

The Freedom Post

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Task Force Freedom Trains Iraqi Soldiers into Formidable Fighting Force

Story and Photos by Spc. David Nunn



107th Iraqi Army Soldiers and Task Force Freedom Soldiers gather around a weapons cache found during a patrol.

AL KASIK, Iraq - Several Iraqi Soldiers emerged from a nearby hill and moved toward the end of a rocky single-lane road.

Iraqi Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Division of the Iraqi Army made history. Aided by a small Army Reserve Military Transition Team from the 98th Division, a reserve command based out of New England, attached to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment; they conducted their first blackout cordon and search of a village located near Al Kasik. They came to search for an arms-dealer, a man who was suspected of supplying the insurgency campaign, and his stock of weaponry.

“This is the first time we have done this

type of mission with the Iraqis,” said Maj. J.B. Smith of the 98th Division, advising officer of the mission. “Not only was this the first time the Iraqi’s have worked in blackout conditions, with the aid of [night vision goggles], but it was their first time operating in two separate elements; the first, a search element, moved into the village to locate the insurgent, while the second cut off any avenue of escape.” According to Smith, this arms-dealer had been known to house many insurgents.

The combined force gathered in front of a stone mosque. The Iraqi commander, advised by members of the team, directed his men with a few hand gestures. The Iraqi Soldiers surrounded the building to provide security.

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7 Day Weather Forecast for Mosul

Forecast Conditions	High/Low °F	Precip. Chance
Mon May 23  Mostly Sunny	98°/67°	0%
Tue May 24  Mostly Sunny	95°/67°	10%
Wed May 25  Mostly Sunny	96°/67°	10%
Thu May 26  Sunny	97°/68°	0%
Fri May 27  Sunny	99°/68°	0%
Sat May 28  Sunny	100°/68°	0%
Sun May 29  Mostly Sunny	96°/68°	0%

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Paul taught that life's predicaments can produce godly character in us. Our complaining hinders God's work. Here are some suggestions for overcoming a complaining attitude:

1. Remember that your troubles did not take God by surprise. God is still in control.
2. Believe that God has a solution, a provision, or a gift of wisdom to match your difficulty.
3. Pray, affirming your faith in God and expressing your confidence in God's loving purpose for you.
4. Wait with expectancy and availability, trusting God to work out God's perfect will.
5. Praise God even before God acts.

This alternative to complaining gives God an opportunity to work creatively, both in us and in our circumstances. Best of all, even if circumstances don't change, he uses them to change us! -Daily Bread

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Iraqi Citizen Helps Remove Massive Caches of Weapons from the Streets of Iraq

Story by Maj. James Street

AL HATR, Iraq - A massive weapons cache was discovered Thursday, April 21st, near Al Hatr, southwest of Qayyarah, by the troops from the 107th Battalion, 22nd Brigade Iraqi Army. Working with the Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, and acting on information from an Iraqi citizen's report, local Iraqi Police searched for the cache.

Staff Sgt. Keith McDonald, Platoon Sergeant for the 2nd Bn., 8th Field Artillery, C Battery said, "The Al Hatr Police called C Battery, we went to the location and checked it out."

"We want to be like brothers to the Iraqi Police, any time anything comes down, no matter what time of day, give us a call and we will come check it out," McDonald said, "the relationship with the Iraqi Police Department is growing. We try to show understanding, we go to cabinet meetings and sit down to have lunch with them."

One important issue in building relations with



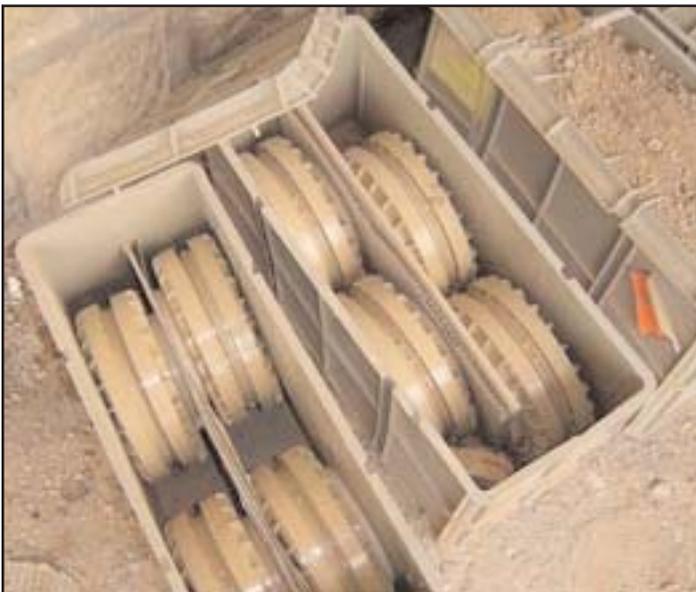
A Soldier holds up an 82mm Russian made recoilless rifle shell with many more like it in the background.

the Iraqi citizens is building strong bonds with the people and taking opportunities to protect each other.

"What I try to do every time we go out, is give the children school supplies, toys and food. I hate to see somebody suffer because of Saddam's control. My Soldiers also give food and water to the families. They are the future of Iraq; we want to let them know that we are here to help," said McDonald.

Coalition Security Forces conducted a raid that yielded the following: 700 (82mm) recoilless rifle rounds, 150 (107mm) rockets, 150 (51mm) mortars, five cases of 20 anti-tank mines, 75 anti-personnel mines, 100 hand grenades, five cases of 20 unopened potato masher hand grenades, 300 assorted artillery, rocket and mortar initiators, an (12.7) anti-aircraft weapon with over 2.5 million anti-aircraft rounds, 225 pounds of TNT and 144 RPG-7's rounds. They also found bags of pellets used in making IEDs.

One suspect was taken into custody regarding the cache and no injuries to Iraqi Security Forces or Multi National Forces were reported.



New mines still in their original boxes were found at the weapons cache. *Courtesy photos.*

The Stallion Report

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“We had received reports that [the mosque] was being used to house the insurgent and his weapons and ammunition,” said Smith. The Iraqi Army searched the mosque while the training team advised from outside.

“The mosque’s complex was found deserted and void of arms or weapons. Apparently, they had been moved before our arrival,” said Smith. “After the area was secured, we (the Iraqi commander and him) sent out a search party within the village.”

Within hours the Iraqi Soldiers had detained individuals with information about the terrorist.

“Hopefully they will give us information that leads us to where the caches are,” said Master Sgt. John Demarco, the reconnaissance and surveillance advisor for the team. “According to the villagers, the suspect was here last night, but knew we were coming, and escaped this morning.”

It is a common occurrence for the arms-dealers to move the weapons every couple of days. While questioning the villagers, the Iraqi Forces were clued to the possibility of weapon caches buried throughout the fields that surround the village.

Armed with new information, the allied forces moved the cordon element further out across the fields, while a large group of Iraqi Soldiers walked from the village outwards, searching for the buried weapons and ammunition.

“We just received a report that during the first stages of the cordon, a red vehicle was seen leaving the area,” said Demarco. “We believe the suspect slept outside somewhere in this field. Apparently, the citizens did not allow the man to sleep within their village because of his profession of supplying weapons to the terrorists.”

Moments later, Iraqi forces, looking for weapon caches, came across a mattress and a few blankets just outside the initial cordon. Evidently, the insurgent was alerted when the cordon was placed around the village, and fled the area with the aid of

the reported vehicle.

“We suspect that [the arms-dealer] slept just outside our cordon,” said Smith during the after action report. “We believe he ran down one of the numerous *wadi’s* (Arabic for a valley) in the area, and met with someone waiting for him.

Later, a few cheers in Arabic could be heard from the search area, as an Iraqi Soldier discovered the day’s first cache.

“We have to give credit to the Iraqi Soldiers’ ability to find these sites,”

Later, a few cheers in Arabic could be heard from the search area, as an Iraqi Soldier discovered the day’s first cache.

said Staff Sgt. Rick Avery, a Soldier of the 98th Division.

There were several small weapons caches that the Iraqi’s found at random; pointing them out so they could be safely recovered and inventoried.

“It was a really nice find,” said Avery as he held up a large rusted vegetable can full of loose and packaged brass-tipped, red shells. “These are 82 mm mortar primers, approximately 80 of them, used to

launch mortars out of their tubes.” The Iraqi Forces and Soldiers of the training team marked the site for future investigation.

Back at the village, a small squad was escorted to the insurgent’s home where they were given a picture of the insurgent to help identify him.

During that time, the Soldiers of the Iraqi Army uncovered a large weapons cache in a nearby field. It revealed approximately 10,000 rounds of 7.62 mm link and loose ball ammo along with several magazines, ammo pouches, and other containers. It was the first big find of the day and a morale booster for the Iraqi Forces. “You could look into their eyes and see they felt they were making a dent in the insurgency,” said Avery.

After several other small discoveries, the allied forces finally found the weapons they sought. The Iraqi search party found another large cache, this time hiding two heavy machine guns including one Belgian made .50 caliber machine gun and a Russian made 12.7 mm machine gun, complete with several

continued on next page

barrels and a vehicle mount.

After the weapons and ammunition discovery, the commanders of both the Iraqi and U.S. Army forces took time to speak with the citizens of the village.

“We brought all the men, 18 years and older to the mosque,” explained Smith. “My Iraqi counterpart and I spoke with them, conveying to them that it is their responsibility; if they want a free and democratic Iraq, a continued effort is needed to bring these terrorists in. They are killing innocent people.”

After returning to their base in Al Kasik, members of both services reflected on the day’s events. The Soldiers felt the overall mission was extremely successful.

“The long day proved to be very rewarding, regardless of the fact that the primary mission’s goal to capture this suspected arms-dealer was unsuccessful,” said 1st Sgt. Gilbert Suarez, 1st Sgt for the 98th.

“We obtained a number of insurgents from the area, located weapons and ammo, but most importantly,” he said, “this mission provided further experience for the members of this newly formed Iraqi Army.”

Missions like these enable the Iraqi Soldiers to develop their skills, team work, coordination, and form the discipline necessary for future operations.

“We have to continue to do these [types of missions], so that these Soldiers can develop the abilities to bring them continued success,” said Smith. “They don’t have the luxury to develop these abilities in garrison like an American unit, so we have to do it with real consequences for failure.”

The Iraqi Soldiers are constantly learning to further their knowledge of protecting their country.

“These people want to help us, they want a free Iraq, and they understand that men like this insurgent will only prevent Iraq from having that freedom.” said Staff Sgt. Douglas Taylor of the 98th.



Members of the Iraqi Army perform a Cordon and Search for terrorists and weapons caches.

SHHHH! Be careful what you say, the enemy may be listening. Remember OPSEC.

Iraqi Police Take Stand at Four-West

Story and Photo by Staff Sgt. Michele A. Uitermarkt

MOSUL, Iraq— Members of the Iraqi Police Force dealt yet another blow to the Anti-Iraqi Forces insurgency campaign when they defeated another attack on the safety and security of the Iraqi people on April 18, 2005.

The incident occurred early Monday morning when the officers of the Four West Police Station were forced to defend their post against terrorism. Fifty insurgents attacked with small arms fire, mortars, and rocket-propelled grenades, attempting to scatter the new Iraqi Police. The reaction of the Mosul Police force was one of fierce resolve. The highly trained police set a defensive perimeter, returned fire causing the Anti-Iraqi Insurgents to lay down their arms and run.

The attack began like the tragic incident in November 2004 when Iraqi Police laid down their weapons and retreated into hiding. This rendered the front line of defense for the city of Mosul unmanned. Mosul had the potential to become a new insurgent stronghold.

This time, however, the Iraqi Police were ready to fight back. Since the November setbacks for Mosul, a new police force has been structured by the Iraqi Ministry of Interior starting with Brig. Gen.

Kahlaf Mohamad Al-Joubouri as the chief.

Al-Joubouri is a former General in Saddam Hussein's army who served during Desert Storm. Joubouri came out of retirement as a public servant and fired every police station commander he held responsible for the November defeat, and replaced them with competent and qualified men.

"These are my men," said Chief Al-Joubouri, "if someone attacks these men, we will go and get them out of their beds and drag them in."

The Iraqi Police have been trained at the Jordanian Police Academy since Joubouri took over. He has also coordinated training with Coalition Forces on specific tasks such as reacting to an ambush, hand-to-hand combat, and searching a vehicle for explosives.

All of this training has paid off not only for the Iraqi Police, but for the city of Mosul. The success of Chief Al-Joubouri and his men has added to his resolve to make a peaceful city for the people of Mosul.

"This is how we will fight," said Al-Joubouri, "we will not run. I will catch the last terrorist in this city and put him on television and say, 'This is the last of them!'"



Iraqi Police Officers keep watch from a tower that was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade and small arms fire during the April 18 attack.

Coping with War-Related Stress:

Information for Military Families and Communities

As the conflict in the Gulf intensifies, all Americans will experience varying amounts of grief and fear. Nobody is unaffected by war. In military families, however, there is the added fear for the safety of loved ones who may be or already have been deployed, as well as the potential challenges of coping as a single parent.

You or someone you know may already be experiencing some of the following signs of the emotional impact of this stress, or these symptoms may arise over the coming weeks and months:

- * *Difficulty completing tasks*
- * *Trouble concentrating*
- * *Fear and anxiety about the future*
- * *Apathy and emotional numbing*
- * *Irritability and anger*
- * *Sadness and depression*
- * *Feeling powerless*
- * *Extreme hunger/lack of appetite*
- * *Difficulty making decisions*
- * *Crying for "no apparent reason"*
- * *Headaches or stomach problems*
- * *Difficulty sleeping*
- * *Feeling withdrawn*

Some people will try to get back into the routine of life as soon as possible to regain a sense of control, but others will have difficulty focusing for some time. Both reactions are common responses to crisis. The intensity of your feelings will decrease as time passes and you focus attention on day-to-day activities. Because everybody experiences stress differently, don't compare your "progress" with others around you or judge other people's reactions and emotions.

While many people survive

major life stressors without developing significant psychological problems, others may need assistance. Here are some tips for coping during these difficult times:

Talk About It: By talking with others, particularly other military personnel, you will relieve stress and realize that other people share your feelings. Support groups exist at most military installations. If there's one available to you, join; if not, consider starting one. If you feel overwhelmed, ask for help. It's not a sign of weakness. Talk with a trusted relative, friend, family services staffer, minister or rabbi.

Military chaplains can be helpful, as most receive training in pastoral counseling and crisis. Don't let yourself become isolated.

Take Care of Your Physical Health:

Get plenty of rest and exercise, avoid excessive drinking and drugs, and eat properly. Avoid foods that are high in fats and calories.

Limit your exposure to the news media: Especially avoid around-the-clock television news coverage and the Internet. The images, rumors and speculation can be very damaging to your sense of well-being. Engage in activities that you find relaxing and soothing: Read a magazine, watch a movie, visit with friends. Be kind to yourself.

Do something positive: Get involved in activities that encourage togetherness and reassurance. Contact community volunteer organizations to see how you can help. Give blood, prepare "care packages" for service men and women, or write letters to people

in the military. Support a friend or neighbor who is having a difficult time.

Seek Treatment: If you have strong feelings that won't go away or you are troubled for more than four to six weeks, you may want to seek professional help. People who have had previous mental health problems and who have survived past trauma may also want to check in with a mental health care professional. Nearly every military installation has a Family Service Center, Family Support Center, or Army Community Service Center (depending on the branch of service) where you can access information, referral, counseling, and crisis intervention services. In addition, all military families, including those of National Guard and Reserve members who are activated for more than 30 days, are eligible for medical and mental health care either at a Military Medical Treatment Facility or at a civilian facility through the Tricare system.

Contact your local mental health association or the National Mental Health Association for information on mental health, mental illness, treatment options, and local treatment services. You can contact NMHA at 1-800-969-NMHA (toll-free). Tricare also provides information about mental health benefit programs for the military at their website, www.tricare.osd.mil.

The Army Family Assistance Hotline is 1-800-833-6622.

Article source: www.nmha.org

'Comics on Duty' Make FOB Sykes Roar With Laughter

Funny Foursome Share Their Comedy and Their Thanks During Tour of Iraq

Story and Photo by Sgt. Dan Lucas

FOB SYKES, Iraq – Soldiers and Airmen stationed at Forward Operating Base Sykes had a rare opportunity to laugh at the antics of 'Comics on Duty' during a whirlwind tour of Northern Iraq.

Comics Steve Burr, Lamar Williams, Scott Derenger and Tom Foss all took turns on and off the stage to thank the Soldiers, with humor, for what they are doing.

"We have been here for two weeks," said comic Steve Burr. "Our tour started in Kuwait. We did a couple of shows at Spearhead and Patriot.

After that, we flew into Iraq and it has been nonstop."

"It has been a very fast paced tour," said Williams. "Once you get done with a show and finish talking with the Soldiers, you only have half a second for a nap. Then you are back on the helicopter to somewhere else."

Since the tour arrived in Iraq, the four comics have had a chance to play some of the smaller crowds that don't get the opportunities to see as many live shows as some of the larger bases.

"All the shows are very different," said comic Scott Derenger. "The two shows we did yesterday were both really small, one on the top of a gym and the other was in a gym, so those are two venues I can cross off my 'to-do' list."

"Just a few days ago we did a show in a hospital for 14 Soldiers in a tent and we 'raised the roof'," said Foss. "We have done shows for over 700 people and we have received the same feeling."

After the performance, Soldiers had the opportunity to talk with the comics. The comics also had time to thank the Soldiers personally for their service.

"After the shows, we do get a chance to talk to a



Tom Foss cracks jokes about everything under the sun to make Soldiers laugh at FOB Sykes during the 'Comics on Duty' tour.

lot of the Soldiers during our meet and greets," said Burr. "We hand out hats and autograph cards to say thank you, and that is the best part." The Comics also hand out 'Comics on Duty' patches that the Soldiers can keep as a collectible.

This isn't the first tour overseas for some of the 'Comics on Duty' crew. Some have traveled around the world to see how Iraq compares to other bases.

"This is heads above anything I have ever done," said Derenger. "I have been overseas twice before to entertain the troops in Japan and Korea, but those aren't war zones. It was like doing a 'one-nighter' in central Iowa. But some of these Soldiers haven't seen their families in awhile and I can take them away from that and make them laugh for a minute. Just seeing the Soldiers in the hospitals, after they put their lives on the line, was really rewarding. There was nothing more awesome than to make them laugh; not to think, but to have a good heartfelt laugh. I have been chosen to do it, myself and three other guys."

For this funny foursome, making the Soldiers laugh is their business. But the business of finding comedians to fill the ranks of 'Comics on Duty' falls on the shoulders of the Executive Producer and

Founder of the program, Rich Davis.

“There are many different elements I have to think of when I put together a talent package to come over here,” said Davis. “The individual style and presentation of the comics and the ability to travel well together, live where Soldiers live, eat what Soldiers eat, work long days performing day and night and ride on helicopters or with convoys. They do it all.”

The comics not only get a chance to see the Soldier’s way of life, but they get to see what Iraq is like from a more intimate view than in front of a television or through a newspaper.

“We have visited a lot of really interesting places,” said Ross. “We have seen mosques and parts of some of the cities in this country very few people back home get to see. I think we have seen some of the best of Iraq.”

“I told my family back home, Iraq is a very beautiful country,” said Williams. “It’s very pretty, I

can see why they fight over it,” he added jokingly.

‘Comics on Duty’ is a world wide program where groups of comics tour military installations. They have made Soldiers laugh on every continent and at every base they can ride or fly to.

“This is our eighth trip into Northern Iraq,” said Davis. It is a great experience and dozens of comics a week are trying to get in the program. Some do it once, and don’t do it again because they want other comics to share in the experience of entertaining the Soldiers. There is no more rewarding audience than the armed services.”

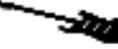
“The Soldiers have been the most incredible audience I have ever performed for,” said Burr. “They are so happy to see someone from home and to get a little entertainment when there hasn’t been any entertainment here for a long time and we are honored to be here.”

* * *



107.3 THE STALLION

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	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1pm-3pm-	OLDIES <i>With The</i> OLDIES <i>Aint Jill & Uncle Bob</i>	WILDCARD RADIO SHOW 	BEATLES & OLDIES <i>With Kappy & How</i>	Red Hot COUNTRY <i>With Tango & Red</i>	PRERECORDED PROGRAMING	PRERECORDED PROGRAMING	<i>*Songs of PRAISE</i> <i>With Lance</i>
6pm-7pm-	SPORTS N' SINGIN' GUITARS <i>With HairEye</i>	Flashback 80s MUSIC 	Classic ROCK	Rhythm & BLUES <i>With Dawn</i>	SENIOR PANZON'S LATINO NITE 	PRERECORDED PROGRAMING	Classic Southern ROCK & COUNTRY <i>With Kappy</i>
7pm-8pm-	JOE'S GARAGE <i>With Joe Villines</i>	Flashback 80s MUSIC 	Classic ROCK	Rhythm & BLUES <i>With Dawn</i>	SENIOR PANZON'S LATINO NITE 	PRERECORDED PROGRAMING	Classic Southern ROCK & COUNTRY <i>With Kappy</i>
8pm-9pm-	PRERECORDED PROGRAMING	PRERECORDED PROGRAMING	<i>*Songs of PRAISE</i> <i>With Lance</i>	90's & NEW ROCK <i>With Johnny Franzen</i>	PRERECORDED PROGRAMING	PRERECORDED PROGRAMING	<i>Classical & Celtic</i> <i>With Shelaine</i>

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Second Battalion, 101st has Eye in the Sky

Story and photos by Sgt. Richard Way

MOSUL, Iraq- Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment from Ft. Campbell, Ky., arrived in Iraq February 1st, 2005. Near the end of April, the Battalion moved their Headquarters and some of their assets to Q-West. The other assets are at various places in the Ninawa Province.

During the first few months of their deployment, they served at the Logistics Support Area (LSA) in Anaconda with the 18th Aviation Brigade where they performed a split base operation. This meant that two of their companies performed Counter Mortar Rocket Interdiction and Base Security there. The other Battalion's company supported the Marine Corps operations at Kalsu.

"We are now part of Task Force Freedom, as our battalion headquarters are here at Q-West," said Capt. Daniel Gross who serves as the personnel officer. "We now have added two more companies of Blackhawks, three companies of Apaches, and a company of OH58 (scouts)," Gross said, "this is double the number of aircraft we had in our battalion before."

The size of the battalion has increased from three companies to a total of six companies of helicopters in order to serve more of Task Force Freedom's requirements.

"Additionally, sixty to sixty-five percent of the battalion was here in the exact same location during Operation Iraq Freedom I." said Maj. Thomas Rude, Battalion Executive Officer, "Our confidence is tremendous because of our experience in this area."

Although time has passed for the experienced battalion, they have adapted to their new deployment with fresh enthusiasm. "We are continually updating our tactics to better help the ground Soldiers," said Rude.

"Hands down, our mission is to support whatever the ground Commanders need," said Gross.

With the addition of the 2nd Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, Task Force Freedom's mission in the Ninawa Province has been enhanced. They bring more visible security to the Multi-National Forces fighting for the Iraqi people in Mosul.



Sgt. Corey Wolston of the 2nd Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment performs maintenance on an Apache helicopter at Q-West.

3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment Rides Into Ninawa Province

Story and Photo by Sgt. Daniel Lucas with information courtesy of Tom Roeder

FOB SYKES, Iraq - Fort Carson's 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR) has spent a month at war. The 3rd ACR has been patrolling the dangerous southern suburbs of Baghdad, where enemy attacks have been frequent.

When the regiment arrived in Iraq, Col. H. R. McMaster gave a brief speech. "Many years from now when your grandchildren ask you what you did or where you were during the global war on terrorism, you'll be able to tell them you were not at home watching it on television or placing a yellow ribbon on your bumper," McMaster said, during the regiment's flag unfurling ceremony, "You can tell them you were here fighting the war on terror."

About 60 percent of the Soldiers in the regiment are on their second year-long tour with the unit.

Last time, the regiment battled mostly in Iraq's western desert, a dry and barren land that included Ramadi, an insurgent hot spot. In Baghdad, the unit was in an urban area with an estimated 6 million inhabitants.

"Some of the area controlled by the regiment has not been regularly patrolled by Coalition Forces since the capital fell two years ago," said Maj. Mark Solomon to Soldiers' families in a Fort Carson meeting. "The Soldiers are adapting quickly to urban fighting, conducting house-to-house searches and uncovering roadside bombs," he said.

regiment spokesman, Maj. Gary Dangerfield, said that the

Soldiers created their own success. "I don't believe in omens," he said, "I believe in great training."

After about one month in southern Baghdad, they were moved in early April to Forward Operating Base Sykes to accommodate the growing number of operations in Mosul. They have begun a steady change over with the 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment. Already tested in battle with their 2-14 brothers, the 2/3 ACR "Sabre" are ready to begin taking over the operation.

Since their last deployment to the area, they have been informed of the ever changing battlefield in the War on Terror from their 2-14 comrades.

"There have been a lot of things that have changed since we were last here," said Lt. Col. Christopher Hickey, Commander of the 2nd Squadron. "Even the

IEDs (Improvised Explosive Device) have changed. They are now smaller and a lot more frequent and there is the ongoing threat of a VBIED (Vehicle Born Improvised Explosive Device)."

The "Sabres" have come equipped to deal with this new kind of enemy and their changing tactics. They have arrived with Bradley fighting vehicles and the M1 Abrams main battle tanks. This will supplement their Humvees, in lieu of the Strykers that have been patrolling the area.

"The Bradley and the Abrams have more armor and more firepower so they can engage and destroy the enemy from greater distances," said Hickey. "But the Strykers have been very impressive. The 2-14 Cav. has done a great job since they arrived," he added.

* * *



3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment's squadron pulls up on the line preparing for a joint patrol.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What's the most interesting part of your job here?



SSG Jaymes Whitfield, HHT, 11th ACR

"Talking to my driver, he keeps me on my toes."



SSG Edward Contreras 1-24, B Co, 1st Plt

"The teamwork, the cohesion, it's almost like a brotherhood."



SSG Kieth McDonald 2-8 FA, C Battery, 2nd Plt

"Doing patrols, getting out there and meeting the people and showing them that we're here for them."



SGT Charles Black 519th MI BN

"Repairing the vehicles, it's constantly something different, the change of pace keeps it interesting."

Headlines From the Other Side of the World

Luxury \$600,000 Toilet...

SHANGHI, China - (Shanghi Daily) - Nearly 500,000 people have visited Shanghai's most expensive toilet since the Moon River Art Park opened in Songjiang District last October.

The toilet, which cost 5 million yuan (US\$602,000) to build, would be nearly impossible to spot, as it is disguised in a man-made cave surrounded by a tree and flower-lined path. But the constant line-up of viewers, and presumably some people who actually want to use the facilities, make it easy to spot. "Visitors are curious about what all the money was spent on."

The toilet is free, but admission to the park is 30 yuan.

Store Owner Shoots Robber...

NASHVILLE, Tenn.- (Channel 5 News) A robbery attempt ended early Thursday morning after the robber was shot by a North Nashville store owner.

Around 1 a.m. Thursday, the owner of Lewis Country Store, located on Ashland City Highway, and two employees were doing inventory in the store when they heard a brick crash through a window of the store.

The owner, Brad Lewis, told police the man who threw the brick approached him with his hands in his pockets and demanded money. Lewis pulled a handgun, police said, and shot the robber twice before the robber fled. The man police arrested was found across the street, collapsed in front of a gas station. The suspect was shot in an arm and a leg and was expected to recover, police said.

Police said they didn't find a weapon on the suspect.

Gates' Set Sights on Automobiles With His Gizmos...

DETROIT, Mich. - (AP) Bill Gates paid a visit to Detroit's auto industry Friday, hoping to convince manufacturers and suppliers that the Microsoft Corp. software, which runs 90 percent of the world's computers, can help cars and trucks be more convenient, safer, easier to maintain and fun to drive.

The device, which can be built into a baseball cap or worn as a visor, contains a tiny piece of translucent plastic that projects the equivalent of a 17-inch computer screen before the wearer's eyes.

Microsoft says mechanics can use the \$3,995 device to look simultaneously — and hands-free — at a car engine and the computerized image of a wiring diagram.

Called the Nomad Expert Technician System and marketed by a Microsoft partner company called Microvision, the device uses the same technology found on Apache attack helicopters.

This type of heads-up display is a great aid in giving you an informational overlay for complex procedures," Gates said. "It can even be miniaturized further so that you don't have to wear a contraption. The whole thing could fit on, say, a pair of glasses."