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RAIDERS DOWN RANGE



Volume 1 Issue 2

Diary of the Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team

April 30, 2005

Soldiers patrol new landscape

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

Members of 3rd battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment and 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry conducted Operation Forsyth Park outside the city of Samarra beginning April 17.

"We're actually looking for foreign fighters," said Maj. Pat Walsh, the 3/69 Armor operations officer. The Soldiers are also trying to determine the sphere of influence any foreign fighters may have had over the people who live in these rural areas, Walsh said.

This operation is meant to gather information more than it is meant to make arrests or engage any enemy.

"Our success isn't determined by the amount of individuals we have detained," Walsh said. "We have been able to get a positive influence not only for Coalition Forces, but for the Iraqi Security Forces as well."

The people in these areas haven't really interact-



Staff Sgt. Thomas Mills.

Soldiers pull security during a stop in the desert outside of Samarra during Operation Forsyth Park.



Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

Soldiers of 3/69 Armor patrol a street in the city of Samarra in an M1 Abrams tank. Samarra is a hotbed for insurgent activity, and daily presence patrols like these are a common sight within the city.

ed with Coalition Soldiers since Operation Iraqi Freedom 1, but with the help of the ISF, much more progress is being made.

"This is really the first contact these people have had with Soldiers since the first OIF," Walsh said. "Coalition Forces and Iraqi Security Forces are driving together. They are speaking their language and asking questions about not only foreign fighters, but how they can help or how we can help them."

This type of mission is a big change from what the Soldiers are used to doing.

"These guys have been in the city fighting, now they are out in the desert," Walsh said.

"Our guys are used to doing patrols in Samarra,

which is a pretty big city," said Capt. Ryan Wylie, B Company, 3/69 Armor commander. "The guys are really getting a good feel for the diversity around the city. They get experience from operating in the urban areas, and from this recent operation we have been working primarily in a rural area."

This not only benefits the Soldiers with a new kind of environment, but deters the terrorists from operating in an area they once thought was safe for them, Walsh said.

"We wanted to switch up and do something completely different. We wanted to let any terrorists know we will deny the enemy sanctuary."

Iraqis compensated for damages

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

Iraq is a combat zone. In a combat zone, accidental damage to private property and civilian injuries are inevitable.

When Coalition Forces are at fault, they are willing to pay restitution to the victims of these accidents as long as they have proof of the incident.

Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment Iraqi Security Forces liaison and civil affairs office went to downtown Samarra to review claims by Iraqis and distribute funds April 25.

"When people have damage to property, or someone in their family is killed as a result of our operations, they present evidence to us," said 1st Lt. Doug Maritato, the 3/69 Armor Iraqi Security Forces liaison officer in charge. "This evidence can be documents, photographs, medical records or death certificates."

Since most of the evidence presented by the Iraqi nationals is written in Arabic, an interpreter is needed to translate the evidence and dialogue spoken between the Coalition Forces and the Iraqis.

"We have an interpreter to help us look over all the peoples' evidence," said Staff Sgt. Jason Smith, the Iraqi Security Forces liaison noncommissioned officer in charge. "With his help, we determine whether or not the evidence is legitimate. If it is, we sign off on it and give them a certain amount of funds."

The funds for the Iraqis come from two different

sources, Smith said. One is the Iraqi Relief and Reconstruction Fund, which is used to build projects that aid the Iraqi economy. The other is the commander's emergency response program bulk fund. These funds are used as restitution for damaged property and bodily harm.

The IRRF funds are distributed by a higher command, said Capt. Rod McCauley, 411th Civil Affairs Battalion. "The Iraqis propose new projects, and we decide which ones will get funded. We send the request higher up the chain of command."

McCauley drives to the sites of different projects to inspect the progress being made and how the funds are being invested.

"We don't have a problem paying for things, but I want to be sure we are getting value for our money," McCauley said.

Not all the Iraqis get the funds they ask for, Smith said. Sometimes the evidence provided isn't enough to justify restitution.

Aside from that, Coalition Forces don't offer any restitution for damage caused by anti-Iraqi forces.

The main point is to show the Iraqis that the Coalition Forces are responsible for their own actions, and they are willing to pay for any accidents that are caused because of them.

"Anytime we mess something up, we fix it, if all the evidence proves it was our fault," Maritato said. "It's a good solution to these peoples' problems."



Photos by Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

Iraqi Security Forces liaison officer 1st Lt. Doug Maritato and Staff Sgt. Jason Smith of 3/69 Armor review a claim made by an Iraqi woman for payment on damaged property in Samarra April 25.

Lane Down Range

You can't keep a good Soldier down

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

I am continually surprised by the camaraderie of Soldiers. No matter what the living conditions are here, they drive on. They joke, laugh and make the best of their situation and surroundings. Somewhere in the back of everyone's mind, they are cognizant of their discomfort. But the Soldiers around them provide too much of a positive distraction for many of them to dwell in misery.

I have been to many of the forward operating bases here in northern Iraq. No matter how bad one Soldier thinks he has it, believe me, there is another remote outpost not too far away where Soldiers are truly living in squalor. Many of the smaller places don't have regular hot chow, decent bathing facilities or latrines. There are no waste dis-

posal systems. Soldiers actually have to empty the outhouses and burn the waste.

I was at Patrol Base Razor not too long ago watching some Soldiers burn waste. It has to be one of the worst details a Soldier can get. Yet these guys were out there laughing and joking while performing their duty. It seems like you can't get these guys down.

In the city of Samarra, where Razor is located, there are attacks on our troops almost daily. Yet you never see any of these volunteers giving in to the pressures that the insurgents try to put on them. They remain alert, aware and full of humor. Much of the humor isn't something you would bring to church, but it is good stuff.

I want the American public to know how awesome their Soldiers are. I never met people like this in the civilian world. Nobody I remember would



be willing to put up with this kind of stuff. Yet I see Soldiers reenlisting. I see Soldiers sitting anxiously, waiting to go out on that next patrol and find bad guys.

We all miss our families. Yet having buddies like these make it worth being here. We all want to go home, but that is not an option. Most of you will see the pictures and hear the stories, but you will never know what it was like to serve with such an awesome group of people.

Being a public affairs specialist, I go out with different people almost every day. I have made many friends. I can't tell you how good it is to roll into a

base and see a guy that you recognize. You get maybe five minutes to retell all the things that have happened in the last few months, and then they are gone. Most of the goodbyes are things like "be careful" or "keep your head down."

Most of us have lost a buddy since we have been here. These Soldiers die fighting for something they believe in. Nobody has to be here. We all know the loopholes in the system. Any of us could have gotten out if we want to. It is an amazing force that drives us to do what we do day in and day out.

We hope you will all remember the sacrifices we make. These folks are beginning to see what it is like to be free. The things we take for granted every day, these people have never known. When we leave, these people will not only know freedom, but demand it.

Glory's Guns of 1/41 light up the night

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

In the middle of the night, a loud explosion rips through the darkness. A few seconds later, and a few kilometers away, the ground is lit up by a light in the sky. Enemies who were depending on the cover of darkness now have no place to hide. This was made possible by Soldiers of B Battery, 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery Regiment April 22.

"Tonight we are going to fire two different kinds of rounds," said 1st Lt. John Dorffeld, a B Battery 1/41 FA platoon leader. "We have two guns we are taking with us, and each one will fire in a different direction, giving us a good lateral spread."

"Basically we were given a mission to supply illumination coverage for the (Ministry of Interior) during Operation Forsyth Park," said Sgt. 1st Class Mark Lowry, B Battery 1/41 platoon sergeant.

Illumination coverage lights up the area for ground troops so they have more situational awareness, Lowry said. "We were taking back the night from the insurgents."

The illumination round have several different purposes, the most important being the identification of enemy targets, Lowry said.

"We had a good function of all the illumination rounds, with chief coverage of a grid area. Basically we have an observer out there with sight of six or eight kilometers," Lowry said. "When the round bursts he uses it to identify targets. We also use the round as a distraction for the enemy. The enemy will look up and watch the round. It also gives us an idea of who is doing wrong. You can't really hear the round until it is right over you, and by then it is too late for them to disguise what they are doing."

The artillery Soldiers got the intelligence for their area of fire from a group of special scouts who observe the area well before the fire mission.

"We were firing on predetermined targets," Lowry said. "Our fire support element got information from the (long range surveillance detachment) that there was high insurgent activity in the area."

After the illumination rounds, 1/41 tested 15 rocket assisted projectiles. A RAP goes beyond what a regular round could reach due to the rocket propulsion.

"It will go two or three kilometers further, depending on the size of the charge, which increas-



Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

An illumination round lights up the sky in the distance after being fired from a Paladin near Samarra, Iraq, April 22. The illumination round's primary purpose is to light up an area for ground troops.

es our range" Lowry said. "Not only does this keep our Soldiers safer, but it saves time on having to move forward to engage targets that under normal circumstances would be out of our range."

Since the artillery rounds are so expensive, the platoon leader has to account for all the rounds before packing up, Dorffeld said. "We have to send a message in to higher up before we can leave. They want to make sure everything went smoothly. I don't want to go back with any rounds."

The platoon command team considered the exercise a success for several different reasons.

"It was a very successful night," Lowry said. "For one it was a different operation that we don't normally get to do. Our main mission is terrain denial and counter fire. It was a morale booster for the

Soldiers, because they don't usually get to see us fire."

Artillery elements are very powerful and destructive. There is much preparation that goes into a fire mission. The Soldiers are trying to avoid damage to anything that is not expected to be in the impact area of the rounds.

"Basically we are trying to win the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people," Lowry said. "We have to go out there and observe and make sure we don't kill a guy trying to repair an irrigation ditch. We are trying to make allies, not enemies. If we make the whole country suffer we aren't going to be able to accomplish that. Neither can we do that if we are causing damage to Iraqi property."

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Photos by Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

A group of young workers pose for a picture after cleaning trash off the streets of the city of Samarra. Many young men work on municipal projects in the city.



Children run from their neighborhood to get a glimpse and cast a wave at an American convoy as it passes by on its mission patrolling the streets of Samarra.

Children are the future

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.
Editor

they are survivors of violent times, and they seem much older than they really are.

There is one group of people in Iraq who are generally innocent to the fighting going on around them. They are the Iraqi children.

Yet their youthful spirit shines through the violence and poverty that has aged their faces. They wrestle and play in the streets like any normal kids.

The children here are like kids anywhere else in the world. They are curious and playful. Their wants and needs are simple. A pen or a soccer ball will win any Soldier a gap-toothed grin.

These children are the future of Iraq. It is important for Soldiers to show them a positive example of who we really are. Their impressions of us will become evident in the years to come. Soon they will be the voters, policemen, soldiers and politicians that run this country we have strived so hard to rebuild.

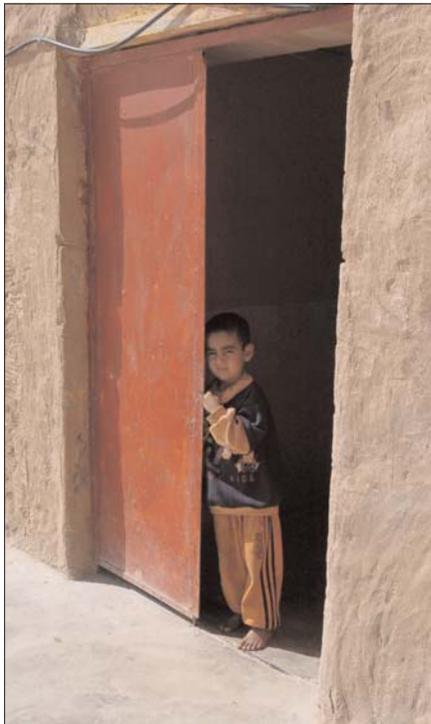
When a Coalition Forces convoy drives by children can be seen running towards it from half of a mile away. They want nothing more than to get a chance to wave at the passing Soldiers and give them a thumbs up.

It is evident the Soldiers who patrol the streets every day are the ones who are most important in the development of these children's opinions. They are excited and curious about the strange Americans, with all their gear and weapons. Before we came, the only thing they knew about us is what they had seen in films and on television.

These kids know nothing of politics. Many become victims of the fighting that rages in the streets of any given city here. They are like American kids, and have to be kept out of danger. Unfortunately, many times it doesn't happen.

Long after we are gone, these kids will remember our presence.

Many of the kids here speak English fairly well. They may have learned it in school, or from talking to the Americans. Many of



A small boy in the western desert hides behind a doorway during a visit by Soldiers to his father's farm.



A small boy renders a salute after a ceremony in Tikrit. This boy helps the Iraqi Soldiers around their compound.



Boys in the city of Al Alam, a suburb of Tikrit, make crazy hand gestures while posing for a picture outside of their houses. The boys were visiting with Soldiers during a stop in their neighborhood.

On the frontline

Some watch while others sleep

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

Each of the Coalition Forces' forward operating bases in Iraq is controlled by tight security. This includes guard towers, entry control points and track vehicles guarding the perimeters.

On FOB Brassfield-Mora, a FOB on the outskirts of Samarra, one of the units responsible for force protection is D Company, 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment.

"It's not an exciting job, but it is nonetheless an important job," said Staff Sgt. Roger Pates, a D Co., 3/69 Armor tank commander.

"Delta Company's purpose here in Brassfield-Mora is force protection," said First Sgt. Connie Rounds, D Co. 3/69 Armor first sergeant. "Force protection is our only mission. The Soldiers performing guard duty do not have an easy job. The heat and the time they are out in the elements is a real challenge, but the Soldiers drive on with their mission."

"The Soldiers have eight hour shifts," Rounds said. "They're doing an outstanding job. I've been here three weeks now, and the temperature is getting higher. I've been out there walking to the (battle positions), walking to the front gate, and they are motivated. We take water out to them, we take chow out to them, and they know they are going to get their (rest and relaxation) leave soon."



Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

Pfc. Frank Villalola from D. Co. 3/69 Armor, and an Iraqi Soldier guard the entry control point at Brassfield-Mora April 23. The Soldiers search all vehicles and foot traffic entering the FOB. The Soldiers are exposed to the elements all day.

The Soldiers inside the tracked vehicles have it harder than any of the other guards. They have to guard their posts and pretty much stay stationary during the length of their shift.

The only time they get to move is when they get out of the way for incoming and outgoing convoys. The heat can be overwhelming at times.

"Those metal beasts add about 10 to 15 degrees to the heat," Pates said. "The best they are going to get is 215 air conditioning. Two hatches open going

15 miles an hour. The guys guarding the gates never get to move, though."

The entry control point sees the most activity out of all the positions. This is where Iraqi locals who arrive for work or to talk to the Coalition Forces have access to the FOB.

"When it comes to the front gate the locals sometimes get a little rowdy, but (the guards) always keep their composure," Rounds said. "They know what they need to do, and they know their (rules of engagement)."

An Iraqi Army base is located directly behind the FOB. Much of the civilian traffic that comes through the gates is Iraqi civilian workers who are employed by the Iraqi Army.

Iraqi Soldiers and civilians constantly use the gate for access, said Staff Sgt. James Tucker, D Co. 3/69 Armor sergeant of the guard.

"We usually just make the Iraqis clear their weapons," Tucker said. "We do have a lot of civilian traffic coming in though. Those vehicles are searched first by the Iraqi Soldiers, then we search them again."

While the hours are long and the days are extremely hot, the Soldiers know they are performing an extremely important mission.

"We're responsible for the lives of some thousand odd people," Pates said. "They get to sleep securely knowing that nobody or nothing is getting in here on our watch."

Our New Home in Iraq



Photos by Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

Soldier's brave a sandstorm at Forward Operating Base Brassfield-Mora while waiting for a helicopter to land. These storms are common this time of year.



An Iraqi shepherd proudly displays one of the goats he is responsible for tending.



An artillery round fired from another FOB explodes in a field behind FOB Dagger. The round was fired to show the reach of artillery shells.



Pfc. Lance Lesueur tries a small cup of Iraqi tea while visiting a community center.



A small boy prepares tea for Soldiers and Iraqis who are attending a meeting in Samarra.



An Iraqi woman hides her face while children pose for a picture.



An Apache helicopter flies down the Tigris near Dagger.

Trauma medics proud of work

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

At 3:00 a.m., a man bursts into a room, rousing Soldiers out of a deep sleep. An Iraqi Soldier has been shot and is bleeding badly. The Soldiers don't bother to get fully dressed, knowing that a man's life is at stake, and every second counts.

Upon entering the small troop medical center at Forward Operating Base Brassfield-Mora outside of Samarra, Iraq, they get vital signs on the patient, and perform emergency care to keep the man alive. Once the man is stabilized, he is medically evacuated to FOB Speicher for further treatment. Because of the quick actions of the emergency medical team, the man lives.

"One of the challenges out here is being able to react to things at three in the morning when we're all bedded down," said Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Caulk, 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment medical platoon sergeant. "There have been days when we've had three or four (evacuation patients) in here, and our treatment area in here only has two beds. Having that many patients to us is like having a mass casualty situation.

"We only have two treatment teams here. Once you stabilize the patients and have them evacuated out, we're all exhausted. About one in the morning we'll get another call saying we have more patients coming in. As far as the medical aspect, you know treating (the patients), it's no problem. Trauma is trauma."

The medics take care of any Soldier that is wounded, Iraqi or American.

According to Caulk, the success rate has been 100%.

"We provide medical evacuations to the Soldiers down in (Samarra) as well as the Soldiers here," Caulk said. "We provide these services not only to Coalition Forces, but Iraqis as well. So far we have had a pretty good success rate. I don't know of any person that has come through here that we have lost."

The medics working at the Brassfield-Mora TMC were well trained when they arrived in theater, but treating actual trauma cases has greatly honed their skills.

"We did a lot of training back at Fort Stewart, but most of the training we've done here," Caulk said. "Until you get an actual casualty in front of you, it's a totally different reality.

"Before they had mannequins and things like that. They are much better at it now I think because a lot of it is actually hands on and they don't have to stand back and watch the doctor do the work. In fact, the doctor is usually the one in the back, just telling my guys what to do."

Working with patients who have life threatening injuries has hardened the Soldiers nerves so that not much can



Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

Pfc. Elijah Ochoa, a medic attached to 3/69 Armor, writes down Pfc. Daniel Fragoso's information during sick call at the Brassfield-Mora TMC April 24. The staff at the TMC have seen many trauma cases, both Iraqi and American.

surprise them. Brassfield-Mora has received many trauma cases since the medics have been working here.

"A lot of these guys never treated any trauma type patients before we came out here," Caulk said. "Since being here, they've all gotten their feet wet. They're pretty good, there's nothing that will shock them now. They've pretty much seen everything. When we first get some patients in here, you'll see that look on their face of confusion. Yet someone can come in here missing a limb, and they're right on it."

The Brassfield-Mora TMC is not a place where patients stay once they are stabilized. It is a facility used solely to make sure the patient can be medically evacuated to a Combat Support Hospital.

"My responsibility here as a PA is to provide first line medical care once the casualties are brought into the treatment facility," said Capt. Charles Speed, a physician's assistant attached to 3/69 Armor. "Our job is to take care of patients and to stabilize them, make sure they have an airway so they're breathing, they have no bleeding, and then get them out to the CSHs as quick as we can."

The medics have proven themselves in trauma situations. While they may be a little shocked at the sight of a bad injury, they perform well under pressure.

"It happens all the time with trauma," Speed said. "I can give you a good example of a situation that was very difficult to handle, and it was very frightening at the same time. We had several Iraqis here recently that were injured in a little skirmish with the enemy.

"One of them was brought in on a stretcher, and it was pretty obvious he was injured badly. The second guy came walking in, holding his neck. At first we thought he was just a walking wounded. One of the medics went out to check

"The medic came back in rather pale and stammering and said 'sir, this guy isn't walking wounded, he has no neck left.' It's a situation we don't see very often. We managed to stop the bleeding and tried to maintain an airway.

"We weren't able to do that, so we had to perform a tracheotomy on this patient. It's a procedure we are trained to do, but it's not something we do every day. The medics remembered their training, they did a fantastic job. Everything I needed was at hand, the procedure went well, and the patient walked out of the hospital a couple of weeks later."

The Soldiers know what their individual jobs are. Caring for their patients is what makes them perform the way they do under pressure.

"The Soldiers here perform fantastic," Speed said. "These guys are well trained, they're highly motivated and they actually care about the Soldiers (they are treating). They love the responsibility placed on them, because they feel like they're actually contributing and doing something positive."

"Twenty four hours a day, anytime a trauma can come in," said Pfc. David Witt, medical supply specialist attached to 3/69 Armor. "If I don't get an order in, we could be short on something that could save a life. We're highly trained."

Speed and the medics talked about what keeps them going in such an intense work environment.

"We handle the stress by having a kind of bizarre sense of humor," Speed said. "We laugh at things that most people would think were kind of strange or maybe even hideous at times. We laugh, we relate to each other, we tell a lot of jokes to kind of keep the comedy up."

The fruits of the medics' labors are obvious, Caulk said. They have received praise from several different sources, and it makes them proud of what they do for the Soldiers.



Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

Gettin' Wired

(From left to right) Pfc. Alma Cortes, Pfc. Cathie Pierr-Louis and Spc. Liron Sahar of C Company, 3rd Forward Support Battalion set up concertina wire near the outer perimeter of their headquarters at LSA Anaconda April 27.

Have a story idea or information to put out?
Contact the 1st Brigade Combat Team Public
Affairs Office at DNVT 584-1004/1016 or
email the PAO richard.bartoszuk@us.army.mil

Soldiers saddened over loss of peer

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

A Soldier's life was stolen from the 1st Brigade Combat Team at Forward Operating Base Dagger when an insurgent fired a rocket at the FOB April 15.

Cpl. Aleina Ramirez, a military police woman and a member of 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Troops Battalion personal security detachment, was killed during the attack.

This was the first time insurgents hit FOB Dagger since the arrival of 1st BCT, said Staff Sgt. Marquis Mills-Cooper, a 1/3 BTB intelligence analyst.

Soldiers who knew and worked directly with Ramirez have very fond memories of her personality and character.

"I met (Ramirez) in Kuwait, and we hit it off really fast because we had a lot in common," said Pvt. Megan Zeigler, a 1/3 BTB information systems operator analyst. "When I think of (Ramirez), I always want to think of loyalty right away. She was a very loyal and trustworthy person. When you were around her, anything that was wrong, she would uplift you. She was always happy. We were the only two female SAW gunners on this FOB. She faced danger every day. She never complained. She would go out and sit on top of the vehicle and be vulnerable. She would have done anything for anybody. She was the strongest Soldier I think I had ever met. She makes me want to be strong and brave."

Ramirez inspired the Soldiers around her by being the best she could be.

"The thing I admired about her most was the fact



that she could never complain about anything she had to get done," said Pfc. Nia Rock, a 1/3 BTB supply specialist. "As a soldier, if she was told something on short notice, if she had been up all night just hitting the bed, no matter when it was she was always prepared. She could never be late even if she wanted to, that was not an option. The littlest things made her happy, even eating something of her choice that day would make her smile. When I asked her about being on the PSD team and wanted to know if she wanted to stay on it, her reply was 'if my team stays, I want to stay.'"

Soldiers who worked with Ramirez only briefly were still able to see something special about her.

"I didn't know her from a hole in the wall when I first got here," said Spc. Keith Brescher, Headquarters and Headquarters company 1st BCT. "She worked with me and always brought me chow when I couldn't leave. She never complained about

doing it. She was a very giving person."

As a member of the PSD team, she is remembered by 1/3 BTB commander Lt. Col. Douglas Victor as an individual who had great potential and accomplished much during her short time in Iraq.

"As an integral part of the Desert Cat Battalion's PSD, Ramirez skillfully drove for crew number three," Victor said. "In just a short time, she already executed (more than) 125 patrols on the dangerous roads of Iraq."

Ramirez was studying for the sergeant promotion board. Her leaders were fully confident in her ability to assume the responsibilities inherent in that role.

"Ramirez was a quiet professional and fully capable to be a sergeant," Victor said.

Victor believes that despite the loss of Ramirez, his unit has pulled together, and remembers what kind of Soldier she was.

"While our unit is terribly saddened by the ultimate sacrifice of Cpl. Ramirez, the Desert Cats are a better unit because of her," Victor said.

A memorial ceremony was held for Ramirez on April 21, and featured a display of her boots, assigned weapon, identification tags and helmet. Chaplain (Captain) Nathan Klein delivered the memorial meditation. Cpl. Ramirez' company and battalion commanders also made remarks.

The ceremony was hosted by Col. Mark McKnight, 1st BCT commander, and was also attended by Task Force Liberty commander Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto.

Ramirez is survived by her father Wilfredo Ramirez, her mother Aleina Ramirez, and her brother Joel Ramirez.

The story of the Dogface Soldier song

Maj. Richard Bartoszuk
1st BCT PAO

The Army is an organization fraught with traditions. Many things such as unit patches, crests and mottos that Soldiers take for granted actually came into being due to some historical event. One of those traditions is the division song.

Many unit songs are simply civilian songs to which the lyrics have been changed. Other unit songs were specifically and deliberately written for that unit at someone's request, usu-

ally the commander.

Cpl. Bert Gold and Lt. Ken Hart, both of Long Beach, New York, co-wrote Dog-face Soldier in 1942. They wrote the song for and about Soldiers in general.

The song came to the attention of then 3rd Infantry Division commander, Maj. Gen. Lucian K. Truscott who was responsible for having Dogface Soldier adopted as the division's song.

Dogface Soldier reflected the current times, like most songs, and alluded to the enemy of the times in the fourth verse: "I'm just a

dogface soldier with a rifle on my shoulder, and I eat a Kraut for breakfast everyday."

Like many things in the Army, the song has evolved. The original song was composed during World War II when the Army was an all-male organization.

Female soldiers were "WACs" - members of the separate Women's Army Corps, which was disbanded in 1978.

In the '80s, the following two lines of the lyrics were changed to render the song gender-unspecific.

The third verse read:

"On all the posters that I read is says the Army builds men, so they're tearing me down to build me over again." And the last verse ended with: "Your dogface soldier boy's o-kay."

The song was immensely popular, and Soldiers sang it, marched to it and even danced to it.

It made its public debut in the 1955 Audie Murphy film To Hell and Back.

The impressed public bought 300,000 copies of the recording. Dogface Soldier was the most publicized and well known song of World War II.

"Dog Face Soldier"

I wouldn't give a bean
To be a fancy pants Marine
I'd rather be a
Dog Face Soldier like I am

I wouldn't trade my old OD's
For all the Navy dungarees
For I'm the walking pride
Of Uncle Sam

On all the posters that I read
It says "Be all that you can"
So they're tearing me down
To build me over again

I'm just a Dog Face Soldier
With a rifle on my shoulder
And I eat raw meat
For breakfast e'vry day

So feed me ammunition
Keep me in the Third Division
Your Dog Face Soldier's a-okay

Jessica Simpson and Nick Lachey visit Remagen

TIKRIT, IRAQ -- Jessica Simpson and Nick Lachey visited Iraq with a stop at Forward Operating Base Remagen April 24.

They took time out to speak to the troops, sign autographs and observe a reenlistment ceremony.

The husband and wife singers were traveling Salah Ad Din Province visiting the Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team.



Jessica Simpson looks on as CPT Scott Thompson 3rd Forward Support Battalion reenlists several soldiers at FOB Remagen, Tikrit, Iraq April 24.



Nick Lachey and Jessica Simpson speak to the Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Remagen, Tikrit, Iraq April 24.



SFC Darryl Grant Headquarters, Headquarters Battery 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery Regiment receives Nick Lachey's and Jessica Simpson's autographs at FOB Remagen April 24.



Nick Lachey rides in the turret of a Gun Truck at FOB Remagen April 24.