Major to fulfill those duties. In a career which has spanned more than 20 years, Burns, who entered the Army as a cavalry scout in 1984 from Dallas, Texas, wanted to be one thing – a warrior.

As an armored cavalryman, Burns proved himself as a warrior on the battlefield while serving in Desert Shield/Storm and throughout the Balkans. Burns is intensely driven to ensure NCOs are disciplined, prepared for war and focused on the mission at hand; and believes sincerely that sergeants should never be told to do anything twice.

An analytical leader whose assignments include leadership and staff positions including Squadron Command Sergeant Major, Squadron Operations Sergeant Major, Squadron and Regimental Master Gunner, HHT and Tank Company First Sergeant, Platoon Sergeant, and TAC NCO United States Military Academy.

Married and a father of two children, Burns is devoted to his family. And just like many Soldiers serving in the Army, his priorities in life are faith, family and friends, the Army, and finally, himself. He deeply respects the sacrifices that family members make so their Soldier can serve.

Reading military history and weightlifting allows him to relax; and he's quick to remind leaders to do four things to be successful while in theater – read, sleep, exercise and think.

To a remarkable extent, Burns' actions, commitment to Soldiers, and service to the Army and nation has led him to the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen.

"NCOs need to put more time into the effort of developing Soldiers at junior levels. NCOs have to be the best at what they do and care the most about their Soldiers."

-- RCSM William Burns

Q – For the Soldiers of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, who only know you by name, tell us about the Soldier now serving as the XVII CSM of the Regiment.

A - I would just say that I'm a Soldier. I don't lead with what's on my collar, I lead from what's in my heart. There are a couple of things that I pass on because I think it's a part of your legacy as a leader to hand things down to junior Soldiers.

And I can only relate to Soldiers on how I was brought up in the Army – I believe in tough love. I'm a compassionate leader, but I don't let my compassion for the Soldier get in the way of the mission; because I have a passion to accomplish the mission because the mission comes first.

I believe in iron discipline. I think discipline is the foundation of any military organization.

Q – What were your initial thoughts upon being requested by Col. H.R. McMaster to assume the duties of the Regimental CSM?

A – I thought it was an honor. It's also numbing because it's a lot of responsibility associated with that. I'm a common person. I know that I'm competent and I know that I'm confidant, but it's overwhelming when you look at the size of this organization and seeing how much of an impact you'll be able to have. I have long admired the accomplishments of this great Regiment. It is an honor to be part of the team.

Q – What's been your mainstay over the years concerning developing Soldiers and leaders?

A – Providing highly disciplined, movtivated Soldiers to the command. While simultaniousley giving authority back to the Noncommissioned Officer Corps. Allowing things to be handled at the lowest level, allowing platoon sergeants to make decisions and supporting those decisions, those are the guys I call the 'short sword' fighters.

This insurgency is going to be defeated at the platoon level. However from my foxhole, I tend to focus on first sergeants because they run the organization.

Q – NCOs right now are given even greater responsibility than at any other time in our Army's history. How important is it for you to ensure the NCOs of the Regiment are fully capable to conduct their missions/responsibilities?

A – Are my NCOs trained, competent and capable is the first thought on my mind when I wake up and the last thought on my mind before I go to sleep. There are a lot of them, not all, that need to step up to the plate. I think the NCO Corps tends to complain to much about our young soldiers saying, 'We're promoting these Soldiers too fast.' I say we're not.

NCOs simply need to take the time to properly train these soldiers. You have to take time to pull a junior Soldier aside and teach him or her what right looks like. Fact is, in this theater of operations NCOs need to develop our Soldiers' ability to fight and lead much quicker because of the combat environment we're in.

I've also heard NCOs say the 'the Noncommissioned Officer Corps is broken in the Army.' No, it's nowhere near broken, but I'll say this – there are weaknesses and we must take it upon ourselves to strengthen our Corps everyday.

What I mean by that is enforcement of standards. Maintaining a disciplined and proper decorum; passing down knowledge, sharing your experiences and teaching junior Soldiers, nurturing them and allowing them to make mistakes.

They're going to make mistakes, so don't hammer a Soldier just because he made a mistake. My first question is, 'Did the leader take the time to teach/train the soldier? Because it's the leader that I will utimately hold responsible/accountable.

I told him isn't the answer. NCOs need to put more time into the effort of developing Soldiers at junior levels. NCOs have to *be the best* at what they do and *care the most* about their Soldiers.

Q – Do you have anything that you would like to say to family and friends of the Regiment?

A – I would like to tell them how proud I am to join this team and that they should be proud of what their Soldiers are accomplishing every day. I also want them to know we are absolutely committed to one another as we continue our mission.

TIGER SQUADRON

By Lt. Col. Gregory Reilly
Tiger Squadron Commander

Tiger Squadron is performing exceptionally well at conducting counter insurgency operations, by integrating Iraqi Security forces and improving the quality of life for the Iraqi people.

Upon arrival in Iraq, the Squadron wasted no time in conducting two large scale operations that consisted of continued combat operations over an eleven day period.

During this period, the Squadron integrated Iraqi Army soldiers which made an everlasting impression on the Iraqi people by building trust and confidence in the people that overall security was improving.

All units within the squadron participated in the operation and together they are an incredible force to be reckoned with. Prior to these operations, our units collected up school supplies, food and treats for the Iraqi schools and families.

We visited numerous Iraqi families and people that had never seen coalition forces before and it was amazing to see how receptive and courteous they were to our soldiers as we distributed badly needed items.

Not only did this gesture build rapport and respect with the Iraqi populace, it was a display of compassion few Iraqis had seen before.

It is clearly evident that our experience, training, and discipline level are superior as very few units could conduct such complex operations only days after arrival in theater.

The Squadron is repositioning after just 30 days of arriving in Iraq and I am excited about the contributions we will make in our new area of operations. The leaders and Soldiers are excited about finally having an area to conduct operations in over an extended period of time.

Initially, the living conditions will be very austere with our Soldiers living the old Army way, in tents and eating good old-fashioned Army chow.

However, we will exhaust all efforts to improve the living conditions of our troopers by installing Sagovia internet and phone systems, building a gym, and MWR centers.

Nevertheless, the greatest challenge will be building life support areas in three different locations as our units will reside at three different base camps in Iraq.

Tiger Squadron has been down this road before and if anyone can make a base camp comfortable and amenable to the soldiers, it is Tiger Squadron.

As you all know, Cpl. Stephen Saxton from Predator Battery lost his life conducting combat operations on May 3.

We all grieve the loss of Cpl. Saxton and wish a speedy recovery of Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery Hubbard and Pfc. Peter Tenorio who were also injured during contact with the enemy that day.

One of the most difficult challenges our unit faces is grieving the loss of our comrades. The leaders of Tiger Squadron are totally committed and dedicated to taking every measure we can in order to reduce injury and loss of life of our Troopers.

Our mission is dangerous and necessary to rid evil from this country. We are blessed with having the best leaders, Soldiers, and equipment in the Army, with a team that is focused every day on taking care of each other.

God bless Stephen Saxton and his beloved family (parents Deborah and Dennis, wife Meagan and his children Joseph, Katelyn, and Sierra). We will never forget his sacrifice.

Finally, I ask all of our families to be patient as

See **TIGER,** Page 9

TIGER from Page 8

Tiger Squadron repositions to a new location. It may be a period of time before Troopers can call or e-mail home, however, I will ensure that each Soldier is afforded the opportunity to make a call with the resources we do have on a unit rotational basis.

The mid-tour leave process is already underway and will continue until about February of next year. It is my intent for every Soldier to have an opportunity to take mid-tour leave.

I am already working extremely hard in order to secure extra slots and have been successful in doing so. I am extremely proud and confident in our team as we progress through the mission. The duty, commitment, professionalism, and pure sacrifice of Tiger Squadron is just phenomenal.

Tiger 6

Saxton remembered as 'smiling, dirty'

By Sgt, 1st Class Donald Sparks
NCOIC, 3rd ACR Public Affairs

Tiger Squadron paid homage to its first fallen trooper of Operation Iraqi Freedom III, Cpl. Stephen Saxton, in a somber memorial held at Camp Striker, Iraq on May 7.

Saxton, assigned to Predator Battery's Blue Platoon, was killed in action on the morning of May 3 while conducting reconnaissance on Main Supply Route Tampa in south Baghdad by an improvised explosive device.

"Cpl. Saxton was admired by his peers and superiors for his dedication to duty, his selfless attitude, his spirit and focus to always ensure the mission was accomplished to the highest standard," said Lt. Col. Gregory Reilly, 3rd Squadron commander. "His courage, fortitude, bravery, and technical expertise in the conduct of his mission exemplified what it meant to be a soldier, a trooper, a scout, a – warrior."

Coming up with words to paint a portrait for others to remember the fallen trooper, 1st Lt. Stephen Jennison, recalled the words he heard in the past.

"A Soldier once told me that, 'It's not a good day unless you got dirty,'" Jennison said. "These were the words Cpl. Saxton lived by. "

Jennison continued, "He would spend all day working on his track, finish up, and then move on down the line to see who else needed help.

"He could be found at final formation covered in oil and grease, grinning ear to ear because it had been a good day. That is the way I will always remember Cpl. Stephen Saxton. Smiling and dirty."

Courtesy photo

Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Gonzales, Tiger Squadron command sergeant major, places coins at the boots of Cpl. Stephen Saxton during the slained trooper's memorial service as Lt. Col. Gregory Reilly, Tiger Squadron commander, left, looks on.

The final tribute came from Cpl. Michael Schumaker, who told the audience of the only hero he'd ever met.

"Someone asked me once, if I'd know a hero if I ever met one? The truth is I think I met, fought with, lived with, and befriended one," Schumaker said. "He was a hero for being a person who sacrificed everything for his peers."

Saxton is survived by his parents Deborah and Dennis Saxton, his wife Maegen, and his children Joseph, Katelyn, and Sierra.

Maverick, King troopers come to aid of injured Iraqi

Mounted Rifleman Reports
King Battery, Tiger Squadron

During a "meet and greet" session with the local Iraqi populace in south Baghdad, troopers get the chance to take time to meet with people in the area. The sessions are valuable in obtaining information about insurgent enemy activity and allow the troopers to earn the trust of the Iraqi people.

On one such session, troopers of Maverick Platoon, attached to King Battery, Tiger Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, not only earned the populace trust, but also provided critical medical attention to a gunshot victim.

As 2nd Lt. Taylor Simpson, Maverick platoon leader, and Sgt. 1st Class Todd Ames, Maverick platoon sergeant, were handing out soccer balls, coloring books, and candy to Iraqi children, they were greeted by one of the children's father.

"He provided vital information on a recent incident where a group of thieves tried to steal his nephew's car," Simpson said. "These thieves had evidently organized a plan to set up several road blocks in the area; and after stopping cars at these road blocks, they would remove the occupants and steal the vehicles."

Simpson added the thieves take the stolen cars and provide them to the Anti-Iraqi Forces to use as vehicle borne improvised explosive devices. On this particular incident, the father's nephew attempted to fight off the thieves.

During the struggle, the assailants shot his nephew twice in the lower right leg, shattering both his tibia and fibula and tearing off a large section of his calf.

"After hearing the story, I responded by inquiring about the nephew's injuries and promptly called for my medic," Simpson said.

The injured Iraqi had gone to a Baghdad hospital for surgery to insert pins in his leg and receive a skin graft; however, complications had set in. Pvt. Doug Gregory, Maverick's platoon medic, examined his wounds to assess the situation.

Following Gregoy's assessment, Simpson arranged for the nephew to be transported to the Squadron Forward Aid Station (FAS) for additional care. In response to Simpson's kindness the young man's uncle insisted upon inviting the Soldiers to his home for dinner. During the meal, he more provide information about other insurgent activity in the area.

Courtesy photo

Maj. Roger Gelperin, Tiger Squadron surgeon, cleans the infection on an injured Iraqi citizen after he was brought to the Forward Aid Station by Maverick Platoon troopers.

"Although providing information to Coalition Forces placed his family at risk, he was eager to help the Battery in any way possible," Simpson said.

The next day, Maverick Platoon returned to the man's house to transport the injured man to the Squadron FAS.

The nephew, accompanied by his cousin, was treated by Maj. Gelperin, Tiger Squadron surgeon.

Gelperin removed the injured Iraqi's bandages and cleaned the infected tissue, and provided the man with antibiotics to stop further infection.

Before returning the nephew to his home, King Battery returned his family's hospitality by sharing a hot meal with them. This interactive experience with the family taught the troopers some valuable lessons, according to Simpson.

"The platoon realized the importance of building personal relationships and rapport with the local populace and further recognized that Iraqi civilians are regular people who are willing to respond to kindness and compassion," Simpson said.

Dragon Company safeguard skies, pass candy, toys to Iraqi children

Mounted Rifleman Reports
D Company, Tiger Squadron

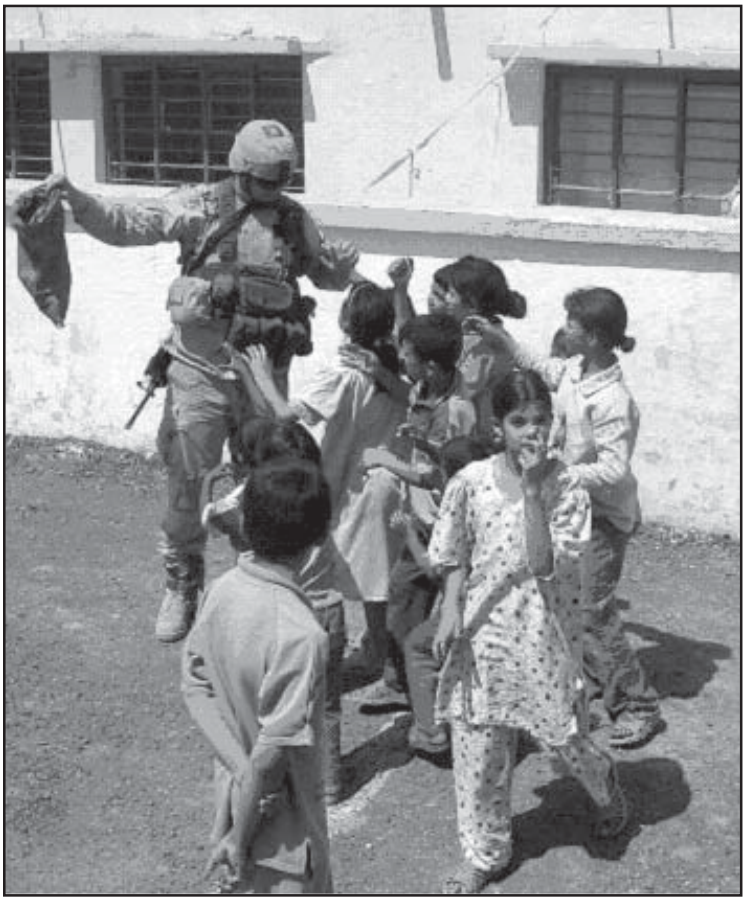
As the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment conduct operations throughout the Baghdad area on the ground, one other element of terrain is also being protected.

Dragon Company, Tiger Squadron, spent nearly a month safeguarding incoming and outgoing plane traffic in from the Baghdad International Airport (BIAP) and surrounding airfields.

Their heightened security patrols take them through much of Iraq's fertile farmland and the Tigris and Euphrates river valleys to engage the enemy from attempting to fire at air traffic, according to 2nd Lt. Wilson St. Pierre, Dragon Company platoon leader.

Despite the increase in insurgency attacks against Coalition Forces in the area, Iraqi children still came out to wave, show support and welcome passing patrols. As a show for their appreciation Dragon Company troopers find time in their hectic schedule to stop and pass candy and toys to the children.

"No matter how much candy and toys we bring, we usually run out by the second or third stop," St. Pierre said. "However, the smiles on their faces say it all."



Courtesy photo

Cpl. Johnathan Lessman, Dragon Company, Third Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, distributes candy to kids south of Baghdad International Airport.

The trips are morale boost for the troopers, but not every trooper can embrace the Iraqi children due to security reasons. Pfc. Jason Galland, who serves as gunner and has been on most of Dragon Company's 'meet and greet' patrols, enjoys the reaction of children.

"I love being a gunner, but a lot of times I'd rather be on the ground with the kids," Galland said.

Other troopers enjoy the 'meet and greet' patrols just for the chance to make a difference in Iraq.

Staff Sgt. Jarrod Frank was trained as a forward observer for artillery, but with the shift in focus from combat operations to stability and support operations, he regularly volunteers for Dragon Company's support missions.

"It's a great way to get out of the FOB [forward operating base] for a few hours and know that you have made a difference in the social structure of Iraq ," he said.

Dragon Company hopes their constant presence will help strengthen the Coalition relationship with local families and merchants. Soldiers anticipate that the added rapport will help them quell insurgent activity in the Southern BIAP area.

SABRE SQUADRON

By Lt. Col. Christopher Hickey
Sabre Squadron Commander

The Second Squadron continues to fight and win in the northern city of Tal Afar. Working closely with its Iraqi Army counterparts, Sabre has established a dominant presence in this picturesque and culturally diverse city that lies midway between the sprawling urban center of Mosul and the sparse expanses of the Syrian border.

In the short time since our arrival, the Iraqi Army has proven itself to be a well-trained, disciplined organization. The Soldiers are smart, enthusiastic, and totally committed to defeating the insurgency.

The Iraqi Army leadership is equally dedicated and has assimilated the values of the Profession of Arms astutely and with remarkable speed. I have been working closely with General Musin, the Commander of Iraq's 1st Brigade, 3d Division.

He is an excellent Soldier and a good man. He has a nuanced approach to leadership that inspires his unit to continually excel.

His sophisticated understanding of the security situation in Iraq has been invaluable to me as a commander in mission planning and execution. I am truly grateful for his insightful counsel. With leadership and guidance such as his, the future is bright for the Iraqi Army and the Iraqi people.

The squadron is fighting bravely. Eagle, Fox, Grim, Heavy, Lion, and Rattler have been working

See **SABRE,** Page 13

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Early riser

Sgt. 1st Class Luis Cotto, Howitzer Battery, 2nd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, makes his way across a field to a M109A6 Paladin shortly after sunrise at FOB Sykes, Iraq. The unit was preparing to zero the Howitzers for targeting.

SABRE from Page 12

tirelessly and have repeatedly shown their mettle.

Our victories have been numerous. We have brought the fight to our enemies and have persistently thwarted their efforts.

Our Troopers have discovered weapons caches, busted improvised explosive devices-making facilities, pre-empted attacks, and empowered the local citizens to regain control of their city and their lives.

Each day, we work to improve relations and trust with the local population. That goal will always be at the center of our mission and will provide the backdrop of our operations.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

A M109A6 Howitzer completes the firing of a round during zero registration at FOB Sykes.

We are fighting to defeat an enemy, but more importantly, we are working to set an environment in which the Iraqi people can liberate themselves.

The winning of this war will be in the details. With each child that feels safe enough to play in his yard, we gain an advantage over the enemy. With each citizen who is brave enough to turn his back on the threats of a terrorist, our cause adds credibility.

By increment, we will gradually build the momentum that will carry us through to the completion of our mission. The Iraqi people need our help to emerge from the oppression of the very few determined men who dream only of destruction and anarchy.

Sabre Squadron's mission is to empower the people of Tal Afar, to show them the path to freedom, and to support them as they work to reconstitute the Iraqi state into a proud and prosperous nation. With the cooperation of the local government and the assistance of the Iraqi Army, we move closer to that goal each day.

In this process, Sabre has also experienced tragedy. On April 28, Pvt. Robert Murray and Pfc. Ricky Rockholt, both of Grim Troop, were killed by an IED. Both men had volunteered for the mission on which they were killed.

The Squadron's loss has been profound. When tragedies strike in war, words of reckoning can sometimes seem to trivialize the lives of the fallen and glorify the terms of their passing. The lives of Pvt. Murray and Pfc. Rockholt were not trivial, and their deaths were not glorious.

They died at the hands of evil. They both lived vibrant, active lives with great promise and potential for the future, and both died before they could realize this potential. We can continue on only in their debt, for Pvt. Murray and Pfc. Rockholt have shown us the price of freedom.

Our hearts go out to their families in this time of bereavement. Pvt. Murray and Pfc. Rockholt have become heroes in the proud history of the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen. We think of them with joy in respect to their lives, and with solemn reverence in respect to their sacrifices.

Our anger at their deaths will not devolve into the furious retributions that their killers would like to see us impose on the innocent people of Iraq. We can honor their lives only with honorable actions.

Our determination is strengthened to bring down the forces of terror in Iraq, but we are also steeled in our resolve to bring freedom and peace to these people who so desperately want it.

We continue with our mission as the summer draws near. To all the families of Sabre Squadron: thank you for your inspiration, love, and support. Without you, we could not be the men that we are. We work every day to make you proud.

Sabre Ready! Ai-ee-yah!
Sabre 6

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

The Stetsons of fallen Grim Troop troopers Pfc. Ricky Rockholt and Pvt. Robert Murray, Jr., are in view of a Soldier during the playing of Taps at the joint memorial service at FOB Sykes, Iraq, honoring four Soldiers killed in action. Two Soldiers from Apache Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment and two Soldiers from Sabre Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment were honored.

Joint memorial honors 'Band of Brothers'

By Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks
NCOIC, 3rd ACR Public Affairs

Rather than struggle to hold back his tears any longer, Sgt. 1st Class John Kaczor, decided to let the rain wash them away.

The platoon sergeant assigned to Grim Troop, 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment had just spoken during a joint memorial service to honor four fallen comrades May 2 on a day filled with cumulous, gray clouds in the sky.

His Soldier, Pfc. Ricky Rockholt, along with fellow 3rd ACR trooper, Pvt. Robert Murray, Jr., and two Soldiers from Apache Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Lt. William Edens and Sgt. Eric Morris, were killed in action April 28 when their vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device.

"First I would like to say Pfc. Rockholt was one of my dismounts, and he was also a friend," Kaczor said. "He was a very caring person who would always put himself out to help a friend."

Kazcor continued, "I know he would have rather been out on that mission than back in the FOB (Forward Operating Base) safe, because his friends were out there and around them is where he belonged."

In the end, Kazcor then released his tears to blend with the rain.

At the service, Lt. Col. Christopher Hickey, 2nd

See **BROTHERS,** Page 15

BROTHERS from Page 14

Squadron commander, spoke about the two cavalry scouts who served proudly under his command. He also gave praise to the two infantrymen who served, fought and died side by side on the battlefield.

"Today we honor four great Americans who gave their life to their country," Hickey said. "Although they were from different units they were all American Soldiers serving as part of a mission which is bigger than anyone of us; to make Iraq a safe and secure environment in order to quell a looming threat to the safety of their fellow Americans."

Hickey concluded his heartfelt remarks by challenging his troopers to honor their fallen comrades by accomplishing the mission they came here to complete.

"As their commander, I feel a terrible loss, but at the same time I am proud to have had such outstanding soldiers in my command," Hickey said.

Rockholt enlisted in the Army in February of 2003 and upon completion of One Station Unit Training at Fort Knox, Ky., his first unit of assignment was 4th Squadron, 7th Cavalry at Camp Gary Owen, South Korea. He arrived to 3rd ACR at Fort Carson, Colo., in August 2004 and was assigned to Grim Troop.

Sgt. Jason Merril comforts Sgt. Christopher Burnham, following the memorial service on FOB Sykes, Iraq, to honor two of their fallen comrades, 1st Lt. William Edens and Sgt. Eric Morris. The two Soldiers are assigned to Apache Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment at Fort Lewis, Wash.

Murray enlisted in the Army in May of 2004 and after completing OSUT at Fort Knox, Ky., he arrived to Fort Carson in November. Murray was remembered by Staff Sgt. Ryan Saurs who shared his personal tribute to his trooper.

"Private Murray brought a tremendous amount of loyalty not just to the Army, squad, troop or platoon, but also to his brothers," Saurs said. "There was definitely an undeniable bond based on loyalty and trust between Murray and his brothers… As we continue to mourn Murray's passing, we need to honor him by hanging on the loyalty, trust, and love he brought our family and our unit, and remember him, as he would want to be."

The most fitting tribute of the joint memorial service came from Capt. Matthew Howell, Grim Troop commander, who called the two other members from Apache Company, "our Band of Brothers."

"Just as the Infantry motto says, "Follow me!" you led us through the deadly streets of Tal Afar during the right seat ride process," Howell said. "I find great comfort in the fact that our men were together that day, taking the fight to the enemy, and more importantly that they were not alone when they paid the ultimate sacrifice…You too have been the 'Bravest of Rifles.'"

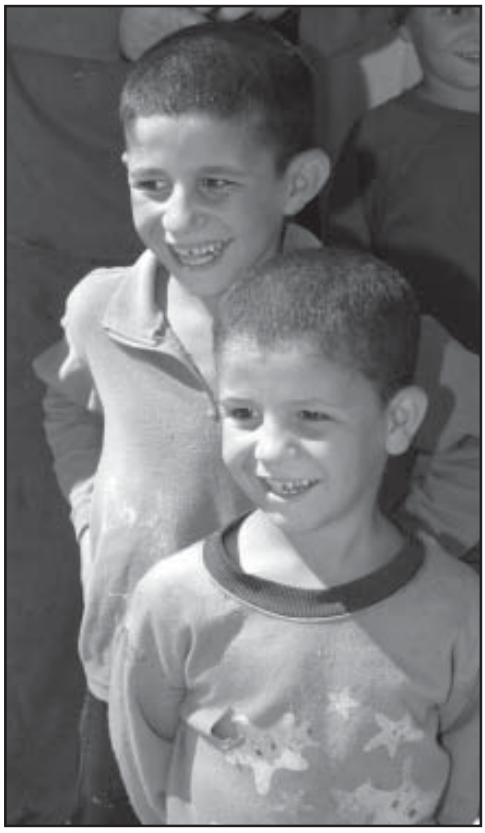
Murray is survived by his parents, Robert and Katrina Murray.

Photos by Spc. Jory Randall

Iraqi Army Soldiers join Eagle Troop, 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment Soldier on patrol May 17 in the streets of Avgani, Iraq.

2/3, Iraqi Soldiers on patrol with

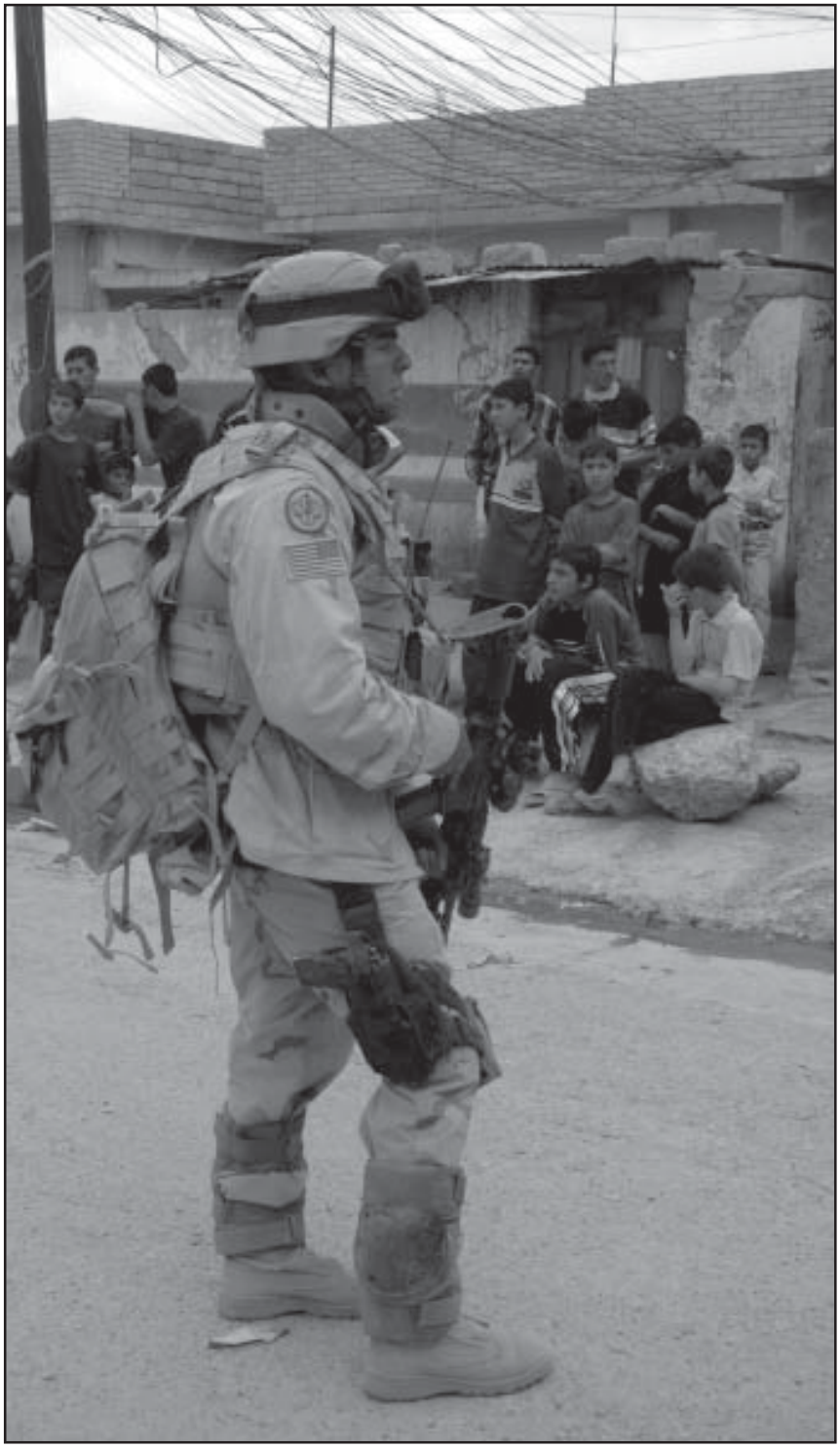
COMBAT CAMERA



Above: Fox Troop Soldiers conduct a vehicle inspection for bomb making material May 18 at Tal Afar, Iraq. Right: Iraqi youth reveal their excitement of seeing both Iraqi and American Soldiers.

"In less than a month, Sabre has broken the enemy's grip on a critical city in Ninewa Province by capturing five insurgents, detecting 24 IEDs, and destroying any enemy that was foolish enough to engage them."

-- Col. H.R. McMaster, 71st RCO



Above: An Iraqi woman in the town of Avgani, talks to Eagle troopers during a 'meet and greet' patrol of the town. The patrols allow interaction between 3rd ACR and Iraqi Soldiers with the townspeople. Left: A Fox Troop Soldier maintains security in the Iraq city of Tal Afar during a patrol.

Simpson's service to nation, regiment recalled at memorial

By Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks
NCOIC, 3rd ACR Public Affairs

Some people live and wait for their 15 seconds of fame, but for Sgt. Jacob Simpson, if he had it his way, wanted less than five seconds for any tribute.

The cavalry scout assigned to Fox Troop, 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment wouldn't have been too disappointed for the tribute from fellow trooper Spc. Brian Wozny.

Simpson was remembered during a memorial service to honor the fallen trooper May 19 at FOB Sykes, Iraq. The two-time deployed Soldier was killed in action May 16.

"I'd go to him only half joking that I wasn't coming back alive," Wozny said. "He'd call me 'dude' and assure me that I would come back; saying it was his job."

Wozny once mentioned to Simpson to tell his wife what really happened if he didn't come back, which infuriated Simpson.

"Sergeant Simpson stopped in his steps, put me at parade rest, gave me a look I've never seen on him before and told me to keep that idea out of my head," Wozny said. "He ironically said that if he was the one who didn't come back, not to spend more than five seconds talking about him."

Wozny closed his tribute, "I know you said you didn't want much of a speech, but you're worth more than five seconds of my time dude."

Sabre Squadron Commander, Lt. Col. Christopher Hickey, praised Simpson as a great American and a hero that was universally respected and admired by his leaders, peers and subordinates alike.

He also described how the Hood River, Ore., native joined the Army for his love of America and how he was serving on his second combat tour with Fox Troop.

"He spent endless hours patrolling the dangerous highways east of Fallujah in order to identify and destroy countless IEDs [improvised explosive device]," Hickey said. "He faced danger because he knew others depended on him. No IED ever exploded on a route patrolled by Sgt. Simpson. Having others depend on him was no different on his second combat deployment."

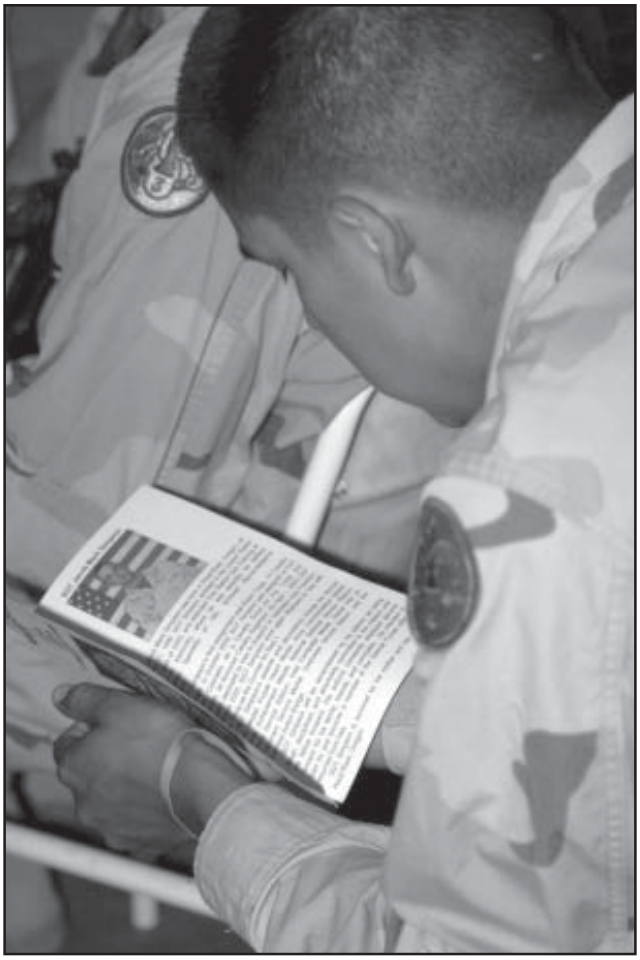


Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Sgt. John Martinez, Fox Troop, 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, reads the program of his fallen comrade, Sgt. Jacob Simpson, during the memorial service held at FOB Sykes, Iraq on May 19. Simpson was killed in action on May 16.

Each tribute, whether from one of Simpson's leaders, peers or Soldiers exemplified his commitment to the core Army Values. One by one at the end of the memorial, Soldiers saluted his Stetson, grabbed his identification tags or said a prayer.

"He is a hero, and heroes are not forgotten," said Capt. Jesse Sellars, Fox Troop commander. "I have been privileged to serve beside this hero, and will forever consider it an honor. Sgt. Simpson, thank you for the privilege of having been able to serve beside you."

Simpson is survived by his mother and two sisters.

THUNDER SQUADRON

By Lt. Col. Ross A. Brown
Thunder Squadron Commander

Dear friends and family members of the Thunder Team, greetings from Baghdad! I can't tell you how proud I am of your soldiers. Everyday is a new challenge, and each day they meet it with the same courage and honor as our forefathers.

My heart fills with such pride as I look at the determination in their eyes. The heart and courage of America is here and for that I thank you.

There are few words to describe how great these men and women are performing. They face challenges most people never have in a life time, all in one day.

The Squadron diligently continues its hard work in our area in true Cavalry fashion. Our Troopers continue to conduct operations that ensure the people that we are indeed present to protect them, and allows our men to take ownership of their area of operations in a very personal way.

While engaging the Iraqis daily, we have quickly demonstrated that we are willing to bring the fight to the enemy and show the people that the terrorists are all our enemies, not the Iraqi people.

We hit the ground running as soon as we arrived. Within days of arriving, we began conducting a relief-in-place with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

Most recently, elements of Ironhawk relieved Tiger Squadron to allow them to move north.To date, all of our units have conducted numerous patrols and learned the geography and terrain.

We learned the neighborhoods, the enemy tactics and the friendly tactics. This helped us gain invaluable knowledge in just a few short weeks and put us on the right track to accomplish our mission.

This is a difficult but vital mission.

What we are doing now will no doubt prove to be a crucial event in the history of our country and the world. We are threatened by an enemy dedicated to destroying our way of life.

The enemy we face hates the freedom we enjoy. They hate the fact that we allow different people to worship as they choose. They hate that we are allowed to speak freely.

They plot the downfall of the United States and what we stand for. They have attacked us before and would like to attack us again.

We cannot afford to fail in this mission. We must be resolute and steadfast in combating these terrorists. The future security of our children and their children depend on our success today.

This deployment will cause many hardships. It has taken Soldiers away from families. Fathers are missing birthdays and anniversaries. They are missing the last day of school and many other important events at home.

But I ask everyone to understand the importance of what we are doing here. If we don't win now, those same children will be fighting this fight later.

We have left a very capable support structure at home. We have a highly motivated Family Readiness Group and Rear Detachment Command team that in short time has already demonstrated their willingness to help families through this challenging time.

They are dedicated to help and I encourage you to call upon them when needed.

Finally I want to thank each and every family member for their love and support. Just as I know your thoughts are with us, our thoughts are also with you.

Thunder 6

LONGKNIFE SQUADRON

By Lt. Col. Douglass Pavek
Longknife Squadron Commander

Hello for the last time from FOB Striker, Iraq. As many of you know the Squadron will be moving north this month and establishing a new operating base in northwestern Iraq.

The Regiment is doing great, but has recently had some very difficult days. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of our fallen heroes.

The Squadron is doing extraordinarily well, exceeding my expectations as always, and has expertly participated in numerous combat missions over the last month while simultaneously planning for our next move north to FOB Sykes.

Our mission up north will be in direct support of the Iraqi Army, we are excited about the prospect of having such a direct impact on the growth and increased stability and prosperity of Iraq, its government and Army.

Each Airframe has been utilized over the last month in its specific role. The uniqueness of this Squadron and its varied airframes and exceptional combat power has been demonstrated over and over again.

The ground elements that we support have been extremely successful as they patrol their assigned areas of responsibility. The Kiowa Warriors have been invaluable in their traditional role as scouts, adapting traditional TTPs into tactics that achieve the best results during this less than traditional battle.

Apache helicopters were instrumental – and showed their versatility as attack / scout platform proving viable intel after every mission.

The Blackhawks have continued to "Carry the Cav" – flying an extraordinary amount of flight hours in this short period and demonstrating flexibility as an Air Assault platform, re-supply and C2 platform.

Much is written about the contributions of the Aircrews – however no one within this

See **LONGKNIFE,** Page 21

Courtesy photo

Blade of shade

Chief Warrant Officer Eric Oleson, top, and Warrant Officer Jennifer Worcester, Fourth Squadron, take a break from the sun using the blade of a Blackhawk for shade after a hard day of flying in Baghdad.

Courtesy photo

Pit stop

Troopers of 3/5 Platoon refuel a Renegade Apache helicopter during daily Forward Army Refueling Point operations.

LONGKNIFE from Page 20

Squadron or Regiment underestimates the importance of the Troopers whose functions keep the Aircraft and Squadron mission ready – Aircraft and Aircrews would not function without the support from every Soldier within this Squadron.

HHT and T Troop are the backbone of the Squadron and are therefore allocated the predominance of solders.

The Regiment's pride in its Air Cav relies on the maintenance of the aircraft and vehicles, the ability to provide fuel and ammunition and the Squadron HQ – in which missions are planned, tracked, intel is gathered and analyzed.

Every trooper in this Squadron is a necessary and vital to our success.

For an undetermined amount of time Renegade Troop will be operating with the 1-3 ARB of the 3 Infantry Division and remain in this area while we move north.

Apache maintainers from T Troop and AVIM troop have also departed FOB Striker and will remain in support of Renegade – attached to their corresponding companies in the 1/3 AVN battalion.

Although we will be separated by distance – Renegade is still very much a part of the Longknife Squadron. Flights will be coordinated to ensure the Troop is fully supported – their mailing address has been amended to reflect the new APO-AE at Camp Taji. We miss the Troop's presence but know that their combat power was temporarily needed elsewhere.

As always please remain proud of the impact your Trooper is having on not only the Squadron but the mission of the United States Army in Iraq. As the months move on – the sacrifice of family time that you and your families are making grows larger – the unit appreciates the family members and all that they do to support their soldier and the unit.

I urge you to get involved or stay involved with the family readiness group. As much as we rely on the Trooper to our left and right – we rely on the support of our families at home.

We appreciate your sacrifices and respect the often tougher position you are in as the non-deployed spouse or loved one. Our nation is grateful for the efforts and sacrifices our Soldiers and their families are making – as am I.

Longknife 6

MULESKINNER SQUADRON

By Lt. Col. Richard O'Connor
Support Squadron Commander

The Muleskinners have arrived safely at our new Forward Operating Base west of Mosul, Iraq.

For the past several weeks we successfully conducted several operations in southern Baghdad which rooted out insurgents and consequently made Baghdad a great deal safer and allowing a smoother transition of security operations to the to the Iraqi Security Forces.

The Muleskinners, in particular Packhorse and Chemdawg conducted several Combat Logistics Patrols throughout the area of operations providing sustained support to the Regiment.

This was a total combined effort of great troops across this squadron.

During this time our Blacksmith repaired hundreds of radios, night vision devices, generators, tanks, and Bradleys.

Bullwhip continues to head up our support effort with a lot of work from the MMC troopers.

At Camp Sykes, Bullwhip will pick up the added responsibility of running the Mayor's Cell.

Scalpel continues to provide awesome medical support and several medics and doctors had the opportunity to provide medial support to an Iraqi village treating more than 250 families.

Air Raider is providing great support to Longknife and most noteworthy was their aircraft recovery operations conducted safely at night in one of the most dangerous areas in Iraq.

We are all extremely grateful to our Family Readiness Group and rear detachment troopers who continue to keep our families updated on what happens on the "Front."

We are a great team and I personally want to thank all the Soldiers for doing great things in battle as we continue to fight the Global War on Terrorism.

We are extremely grateful to our Family Readiness Group and rear detachment troopers who continue to keep our families updated on what happens on the "Front."

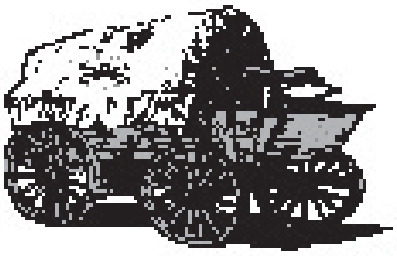


Photo by Sgt. Jenny Newhart

Capt. Joseph Bernier, dentist assigned to Medical Troop, Support Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, looks as an Iraqi youth points to where his tooth hurts. Bernier was participating in a Medical Civil Affairs Project in Yusafyiah, Iraq on May 5.

MEDCAP provides health care to Iraqis

By Sgt. Lisa King
NCOIC, 3rd ACR Surgeon Office

Winning the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people means more than fighting insurgents, it also mean fighting diseases as well. In an effort to combat poor health conditions, Soldiers of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment and the 270th Armor Battalion did just that on May 5.

The two units worked together to better the Iraqi village of Yusafyiah by operating a Medical Civil Affairs Project (MEDCAP) in a local school. During this time, more than 250 Iraqi locals received medical aid and teddy bears.

The two units issued out much needed medical supplies, immunizations and provided dental care. The medical providers consisted of a dentist, a pediatrician, an Internist and one Physician's Assistant from Medical Troop, Support Squadron, 3rd ACR.

Capt. Jennifer Rael, pediatrician, saw and treated patients with upper respiratory problems and Capt. Joseph Bernier, dentist, kept busy by taking care of patients with dental diseases.

Bernier extracted 22 teeth, placed 10 temporary restorations, drained multiple abscesses and handed out dental hygiene bags with instructions in Arabic. He also taught correct brushing techniques.

"I was deeply humbled and honored to be able to contribute a small part of care to the proud people of Iraq," said Bernier following the MEDCAP mission.

This MEDCAP benefited the village of Yusafiyah by demonstrating that the military is in Iraq not only to provide help and much needed medical care, but to also improve the current health conditions in Iraq's villages.

MEDCAP missions are currently being accomplished all over Iraq. The 3rd ACR has participated in two missions since their arrival in Iraq and projects to carry out between one to two MEDCAPS per month.

REMINGTON TROOP

By Capt. David Rozelle
Remington Troop Commander

It has been a busy month, but busy days make time go by. As you already know, we are closed in onto a new area of operation and are headquartered out of Camp Sykes.

After having two months of successful missions south of Baghdad, we have been selected to conduct important missions in our new northern area of operation. But as we have left behind one area of operation, it is important to remember the great things that the Regiment was able to accomplish in the last few months.

From the first moment that boots hit the ground here in March, we started to operate as a team. The routes in our area of operation are more trafficable, the towns are more secure, and there is a larger contingent of Iraqi forces securing themselves.

Although the majority of the RHHT does not leave "the wire," the 24-hour shift work our soldiers do at the Regimental tactical operations center affects every soldier on the ground.

Our Soldiers work within their sections to coordinate, plan, and execute missions that specifically contribute with other sections to support ongoing operations in Iraq. As most of you still don't have any idea what your spouses are up to, I'll try to explain.

The S-1 section stays busy tracking the over 6,500 soldiers that we have all over Iraq and Kuwait. If that is not enough, they also process all awards and promotions for those soldiers, and oversee both regular and emergency leave.

The S-2 tracks significant enemy activity, analyze it, and help the commander make decisions about reacting with his forces based on what they believe the enemy may do in the future.

The S-2 section works continuously in the TOC in support of the S2's efforts, which is a tough job in a seemingly unpredictable environment.

The S-3 is broken into several sections. One is plans, who write the orders for the Regiment's future and current operations. Another is operations which tracks the battle, mans the radios and conveys orders to the soldiers in the field.

The last is the Personal Security Detachment

See **REMINGTON,** Page 25

Although the majority of the RHHT does not leave "the wire," the 24-hour shift work our Soldiers do at the Regimental tactical operations center affects every Soldier on the ground.

REMINGTON from Page 24

which is the group that protects the command group as they move around the battlefield checking on our soldiers and ongoing operations.

The S-4 provides the logistical resources that allow the Squadrons to conduct their operations, and provides transportation resources around the country, which never seem to stop.

The S-5 the Regimental Fire Support Element and Engineers are all working together in an Iraqi Security Forces cell.

Although the RFSE still plan and execute fire support tasks, and the Engineers still are doing engineering tasks, these sections are dedicated to public works programs to improve cities in our area, are training security forces, and work to establish stronger municipal programs.

These are the programs that help us win the hearts and minds of the people and will allow the Iraqis to take over control of their own programs and cities.

The S-6 allows all of these organizations to talk to each other, to higher and lower commands, and to you, most importantly. They are working hard to maintain our comms.

Then there are the smaller sections we often forget about, but their impact is just as important as any other. The Surgeon oversees our health programs in the Regiment and personally oversees the health of your spouses. The Med Trackers keep track of our injured and sick soldiers who are at different locations for treatment.

The JAGs make sure we are staying out of trouble or are convicting us for getting in it. The PAO is trying to tell our stories to the media and news agencies back home.

The Chaplain gives us counsel and provides services for almost any denomination you can think of. Maintenance keeps our vehicles and generators running, and headquarters platoon oversees the personnel, maintenance, and administrative duties of them all.

As you can see, it is quite an organization, with lots of moving pieces. In a short amount of time, the Regimental Commander orchestrated our efforts into one team, and we are working hard.

I hope this letter helps you understand our organization better. Thanks for all your support back home. Brave Rifles!

Remington 6

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Dig deep

Spc. Richard Arsenault, Remington Troop, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, thrusts his shovel in a mound of dirt to fill sandbags as part of a detail. Remington troopers arrived to Forward Operating Base Sykes early to set up the Regiment's Tactical Operations Center.

Toby Keith kicks up morale, entertain troopers with music

By Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks
NCOIC, 3d ACR Public Affairs

Days before famed country musician Toby Keith's scheduled performance at Camp Sykes, the anticipation for his arrival was far worst than any Christmas Eve Sgt. 1st Class Dan Pemwell experienced.

"Man, you just don't know what this means to me for him to come here," said Pemwell, assigned to Remington Troop, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. "I love his music and I'd do anything to meet him and shake his hand."

Christmas arrived on May 15 for the 36-year-old native of Murray, Ky., as he not only shook Keith's hand, but also took a photo with him and got his autograph.

The country vocalist, donned in a desert camouflaged uniform, entertained the troops as part of his USO tour in the Persian Gulf, his third time traveling overseas to perform for Soldiers on the frontlines.

A strong supporter of troops, the native Oklahoman has traveled to Kuwait, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Italy, Germany and Iraq on previous USO trips. He took time to autograph everything from posters, DCU caps, guitars and T-shirts.

"People back home talk about the wild, Wild West, but you guys are actually out here fighting for America in the real wild, Wild West," Keith said, drawing applause from the crowd of nearly 400 troops. "I just wanted to come here and show my support and appreciation for what you do for our country."

Following an introduction from Lt. Col. Richard O'Connor, Support Squadron commander, that's when the boot-tapping, hand-clapping, whooping and hollering entertainment began as Keith electrified the troops by singing his popular songs, "My Favorite Bar," "The Taliban Song," "Beer for my Horses" and "American Soldier," which chronicles the trials and tribulations of members of the armed forces.

"Ya'll got a wild bunch up here in the cavalry," Keith said, pumping up the troopers' energy. He then dedicated his next song to all the troopers serving in the cavalry – *Should've Been a Cowboy*.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Spc. Ruth Kimbro, Maintenance Troop, Support Squadron, claps her hands during Toby Keith's performance at FOB Sykes, Iraq.

Singing every lyric to every song throughout the concert, Sgt. Randle White, serving on his second deployment with Supply & Transportation Troop, Support Squadron, said his morale was improved twofold after Keith's performance.

"This was wonderful," White said, still hyped up. "This is just the biggest morale booster; better than air conditioning out here. I can't tell you how much this has made my tour and is the next best thing to mid-tour leave."

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Top: Country music star Toby Keith croons a lyric during his performance for trooopers at FOB Sykes, Iraq. He sang crowd favorites, "My Favorite Bar," "Beer for my Horses," and "American Soldier." Above: Nearly 400 Soldiers attended the concert sponsored by USO. It was Keith's third tour with the organization supporting deployed Soldiers. Right: Sgt. Randle White, Supply & Transportation Troop, Support Squadron, lets out loud scream at the conclusion of the concert.

Revisiting Babylon 6,000 years later

By Chaplain(Capt.)Leo Moras
Chaplain, Support Squadron

The world's first civilization grew more than 6,000 years ago, in the southeast section of Iraq, in an area known as Sumer. It was known as Mesopotamian civilization.

The society of Mesopotamia consisted of 3 main cultures- the Sumerians, Babylonians, and the Assyrians. Mesopotamia appears, in the bible, as early as the creation epic of *Genesis*.

According to *Genesis*, the Garden of Eden was situated geographically near the river that separates to become the Tigris and the Euphrates Rivers, hence the name Mesopotamia (literally, "the land between two rivers").

The ancient Assyrian homeland is in an area, mostly in Iraq, now claimed by the Kurds. Indeed, Nineveh, the ancient capitol of Assyria during its golden age, is near Mosul. Present day Iraq still contains a number of ancient sites of Mesopotamia including, Ur of the Chaldees.

According to *Genesis*, the Garden of Eden was situated geographically near the river that separates to become the Tigris and the Euphrates Rivers...

The biblical figure, Abraham, the father of faith was called by God from Ur in the land of the Caldeans where it is possible to view today a ziggurat and ancient tombs dating back to at least 2000 BC. The ruins of the ancient cities of Nineveh, Nimrod, and Babylon also remain in existence.

Isn't it ironic that 6,000 years of human history has invited us to revisit? Is this the fulfillment of biblical prophecies? In Iaiah13:5, the prophet foretold the demise and destruction of Babylon by armies from a distant land.

The prophet Jeremiah, recording the evils of Babylon and its rulers, foretold then the impeding punishment: "A sound of battle is in the land and a great destruction… A sword is upon the Chaldeans and upon the inhabitants of Babylon, upon her princes and upon her counselors; a sword is upon her liars… a sword is upon her mighty men."

The biblical story tells us how the Israelites suffered as slaves in Egypt for many years, and how they miraculously emigrated to Canaan, the land flowing with milk and honey where they conquered the land and its people in a sweeping military campaign by the help of God.

During the biblical times too, many shed their blood to bring, liberty and freedom to reach Canaan. Prophets built hope for the people.

Prophet Jonah (Chapter 3) was sent to Nineveh (Near Mosul) to let the people know that if they do not change their ways God is going to punish them.

They did change then and God spared them from his wrath. Are we once again in the biblical times?

In war at times the innocent get killed. Our Soldiers are on point with the brethren in the Iraqi Army working hand in hand to bring freedom, liberty and peace to this biblical land. Our leaders are doing all that they can, to bring stability and security.

The chaplains and chaplain assistants have been building hope by comforting, consoling and caring for the leaders, the Soldiers and their families in their brokenness. What more can we do?

Prophet Joel 2:13-14 has an answer, "Let your hearts be broken not your garments torn. Turn to the Lord your God again for he is all tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in graciousness and ready to relent"

Philippians 4:6-7: "Do not be anxious about anything but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts..." So let us turn to the Lord and pray for peace, love and unity.

Boaz's make reenlisting family affair

By Maj. Gary Dangerfield
PAO, 3rd ACR Public Affairs

Photo by Capt. Russell Nowels

Sergeants Lily and Gary Boaz, Medical Troop, Support Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, raise their right hands and repeat the oath to reenlist in the U.S. Army. The married couple volunteered to deploy to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and stay in the Army together.

For Gary and Lily Boaz reenlisting together in the Army is nothing new for the dual military couple. Both sergeants assigned to Medical Troop, Support Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment raised their hands May 4, for the third time.

However this was the first time the two reenlisted in a combat zone.

"I believe this is what the Army is like, this is where we're going to be, so if you are not willing to reenlist in this type of situation, why re-enlist at all," said Lily, a native of Parker, Arizona.

The Boaz's, both medical specialists, decided together that they would volunteer to deploy to Iraq with the 3rd ACR while working at Evans Army Hospital located at Fort Carson, Colo.

"My wife wanted to deploy with a unit that was coming over, so she kept bugging me about it," said Gary, a native of Walnut Grove, Mo. "So I said fine, I will see if we can do it and we went and talked to the hospital sergeant major, Command Sergeant Major Ronald Dean," said Gary, a native of Walnut Grove, Mo.

"He [Dean] was friends with Command Sgt. Maj. [John] Caldwell, and he recognized my name," Gary said. "So he said sure, I will take them both and found two Soldiers that were willing to work at the hospital and switched us out."

The 3rd ACR has enjoyed its share of success in the area of re-enlistment as 1,548 troopers raised their hands during the fiscal year of 2004.

For Gary, who met Lily at the Colorado Springs' Turkey Creek Recreation area where she was working as a Trail Ride guide, the choice to stay with the regiment was easy.

"3rd ACR is where I started my army career as a private," Gary said. "I had a small tour with a different unit, but we were able to come back. This is where I started my career and this is where I'd like to finish it."

(Editor's note: Pfc. David Keith contributed to this article.)

Re-up money still available

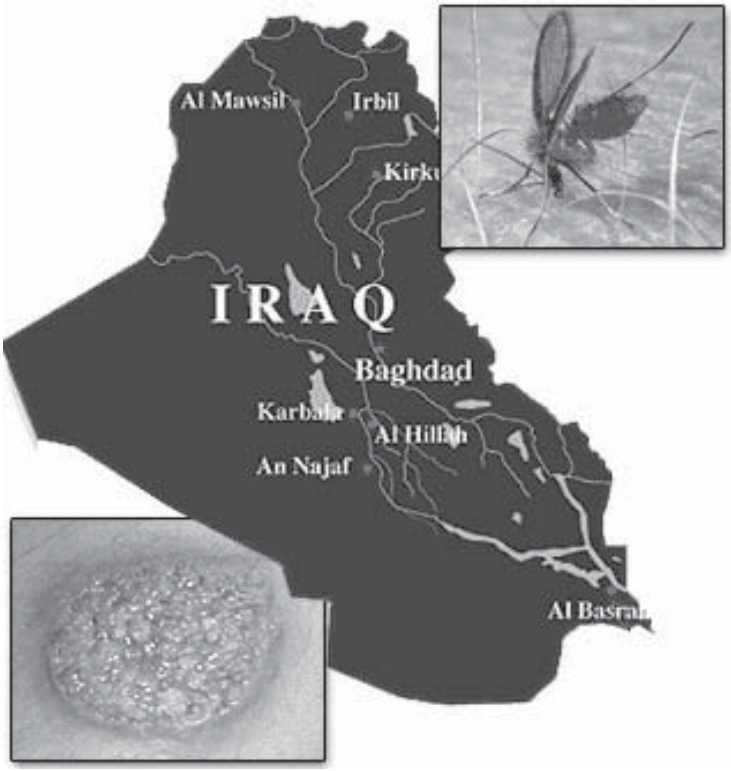
The Lump Sum Selective Reenlistment Bonus is available to qualified Soldiers for a lump sum bonus of up to $15,000; and it's tax-free while in a deployment zone.

All soldiers, grades E-3 through E-6 who are qualified to reenlist, have the opportunity to take advantage of this bonus regardless of their reenlistment window provided they have never received an A or B Zone Bonus.

Soldiers currently in the C Zone, 10 years, but less than 14 years Active Federal Service, are also eligible for this bonus.

Leishmaniasis is not the 'boogey man'

By Capt. Jay Baker
Regimental Surgeon, 3d ACR



"Leishmaniasis!" It was practically the first thing I heard on arrival in Northern Iraq. "Doc! Save us from the Leishmaniasis!"

Our new Area of Operations is known as the leish capital of Iraq and every unit here so far has had multiple cases of leishmaniasis. Last year, the 5/20 Infantry had 117 cases of leishmaniasis after they relaxed their vigilance in preventive measures.

Leishmaniasis is not the boogey man. It is a disease caused by an intracellular protozoan parasite and can take various forms. The most common, by far, is cutaneous leishmaniasis, which is essentially a nonhealing scab or ulcer.

Another form, visceral leishmaniasis, is a disease of the internal organs, including the liver and spleen, and is much less common.

Both forms of leishmaniasis are transmitted by sand fly bites (not sand flea), which feed on mammalian blood primarily at dusk, night, and dawn, but may bite at any time.

Rats and dogs carry leishmaniasis, which is contracted by the sand flies then passed to humans.

Cutaneous leishmaniasis develops as an ulcerative skin lesion 1-6 months after the sand fly bite. It will eventually heal without treatment in 6-12 months but leaves an unsightly scar.

Once ulcers have developed, they are noncommunicable (do not transmit disease). Unfortunately, treatment options are few. One effective form of treatment is skin burning with an electrical device.

In severe cases, individuals may be evacuated to CONUS for intensive IV drug therapy that, in a word, is terrible.

Personal protective measures are the most effective way of avoiding contraction of leishmaniasis. In addition, KBR vector control is working hard to control the local rat population, which will decrease the overall risk.

However, failure to follow these recommendations will undoubtedly result in many of our Soldiers falling victim to this unsightly disease.

Families' interest in their Soldiers compliance with personal protective measures will help bring our soldiers home in unblemished condition.

Personal Protective Measures

1. Strict uniform standards with DCU sleeves down and pants tucked into boots
2. No casual wear of PT shorts or tee shirts at dusk, dawn, or night
3. Keep rooms closed and cool
4. Use mosquito netting on trailer door and/or bed
5. Treat uniforms with permethrin IDA kits every 3-6 months
6. Apply DEET to neck, wrists, and hands 2 times daily or 4 times daily if temperature greater than 90 degrees

REGIMENT'S ENGAGEMENTS

MONTH	LOCATION	UNITS ENGAGED
1 May 1900	Candanglovan, Ilocos Sur, PI	E
5 May 1871	Whetstone Mountains, Ariz.	Detachment F
5 May 1945	Liberation of Ebensee KZ	F, 3d Cav Recon. Sqdn.
7 May 1869	San Augustine Pass, N.M.	Detachment K
7 May 1900	Near Rosario, Union, PI	Detachment M
9 May 1854	Lake Trinidad, Texas	Detachment F, I
18-26 May 1869	Black Range Mountains, near Ft. Bayard, N.M.	Detachment B
19 May 1846	The Regiment of Mounted Riflemen Is formed by an act of Congress	RMR
24 May 1857	Mogollon Mountains (El Canyon de los Muertos Carneros) N.M.	C, D, and I
25 May 1870	Tonto Valley, Ariz.	E
27 May 1856	Devil's River near Fort. Clark, Texas	Detachment H
29 May 1861	Chaparita, N.M.	Detachment E
29 May 1870	Near Camp Apache, Ariz.	Detachment A
30 May 1858	Ewell's Hay Camp, near Fort Defiance, N.M.	Detachment I

274 days of combat over

Regiment celebrates victory in Europe during World War II

Compiled by Jim Mallette

Victory in Europe is achieved! 60 years ago this month the United States and the Allied forces had defeated the Germans in Europe.

The following are excerpts from T/4 Edward V. Migdalski (a radio operator—assigned to the Group Headquarters) recollection of the Regiment's 274th day of combat.

The date was May 7, 1945. A beautiful, cold and clear day dawned on this Monday morning. Our Group Headquarters and Command Post was bivouacked in the Austrian Alps on Kammer Lake, near the small town of Seewalchen, Austria.

The Troopers of Group Headquarters were beginning to stir in the bivouac area, preparing for Sgt. Shank's soon to come breakfast.

[The fast paced movement of the Regiment across Europe didn't always allow them a hot meal. Many time they only had C and K rations to eat.

Since the paced had slowed considerably, they were able to eat "Sgt. Shank's hot but distinctively GI cuisine…"]

There was a sense in the Group Headquarters that the war in Europe was winding down. The Group headquarters had settled into its duty day casually, lacking the sense of urgency and stress that was felt throughout the advance.

At about 1410 Z (1 pm Austrian time), Migdalski began to receive a message from Corps. After acknowledging that he was ready to receive the message, Corps sent a long series of O's (indicating the message was the highest priority).

The message was sent at a very slow speed and was being sent 'words twice' (repeating each character to ensure the receiver would not miss any of the text).

This was the standards procedure used in transmitting urgent tactical messages. As he began to copy the message, Migdalski realized the message was being sent in the clear.

As his eyes came into focus Migdalski on the message he was writing, his "adrenaline began to pump, galvanizing his aural senses into super acuity."

The message he received was:

Date: 7 May 1945

How Sent: Rad [Radio]

Precedence: O [Urgent]

To: CO Gp Hq – 3 Cav Gp

1. A representative of the German high command signed the unconditional surrender of all German land, sea and air forces in Europe to Allied Expeditionary Forces and simultaneously to Soviet High Command at 0141 hours Central European time 7 May under which all forces will cease active operations at 0001 hours 9 May.

2. Effective immediately all offensive opns by Allied Expeditionary Forces will cease and troops will remain in present positions.

Moves involved in occupational duties will continue. Due to the difficulties in communications there may be some delay in similar orders reaching en troops and full defensive precautions will be taken.

No release will be made to the press pending announcement by the heads of the three governments. Signed Eisenhower.

Official Designation of Sender: LN XX Corps

Time Signed: 1420

Signature and Grade of Writer: Edward V. Migdalski, T/4

Migdalski then acknowledged the message by sending an "R" (message received). He then hurried over the C.P. to deliver the good news, "The war was over!"

Later on May 19, 1945 the Regiment celebrated its 99th birthday, near Kammer, Austria.

Never becoming numb

"The American Soldier…is unbeatable in war. We cannot give the American Soldier too much credit…He deserves everything we can do for him and he deserves all the respect we can show him. They perform their duties magnificently and bravely. They don't make policies, and they don't declare war. But they fight, they bleed and they die. And they do it unhesitatingly." — ***former Sergeant Major of the Army George W. Dunaway in a 1990 interview with the Center of Military History on the American Soldier.***

By Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

But they fight, they bleed and they die. From the above quote, by former Sergeant Major of the Army George W. Dunaway, no line has more impact than this one. On May 19 the Regiment of Mounted Rifleman celebrated its 159th year not with fireworks or a band playing patriotic music.

The only crackle in the air came from the firing of a 21-gun Salute and the only music was the sound of Taps humming softly in the background.

The past month the Regiment has lost five troopers in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. These heroes was someone's son, husband, brother and father.

These great Americans gave the ultimate sacrifice serving our nation and also securing the freedom of the Iraqi people.

I was told once a warrior's life is a lonely time with little joy, little thanks and visions not too kind.

I'd like to think those brave warriors who died during this past month had their share of moments of joy, they've been thanked more than once for serving their country and they've envisioned many days of kindness.

We must all remember, name-by-name of these fallen troopers for they fought, they bled and they died.

As we honored each fallen comrade, I became angry at myself for not shedding tears for these brave men. I was angry for having to place their boots, rifles and identification tags in the lens of my camera.

I've also viewed the faces of grown men crying, the faces of young Soldiers hardened by the indiscrimination of death and the faces of leaders maintaining their resolve to continue on.

I understand and feel their pain, for I've seen the tragedy of death up close and personal.

Raising to take another shot of a Soldier bearing his grief for all the world to see has become a sight I hate to capture; however I realize that I must do so.

Every image I capture of a Soldier crying over his batttle buddy, of a Soldier with his head bowed in disbelief of death, of a Soldier comforting his brother is needed and necessary to remind ourselves the consequences of war and the price we pay for freedom. It is true - *freedom is not free.*

Every image I capture needs to remind us to never become numb of the sacrifices the American Soldier makes unhesitatingly.

The sting of losing one of our own has been an unfortunate part of the Regiment's distinctive and heralded history.

The legacy of Mounted Rifleman who have paid the ultimate sacrifice continues from our past to our present deployment.

And tomorrow there will be other heroes, serving in the great Regiment, ready to perform their duties magnificently and bravely.

There will be troopers who will fight, will bleed and will die. It's our responsibility to honor these heroes and their contributions and most importantly - continue to fight and march on towards securing freedom for all men.

Maybe then I'll be able to shed those tears that's been built up inside. Maybe then I'll be able to cry tears of happiness instead of sorrow - unhesitatingly.

May's Fallen Troopers

May 3 - Cpl. Stephen Saxton, 1/3
May 16 - Sgt. Jacob Simpson, 2/3
May 22 - Cpl. Charles Wilkerson,1/3
May 23 - Spc. Joshua Brazee, 1/3