



The Freedom Post

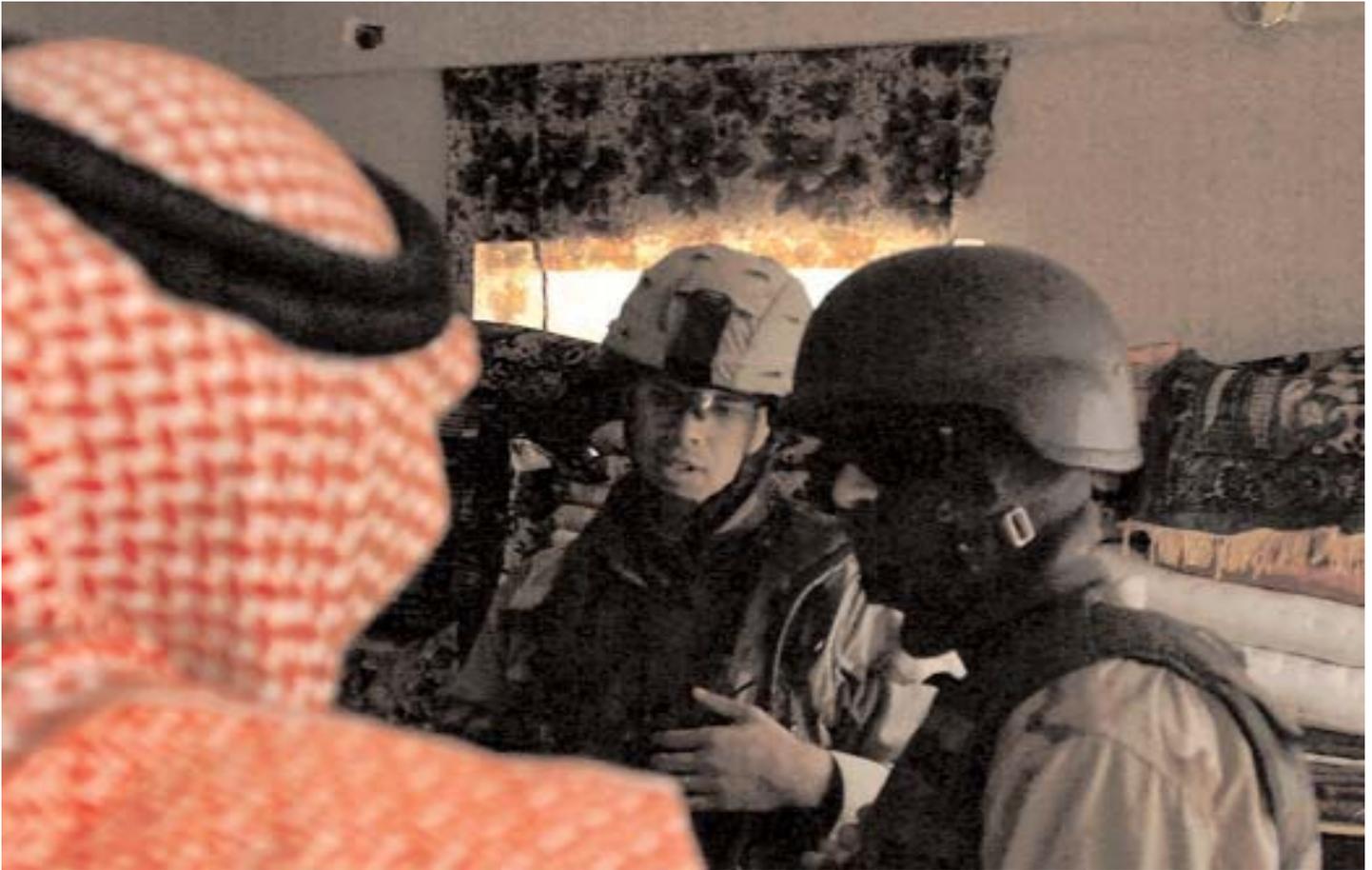
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Coalition Forces Build Trust through Good Will

Story and Photos by Sgt. Rick Way



Lt. Wells and his interpreter talk with a Kurdish man about the prospects of a school-building project near his home.

Bravo Company, 3rd Platoon 1-24 Infantry, starts a normal day with a raid on a house in Mosul, Iraq. The unit received a tip from locals that the house was occupied by financiers, information gatherers and providers for the terrorists. Four men were detained. Found with them, were a few weapons and Eight Million Dinar (equal to about \$5000).

Lt. David Wells, Platoon leader for 3rd Platoon, 1/24 Infantry, believes the raid was successful due in part to their ability to build relationships with local citizens.

The day before, third platoon divided \$200.00 among 4 squads, purchased food at a local market, and divided it into eighty food baskets. The food was distributed to families in Mosul. "The people were

blown away, they couldn't believe it," said Wells. "It opened the door to discuss the peoples concerns and talk to them about possible insurgent activity in the area."

Part of 1-24's mission is to gather information concerning terrorist activity. The 1-24 has been successful with it's information gathering because of the trust built with the Iraqi people through acts of genuine good will.

The heart of Bravo Company's 3rd Platoon exemplifies the way they accomplish the mission by spreading good will and also in those missions that serve to thwart insurgents.

On another mission, Wells' platoon conducted a thorough search of a house where two women and
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The History of the Blackhorse

Second of a three part series on the History of the Blackhorse.

Story by Sgt. Dan Lucas

Last week, The History of the Blackhorse covered the 11th Cavalry Regiment from its conception until it was relocated to Camp Lockett in 1937 after a forced march through 90 miles of rough terrain.

The summer of 1942 found the regiment reassigned to Fort Benning, Georgia where they were inactivated as a horse mounted unit and reactivated as the 11th Armored Regiment. Even then, massive reorganization efforts within the Army shuffled various elements of the regiment, eliminated some, and eventually three distinct groups emerged:

- Headquarters & Headquarters Troop became 11th Cavalry Group Mechanized/XIII Corps

- First & Second Squadron became 11th Tank Battalion/10th Armored Division

- Third Squadron became 712th Tank Battalion/90th Infantry Division

The 11th Cavalry Group would be destined to carry on the Blackhorse name. Then Lt. Leonard D. Holder, 37th colonel of the regiment, of Troop B, 44th Squadron, was the first to land on the shores of France. This Troop was given the honor of being attached to General Dwight D. Eisenhower's headquarters to provide checkpoint security and escort duty for the remainder of the war. On November 23, 1944 the balance of the Group loaded onto a small fleet of Landing Ship Transports (LST's) and crossed the

channel. During the Battle of the Bulge the 11th Cavalry Group held the entire sector normally occupied by a division.

When the Allied offensive resumed after the Battle of the Bulge, the 11th Cavalry Group was tasked with covering the flank of XIII Corps during the push from the Roer to the Rhine. This thrust deep into the enemy's homeland culminated with the 11th Cavalry Group killing and wounding 632 German soldiers and capturing 6,128 prisoners. In 21 days the Blackhorse had moved 378 miles, suffered only 14 killed, and 102 wounded.

The 11th Cavalry Group had advanced at such a fast pace that they met the III Russian Corps coming into Germany near Kunrau on May 4, 1945. Since Germany was to be divided into sectors, the 11th found themselves deep inside the Russian Occupation Zone. After a brief celebration between the two over the Allied victory, the 11th Cavalry Group withdrew to Hannover and began the task of occupation.

Early May 1946 found the 11th Cavalry Group (Mechanized) reverting from horsepower back to horseflesh. The Group was re-designated the 11th Constabulary Regiment and reissued horses drawn from world-renowned Polish breeding stock. Likewise, the 11th Tank Battalion stateside was re-activated as the Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Constabulary Regiment. The horses were utilized, along

with other various modes of transportation, to accomplish the mission of reconnaissance and surveillance of movements of the populace.

The distinctive "C" inside a circle on the helmets and shoulder patches earned the mounted Constabulary Regiments the nickname "Circle C Cowboys." They had the distinction of being the last horse mounted combat patrols in US history. September 20, 1947 saw the 1st Constabulary Regiment inactivated with the 11th scheduled to follow November 30, 1948. Both were converted and re-designated on the same day as the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and inactivated.

The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment was reactivated April 1, 1951 and assigned to Camp Carson, Colorado and was tasked to rebuild the Regiment from the ground up.

In May 1960 the Regiment added a separate Aviation Company, the precursor of larger aviation components to follow. In an effort to regain a sense of historical esprit de corps within the armored cavalry regiments, the Army reestablished the nomenclature from battalions and companies to the traditional terms of squadron and troops.

Next week will continue with the 11th ACR's service in Vietnam through today.

IRAQI TROOPS DEVELOP SOLDIER SKILLS, DISCIPLINE

Story and Photos by Spc. David Nunn

QUARRAH-WEST, Iraq – U.S. involvement in Operation Iraqi Freedom has always had an ending goal to develop this war-torn country into an independent democracy. A mission to aid these people in running their own country so that we can return to ours with the knowledge that the good people of this country and our families and friends back home are safe from terrorism.

Soldiers of Forward Operating Base

(FOB) Endurance have taken this ideal and run with it, in a display of true friendship with their Iraqi neighbors as they break new ground in the development of a Basic Training Course (BTC) and a Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) Academy for members of the local Iraqi Army.

“We started planning these courses back in November,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Martinez, Command Sgt. Maj. of the 2-8 Field Artillery Command based at FOB Endurance.

“With the aid of General Ali and his soldiers, we were able to create an intense 3-week Basic Training Course, which started on the 1st [of March], for an experienced platoon of 107th [Iraqi Army] soldiers.”

According to General Ali, Battalion Commander for the 107th, the great majority of these soldiers, their ages ranging from 20 to 33, are veterans of defending the area against Anti-Iraqi Forces beside their American allies. These men come from a rich heritage of strong families and brave tribes that have fought the insurgents since the beginning.

Packed into a small classroom at the BTC’s schoolhouse, Iraqi soldiers (who before our arrival were learning the key points of Basic Rifle Marksmanship) stood silently at the position

of attention for the entrance of the distinguished visitors, which included Col. Robert Brown, Commander of the Stryker Brigade Combat Team and Lt. Col Bradley A. Becker, 2-8 Field Artillery Battalion Commander and listened to their words of encouragement respectfully. Their discipline and military bearing was a true testament to the teaching ability of Martinez’s instructors.

**“I see all of you and I
see brave men and
leaders that will help us
leave your country
in your capable
hands.”**

Tentatively, in early April, the NCO Academy (a large stone building currently being remodeled within walking distance of the BTC’s schoolhouse) will be opening its doors to the first class of Iraqi NCOs, many of whom are currently enrolled in the BTC.

“We plan to take the finest examples of each graduating class and

make them instructors for future classes,” said Martinez. “Thus we are able to slowly step back and eventually the Academy will be run completely independent from U.S. involvement.”

Such institutions as these are the foundation of developing an army that can provide a safe and secure environment independently for its people. This joint effort to form the Iraqi soldiers into a disciplined unit of fighting men brings us one step closer to leaving the responsibility of protecting the Iraqi people solely in the hands of Iraqis.

“I see all of you and I see brave men and leaders that will help us leave your country in your capable hands,” said Col. Brown. “Your service is hard, it will tough, but the hard things in life are the most rewarding. Stay focused in your training and you will succeed in this, you can have pride in giving your family and children a better life.”



Top Left: General Ali holds a translated version of the American Warrior Ethos. **Top Right:** An Iraqi Basic Trainee loads his AK-47 magazine in preparation for Rifle Marksmanship Training. **Bottom Right:** An American Soldier performs duties as Range Control during Rifle Marksmanship Training. **Middle Left:** Soldiers of the 107th Iraqi Intervention Forces prepare to train at the range on FOB Endurance. **Bottom Left:** Soldiers of the 107th IIF train on building clearing.

continued from page 1

seven children lived. The platoon discovered an assault rifle during their search and, according to the women, the rifle did not work and didn't have any ammunition. Wells' platoon conducted a search of the same house a week before, where a picture of Saddam Hussein was hanging on the wall. This was a concern for Wells, which caused him to return for another search. Wells explained to the women of the house that the reason for stopping again was the picture. When asked about the picture, one of the women explained that it was up there for a long time and she just never removed it.

A Kurdish family was next on the list for a visit from Wells' platoon. During this visit, Wells learned that the family had no running water. The family requested assistance for schooling, clothing, health care, and money for rent. Wells relayed the information on to his Commander for this family.

Last week, this man asked Wells about funds for a school, Wells explains that this is a long term project and he would like to help but it is not possible to do at this time. This family was not considered a threat. Wells promised to relay their concerns to his boss while reminding the family if they see or hear of any terrorist in the area to make a call. "To win this war against the terrorist, we need your cooperation, we need you to help us help you." A phone number was left with the family prior to departing.

Although 1/24 is an infantry unit, they are involved in civil affairs missions as well. Their goal is to do three civil affairs missions per platoon, per month. It helps build a good relationship between the Coalition Forces and the citizens of Mosul, thereby aiding in the reporting and capture of insurgents and securing a better Iraq for their children.



Lt. Wells finds weapon during the search of a residence.



Lt. Wells speaks with locals about suspicious activity.

Dr. T's Medical Matters

General Order #1 is very clear in its statement that there will be no pets or mascots of any kind while we are in this theater. Both US military and civilians accompanying the US military fall under this order. This was put in place, not because the military dislikes puppies, but to protect the Soldiers from many diseases that can be caught from animals.

There is no excuse in falling sick due to a preventable disease. Ignoring this order could cause harm to your military career and your overall health.

Rabies is in this area. There are many cases of human rabies in this country every year. There are probably even more animal rabies cases that go undetected. Back in the states there was a good chance that the strays you saw had been someone's pet at some time and had received at least one vaccine when it was a puppy or kitten. That is not the case over here. There are no extensive rabies prevention programs in place. The local population does not hold the health and welfare of cats and dogs at the same level that we do.

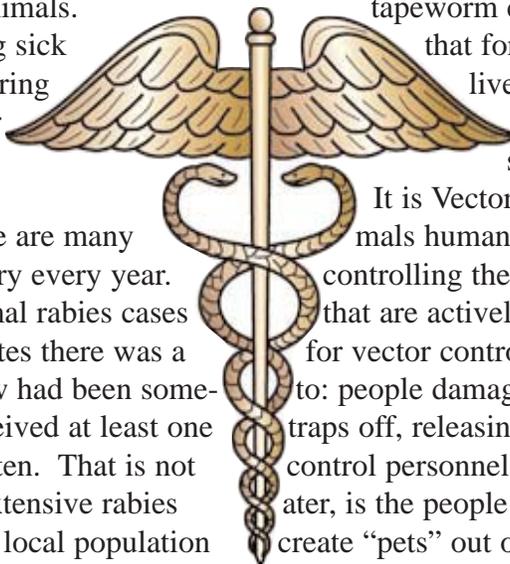
Within the past month, a dog that was being kept as a pet tested positive for rabies. It is estimated that over 30 people were exposed to that dog during the time it was likely shedding. Each one of them will require post-exposure treatment. Recently in our area, several Soldiers were exposed to a dog that potentially had rabies; they are currently receiving the post-exposure vaccination series.

Rabies is not the only infectious disease that is transmitted between animals and people. We tend to focus on rabies because if you get it, and are not vaccinated, you will die. It is 100% fatal. Other diseases you can get are Leishmaniasis, ringworm, scabies, and internal parasites. There is a particular type of tapeworm called, *Echinococcus granulosus*, that forms large tumor like cysts in your liver and your brain. These can put you in the hospital and may require surgery.

It is Vector Control's job to remove these animals humanely. One of the main problems in controlling the animal population, are the Soldiers that are actively working against the people hired for vector control. This includes, but is not limited to: people damaging traps, stealing traps, setting traps off, releasing animals, and harassing vector control personnel. The biggest problem I see in theater, is the people that feed these dogs and cats, and create "pets" out of them.

Officers and senior NCOs that are not enforcing the pet policy are putting their soldiers at risk. Orders are put out for a reason. If you have any questions regarding the many diseases you can get from animals, you can contact your local preventive medicine officer, veterinary services officer, or medical assets.

CPT Margaret Hanson. Veterinary Services Corps



Rocking you from the Tigris to the Euphrates.

PLEASE E-MAIL YOUR REQUESTS TO blackhorse@tffpao.org

7 Day Weather Forecast for Mosul

Forecast Conditions	High/Low °F	Precip. Chance
Today Mar 7  Partly Cloudy	71°/52°	20%
Tue Mar 8  Showers	65°/54°	80%
Wed Mar 9  Showers	66°/47°	40%
Thu Mar 10  Light Rain	61°/40°	60%
Fri Mar 11  Showers	60°/40°	30%
Sat Mar 12  Rain / Wind	60°/41°	60%
Sun Mar 13  Scattered Showers	63°/40°	30%

Chaplian's Corner

If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent an educator. If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist. If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist. But since our greatest need was forgiveness, God sent us a Savior.

Roy Lessin

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE CHAPEL FOR FOB FREEDOM RELIGIOUS SERVICES:

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

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Headlines From the Other Side of the World

Four Pennsylvania Men Billed for Costs of Rescue

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) -- Four Pennsylvania men who were lost in the woods for 30 hours after going out of bounds at Killington Resort were sent bills Thursday for the cost of their rescue by state police.

Each of the men was assessed \$4,177.87 to cover the cost of the rescue, said Lt. Donald Patch, whose barracks was in charge of the search.

Chimps Escape, Attack Visitors at Animal Sanctuary in California

CALIENTE, Calif. (AP) - Several chimpanzees broke from their cages at an animal sanctuary Thursday and attacked two visitors, seriously injuring them, authorities said. Sanctuary workers shot and killed two of the powerful animals. Officials did not immediately release the victims' names, but a television station reported that they were a couple who were visiting another chimpanzee that had been removed from their home years earlier for his own aggressive behavior.

In Sweden, Portly Police Denied Entrance

STOCKHOLM, Sweden -- Portly police have a new reason to work out thanks to a new security entrance at the National Police headquarters that won't let them in if they weigh too much. A construction error in the recently remodeled security entrance, which has a built-in scale

designed to only let one person at a time pass through the door, has caused some embarrassing moments for officers who may not have spent enough time exercising.

Those weighing more than 230 pounds who try to pass through the entrance are greeted by a recorded voice telling them: "Stop! One at a time!" and are not let through, police spokeswoman Linda Widmark said.

Cat Survives 10-mile Trip Atop Car

INKOM, Idaho - Torri Hutchinson's cat might just have one less life to live. Hutchinson was driving along Interstate 15 one day recently when a motorist kept trying to get her attention and pointing to the roof of her car. She said she was wary of the man, but wondered if perhaps her ski rack might have come loose.

She pulled over to the side, but kept her doors locked and the motor running. The man pulled up behind her. Hutchinson rolled down her window to hear the man frantically shouting, "Your cat! Your cat!" He reached for the roof of her car and handed the shocked Hutchinson her orange tabby. Hutchinson said Cuddle Bug, or C.B. for short, had climbed into the back of her car as she was getting ready to leave. She put him out, but he must have jumped on the roof while she wasn't looking, she said.

NBA Standings

WESTERN CONFERENCE												EASTERN CONFERENCE											
NORTHWEST		W	L	PCT	GB	CONF	DIV	HOME	ROAD	L10	STREAK	ATLANTIC		W	L	PCT	GB	CONF	DIV	HOME	ROAD	L10	STREAK
Seattle		40	16	0.714	0.0	25-10	8-4	20-8	20-8	7-3	Won 2	Boston		31	28	0.525	0.0	18-15	5-4	21-9	10-19	7-3	Won 4
Denver		29	29	0.500	12.0	11-20	3-7	18-9	15-20	7-3	Won 5	Philadelphia		28	30	0.483	2.5	20-14	6-5	16-12	12-18	5-5	Won 1
Minnesota		29	30	0.492	12.5	19-16	8-4	17-14	12-16	5-5	Won 1	New Jersey		26	33	0.441	5.0	18-17	5-5	18-13	10-20	5-5	Lost 1
Portland		22	34	0.393	18.0	9-21	3-6	14-14	9-20	2-8	Lost 3	Orlando		24	34	0.414	6.5	12-19	5-5	18-11	6-23	4-6	Lost 2
Utah		20	38	0.345	21.0	5-23	5-6	13-16	7-22	4-6	Lost 1	New York		24	34	0.414	6.5	14-21	5-7	17-12	7-22	5-5	Lost 1
PACIFIC		W	L	PCT	GB	CONF	DIV	HOME	ROAD	L10	STREAK	CENTRAL		W	L	PCT	GB	CONF	DIV	HOME	ROAD	L10	STREAK
Phoenix		44	14	0.759	0.0	24-9	8-1	21-7	23-7	7-3	Won 1	Detroit		36	29	0.643	0.0	23-12	5-6	20-7	16-13	8-2	Lost 1
Sacramento		26	24	0.600	9.0	18-17	5-3	20-8	16-16	4-6	Lost 3	Cleveland		31	26	0.544	5.5	19-13	4-5	21-7	10-19	3-7	Lost 5
L.A. Lakers		29	28	0.509	14.5	19-16	4-4	20-11	9-17	4-6	Won 1	Chicago		29	26	0.527	6.5	17-14	5-5	18-11	11-15	6-4	Lost 2
L.A. Clippers		26	32	0.448	18.0	15-22	5-7	20-10	8-22	3-7	Won 1	Indiana		29	29	0.500	8.0	19-15	5-5	16-13	13-16	6-4	Won 1
Golden State		18	40	0.310	26.0	9-27	1-10	11-18	7-23	5-5	Won 2	Memphis		21	33	0.411	13.0	13-18	6-4	15-17	7-21	5-5	Lost 3
SOUTHWEST		W	L	PCT	GB	CONF	DIV	HOME	ROAD	L10	STREAK	SOUTHEAST		W	L	PCT	GB	CONF	DIV	HOME	ROAD	L10	STREAK
San Antonio		45	13	0.776	0.0	25-9	7-4	26-2	19-11	7-3	Won 3	Miami		44	16	0.733	0.0	30-6	13-8	24-5	20-11	8-2	Won 4
Dallas		38	19	0.667	6.5	23-13	7-4	19-10	19-9	7-3	Lost 2	Washington		32	25	0.561	10.5	20-14	5-8	22-9	10-16	4-6	Lost 1
Houston		33	25	0.569	12.0	17-14	7-4	18-12	15-13	6-4	Lost 1	Cavs		30	27	0.526	12.5	16-18	5-6	21-8	9-19	5-5	Won 2
New Orleans		33	25	0.569	12.0	20-14	5-4	20-10	13-15	6-4	Won 3	Charlotte		12	44	0.214	30.0	5-29	2-8	10-18	2-28	2-8	Lost 2
San Diego		13	45	0.224	32.0	8-28	0-10	10-18	3-27	5-5	Won 2	Orlando		10	47	0.175	32.5	6-27	2-9	8-19	2-28	0-10	Lost 11

Headlines From the Other Side of the World