

# TIGER Tracks



Insurgent Cleansing  
Iraqi National Guard Takes Control  
1/69th Recognizes Their Own  
Agricultural Distribution

256th Brigade Combat Team  
Public Affairs Office

Photo by Sgt. Thomas Benoit

To:

FREE MAIL

Please forward to your loved ones...Seal with tape or staples

# To the Families and Troops

**BG John Basilica, Jr.**  
**256 BCT Commander**



responsibility for its own battle space.

This is a most significant event, in that it continues the momentum from the highly successful elections and further demonstrates the willingness, desire, and commitment of the Iraqi people to determine their own destiny. Again, the 256th BCT figured prominently into this development.

Our Task Force Bengal led the way in training the 40th Brigade staff and assisting them in all areas to assume their mission. This was accomplished in

Another historic event took place here in Iraq since the last edition of the Tiger Tracks. As you will read about in this issue, the 40th Brigade became the first unit in the new Iraqi Army to assume

a very short amount of time and was another strategic victory for the Iraqi people. This development also sets the stage to focus our efforts in the coming months to helping the Iraqi Security Forces to win the fight against the insurgents as opposed to winning it for them.

The 3rd Inf. Div., "The Rock of the Marne," is now firmly in charge of Task Force Baghdad. We are proud to join the 3rd ID team that led the coalition in defeating Saddam Hussein's regime. We thank the 1st Cav. Div. team for their support and wish them Godspeed in their redeployment to Fort Hood.

As part of the changes in the hand off from one division to the other, the 256th BCT will assume greater responsibilities and additional battle space across TF Baghdad. This is another clear indication of the confidence that Division has in the capabilities of the Brigade.

We will play a critical role in maintaining not only the continuity, but pressure on the enemies of freedom during this transition. Keep up the great work. Continue to watch out for one another. TIGER BRIGADE!

Soldiers of the Tiger Brigade, this is the time of year to work on your 4100 for Enlisted Promotion System (EPS). All battalions have a copy of this and now is the time to get them right for the 2006 promotion list. Here are some of the items that you need to look at:

1. Heading is correct (Time in Grade, Time in Service, and Social Security Number)
2. All awards are posted and that your points are all there.
3. All college credits are posted
4. APFT and Weapons Qualification

5. All other options that will help to boost your points.

It is on you to ensure that this is completed. If you have any questions or issues, see your Platoon Sergeants, they are there to help. Your battalion Sgt. Maj. and 1st Sgt. can also help and explain the process in more detail to you. The cutoff date is June 1st, so help me help you on this.

**CSM James Mays**  
**256 BCT Sergeant Major**



The Tiger Tracks is a publication of the 256th Brigade Public Affairs Office. This Soldier and Family Support Group newsletter contains official information and complies with the provisions of AR 360-81 and AR 25-51. Questions or concerns can be directed to the editor at [taysha.deaton@id3.army.mil](mailto:taysha.deaton@id3.army.mil).  
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# Chaplain's Corner

LTC Robert Baker, Jr  
256 BCT Chaplain

I just returned from my 2 weeks R&R and, prior to leaving, I was looking forward to seeing my family. As I anticipated seeing and hearing from them in person, I was reminded how God likes to hear from us.

The Bible says that HE inhabits our praises, that we are the apple of HIS eye and that He gives favor to those who, by faith, have accepted HIS grace into their lives.

In the Old Testament, in the book of Numbers, the Lord instructed the priests of Israel to confer upon them a priestly blessing.

By doing this, the nation of Israel could be sure they were called by HIS name and that He would bestow upon them all of the Blessings, that God had to offer them.

The following is the that Blessing:

“The Lord bless and protect you;  
the Lord make HIS face shine on you,  
and be gracious to you and give you peace.”

I would like to offer this blessing to the 256th Brigade Combat Team. May the blessings of the Lord be upon you and yours.



**“Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
and do not rely on your own understanding;  
think about Him in all your ways and HE will  
guide you on the right paths.”**

**-Proverbs 3:5-6**



## Chapel Schedule

### Sunday:

- 0900 Roman Catholic Mass - Sanctuary
- 1030 Contemporary Protestant - Sanctuary
- 1230 Gospel Protestant - Sanctuary
- 1500 Traditional Protestant - Sanctuary
- 1900 Non Denominational Christian - Sanctuary
- 2000 "Purpose Driven Life" - Prayer Room
- 2130 Evening Christian Service - Sanctuary

### Monday:

- 0900 "The Gospel of Matthew"- Prayer Room
- 1730 "Rosary" - Prayer Room
- 1900 "R.C.C. Catechetical Instruction"- Prayer Room
- 2000 "Tough Questions Bible Study"- Sanctuary
- 2100 "The Gospel of Matthew" - Sanctuary

### Tuesday:

- 1900 "Purpose Driven Life" - Prayer Room
- 2000 Lenten Series - Sanctuary (Feb 15)
- 2000 "Wild At Heart" BS - Prayer Rm (Feb 15)

### Wednesday:

- 0900 "HIS Story – O.T. History as it Prophecies Christ as Prophet, Priest, and King" - Prayer Room
- 1030 EML Briefing - Sanctuary
- 1500 "Chaplet of Divine Mercy" - Prayer Room
- 1800 Catholic Choir Practice - Sanctuary
- 1900 Midweek Worship Service - Prayer Room
- 2000 "HIS Story – O.T. History as it Prophecies Christ as Prophet, Priest, and King" - Prayer Room

### Thursday:

- 0900 "Revelation – Church Victorious" - Prayer Room
- 1900 Praise Team Practice Session - Sanctuary
- 1900 "Revelation – Church Victorious" - Prayer Room
- 2030 Evening Service Musician's Practice-Sanctuary

### Friday:

- 1900 Bible Study- Prayer Room
- 1900 Gospel Choir Practice (Instr. Only)- Sanctuary
- 2000 "Marriage Enrichment" - Prayer Room
- 2000 Prayer Group - Sanctuary

### Saturday:

- 0900 Lutheran Worship Service- Prayer Room
- 1030 EML Briefing- Sanctuary
- 1800 Women's Bible Study- Prayer Room
- 1900 Catholic Mass- Sanctuary
- 1900 Intercessory Prayer Group - Counseling Room
- 2000 Gospel Choir Practice- Sanctuary
- 2100 "So You Call Yourself A Man"- Prayer Room

# Process of Elimination

## Part I The Capture

**By Spc. Erin Robicheaux  
256th Brigade Combat Team  
Public Affairs**

A long running joke in the United States Army is that the term "military intelligence" is a major oxymoron. However, the process of capturing insurgents, gathering information, and sending them through the legal system lays that claim to rest.

The overall spectrum is not a small one, and it takes many elements and very different pieces to come to the one common goal of getting the bad guys off of the streets. The personnel involved have various points of view, but in the end their goal is one in the same.

"It all starts with targeting."

Col. Ronnie D. Johnson, Deputy Brigade Commander for the 256th Brigade Combat Team (BCT) oversees the targeting process and coordinates the seizure development, known as "cordon and search."

He says that the two main elements are combat operations and the intelligence that is gathered on the target.

"We round up as much information as we can from as many sources as we can," he said, "Information can come from informants, people just coming up to us in the streets, or it can come from our commanding

Division, or other higher sources."

The information is given to intelligence analysts who decipher it and determine who the target will be. All angles of the person's affiliations are considered and if he is deemed as a

goes into an operation, it's the patrols on the ground that make or break the outcome.

"We rely heavily on the patrols to bring back most of the information that we need to make the arrest," he said, "and that's simply because they're out there

and they're the ones that have the connections in the neighborhood to make it happen."

In the process of gathering the information, Hebert says that patrol leaders and their Soldiers are usually the best way extract it.

"Many times a patrol leader will know the specific house and even have relationships

with people in the area," he said.

Before the task force can go after the target, the personnel must make sure that they have enough information to identify that the target is, without a doubt, their man of the hour.

To do this a team, or patrol, is given the task to gather more information. The size of the team is dependent on the mission and varies depending on the size of the area that needs to be covered. The information to gather may be different each time, as well.

After the final piece is collected, the intelligence team, in collaboration with the battalion and company commanders, put

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***"...just capturing the suspect in and of itself is a victory."***

***--Col. Ronnie D. Johnson***

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potential asset, the decision is made to take the case higher.

The analysts then present the information to Johnson, and if he agrees with the content, he will, in turn, present it to the Brigade Commander for the final approval. Once it is decided that this is a target that the military needs to pursue, the project is then turned over to one of the task forces. The process starts all over again, only this time, at the battalion level.

Staff Sgt. Chris Hebert from Lafayette, La, is the Military Intelligence non-commissioned officer for 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, and says that no matter how much planning

together the actual cordon and search.

When the patrol executes the operation and makes the arrest, Hebert says that it's crucial that they gather the evidence needed to keep the insurgent in custody.

"Evidence collection and photographs are a big deal to the Iraqi government," he said, "they will take a photo of the weapon with the owner next to it above scientific evidence any day of the week."

Pictures, along with sworn statements from the pertinent parties involved in the cordon and search, are the key to good evidence collection. Everything goes into a packet to build a case against the target.

Johnson says that the success rate of the 256th is steady.

"About 60% of the targets that we execute, we get the person," he said, "and just capturing the suspect in and of itself is a victory."

What is particularly significant and impressive, though, is the number of detainees that remain in custody and are further processed into the Abu Ghraib Prison.

Brig. Gen. John Basilica, Jr., commander of the 256th Brigade Combat Team, praises the Soldiers of the Tiger Brigade, and credits them for the success.

"This is a direct result of the quality of the packets put together by the capturing unit," said Basilica. "The Tiger Brigade has a better than 50% retention rate, which insures these insurgents are off the streets for the remainder of our

tour here in Baghdad."

A lot of times the patrol will execute a cordon and search, and the target in question is nowhere to be found. Sometimes it happens, though, that they'll wind up arresting



**Since arriving in Baghdad, Soldiers of the 256th Brigade Combat Team have captured many weapons caches, due to well planned and executed cordon and search missions.**

someone else connected to that target.

For example, in a recent operation, the 256th conducted a cordon and search and targeted seven suspects. They only arrested two of the targets, but also an additional eight who they were not specifically after, who just happened to be at the wrong place at the wrong time, or the right time for the 256th.

There are also missions that don't require such intricate planning. Enduring missions, like being on the lookout for rocket men and improvised explosive device (IED) in-placers, implore the use of several different tasks because the activity isn't driven by any particular timeline.

Sometimes snipers may

be placed where it is believed someone may be wiring IED's or a patrol may cover a general area where a rocket man may be launching rocket propelled grenades (RPG's).

On Dec. 3, 2004 an infantry scout platoon of Headquarters Co. 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, was on a routine patrol on the lookout for suspicious activity. They hit an IED and the attack wounded three Soldiers and killed Staff Sgt. Henry Irizarry.

The gunner on the truck in front of Irizarry's saw the triggerman and, along with air support and the quick reaction force (QRF), chased him and his brother, who was acting as a decoy, into a house and held them until they could be detained.

Once they had been arrested, the triggerman, Ziyad Hassin Ali Hammadi, and his brother, Falah Hassin Ali Hammadi, were brought to the Brigade Interrogation Facility (BIF) to be questioned.

Now it falls into the hands of the Judge Advocate General's office (JAG) and the Tactical Human Teams (THT) to extract information from the two insurgents. In conjunction with the patrol's evidence packet, the legal process of keeping the killers of an American Soldier off of the streets has begun.

# Passing the Torch

40th ING TOA

By: Spc. Erin Robicheaux  
256th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

For months, a group of Soldiers of the 256th Brigade Combat Team (BCT), also known as Task Force (TF) Bengal has been training Soldiers of the 40th Infantry Brigade of the Iraqi



Soldiers of the 40th Infantry Brigade stand at their official acceptance of authority for their sector.

National Guard (ING) on combat and staff operations. On Feb. 21, 2005 the torch was officially passed during a transfer of authority (TOA) ceremony, and the colors of the 40th ING were uncased.

The Iraqi Soldiers became the key-holders to their own country's security.

In the words of Maj. Gen. Peter Chiarelli, commander of the 1st Cavalry Division and a facilitator of the ceremony, "This is just the beginning."

He continued, encouraging the Soldiers of the 40th ING to be responsible for their areas of operation as the first brigade to assume their own sector.

"You are the pioneers of a nation that is free at last," he said.

Historically, the road to independence has never been an easy one. The ING has trained for months in order to bring them to this one moment, the moment where military authority is transferred to their own control.

Cpt. Steven Finney, from New Orleans, La., is the operations officer for TF Bengal. He says that the training has been intense and the Iraqi Soldiers have learned a lot. They received hands on training within their sectors and also

on the logistical side of the military procedures

"We taught them staff and supply functions and then tested their knowledge through three Command Post Exercises. "Following the final exercise at the end of December the 40th ING was given the green light to take operational control of some of their units. The brigade is also taking over the command and control of the 301st and 302nd ING Battalions.

Brig. General Jaleel Khalaf Shwail, commander of the 40th Brigade, showed immense gratitude to Chiarelli as he received the command with open arms.

"This is a historical event and a turning point in our country," he said, "the 40th Brigade and its battalions have reached a very high level of training and are ready to fight terrorists."

Following the TOA, Chiarelli presented a plaque to Jaleell in memory of those men who gave their lives on Jan. 31st to ensure that all Iraqi's were free to cast their vote in the first democratic election. Fourteen members of combined security forces, including ING Soldiers and Iraqi Police, were killed trying to protect their people.

"We dedicate this plaque to the martyrs, your brothers in arms," he added, "they are heroes whose great work will not be forgotten.



Soldiers of the 40th Infantry Brigade smile for the camera after the Transfer of Authority ceremony was a successful event.

# Garryowen Celebration

1/69th Award

By **Spc. Erin Robicheaux**  
**256th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs**

Legend has it that when Gen. George Custer first heard the tune to the jovial Irish folk song, "Garryowen," he liked it so much that he had his troops sing it regularly. The song also became the unofficial battle hymn of the 7th Cavalry, and has descended among the ranks of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment's graces.

On Feb. 11, 2005, Soldiers of the 1/69th Inf. Bn., 256th Brigade Combat Team (BCT) had a reason to celebrate, and the legacy of "Garryowen" was all a part of it.

The 1/69th is an involved infantry battalion, with many of its noncombatant troops participating in missions beyond their certified fields. Cooks, administrative special-

ists, and mechanics, are only the tip of the iceberg of the Soldiers who have performed in combat operations. Even before the plan for the Close Combat Badge (CCB)--which is awarded to those Soldiers who find themselves in combat missions, though are not MOS qualified--was made known, the leadership of the 1/69th wanted their Soldiers to be recognized for their contributions. The collective group of 1st Sergeants, along with the Bn. Sgt. Maj. and Commander, came up with a design for the plaque that is inclusive to all of the recipients, no matter what their job is.

Spc. Jason Garcia, from Manhattan, New York, is a personnel clerk for Headquarters Co. 1/69th. He had a personal hand in designing the plaque and said that the fact that it was a collaborative effort of all of the leadership makes it that much more special.

"All of the 1st Sergeants came up with the verbiage, and they wanted it to be just right," he said. Garcia also claims that the project kept growing bigger and bigger.



**Spc. Mike Timblin preps the Blue Force Tracker before rolling out on a patrol. Timblin, who is a tanker and not eligible for the Combat Infantry Badge (CIB), was presented a plaque by the leadership of the 1/69th for his role in combat operations.**

"At first it was going to be a certificate, something that the Soldier could frame," he said, "but everyone felt that it should be more."

Spc. Mike Timblin of North Tonawanda, N.Y., was awarded the plaque for a mission where he became combat support. "I drove the colonel on one of his missions and we hit an IED (improvised explosive device)," said Timblin.

Luckily, the IED wasn't prepped for detonation, so they escaped major activity, but the mission wasn't over with yet.

"Later on we also took small arms fire and were hit with an RPG (rocket

propelled grenade)."

Timblin says that he has also had a few more engagements since then.

The plaque, which reads, "Task Force Wolfhound Recognizes You as an Infantryman in Word and Deed," was awarded to approximately 140 Soldiers. On the bottom is the infamous term, "Garryowen."

The song is commonly heard among Irish heritage units, and according to Garcia, Lt. Col. Geoffrey Slack, commander of the 1/69th, was adamant about having the term printed on their plaque.

"Lt. Col. Slack came up with the idea to put it on there," said Garcia, "it's a part of our history that he's proud of and wants us to be, too."

# Planting Iraq's Future

*Agricultural  
Development*

**By Spc. Chris Foster  
256th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs**



**Operations Officer, Maj. Andre Vige, from St. Martinville, La. and Sgt. 1st Class Derek Shire from Heska, La. both with 199th FSB, load tractors onto trailers so they can be secured.**

The 256th Brigade Combat Team (BCT), continues to assist the Iraqi people with humanitarian projects to improve the agricultural aspect of their economy. While the 1088th Eng. Bn. of 256th oversees water pipeline projects, they are also helping the 199th Forward Support Battalion (FSB) to plant a seed in the farm lands of Iraq.

In a warehouse in Sadr City, sits farm equipment that has lain dormant for the past three years. It was purchased during the reign of Sadaam Hussein and his regime. The 199th is coordinating the movement and distribution of the equipment to the units of the 256th. With the help of Iraqi workers, Maj. Andre Vige, Operations Officer of the 199th FSB, loaded a New Holland tractor onto a trailer that would take it to Camp Liberty, Iraq, and eventually, to a local farmer.

"I don't know what kind of intent Saddam Hussein had," said the St. Martinville, La. native, "but I do know that the intent of the 256th is to make sure that the co-op farmers get the equip-

ment they need for agricultural growth."

In only two days time, the 199th and 1088th Battalions successfully delivered 37 operational tractors and 72 irrigational water pumps to a holding area at Camp Liberty. Soon they will be distributed among the units of the 256th BCT to give out to the co-op farmers. Agricultural entrepreneurs will be able to sign out the equipment to use in the process of developing their crops, and it will be returned when they are through.

With these new assets, Iraqi farmers have the ability to expediently cultivate and expand their land, therefore increasing the amount of produce grown. Soldiers of the 256th are hoping that this project will cause the local economy to strengthen, therefore giving the Iraqis a better future.

Cpl. George Well from Effie, La. is a gunner for the 199th FSB and was involved in maintaining security for this project.

"I love what we are doing out here," he said, "it's like sowing a seed and watching it grow; years later you come back to check on it, and it has grown into a strong tree."



**Sgt. Leo Geautreux, from Erwinville, La., and Sgt. Joseph Thomas, from Baton Rouge, La. both with HHC 1088th, secure one of the 37 tractors that were convoyed to Camp Liberty.**

During the loading of the equipment, Well and gunners from additional trucks scanned their sectors looking for any Anti Iraqi Force terrorists that would try to disrupt their mission.

"I would rather be out here helping these people instead of doing nothing (about it)," said Well.

As the 256th continues to assist the Iraqi people to seek growth in their own economy, the country is becoming a nation that can stand on its own. Years from now Soldiers

of the Tiger Brigade will be able to see the fruits of their sacrifice and hard work, and will know that they planted a seed that became a tree.

# Invincible

Counting Blessings

By Spc. Erin Robicheaux  
256<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

Thirteen improvised explosive devices (IEDs), five mortar attacks, and one vehicle born improvised explosive device (VBIED); this may sound like an insurgent Christmas Carol, but it is actually the score

card of Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Patrick Sandel.

A Soldier with C Co., 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 156<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, attached to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 156<sup>th</sup> Armor Regiment, this DeRidder, La. native has faced encounters more times than any one Soldier in the 256<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team (BCT). He counts his blessings every day that he is still here.

"That first IED scared the (you know what) out of me," he said with a reflective grin.

Sandel says that his inaugural mission outside the wire was a prophetic vision into what laid ahead for him and his Soldiers. The very first time he ventured into his area of operation he was met with a mortar attack. A few days later, he hit the first IED, and only now has it begun to slow down.

"November and December were busy for us," he said, "right now it's been three weeks since I've been hit and that's the longest I've gone without in a while."

According to Sandel, his platoon's reaction to an attack has improved with each incident, and is, in fact, now second nature to them. Whether they are conducting mounted or dismounted patrols, if something happens, they shut it down immediately and begin sweeping the area for threats. He says that along with incorporating the training that they received

at Ft. Hood, they have a strategy that works best for them and within two seconds of getting hit, they are out and scanning their sector.

"It's just like brushing your teeth now," he said, "we have this process down to an art."

Recently, the platoon lost Sgt. Seth Trahan, from Crowley, La., to an IED attack. Sandel says that until this happened, getting hit seemed normal and like it was just part of the job. The Soldiers were clearing an intersection and as Trahan rounded the corner, the device went off, instantly killing him and wounding two others.

"We weren't complacent on the patrols, by any means," says Sandel,

"but until it killed somebody, getting hit was a routine thing."

Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Stuckey from Shreveport, La. is the Sgt. Maj. for 1/156<sup>th</sup> AR. He feels that Sandel's spirit and enthusiasm for his job have not diminished over time, even in the face of such adversity.

"A lot of the guys who get hit by IEDs get scared and start to wear down, but Sandel has not," said Stuckey.

Stuckey says that the leadership that Sandel has shown is exemplary and shines through in his own attitude for his job, and also in the attitude of his Soldiers toward him.

"He never stops and he's always high spirited," said Stuckey, "his Soldiers like to go out with Sandel and I think they'd do anything for him."



Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Sandel of "CharlieRock" 3/156th, attached to 1/156th, on patrol in his Bradley Fighting Vehicle.

# For Your Information

## 256th Court Martials

1. PV2 Ryan K. Bell C. Co. 1088th

### Article 91

(3 Charges) Specifications of Assault of a noncommissioned officer

### Article 91

(1 Charge) Specification of Disrespect of a noncommissioned officer

### Article 134

(2 Charges) Specifications of Communicating a Threat Punishment:

Reduction to E1, Forfeiture of \$700 per month for 6 months, 90 days confinement

2. SPC Charles Richard B Co. 1088th

### Article 92

(1 Charge) Violating 256th BCT General Order No. 1 by consuming alcohol

### Article 121

(1 Charge) Specification of wrongful appropriation of a motor vehicle (LMTV)

### Article 128

(1 Charge) Specification of assault consummated by a battery

### Punishment

Reduction to E1, 90 days confinement, and Bad Conduct Discharge

3. SPC Kyle Johnson, B Co. 1088th

### Article 92

(1 Charge) Specification of Violating 256th BCT General Order No. 1 by consuming alcohol

### Article 121

(1 Charge) Specification of wrongful appropriation (LMTV)

### Punishment

Reduction to E1, 90 days confinement, and Bad Conduct Discharge

4. SPC Jeremy Ventress, B Co. 1088th

### Article 92

(1 Charge) Specification of Violating 256th BCT General Order No.1 by consuming alcohol

### Article 121

(1 Charge) Specification of wrongful appropriation

### Article 111

(1 Charge) Specification of physically controlling a vehicle while drunk

### Punishment

Reduction to E1, 120 days confinement, and Bad Conduct Discharge

5. PFC Lee Cox, A Co. 2/156th INF BN

### Article 92

(1 Charge) Specification of Violating 256th BCT General Order No.1 by consuming alcohol

### Article 112a

(1 Charge) Wrongful possession, use and distribution of a controlled substance (Valium)

### Article 121

(1 Charge) Theft of property from a vendor at the Camp Liberty Bazaar.

### Punishment

Reduction to E1, 60 days confinement, and Bad Conduct Discharge

### Consequences of a Bad Conduct Discharge:

-Deprivation of all benefits of the Dept. of Veterans Affairs

-Adversely stigmatizes the character of your military service and will limit your future employment, civil service preference, and educational opportunities

-May adversely affect your future with regard to legal rights, economic opportunities, and social acceptability

-Terminates military status and will deprive you of any military retirement benefits

### Marne Tax Center

Opens 7 March 2005

**Hours of Operation: Monday through Saturday  
0900-1630 and 1800-2000**

Located in the Legal Services Center (Bldg C25)

Services include free e-filing Federal and State Income Tax Returns (the fastest way to get your refund!)

### Soldiers need to bring:

- (1) Military Identification Card
- (2) W2 and other tax documents
- (3) Legal documents as necessary.

# Soldier's Voice

## In Their Own Words

What are your expectations with the transition from 1st Cav to 3rd ID?



Sgt. Shane Garcie  
A Co. 1/156th  
Natchitoches, La.

"The war has changed since they were here the first time, and I hope that they can adapt to that."



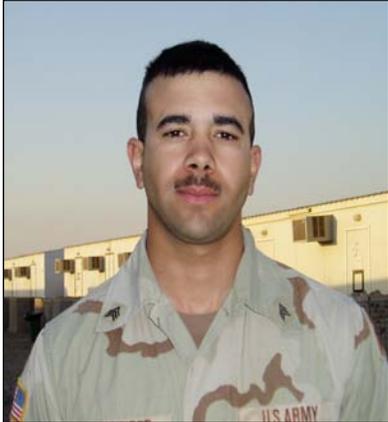
Staff Sgt. Robert Williams  
HHC 1088th  
Baton Rouge, La.

"I was in 3rd ID a long time ago and I know that there are going to be a lot of changes. They're pretty strict, and as they put their foot in the ground there will be a lot of noticeable differences."



Spc. Tab Merkel  
D/101 CAV  
Pine Bush, N.Y.

"I expect the same effect as from 1st Cav. They will combine the problems of both the National Guard and the Regular Army."



Sgt. Alfred Schneider  
A Co. 3/156th  
St. Bernard, La.

"I've heard that the 3rd ID is high speed. I know that there will be a lot of changes and I'm prepared for them."

**In general, how has this deployment experience been for you thus far?**



Staff Sgt. Chris G. Nappier  
B Battery  
1/141 FA  
Chalmette, La.

"Deployment has been good so far. Just getting to know my Soldiers more in depth than what I could on a regular drill weekend has been great."

Staff Sgt. Sara L. Partlow  
B/134 Signal  
East Grand Forks, Minn.

"I am truly honored to be a Soldier serving our country. Being deployed has been a valuable, exciting and challenging experience. Living in a country occupied by the less fortunate, serves as a constant reminder of why we as Americans should appreciate the freedoms we have."



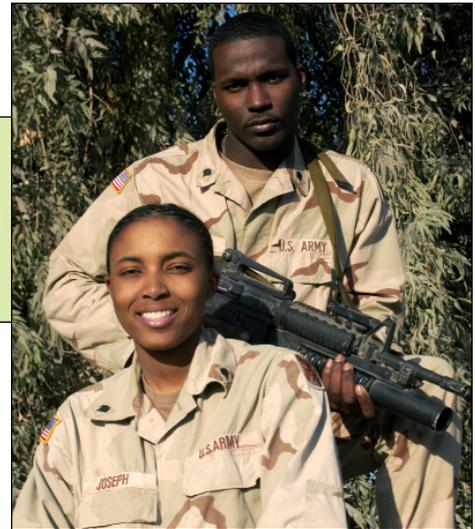
# 256 BCT Families

*One Big Happy Family*



Capt. Mark Carbo, a Physician's Assistant for C Co. 199th Forward Support Battalion, is serving in Baghdad with his brother, Sgt. 1st Class Greg Carbo, a Sr. Mechanic for A Co. 199th. Both brothers live in Alexandria, La.

Spc. Jennell M. Joseph and Spc. Edmond L. Jr. Joseph, from Donaldsonville, La. are siblings with 1088th A Co. En. Bn, and serving together in Operation Iraqi Freedom III.



Sgt. Joshua M. Ransonet a, Medic, and Spc. Zebe N. Ransonet, a scout, both with HHC 2/156th are brothers from Lafayette, La.



1Lt. David L. Bourgeois, Executive Officer for B Co. 1/156th AR Bn., and Sgt. Gary W. Bourgeois, Tank Commander for C Co. 1/156th AR Bn., are brothers from Bossier City, La.

Sgt. Thomas M. Cappetta and Spc. Christopher J. Cappetta, with E Troop 101 Cav, are brothers from Rochester, N.Y. Here they link up with their uncle, Maj. Anthony N. Cappetta, with 416th ENCOM FET-22, from Yardley, PA.



# 256th BCT Photo Album

## Faces in the Brigade



First Sgt. Albert Van Zant, from Natchitoches, La., is with A Co., 1/156th Armored Battalion, helps Soldiers of his unit distribute frozen chickens to the locals in

their area. Here, Van Zant is unloading boxes for his Soldiers to hand out.



3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment and E Troop 101 Cav, hand out chalk boards to schools in Iraq, so the students will have a better learning environment.



A released Iraqi national gladly takes a cigarette lighter with the tips hotline number engraved on it, on February 17, 2005, during a detainee release done by the 256th Brigade Combat Team.

Over the past several months, units of the 256th Brigade Combat Team (BCT) have been building relationships with the local people and are helping the United States to win the war on terror.

In addition to medical clinics, blanket distributions, and bringing school supplies to area schools, the Soldiers have also handed out frozen chickens and fuel. Larger projects that are improving the quality of life include construction of water pipelines, and building additions to businesses and clinics.



Maj. Brad Sonnier, from St. Martinville, La., Civil Affairs Officer for 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, hands out school bags to the students of different schools in their sectors.

# 256th BCT Photo Album

## Faces in the Brigade



At the Saba Al Boor Police Station, Spc. Jade Bernard from Abbeville, La. with HHC 256th Military Police Platoon, along with Dept. of Defense Police Advisors, train the Iraqi Police in proper techniques for apprehending and searching an Iraqi female suspect.



Staff Sgt. Michael Dugas, from Lake Charles, La. and Command Sgt. Maj. Gary Ermantinger, from New Orleans, La. of 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, uncase their Battalion's Colors during a ceremony to signify the recognition of HHC 3/156th.



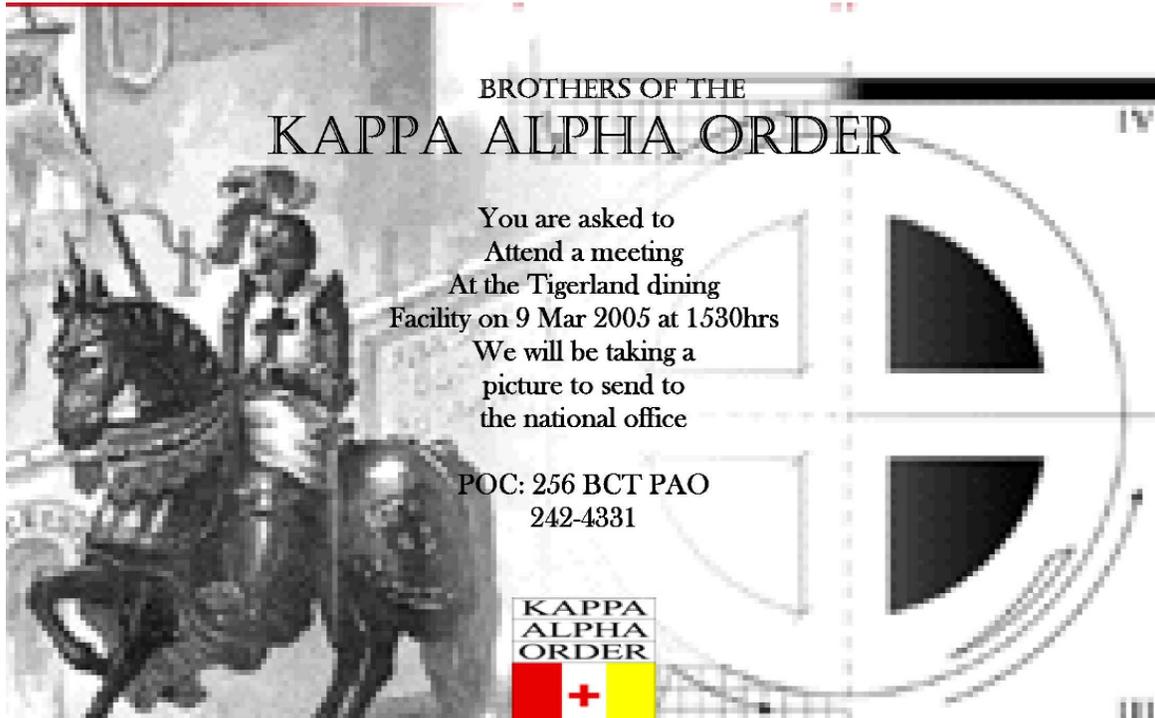
(left) Brig. Gen. John Basilica, Jr., commander of the 256th Brigade Combat Team, presents a farewell gift to 1st Cavalry Division's commanding general, Maj. Gen. Peter Chiarelli on February 25, 2005. (right) The Sr. Leadership of the 256th BCT, take a picture with the plaque that was presented to them by Maj. Gen. Peter Chiarelli.

Command Sgt. Major Steven Stuckey, Sgt. 1st Class Gerald Giles, and 1st Sergeants Lumus St Julien, Albert Vanzent, Jeffrey Gore, and Sgt. Major Kelly Craig of the 1/156th Armored Battalion, present Command Sgt. Maj. James Mays with \$2,600.00 for the 1st Cavalry Division's Bronze Memorial Fund. The memorial honors all the fallen Soldiers of units attached to 1st Cavalry Division in Operation Iraqi Freedom II. The money was raised by the First Sgts. and Sr. Leadership of the 1/156th AR, who collected it from the soldiers of the 1/156.



# Attention Soldiers!!!

Announcements



BROTHERS OF THE  
KAPPA ALPHA ORDER

You are asked to  
Attend a meeting  
At the Tigerland dining  
Facility on 9 Mar 2005 at 1530hrs  
We will be taking a  
picture to send to  
the national office

POC: 256 BCT PAO  
242-4331

KAPPA  
ALPHA  
ORDER

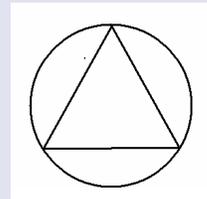
## The Sporting News

### Free Subscriptions!!!

Free one year (60 issues) subscriptions of The Sporting News are being offered to servicemen and women of the armed forces. The gift is being provided by FirstSwing ([www.firstswing-camps.com](http://www.firstswing-camps.com)), and will begin arriving in six to eight weeks, but will not automatically renew at the end of one year. To request a free subscription Soldiers should email FirstSwing at [firstswing36@hotmail.com](mailto:firstswing36@hotmail.com) and provide their first and last name, mailing address and zip code.

\*\*FirstSwing has agreed not to use the personal information of the military recipients for any purpose other than for sending the gift subscriptions.\*\*

## FRIENDS OF BILL W



Meetings Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday  
at 8 PM

Camp Tigerland across from the Mayor Cell Bus  
Stop at Tiger Plaza

In the big green tent marked (A)

For information try [www.geocities.com/baghdadaa](http://www.geocities.com/baghdadaa)  
or for help try [www.baghdadaa@yahoo.com](mailto:www.baghdadaa@yahoo.com)

\*\*AA Meetings are also open to Al-Anon (friends  
and family of persons suffering from alcohol  
and/or drug addiction), and to anyone who feels  
they need help coping with dependency.

Attention: Soldiers and Family Members

If you would like to express yourselves or have something you would like to share (ie. poems, stories, issues you would like to address, quotes, pictures from home, etc). Please send us your submissions for the next edition, Feel free to email us at [taysha.deaton@id3.army.mil](mailto:taysha.deaton@id3.army.mil) or any of the PAO staff members. We want your VOICE!

# Fallen Soldier

*In Loving Memory*

Sgt. Seth R. Trahan  
Staff Sgt. Nicholas J. Olivier

## A Soldiers Story

I was that which others did not want to be  
I went where others feared to go  
And did what others feared to do  
I asked nothing from those who gave nothing  
And reluctantly accepted the thought of eternal  
Loneliness.....Should I fail  
I have seen the face of Terror  
Felt the stinging cold of fear  
And enjoyed the sweet taste of a moments Love  
I Have Cried, Pained, and Hoped  
But most of all I have lived times  
Others would say were best forgotten  
At least I am able to say that  
I Am Proud of what I was....A Soldier

-Anonymous