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## RAIDERS DOWN RANGE



Volume 1 Issue 2

Diary of the Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team

April 15, 2005

# War heroes visit FOB Dagger

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

During war, some merely serve while others go on to prove themselves as true heroes. These men fight above and beyond their call of duty, save lives and are recognized for their bravery by their peers and commanders. Men like these receive America's highest award for bravery, the Medal of Honor.

Five of these men visited troops of the 1st Brigade Combat Team at Forward Operating Base Dagger in Tikrit, Iraq. There was a representative from each of the United States Armed Forces. Each of the men wore his medal around his neck during the visit.

Tom Morris of the Navy, John McGinty of the Marine Corps, Leo Thorsness of the Air Force and Gary Littrell and Jack Jacobs of the Army dined and talked with troops about life in the service and shared stories of their experiences.

I want you all to realize who you are in the presence of right now while you are eating," said Command Sgt. Major Robert Gallagher, 1st BCT command sergeant major while in the dining facility. "These men have earned the Medal of Honor. I think it is significant that these men are here visiting a short time after one of our own, Sgt. (1st Class Paul) Smith was given the Medal of Honor which his son received from the president a few days ago."

The Medal of Honor recipients said they were here on a tour to visit all the troops who were

deployed in support of the War on Terror.

"Besides Israel and Turkey, Iraq is the first democratic Arabic country in the middle east," Jacobs said. "These people have never known the freedom you have given them. That in itself is something to be very proud of."

Jacobs assured the Soldiers that they were part of the most awesome force in the world, and any enemy they would encounter in Iraq would not be able to match their professionalism.

"Head to head the enemy here just can't compete," Jacobs said. "They will hide and make bombs that kill the innocent, but they will never face you and fight, because they know they will lose."

After a short film about several Medal of Honor recipients, the men opened the floor to questions from Soldiers. Most of the Soldiers merely thanked the men for coming to visit them and for their service to the country.

"I think it is awesome that they took time out of their lives to come see how we are doing," said Staff Sgt. Kenneth Stephens, a personal security detachment Soldier with 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment.

After the question and answer session, the men took the time to shake the hands of every Soldier who walked by, and posed for numerous pictures with any Soldier who wanted one.

Before he left, Littrell also gave the troops encouragement by letting them know the people back home



Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

Medal of honor recipient Jack Jacobs talks with Maj. Robert Rooker, 1st BCT fire support officer at FOB Dagger dining facility while visiting troops April 8. The visit was part of a tour being done by Medal of Honor recipients to visit deployed Soldiers.

supported them.

"There are people back home who may not agree with the war," Littrell said. "That is why you are over here, so that people will have the freedom to think and say what they want. While they disagree with the war, I have never heard them say anything bad about the individual Soldier. In fact, I eat out a lot, and people in uniform come in all the time at the restaurants where I eat. I can honestly tell you that these people seldom pay for a meal. Before they finish eating, someone has picked up the tab."

# Cottonbalers scout desert, meet locals

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

Much of the land west of Bayji and Tikrit, Iraq to Lake Tharthar is open desert. Apart from a few very small villages, the only thing that can be found in this part of Iraq is a handful of houses and farms. Reconnaissance and control of this part of Iraq falls under the area of operation for C Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment.

"Our mission today was to perform a search and attack out in the western desert portion of my company's sector, which is a pretty large area," said Capt. Jason Friedt, C Co., 2/7 Inf. commander. "On a rough guess, I would say it's about the size of the National Training Center (Fort Irwin, Calif.)"

Both Friedt and Sgt. 1st Class Robert Kloenne, a C Co., 2/7 Inf. platoon sergeant, said there were a couple of reasons for the patrol, to meet the people residing in this part of the country and to gather intelligence on any possible insurgent activity.

"Basically we wanted to come out here to the west-

ern desert and look for any (anti-Iraqi) activity, and identify any reasons why we may need to patrol out here," Kloenne said.

"We do need to patrol more often. It's been very good. We've talked to people in a few of the villages beside (Lake Tharthar), and so far they've reported that they haven't seen any suspicious activity."

Friedt explained the two reasons for stopping in the towns and talking to the residents there.

"First, it was to introduce the company to the people since we haven't been out here all that much," Friedt said. "Second, we were out here to look for some tactical intelligence. (We wanted) to see if the people had seen any AIF, or any foreign fighters out here training, staging or even just hiding out."

If they had any usable information, Friedt said, the Soldiers would get that from them to help focus their search to a more narrow area so they could go and attack that enemy.

Kloenne said since they haven't really ever shown a presence out in this part of Iraq, it was hard to read how the people felt, but overall he said the people's reaction was positive.

"This is the first time we have been out here, so you can't really tell from past experiences what their reactions are to this (presence patrol)," Kloenne said. "So far it's been a very positive reaction."

Kloenne said that most of the patrol has been cross country. The reason for this is to stay away from roads and avoid traffic, as the insurgents probably won't have a camp beside a main road, he said.

"(The insurgents) have a tendency to plant (improvised explosive devices) beside the main roads, so we try to stay away from them as much as possible," Kloenne said.



Photos by Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

Sgt. James Wotherspoon, a gunner for C Co., 2/7 Inf., scans the horizon for possible anti-Iraqi activity in the desert near Lake Tharthar March 29.

Friedt felt that most of the people they talked to were pretty glad to see them.

"The fact that someone is actually asking them about their needs and their problems just makes them feel good," Friedt said.

Friedt said that this patrol was the first of many that C Co. planned to perform during their deployment to Iraq. He also hoped with continued friendly presence patrols, the people residing out here would come to trust the Soldiers.



Staff Sgt. Michael Deliberti, a C Co., 2/7 Inf. truck commander, greets children in a small village.

## Lane Down Range

# Maybe we can come back on vacation

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

As an Army journalist, I think I have the best job in the Army. I travel around to different locations every week and get the chance to experience every job there is in the Army. I believe we journalists get the most experience because we are involved in so many missions.

There are setbacks to our job. Every time I show up at a new location, I am met with distrust. Most of the Soldiers immediately start joking about how they have to keep their mouths shut and watch what they say because the press is here.

It's really a shame that our Soldiers feel that way. I know as a journalist my job is to show the world the great things that are happening over here. I want the world to know that the

majority of the Iraqi people are glad to have some stability in their lives, and are sick of watching things they can't have on television. They want their country to be like any other civilized nation.

I try to explain this to my fellow Soldiers, and after a few minutes I get the trust I need to accomplish my mission. I need the Soldiers to know that their daily efforts are not in vain, and the cool missions they are performing are being recorded. I believe that what I record becomes history.

Years from now I hope someone will be doing a story on the history of one of our battalions, and will pull up one my pictures on the internet. These guys' efforts will never be in vain if they are still being sought after years from now.

We are doing great things. If you talk to most any Iraqi, they are happy



to see us. They enjoy the security we provide. If you look at the numbers, the ones dying in the insurgent attacks are not so much Soldiers as innocent civilians.

The Iraqi security forces are taking responsibility for defending the innocent against such attackers. People are now giving information that leads to insurgents. They are sick of the violence against them. I am here to make sure stories like these become history.

No matter where I am, I make friends. These guys in my area of operation know my face, know my heart and trust me to tell the world the truth. I am not out to show the bad side of

things. I believe that a bad side can be found anywhere. I guess I am that way because I get paid the same no matter what I write. I will not become famous for doing what I do.

That is okay, because I provide a service to the United States Army. Soldiers are happy to see themselves in our meager publications, and the family members back home get excited to see their loved ones doing their job. I don't want the folks to be worried about their Soldiers. There are enough problems in their lives without having to worry about how we are doing.

The people here appreciate what we are doing. They are becoming proud and brave. With the way things are going, maybe we can all pull out of here and come back in a few years to see this beautiful country on vacation. Maybe then I can take some pictures just for fun.

## Cottonbalers train, get set to get wet

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

Soldiers from A Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment trained for amphibious dismount patrols at Forward Operating Base Danger March 24 in preparation for Operation River Street.

"We are doing island clearing missions with the Iraqi Army and Coalition Forces," said Staff Sgt. Daniel Deboer, a boat commander with the 502nd Engineer Multi-Role Bridge Company. "The purpose is to clear the islands (along the Tigris River) of weapons caches that the local insurgents may have been using (to attack Coalition Forces) and are now hiding."

Soldiers from 2/7 Inf. are ready to tackle the mission that lies ahead of them, even though this type of mission is very different from anything they have ever done, said Sgt. Dustin Wheeland, an A Co., 2/7 Inf. team leader.

"What we are doing out here today is training up on how to static load boats that are provided for us by the engineers for this island hopping mission coming up," Wheeland said. "We are pretty much going to be hopping from island to island, clearing them of any (anti-Iraqi forces) activity."

While many Soldiers from 2/7 Inf. are not used to water based missions, they are absorbing the training well, Deboer said.

"They are loving the training, it's something new," Deboer said. "They're excited, and they want to get out there and accomplish the mission. Probably the main challenge is that there are a lot of non-swimmers that are scared of the water. Other than that, everyone else is on top of things and ready to move out."

Deboer has been on missions like this before, and feels his experience has been helpful in preparing the Soldiers for the upcoming missions.

"We have been (preparing) for about a week. A lot of us have experience from being stationed in Tikrit during Operation Iraqi Freedom 1. We had a lot of island clearing missions back then."

Soldiers who participated in the training met with some challenges, but were also confident about accomplishing their mission.

"Some of them are a little afraid of water, we



Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

Spc. Jared Bower, an A Co. 2/7 Inf. machine gunner, leaps from a patrol boat during a training exercise to prepare the Soldiers for an upcoming amphibious assault mission.

have been able to overcome that fear in the last couple of days with a couple of drown-proofing classes," said Sgt. Dustin Wheeland an A Co., 2/7 Inf. team leader. "We don't fear the water too much. The biggest complaint we've had is about getting wet. Everybody likes to stay dry over here, but they're sucking it up and driving on. It's just one of those things that come down the pipe and you have to do it. For most of us this is the first time being on a boat. We're mechanized infantry. We never dealt too much with amphibious assaults. We run around in bradleys and humvees mostly. We've never had a call for an amphibious island assault."

One of the challenges the Soldiers faced was boarding the boat with all of their gear, including a life jacket, said Pfc. Allen Black, an A Co. 2/7 Inf. rifleman.

"It's not easy getting up the front of the boat

wearing all this stuff. You kind of need some help."

Deboer said he was able to apply the lessons learned from the first deployment to come up with a set standard. He has been able to pass these standards, such as boat movement formations and unloading procedures, along to the Soldiers he trains for amphibious operations today.

Now that the Soldiers are trained up, all that awaits them is a chance to go out and do what they do best; get the job done.

"Being as early in the deployment as it is, it could be a one time deal, we could do it again," Wheeland said. "Everyone is pretty psyched about the mission."

Operation River Street will be one of the few missions to include air, land and water elements of the Army.

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Photos by Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

Soldiers of A Company 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment load onto patrol boats on the Tigris River to clear an island for Operation River Street March 26.



Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment watch as a OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter banks hard over their position on the banks of the Tigris River.

## Raiders raid islands

**Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.**  
Editor

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 502nd Engineer Battalion and the Iraqi Army participated in Operation River Street on the Tigris River March 26.

The purpose of the operation was to clear islands along the Tigris of insurgents and weapons caches, and to limit the amount of space anti-Iraqi forces had to conduct their operations. The operation was a collaboration of air, land and water elements.

"During the first day of Operation River Street, we searched six islands, found approximately 20 (AK-47 rifles) and detained one person," said Command Sgt. Maj. Samuel D. Coston, 2/7 Inf. command sergeant major. "We had information from (our intelligence) that personnel were using the islands to hide supplies for the insurgents."

Coston said by destroying the weapons and taking charge of the sites he hoped that the supply of weapons to the insurgency

would not continue.

Operation River Street was much like any other patrol the Soldiers had been on, said Sgt. Gary Heidrich, a team leader with 2/7 Infantry. The only difference was the environment in which they worked.

"We basically just walk the island," Heidrich said.

"We spread out and clear the whole island. We ran into some pretty thick brush, and the mud out here gets pretty deep. Other than that it's gone pretty good."

The Soldiers faced challenges on this mission, as they are accustomed to ground operations.

"Operation River Street was a boat mission," Coston said. "We are mechanized infantry with tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles."

"What we were doing was denying the anti-Iraqi forces sanctuary by securing those islands," said Spc. Matthew Shorey, a 2/7 Inf. rifleman. "It was a new thing to many of us. As infantry, we don't get on boats. We are a pretty versatile force, so this wasn't a big deal."



Soldiers from A Co., 2/7 Inf. unload from a patrol boat on the Tigris River to look for weapons and insurgents.



Spc. Richard Coppin, a 2/7 Inf. rifleman, counts seized AK-47s found in a cache during an island raid.



Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment and the 502nd Engineer Battalion cruise down the Tigris River on their way to one of the many islands they will be clearing for the operation.

## On the frontline

# Raiders honor those who fell

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

One of the grim facts of serving in a combat zone is the fact that not everyone gets to go home. While the Army takes all types of precautions to keep their Soldiers safe, elements outside of the Army's control still claim the lives of Soldiers.

One way of honoring these Soldiers is to build a memorial to remember their sacrifice. In the 1st Brigade Combat Team's headquarters building, there is a wall with pictures of the Soldiers who have fallen while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom 3.

"The purpose of the wall is to memorialize our fallen Soldiers," said Chaplain Mark Nordstrom 1st BCT chaplain. "It was to provide a visual reminder to all the Soldiers who come into our brigade headquarters of the price that some Soldiers have paid to fight terrorists."

The idea for this wasn't original, said Sgt. 1st Class Charles Heard, 1st BCT chaplain's assistant. He said throughout the history of war Soldiers have always made memorials to those lost in battle. Heard said the last division stationed at Forward Operating Base Dagger had a similar memorial in place.

(The 1st Infantry Division) had one, so it's hardly an original concept," Heard said. "My predecessor had also put (a memorial) together. The idea of rendering honor to fallen comrades has been around as long as the Army I'm sure. The mechanics of it



Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

Chaplain Mark Nordstrom gives an invocation while Maj. Gen Taluto, 42nd Inf. Div. commander, Col. Mark Mcknight, 1st BCT commander and other leaders bow their heads during the dedication of a Soldiers' wall at FOB Dagger April 4.

maybe has changed, but it's basically the same idea."

Heard said today's Army is different than that of the past.

"We are a volunteer army," Heard said. "If we had been conscripted, then it would be different. For me, at least, it means a lot more when someone willingly puts themselves in harm's way and pays the ultimate sacrifice."

While no Soldier expects to lose his buddy in battle, Heard and Nordstrom made arrangements ahead

of time to honor those who might fall during this deployment.

"We did come prepared," Heard said. "War is an inherently dangerous situation. Nobody wants to have to memorialize their comrades. It's not for the Soldiers who died, it's for the survivors. It's a chance to pay their respects and render honor."

While the Chaplain's Corps has many responsibilities, honoring the dead is one of the more grim aspects of their job.

"It's in our lane," Heard said. "Our branch has three priorities, honor the dead, care for the wounded and nurture the living. That's actually doctrinal for us. This wall is part of honoring the dead, but it's more than that. It's an extension of our ministry to allow others to render honors and pay homage to their fallen comrades."

Although the memorial does not make up for the service of the soldier who fell, it is the best that we can do to remember them for their service, Nordstrom said.

"Putting the pictures on the wall was one way of never leaving a fallen Soldier behind," Nordstrom said. "We can't change the fact that they're dead or relieve the grief of their families, but we can recognize that what they did was noble. We can seek to emulate what they did and try to live up to the high calling of being a Soldier. I am not sure if pictures on a wall can do all that, but they certainly serve as a reminder of what we should do."

## Simple rules to avoid deadly accidents

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

Soldiers in theater are exposed to many dangerous situations. These situations are not only from the anti-Iraqi forces but within the Soldiers' units. A good way to avoid these risks is to follow simple standard rules for safety.

"The most important things to take away for safety is some of the same things you would follow at home," said Capt. Brian Pratt, 1st Brigade Combat Team safety officer.

There are easy to remember rules for vehicle safety while in theater, Pratt said.

"Obviously the most important thing to remember is seatbelts," Pratt

said. "It doesn't necessarily reduce the amount of accidents, but it lets you walk away from them.

"The second most important thing is to have a speed appropriate for the tactical and environmental situation, to include night driving," he continued. "In doing such, it gives the Soldier much more time to react to a certain situation and to think through a given scenario."

Instead of speeding into a certain situation the Soldier will have more time to react to it, Pratt said.

"If you are a gunner, of course one of the primary rehearsals is the rollover drill," Pratt said. "Also it is important to remember the name tape defile rule. The plane of the top of the truck

hits you mid chest, at your name tape level. As a gunner, you are kind of like the vehicle's early warning scout.

"One thing about vehicles is we have had a consistent accident rate, but the severity has dropped to just monetary damage versus human life," Pratt said. "This is because there has been such a command emphasis on buckling up and staying safe."

Each Soldier in Iraq carries a loaded weapon with them while outside of their protected place of duty. With that many loaded weapons, accidents can happen frequently, but can also be easily avoided.

"The overall number of Soldiers clearing their weapons is 7,000 to 10,000 times a day," Pratt said. "Most

negligent discharges happen in the clearing barrel. Most intermediate leaders do a good job on checking young Soldiers; however they don't have their Soldiers check them at the clearing barrels. The E5 and E6 ranks have the highest number of negligent discharges. It's just a matter of teamwork. Though the leaders may think they have everything covered, the privates and specialists need to back up their sergeants."

There are many reasons for safety, there is one reason Soldiers can agree on, Pratt said.

"The main reason is we will bring Soldiers home," Pratt said. "We lose more Soldiers to accidents than we lose to combat. It's all about going home."

## Our New Home in Iraq

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

Each day we are exposed to new terrain and customs that have been a part of Iraq since the beginning of civilization. Iraq has many dangers as well as many beautiful and foreign things.

The Iraqi people are ready to get back to a relatively peaceful way of life.

While many of the

Iraqis outside the cities and away from the Tigris River valley are living in extreme poverty, they seem to manage in the way they have for over a thousand years. Tending livestock is a main source of sustenance.

Many Soldiers who work directly with the Iraqi people say they will miss them when it is time to go home. They say they have gained a real appreciation and love for these ancient people.



Photos by Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

The sun casts a reflection on the lake and palaces outside the MWR building on FOB Danger.



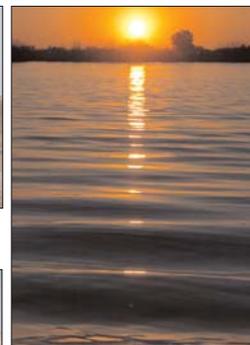
Most of the land to the west of the Tigris River valley is barren. Despite the lack of vegetation and roads, many Iraqis still live out here.



Pfc. Chris Romanello makes a tabletop with an Iraqi worker at FOB Dagger.



Soldiers push a humvee out of the mud on the banks of Lake Tharthar.



The sun rises over an island on the Tigris River near Samarra.



An Iraqi ute player demonstrates his talent.

# Congressmen visit Soldiers

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

The 1st Brigade Combat Team received a visit at Forward Operating Base Dagger from three United States congressmen March 30.

Senator James M. Inhofe from Oklahoma, Senator Michael B. Enzi from Wyoming and Representative John Boozman from Arkansas flew in to visit and take pictures with Soldiers from their respective states.

Leaders of 1st BCT received the congressmen when they stepped off the aircraft. Col. Mark McKnight, 1st BCT commander and Command Sgt Maj. Robert Gallagher, 1st BCT command sergeant major, greeted the visitors and led them inside for a briefing.

The Soldiers were happy the congressmen could make it out to see them.

"It was a morale booster," said Sgt.

Michael Debow, FOB Dagger repair and utilities noncommissioned officer in charge, who is from Arkansas. "It was nice that (Boozman) actually took time out of his busy schedule to come to a combat zone and see how we all are doing."

The congressmen weren't getting the full story about what was going on in Iraq from the media back home, said Capt. Andy Tompkins, 1st BCT adjutant.

"They were trying to get a better understanding of what goes on here in Iraq," Tompkins said. "The media only gives them so much, so they wanted to get the bigger picture."



Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

Representative John Boozman from Arkansas talks with Soldiers from his state. The congressmen met with the Soldiers and asked them about their life in theater, and talked with them about things going on back home. The Soldiers then posed for pictures with the congressmen from their respective states at FOB Dagger March 30.

## Marne and Rainbow Soldiers get battle patch

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

Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, and the 42nd Infantry Division held a ceremony at Forward Operating Base Dagger to receive their combat patches April 4.

Operation Iraqi Freedom 3 was not the first time Soldiers from these two divisions have fought side by side.

"The combat patches being presented today are a reminder of another point in history where the Rainbow Division and Marne Soldiers stood shoulder to shoulder on the battlefield as we do today," said Col. Mark McKnight, 1st BCT commander. "In the summer of 1918, the 42nd Infantry Division and the 3rd Infantry Division defeated the German army at the second battle of the Marne, marking the turning point of the First World War"

Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto presented commanders of Task Force Liberty and their command sergeants major with a 42nd Inf. Div. combat patch.

"It is hard to believe how much a small piece of cloth can mean to a



Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, 42nd Inf. Div. commander, gives Lt. Col. Todd Wood, 2nd Battalion 7th Infantry Regiment commander, a combat patch during a ceremony at FOB Dagger April 4. The patch is given after 90 days of deployment.

Soldier," Taluto said. Taluto went on to explain how

throughout history Soldiers have always been proud to don a combat

patch on their shoulder as a sign of having been in battle.

The date of the ceremony was significant because two years ago on this day the 1st BCT deposed former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

"As the sun rose over Baghdad, the regime of Saddam Hussein awoke to a new reality," McKnight said. "Their propaganda could no longer stand up to the light of that morning sun. The Raider Brigade, as the first element of the 3rd Infantry Division, had arrived in Baghdad. We came not as conquerors but as liberators. We came to help the Iraqi people shove aside a tyrant as the Iraqis embraced freedom and liberty as if they were a long lost brother."

McKnight asked the Soldiers to be proud of the patch they were now authorized to wear and to keep Soldiers of the past in their minds.

"I would like all of you to remember one thing," McKnight said. "When you look at the combat patch you earned here today, remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country."

## Combat patches have unique meaning, history

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

Unit patches are worn by every Soldier in the U.S. Army. Each patch has a distinct history behind its design.

Recently Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team and the 42nd Infantry Division were authorized to wear a combat patch on the right shoulder of their uniform. This authorization came after the Soldiers were in a combat zone for 90 days.

This was the first time since World War I that these two units had fought side by side in battle.

Each of the units' patches draw their meaning from World War I.

The 3d Infantry Division shoulder patch consists of a square containing three diagonal white stripes on a dark blue field. The blue stripes represent the infantry, loyalty and the steadfastness of American Soldiers.

The three diagonal white stripes are a designation of the three major operations in which the division took a part in up until the signing of the Armistice, according to Troy Hester, 3rd Inf. Div.

historian. The three major operations were Chateau Thierry, St. Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne, all located along the Marne River in France. The three white stripes also represent the numerical designation of the Division.

The idea for the insignia originated with Brigadier General Preston Brown, who commanded the Division during the Meuse-Argonne offensive.

According to the 42nd Inf. Div. Public Affairs Office the 42d Inf. Div. received the name Rainbow Division in 1917 during its organization at Camp Mills, Long Island, New York. The Chief of Staff of the Division at that time was Colonel Douglas MacArthur. As they were discussing the organization of the division and reviewing the Army National Guard units from 26 states that would make up the Division, MacArthur commented that, "The 42nd Division stretches like a rainbow from one end of America to the other." The comment caught the interest of those present and they decided to call it the Rainbow Division.

After a few weeks of training had passed, it was decided to create a patch for the division.

Local seamstresses in Hempstead were contacted and a rainbow patch was created out of strips of felt on squares of brown wool uniform cloth. The three primary colors of the rainbow; red, gold, and blue were selected. The soldiers immediately adopted the design. Since there was no method for the government to provide the patches, seamstresses on Long Island, and later in France, were kept busy throughout the war sewing Rainbow Patches.

The shoulder sleeve insignia was originally authorized by telegram on 29 Oct 1918 for the 42d Division. It was officially authorized for wear on 27 May 1922. On 8 Sept., 1947 it was authorized for the 42d Infantry Division.

When 42nd Inf. Div. returned from the battlefields of Europe, they had lost over half their men. Soldiers who made it home tore their patches in half, saying only half of them came back.

Since then, only half a rainbow is worn on their sleeves in remembrance of those who fell. (Editor's note: Since Soldiers of 1st BCT are attached to the 42nd Inf. Div., they are authorized to wear either unit's patch.)

## Chaplain's Corner

# Raiders came with noble mission

Chaplain Mark Nordstrom  
1st BCT Chaplain

Dear Soldiers and Families of the Raider Brigade, On this second anniversary of Operation Iraqi Freedom, I know that many of you are separated from your loved ones for the second time in three years. I'd like to take this opportunity to recall why we are separated from each other, and so gain some strength for this year.

The following is an admonition delivered to our Commanders at a final map rehearsal in the desert outside of Karbala, just before our final push through the Gap and on to Baghdad April 1, 2003. It captures, I think, the reason for why we fight and why our families pay the price.

Gentlemen, Just hours before four of our soldiers were killed by a terrorist's car bomb, our President had these words to say: "We are now fighting their most desperate units. The current generation of our military will not let us down. Though our POWs have been brutalized and executed U.S. soldier are showing kindness and respect to the Iraqi people and treating the enemy wounded despite the criminal acts of our enemy."

In other words, we are better than our enemy because we are different. What makes us different? To a large degree, the oath we took to protect and defend the constitution of the United States calls us to be better than we otherwise would be had we not

sworn an oath. Let me read from our Declaration of Independence, which made possible our country, our constitution and our calling:

*"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness--That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."*

Our roots are established deep in the soil of freedom. We march not to enslave, but to liberate and give these people of Iraq freedom from a wretched government, which if left alone would visit death upon our families.

Think of this: This land has witnessed the passage of many armies. The Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar, the Medes under Darius, the Persians under Artaxerxes and the Greeks under Alexander. But this land has never seen an army that marched to liberate its people – an army that kills not to conquer but to set free.

We will kill our enemies, but not without quarter.

We will defeat them, but not lose our dignity.

We will visit upon them the violence they would otherwise take to our homes, but without the

vengeance that will kill our spirits.

"Vengeance is mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

I've got a stone in my pocket here that I picked up in Kuwait when Brigadier General Austin spoke to the Soldiers of 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment. I carry it to remind me of those Soldiers and all of our soldiers.

When David went to battle against Goliath, he picked up five smooth stones to take into battle. We are not David against Goliath, and this is not a war of one religion versus another. But I mention this in order to say to you what King Saul said to David as he went into battle, "The Lord go with you."

The Lord does go with us. We have the moral high ground in this fight. The people who are protesting this war are moral midgets. They would deny to us the right to defend ourselves and at the same time commit these Iraqi people to the brutal reign of a truly evil dictator.

You are the Soldiers who will ensure the freedoms that our constitution enshrines. You are the Americans who will purchase freedom for this, and hopefully the next, generation of our people.

As I carry this stone I will pray the Lord will go with you. God bless you, know that I and all of the chaplains of the Raider Brigade continue to pray for you as we bring freedom to a land wracked by wars, despotism and fear.

We believe by being here we are securing the freedom of our homes and families. Let's keep this kind of faith as we go through this year.

## Iraqi Police rebuild after car bomb attack

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

The insurgency in Iraq targets not only Coalition Forces, but Iraqi Security Forces as well. Despite these attacks, Iraqis are not throwing in the towel. They know they have a job to do.

The 911 call center in Tikrit suffered an attack Feb. 24 by a vehicle borne improvised explosive device. Ten officers were killed and 35 other officers and civilians were injured.

The driver of the vehicle lied to the officer guarding the front gate, said Col. Ibrahim Khalaff Nutlik al Juboori, chief of the 911 call center. He disguised himself as a policeman and told the officer he was a transfer from a different unit.

Before he was quite inside, the officer noticed the driver's hands were chained to the steering wheel. When the guard tried to stop the driver, he sped past him and drove around to the back of the building, where he detonated the bomb inside of the vehicle, Nutlik said.

The driver hid the explosives inside the door panels of the car he

was driving," Nutlik said. "I guess he figured if we searched the trunk that we wouldn't find anything. There were some workers behind the car, and none of them were hurt. The officers standing on either side of the vehicle were killed, however."

The attack did significant damage to the police compound's structure.

The blast was so strong that it blew out windows in the houses and buildings surrounding the compound.

Soldiers from A Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment were passing through the gate at Forward Operating Base Danger when they heard the blast.

"I was so used to hearing explo-

sions that at first I didn't really think anything of it," said 1st Lt. Lane Melton, a 2/7 Inf. platoon leader. "Then some of my high speed non-commissioned officers told me we had better check it out."

Upon arriving on the scene of the attack, Melton's first reaction was to look for a culprit. When he saw the damage and loss of life, he immediately started helping with the dead and injured.

In the short time since the attack, the police station has been rebuilt. Although the terrorists did succeed in killing some officers, injuring some civilians and causing much damage, they failed in destroying the morale of the policemen, said Lt. Arkan Hawass Kanaan, one of the 911 call center's patrol officers.

Despite the attack, none of the officers quit the force, Not only did all the policemen continue with their duties, but relatives of those killed or injured in the attack volunteered to take their place, he said.

"The people are counting on us to keep them secure and stable," Nutlik said. "The attack only made us work harder and become closer."



Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

An Iraqi policeman stands next to a pached hole in a wall that surrounds their police station. The hole was caused by an engine block the was embedded after a VBIED exploded within their compound, killing 10 and injuring 35.

## Coalition assists Iraqi judges to obtain new vehicles

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

The legal system in Iraq is functioning, but it works differently from that of the United States. While the Iraqi court system does have some electronic capabilities, much of its work is done by transferring information in hard copy format.

For Iraqi officials to be able to do this successfully, they need reliable transportation. The Coalition Forces were willing to help by donating cars to Salah ad Din province.

"We are trying to provide vehicles to the investigative judges," said Brig. Gen. Eissa Abid

Mahmoud, Provincial Joint Coordination Center director. "These judges are from all over the province."

One of the judges' main responsibilities is on site investigations, Mahmoud said. The vehicles are vital to the judges' work.

"In the Iraqi system they have investigative judges that actually go out and gather evidence," said Maj. Dean Lynch, 1st Brigade Combat Team staff judge advocate.

"The vehicles will be used for the judges to move around during investigations," Mahmoud said. "These investigations need to continue so the judges can better serve the people."

It took a while for the vehicles to come in and be distributed to the judges, Lynch said.

"The request was actually put in for the vehicles while (the 1st Infantry Division) was here," Lynch said.

"Before they got the new vehicles, the judges were using their personal vehicles to get their jobs done," Mahmoud said. "This became stressful on them."

While Coalition Forces do assist in small matters, the Iraqis run their own court system.

"The courts are actually functioning here," Lynch said. "We are trying to do whatever we can to help it function more efficiently."