



# Multi-National Corps-Iraq Commander Visits Brigade



Photo by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

Lt. Gen. John R. Vines, Multi-National Corps Commander (center), visits Camp Taji March 13 and received a tour of the base. Brig. Gen. Mark E. O'Neill (left), 3rd Infantry Division assistant division commander support, and Col. Ronald D. Tuggle, Aviation Brigade commander, discuss the operations occurring on Camp Taji with Vines.

## Commander's Column: *Leave Information, Safety*

This month, the brigade will begin executing our Rest & Relaxation, R & R, Leave program; and I wanted to take this opportunity to briefly explain to our families back home how this program works.

The R & R Leave program is an important part of our deployment here in Iraq. It will provide Soldiers the opportunity to be reunited with family, as well as a break from the operations here in Iraq.

The R & R Leave program will provide our Soldiers with 15 days of leave, which starts the day after the Soldier arrives in either Atlanta or Dallas-Fort Worth, which are the designated arrival points of debarkation or the APOD. The actual time the Soldier will be away from the unit is more than 15 days. This is due to the travel time between theater and home station, and will not count against the Soldier's actual R & R leave time.

Once the Soldier arrives at the APOD, the Army will provide them with a fully funded ticket to the nearest airport of their leave address. Upon arrival at their final destination, Soldiers must check in with the rear detachment commands. The phone numbers will be provided to the

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# Commander: Safety Essential During Leave

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Soldier prior to departing.

Soldiers will not know the exact date they will arrive in the U.S. because we must use military aircraft to move the Soldiers out of Iraq. First priority for this type of aircraft is to support combat operations and their secondary mission is move Soldiers out of theater. Our goal is to provide Soldiers a hard date one-month prior to scheduled leave. This is the date they will move to the holding area for movement out of Iraq. It may take up to three days to get Soldiers on a commercial aircraft heading for the US.

As already mentioned, the R & R Leave program is a relatively short period of time, so before you make plans you should discuss at length with you spouse or family back home, each others expectations. For our families at home, remember our Soldiers have been working seven-days a week. It will be normal for your Soldier to be tired, both from jet-lag as well as the decompression that is normal when leaving a high-stress environment.

Soldiers must remember that their spouse has been responsible for everything at home since they deployed. The Soldiers should refrain from trying to pick-up where they left off prior to deployment. Soldiers need to expect that some "rules" around the house might have change while they were deployed. The spouse might let the dog run around the house unchecked or even sleep in the children's bed. The Soldier should live with these "new rules" while on leave and discuss these changes that have been made since their departure... realizing they are visiting for a couple of weeks. Soldiers should focus on spending time with the family not enforcing the old routines they had prior to deployment. The critical component is communication between the adults and with the children.

Finally, I want to stress the safety aspect of R & R

Leave. Certainly, the purpose of R & R Leave is to spend time with your family. This is your opportunity to re-connect with your family and to enjoy each others company.

However, I caution you about attempting to do too much... you need to pace yourself. Remember, you will arrive excited but physically tired after your long trip and many hours of waiting for the next plane. If you're not staying at home you should consider planning a day or two of rest at home before you travel to visit extended family or vacation spots. Do not try to drive cross-country they day after arriving home.

For some, you have not driven or driven very little since you departed, so be careful when you get in a car. If your car has been in storage, make sure you inspect it carefully and ensure it is in good mechanical condition: properly inflated tires, all lights and signals working and that you are properly insured. Many of you may have stopped your insurance when you put your vehicle in storage, so ensure that your insurance is up to date prior to driving your car.

**Don't drink and drive...period!** General Order Number One has prohibited you from consuming alcohol here in country, but it does not apply once you are on leave at home. Remember, your tolerance has diminished, and you will feel the effects of alcohol quicker now than before.

Safety must be your number one priority even while on leave. Every Soldier is an important part of the team – the team required to accomplish our mission.

I'm certain Soldiers will enjoy their leave. They continue to do a superb job, and their leave time is well deserved. Please be careful and focus on reducing stress while on leave.

"WINGS OF THE MARNE"

COL. TUGGLE

## Brigade ceremony celebrates Women's History Month

*by Spc. Brian P. Henretta*

The Aviation Brigade celebrated Women's History Month with an observance at Warrior chapel Mar. 25.

Women's History Month is celebrated to observe the service and impact of women in today's society. The ceremony featured music, poetry and speeches which exemplified women as a strong, important force.

The guest speaker was Sgt. Maj. Gloria D. Farrow, Division Support Brigade sergeant major. She spoke about the changing role

women have had in the Army, and how well the Army supports this change.

"The Army leads the way in equality. We used to help support the troops on the flight lines, and now we can be pilots," said Farrow.

She also emphasized that women need to strive to be there best and be proud of the work they are doing here.

"Each one of you is a hero. You don't have to be pictured on a billboard or on TV to be one either.

see **WOMEN**, page 10



Photo by Spc. Brian P. Henretta

**Col. Tuggle presents Sgt. Maj. Farrow with a token of appreciation after her speech at the Women's History Month observance.**

# Airfield expansion near completion



Photo by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

(from left to right) Air Force Staff Sgt. Andy J. Hikes, 201st Expeditionary Red Horse Squadron (ERHS), Senior Airman Thomas N. Davidson and Staff Sgt. Robert A. Skomrock, both of 200th ERHS, lay concrete as part of the expansion of Camp Taji airfield.

by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

The Camp Taji airfield is lined with Chinooks, Blackhawks and Apaches, and soon there will be even more room for these aircraft due to an on-going project designed to expand the airfield.

The project, which began Feb. 9, is designed to expand the airfield by approximately 600,000 square

feet and is slated to finish early this month. Nine Air Force engineering units were brought in to help work on the project.

"The airfield needs to be extended because our brigade is so much larger in terms of number of aircraft than the previous unit here," said Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Stidley, Aviation Brigade

sergeant major. "Future aviation brigades that come in to occupy Taji Airfield will be the same size as ours."

The project will create more space for aircraft to park, and according to Air Force Master Sgt. Patrick M. Wahlers of the 200th Expeditionary Red Horse Squadron and NCOIC of the expansion project, the added space will allow for more hangars to be emplaced.

Once complete, the airfield will be capable of handling approximately 120 aircraft, but a project of this caliber doesn't come without a lot of work and planning.

We are cutting 40,000 linear feet of rebar (metal rods) a day," said Wahlers. "We have to be precise down to a tenth of an inch or else helicopters will be landing in valleys of water."

The airmen have been working diligently to finish the project. They are working close to 13 hours

see **EXPANSION**, page 6

# 4/3 AHB Air Assault makes Div. history

by Spc. Brian P. Henretta

The 3rd Infantry Division has fought in theaters all over the globe, engaging enemies with infantry, armor, artillery, aviation and just about every other possible type of asset during their history. However, until recently the Rock of the Marne Division never had air assault capabilities.

That changed May 15, 2004 when the 101st Infantry Division's 9-101st Aviation, with their battalion of Blackhawks, became 4-3 Assault Helicopter Battalion and was assigned with 3rd ID.

The move to integrate an air assault battalion with the aviation brigade has been a challenge. For the Soldiers who made it happen, the end result has been a tremendous success, as was demonstrated recently when the battalion conducted the first air assault operation in division history.

4/3 AHB left home in Fort Campbell, Ky., to train with 3rd ID Soldiers at Fort Stewart, Hunter Army Airfield and Fort Benning, Ga. The training was to teach Soldiers from various backgrounds such as armor, cavalry and infantry; many of whom never set foot in a helicopter, how to conduct an air assault, said Maj. Joe Matthew, 4-3 AHB executive officer.

It wasn't always an easy learning process; even



Photo by Spc. Brian P. Henretta

Staff Sgt. Eric Stiles (left) and Spc. Ryan Newan (far right), members of the Division Ready Reserve Force, pull 360 degree security on their position while they await to be picked up in their Blackhawk. The team conducts air assault missions in support of 3ID operations.

learning the basics of entering and exiting the Blackhawk took days and nights of practice.

"You could see a look of both apprehension and excitement on their faces as they were going through

see **AIR ASSAULT**, page 7

# 3-3 AHB Shadow Co. Supports Division with TUAUV Assets

by Spc. Brian P. Henretta

Though it may look like an overgrown toy; it's a multi-million dollar aircraft system, and can be one of the most useful and deadly assets for the division, even though it has no weapons.

The Shadow Tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (TUAUV) has emerged as one of the division's most useful tools to successfully identify and track down enemies around the Baghdad area, and this is made possible by Soldiers from Shadow TUAUV Company, 3-3 Attack Reconnaissance Battalion.

All Shadow TUAUV flights around Baghdad are launched from Camp Taji airfield. Control is then given to an operator from the brigade that requested the flight. Each brigade has a ground control station located by their TOC to fly the UAV on their mission, said Capt. John D. Di Dio, Shadow TUAUV Company commander.

Shadow Company's primary mission is making sure flights go off on time and land safely. There

are a lot of tasks involved to make sure this happens. They have maintenance teams who work around the clock on both the aircraft motor and body. A second team works on the complex camera and electrical systems, used to relay information back to controllers.

Another team controls take offs from the launcher and flying the planes until they hand over control to forward operators in Baghdad.

Once the TUAUVs are patrolling in the air, their operator's mission is to use the advanced camera system to search for enemy mortar attackers, improvised explosive devices, tracking people or vehicles and over watching raids, said Di Dio.

"The great thing about UAV's is that commanders can watch the battlefield in real-time. You can look at a target as we speak," said Di Dio.

If a target is spotted, it allows commanders to position necessary forces to execute their mission as rapidly as possible, and to keep

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**"UAV's are a big help to the Aviation Brigade because they provide aerial reconnaissance but remove pilots from harms way."**

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**Capt. John D. Di Dio**  
Shadow TUAUV Co. commander

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eyes on the target, said Di Dio.

The usefulness of this reconnaissance asset is that since it's unmanned, any danger to human lives is removed, said Di Dio. "UAV's are a big help to the Aviation Brigade because they provide aerial reconnaissance but remove pilots from harms way."

The planes run very silent, are small and can't be seen while in flight so people don't even know when they are in the air patrolling, Di Dio said.

The Shadows are handed back to operators from Shadow Company for landing when the UAV's flight is over. Landing is done automatically by computers and satellite dishes painstakingly set up near the runways. The dishes which bring the Shadows in to land must be surveyed carefully to ensure they're at exact levels of elevation. This makes sure the plane has actually touched the runway and can slow down when the computers think it did, said Pfc. Thomas J. Hargraves, a UAV operator with Shadow Company. The plane can crash if it's off by even a small amount.

The Soldiers of Shadow Company have worked hard to  
**see SHADOW, page 8**



Photo by Spc. Brian P. Henretta

**Pfc's Thomas J. Hargraves and Winston Chin, tactical unmanned aerial vehicle operators with Shadow Co., 3-3 ARB, move a TUAUV onto it's launcher.**

# All in a Day's Work

Aviation Brigade Soldiers work long and hard around Camp Taji performing their various missions, and it's good to see their efforts rewarded. Whether it's earning a coin from the corps commander, or having your picture featured in the newly published Falcon Flyer, hard work certainly pays off. If you take a photo you would like to be considered for the Falcon Flyer, contact the brigade Public Affairs Office or your unit public affairs representative.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tad A. Browning

**Spc. Benjamin Veronie and Pfc. Joshua Morgan, HHC, Aviation Brigade, install television cable which allows Soldiers to receive up to six Armed Forces Network channels.**



Photo by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

**Lt. Gen. John R. Vines, Multi-National Corps-Iraq commander, presents a commander's coin to Pvt. Kyle P. McKinney, HSC 603rd, for his work at the brigade FARP.**

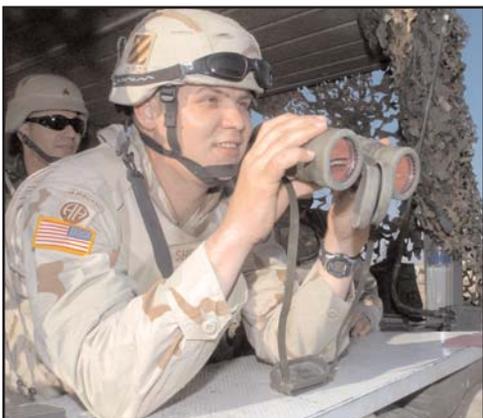


Photo by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

**Spc. Jeffery G. Shelton, Delta Co. 3/3 ARB, uses binoculars to scan the perimeter during guard duty.**



Photo by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

**Spc. Bradley Johnson and Staff Sgt. Juel Williams, Charlie Co., 2/3 GSAB, load a radio.**



Photo by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

**Spc. Nabor Ortega, Alpha Co. 1/3 ARB, performs maintenance on the Army's primary attack helicopter, the Apache.**

# HHC Heads Guard Duties For Falcon Brigade

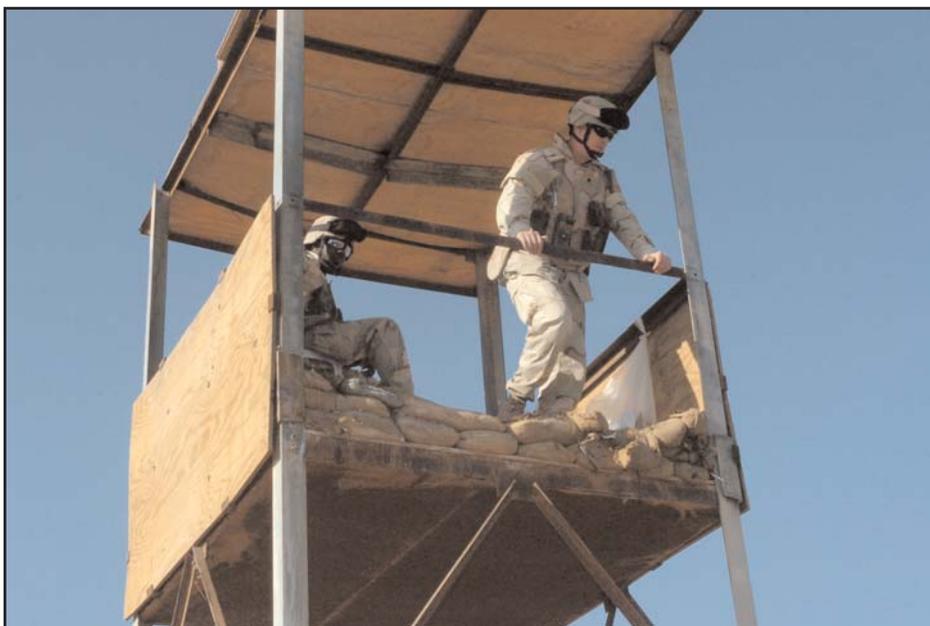


Photo by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

Perimeter guarding is truly a team effort. Spc. Kevin C. Connor (left), Delta Co. 4/3 AHB, and Spc. Robert Keane, HHC 4/3 AHB, look for suspicious activity from their guard tower.

**by Spc. Derek Del Rosario**

A soldier peers through binoculars, looking outside the barbed wire fence that surrounds Camp Taji. A few miles away, another soldier searches a civilian contractor before he enters the dining facility. On the airfield, two aviation soldiers inspect a vehicle before it

goes on the ramp. What do all these soldiers have in common? They are the first line of defense for Camp Taji.

Aviation Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) heads the Airfield Defense Operations Center (ADOC), which is the command center for the

perimeter guard duties assigned to the brigade. The ADOC falls under the Base Defense Operation Center (BDOC) which has overall responsibility for the security of Camp Taji. The HHC Aviation Brigade leads the operation of the ADOC, while the battalions provide soldiers and equipment to help with the guard duties. These include guarding the airfield, dining facility and southern perimeter of Taji.

Capt. Douglas D. Dodd, HHC and ADOC commander, feels the brigade's guard duty is very important to the overall defense of Taji.

"When it comes to defense, our imprint is fairly large," said Dodd. "On any given day, we have approximately 120 soldiers on the guard towers and covering the dining facility."

Perimeter tower guards help ensure anti-coalition forces do not breach Taji. Besides tower guards, some Soldiers are tasked as "rovers." These guards are needed to ensure guards have food, water and radio batteries, and assist in looking for any suspicious activities or anything out of the ordinary,

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## Expansion: Air Force Units Work Airfield

*continued from page 3*

a day with approximately 100 airmen working at any given time, said Wahlers.

"It can be extremely exhausting," Wahlers said. "We went a solid month before we got our first break. We rotate our people in order to give everyone a break now and then."

Despite strenuous hours of work, the airmen remain in high spirits in order to finish the project.

"There is very high morale within the units," said Wahlers. "Retention of highly qualified troops is contingent to and reflected in the individuals output and recognition on a daily basis." An airman's effort reflects his job, and they are putting out a great effort to complete the project, he added.

Their efforts will be of great benefit to the aviation brigade and the Army, and in the future for the Iraqi Armed Forces.



Photo by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

Air Force Staff Sgt. AlQoyawayma Baddmoccasin-Barnes, a form repair team member with 50th Civil Engineering Squadron, welds metal which is used to help cut the rebar placed under the airfield's cement.

# Air Assault: Bde. Excels in New Mission

Continued from page 3

cold-load drills," said Spc. Ronnie Wilson, a crew chief with Alpha Co., 4/3 AHB. "But it was fun to see their excitement after their first ride."

While Soldiers were adjusting to learning new assault methods, leaders took classes on planning, command and control of air assault operations, said Matthew.

The division proved themselves capable of executing air assault mission during two rotations at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., before deploying to Iraq in January.

Alpha Co. 4/3 AHB conducted the division's first air assault three days after the brigade's transfer of authority. They inserted nearly 40 Soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Div. to conduct foot patrols to seek and destroy improvised explosive devices (IEDs). These missions have continued, allowing Soldiers to successfully identify IEDs and prevent them from being placed by insurgents, said Matthew.

These missions demonstrated the unique capability which 4/3 brings to the division, as well as foreshadowed the success of future, greater missions.

One of the battalion's next assaults was a nighttime, joint-attack with the Marines from 2-24 Marine Regiment. The Marines



Photo by 4/3 AHB

**A Blackhawk from Black Heart Element, Bravo Co. 4/3 AHB, departs a FOB near Baghdad on its way to an air assault mission .**

were inserted into their target area with precision timing and detained more than 50 suspected anti-Iraqi forces. The success of this mission allowed coalition forces to establish a presence in what was a hostile area, said Matthew.

The largest air assault mission to date occurred last month when 4/3 AHB delivered approximately 350 Soldiers, made up of two Cavalry troops of 6-8th Cavalry and two companies of the 3-32s Parachute Infantry Regiment from

the 82nd Airborne Division, to a hostile South Baghdad neighborhood to restore coalition control, said Matthew. Supporting them were armor and attack helicopter assets, along with Iraqi army Soldiers. The careful planning and flawless execution of this mission made it a resounding success, and the first battalion-sized air assault in 3rd ID history.

While this may be a normal event for some Soldiers of 4/3 AHB, planners of the mission were proud of how well everything went after doing something this big for the first time.

"It never dawned on us that we would be doing something for the first time. We were doing what we were trained to do, and each serial was within 30 seconds of their objective times," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jeff Gregg, battalion standardization officer.

"When critical operations are happening, it's easy to spot veteran soldiers. They conducted themselves as professionals. I am very proud of their many accomplishments," said 1st Sgt. Jeff Thompson, Charlie Co., 4/3 AHB first sergeant.

The aviation brigade has proved it can take on new challenges and types of missions. 4/3 AHB's air assault capabilities are an invaluable tool around Baghdad.

## Armament Important to Apache's Flight

by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

Apaches are the Army's most powerful offensive helicopters, armed with Hellfire missiles, Hydra rockets and a chain gun. To ensure the Apache remains a powerful asset to the Army, soldiers in the armament section of the 1/3 Attack Recon Battalion are helping to maintain the fighting power of Apaches by taking care of all electrical, avionics and maintenance issues.

Armament repairers must be able to diagnose and fix electrical malfunctions of the Apache. Sgt. Philippe J. Wolf, Delta Co. 1/3 ARB, believes that there are a lot of responsibilities for armament repairers to handle.

"We have to have knowledge in all armament and

electrical components in order to check them," said Wolf. Knowing the weapons processor, communication systems and different wires of an Apache is critical to an armament repairman's job, he added.

The armament repairers of Delta Co. have a large task: to maintain all the Apaches in the battalion. A responsibility this large takes a lot of teamwork for a group of approximately 30 soldiers.

"We overcome new problems everyday," Wolf said. "We work together, know our job and we make it happen."

Making it happen means making sure everything

see **ARMAMENT**, page 10

# Internet critical for 603rd Operations

by Spc. Brian P. Henretta

Think back ten years. Did you have a computer in your home? Did you have an email account? Could you even explain what the Internet actually was?

The World Wide Web has grown tremendously in the past decade, to the point where the Army is able to use it for communications almost immediately wherever they go. It isn't easy to set up an internet connection where there previously was almost none, but this is part of the routine for a Soldier in Headquarters and Service Company, 603rd ASB.

Spc. Kevin R. Bell, an information management office worker with HSC, 603rd ASB, has been responsible for helping his battalion connect to the Internet since

arriving to Camp Taji.

"The unit we replaced had an Internet network running, but all the wires and connections were just jumbled together," said Bell. His team ran new wires from the battalion's network hub to the HSC and Alpha company areas to get the system running more efficiently.

The 603rd ASB, like the rest of the brigade, uses the Internet to communicate between units. The 603rd uses the Internet to order and track critical parts and supplies, which are vital to the maintenance of the brigade's aircraft.

"The internet is critical to our day to day mission in the 603rd," said Maj. Ina Yahn, 603rd ASB Support Operations. "We use the internet to order and research sta-

tus of critical parts for both air and ground equipment. It greatly reduces the time it takes to receive parts, and gives us visibility on the flow of repair parts."

Bell has been working hard to get the Net up and running, but just because he's finished with this task, his work is far from over. He and the other IMO workers on his team perform software maintenance, run local area network (LAN) cables, repair the network if it goes down and make necessary computer repairs. His team also monitors policy changes regarding computer usage and ensures anti-virus updates are done regularly.

It takes a lot of training to learn the technical aspects of computer and internet repair, which Bell certainly has. Before joining the Army, Bell studied computer networking in his hometown of Newport News, Va. His MOS training in the Army took eight months to complete, and he is always learning new and updated programs, he said.

"While I like trying to use my training to fix problems, there is plenty of brain work involved. You have to think out problems. What fixes one computer won't work on another one and I love the challenge of figuring these things out," said Bell.

Bell and his fellow Soldiers in the information management office will be continuously working this deployment to keep 603rd's network running to keep their maintenance abilities running.



Photo by Spc. Brian P. Henretta

Spc. Kevin R. Bell, an information management office worker with HSC, 603rd ASB prepares a wire to be installed in the network gateway.

## Shadow: Flying UAV's Challenging, Fun

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master their craft of putting UAV's in the sky to support the division since being assembled only last September. The Soldiers have trained long and hard to learn the proper way to fly these aircraft. It is challenging work, but for members of the unit it's also rewarding.

"I still have fun every time I see one take off or

land," said Di Dio.

"It's a great feeling to work on these planes. I'm just happy to be part of something that flies," said Hargraves.

These effective planes serve an important role, quietly gathering information that a larger helicopter couldn't, while keeping pilots safe.

# Bravo Co. 2/3 Conducts Aerial Gunnery Training

by *Spc. Derek Del Rosario*

Crew chiefs of B Co. 2/3 General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB) conducted aerial gunnery training March 25. The three-day training event gave the soldiers of B Co. a chance to fire M60D rounds out of Chinooks for the first time since their deployment to Iraq began.

The training gave soldiers the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the M60D from the ground, hovering in the air and while on the move. The Soldiers also had a chance to fire the weapons at night using night vision goggles. Staff Sgt. Brett L. Brumley, B Co. 2/3 GSAB flight engineer and trainer for the mission, believes the training is a good experience for the Soldiers.

"The M60D is the primary weapon of the Chinook," Brumley

said. "These soldiers need to be familiar with the weapon in the event we need to lay suppressive fire down on an enemy."

The training also allowed new personnel to get an opportunity to train and also provided refresher training to experienced soldiers by giving them a reminder of the basics of firing, he added.

Staff Sgt. Sandy L. Spencer, standards instructor, believes training on the M60D is important to mission defense, and as long as the soldiers remain trained up, the Chinooks of 2/3 GSAB are in good hands.

"We need to train constantly on how to operate and employ the M60D," Spencer said. "It is important to know these weapons because it is our protection and our defense."



Photo by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

**Staff Sgt. David J. Luke (standing) and Pfc. Darian Chan, both of Bravo Co. 2/3 GSAB, fire the M60D from their Chinook during aerial gunnery training at Butler Range Complex.**

## Chaplain's Corner: Great Expectations

by *Chaplain (Maj.) Bill Kilmer*

"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times." So the great novel begins...and it could also describe some Soldier's Environmental Mid-tour Leave (EML), which they will take while they are here supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The talk has already begun around the tables in the DFAC. Perhaps you have heard it.

"When I go home on my two weeks of leave, I am going 'sit in my recliner and watch TV all day,' or 'drive to California and visit my family,' or 'go to Disney World or to the beach' or even 'spend the weekend alone with my wife/husband.'"

For every Soldier there is a different set of expectations of what they want to happen while on EML. Part of the purpose of going on EML is to be able to relax and unwind, to see your family and for your family to see you, to be in a different environment than where you are right now.

For every Soldier and their expectations, there are family members back home with expectations of their own. "When he gets here, that is when MY vacation starts. He can watch the kids for two weeks!" might be one expectation. "That will be a great time to have a big party, have time to ourselves, go on a vacation, or move into our new home."



Can you see how there could be conflicts?

An important part of EML preparation is two fold. Communicate your expectations. Tell your spouse what you are expecting to do or not do while on leave. Listen to the expectations of your spouse, family and loved ones. Ask your spouse what their expectations are for your time together. By doing this now, you can help to alleviate potential problems when you are with your family and loved ones. Too many times, folks spend their few short days together upset with each other because of unmet, unexpressed expectations.

Before you go, you will receive a briefing from your unit chaplain about reunion and going back to your family. In that briefing, the chaplain will usually talk about sharing your expectations. The problem is that usually you get that briefing just before you go on EML. Now is the time to ask your spouse/loved ones about their expectations and to share your expectations of what to do with your time together. The sooner you talk about it, the more time you have to work out a plan that will benefit both the Soldier and the family.

Before you go on EML and when you return, your unit chaplain is available to you for counseling or just to have a talk about your expectations, any problems you anticipate at home, and/or how your trip went.

# Ten Commandments to Avoid Heat Casualties

by Capt. Lalini Pillay

It is only a matter of weeks before we start to see temperatures regularly hitting the upper 80's and 90's, and it won't be long after that when we start to see temperatures in the triple digits. It is not too early to start educating Soldiers on the how to prevent them from becoming a heat casualty. This brigade did not have one heat related casualty during OIF I, and there is no reason why this trend can not continue. Below are simple steps that all of you can follow to prevent you and your battle buddy from becoming a heat related casualty.

1. Provide adequate water and ensure water breaks are taken as needed. Thirst is not an adequate indicator of dehydration. Alcohol, coffee, soft drinks and sports drinks are not good substitutes for water.
2. Ensure soldiers gradually adjust to working in the heat. Acclimatization is essential to preventing heat injuries.
3. Schedule work and rest periods. Schedule heavy work for the cooler part of the day (morning or late afternoon). The body generates more heat when heavy work is being performed.
4. Avoid overexertion. Use mechanical aids whenever possible. Assign tasks between several soldiers to reduce the stress on individuals.

5. Use shaded areas: trees, buildings and tents to reduce radiant heating. The temperature between being in the sun and under the canopy of a tree can vary from 8° to 20°F.

6. Encourage using sun screen to protect exposed skin.

7. Wear loose-fitting, light-weight clothing. Do not layer clothing; it will increase the risk of heat injury.

8. Monitor Wet Bulb Globe Temperature so the heat-stress index can be evaluated. Environmental conditions such as temperatures above 70° F (80° F at night), direct sunlight and humidity add to heat stress. The wind reduces the risk of heat stress by increasing the evaporation of sweat.

9. Train soldiers to recognize and treat heat injuries, and encourage them to monitor each other for signs of heat stress.

10. Conduct safety meetings to emphasize special heat spell procedures. Be prepared to provide medical assistance.

If you have any questions or need additional information, contact your Environmental Science Officer.



## Women

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Just be good at what you do," said Farrow. "Women here know they're heroes, and when this fight with terror and al-Qaida is over you can say you were a part of something."

Pfc. Francswa M. Rives, a human resource specialist with HHC, Aviation Brigade, read a poetry selection titled "Here's to the Woman," by an unknown author described the profile of a woman, she said.

"The poem shows women can work hard, be sensitive and caring; while at the same time overcoming obstacles to achieve their goals," said Rives. "I was happy to read something that applauds women for all we are."

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## Armament

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is ready so an Apache can go on missions, and by doing their jobs, Wolf believes that they are playing a vital role in 1/3 ARB's mission.

"We handle so much on the aircraft," said Wolf. "Apaches need weapons system, sights, commo—we take care of these things and by doing our job, we make sure that the bird stays in the air."

With new challenges comes more responsibility for Delta Co., but it is without a doubt that they remain up to the challenge and ready to help 1/3 ARB complete their mission.

**3ID Commander:** Maj. Gen. William G. Webster

**Avn. Bde. Commander:** Col. Ronald D. Tuggle

**Avn. Bde. PAO:** Maj. David J. Weis

**100th MPAD Team Leader:** Lt. Kadett E. Derry

**100th MPAD Team NCOIC:** Staff Sgt. Tad A. Browning

**Writers, Editors, Photographers:** Spc. Brian P. Henretta, Spc. Derek Del Rosario

## Guards: Keeping Camp Taji Safe

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said Sgt. 1st Class Ronrico J. Hayes, ADOC NCOIC.

Dodd also recognizes the importance of having internal guards on Camp Taji.

"The enemy could penetrate our perimeter," said Dodd. "Common areas frequented daily by soldiers can be a point of interest. That is why it is very important to protect these facilities. The guards are making it so we can stay safe and live comfortably."

Haynes recognizes the huge responsibility that guards have in protecting the camp.

"We brief the guards to remain vigilant because anything can happen," Haynes said. "They are the eyes of the camp, and our first line of defense."