



# VANGUARD POINT

Volume II, Issue 11  
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**On the cover:**  
The Kevlar, rifles and ID tags of four ACR Soldiers stand as a silent testament to their sacrifice.



## Chaplain's corner ...

# Looking for Mr. or Mrs. Right - the right way

Chaplain (Maj.) Blake Bowers

4th BCT Chaplain

Your single, you're lonely, and you're looking for a member of the opposite sex. When you're single you may be looking for someone who will understand you, be your friend and accept and love you for who you are, which could lead to marriage.

Some people choose to be single for all sorts of reasons. Some feel they can better serve God by being single. The Apostle Paul in I Corinthians 7 said that for some being single was a gift that came from God.

They could handle the pressure of not being married and without fulfilling their sexual desires. The plan that God has for singles is that they remain virgins and pure until marriage. Their passions are under the control of the Spirit of God.

I know some of you are saying well chaplain you're off your rocker, this is a new century and a different time. I am well aware of all the arguments you could give me.

Just know this: Study after study, both by secular and religious based organizations, have shown that couples who remained virgins until they married, had a far greater success rate in their marriages. In some studies well over 70 percent of those who were engaged in sex prior to marriage and then married, were divorced. That also holds true for those who "shacked up."

If you're looking for a long-term relationship that could end in a marriage for you consider a few things.

H. Norman Wright, a well know counselor in the field of relationships, in his book "Relationships That Work and (those that don't)" speaks of 12 steps of a lasting relationship. Without going into a whole lot of explanation they are as follows: eye to body, eye to eye, voice to voice, hand to hand, arm to arm, shoulder to shoulder, arm to waist, face to face, hand to head, hand to body, mouth to breast, hand to genital, and genital to genital.

These are paths that Wright has seen relationships take after years of research and counseling with people.

Each stage leads to a different aspect of the relationship and possibly to intimacy. Each stage gets a little more personal and involved.

The problem comes in when these stages are skipped. When you go from stage one to stage nine and higher in a night or a few short weeks you have entered a relationship that is built on chemistry.



You know little to nothing about the person you are with. Sexual needs have been met but the other needs you are trying to fill inside you are still vacant. The relationship consists of nothing substantial.

Wright says in his book that "It's like building a bridge over a gorge and leaving out the concrete and steel foundations. Just as the structure will be deformed, so will the relationship."

Shortcuts are not what it takes to build a healthy relationship. If it turns out a relationship is not for you, you can move on and build again.

You build not from a sexual base but from a sound mature base that may take you to marriage which is reserved for the most intimate contact. Your relationship will be built on reality and not fantasy.

Take your time in the relationship to explore values, feelings, emotions, virtues, common interest. Have those deep long conversations that explore family background and values. Limit your sexual boundaries and save that for marriage.

Your relationship will be more balanced and lasting. Wright shares eight

standards that someone can use to determine if they are in a healthy relationship. They are as follows:

1. Are you in this relationship because you clearly choose to be or do you feel you "must" or "have" to be with that person?
2. A healthy relationship is characterized by mutual strength, support and equality - you help each other grow, to be the best you can be.
3. Are you able to be objective with each other as compared to wearing blinders?
4. Is there a balance between other friends and exclusive attention to your partner?
5. Healthy relationships have a high degree of trust.
6. Those that are open to change have more opportunity to operate or function as they should.
7. A healthy relationship moves conflicts toward resolution and uses disagreements as a means of growth.
8. A healthy relationship makes you a stronger person, both when you're with you're partner and when you're not.

Your relationships that you have are valuable and important. Some of you wonder why your relationships don't work. It may be because they are too shallow. Take the time to build depth and get to know the person you're interested in. The time spent doing this may very well save you lots of grief down the road.

Do you have a letter to the editor, photo or story to send in? Send it to [raymond.piper@us.army.mil](mailto:raymond.piper@us.army.mil).

Please include your full name and rank. If you send a photo, include what's going on in the photo, full names of people, rank, units and date.

# 'Red Devils' keep IZ running

Spc. Dan Balda  
4th BCT PAO

Some might call them "Fobbits," a crude term for a Soldier who does not leave the FOB or forward operating base. But what the Soldiers of B Company, 703rd Forward Support Battalion should be called is mission essential.

"We don't go out on patrol," said Capt. Billy Eckstein, B Company commander. "For the most part our life is here on the FOB."

But that doesn't mean their job is not important. Without Eckstein's company, the well oiled machine that is the International Zone would grind to a screeching halt.

The Greenville, S.C., native's company was originally called to support all of the units assigned to the 4th Brigade Combat Team. His unit's mission has now evolved into supporting "everybody and everything in the IZ," to include the combat support hospital, Marines, the Georgians and anybody else who calls the Green Zone home.

B Co. has twice the workload of any maintenance company in the 3rd Infantry Division, Eckstein said.

"Here in Iraq everything is focused around the forward operating bases," said Lt. Col. Jack Haley, 703rd FSB battalion commander. "We are asking them to do a lot more than the battalions are designed for, but they have risen to the challenge. It's a lot of work."

"My Soldiers are awesome," Eckstein said. "I say this not just because I am the company commander, but this is a great group of people to work with."

The "great group" includes 27 different military occupational specialties, covering a wide variety of tasks, such as night vision goggle repair, machinists, turret repair and TOW missile repair. The company is able to maintain their high workload because, according to Eckstein, each Soldier can perform any job in their section, regardless of rank or time in service.

He attributes the cross training to the fact that 65 percent of his company deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom I.

"It helps me as a commander because I have experienced people working for me," he said. "We've worked together for a long time as a team. Our (noncommissioned officers) and the other experienced Soldiers have really taken the lead in making sure the less-experienced Soldiers know what to expect are trained to handle the difficulties of a deployment."

Having the salty NCO's also helps keep the deployment in perspective for the Soldiers who are new to Iraq.

"Yeah it stinks that the internet costs what it does, and it's slow and sometimes it goes down," Eckstein said. "Sometimes the water goes out, my cell phone doesn't work all the time, and I didn't enjoy dinner tonight. Then you've got the guys who were here last time saying, 'knock it off, you didn't live in your truck for three months and eat (meals ready to eat) everyday.'"

Eckstein credits his maintenance company with helping to keep the accommodations above usual deployment levels.

"The great thing about traveling with a maintenance company is that whatever I want these guys will find it or build it," Eckstein said. "Most of our stuff was built by our people. They set up our offices, put in air conditioning and built me the best arms room on



Spc. Dan Balda

**Pfc. Seville Shedrick, a special device equipment repair specialist assigned to B. Company, 703rd Forward Support Battalion and a native of Port Arthur, Texas, loads a radio to troubleshoot it.**

this FOB."

Like the old adage, "Idle hands are the devil's plaything," the Soldiers of B Company are in no danger of getting in trouble any time soon.

"One of the good things about a deployment is that it keeps the Soldiers busy," Eckstein said. "The first thing I hear out of their mouth is, 'This makes the time go faster.'"

Sgt.1st Class Greg Nettles the maintenance control sergeant agrees with his commander.

"Everybody in the unit knows their mission," said the Linden, Ala., native. "Everybody is focused in getting their job done, it's hard work but we know that the more we work, the busier we stay; the faster our time here will go by."

Although Eckstein's Soldiers rarely leave the International Zone their job can be just as difficult as any other Soldiers'.

"It's hot as hell, and 80 percent of my company works outside in this heat," Eckstein said. "What a lot of units don't understand is if I have a guy working all day on a transmission or on NVGs, he still has to be able to ruck up and go guard a tower as well as be proficient with his weapon."

*Maintenance continued Page 8*

# Baghdad neighborhood shows signs of recovery

Spc. Christopher Mallard  
A, 425th CA Bn.

Along Market Street in the Abu Dschir area of south Baghdad, shop owners are open for business.

Appearing at times more like a promenade with long pedestrian walkways, the old dilapidated stucco shops are set far back from the street. Color-tiled planters line the meridian and separate oncoming traffic. Snarled power lines, propped up in some places by leaning poles, bring electricity to the shops.

In the heat of mid-day, Iraqis gather from the surrounding neighborhoods. They are not surprised to find new appliances for sale, along with household wares and tools.

sanctions, the economic effects on the country are still evident and are well documented. But often overlooked, with the media focus on large-scale reconstruction projects, is a smaller revolution of commerce that is taking place in the neighborhoods around Baghdad.

With the toppling of the regime also went the command economy. Most Iraqis had adjusted to the dramatic decline in goods and services offered during this era. But a dual economy, which has all but disappeared in the last two years since the Central Bank began printing the new dinar, has dramatically shrunk the black-market which existed for years.

According Mohammed A Chehoury working as an interpreter and who also holds a Masters Degree in Political

of the manufacturing base was used for the production of military products resulting in a current balance of trade, which to this day still remains heavily tilted toward imports.

“Competition is a sophisticated mind-set after 20 years of a stifled bureaucratic process and will take time before it can take root,” Chehouris said.

Cheap products were the first to make it to these new markets but experts believe greater diversity of products is on its way and will be seen in the coming years as security is improved.

Security, however, is still the biggest factor in building up the local markets. It has become an issue that is vocalized at District Council meetings and discussed by commanders in the field.

Along Market Street, unexploded ordnance and improvised explosive devices have been found and there is active debate as to whether the “squatter” stands near the curbs are too close to the moving traffic and should be encouraged to relocate.

More than a year ago, the U.S. Army, with the help of local contractors, helped construct nearly 168 market stalls which could be used for commercial and retail purposes.

But in a country where the tradition of the bazaar has been around for more than 1,000 years, it is slow to convince merchants to back away from the street where they are familiar and comfortable doing business, even if it is for their own safety as well as that of multinational forces.

Adding to the security issue is the break down in essential services, especially garbage collection. A Company, 425th Civil Affairs Battalion, a unit out of Santa Barbara, Calif., is currently working this issue with 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment.

At a recent Neighborhood Council meeting, 1st Lt. Cameron Murphy, assistant civil affairs officer of 1st Bn., 184th Inf. Bn., named trash collection as the number-one problem facing this muhalla and said he is convinced that his brigade will approve a project to employ roughly 75 people.

If approved, the trash clearing will focus on the area of Abu Dschir, especially Market Street and Power Line Road, which officials said appear to be the worse sectors for dumping and debris.

With unemployment still hovering around 60 percent, finding young men productive ways to occupy their time is



**An Iraqi boy stands in front of a candy stand at the Abu Dschir market in Al Dora in July. The activity at this marketplace is a positive sign for Iraqis that normalcy is returning to their country and that they are on the path to economic recovery.**

Next door is a display of pre-paid cell phones, while outside against the curb a fruit stand offers dates, watermelon, apples and grapes from the agricultural sector of Arab Jobour.

Across the street and below a wide billboard, where a woman is shown modeling a bridal gown, a man in a traditional white robe sits on a stool sipping a smoothie, blended from this same locally grown fruit.

This is one of the more economically-challenged neighborhoods, or “muhallas,” that make up Al Rasheed.

July 14 marked the anniversary of the Baathist rise to power. After a decade of

Economy, “This was a situation that resulted in an abnormal economy, there was no organized balance of revenue and inflation made it nearly impossible to purchase even the most basic goods.”

Today, when you walk into one of these shops along Market Street in Abu Dschir, there are Chinese vacuum cleaners for sale, Korean television sets and Kuwaiti bottled soda. Border countries such as Syria, Jordan, Turkey and Kuwait provide most of the products to Iraq. Long-time associations with China and Korea can still be seen in the display of products.

During Saddam Hussein’s reign, most

*Market continued Page 8*

# Taking control of their country: one patrol at a time

Spc. Dan Balda  
4th BCT PAO

One thing every Soldier assigned to Iraq wants to hear is “The Iraqi Security Forces are sufficiently trained and tested to take control of the future of Iraq.” Any Soldier who hears this knows the next order would be a redeployment order, one that would send them home until their country calls for them again.

Well, I’ve got good news and bad news. The bad news is that the Army will still be here until the mission is complete. The good news is that every day the ISF gets closer to being able to take over.

This is no more apparent than in the partnership between E Company, 216th Air Defense Artillery, a National Guard unit deployed out of Cloquet, Minn., and the 1st Battalion, 4th Public Order Brigade, an Iraqi Special Police unit.

Capt. Justin Rodgers, the E Co. commander said his unit has been working with the POB since the June 1. The POB is sufficiently trained on the basics of soldiering, so the teaching has been mainly done through joint missions and planning with the leadership of the POB.

This partnership performed a joint operation during the early morning of Aug. 4. During this operation the POB’s ability to do most of the “heavy-lifting” was in full view.

“When we go out with (the POB) we usually just provide perimeter security, while they perform the actual strike mission,” said Sgt. Derek Gunderson, a surface to air missile operator.

According to Gunderson, a native of St. Louis, Minn., it can be

hectic and tiring, working night operations with the POB, but it’s still “cool” to work with them.

“We get to learn their culture and some of their language,” Gunderson said. “One of the guys had a new baby and we brought him some stuffed animals for the baby. They appreciate the things we teach them.”

“(Working together is) good for us and good for them,” Rodgers said. “It gives them a chance at joint operations and different kinds of operations like traffic control points and strikes. It’s good for us because we get the extra training, and we get to see the ISF in action.”

During the Aug. 4 mission, the POB had 17 targets the Ministry of the Interior had culled from Operation Thunder. Seven targets were detained, though not from lack of training. In the first house that was raided, the POB just missed their target as evidenced from the lights being left on and the water still running. A search of the house turned up some large caliber shells as well as a grenade.

At another target site, a sewage plant, two men were detained as suspected insurgents for using the plant as a car bomb factory.

The POB is a little more methodical in their raids, said Rodgers, a native of Maple Grove, Minn. “They do more of the investigative police-work type stuff, try to make sure who they’ve got is on their list.”

Rodgers is certain that the cooperation between the two units is making a difference in Iraqi and in the Iraqi peoples’ perception of the ISF.

“The big thing is that detainee ops is always a concern,” Rodgers said. “We want to make sure they are treating (the detainees) well.



Members of the 1st Battalion, 4th Public Order Brigade, an Iraqi Special Police unit, prepare to enter a home during an early morning raid Aug. 4.

The POB is definitely more aware of it, they understand the concerns, and are quite upset when they see other units masquerading as a part of their unit and their reputation is soiled when the imposters mistreat detainees.”

Sometimes the MOI will call the POB complaining that some of the detainees have been mistreated. The POB commander answers that all this trucks have been in the compound, under his control all day and there was no way the detainees were harmed under his watch.

“Other units will say they are a part of the elite units (i.e. POB or Wolf Brigade), put on the same uniform and then turn around and

abuse these guys, they get the rap even though it wasn’t them.”

Rodgers said that it’s sad that ISF forces are still trying to learn to dial down their anger directed towards the terrorists that are killing the innocent Iraqi civilians, but is heartened to see the POB care about their reputation and the way they are perceived by their fellow countrymen.

The only problem Rodgers sees with the POB is their high turnover rate.

“Two of the reasons they struggle with maintaining their members is the living conditions and their pay rate,” Rodgers said. The POB Soldiers get paid the equivalent of \$250 a month while their police counterparts make as much as \$450 a month. Even the POB commander makes roughly \$400 a month.

“They are making great strides, but the turnover is killing them,” Rodgers said. “They reach a high level of proficiency and then they can’t afford to stay with the unit.”

Both Gunderson and Rodgers seem heartened by the progress the POB is making in securing the future of Iraq. The unit was already battle-ready when Rodgers’ battery started working with them. Soon enough, they will run all their missions by themselves.

Gunderson, like most Soldiers working with the ISF, has no problem seeing the Iraqis working so hard.

“They are doing a good job,” he said. “I’m glad to see that they are doing more than us.”

One day, hopefully soon, they will be doing it all, while we as Soldiers cheer them on from the States. 

## Operation Thunder bags bad guys, brings beaucoup smiles

Capt. Raymond Hill and Staff Sgt. Ronald Eberhardt  
1-184th Inf. PAO FSNCO/PAO

Iraqi Soldiers from the Public Order Battalion and the Wolf Brigade, as well as Soldiers assigned to 1st Battalion, 184 Infantry Regiment conducted Operation Thunder in the Al Dora area of Baghdad July 25 and 26.

During the early morning hours, more than 250 1-184 Inf. Soldiers established a cordon around the densely populated neighborhoods using Humvees and tanks. The cordon was established around homes suspected of providing safe haven to numerous insurgents and criminals.

A secure cordon ensured that suspects had no escape and car bombs could not get in to the area attempting to injure or kill Soldiers. At the prescribed hour, the gates of the Iraqi compounds burst open and the streets were flooded with the familiar blue and white pickups.

The pickups filled with Soldiers raced off to their targets, in order to help secure the safety of Iraq from those who would destroy it.

It wasn’t long before the first target was hit and the men of the Public Order Battalion, Wolf Bde., and 1-184 went through the houses that were identified by the units intelligence cells.

They went through the numerous targeted houses looking for evidence of terrorist activity and wanted people. In all, they were able to arrest 57 people for possible criminal and terrorist activities in the neighborhood.

The next morning, 1-184 established a similar cordon around the

neighborhoods. The streets of Al-Dora were flooded with Iraqi military, but this time the purpose was much different. Instead of searching for those who would injure the citizens of Iraq, the focus of the operation was to provide humanitarian assistance as well as foster good will towards the people who so often are targeted by these criminals. The weapons of choice this day included 2,300 humanitarian daily rations (a military-like meal), numerous cases of bottled water, 1,500 children’s backpacks filled with school supplies, 540 soccer balls, 600 t-shirts and two cases of medical supplies, along with numerous other items for the children of the area.

While the Iraqi military was distributing humanitarian aid in the neighborhoods, civil affairs and psychological operations units assigned to 1-184 met with Imams, local leaders, and citizens of the area to explain the purpose of the operation.

The civil affairs Soldiers handed out claims cards, talked with local leaders, assessed essential services and the support of the population towards the military and new Iraqi government. PSYOPS went up and down the streets using their loud speaker to disseminate the purpose of the operation to the neighborhood. These two units helped build Iraqi pride and support for the Iraqi Security Forces by also distributing items, such as soccer balls, t-shirts, and Iraqi flags.

Both phases of this operation ended successfully with countless smiles from the Iraqi people, who had been given so much in the past two days. They received not only school supplies and food for their children, but also freedom from the fear that they had been forced to live under since these terrorists had moved into their neighborhood. 



Staff Sgt. Ronald Eberhardt

An Iraqi Soldier is mobbed by children while distributing humanitarian aid to the Al Dora neighborhood July 26.

# Task Force Baghdad Soldiers provide food to residents

Capt. John J. Agnello

4th Brigade Combat Team

Elements of 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team cooking utensils and cleaning supplies July 22 to residents of Kindi, a neighborhood north of the International Zone.

The supplies were delivered in the form of a Rhode pack, a sustenance package of more than one ton of food and supplies that included rice, beans, canned fish and meat, vegetables, cooking oil, dessert treats, pots and pans, serving utensils and propane stoves.

"We have delivered other various items to this neighborhood before, but never to this scale," said Capt. Wiley Hammer, Force Troop, 2nd Battalion, 278th Cavalry Regiment commander and native of Knoxville, Tenn. "These people are in need, so we try to help them out with whatever way we can."

There are three different types of Rhode packs: construction, sustenance, and office supplies. The sustenance packages can feed more than 2,600 people a little more than one meal, said Maj. Daniel

Canales, 4th BCT civil-military operations officer. The package has the potential of feeding between 600 and 700 families.

The delivery received a warm welcome from the local populace and much thanks from town leaders. Soldiers from Force Troop, attached to 4-64, headed up the operation, with assistance from the battalion's Forward Support Company and Civil Affairs Team. 



**Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment provided food, cooking utensils and cleaning supplies to residents of Kindi July 22.**

Capt. John Agnello



Pfc. Dan Balda

**Cpl. Byron Rhames, a radio communications security repair specialist assigned to B. Company, 703rd Forward Support Battalion and a native of Mayesville, S.C., takes the casing off a radio.**

*Maintenance continued from Page 4*

Eckstein is preparing to change command and feels that up to the halfway-point of the deployment he has done as well as he could to set his company's new commander up for success when he takes over.

"When you take a company on a deployment you want to do two things," Eckstein said. "Get everybody home safely and set the next guys up for success."

Eckstein has done this by giving his counterparts in the incoming brigade plenty of compact discs filled with information to make the transfer of authority that much easier.

Eckstein is not content to rest on his or his companies' laurels.

"We are going to continue to improve, raise our standards across the board. We've done a great job on everything we've been asked to do," he said. "Our company is called the Red Devils, and our motto is give 'em hell, which is what we do everyday." 

*Market continued from Page 5*

one of the more important tasks facing civil affairs team leaders.

These days, U.S. Army officials have said their function is to encourage Iraqis to find solutions to the most pressing problems in their own communities and provide assistance in working these issues to assure outcomes that are mutually beneficial. This is all part of the transfer of power.

Maj. Carlos R. Molina, who recently assumed duties as a CA team leader responsible for this neighborhood, said he is encouraging the International Chamber Of Commerce to set up an office in Abu Dschir.

At the same Neighborhood Council meeting, he explained to members how the ICOC could be an important tool to "provide training and influence with the leaders of other governments, bringing greater foreign investment into Iraq and at the same time helping

to open markets in these same countries."

But more importantly, an association like the chamber of commerce in the area could open up dialogue, encourage fair business practices, and add a knowledge base to these small shop owners as well as public relations and commercial advertisement.

Revitalizing the local economy is nonetheless underway. Civil Affairs units said prices are remaining stable and the dinar is presently trading at more than twice its pre-Operation Iraqi Freedom value.

Secondly, consumers are optimistic. The opportunity to purchase, at reasonable prices, air conditioners, washers, driers, a family computer, and the goods necessary to return to normalcy remains a steady focus for the Army as Iraq rejoins the community of nations on the path to economic recovery. 



**There are no admin movements.**

**All movements are Combat Ops.**



# 3-3 ACR legacy continues in OIF 3

Spc. Dan Balda

4th BCT PAO

3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment has a long and illustrious history dating back to 1846 when the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen was organized by Congress. In 1861 they were redesignated the 3rd United States Cavalry Regiment.

The 3-3 ACR has seen action in the Mexican War, the Civil War, the Indian Wars where Geronimo surrendered to elements of the unit, both World Wars, Operation Desert Storm, Bosnia and Operation Iraqi Freedom I. In March, 2004, they received redeployment orders to their home at Fort Carson, Colo.

Upon returning home, Thunder Squadron trained for their next turn in Iraq.

In April of 2005, the Squadron redeployed to Iraq, as part of OIF III, to Forward Operating Base Falcon in Southern Baghdad, where it's located today, focused on building Iraqi Security Forces, counter-insurgency operations, and setting the conditions for the construction of a new Iraqi government.

As of mid-July, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division accepted command and control of 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Nobody said war is easy, and that has not changed for 3-3 ACR.

"The mission has been very difficult thus far," said Command Sgt. Maj. Glen Dailey, 3-3 ACR's senior noncommissioned officer. "We've changed our tactics to get after the enemy. We started out going out with just our HUMVEEs because a lot of the areas in our (area of operation) have canals and small roads that are hard to get through with the heavy armor. We were getting hit with a lot of IEDs, so the commander made the decisions to get out in our heavier vehicles."

Their mission has evolved somewhat from what the squadron trained for at Carson, but he has no fears regarding his units' ability to adapt, Dailey said.

"Back at home station we trained for a lot of cordon and searches and traffic control points," the Repton, Ala., native said. "Here is mostly route security, reconing the area to check for IEDs and other attack areas. We are a cavalry unit, we know how to adjust fire and get trained up on a changed mission with no problem."

His Soldiers don't necessarily like the

new mission, having spent months training for a different mission, but Dailey has heard nothing but positive affirmation regarding the changing of direction. During Dailey's deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom I, he was 2nd Squadron's operations sergeant major which gave him different responsibilities. This time Dailey's job allows him to interact with his Soldiers on a daily basis.

"With my new responsibilities I am most concerned with the Soldiers themselves," Dailey said. "It's a different ballgame from operations. I get to be where the Soldiers are at, making sure they are doing the right thing and they are being taken care of."

Like any noncommissioned officer worth his salt, Dailey prefers to be out with the Soldiers.

"(Being out with the Soldiers) I can honestly know what it feels like being out there working hard in the heat. I get to do what the Soldiers are doing and see what the Soldiers are seeing."

According to Dailey, 70 percent of his Soldiers have deployed to Iraq before the current deployment. This is something Dailey sees as both a blessing and a curse.

"It's good because the people know the conditions they know what to expect. And it's kind of not good because it's not the same fight that we had before. They can get the information down to the younger Soldiers who were not here before. I have to tell them, 'Guys this is what we did last time, and this is what we are going to do now.' They have to differentiate between the two fights."

During 3-3 ACR's previous deployment, they were in a more rural area, which allowed his Bradley Fighting Vehicles and Abrams Tanks to get out after the enemy with their main guns.

The face of the enemy is the biggest challenge facing the Thunder Squadron.

"Before the enemy would present themselves, as they would in a normal battle. This time the enemy are not presenting themselves. We can't tell who is an enemy and who is a civilian."

Dailey thinks the hardest thing for the Soldiers is the faceless enemy an IED

presents.

"The majority of Soldiers we have lost has been to IEDs," he said.

"They don't see anybody shooting, anybody they can shoot back at.

The frustration keeps building up and building up and building up and it's tough sometimes. They tell

me, "We cant keep

going out there and getting shot

up."

Dailey realizes their frustrations but makes it known that Soldiers can't go out "half-cocked" because they have to be aware of the civilians they are trying to help.

"A round might ricochet and hit those five little kids playing on the side of the road or the 50-year-old lady walking from the market. We don't want to be labeled as murderers because that doesn't make us any better than the insurgents."

Dailey understands the frustration, the "fog of war" builds and he does his best to combat it.

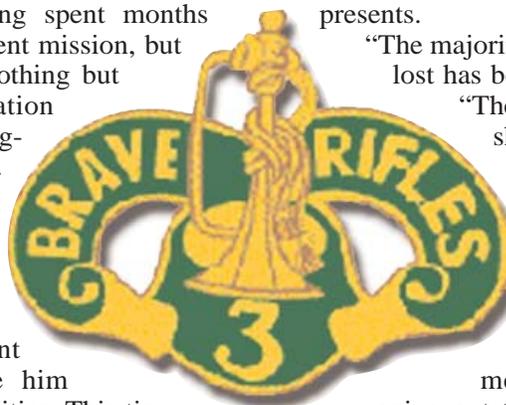
"They are keeping focused on the mission, that's part of my job, to make sure they have things available to release that stress when they come in off a mission," Dailey said. "I don't want them to just sit there and think about it. I'd rather them go to the gym or watch TV instead of getting angry."

He knows the squadron needs to achieve tangible results to maintain his Soldier's level of motivation.

"We are catching a lot of guys, and the Soldiers want to see that, they want to see us making headway against the insurgents," Dailey said. "We want to catch the guys that killed, my friend, my brother, my sergeant, my Soldier, and see them face justice. We make sure the guys are maintaining their composure, their professionalism. Each time we lose a Soldier it gets harder and harder."

Dailey believes his Soldiers will carry the day, partly for selfish reasons; they want to go home having completed the mission, but more importantly, for altruistic reasons.

"We are not here to destroy the Iraqi community or the Iraqi people, we are here to give them the support to see how they can live and evolve to running their own country." 



# Thunder troopers gone, but not forgotten

Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

NCOIC, 3rd ACR Public Affairs

The four men honored by Killer Troop and 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment at Forward Operating Base Falcon July 29 were sons, fathers, future fathers, husbands, friends and brothers-in-arms. Each Kevlar and each pair of boots basking in the evening sun were reminders that they were gone.

Staff Sgt. Jason Montefering, Sgt. Milton Monzon, Pfc. Ernest Dallas, and Pfc. Ramon Villatoro were killed in action July 24 after their Bradley vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device outside Baghdad.

1st Lt. Todd Arnold, executive officer, Killer Troop, 3-3 ACR, somberly took the microphone and addressed the audience of nearly 300 troopers in attendance.

“Whether it was their noted calm demeanor, sometimes fiery mentality, or ability to make you laugh even when you didn’t feel like it, each one of them affected every one of us, and their sacrifice on the field of the war will never be forgotten,” said Arnold as he struggled to fight back tears.

One by one, each of the four cavalry scouts were eulogized by leaders and troopers of Killer Troop.

For Sgt. Chris Fasold the loss of Montefering, the two long-time friends were stationed together in Germany as privates, was painful as he recalled the times the two shared together.

“He was by far the most selfless man I have ever met, and I befriended him immediately,” Fasold said. “I admired Jason for everything that he was and everything that he wasn’t. He was among the best of people, a master of his life.”

Montefering, from Parkston, S.D., entered the Army on June 18, 1997, and after concluding his One Station Unit Training at Fort Knox, Ky., he was awarded the Primary Military Occupational Specialty of 19D, Cavalry Scout.

In 2002 Montefering arrived to Fort Carson, Colo. where he was assigned to Killer Troop. He deployed with 3rd ACR to Iraq in March 2003 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Montefering is survived by his mother Lorraine and his father Allen who reside in Parkston, S.D.

Labeling Monzon as “among the greatest men I’ve ever known,” Spc. Timothy Buchalski had immense pride for serving in the same ranks as his fallen brother-in-arms. He shared how Monzon loved playing guitar and learning new languages.

“He was an outstanding linguist and a wonderful guitar player,” Buchalski said. “Both were hand and hand. He would hear a song, and a half hour later play it for you, and he spoke English and Spanish fluently.”

Buchalski also described the love Monzon had for his wife, Christy.

“I knew them as boyfriend and girlfriend, as fiancée’s and as new-lweds,” he said. “After all of that I knew that he found a soul mate. He reenlisted before deploying to buy an engagement ring and was going to take her on a honeymoon upon our return.”

Monzon, from Los Angeles, entered the Army Aug. 6, 2001, and after concluding his OSUT at Fort Knox he was awarded the MOS of 19D, Cavalry Scout. In January 2002, Monzon arrived to Killer Troop where he later deployed with 3rd ACR to Iraq in support of OIF I. He is survived by his wife, Christy who resides in Los Angeles.

When Pfc. Richard Guard wrote his tribute about his good friend Dallas, he reflected on a funny story to share with the troopers of Thunder Squadron. He shared a story about Dallas getting swindled on a deal to get his car painted back at Colorado Springs.

“For \$200 he was going to get a complete paint job on his Honda Civic,” Guard said. “The painters picked up shop and left something that resembled a Civic, they even painted his exhaust

pipe. It looked like crap, and even though we gave him a hard time about it, he still blew it off in classic Dallas fashion.”

Dallas, from Mesquite, Texas, entered the Army Nov. 18, 2003, and after OSUT at Fort Knox, was awarded the MOS of 19D, Cavalry Scout. In May 2004, Dallas arrived to Killer Troop and deployed to Iraq in March in support of OIF III.

Dallas is survived by his mother, Charlene A. Sauseda.

The final Soldier to be eulogized, Villatoro, was described as competitive, a team player and a family man by Pfc. Marco Morales. The two occasionally spent time together on duty in Iraq, in which Villatoro talked about his new wife, Amanda.

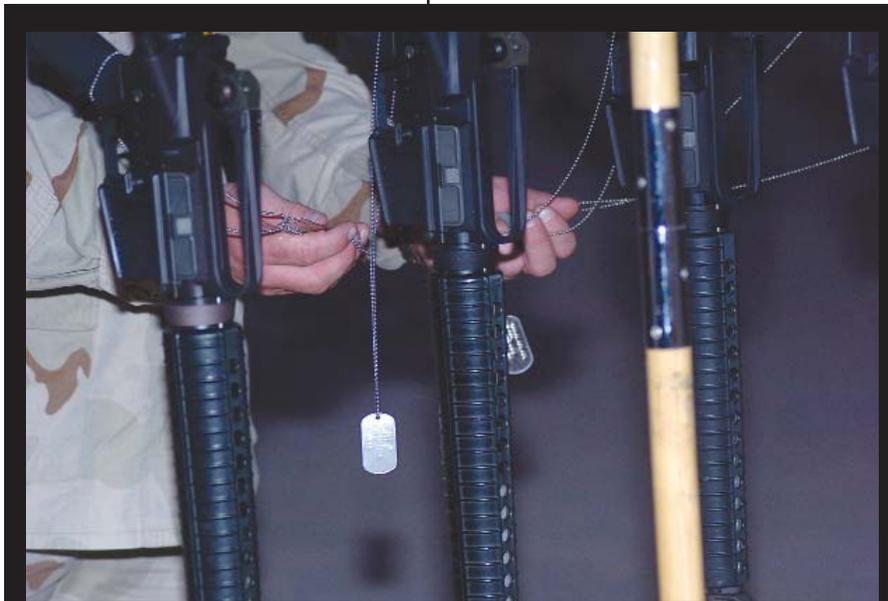
“He would keep me up all night talking about his wife,” Morales said. “He was so proud of her. He looked forward to going home in November; to see his wife give birth. He always looked at the sonogram of his son, and always would brag about him and say, ‘I’m gonna have a Jr.’”

Villatoro, from Bakersfield, Calif., entered the Army on July 28, 2003 and after concluding OSUT at Fort Knox he was awarded the MOS of 19D, Cavalry Scout. In January 2005, Villatoro arrived to Killer Troop and deployed to Iraq in March in support of OIF III.

He is survived by his wife, Amanda, who resides in Bakersfield, Calif.

With the sting of their loss still in the hearts, minds and spirits, Arnold reminded the troopers of Killer Troop to always remember the sacrifice of the four Cavalry Scouts.

“Although we say goodbye, we will never forget them, we will remember them by talking trash just to talk trash, by being stern leaders, and by giving each other the shirts off our backs if someone needed it just like Dallas, Villatoro, Sergeant Monzon, and Staff Sergeant Monty would have.”



Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

**A Soldier clasps the dog tags of the four fallen cavalry scouts during a memorial service July 29.**



**Soldiers from 3-3 ACR pay their respects to Swaney after the memorial service Aug. 2.**

Spc. Dan Balda

# Squadron honors, remembers fallen Soldier

Staff Sgt. Raymond Piper

4th BCT PAO NCOIC

The Soldiers of 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment came together to honor the memory of their fallen comrade Aug. 2.

Pfc. Robert A. Swaney, a native of Columbus, Ohio, was killed by an improvised explosive device July 30 while conducting a combat patrol.

“As we continue to mourn the passing of Pfc. Swaney and resolve the loss in our minds, we should remind ourselves to honor him and avenge his death by following in his example of selflessness, goodness, determination and courage,” said Lt. Col. Ross Brown, 3-3 ACR commander.

Swaney was remembered for many of his qualities, but one of the most memorable was his willingness to help people.

Capt. Nicholas Bradford, executive officer for Howitzer Battery, 3-3 ACR, recalled the first the time he met Swaney in Kuwait and the impact it made on him.

He said Swaney called the battery together in prayer on the hot, dusty staging area before they began the drive into Iraq.

Bradford said, “With that big missing-tooth grin, he brought us all together and prayed for us to safely make it to FOB Falcon. His devotion and unquestionable faith was an inspiration to us all. He was a philanthropist; his faith not only spanned

religion but was also deeply rooted in humanity. He truly believed that he could help people and felt that was his life calling.

“That was just the kind of man Pfc. Swaney was. He would help anybody and took great pleasure in doing so. He was the true embodiment of selfless service,” he added.

“His friends,” Brown said, “told me that he was always there to listen and offer advice.”

“The world needs more people like him,” Bradford said. “I truly believe if the world was full of Pfc. Swaney’s, there would be no more conflicts or problems. He inspired me with his faith in God and his fellow man, and I know we are all better for having known him.”

“I don’t know why good people like Pfc. Swaney die. I will never pretend to understand why things happen the way they do,” Bradford said. “One thing I do know is that he is in heaven right now looking down on us and trying to help and protect us from there.”

Swaney was dedicated to the Soldiers he served with and strived to do his best at all times.

“As a leader you always have certain Soldiers you simply wish you had more of. For me, Pfc. Swaney was one of those,” said 1st Lt. Andrew Valentin, 1st platoon leader. “He was eager to learn and had a heart of gold.”

His Section Chief, Sgt. Sean Dillon, said

he would say “Chief, teach me something new,” and he would learn it and he would do it to perfection by the book. He never took short cuts and always took the straight line in everything he did.

“When it came to shooting artillery and going out on patrols, he was one of the most motivated Soldiers in the platoon,” Valentin told the gathered Soldiers.

Dillon said, “Swaney loved his job and loved the Army. He always talked about reenlisting when his window opened up because he loved the Army. Pfc. Swaney was a great Soldier and person.”

“His friends told me he approached life the same way he must have approached being a linebacker on his high school football team – with grim determination,” Brown said. “An example of this determination was the work and pride he dedicated to his duties, like being the gunner on the M114 that everyone wanted.”

According to his friends the fact that every leader in his platoon wanted him on their vehicle was a great source of pride.

“Although it hurts me deeply to have lost Pfc. Swaney, I can find some consolation knowing he died doing something he loved, which is more than most people in the world can say,” Valentin said. “He absolutely loved the Army and was truly happy doing his job. Swaney was an outstanding Soldier and a big reason why being in first platoon was such a great experience.”

*“His devotion and unquestionable faith was an inspiration to us all.”*



# HARPSHOOTERS

Photos from around the brigade by the Soldiers of 4th BCT



**Sgt. Brian Leiser, B Company, 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment and Valley Springs, Calif., native, keeps watch from a tower at a checkpoint.**



**Sgt. Michael Gibson of Simi Valley, Calif., tosses a box of baseball gear to Spc. Jesse Nadolny of Bay City, Mich. The supplies were donated for a program dubbed Operation Iraqi Baseball.**



**Soldiers from D Company, 4th Battalion, 64th Armored Regiment patrol the streets of Karrada.**



**Sgt. Peter Liechti, B Company, 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry and Valencia, Calif., native, makes new friends at the 215 Apartments in the International Zone.**



**A D Company, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Abrams tank squeezes through traffic while on patrol in Karrada.**

Courtesy Photos