

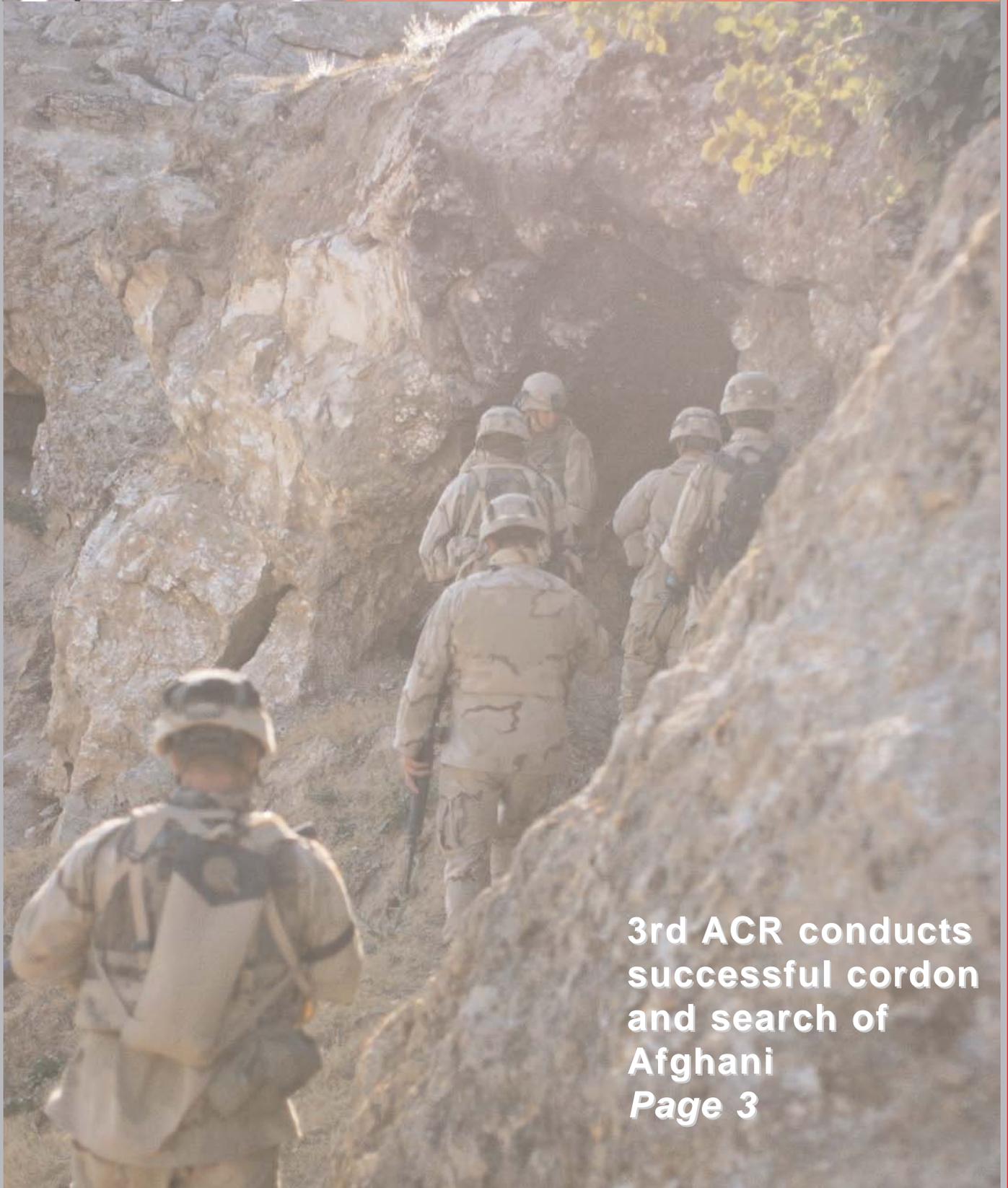
# The Freedom Post

Published for Task Force Freedom Soldiers Serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom III

June 27, 2005

visit us at [www.tffpao.org](http://www.tffpao.org)

Volume 2: Issue 15



**3rd ACR conducts  
successful cordon  
and search of  
Afghani  
Page 3**

# In This Issue...



Grand Opening of New Chow Hall Honors  
Sacrifice and Courage of Coalition Forces

*Page 4*

3rd ACR HHT Welcomes New Commander

*Page 5*

Distinguished Visitors Make Stops in  
Northern Iraq

*Page 6*

59th MP Co. Gets People to Where They  
Need to Go

*Page 7*

Cheerleaders Entertain at FOB Courage

*Page 8*

LSA Diamondback Hosts Soccer Game for  
Iraqi and American Soldiers

*Page 10*

Master Sergeant Celebrates his 60th  
Birthday and 20 Years of Service

*Page 11*

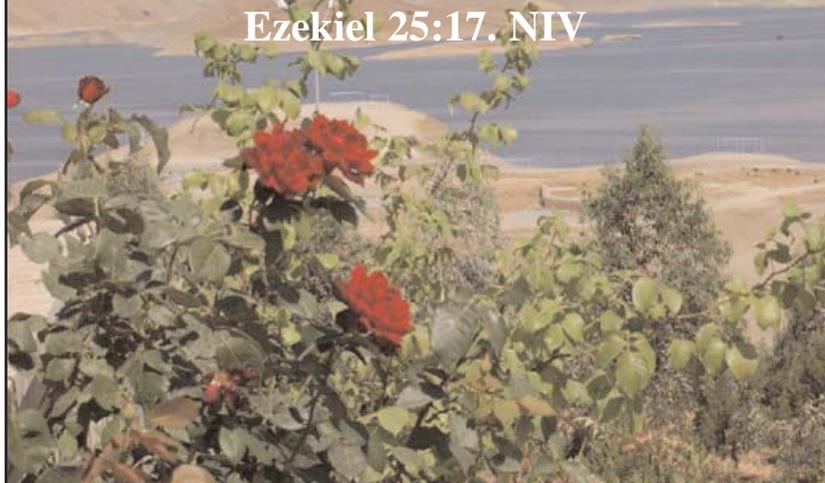
Cover photo: 3rd ACR Soldiers investigate a  
cave searching for Insurgents.

Photo by Spc. David J. Nunn

## Quote of the Week

“I will carry out great vengeance on them  
and punish them in my wrath. Then they  
will know that I am the Lord, when I take  
me vengeance on them.”

Ezekiel 25:17. NIV



*Please join us at the Chapel for  
FOB Courage Religious Services:*

Catholic Mass	_____	1100	Saturday
Latter-Day Saints	_____	0830	Sunday
Protestant	_____	1100	Sunday
Protestant	_____	2000	Sunday
Protestant	_____	1930	Wednesday
Gospel	_____	1300	Sunday

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## 3rd ACR Provides Safe and Secure Environment

***U.S. and Iraqi Army Soldiers join forces to provide security and training in northern Iraq.***

*Story and Photos by Spc. David J. Nunn*

TAL AFAR, Iraq - Soldiers of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR), "Grim Troop" 3rd Platoon, stationed at Forward Operating Base Sykes, stack outside the metal courtyard doorway of an Iraqi citizen's household during a cordon and search of the northern city of Afghani. The day long operation was successful in detaining several suspects and confiscating weapons that could have been used to injure members of the coalition services or the innocent civilians of the area.

The Grim Troop traveled to the city, along with other units from the 3rd ACR, and members of the 10th Iraqi Army Battalion, in support of taking a proactive approach to the War on Terrorism. Their mission was to surprise the small but influential insurgent presence in the city with the predawn surrounding of the area and then a dismounted presence moving door to door.

The Soldiers were armed with a detailed roster of each insurgent that was thought to be living within the city, complete with recent photographs and addresses. Their hopes were to detain these men and seize any Anti-Iraqi Force propaganda before it could be used to further harm the cause for a free Iraq.

"Our goal during this mission is to make this city safer," said Sgt. 1st Class Mark Boley, Intelligence Non-Commissioned Officer for the 3rd ACR. "Every time we come out here you see that these people want us here, and appreciate our help. We just have to work



A squad of 3rd ACR Soldiers enter an abandoned house in the city of Afghani, Iraq.

to clean out some of the bad apples."

"We found quite a few of the men we were looking for," said Boley. "It was a good mission, but I think the most important thing was for us to just be out here, our combined forces working together. Its great training for them and it helps build more credibility for the Iraqi Army."



3rd ACR Soldiers discuss the morning's events briefly outside a previously cleared Iraqi home near the town of Afghani.

# Serving Food For Thought

Grand Opening of New Chow Hall Commemorates Coalition Forces' Sacrifice

Story by Staff Sgt. Ray P. Calef, Photos by Sgt. Richard W. Way

FOB MAREZ, Iraq – A new chow hall opened up recently in Mosul, to the delight of military members, civilian workers, and everyone involved with the rebuilding project. A memorial ceremony and grand opening was held to honor those lost in the December 21st suicide bombing blast which claimed the lives of 22 people, including 14 U.S. Service Members.

In attendance at the event was the Task Force Freedom (TFF) Command Staff, headlined by one of the keynote speakers, Maj. Gen. David M. Rodriguez, the Commander of TFF. He spoke about the Iraqi people's fight for freedom, as well as the heroism shown the day of the bombing.

"Today we remember the December 21st attack and we are reminded of the old maxim that freedom is not free, it never has been and never will be," said Rodriguez. "It requires the sacrifice of many, like each and every one of you are making today."

The ceremony was also marked by a candle-

light display in remembrance of those lost, and awards were given out to mark the heroism shown that day.

Coalition Forces and the civilian personnel stationed at Marez had been making due for more than five months eating Meals-Ready-To-Eat, meals served out of mermites, and yes, even bologna sandwiches during the construction of the new facility.

That is no longer the case.

The largest dining facility in northern Iraq has been a huge success with Soldiers and civilians alike. Mr. Rozell Swanson, the dining facility manager, said the reaction to the diner has been tremendous.

"The [dining facility] has been well received," said Swanson. "They say the layout here is user friendly, so they can find everything they need, and more is coming."

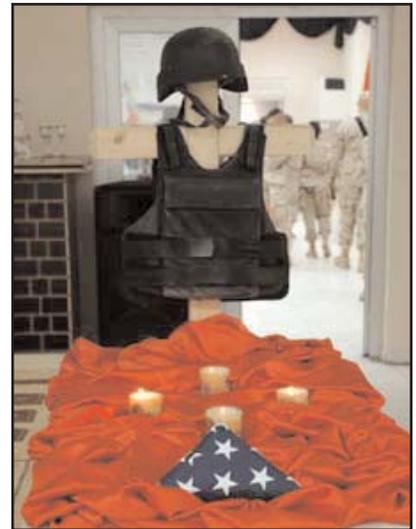
The new facility is a testament to the resiliency of the troops in Mosul, which mirrors the Iraqi people's resolve in their fight for freedom.



Maj. Gen. Rodriguez cuts the ribbon during the Grand Opening of the new chow hall.



One candle was lit for each Soldier and civilian whose life was taken in the December attack.



One candle was lit for each Soldier and civilian whose life was taken in the December attack.

## The Stallion Report

See Soldiers from your area on the news!

Visit our website: [www.tffpao.org](http://www.tffpao.org)

# 3rd ACR HHT Says Farewell to Old Commander

## Welcomes New One During Their Change of Command Ceremony

Story and Photo by Spc. David J. Nunn

FOB SYKES, Iraq – The Soldiers of Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR), of Ft. Carson, Colo., gathered to bear witness to their commander's final mission in Iraq, to transfer command authority over to their new commander.

During the ceremony, members of Remington Troop oversaw the passing of the unit's flags, from Capt. David M. Rozelle, to Capt. David R. Olsen, in a traditional military change of command.

Rozelle, a native Texan, returned to Iraq after losing his lower right leg during the initial stages of Operation Iraqi Freedom I, and is the first amputee to return to a combat zone after suffering such an injury. He is also the author of; *Back in Action: An American Soldier's Story of Courage, Faith and Fortitude*. He will travel back to the states to help fellow Soldier amputees recover from their combat-

related injuries at Walter Reed Medical Clinic, in Washington D.C.

Olsen, a native of Baltimore, graduated from the Duke University Reserve Officer Training Course with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering. He has been a part of the 3rd ACR since September of 2000, and prior to taking his command, Olsen served as Regimental Battle Captain.

"I have learned so much from all of you about training, about Soldiers, and about family," said Rozelle. "I want to thank all of you for this experience that will truly last a lifetime. I am humbled to be called your commander, and this experience has made me a better man and person."

Soldiers gathered to honor their outgoing commander, Capt. David M. Rozelle, as he transferred command authority to Capt. David R. Olsen, during a change of command ceremony on June 12, 2005.

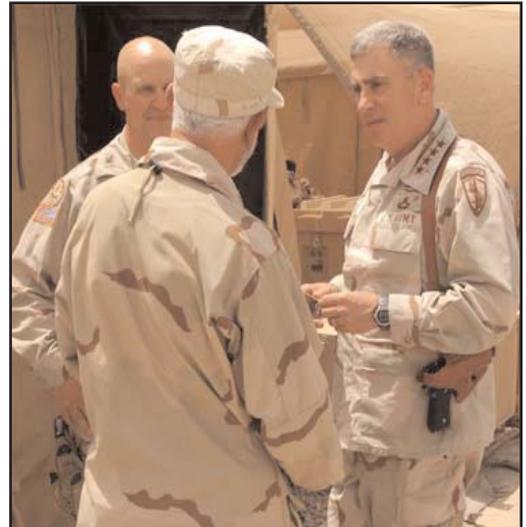


Capt. David R. Olsen stands at the head of his new command, HHT, 3rd ACR, ready to lead them through the rest of their tour at FOB Sykes.

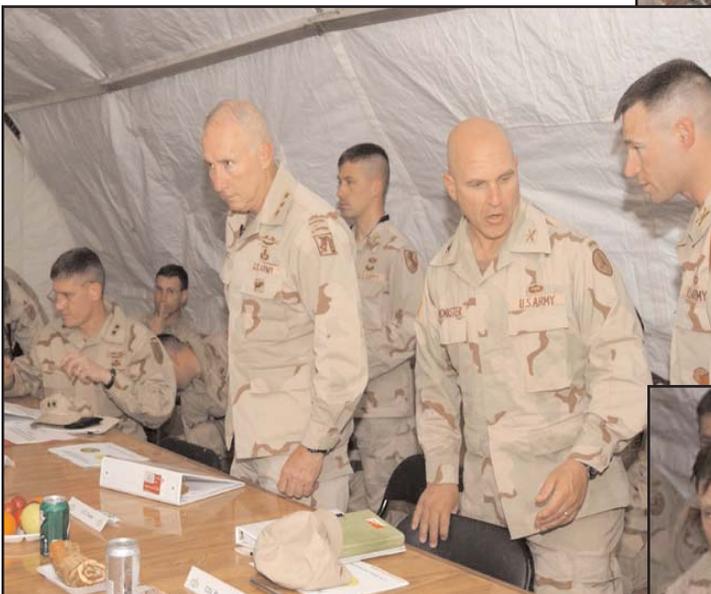
# Distinguished Visitors Make Stops in Northern Iraq Top Priority *Photos by Spc. Ashly E. Mitchell*



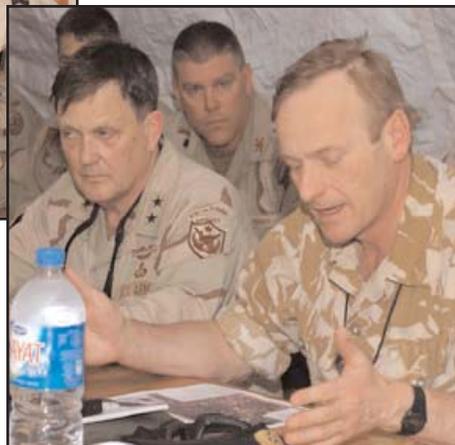
The Under Secretary of Defense of Intelligence, Dr. Stephen Cambone, met with members of the Stryker Brigade Combat Team to learn about the combat effectiveness of the Stryker.



Gen. John Abizaid, Commander of U.S. Central Command, spoke with an interpreter before entering a security meeting.



Lt. Gen. John Vines, Commanding General of Multi-National Corps-Iraq, prepares for a security meeting during his visit to FOB Sykes.



**Above:** Gen. George Casey, Commander of Multi-National Forces, observes Iraqi Soldier's training on a firing range at Al Kasik. **Left:** Maj. Gen. Eldon Bargewell listens as Lt. Gen. Robin Brimms, Deputy Commander of Multi-National Forces-Iraq, talks with members of Task Force Freedom on new security ideas.

# MPs Make People Their Top Priority

Story and Photos by Sgt. Richard W. Way

MOSUL, Iraq – After a morning briefing, members of the 59th Military Police (MP) Company get ready to pick up and deliver their cargo in and around Mosul. Their cargo on this day, as with most missions, is a human one.

Advisors with expertise in many fields, Soldiers, and interpreters are among the passengers.

“My Soldiers make my job easy, and they keep us out of trouble; they’re the best,” said Capt. Joseph Squizzero, 59th MP company commander.

While in Iraq, the task of getting Soldiers, advisors and interpreters around the city is a large part of their mission. The 59th also provides force protection training to the Iraqi Police and performs



Soldiers from the 59th MP Co. block off traffic during one of their missions.



MP's secure an area to provide protection for the rest of their Soldiers on a mission in Mosul.

guard duty on Logistics Support Area Diamondback.

As the Soldiers suit up for the mission ahead, everyone assists one another in donning their protective gear, making sure everything is tight and secure. Close unity and dedicated teamwork are obvious between the members of the 59th from the time the company rolls through the gates until their return.

Delivery is just part of the mission of the 59th MP Co. Upon arrival at their destination, the 59th sets up a secure perimeter. They stay as long as they need to accomplish the mission, depending on the assignment of their passengers.

The MPs offer “taxi services” with security second to none, according to

***continued on Page 9***

# Cheerleaders Take Center Stage For Soldiers in Iraq

Story and Photos by Spc. Ashly E. Mitchell

FOB COURAGE, Iraq - Members of Task Force Freedom smiled and clapped along as the Cheerleaders of the Arizona Cardinals performed on stage at the Auditorium here, on June 17.

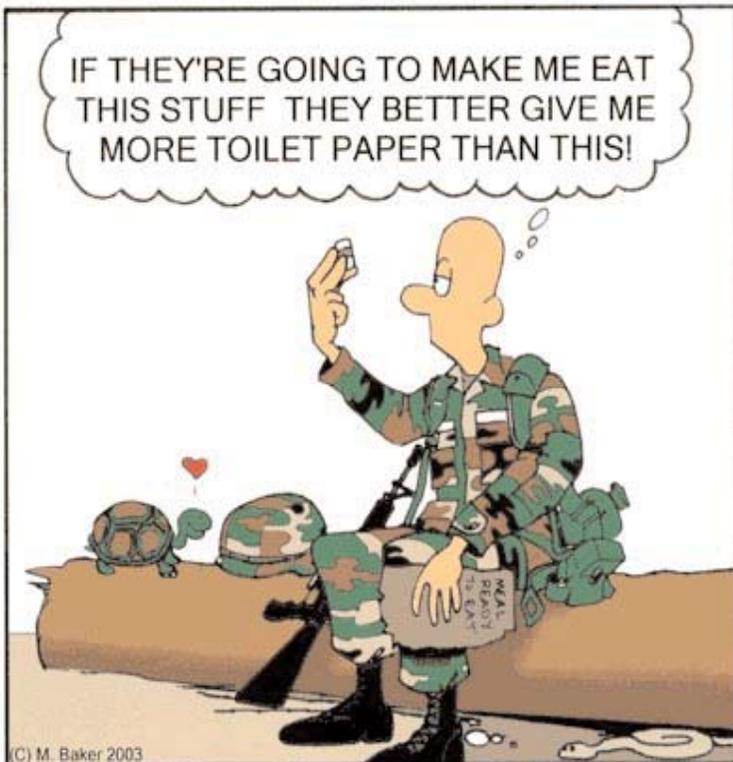
The nine-female team came to Forward Operating Base Courage to perform for the troops. Their show included a variety of dance styles and involved participation from the audience. Soldiers were brought on stage to salsa dance, two-step, and limbo. One Soldier even dressed up as Elvis for a dance routine.

"It definitely made us feel like we were back home," said Staff Sgt. Juan Amaro, crew chief, N Troop, 4th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 278th Aviation, and the winner of the salsa dancing competition.

It was evident from the crowd's response that a good time was had by all. The cheerleaders stayed after the show for a meet and greet with Soldiers to sign autographs.



**Top:** Cheerleaders perform salsa dancing toward the middle of their show. **Bottom Left:** 1st Sgt. Zimmerman covers his face to avoid blushing during the cheerleaders' performance. **Bottom Right:** Unsuspecting Soldier is made to dress like Elvis and perform for the masses.



*continued from Page 7*



**Top:** Cpl. Thiel performs security during stop.  
**Bottom:** Soldiers stay vigilant during their mission on and off the FOB.



their commander “There are no better soldiers in Iraq,” said Squizzero.

More than 50 percent of the unit has been deployed before and all but a few of the team leaders have been to Iraq; knowledge and experience that pays off in a big way.

While standing in the same location, sometimes for hours, waiting for the word to depart, the Soldiers of the 59th stay alert. Pvt. 1st Class Seth James of third platoon keeps a keen eye out for trouble in his sector. “I keep my area secure, I know everyone does. We never let our guard down, no matter what.”

Cpl. George Thiel, a team leader with the third platoon, rides in one of the lead vehicles. As they travel through Mosul, Thiel radios to vehicles toward the rear of the small convoy to warn of possible danger areas or suspicious vehicles. His team also helps clear a path and scans for any obstacles ahead of the convoy.

While on location, the Soldiers of the 59th secure the area, direct traffic away from the perimeter, and talk to the civilians having questions and requests. They deal with everything from kids wanting treats, to directions on how to and when civilians can leave the secured area. The MPs try to accommodate the Iraqi citizens as much as possible while maintaining a very high level of security.

Upon getting the call to “mount up”, the Soldiers head for their vehicles in an organized and secure way. No one lets his guard down.

**Don't cut wires.  
 That's EODs job.**



# Iraqi Army Defeats 17th CSB in Soccer

In a close match at LSA Diamondback *Story and Photos by Sgt. Richard W. Way*

LSA DIAMONDBACK, Iraq - A soccer match between Iraqi and American Soldiers on June 17th turned out to be everything people thought it would be... and more. The Iraqi Soldiers kicked their way to a hard fought 4-3 win over the Soldiers from the 17th Corps Support Battalion (CSB), stationed at Logistics Support Area Diamondback, at the Iraqi Army soccer field.

Both sides thought they had a good chance against the other squad. "We are going to be competitive, but we are going to try and win. It's a friendly game, but we will be competitive," said Chief Warrant Officer Ron Jupiter, the Engineer Section Officer in Charge of the 536th Maintenance Company. That optimism seemed to show, as it was a close game throughout the match. The Iraqis gained the upper hand and looked to be the better team as they scored two goals in the first 10 minutes, including a penalty goal, to go up 2-0. They seemed the faster team.

The last 10 minutes changed the complexion of the match however, as the U.S. squad scored a goal just before the half, as a more aggressive style seemed to match the Iraqi's speed.

After some halftime pep talks, the U.S. Soldiers continued their aggressive style, tying the game early in the second half. The U.S. squad seemed to have the upper hand. Until of course, the Iraqi's kicked it up a notch, scoring two quick goals in a span of 3 minutes, both of which highlighted their speed advantage. Those goals put the game out of reach, despite a nice corner goal by the U.S. with about 5 minutes left, which cut the lead to one.

The jubilant Iraqis embraced at midfield, and congratulations were offered all around. Lt. Col. Amar Abdulladee, Commander for the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division "Tigers" of the Iraqi Army, offered thanks to the U.S. Soldiers for the opportunity to play the game, and condolences for his team's win. "Next time, try to exercise before the game more. But seriously, it was great to play against the U.S. troops. We have a great relationship with the 17th CSB," he said.

Soldiers from the 536th Maintenance Company, which falls under the command of the 17th CSB, echoed the Iraqi Colonel's sentiments at a barbeque

luncheon and awards ceremony hosted at their headquarters after the game. "They have good players. It was a good game. This is good that we can do this, we have Iraqi friends right here," said Spc. Omar Martin of the 536th.

Spc. Tony Plugger, also with the 536th, said it was great that the soccer game was afforded to them, and he took advantage of the opportunity to play. "It makes me feel good that we are out there supporting them and they are helping us too. It was a really good day," he added.

Staff Sgt. Kristian Penafiel, Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of the ground support engineers with the 536th and team captain for the U.S. squad, summarized the day's events. "It was quite an event to try to organize. Different people were on different missions or on guard duty. But we came together and gave the Iraqi's a good game. We will prepare better the next time and win."



U.S. team member blocks an attempt to steal the ball during the soccer game at LSA Diamondback.

# Master Sergeant Celebrates Over 20 Years of Service and 60th Birthday

Story by Maj. James A. Street



Maj. Gen. Rodriguez joins Master Sgt. Evensizer in front of the BCC to celebrate Evensizer's 60th Birthday and 20 years of service in the Army. Courtesy Photo.

FOB COURAGE, Iraq – A Soldier of the 98th Division, a reserve unit out of the New England area, celebrated his 60th birthday on June 3rd. It wasn't the first birthday the 20-year veteran had spent overseas mentoring the careers of fellow Soldiers with his friendly leadership style.

Master Sgt. Jack L. Evensizer, the Battle Command Center (BCC) 98th Division Liaison Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO), Task Force Freedom (TFF), was recognized by Maj. Gen. David M. Rodriguez, Commander of TFF, before fellow service members in the BCC during the week of his birthday for his long service in the U.S. Army.

Reflecting on his remarkable career within the Army, Evensizer's eyes lit-up as he explained many of the rewarding experiences he has had since joining in the late 60s. A career of defending a country that he has been proud to serve. "I believe in what we are doing [during the War on Terrorism] and I'm proud to be a part of it," said Evensizer. "The Army has been

a good tour of duty. I have met a lot of people and have had a lot of interesting jobs and assignments."

Prior to being transferred to the 98th Division in 2004 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Evensizer served in a multitude of different positions instructing Soldiers during his enlistment. He served as an instructor at the Primary Leadership Development Course, Basic NCO's Course, and the Advanced NCO's Course.

According to Evensizer, he really enjoyed mentoring those Soldiers through his years as an instructor. He took every opportunity to make sure they were fully prepared to return to their units and personally organized their paperwork to aid them in having a successful career.

Looking back over his rewarding enlistment within the U.S. Army, Evensizer offered a bit of advice to those serving.

"Both enlisted and commissioned Soldiers need to manage their own careers," said Evensizer. "Take the responsibility to get your career on track. Be patient with those you work with and keep your paperwork safe because it could become lost."



Happy Birthday Master Sgt. Evensizer

# WHAT DO YOU THINK?

## What would you like to hear on "The Stallion" 107.3?



Sgt. William M. Milligan  
113th Engineer BN,  
HHC Co.  
Assault Gunner  
"I'd like to hear more  
Rhythm & Blues"



Spc. Jarrett Shultz  
494th Trans. Co.  
Truck Driver  
"I prefer Country Music,  
like Toby Keith or Chris  
Cagle."



Pfc. Bruce Hirschauer  
494th Trans. Co.  
Truck Driver  
"I grew up with country  
music, but I prefer Punk,  
like 'Taking Back Sunday  
and 'New Found Glory'."



Pfc. Raniel Sarinas  
494th Trans. Co.  
Truck Driver  
"I like Hip Hop"

# Mosul's Most Wanted Captured

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Muhammad Khalaf Shakar, AKA Abu Talha, the leader of Al-Qaeda in the Mosul region, was captured by Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces June 14. Abu Talha, who is Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's most trusted operations agent in all of Iraq, was captured without incident by members of Multi-National forces.

Multiple intelligence sources led Multi-National forces to Abu Talha's location in a quiet neighborhood in Mosul. According to former Talha associates, Talha reportedly never stayed more than one night at any one residence in Mosul. Numerous reports indicated that Talha also wore a suicide vest 24 hours a day, and stated that he would never surrender. Talha gave up peacefully to Coalition forces and supporting Iraqi Security forces. Talha is currently fully cooperating with Coalition and Iraqi officials.

Talha's capture and the capture of other high-ranking Zarqawi terrorist network members in the past several months in and around Mosul has degraded the organization and al-Qaeda's capability in the region. Iraqi and Multi-National forces will continue to destroy all al-Qaeda terrorists in Iraq.

Intelligence sources say that a likely replacement for Abu Talha is Abu Bara, a key lieutenant and trusted confidant of Abu Talha.



A Terrorist vest, much like the one thought to have been worn by Abu Talha, operations agent for Abu Musab al-Zarqawi who was arrested June 14. The terrorist suspect gave up without incident to Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition Forces despite his threats. Photo courtesy of [www.jimbratart-works.com](http://www.jimbratart-works.com).