

# THE FALCON



## Flyer



Vol. 1, Issue 7

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June 22, 2005

### Commander's Column:

For many Americans, June 14th passed just like every other day. But for the thousands of Soldiers in Iraq, Afghanistan and other locations around the globe, June 14th is significant because it reminds us of the rich heritage that bonds Soldiers as they reflect on the significance of the two events tied to this day in history. For on that day, we celebrated the 230th birthday of the United States Army and 228th anniversary of the adoption of the Stars and Stripes as the flag of the United States.

It was June 14, 1775, almost a full year before the formal signing of the Declaration of Independence, that the Continental Congress approved the formation of the Continental Army. Since then, the United States Army has been integral part of our nation.

Like each and every one of you, the Soldiers of the Continental Army were volunteers who pledged to take up arms to fight for our freedoms and rights, which were declared 13 months later at the signing of the Declaration of Independence. From the Revolutionary War up to the current Global War on Terror, and during innumerable battles and campaigns in between, the American Soldier has been there to serve our nation – and is cur-

see **COMMANDER**, page 2

## Camp Taji Celebrates Army's 230th Birthday



Photo by Spc. Brian P. Henretta

**Pfc. Emily Caraballo**, a human resources clerk with HHC Division Support Brigade, and **Lt. Col. Terry Rice**, 603rd Aviation Support Battalion commander, DSB's youngest Soldier and Aviation Brigade's oldest Soldier, are chosen to make the ceremonial first cut in the Army's birthday cake as part of the Army's 230th birthday celebration June 14.

### Iraqi Air Assault



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### AMC Medics



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### Generator Repairs



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What are your thoughts on "Star Wars: Episode III- Revenge of the Sith?"

*"It made me feel complete to see how Darth Vader turned evil like he did."*



Pfc. Roger Mann  
Renegade Troop,  
1/3 ARB



Spc. Jerry  
Thompson, HHC  
3/3 AHB

*"You know Anakin will turn into Vader, but it was cool to see how it happened. I just wish the series wasn't over now."*

*"How you gonna go kill all the Jedi off? They were there to spread justice in the universe, just like we are here to spread justice in Iraq."*



Sgt. 1st Class  
Henry Jackson  
HHC, 4/3 AHB

*"It was too long, but the movie was okay, considering we don't have too much else to do."*



Staff Sgt. Betsy  
Berrios, HHC  
Aviation Bde.

# CMDR: Soldier's Spirit Lives On

*continued from page 1*

rently keeping our nation free of terrorism.

Each and everyday, Soldiers of the Falcon Brigade carry on in the spirit of the first Soldiers of the Continental Army. From the petroleum specialist to the supply clerk, the staff officer to the crew-chief on the flight line to the pilot flying missions, you continue to do your mission with unwavering dedication and commitment, which continues to make our Army the most professional fighting force in the world.

Every Soldier proudly wears the most recognized symbol in the world on their right shoulder...the American Flag. It is a great day to celebrate our Army's birthday and honor our national colors a symbol of freedom and of sacrifice on the same time.

Our nation is fortunate for sons and daughters like you who volunteer to serve knowing the sacrifice and risks. The freedoms our families enjoy today are a result of the thousands of Soldiers that went before us and those of you that continue that honorable service to your country.

*A note of thanks but not farewell!*

I want to take this opportunity to offer a special thank you to Melanie Brockhard for volunteering her time as the Brigade's Headquarters, Headquarters Company (HHC) family readiness group leader. No sad farewells are offered because Maj. Brockhard and Melanie will stay in the brigade as they move over to Viper Team, 1-3 AHB. Through Melanie's untiring efforts the HHC FRG has done a great service in keeping the spouses informed and assisting those in need. Thank you Melanie for your service and sacrifices – you have made a positive and lasting impact.

Finally, the R & R Leave program is still on-going, and we continue to push Soldiers home everyday. I have heard many great things about the leave program. It provides our Soldiers and families the opportunity to re-connect and enjoy one another, in addition to providing some well deserved rest and relaxation for our hard working Soldiers. Soldiers return rested and ready to continue the mission. Remember that while on R & R, keep safety in mind with everything that you do. You are important to us and to the mission.

**"WINGS OF THE MARNE"**  
COL. TUGGLE

**What you don't see could kill you.**



**Look for secondary explosive devices.**



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# Iraqi Army, 4/3 AHB Conduct Historic Joint Air-Assault Mission

by Spc. Brian P. Henretta

Iraqi Army Soldiers, working with Aviation Brigade assets, conducted the first air assault of Iraqi Army forces in history.

Approximately 35 Soldiers from the 1st Company, 3rd Battalion of the 63rd Iraqi Army air assaulted into a landing zone near several small towns and villages outside of Baghdad to conduct raids and door to door searches for bomb and vehicle-borne IED making materials and specific persons of interest, said Capt. Jennifer Reynolds, a native of Austin, Texas, and commander of Bravo Co., 4th Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment (Assault Helicopter Battalion).

The Iraqi Soldiers were trained, supported and transported by pilots and crew chiefs from Bravo Co., 4-3 AHB. The mission was viewed as a large success by everyone involved.

The process of teaching the Iraqi Soldiers how to conduct an air assault mission began with hours of training the previous day.

"We trained them the same way we teach U.S. Soldiers. We did entering and exiting the aircraft, what to do during the approach to a landing zone and establishing a perimeter," said Spc. John Carrico, from Indian Mound, Tenn., and a crew chief with Bravo Co., 4/3 AHB.

The Iraqi Soldiers were fast



Photo by Spc. Brian P. Henretta

**Members of 1st Co., 3rd Battalion, 63rd Iraqi Army rush to a UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopter while a crew chief from Bravo Co., 4/3 AHB helps them board an aircraft following raids.**

learners and their training went very smooth. The only major problem was the language barrier, but that was overcome with the use of interpreters, said Staff Sgt. Mark Bilon, a crew chief with Bravo Co., 4/3 AHB from Dededo, Guam.

"The Iraqis were very motivated and excited during the entire process," said Carrico. "They were very excited."

The excitement showed on the day of their mission. After the Blackhawks touched down in the

pickup zone, the Iraqi forces hurried inside and many cheered and sang during the aircraft's takeoff.

The Iraqi Army troops were flown to a landing zone secured by coalition and Iraqi forces. From there they joined Soldiers with Kilo Troop, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment to perform the raids and searches in nearby villages, said Reynolds.

The mission was a resounding success for the members of 4/3 AHB and the Soldiers were proud to be a part of history for the Iraqi Army.

"I'm all about helping Iraqis and help facilitate their training," said Bilon. "These are my favorite types of mission and I hope we can do more of them. I'll do anything to help a buddy."

These thoughts are echoed by Reynolds. She prefers flying assault missions and is happy to help train Iraqi forces to be able to take over their country's security, she said.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tad Browning

**An Iraqi Soldier watches Blackhawks land in the pickup zone to extract his team after conducting raids and searches in a village outside of Baghdad. This was the first air assault mission of its kind involving Iraqi forces.**

## 2-3 GSAB Pilots put Blackhawks to test

by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

A Blackhawk helicopter begins to fall from the sky. It is a practical freefall – both engines are idle and the bird is falling at about 3000 feet per minute. For 1000 feet, the pilot and its crew feel the adrenaline pumping as they descend. To the untrained eye, this might seem like a disaster waiting to happen. But to the pilot of the Blackhawk, this is an everyday occurrence that the highly-trained pilot handles routinely.

This scenario, known as an auto-rotation, is just one of many checks that are done by maintenance test pilots. It is the job of three pilots from Alpha Co. 2nd Battalion 3rd Aviation Regiment (General Support Aviation Battalion) to put aircraft which have just been fixed, repaired or inspected to the test.

“Whenever an aircraft receives major maintenance, it is up to us to get it checked,” said maintenance test pilot Chief Warrant Officer 4 Timothy A. Lilley, Alpha Co. 2-3 GSAB. “We are like the guinea pigs. We make sure whatever got fixed is doing what it’s supposed to.”

The three maintenance test pilot for Alpha Co. give around the clock coverage, splitting their time into a day and night shift, ensuring that at least one pilot is on the flight line. Maintenance test pilot Chief Warrant Officer 3 Lloyd S. Dillard, Alpha Co. 2-3 GSAB, feels his schedule is pretty stable due to his excellent crew.

“Some days we have to adjust our schedule, but for the most part our days are ‘normal,’ to where we test two or three aircraft a day,” said Dillard. “We have excellent crew chiefs and staff that maintains the aircraft and help makes our jobs easier.”

Maintenance test pilot Chief Warrant Officer 2 Clint B. Walker, Alpha Co. 2-3 GSAB, says that an average test flight will last an hour, where the pilot

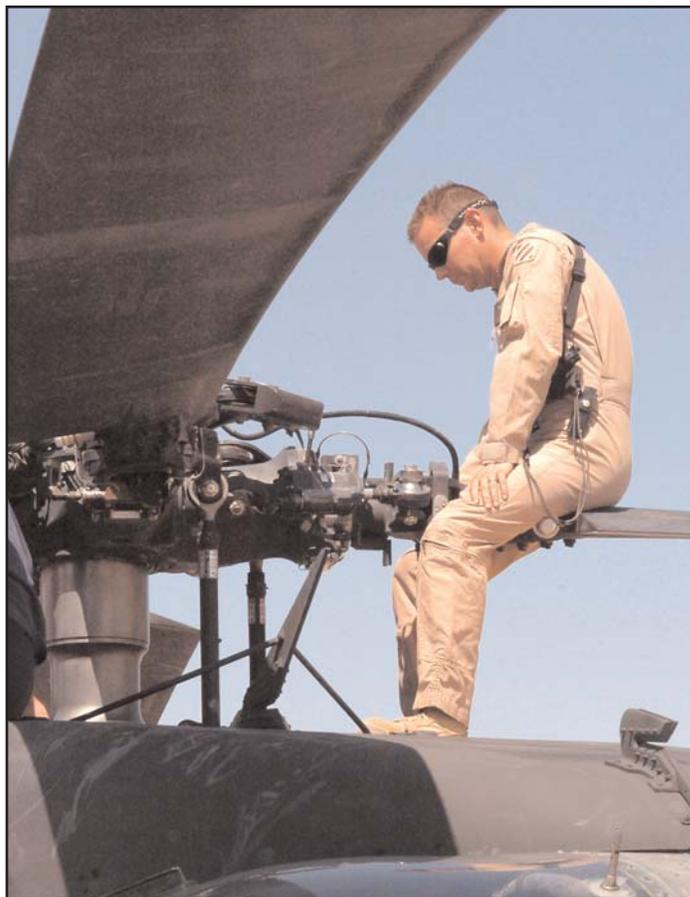


Photo by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

**Chief Warrant Officer 4 Timothy A. Lilley, a Santa Cruz, Calif., native with Alpha Co. 2-3 GSAB, checks a Blackhawk rotorhead prior to a test flight.**

puts the Blackhawk through specific maneuvers to test a certain part of the aircraft.

“For different parts we might have to perform different maneuvers to make sure it can hold up,” Walker said. “For example, one of the most important tests we do is on the engine. When we test an engine, we will bring one engine to idle and see the maximum output we can get out of the other engine.”

One maneuver that Alpha Co. pilots talk about with excitement is the auto rotation.

“The auto rotation seems to be a favorite among us pilots,” said Walker. “Some pilots might get nervous (during the maneuver), but it is something we do on a regular basis. We are pretty comfortable doing the maneuver.”

While the test pilots of Alpha Co. are highly experienced and trained, the mission of a maintenance test pilot doesn’t come without some challenges.

“Time can become a big challenge for us if we have a hectic mission schedule,” Dillard said. “But we do an excellent job at cutting turnaround to a minimum.



Photo by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

**Chief Warrant Officer 4 Timothy A. Lilley (pilot seat), Alpha Co. 2-3 Support Battalion, goes through pre-flight inspections with a crew chief as part of preparation for a maintenance test flight.**

see **TEST PILOTS**, page 12

# Air Cavalry Troop brings additional Strength, Dimension to 1/3 ARB

by Spc. Brian P. Henretta

The sight of an Apache flying overhead can be a major relief for forces on the ground. Recently the brigade added to that comfort level, when one of our battalions added an air cavalry troop into its fold.

Renegade Troop, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, based out of Fort Carson, Colo., has attached with 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment at Camp Taji to increase the units attack helicopter strength and mission capability.

Renegade Troop has proved to be a valuable addition to the brigade since their arrival. With its eight brand new UH-64 Apache Delta Longbows, and an aggressive and intuitive cavalry mentality, the pilots, crew chiefs and maintenance personnel bring a wealth of past experience to assist 1-3 AHB, said Capt. Butch Whiting, Renegade Troop commander, and a native of Nampa, Idaho.

The Troop has recently had the opportunity to showcase its reconnaissance and ground troop-protection skills. Ground troops were in heavy contact and taking fire from a building, but not able to effectively engage the enemy. Renegade pilots responded and quickly concentrated their fire onto the building which the enemy was using for shelter. After searching the remains of the building, ground Soldiers discovered bodies of al-Qaida foreign fighters from Afghanistan, and captured two other members of the terror group, Whiting said.

"In the cavalry, we specialize in looking for anything out of the ordinary or out of place. We discovered a dilapidated warehouse, which at first look seemed like nothing. But we noticed there was a small satellite dish and a few beds outside that seemed like they didn't belong. We had a ground unit check it out,



Photo by Spc. Brian P. Henretta

**Sgts. Joshua Collins and Jonte Williams, Apache mechanics with Renegade Troop, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, prepare to mount a Hellfire Missile onto one of the Troop's Apaches, which are identifiable by their shark teeth.**

and they found several known insurgents and IED making material inside," said Whiting. "But looking for things that are out of the ordinary is difficult in a city where so much looks out of the ordinary for us."

While they have already proven themselves on the battle field, it is the support and aircraft maintenance abilities that make Renegade Troop's leadership proud.

Whiting said he feels like their presence here makes 1-3 more effective because it allows the battalion to take on more missions, he said.

None of this would be possible without the crew chiefs and aircraft maintainers who make it all happen.

"It is absolutely impossible for us to do the missions we do without the pride the crew chiefs take in their jobs," said Whiting. "They are the true heroes around here, doing an extraordinary job, but since they work on Apaches, they

never get to fly in them. That takes a tremendous amount of pride to work so hard and never get the payoff of flying."

"The pilots always get the recognition, but the crew chiefs do everything," said 1st Sgt. Galu Satele, Renegade Troop first sergeant, and a native of Vailoa, American Samoa. "They make sure we are 100% fully mission-capable. It's a credit to our NCOs and leaders who ensure the Soldiers do the right thing. And it's great that 1-3 ARB has been so helpful in integrating us into the unit. It's nice for us because we are used to being the only Apache unit where we came from, and that made it hard to get parts sometimes."

The strong comradery among crew chiefs is also a large part of what makes this unit work so well.

"The best part about being in this troop is that most of us crew

see **RENEGADE**, page 10

# Send this issue home!

Thanks to the space on page 12 to mail the Falcon Flyer back to your family and friends, we are including as many pictures of you as possible on this picture page. Now the only challenge will be hoarding as many copies as possible to send to everyone you know.

*photos by Spcs. Derek Del Rosario and Brian P. Henretta*



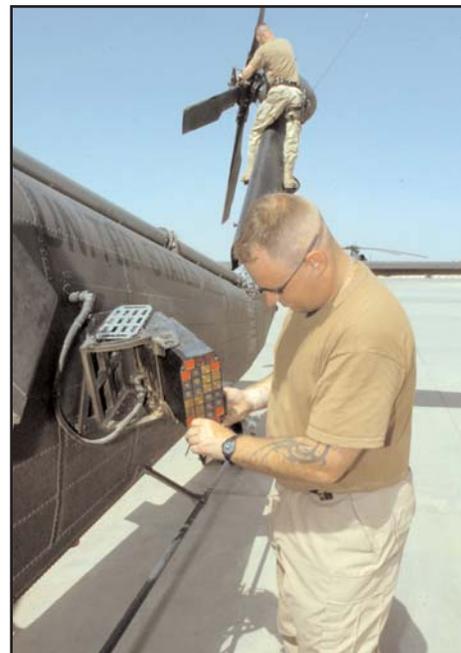
Spc. Christina Hancock, a communications specialist with HHC, 603rd, checks an equipment receipt for discrepancies.



Spc. Christopher Aman, an Apache armor technician with 3/3 AHB, removes rounds after a flight of one of Renegade Troop, 1/3 ARB's Apache helicopters.



Sgt. Glenise Campbell, a supply sergeant with HHC, 4/3 AHB, counts the number of Blackhawk flares during an inventory.



Spc. Kenneth Thompson, with 4/3 AHB loads a set of flares onto the side of a Blackhawk.



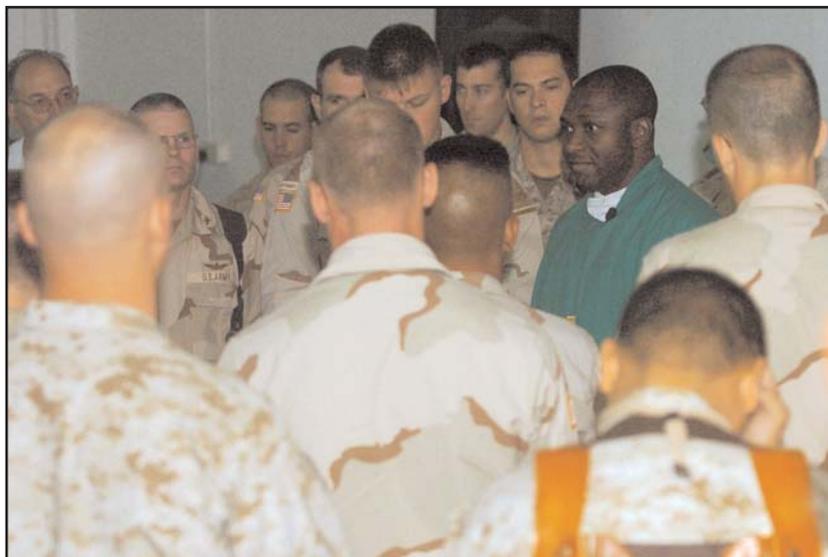
Spc. Christopher Thompson, a Blackhawk crew chief with 4/3 AHB, enjoys a game of foosball.



And they're off! Over 150 Soldiers and civilians, including many Aviation Brigade Soldiers, participate in a Memorial Day 5K run here. The run took place in conjunction with one in St. Paul, Minn., home of the National Guard unit who sponsored it.



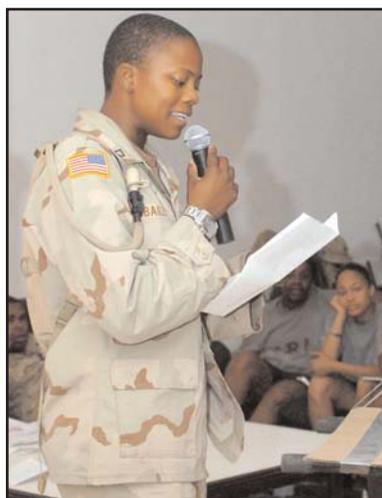
(left to right) Pfc. Amanda Davis, Sgt. Florence Yangilman and Spc. Kimmy Calhoun, all with HHC 4/3 AHB, watch television in their battalion's new morale, welfare and recreational facility.



Father (Capt.) Felix Kumai, a catholic chaplain from HHC 1-3 ARB, leads a prayer for all men in attendance on a Father's Day service at the Warrior Chapel.



A humvee's headlights do their best to pierce the cloud of dust that swallowed the area during a recent sandstorm.



Pfc. Tatlin Bailey, with HHC Avn. Bde., recites a poem during poetry night at the MWR Facility.



Spc. Rosemarie Wells, a personnel clerk with HHC Avn. Bde., makes photocopies of a promotion certificate for a Soldier.



Staff Sgt. Bobby Jeffords, a medic with HHC Avn. Bde, hammers nails while building a patio area for his pod. Read more about Jeffords' selfless work to improve Camp Taji in the next issue of the Falcon Flyer.



Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Parker, brigade equal opportunity advisor with HHC, Avn. Bde., answers questions for Sgt. Annie Rivera, a human resources specialist with HHC, Avn. Bde. at a Camp Taji dining facility.

# 603rd Generator Mechanics Keep Brigade Electrified



Photo by Spc. Brian P. Henretta

**Sgt. David Samuel (left) and Pfc. Joesph Dempsey , generator mechanics with Bravo Company, 603rd ASB, test the conductivity on a generator's electrical system. Their skilled maintenance on these machines keep the brigade supplied with all the necessary energy to conduct its mission.**

## **by Spc. Brian P. Henretta**

Electricity is something everyone takes for granted. We all walk into our trailers, office, or work area, flip on the light switch, pull a water from the refrigerator, and enjoy the cool temperature from the air conditioner after escaping from the ruthless heat outdoors. But did you know the majority of the buildings occupied by the aviation brigade do not get their electricity from the power grid?

Those lights, the fridge and the air conditioner must run from power created by unit generators. They are what give us our relatively good standard of living here, but what happens when they break?

Fortunately Bravo Company, 603rd Aviation Support Battalion has a team of generator and air conditioner-repair specialists who maintain all of the Aviation Brigade's generators, and even

works on civilian units also.

"We have such an important job for the Brigade," said Sgt. David Samuel, from Goldsboro, N.C., and a generator repairman with Bravo Co., 603rd. "Everyone needs power; computers, lights, radar equipment, everything. Everyone needs the power we provide. The mission stops if we don't do our job."

"In addition, keeping the air conditioner running is a big morale boost, so people really appreciate when we can get their unit fixed quickly," said Staff Sgt. John Kolonich, generator shop noncommissioned officer in charge, from Savannah, Ga.

These generator and air conditioning experts offer their advice for maintaining your equipment, so you won't need their services any time soon.

"All it takes is simple, operator-

level maintenance to make sure your equipment doesn't break. In this type of extreme environment, Soldiers need to make checks every day. By shutting down the generator for 15 minutes in the morning, cleaning air filters and checking all the fluid levels, you can greatly improve the chances of going the rest of the day without any energy problems," said Kolonich.

And what should you do when you do have a problem with your generator?

"Never attempt to repair a unit by yourself. A lot of people have been trying that lately, especially other mechanics that aren't trained on generators. Call us immediately, because an unqualified repair attempt will turn a simple fix into something very complicated," said Kolonich.

In addition to generator and air conditioner repairs, the team has been training to repair other essential equipment such as Gators, civilian generators and fuel pumps at the forward arming refuel point.

So next time you step into a bright, cool room and turn on a computer or television, thank these hard working generator repair specialists for their critical job.

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***"Everyone needs power; computers, lights, radar equipment, everything. Everyone needs the power we provide. The mission stops if we don't do our job."***

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-Sgt. David Samuel  
Bravo Co., 603rd GMB

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# AMC keeps Brigade Soldiers combat-ready

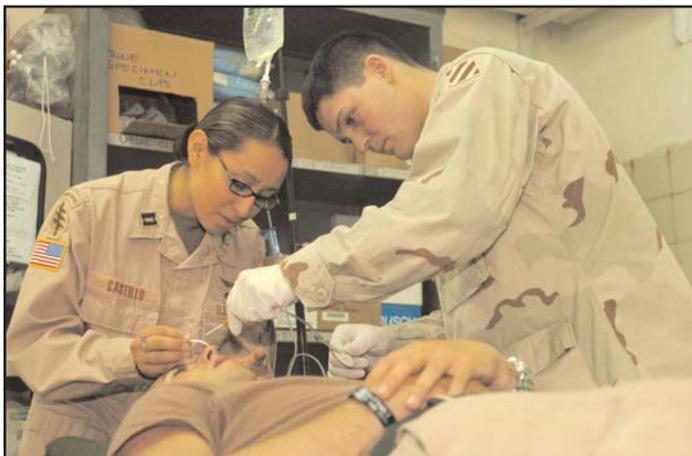


Photo by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

**Capt. Guillermina M. Castillo (left), HHC 2-3 Support Battalion, and Pvt. Jonathan Christen, HHC Aviation Brigade, flush out a piece of debris out of a patient's eye at the Aviation Medical Center.**

**by Spc. Derek Del Rosario**

As we enter summer time in the desert, climate can become a huge factor in the combat effectiveness of Soldiers. For those unfamiliar with the Middle East environment or triple-digit temperatures, the heat can seem overwhelming. Luckily, the aviation brigade has highly trained and skilled personnel working at the brigade Aviation Medical Center to help prevent heat injuries from becoming fatal. The TMC can care for the many different medical needs of Soldiers as well. Whether it's an IV or a flight physical, the members of the aviation brigade AMC can provide many essential medical services.

The brigade AMC is a 24-hour facility, and Capt. Miguel Ortiz-Lopez, Headquarters and Headquarters Company 3rd Battalion 3rd Aviation Regiment (Attack), believes that the AMC must be available at all times not only to support the mission of the brigade, but for the benefit of the entire camp.

"The AMC's mission is to support the brigade by supporting the combat mission, and that means provided medical support so our Soldiers are combat-ready," said Ortiz-Lopez, an Orthopedic Aero-medical Physician Assistant at the AMC. "But we support the whole base. We support other units or clinics, whether to see a routine patient or to help treat an emergency."

Supporting the AMC is a consolidated effort, as its' personnel is made up of Soldiers from all the battalions in the brigade. One thing that makes the brigade's AMC unique is that it is the only facility that fully accommodates pilots.

"We provide a continuity of care for the pilots," said Ortiz-Lopez. "The doctors here are qualified at flight surgeon school, which means this medical cen-

ter is the only one trained to do aviation medicine."

Being trained in aviation medicine means that the AMC can perform flight physicals for pilots, a service that healthcare specialist PV2 Jonathan Christen, HHC Aviation Brigade, believes is essential to the brigade.

"We maintain the fighting strength of our aviators and we do their physicals," Christen said. "They need to stay healthy and be able to do their job because they are needed for transportation, security and the protection of ground troops."

The AMC is a level-one facility, which means they can provide emergency evaluation and general medical support. The AMC works hand and hand with the Division Support Battalion (DSB) here at Taji, so that Soldiers can be referred to the DSB's medical center in the case of further medical needs.

"We get support from the DSB if we need level-two care," said Ortiz-Lopez. "That means that we will send Soldiers to the DSB if they need lab work, an X-ray or any further evaluation. Treating them here means they don't have to be sent to another camp, which saves a lot of time and money."

There are three shifts at the AMC, with an average of two doctors and five healthcare specialists working on each shift, said Ortiz-Lopez. The AMC will get an average of about 30 to 40 patients each day, he added.

While there is a sufficient amount of medical personnel working around the clock, healthcare specialist Sgt. Janice M. Hugueth, HHC 3-3 Attack Battalion, says that there are times when the line of patients can get backed up.

"The AMC is all about patient care, and we have to make sure we provide care to our patients in a

**see MEDICS, page 10**



Photo by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

**Pvt. Jonathan Christen (right), HHC Aviation Brigade, applies iodine to the knee of Sgt. 1st Class Sandra Crespo, 641st Postal Adjutant General, prior to receiving a shot.**

# Renegade: Troop, 1-3 Reap Benefits

*continued from page 5*

chiefs have so much fun together, and work together so well. Hanging out with these guys and gals, on and off duty, is a total blast. We have a cohesive unit because we like each other so much," said Sgt. Christopher Rawlins, an Apache crew chief with Renegade Troop.

The relationship between Renegade Troop and 1-3 ARB has been mutually beneficial for both. It has allowed 1-3 ARB to have a fresh set of eyes come from outside their ranks, allowing new suggestions and ideas to flow in. Pilots with Renegade Troop feel they are getting better by watching how 1-3 ARB operates, said Whiting.

There hasn't been any time where they didn't get the support they needed, or felt like outsiders, said Whiting. But like anywhere in the Army, running into past friends has made the transition easier.

"There are a lot of pilots who I have worked with in the past, and I see them everywhere, like in the DFAC," said Whiting.

"I was a platoon sergeant with 1-3 ARB in the late 90's. Command Sgt. Maj. Stidley was my first ser-



Photo by Spc. Brian P. Henretta

**Pfc. Daniel Seward, an Apache crew chief with Renegade Troop, 3rd ACR, ensures the barrel of the Apache 30 millimeter chain gun is secure.**

geant, so it feels familiar here in a way," said Satele.

With Renegade Troop's great attitude and deadly air cavalry skills, they will continue to be a welcome addition to our Aviation Brigade, and continue to strike fear into enemy forces from above.

## Medics save Lives, Prevent future illness

*continued from page 9*

timely manner," Hugueth said. "It can get busy sometimes, but more critical injuries have to go first. Being able to prioritize our patients can become a challenge sometimes."

The heat is something every Soldier must be cognizant of, so the TMC keeps track of the temperature and establishes the heat categories so that leadership can gauge how much a Soldier can work outside and to reinforce the need to stay hydrated. The TMC also provides the valuable service of keeping tabs on medical trends in order to help prevent further injuries or illness.

"In order to maintain a high number of combat-ready Soldiers, we keep informed of new diseases and illnesses," Ortiz-Lopez said. "We establish patterns and report them to preventative medicine or environmental health. For example, if we see a lot of cases dehydration, insect bites or dysentery, we can address that issue early and



Photo by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

**Sgt. Janice M. Hugueth, HHC 3-3 AHB, checks a patient's heart rate at the Aviation Medical Center.**

help prevent future health problems."

AMC personnel also continually train in order to handle any new medical situation that could occur while in theatre.

"We will have mass casualty training, training for scenarios if an aircraft goes down, and we provide

medical coverage at ranges," said Ortiz-Lopez. The TMC also have humanitarian missions in the works to help some of the Iraqi community, he added.

Ortiz-Lopez has spent 21 years in the medical field, and it is time he has enjoyed and wouldn't give back.

"I Treat patients and reassure them—it is the most rewarding job in the military," he said. "I get the most gratification when I help people and I get to see them get better."

Hugueth agrees that when it comes to personal gratification, helping people is what matters the most.

"It feels good to help save lives. Being able to put all my training together and show what I can do is the highlight of my job," Hugueth said. "We do everything we can to help people that need us."

As long as highly-motivated Soldiers remain at the TMC, the brigade can rest assure that their health rest in good hands.

# Army announces new Sexual Assault Policy

by Capt. Lilini Pillay

The Army is fielding a new sexual assault prevention and response program, which began June 14. By increasing awareness and educating Soldiers about this topic, the Army will reduce sexual assault incidents and encourage victims to report incidents.

No matter how a person dresses, talks, or socializes, sexual violence is not the victim's fault. Sexual assault is a crime and can happen to men and women of all ages. Sexual assault is a criminal offense, which has no place in the Army. It degrades mission readiness by devastating the Army's ability to work as an effective team. Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, physical threat, or abuse of authority, when the victim does not or cannot consent. Rape, nonconsensual sodomy and indecent assault are all forms of sexual assault. Sexual assault occurs between members of the opposite gender as well as between members of the same gender.

The brigade's sexual assault response coordinator oversees the sexual assault prevention and response

program, assigns a unit victim advocate to the victim and advises them on their options for restricted and unrestricted reporting.

Both restricted and unrestricted reporting is the victim's choice. Restricted reporting offers medical treatment, chaplain services and an optional forensic exam. Unrestricted reporting offers medical treatment, forensic exam, CID investigation, victim witness, legal and chaplain services

Each battalion has two trained unit victim advocates (UVA) who provide emotional support, information on personal safety and available resources. UVA's will exercise sensitivity with regard to the victim at all times. Victims are usually supported by UVA's from other units. Crime victims have a right to be treated with fairness and respect for one's dignity and privacy, and be reasonably protected from the accused.

If you are a victim of sexual assault please contact your brigade sexual assault response coordinator, Capt. Lilini Pillay, located in the brigade administration and logistics building (ALOC). Your SARC will ensure you receive the appropriate services.

## Out with old, in with new: UH-60 Gunners Update to Improved M240H Machine Gun

by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

Change in the military can be a double-edged sword. Moving to another camp, switching to a night shift or changing job responsibilities can take its toll on Soldier morale. But there are some changes that can be good – anything from changing job responsibilities due to a promotion, to as simple as changing socks in the middle of a hot day. Change is inevitable and sometimes necessary. Change for the Soldiers of Charlie Co. 4th Battalion 3rd Aviation Regiment (Assault Helicopter) came in the form of a new weapon system, as the gunners on Charlie 4-3's Blackhawks will now be using the M240H machine gun.

Charlie Co. crew chiefs trained with the M240H, which replaces the M60 machine gun, during three days of weapons training in AO Baghdad May 15-17. Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jose Marquez, Arms Room Officer and Blackhawk



Photo by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

**Sgt. David Goldfarb, Charlie Co. 4th Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment crew chief, sets up the M240H machine gun for range qualification.** pilot for the training missions, felt it was important to give the crew a chance to fire the new weapon.

"We trained approximately 23 crew chiefs," said Marquez. "It is

very important for these Soldiers to get a chance to use the M240. The weapon system is the thing that will save lives. Without familiarization, we cannot be combat effective."

The M240 is a crew-served, gas-operated machine gun. It is approximately four feet in length and weighs around 25 pounds. The size and weight is an increase of the old M60 light machine gun, but the M240 comes with many benefits.

"The M240s has different gas system than the M60, allowing for a higher rate of fire with less malfunctions," said Marquez.

The biggest difference that was touted by crew chiefs in Charlie co. was the M240s reliability. Sgt. 1st Class Adron Oberdorf, Charlie co. platoon sergeant, agrees that being able to depend on the new weapon is the most beneficial for the crew chiefs.

"The M240 is a much simpler  
see 240H, Page 12

# Test Pilots: Ensure Aircraft Safety

*continued from page 4*

I am very confident in our guys; they have the ability to handle any problem."

Lilley agrees with Dillard that time crunches can become challenging, but it is something that the maintenance test pilots can handle.

"The Crew chiefs and maintenance staff will work about eight hours for every hour we fly to make sure the aircraft is safe," said Lilley. "My biggest challenge is keeping enough aircraft in safe condition for the next day's mission. If a mission asks for seven aircraft to fly the next day, my job is to have seven safe aircraft available by then."

Despite the challenges and hard work the maintenance test pilot endures, the pilots of Alpha Co. see their job as a very self-rewarding profession.

"The job is highly challenging but incredibly rewarding," said Dillard. "If we don't do our jobs right, it could mean the life of the pilot. Every time I see an aircraft come back from a mission without injury, it reminds me that I did the right thing."

For Lilley, it is indisputable the importance of maintenance test pilots. He also feels that with great responsibility comes great satisfaction.

"The battalion can't function without a test pilot. Our job is essential," said Lilley. "I get a lot of personal gratification from my job. Having the ability to find and fix problems is its own reward. Providing the command with safe, flyable aircraft gives me a great feeling of accomplishment."

With steadfast maintenance test pilots such as those of Alpha Co., it is easy to see how the pilots of 2-3 GSAB can fly Blackhawks with great confidence.

# 240H: Machine Gun 'An Awesome Weapon'

*continued from page 4*

operating system; there are less moving parts involved with this machine gun than the M60," Oberdorf said. "The first day we went on our training mission we had seven crew chiefs fire over 3000 rounds without a single jam."

Sgt. David Goldfarb, 4-3 crew chief, was excited to get his training on the M240.

"It is an awesome weapon; enemies respect a show of force, they will put their heads down if we put rounds down on them, and this gun demands respect," said Goldfarb. "It is made of a higher gauge metal, it's rugged and can fire a lot faster. The first thing I noticed when I fired the M240 was how fast it was shooting."

Speed is definitely what the M240 is all about. According to militaryfactory.com, the M240 can fire around 600 rounds per minute, an increase of around an

extra 100 rounds the M60 can fire. The M240H also has the ability to be mobile.

"It is a dynamic weapon and easy to handle out of the window," Goldfarb said. "The modifications on the M240H make it versatile. The butterfly grip can be dropped and a stock and ground trigger can be put on in a matter of seconds, making it optimal for escape and evade techniques if needed. If you get to a hide site, the M240H can be an excellent ground weapon."

The crew chiefs and Soldiers in Charlie co. understand the benefits the switch in weapons brings, so training Soldiers in the use of the M240H is essential for mission completion.

"This training is very important; by getting hands-on experience on more reliable equipment, we put ourselves in a better position to protect the helicopter," said Goldfarb.

Oberdorf feels that the M60 has reached the end of its life cycle, and the M240H will bring the crew chiefs more self-assurance that they can be more combat effective if they need to engage targets.

The M240H will give crew chiefs more confidence. They know that when they pull that trigger, it will fire," Oberdorf said. "This gun is their life—the entire crew is depending on their proficiency of the weapon."



Photo by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

**Sgt. David Goldfarb, a crew chief with Charlie Co. 4/3 AHB, breaks down the M240H after qualifying at a range.**

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