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# RAIDERS DOWN RANGE



Volume 1 Issue 3

Diary of the Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team

May 15, 2005

## Warpaint patrols terrain for AIF

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

One of the most effective weapons used by insurgents against Coalition Forces is improvised explosive devices. IEDs are usually placed along the roadside and detonated when a convoy passes.

Soldiers are constantly patrolling the roadways of Iraq. One of the counter-insurgency methods they have begun to employ is to set up observation points to watch the highways for insurgents attempting to set up IEDs.

"Our intent is to kill or capture insurgents placing IEDs on (Main Supply Route) Tampa," said Capt. Ralph Elder, commander of B Troop, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment. "Our secondary intent is to identify insurgent cells in our area."

The way the Soldiers accomplish this task is by patrolling the immediate off road area where an IED had been placed.

A lot of times when a convoy passes through, insurgents come up behind them and set up IEDs, said Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Bush, a 5/7 Cav. platoon sergeant. "We set up the OP to watch for that kind of activity."

"We walk in the areas where IEDs have previously gone off and look at the terrain features," Elder said.



Sgt. Shannon Garstka, a 5/7 Cav. team leader, and Pfc. Mitch Shelton, a 5/7 Cav. dismount gunner, patrol terrain beside MSR Tampa May 3.



Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

Pfc. Mitch Shelton, a 5/7 Cav. dismount gunner, keeps an eye on MSR Tampa from an OP near the highway. The Soldiers watch for vehicles stopping along the roadway who may set up IEDs when they stop.

"We then set up OPs out of the field of vision from Tampa. Many of the OPs that I have seen pretty much sit on the road. That isn't really an OP to me, that is just denying the enemy movement. Our guys stay hidden and watch the route. If someone drops an IED, we will see them before they see us."

The Soldiers not only set up patrols off road, but watch it from places where they have a good view of the highway.

"We set up an OP at an old base that was used by the guys before us," Bush said. "It is a good OP because you can see pretty far up and down MSR Tampa. Insurgents have been using that stretch of highway to set up IEDs."

The Soldiers teamed up with Iraqi Army elements to help them accomplish this task. Teaching the IA the how to conduct these types of operations is part of handing over the responsibility of security to them.

"We linked up with the IA on this patrol," Bush

said. "They are doing pretty much the same thing we were. We are trying to bring them along on missions like this so they can be ready to take over when we move out. We are showing them the ropes. Right now, we are pretty much the main force, and they are supporting us. We want to make the transition to where they are the main force and we support them."

"It is important for the IA to be with us and learn how to properly do patrols," said Sgt. Shannon Garstka, a 5/7 Cav. Team leader. "By coming with us, they learn the correct way to catch terrorists."

Bush said his guys were new at this kind of thing when they first got to Iraq, but they have improved greatly through constant patrolling.

"I am satisfied with their performance," Bush said. "My guys are doing a great job. A lot of the guys are in different positions than they were back in the rear. They are a lot better than they were a few months ago."

## Med supply becomes the middle man

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

The 3rd Forward Support Battalion has put in a middle man when it comes to medical supplies. They have created a new medical supply unit that will minimize the time and effort it takes to get supplies to the units that need them.

"The division used to supply all the aid stations, but now it has stepped down to brigade level," said Staff Sgt. Bobby Sharp, 1st Brigade Combat Team medical supply noncommissioned officer in charge. "Now the main distribution outlet is here on (Logistics Support Area) Anaconda. Units send requests to us, and we fill them right here. It's much faster this way because units don't have to wait so long for their stuff."

The idea for the new system was sent down before the 1st BCT came to Iraq.

"The new (modified table of organization and equipment) came down in August that we were going to do this at brigade level to make it easier for the units to get medical supplies when we deployed," said 2nd Lt. Miriel Davis, a 1st BCT



Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

3rd FSB medical supply officer 2nd Lt. Miriel Davis checks inventory lists on her computer at LSA Anaconda April 28.

medical supply officer. "Our division medical supply asset is located farther south in Baghdad, so they had to convoy everything up. We are kind of a middle man."

Creating the new unit from scratch wasn't easy for the staff, Sharp said. Since division had all the assets available, they had to create a stockpile to get everything out to the units. The staff basically had to rewrite their own standard operating procedure, pull together a staff and build a warehouse to store the supplies.

Another problem the staff faced was communication with the units, Davis said.

"We don't talk face to face because of the distance between us," Davis said. "We have to communicate by email. We have to let them know they have supplies here. It's the same for them. They have to send us medical equipment for maintenance. When they need something, they send us an email."

Despite the challenges the staff has faced putting together the new unit, they drive on with their mission. "It's frustrating sometimes," Sharp said. "No matter what the challenge is, we make the mission happen."

## Lane Down Range

# Soldiers make the Army worthwhile

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

In the last month, I have been everywhere. I have been a part of missions with four different battalions in our brigade. There are only six original battalions.

Everywhere I have been, I have met and made friends with the Soldiers assigned to the units there. I can't get over the fact that there are so many different people fighting for the same cause. Some of these guys come from small islands in the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. Others are immigrants from many different places who speak with accents when they answer their seniors in English. No matter how different we are, we are all pretty much the same.

That is what I love about the Army. All of us have had the same basic training and follow the same code. As long as you see one of these uniforms, you can expect the person wearing it to have a basic way of carrying themselves. It is called the Army Values.

These values are loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, and personal courage. These are qualities all Soldiers have, no matter who they are. We follow this code in the darkest hour of battle. Our enemy has even exploited those values, yet we hold true to an idea that will always make us better than the cowards we are fighting.

I am outside the wire quite a bit, and I speak to Iraqi nationals often. They are very curious about us. They ask about religion and politics. The politics part is easy, I am a Soldier and I don't dictate policy, I follow orders. Religion is a little harder, but when asked if I am Christian, Muslim, Jewish, I just tell them I love God.

They often ask me if I like Iraq. This is a very beautiful country, I tell them. The people who are our friends are awesome. They ask me which one I like better, America or Iraq. The answer is always the same; we have somebody from everywhere in America. We all live in the same neighborhoods, even though we worship at different places and speak different languages. That is



why America is the best. We never turned anyone away.

When any of you who is close to an Army post looks around, you will find a cultural mix that you won't find anywhere else. Being in the Post Exchange is like being in an international market sometimes. I have walked through the PX and heard German, Spanish, Korean, Filipino and Nigerian all in the same trip. Not to mention accents from all over the country.

We all work toward the same goal and live in the same place. No matter how many bad things I hear people say about the Army, it is the only place where I have seen so many different people get along. I am sure I will stay in because I want my children to grow up in this environment.

So even though I am deployed and I can't pick a different fast food restaur-

ant to eat at every day, I am still happy being around Soldiers. Most of us are. Having Soldiers around is what makes this place bearable. Sometimes if you get too far out of your area of operation, they can get a little guarded, but they are still ordinary men and women put in extraordinary situations and doing great things. We all drive on and get the mission done. We live, eat, sleep and work together in a place that can be both dangerous and beautiful.

I am willing to bet most of the guys who plan on getting out that they will never make better friends than they had in the Army. I am sure they all had friends they grew up with who are close to them. But I don't believe you can really respect someone or feel their true worth until you have seen them react bravely to the most extreme of situations.

This is why I know my place is in the Army, and I will be sad the day they say "Sgt. Maj. Lane, we tried to make the Pentagon create an E-11 rank just for you, but they won't and it is time for you to retire."

## Glory's Guns provide wide-range safety

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

All is quiet on any given forward operating base. Soldiers are walking to the dining facility, the gym or to call their loved ones. All of a sudden, an explosion resounds through the FOB. Driven by instinct, Soldiers take cover and wait to find out if the explosion was an outgoing or incoming round. After a few minutes, they hear another explosion, much louder and much closer. The sound is Coalition Forces artillerymen doing what they do best in a mortar or rocket attack; counterfire on the enemy's position.

"This is what we do, all day, everyday," said Pfc. Edward Reitmeyer, a 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery Regiment Paladin M109A6 self-propelled Howitzer driver. "We support a large area. Anytime someone receives incoming in our (area of operation), we send some right back their way."

Most of the rounds from the team's recent missions have been fired into a certain hotspot. The range of the team's weapon is around 20 miles, Reitmeyer said. This means the Paladin can protect a wide area when it comes to counterfire missions.

"The majority of our missions are counterfire," said Staff Sgt. James Hutchinson, a 1/41 FA chief of section.



Pfc. Edward Reitmeyer

A Paladin fires a round at a target down range during a counterfire mission at FOB Paliwoda May 5.

"Obviously we support ourselves (at FOB Paliwoda), but the majority of our rounds are fired to support FOB McKenzie."

The artillery rounds are very destructive, Hutchinson said. There is much preparation that goes into firing a round down range. The team has to wait for clearance from higher up the chain of command to make sure the area is clear of Coalition Forces' air traffic and innocent civilians.

Since the enemy firing at the FOB is usually out of visual range, the team members who work in the Paladin have to rely on electronic targeting support to acquire their target, Reitmeyer said.

"Nine out of 10 times, we don't know if we hit our target," Hutchinson said. "We are firing from radar acquisition. We react really fast, but we have to hear back from higher to see if we hit the target before they got away."

Since time is of the essence, the team of Soldiers has to be ready to fire at a moment's notice.

"We are already loaded inside the Paladin, ready to fire," said Sgt. Orlan Valle, a 1/41 FA Paladin gunner. "Once we fire those rounds, we reload in case we get a repeat. This team has fired the most rounds in real world missions."

Since most of the attacks on FOBs are indirect fire from mortars and rockets, the artillerymen's job is a very important one.

"We are the FOB's most important protection," said Pfc. Stephen McCoy, a 1/41 FA Paladin cannoneer. "We support the FOB from the inside with a 20 mile range. We are the ones who keep the Soldiers out of the line of fire."



Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

Sgt. Orlan Valle, a 1/41 FA Paladin gunner, pulls charge powders from a canister to load into the Howitzer inside his Paladin at FOB Paliwoda May 5.

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# Warpaint Ace bags the bad guys



Photos by Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

Sgt. Beau Saucier, a 5/7 Cav. team leader, kicks in the door on the house of a suspected insurgent during a raid near the city of Balad May 3.



Soldiers from A Troop, 5/7 Cav., listen as 1st Lt. Joshua Rambo explains approach procedures for a raid on a possible anti-Iraqi forces building May 3. Soldiers offered comments on improving the procedure and plan.

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



Spc. Anthony Johnson, a 5/7 Cav. dismount, opens drawers on a desk as he looks for possible IED making materials during a raid May 3.



Pfc. Michael Sankadota bags up suspected IED materials as Soldiers involved in the raid watch.

done," said Sgt. 1st Class Sherman Reynolds, a 5/7 Cav. platoon sergeant, "that's when we actually go into our planning phase. The operation and scheme of maneuver is how we are going to conduct the raid. Once we go over it with each other, we bring in the squad leaders and brief them, get any kind of info or suggestions they have and brief it out to the platoon. Normally we will find some little odds and ends that have to be shifted."

Saucier says he doesn't have to guide his Soldiers through the raid, as he trusts their performance from the many raids he has conducted with them.

"I don't go too much in depth with how we are going to hit it," Saucier said. "They know their job and how they are going to do it. I just give them the basics and they do the rest. They are great, professional Soldiers."

When entering a suspected insurgent's house, the Soldiers have to be prepared for anything. They never know what kind of situation they are getting themselves into.

"I'm nervous of what I'm going to find, what I'm going to come in contact with," said Pfc. Michael Sankadota, a 5/7 Cav. dismount gunner. "You try to plan ahead, but you really can't. You deal with the situations as they come to you. You train up on how to do things, but you make mistakes. From lessons learned, you go back and do better the next time. Everyday we go out it's a new adventure. There's a lot out there that can happen, but you have to wait for it to come to you."

Many times there are other civilians inside among the suspected insurgents. The Soldiers have to make the best of the situation and deal with them while still accomplishing their mission.

"If there are women and children in the house, we have to calm them down," Saucier said. "If we have to ballistically breach the door, it freaks the women and children out. When you go in, your adrenalin is already pumping. You have seen your target on paper, and you're thinking, 'what if his beard has grown out or something.' Then you see him, and snatch him. When you get in there, it's tedious. Picking him out of everyone in the house can be difficult."

The Soldiers on the ground are not alone in the raid. Other elements are present to offer support in case something doesn't go as planned.

"With every raid, if we have air assets, we have to coordinate through them," Saucier said. "We normally mark the roof, so they know that the building is clear. We cut a chemical light open, and mark a big X with the fluid inside."

The Soldiers agreed that trust is one of the most important factors when going into an unknown situation. It would be much harder to conduct raids [See RAID, page 6](#)

On the frontline

# Hollowell rocks for the troops

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

In some of the smaller forward operating bases in the 1st Brigade Combat Team's area of operation, Soldiers do not get many of the same outlets as Soldiers on larger FOBs. At a few of these FOBs, sometimes the Soldiers don't get a hot meal for days.

The Uniformed Services Organization recently provided relief to this fact by booking the band Hollowell to play in some of the smaller FOBs. Hollowell made a stop at FOB Paliwoda to play for Soldiers of the 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment. The tour started in Kosovo on April 19th and will end May 9.

"Soldiers out here mean a lot to us," said Joe Denges, Hollowell's lead singer. "The guys out here say that they really connect with us when we're playing. If we can take them away from all this for a little while, it's worth it."

"Honestly, these are the troops that really need it," said Matt Hulet, the band's lead guitarist. "You guys are out there facing danger every day, and we wanted to give you a break from that."

Members of the band said they came on this tour for a specific reason; their appreciation of what Soldiers do everyday.

"We thought this would be the chance of a lifetime," said Dale Dimapindan, the band's bass guitar player. "When we heard about being able to do a tour over here, we jumped at the chance. We all have



Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

Soldiers of 5/7 Cav. listen as the members of the band Hollowell crank out a tune at the FOB Paliwoda dining facility May 5. The band stopped here during a tour that started in Kosovo April 19th for the military.

friends and family in the military. It's a chance to give something back for what you guys do."

This was not only a chance to play for Soldiers; it was a chance for the band to tour an area they would probably never see again.

"I'll remember this for the rest of my life," said drummer Justin Dike. "How many people can say

they went to Iraq that aren't in the military?" Denges said they represent a larger majority of people in supporting the troops.

"We represent the way more people feel than you guys will ever know," Denges said. "When people heard we were coming over here, they thought it was really cool. I think some of them were even jealous."

## Our New Home in Iraq



Photos by Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

The sun rises over an airfield on LSA Anaconda. The base is one of the largest in the area, and is home to many people from all the Armed Services.



Staff Sgt. Robert Gibson, a B Troop 5/7 Cav. squad leader, watches MSR Tampa.



Iraqi Soldiers from the 203rd Brigade in Balad show their enthusiasm as a group during a break in a training class at FOB Paliwoda.



An Iraqi officer feeds a small boy a piece of candy during a stop in Al Qallah.



Soldiers of D Co., 3/69 Armor walk through their sandbagged company area at FOB Brassfield-Mora.



Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Bush from 5/7 Cav. stops to pet a dog near MSR Tampa during a stop.



Two small boys take a rest on the sidewalk in Samarra.

# Cavalry troopers instruct IA

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

Coalition Forces take on the responsibility of training Iraqi security forces to ensure a smooth transition once they leave the country. Everyday Iraqi and Coalition Forces Soldiers work together in a variety of environments.

Soldiers of C Troop, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment conduct regular training classes at Forward Operating Base Paliwoda for the 203rd Iraqi Army Brigade. The classes are then put into action with an afternoon patrol to see what the IA Soldiers have learned.

"What we do is run them through a class in the morning, said Capt. Phillip Poteet, C Troop, 5/7 Cav. Commander. "After that we mount up and go on a mission exactly like the class."

The IA Soldiers receive the same training as Coalition Forces so they can perform on the same level.

"We are tasked with platoon level training," Poteet said. "Each of our platoons trains one of their platoons. They need to know what we know and be able to accomplish what we do."

The IA Soldiers are very receptive to the training. Their Coalition Forces teachers said they are fast learners and retain what they are taught very well.



Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

Staff Sgt. Jason Stack, a C Co., 5/7 Cav. squad leader, instructs Iraqi Soldiers from the 203rd IA Bde. on cordon and search techniques. C Co. holds an instruction block in the morning and tests what the IA has learned in the afternoon.

"These guys are real excited about this training," said Staff Sgt. Jason Stack, a 5/7 Cav. Squad leader and one of the IA trainers. "They haven't got this kind of attention before as far as training goes."

The IA had to learn new tactics and techniques to be more effective when

working with the Coalition on joint raids and patrols.

"When we first went out, we had to teach them on the spot," Stack said. "That slowed us down. They improved greatly as a whole. Everyone has little things they have to work on." Stack said he enjoys his

work and when he sees how the IA performs the tasks he taught them.

"I get a joy out of watching these guys do their own missions," Stack said. "I like the fact that these guys are starting to get the respect from the people in the city that we do when we are on patrol."



Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

## Guards, post!

Staff Sgt. Marion Wade, the 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment sergeant of the guard, inspects a Soldier before sending him to his post. All the guards are inspected before each guard shift to insure they have all their equipment.

## CLPs provide lifeline

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

In a deployed situation, the Army survives because of its supply lines. Without food, water, medical supplies and fuel, the mission would not get accomplished. Every day in Iraq, there is a combat logistics patrol somewhere on the highway carrying much needed supplies.

"When planning a CLP, leaders try to consolidate all the orders into one convoy. We take all the logistic elements in the brigade and combine all of this into one huge movement," said Capt. Akaninyene Okon, a 3rd Forward Support Battalion battle captain. "That's how we determine the type of vehicles we are going to use on a CLP."

Okon said they rely on information from other units to decide what goes on each convoy.

"The support operations officers who are tied in with all the units in our sector do a lot of the legwork," he said. "We hold a logistics synchronization meeting to decide what is needed. The support officer does the coordination, makes a list of what each unit needs, and we send it out."

The CLP convoys consist of more than just the supply vehicles. For such a big operation, many assets are needed to insure the convoy reaches its destination safely.

"Anytime time a CLP leaves the FOB, the basic components are maintenance and recovery assets," Okon said. "We also have to have medical support in case something happens, and of course the strong-arm, which is security that has to go with them."

The CLPs are in constant contact

with their headquarters to make sure everything runs smoothly.

"We are always tracking the CLPs from point A to point B," said Sgt. 1st Class Keith Ancrum, a 3rd FSB operations noncommissioned officer in charge. "In case they come into enemy contact, or if somebody gets hurt, we have to update the commander. It's just situational awareness; we want to know what's going on with the Soldiers at all times. Not just necessarily voice communications, we have the means to communicate with them through text messaging."

The Soldiers who go out on the convoys have mixed feelings about their job, with the threat of improvised explosive devices along the roadways they constantly travel.

"It's nerve racking, looking at every inch of ground," said Spc. Craig Wilson, a 3rd FSB mechanic. "You really can't watch everything. I've seen a couple of IEDs go off."

"The biggest challenge is riding by these guys on the road and wondering if they have something in their vehicle that's going to blow me up," said Cpl. Larry Woods, a Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment fueler. "Every time we roll, it's an anxious feeling."

Despite these challenges, supplies get to where they are needed everyday through the efforts of these Soldiers.

"Pushing supplies to the people that need it is vital to the mission," Ancrum said. "That's why we are here."

"The main purpose of forward support is to keep the brigade functioning," Wilson said. "The brigade wouldn't be able to do their mission without us."

### Chaplain's Corner

# Soldiers sacrifice for honor, each other

Chaplain Mark Nordstrom  
1st BCT Chaplain

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." Philippians 2:3-4

I shouldn't be amazed when I find soldiers who think that others are more important than themselves. But I am. Here are a couple of soldiers who amaze me.

I met a sergeant last week who doesn't know yet if he'll make the Army a career. He was a private first class in this brigade during Operation Iraqi Freedom and is back for OIFIII. He's grown into a fine combat leader who thinks of his soldiers first.

Recently he led his fire team in on a foot patrol. Anti-Iraqi forces had buried a land mine; it was remotely detonated in the middle of his team and blew the Sergeant backwards. He was dazed, but okay. One of his riflemen was also shook up. Another soldier was found with a minor wound to



Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

his neck. The wounded soldier is newly married with a child on the way. The sergeant was visibly moved as he told me the story. He cares deeply for his soldiers; he watches over them like a father, 24 hours a day. He loves them.

I told him I'd be proud to have my son, who is in infantry training, on his fire team. He said, "Thanks."

I met another two-time combat veteran who's a sniper. We talked for quite awhile in the hot afternoon, standing next to a Humvee with our boots in "moon dust." He told me about the intelligence they had just received about some guys who were dropping off explosives at a cache point. He was getting ready to be inserted with his team into a hide spot from which they could observe the drop-off.

He told me his family thinks he's crazy. He's got

a bachelor's degree. I asked him why he joined up as an enlisted soldier. While he adjusted each nut on his sniper rifle to the correct pound of torque so the bullet would travel straight and true, and as he cleaned, individually, each of his bullets and placed them carefully in their carrier, he said, as I recall, "I had my degree and was making good money, but I wanted to do something important with my life." And he is: he's helping to save the lives of his fellow soldiers by doing a tough and dangerous job. It takes a special breed, and we've got them here.

I told him I would be praying for him that night at the exact time he was in his hide spot, waiting silently, for his prey. He seemed to take encouragement from that and genuinely thanked me for stopping to talk with him.

Cpl. Pat Tillman, the football player who joined the Rangers, got a lot of well-deserved press for his heroism. But we've got lots of Tillmans with us here; humble, concerned about others and committed to the mission. They love and miss their families, but serve because they love their soldiers also, and believe in what they are doing.

# Helmet patches have unique history



Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

The helmet patch has changed much since it was first painted on during World War I. The patch above is embroidered to match the desert combat uniform Soldiers wear while deployed to a desert zone.

Maj. Rich Bartoszuk  
1st BCT PAO

The practice of wearing a unit emblem on the helmet goes back to WWI. While living in the trenches, soldiers engaged in numerous activities to express pride and creativity, and also to relieve boredom between battles. Some of the more artistic of these activities became known as "trench art." One of these activities was painting the unit's emblem on the helmet.

Between the World Wars, some unknown Army leader decided that it would be a good idea for divisions to paint their division emblem on their helmets. Many units did so during WWII.

After WWII, units gradually stopped the practice. The mighty Third Infantry Division is the only division that has worn the division's patch continuously on the helmet since the end of WWII.



Courtesy photo

Above is an original doughboy helmet from World War I. The Soldiers painted the patch on during the war.



Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

## Oil cloud

The sky is blackened from an oil fire started by insurgents north of FOB Dagger. Many of the Soldiers believed a storm was coming, but there was no rain.

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if they could not count on each other's performance. "Personally what calms me down the most is knowing that my Soldiers are the best at what they do, hands down," Saucier said. "You couldn't ask for better performance in these conditions out of cavalrymen."

"I'm confident in our guys doing what they're sup-

posed to be doing," Sankadota said. "We don't worry about each other doing their jobs. I trust our guys 100%."

The reason for raiding houses and detaining suspects is part of a bigger picture that will lead to a safer environment for the Iraqis when Coalition forces eventually leave.

The majority of Iraqis say they love the new Iraq,

they are in charge of their own destiny," said 1st Lt. Joshua Rambo, a 5/7 Cav. platoon leader. "But there are those few that are opposed to westerners being here. For whatever their reasons are they are impeding the progress. In that way the few are hurting many. We look for not only the threat to us but the threat to the Iraqi people. If we can get rid of that threat, Iraq will have a brighter future."