



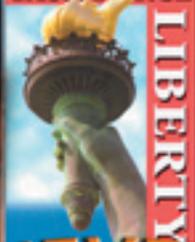
# *Rainbow Reveille*

March 2005

Volume 1, Issue 1

42nd Infantry  
Division's  
Colors fly in  
Iraq

TASK FORCE



LIBERTY

NEVER  
FORGET

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*Army Reservists Spc. James Acker (left) and Sgt. Michael Cochran stopped 100-meters to their front (out of screen) for suspicious activity. The unit searches for improvised explosive devices along roads. The roads are searched several times daily both day and night. (photo by Sgt. Matthew Acosta, 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)*

## On the cover

*Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Fearnside places the 42nd Infantry Division colors into the hands of the color guard Feb. 14 during the transfer of authority ceremony with the 1st Infantry Division Task Force Liberty is a composite of active-duty, Reserve and National Guard Soldiers.*  
*(photo By Sgt. Jennifer J. Eidson, 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)*





*...hran (gunner), combat engineers, 467th Engineer Battalion, scan traffic  
...ehicles.  
...sides in Baqubah, Iraq.  
For more information see story page 12.  
...achment)*

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SIX  
SIX  
LIBERTY  
LIBERTY

# Task Force takes the field

Task Force Liberty has taken the field. After months of preparation, training, and equipment fielding, our team has arrived as Multinational Division for North-Central Iraq. I want to congratulate each and every one of you for your dedication and professionalism. Our transfer of authority from the 1st Infantry Division has been seamless for our Soldiers and our Iraqi partners.

We wish the 1st Infantry Division and Task Force Danger a safe journey home to their families. They have achieved so much for the Iraqi people in the last year. The people of north-central Iraq will never forget the Big Red One. Their legacy will be our success.

Our hard work continues. There is much yet to do.

The world has seen the courage of the Iraqi people when they went



*Maj. Gen. Joseph J. Taluto*

to the polls to vote January 30th. In Task Force Liberty, we see that courage every day as Iraqi citizens put on the uniform of a policeman or

soldier, work as leaders in their new government or speak out against intimidation and terror.

The weeks and months ahead will bring new strength and focus for the Iraqi security forces. Our partnership is the key to their success.

The future of Iraq is irreversible. Our fallen comrades have sacrificed their all for that future. We shall honor them and continue forward to secure liberty in Iraq.

Our team is formed and our mission is clear. Let nothing keep us from its accomplishment.

I am honored to serve with each and every one of you. As my own partner, Lt. Gen. Abdul Aziz of the Iraqi 4th Division would say, "unity is strength."

**Liberty 6**

# Following standards saves lives

As the Command Sergeant Major of Task Force Liberty, I can't think of a better way to address you than through this first edition of "The Rainbow Reveille." With more than 23,000 soldiers in our task force, leaders and Soldiers alike must be up to the task of executing their assigned duties in a professional, competent, and safe manner. How do we do this? We do it through adherence to and enforcement of standards.

## STANDARDS SAVE LIVES!

From Army-wide uniform standards to your individual unit operating procedures, there are standards we all must follow in the execution of all our military duties. When a Soldier fails to adhere to a trained standard, they are not only lacking self discipline, they are putting themselves, the mission and those around them in jeopardy.

I expect leaders at all levels, and



*Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Fearnside*

especially our NCOs to know the standards and enforce them ruthlessly. On-the-spot corrections will be the norm. When the enemy sees our disciplined Soldiers, he will know he has a hopeless cause and conform

to the rules of law, becoming part of the democratic future of Iraq.

In my travels throughout an area of responsibility the size of West Virginia, I am impressed by the professionalism of our Soldiers, whether they are from our Active Component, Reserves, National Guard or our sister services. TF Liberty brings to the table an extremely diverse talent pool which truly represents the values and tradition of our great country. I can think of no better "Force for Good" to do this noble mission.

My duty is to see our Soldiers, and that's what I will do! I look forward to seeing each and every one of you in the months ahead. Do the job you've been trained to do, stay focused and stay safe.

**Liberty 7**

# NEVER Forget

# Rainbow 'stretches' over Iraq

By Staff Sgt. Duane M. Brown  
22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**F**ORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, TIKRIT, Iraq -- In ceremonial fashion, honoring a job well done and welcoming the new, the 42nd Infantry Division assumed responsibility of Coalition efforts in Multinational Division Northern Central, Iraq, Feb. 14.

In the ceremony, the torch was passed from Maj. Gen. John R. S. Batiste, 1st ID commander to Maj. Gen. Joseph J. Taluto, 42nd ID commander, signifying an official transfer of authority.

"Soldiers of Task Force Danger have done everything humanly possible to support the Iraqi People in establishing a new and better life, to include shedding blood for the Iraqi patriots," Taluto said.

Soldiers from the 1st ID have made great strides during their tenure in Iraq, Batiste said.

"Our successes over the past year have been achieved in partnership with the people of Iraq," Batiste said. "We have worked together to empower Iraqi Security Forces



*The colors flutter in the breeze during the ceremony.*

to defeat the insurgency and have conducted operations to kill or capture the enemy." Results of the 1st ID efforts are evident in many facets of the Iraqi communities. Improvements include, but are not limited to, improved quality of life, new jobs and hope given to people who were oppressed for decades by the former regime.

"Together we have built the foundation of a new beginning by developing relationships based on trust and confidence -- by changing people's attitudes," Batiste

said. "Together, we have given the people the freedom to make their own choices about their leaders and how their country will be governed."

"I feel we have completed our mission here and set the 42nd up for success," said Staff Sgt. Deondre L. Long, division plans non-commissioned officer in charge, 1st ID.

Coming in on the heels of the Big Red One, the Rainbow Division will continue to build upon the blocks already laid by their predecessors.

With batteries charged, the Rainbow Soldiers of the 42nd will honor U.S. commitments to work with the Iraqis to strengthen freedom and established representative government in Iraq.

"Soldiers of Task Force Liberty are inspired and ready to take up a position alongside Iraqi citizens in the cause for freedom," Taluto said. "Our pledge is to continue the march toward a free and peaceful Iraq."

Multinational Division North Central Iraq will be supported by more than 23,000 soldiers under the command of the 42nd ID.

When asked, why was the 42nd chosen over all the other National Guard Divisions in the U.S., Maj. Mark A. PETERSKI, division operations officer, replied, "I feel the 42nd was chosen for this mission due to our level of readiness."

PETERSKI said he feels a lot of the professionalism and desire to succeed stem from the lineage of the 42nd ID.

The 42nd was formed on August 5,



*Photos by Sgt. Jennifer J. Eidson / 22nd MPAD*

*Lt. Gen. John R. Vines, Commander, Multinational Corps Iraq, reaches for the 42nd Infantry Division colors during the transfer of authority ceremony, at Forward Operating Base Liberty, Feb. 14.*

1917 at Camp Mills on Long Island, N.Y. They were composed of men from 26 hand-picked states and the District of Columbia.

Then Col. Douglas MacArthur, Division Chief of Staff, said, "The Division stretches like a rainbow from one end of America to the other."

Reporters liked the reference and the Division nickname was born.

One Task Force Liberty Soldier said she was proud to serve in Iraq with her fellow New Yorkers.

"As a 42nd ID Soldier and a native of New York, the whole War on Terrorism is personal because they brought the fight to my doorstep," said Sgt. Stefoni Harrell, commandant NCOIC, Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 42nd ID. "After 9/11 my mind-set wasn't are they going to call me. I wanted to know when!"

# Why Rainbow Reveille?

By Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo  
42nd Infantry Division PAO

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, Tikrit, Iraq -- Almost everything in the Army today is based on tradition. What better way to honor the memory, dedication and sacrifice of former Rainbow Soldiers, than to revive the original 'Rainbow Reveille' of World War II.

The original Rainbow Reveille began in 1943 with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division's activation into the war. The publication was established as a means to report the status of division training and to explain War Department directives to Soldiers deploying for service across the European countryside. Throughout the conflict, the Reveille remained an instrument to share individual Soldier stories.

Founding editor Loye Minor, a small, dark-haired man, who in civilian life, worked at the New York Herald-Tribune, took it upon himself to write and publish the 10-12 page, tabloid-size weekly newspaper. The Reveille was typeset and printed at the Muskogee Daily Phoenix, a small-town newspaper outside Camp Gruber, Ok. Minor went to town every Wednesday night to supervise the final page make-up and then, after the press run, hauled the bundles of newspapers back to camp.

The bundles were delivered to each company-size element through the Army's message center. Distribution consisted of unit mail clerks tossing a copy on each GI's cot. A blank space was provided on the last page so the Soldier could send it home.

From its beginning, the Reveille publication reached almost

2,000 Soldiers wearing the Rainbow patch.

Some 60 years later, the Rainbow Reveille is re-vamped in war-torn environs, once again to tell the "Rainbow" Soldier story. Today the Reveille includes news of interest to over 23,000 men and women from across the United States, serving under Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto in command of Task Force Liberty.

Today, the news magazine is delivered to each Task Force Liberty Forward Operating Base and posted to the Division's website for family members to enjoy. While technology has changed the means to distribute this news magazine, the mission remains the same. The Reveille once again tells the stories about our Soldiers, for our Soldiers.



Copy of Rainbow Reveille published while 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division Soldiers served in Austria in June 1945.

## N.Y. Guard Soldier honored at Black History event

By Staff Sgt. Raymond Drumsta  
42nd Infantry Division PAO

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, Tikrit, Iraq - Task Force Liberty's celebration of Black History Month at the Morale Welfare and Recreation Center here Feb. 20, was an evening of dancing and remembrance, as Soldiers heard the story of the New York Army National Guard's own piece of black history - World War I hero and Harlem Hellfighter Sgt. Henry Johnson.

"I come here tonight to honor a great American, fellow New Yorker, Soldier, and noncommissioned officer, Sgt. Henry Johnson," said celebration speaker Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Rentz, battalion command sergeant major, 642nd Military Intelligence Battalion, 42nd Infantry Division.

Rentz told Johnson's story, which began with his poor upbringing in North Carolina. As an adult, Johnson migrated to Albany, N.Y., where he became a railroad porter for the New York Central Railroad.

When America entered World War I in 1917, Johnson joined the 15th New York Infantry, an all African-American unit raised

by Col. William Hayward. The unit later became the 369th Infantry and was trained and equipped by the French Army.

The 369th was sent to the frontlines to help stop the Germans' last great offensive in 1918. The Germans called the African-American Soldiers 'hellfighters', and they became known as the "Harlem Hellfighters" with a reputation for having "never lost a man captured or a foot of ground."

That reputation is due, in part, to Sgt. Henry Johnson.

On May 18, 1918, Johnson was standing guard in a dugout with Pvt. Needham Roberts. At about 2 a.m., a German raiding party attacked the dugout, capturing Roberts.

But the 24 Germans in the raiding party were in for a fight - with Johnson. Using his rifle and bayonet, Johnson killed four of the Germans and chased the rest away. Johnson rescued Roberts, and was wounded 20 times in the process.

The French awarded Johnson and Roberts the Croix de Guerre with gold palm, their highest award for valor. The 369th came home to ticker-tape parades. John-

son was a hero, and as Rentz put it, "the toast of the town." Johnson gave speeches and his image was used in Army recruiting efforts.

Johnson's fame faded, said Rentz. He couldn't work because of his wounds. He left his wife and children, drank heavily, and died destitute and alone at the Albany, N.Y., Veterans Hospital, on July 5, 1929 - just over a decade after he performed the selfless act that brought him such renown. But Johnson's story did not end there, Rentz said.

Johnson's son Herman, himself a member of World War II's heroic Tuskegee Airmen, took up Johnson's cause, Rentz said, and led the fight to ensure Johnson was recognized and honored by the U.S. government.

His efforts paid off. Working with New York politicians and various veterans groups, to include the 369th Veterans Association, Herman won. In 1996, Johnson was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart by Pres. Bill Clinton, and in 2003 the Distinguished Service Cross by Lt. Gen. Roger Schultz, Director of the Army National Guard.

# IRAQ GOES TO THE POLLS



*Above left: A Kurdish boy celebrates Iraq's elections by waving a Kurdistan flag to oncoming cars in Kirkuk. About 583,000 Iraqis were registered to vote in the Kirkuk Province for Iraq's first democratic elections on Jan. 30. (photo by Sgt. Sean Kimmons, 2nd BCT, 25th Infantry Division)*



*Above: The Independent Electoral Committee of Iraq employees transport election ballot collection boxes with cast ballots, from an election poll site in Baqubah, Iraq, January 30th, 2005 (photo by Sgt. Matthew Acosta, 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)*



*Left: Men and women are searched outside an Iraqi polling site in Kirkuk. (photo by Sgt. Sean Kimmons, 2nd BCT, 25th Infantry Division)*



*Photo by Sgt. Sean Kimmons / 2nd BCT, 25th Infantry Division*

*Iraqi police officers proudly display their ink-covered fingers after they casted their ballots at a polling site in Kirkuk.*



*Left: Sgt. Dilts, gunner on the lead humvee for HHC 1 BCT, adjusts his kevlar helmet before a convoy embarks on a trip from Camp New York, Kuwait to Camp Dagger in northern Iraq.*

*Below Left: Sgt. Justin Deschaine, pulls security for the convoy after a brief stop to recover a vehicle that broke down minutes from Camp Dagger.*

*Below: A Bedouin shepherd waves at the convoy as it passes by in southern Iraq.*

*Bottom Right: Civilian contractors put the finishing touches on a 3rd Inf. Div. emblem inside the compound at Camp Dagger.*

*Bottom Left: Maj. McNutt, convoy commander for HHC 1 BCT, briefs Soldiers on the convoy route at Camp Anaconda before setting out on the last leg of the convoy to FOB Dagger.*

# RAIDERS ARRIVE

## 1BCT, Task Force Liberty treks to FOB Dagger



*Photos by Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr./ 1st BCT PAO*



# Getting Colorful: 5-7th Cav carries 'Nam colors

**"Rock of the Marne" cavalry regiment accepts same colors as vets followed**

**Story, photo by  
Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.  
1st BCT PAO**

FORT STEWART, Ga. — In a ceremony on Caro Field, Jan. 5, Soldiers from 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment were presented with a set of the regiment's colors veterans carried with them during the Vietnam War.

The colors were presented to the unit to carry during their deployment to Iraq. The Soldiers deployed later that week in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 3 and Task Force Liberty.

"It is with absolute honor, pride and thankfulness that we accept these battle-tested colors today," said Lt. Col. Jody L. Petery, battalion commander, during the ceremony.

"We'll carry them proudly to Iraq and wherever else our nation calls us to serve. These colors, the presence and support of the great veterans of the 5-7 Cav, and the support we receive from our nation, truly strengthen us as we prepare to deploy."

Veterans who served in the unit in Vietnam shared memories with those who attended the ceremony.

"A Soldier came up to me and asked if I would pray with him," said retired Lt. Gen. James Vaught, of his time in Southeast Asia. "He said



**Vietnam veterans Jim Carson and Haskell Westmoreland uncase a set of 5/7 Cav. colors from the Vietnam War during a ceremony Jan. 5**

**"In church you are baptized by going under water. In Vietnam we were baptized by fire."**

**—Lt. Gen. (Ret.) James Vaught**

he never really believed in God, but that day he said he needed a prayer, so I prayed with him. That same Soldier went on to fight bravely and was awarded a Silver Star."

Some of the stories that were told were not of glory. Many Soldiers were lost during the unit's time in Vietnam, while those who survived emerged from the war totally different people.

"In church, you are baptized by

going under water," Vaught said. "In Vietnam, we were baptized by fire. If you didn't believe in a higher power before then, you sure started praying when the bullets started flying. We were (cavalry) Soldiers -- there wasn't anywhere we wouldn't go and nothing we couldn't do."

Some Soldiers presently assigned to the cavalry unit said they appreciated the veteran's support, and accepted the colors with humility and pride.

"We are humbled by the support we receive," Petery said.

"We hope that all veterans understand how much the Soldiers of today appreciate and respect the tremendous services to our nation and Army that you . . . provided during the Vietnam (War)."

The Soldiers who served in Vietnam set a standard for future generations of 5-7 Soldiers to follow, he added.

"The standard of excellence that 5-7 Cav achieved in Vietnam has truly set the bar high for our unit, but we're anxious and ready to earn our place in the proud ranks of 5-7 Cavalry veterans," Petery said.

He added that the occasion reminded him of a line from a song.

"At West Point, part of our training centered on learning the importance of history and heritage within our Army," Petery said. "One line stands out that sums up how we feel about our experience with the great veteran's of the 5-7 Cav and it comes from a song entitled the 'Corps' — 'We sons of today we salute you, you sons of an earlier day, we follow close order behind you, where you have shown us the way.' This group has truly shown us the way, and we'll follow proudly."

# CROSSING

## THE BERM

### OIF 1 veterans return to a different Iraq

**Story, photos by  
Staff Sgt. Raymond Drumsta**  
42nd Infantry Division PAO

CAMP WILSON, IRAQ—To Soldiers, ‘crossing the berm’ means passing through the rough-hewn sand wall that separates Iraq and Kuwait — the place, in space and time, that they begin to face potential combat.

Recently, some Soldiers of Task Force Liberty crossed the berm for a second time.

The 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, entered Iraq in early February on an approach march to its area of operations north of Baghdad. The march, executed as a combat patrol, was close on the heels of the first free election in Iraq’s modern history, and nearly two years after Operation Iraqi Freedom 1, when the brigade and Coalition Forces began the fight that made the election possible.



**1st Lt. Andrew Kulas, Company B, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, pulls security during a halt on the battalion’s combat patrol north into Iraq.**



**Lt. Col. Gary Brito studies his maps and Blue Force Tracker computer screen during his unit’s combat patrol into Iraq.**

Like all of the unit’s OIF 1 veterans, Staff Sgt. Johnson had literally been down this road before.

“Coming across the berm the second time, you just think about what to expect,” Johnson said. “You think about the enemy being there, waiting for you.”

A Desert

Storm and OIF 1 veteran, Johnson said he felt mixed emotions about returning to Iraq for the third time.

“You never think you’ll come back to the same place three times,” Johnson said. “The only difference now is that this is a peacekeeping mission or humanitarian effort, compared to the first two times. We’re trying to get them on their feet.”

Unit member Spc. James Dalton anticipated “a whole lot of nothing” when he crossed the berm the second time.

“That’s pretty much what we saw the first time,” he said.

The recent approach march was a far cry from Dalton’s OIF 1 experience, when he was involved in a “miles long, running firefight” in Baghdad’s northwest corner.

“As we were driving we were taking small-arms fire and [rocket-propelled grenade] rounds,” Dalton said of his OIF 1 experience. He recalled that “everywhere we went, everything was on fire ... there were bodies everywhere.”

## Rock of the Marne Soldiers take step forward for Iraq

**By Staff Sgt. Raymond Drumsta**  
42nd Infantry Division

It was quiet inside the humvee — that is to say, it was all business. The driver maintained a 100 meter interval with the vehicle ahead, while the gunner stood in the hatch, kept watch for improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and ambushes, and tried to stay warm. Meanwhile, Lt. Col. Gary Brito, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment commander, monitored the glowing Blue Force Tracker screen, the road, and his radios — working with his leaders to keep his force

do the right thing.”

The shooting occurred in an area Johnson recalled was the scene of heavy fighting during OIF 1. Johnson said he immediately began scanning his sector to find the source of the shooting.

“On a combat patrol, you’re really alert, because you don’t know what to expect,” Johnson said. “You know it’s out there, but you don’t know where. It just pops up. You have to stay low, next to the truck, so at least you have cover.”

Many battalion soldiers wear the division’s distinctive, diagonally striped square patch on both sleeves, signifying that they took part in OIF 1. Nearly 35 percent of his unit are veterans, said Lt. Col. Gary Brito, battalion commander.

“They understand the harshness of war. They are hardened Soldiers,” he said.

Unlike OIF 1, OIF 3 is not a conventional fight, said Brito, and “more in the nature of stability and support operations.”

“We have to engage with the people and make them realize the benefits of democracy. I do not think brute force is the answer. Having said that, our Soldiers are prepared to secure the country and help develop an effective Iraqi army and police force. Unlike OIF 1, it’s hard to tell the combatants from the non-combatants. Everyone’s in civilian clothes.”

“It’s not strictly combat anymore,” Dalton said. “It’s a low in-

tensity conflict. The rules of engagement are more restrictive, and you have to be real careful not to hit civilians.”

The unit is configured differently, too. As one of the Army’s

new Units of Action, the 3rd Brigade Combat Team fields a mix of maneuver elements, to include two infantry battalions, two armor battalions and a field artillery battalion. Brito described his unit as a “combined arms maneuver battalion” which gives the commander on the ground some of the combat multipliers he wouldn’t normally have.

Both Dalton and Marriott were guarded about the Iraqi elections.

“It’s kind of up in the air,” Marriott said. “I think it’s a step forward, but I don’t live here, so it’s not my place to say if it’s a good or a bad thing.”

“It’s a step in the right direction,” Dalton said. “I don’t have enough knowledge to predict how it will turn out, but it seems like we’re trying to do



**Senior leaders receive a briefing before the last leg of their march north. Members of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Liberty ‘crossed the berm’ into Iraq for the second time. Some of the division’s Soldiers had served in Operation Iraqi Freedom 1, while others served in Desert Storm as well.**

the right thing over here.”

Both Soldiers, however, are committed to the fight.

“I look at what Soldiers have done before me, and I figure I owe them something,” Marriott said. “Hopefully, my kids won’t have to deal with this.”

“We need to assist Iraqi security forces,” Dalton said. “We need to train and support them until they’re able to secure the country on their own. I take care of my little piece. If everyone does that, I figure everything will turn out ok.”

moving north to relieve 1st Battalion, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division.

That’s the business of a ground-assault convoy, or as the battalion calls it, a combat patrol. While some of the battalion’s equipment and personnel were sent north on flatbed trucks or aircraft, the rest made their way there via combat patrols, said Capt. Robert Croft, commander of Company B, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment.

“It was not an administrative move,” he said. “We were prepared to deal with any contingency. It was still a combat patrol.”

Combat patrolling is where the Soldiers meet the roads in Iraq — roads made treacherous by IEDs and ambushes. So Soldiers on combat patrol are prepared to meet these roads with an array of firepower, from .50-caliber machine guns to M16

rifles. This armament is complimented with actual armor, which all Army vehicles using the roads in Iraq are equipped with.

Combat patrolling will be part of the unit’s security and stabilization mission, Croft said.

“We will be doing a lot of combat patrolling,” he said. “On this combat patrol, we would break contact if shot at. When we begin regular operations, we will respond to threats with more offensive action.”

Traffic was also a challenge on the convoy. Civilian automobiles darted between vehicles, causing drivers to maneuver to maintain the patrol’s integrity.

“If the enemy was going to attack us, that’s the method they would use,” Croft said. “They would separate us, and launch an attack against a limited number of vehicles.”

Staff Sgt. Robert Johnson, Company F said he is wary of traffic jams.

“You don’t know what could come out of those vehicles,” he said.

Civilian traffic was less of a problem farther north, Croft observed.

“Once we got into the Sunni Triangle, they became more respectful of our convoys,” Croft said. He attributed this to the violence that has occurred there.

Combat patrolling is an important aspect of security and stabilization operations, said, Sgt. Major John Yancey, battalion operations sergeant major.

“We get most of our supplies through ground convoys,” Yancey said. “We have to be able to sustain ourselves in order to help the Iraqis defeat the foreign fighters. It’s also good to get out there, see the countryside, and make friends along the way.”

# Blazing a trail



*Army Reserve combat engineers, 467th Engineer Battalion, employ the "Buffalo" to search suspicious trash piles thought to contain or hide improvised explosive devices. The vehicle's hydraulic arm is used to probe the suspected sites. If an IED is found, the unit calls the explosive ordnance disposal unit and closes the road until the device is neutralized.*

## Engineers scout out IEDs, contraband

**Story, photos by Sgt Matthew Acosta**  
22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARHORSE, Iraq -- In an effort to make Iraqi roads safer for fellow Soldiers, a U.S. Army Reserve company of combat engineers patrol selected roads near Baqubah, Iraq, searching for "trouble."

This mission is called Operation Trailblazer.

Soldiers from Company A, 467th Engineer Battalion, Memphis Tenn., recently took over operations from the 141st Engineer Battalion, North Dakota National Guard, at Forward Operating Base Warhorse.

Their mission is focused on searching pre-determined supply routes in the Baqubah area for improvised explosive devices planted by insurgents.

"Our job is to go out and look for trouble in the form of IEDs planted near the sides of roads," said Sgt. 1st Class Dallas Bryan, combat engineer.

With teams of 18 Soldiers or more, the "Trailblazers" set out on convoys of several supporting vehicles and one "Buffalo," scouring the road-side for signs of terrorist activity.

The Buffalo, a ground mine detection system, uses a hydraulic arm to sift through trash piles or probe areas where IEDs are thought to have been hidden.

"Between a few rotating teams, we search the roads several times a day looking for conspicuous things that might be used to conceal explosives, such as piles of trash, containers or anything that looks like it's out of the ordinary, like freshly patched potholes



*Army Reserve Sgt. 1st Class Dallas Bryan, combat engineer platoon Sgt., 467th Engineer Battalion, scans down a road for oncoming traffic. The unit patrols roads in Baqubah looking for improvised explosive devices planted by insurgents.*

in the road or new road signs close to the road's edge," Bryan said.

When a team finds a suspicious looking site, it closes off the road and sends in the Buffalo, he added. If an IED is confirmed, the unit marks site and calls for an explosive ordnance disposal unit to neutralize the device.

Bryan said since the unit has taken over, they have been credited with finding three explosive devices in its first few days of patrols.

"The more (explosives) we find, the less that's out there," said Sgt. Michael Cochran, gunner. "It's a dangerous job, but it needs to

be done.”

Although the unit travels at a relatively slow rate of speed, the fear of being attacked doesn't faze the crew much, Bryan said.

“We really can't drive too fast because by the time we see a device it'll be too late to stop before it goes off on us or the next vehicle,” he said. “We need to keep a slow steady pace and, if we suspect something, we call in the Buffalo.

“Of course it makes us a good target, but that's not something we normally think about.”

Bryan said once they start the mission, they focus on the road, letting the gunners manning the M2HB .50-caliber machine guns protect the convoy.



*Army Reserve Staff Sgt. Lawrence Madden, combat engineer platoon Sgt., 467th Engineer Battalion, directs another Soldier to search the front seat of an Iraqi vehicle. The unit normally patrols roads in Baqubah, Iraq, looking for improvised explosive devices.*

“Everyone deals with the stress of what we do in different ways,” said Spc. James Acker, combat engineer. “But once we get going we concentrate on what we're doing and if we find something, it's more of an adrenaline rush.”

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***“Of course it makes us a good target, but that's not something we normally think about.”***

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*-- Sgt. 1st Class Dallas Bryan, combat engineer*

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Normally the Trailblazers cruise the routes looking for explosives but sometimes they will encounter a vehicle they think needs to be searched because of a “tip” from an Iraqi traffic check-point.

“We do anything we need to do to make the roads safer,” Cochran said. “If we feel we need to pull a

vehicle over to search it, we'll do it. Then (we) go back to where we left off, searching the roadsides.”

For the Trailblazers of the 467th Eng. Bn., the job has just begun. But since the operation has started countless numbers of ordnance and IEDs have been removed from the streets of Iraq, saving potential casualties, Bryan said.

“As long as we have an eventful day finding an IED or two, that's one less possible casualty,” Bryan said. “And if we don't have an eventful day, then it's another quiet day for us, and that's not a bad thing either.”



*Army Reserve Sgt. 1st Class Dallas Bryan, combat engineer platoon Sgt., 467th Engineer Battalion, Task Force Liberty, directs traffic after the search of a suspicious vehicle and driver.*



*Army Reserve combat engineers, 467th Engineer Battalion, prepare the “Buffalo” and support vehicles for a road patrol in search of improvised explosive devices planted by insurgents.*



# SOLDIERS QUARTERLY CALENDAR

## APRIL 2005

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     |     |     |     |     | 1   | 2   |
| 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   |
| 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  |
| 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  |
| 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  |

## MAY 2005

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   |
| 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  |
| 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  |
| 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  |
| 29  | 30  | 31  |     |     |     |     |

## JUNE 2005

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     |     | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   |     |
| 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  |
| 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  |
| 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  |
| 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  |     |     |

## JULY 2005

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     |     |     |     |     | 1   | 2   |
| 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   |
| 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  |
| 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  |
| 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  |
|     | 31  |     |     |     |     |     |

# Rainbow Colors



*Photo by Pfc. Adam Phelps / 22nd MPAD*

*The color guard carries the 250th Signal Battalion's colors during a Feb. 15 transfer of Authority ceremony at Forward Operating Base Danger, Tikrit, Iraq.*



*Photo by Staff Sgt. Duane M. Brown / 22nd MPAD  
A Soldier from the 1st Infantry Division Band plays the trombone Feb. 14, as the 1st ID transferred authority to the 42nd Infantry Division at Forward Operation Base Danger, Tikrit, Iraq.*

*Back ground photo: Task Force Liberty and Task Force Danger Soldiers stand at present arms Feb. 14 during the transfer of authority ceremony from the 1st Infantry Division to the 42nd Infantry Division at Forward Operation Base Danger Tikrit, Iraq.  
(Photo by Sgt. Jennifer J. Eidson, 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)*

# Cover Iraq



*Photo by Sgt. Jennifer J. Eidson / 22nd MPAD*  
**Col. Mark A. McAlister, commander of 18th Soldier Support Group, takes the 40th Finance Battalion's colors Feb. 3 as they assume responsibility of the 106th Finance Battalion's mission at Forward Operating Base Danger, Tikrit, Iraq.**



*Photo by Sgt. Jennifer J. Eidson / 22nd MPAD*  
**The Soldiers of the outgoing 4th Brigade, 1st Infantry Division and the incoming Aviation Brigade, 42nd Infantry Division stand at present arms during a transfer of authority ceremony held Feb. 2 at Forward Operating Base Speicher, Iraq.**



*Photo by Sgt. Jennifer J. Eidson / 22nd MPAD*  
**Brig. Gen. Steve Mundt takes the 642nd Military Intelligence Battalion's colors Feb. 5 as they assume authority of the 101st Military Intelligence Battalion's mission in Northeast Iraq.**



*Photo by Sgt. Daniel W. Bailey / 22nd MPAD*

*The color guard stands at attention during the Division Support Command transfer of authority, Feb. 5.*

# TASK FOR LIBERTY



*Photo by Sgt. Daniel W. Bailey / 22nd MPAD  
Soldiers render honors during the transfer of authority between 1st Battalion, 77th Armor and 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry.*



*Guidon bearers stand in formation during the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment transfer of authority, Feb. 13 at Forward Operating Base Brassfield-Mora.*

# FORCE TY



*Photo by Sgt. Blake Kent / 22nd MPAD*  
**Troopers stand ready to begin the transfer of authority ceremony for the 42nd Infantry Division Engineers Feb. 3.**



*Photo by Sgt. Daniel W. Bailey / 22nd MPAD*  
**Infantry and 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor transfer of authority ceremony**



*Photo by Sgt. Daniel W. Bailey / 22nd MPAD*  
**Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 63rd Armor and 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor stand at parade rest during the transfer of authority ceremony Feb. 18 at Forward Operating Base Scanlon.**

# Cleaning up the ‘Wild Wild West’



*A Coalition Soldier illuminates the area as Iraqi soldiers conduct a search.*

## Raid nets three

**Story, photo by  
Staff Sgt. Duane M. Brown**  
*22<sup>nd</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

FORWARD OPERATING BASE COBRA, SABIYAH, Iraq – Three Iraqi men were detained Feb. 21 during a raid on homes of suspected improvised explosive device makers in Sabiyah, Iraq.

Soldiers from 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, 3<sup>rd</sup> Squadron, 278<sup>th</sup> Regimental Combat Team, lead the way by coordinating a night mission involving Iraqi Armed Forces, U.S. ground troops, helicopters and M2 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicles.

“We entered the homes and grabbed the subjects right off the bat,” said 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Gregory W. Smith, platoon leader and native of Nashville, Tenn. “After detaining the individuals, we began questioning them and conducted simultaneous searches of their homes.”

Detainees were questioned for intelligence pertaining to the network of anti-Coalition resistance in Sabiyah. Homes were also searched for IED building material and any documentation that could lead to other members of the IED network.

“Mainly we just got a few more IED makers off the streets,” Smith said. “These guys, both U.S. and IAF Soldiers, did a wonderful job.”

A lot of the reason for the 278<sup>th</sup> success goes all the way back the states, long before the mission briefing and rehearsals, said Sgt. Leo Shinkle, a unit gunner. “After a six month train-up at Camp Shelby, Miss., I think we came to Iraq ready to go,” said the native of Gallatin, Tenn.

By conducting these types of missions, offenders in Sabiyah are getting a clear message.



*A 1st Squadron, 278th Regimental Combat Team, Apache Troop Soldier stands security while members of his squad search a store in the Balad Ruz Marketplace, Iraq.*

## Apaches, IA patrol Balad Ruz

**Story, photos By  
Staff Sgt. Duane M. Brown**  
*22<sup>nd</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

BALAD RUZ, Iraq – In order to help Iraqis build themselves a more safe and secure country, Soldiers of the Tennessee National Guard have been providing direct support to the Iraqi Armed Forces.

Soldiers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, Apache Troop, 278th Regimental Combat

Team, conduct daily joint operations with the IAF to give them the support necessary to ensure they reach their maximum potential as soldiers.

“Our overall focus . . . is to push the IAF and the Iraqi Police up front and make them do their jobs,” said 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Brian S. Powell,

Apache Troop platoon leader and Seymour, Tenn., resident.

Apache spearheads

***“The IAF is getting a good grasp of the concept we are trying to teach them.”***

*-- 2nd Lt. Brian Powell, platoon leader*

this push by conducting daily joint operations with the IAF soldiers in the city of Balad Ruz.

A normal patrol begins at a prearranged location, Powell said. It is at this rendezvous point the IAF is briefed on personnel and vehicle support necessary for the mission.

The patrols are usually supported by Bradley M2 Infantry Fighting Vehicles, M113 armored personnel carriers, armored humvees and a troop of combat Soldiers, Powell said.

With these assets in place, the unit is able to conduct day and night joint patrols.



*Troopers from 1st Squadron, 278th Regimental Combat Team, Apache Troop, conduct a dismounted patrol on the streets of Balad Ruz, Iraq.*



**Sgt. Mitchell L. Chastain, squad leader and 2nd Lt. Brian S. Powell, platoon leader, Apache Troop, 1st Squadron, 278th Regimental Combat Team take the name and personal information of an uncooperative store owner in the market place in Baladr Ruz, Iraq.**

“At this time we brief the IAF command on what the mission is and tell them we would like to be involved,” Powell said. “Sometimes this takes some work because of the language barrier.”

To deal with this issue, Powell said he works smarter, not harder.

“Some of these guys speak really good English, so we pair up (them) to ensure the mission is clear to all involved,” he said.

Since it’s a joint operation, Apache doesn’t always take the lead.

When the IAF has an idea for a patrol, we let them run it -- we are purely there as back up, Powell said.

“The IAF is getting a good grasp of the concept we are trying to teach them,” Powell said. “They do very aggressive training, which is mentored by (Coalition) forces.”

Iraqi Armed Forces soldiers have proven themselves operating under strenuous conditions, he added.

Last week, the city’s joint coordination center was hit by a vehicle borne improvised explosive device that took the lives of five IAF soldiers. The IAF handled the situation very professionally, Powell stated.

Coalition troops will begin to take on a different mission as the IAF becomes more effective in its role as peacekeepers, he added. The troops will become liaisons, teachers and IAF observers.

All this close training has had a positive effect on Apache Troop, some of the Soldiers said.

“Having been with my guys when they first arrived and seeing them now, you can see a change in them that will stick with them long after this deployment,” Powell said.

“As long as they want democracy and want to be free, I don’t mind helping these people out,” said Spc. Brice C. Whaley, Apache Troop scout and native of McMinnville, Tenn.

“Together, we keep insurgents from hurting the innocent people, especially the kids. With any luck, they will grow up and go into school having a better chance at life than some of the adults had.”

When asked how they felt about working so closely with the IAF on such dangerous missions, the answer came with no hesitation.

“Things are going pretty good, actually better than expected,” said Spc. Mika L. Jefferson, Apache Troop scout and native of Memphis, Tenn. “Hopefully this will foster a smooth transition toward democracy.”

Start your engines . . .

## NASCAR night strikes Cobra

**By Staff Sgt. Duane M. Brown**  
22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE COBRA, SABIYAH, Iraq – The 3rd Squadron, 278th Regimental Combat Team’s chain-of-command went that extra mile for their Soldiers by featuring a NASCAR Night during the Daytona 500, Feb.20.

With the help of Army food service specialists, the unit’s first sergeants put their best foot forward to bring that NASCAR feeling to Forward Operating Base Cobra, Sabiyah, Iraq.

“Being that a lot of my guys from Tennessee are big NASCAR fans, we thought it would be good to find some way they all could relax and enjoy it,” said Command Sgt. Maj. James B. Kyle, 3rd Squadron, 278th RCT sergeant major. “Every month we try and have some kind of event.”

Kyle had both the dining facility and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center set up so soldiers could sit back and enjoy the race and forget about being away from home, even if just for a little while.

Besides setting up televisions in the dining and reserving the MWR facility for the event, the first sergeants and cooks spent over two hours preparing food for the occasion and took the time to serve it up as well.

“We went all out for the guys, everybody enjoys sporting events but there is nothing like good food to go with them,” said Pvt. Justin T. Finley, food service specialist and native of Cleveland, Tenn. “The menu has everything a sporting man needs.”

Fried chicken, wings, pizza, hot pockets, cheese sticks, soft drinks and deserts were being served up as Soldiers kicked back and cheered on their race day favorites.

This type of activities raise morale and gives Soldiers a better feeling when they go outside the wire, Kyle added. We also do fun things like Friday Night Fights at the first of every month (the fights are refereed by a qualified boxing coach). This is something that began back when we mobilized at Camp Shelby, Miss. and the guys absolutely love it.

During the elections, some soldiers worked as many as 36 to 48 hours straight, so events like these help them recharge their batteries.

“When soldiers get tired, there aren’t many smiling faces around the FOB,” Kyle said. “I feel that when possible, the better rested and relaxed off-duty the Soldiers are, they can do a better job of winning the hearts and minds of this community we operate in.”

While on duty members of the squadron work with local leaders and provide the community with school supplies, clothes and toys.

“I feel that we came in here with the right attitude. Our Soldiers are doing a really good job, making Tennessee, Wisconsin, Texas and the U.S.A. proud!” said Kyle.

# Caught In the crosshairs

## Rainbow Division deploys snipers

Story, photos by  
Staff Sgt. Raymond Drumsta  
42nd ID PAO

FORT DRUM, N.Y. - The 42nd Infantry Division has deployed to Iraq with what leaders term a powerful, yet subtle, combat-multiplier — the sniper-trained Soldiers of the division's 173rd Long Range Surveillance Detachment, and their newly-issued M14 rifles.

The rifles are "part and parcel" of the changing LRS(D) mission, said the unit's

commander, Capt. Michael Manning. "This is not a detachment of snipers," said Manning. "This is a detachment of highly trained intelligence collectors. We have sniping capability. Now we can acquire

**"We're not training for the Fulda Gap anymore. We're fighting insurgents who operate in small groups."**

-- Capt. Charles Manning  
LRS (D) commander

with organic direct fire weapons. That's the big change. That's what these weapons allow us to do." Manning said LRS(D)'s mission used to be strictly reconnaissance and surveil-

lance — working in small groups 80 to 100 kilometers beyond friendly lines, reporting information on enemy movements and the battlefield to a higher command. The enemy and battlefield have changed, so the mission has changed, according to Manning.

"We're not training for the Fulda Gap anymore," said Manning, referring to the area in Germany that NATO forces were assigned to defend against Russian maneuver brigades. "We're fighting insurgents who operate in small groups. That drives the way we conduct operations."

Manning described the new mission as reconnaissance, surveillance, and target acquisition — in other words, LRS(D) will be assigned to observe areas for improvised explosive devices and indirect fire activity and, if ordered by the combatant commander, eliminate insurgents with their sniper rifles. The M-14, commented Manning, has redefined the unit's mission.

"It's a tremendous force multiplier. It's a tremendous asset on the battlefield."

Equipping and training



A National Guardsman takes careful aim with an M14 rifle during practice. The 42nd Infantry Division has deployed sniper-trained Soldiers to Iraq.

LRS(D) on the M14 rifles was a joint effort of the 42nd Infantry Division, the 1215th Garrison Support Unit at Fort Drum, the First Army Small Arms Readiness Group, or SARG, and Forces Command according to Lt. Col. Richard Ellwanger, chief of personnel, 1215th Garrison Support Unit.

“Our mission is to support the mobilization of the National Guard and Reserves,” said Ellwanger. “We work with the post to provide an infrastructure for the National Guard and Reserves while they’re here at Fort Drum.”

The M14 rifles will increase LRS(D) Soldiers’ ability to neutralize targets without collateral damage, said Ellwanger.

“The rifle gives the Soldiers the ability to engage targets out to 800 meters. Once the word gets out to the insurgents that the Soldiers have that capacity, they will be less likely to get inside the 400- to 500-meter range and engage with RPGs (rocket-propelled grenades) or medium machine guns.”

**T**he instruction of the SARG team was superb, according to Manning.

“These guys are superb marksmen. They instilled in LRS(D) the techniques, tactics and procedures that make them good marksmen. They’re professional. To a man, they’re first-rate marksmen.”

Most of the training took place at Fort Drum’s Range 21, where the sniper-trained LRS(D) Soldiers zeroed and engaged targets with their iron sights, and zeroed the scopes on their rifles.

“By virtue of going through this training, LRS(D) Soldiers now have the confidence in themselves that they can effectively operate this weapon system,” said Manning. “What the 42nd Division has done, by virtue of outfitting LRS(D) with M14 rifles, is make us the cutting edge of the LRS(D) community.”

But the real edge in LRS(D)’s sniping capability are the LRS(D) Soldiers behind the newly issued M14 rifles — graduates of the four-week National Guard Sniper School at Camp Robinson, Ark. With their M-14 training complete, the LRS(D) soldiers became trainers themselves, turning Soldiers from other 42nd Infantry Di-

vision units into designated marksmen.

“We’re a combat multiplier because we can give the division planners nearly real-time information, and a picture of the battlefield,” said LRS(D) sniper-trained Staff Sgt. Tim Halloran. “If we’re on a mission and we acquire a high-value target, we can not only report it to higher [headquarters], we can eliminate it.”

“Hopefully we can interdict the people placing the (improvised explosive devices),” said LRS(D) Assistant Team Leader Cpl. Wayne Lynch, who, along with LRS(D) Team Leader Staff Sgt. Thomas O’Hare, served a tour in Iraq last year.

“That’s all I thought about when we were in Iraq last year: ‘how do we stop these people who are placing the IEDs?’ Now that we’ve got snipers in LRS(D), we’re able to do surveillance and take direct action,” Lynch said.

Deployed to Iraq with the 119th Military Police Company, Rhode Island National Guard, Lynch said he and O’Hare made it their job to find IEDs. Lynch said he hopes LRS(D) will be tasked with interdicting terrorists placing IEDs. He’s been a member of the unit for nine years and loves it. He does not regret going back to Iraq.

“I’m going with a unit I’ve trained with,” he said. “I’m honored to go to war with them.”

Based in Rhode Island, LRS(D) ruckmarches to the north summit of New Hampshire’s Mount Mooslacki every year. All members of LRS(D) are airborne qualified, and nine are ranger qualified. They have

to do a jump every three months to maintain their airborne status.

“We train on a higher plain,” said LRS(D) sniper-trained Soldier Spc. Richard O’Connor. “Most units do five-mile rucksack marches. We do 15-mile rucksack marches. Other units have 45-pound rucksacks. We have 80-pound rucksacks. We have to march farther and faster than anyone else.”

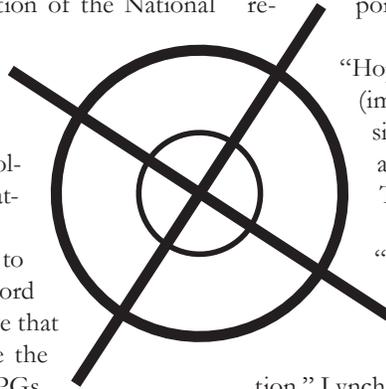
O’Connor was a scout/sniper with the 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division. He’s been on real-world missions to Tunisia and Liberia, and took part in the rescue of Air Force Pilot Capt. Scott O’Grady, who was shot down over Bosnia in 1995.

“Anticipation of the mission is awesome,” said O’Connor. He described the job as a “rush”, and said LRS(D) team members must be physically fit, mature, and disciplined, and must know each other’s jobs.

Part of that job is going “subsurface” — patrolling to a location outside friendly lines, digging a hole, and living in it while observing enemy activity.

“They might live in that hole for two to four days,” said Manning. “It takes an unbelievably disciplined individual to do this job.”

“We’re just guys with rifles,” said O’Connor. “You have to have absolute confidence in everyone on your team. There’s nothing else in the Army I want to do.”




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***Part of that job is going "subsurface" - patrolling to a location outside friendly lines, digging a hole, and living in it while observing enemy activity.***

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# Winning the hearts and minds . . . with a friendly patrol

**Story, photos by  
Staff Sgt. Raymond Drumsta  
42nd Infantry Division PAO**

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, Tikrit, Iraq -- Like all forays outside the wire here, the Soldiers had their game faces on, and rolled out of the gate with loaded weapons, body armor, in armored humvees.

But this patrol had a friendly face, because it was from the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion. Supporting the commander in his relationship with the populace is civil affairs' main mission, according to Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Edwin Miranda, of Miami, Fla.

"You want to give the impression that you're there to help," he said. "You want to build relationships."

The battalion's civil affairs Soldiers are doing that - and more - in Task Force Liberty's area of operations. On the recent patrol here, Soldiers of the battalion's Headquarters and Headquarters Company hit the streets to talk to Iraqi businessmen, assess the effects of Iraq's recent elections on business and ask about establishing a chamber of commerce, said Civil Affairs Team Chief Staff Sgt. John Imperato, of Rhinebeck, N.Y.

"The goal was to get the feel of the



**Staff Sgt. John Imperato of Rhinebeck, N.Y., a civil affairs team chief from the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion (center), speaks with an Iraqi businessman (right) through an interpreter (left), during a recent patrol in Tikrit. The mission of the patrol was to make contact with members of Tikrit's business community and inquire about establishing a chamber of commerce and the effects of Iraq's recent successful elections on business.**

business community, to see how they feel about a chamber of commerce, and if they would participate in it," added Sgt. Michael Rothermel, civil affairs team sergeant, of Boyertown, Pa.

Self-reliance is the ultimate goal, Miranda said.

"The Iraqis need to get back on their feet, and get back to work," he said. "They need to take vested interest in their own affairs," he said.

Imperato is a Bedford, N.Y., police officer and former New York Army National Guard Soldier. During the patrol, Imperato moved from business to business like a cop walking his beat, chatting easily,

through an interpreter, to Tikrit business owners.

"I can read people well. I'm used to dealing with people on foot patrol," Imperato said, referring to his police experience. "It's similar. You still have to be on your guard."

Finding the mean between security and sociability is difficult, Miranda said.

"They have to find a balance between force protection and conducting civil-military operations," Miranda emphasized. He stressed that civil affairs Soldiers can protect themselves just like other Soldiers, while treating civilians respectfully - something all Soldiers should do.

"The average soldier must fully understand the rules of engagement," he said. "He must understand in a split second who the enemy is, and who the civilians are. The average soldier should remember that, like civil affairs Soldiers, they are ambassadors. While they are expected to defend themselves, they should treat Iraqis with dignity and respect. It's not easy. In this environ-



**A security detail keeps watch on a Tikrit street so 411th Civil Affairs Battalion Soldiers can speak with Iraqi businessmen.**



**Staff Sgt. John Imperato, civil affairs team chief, (center) briefs Soldiers of the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion, and 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment receive briefing a prior to going out to talk with Iraqi businessmen in Tikrit.**

ment, anyone can come out from the crowd and kill you.”

That’s why Imperato, Rothermel, an interpreter, and Imperato’s Iraqi counterpart walked the streets surrounded by a moving perimeter of 360-degree security. This perimeter was formed by American and Iraqi soldiers, who also stood guard at each business the team stopped at.

“We had a good perimeter outside, so I could relax and talk to people,” Imperato said. Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment helped provide security on the patrol.

There was no negative feedback from the businessmen they spoke with, he added.

“They’re all excited about starting a chamber of commerce,” Imperato said. “They felt if all businesses met, they could pool their resources to improve the economy.”

The response was great, Rothermel said.

“They’re looking forward to having a chamber of commerce,” he said. “One thing we’re giving them, which they never had before, is a voice. Now they can discuss how they’ll collaborate, and how they’ll pool their resources.”

The next step, Rothermel said, will be for Iraqis to pick chamber of commerce representatives who will communicate their issues.

“You can only meet so many needs,” Rothermel said. “You want to help everyone, but you can only help some of them. You do what you can. You can’t let that burden weigh you down.”

Once they were approached by an Iraqi family whose home was destroyed by a mortar round, Rothermel recalled. The family was seeking shelter - something the civil affairs Soldiers couldn’t provide. What they did supply, however, was food and hygiene items from the stock they always have handy, and information on how to get in touch with an Iraqi government agency that could help.

“Sometimes we can only point people in the right direction,”

he said. “That helps them more than we could help them on our own.”

“We’re structuring a government,” Imperato said. “If we can get the smaller government organizations running smoothly, and the Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army up to speed, things will be great.”

The unit is also training an Iraqi force to take over the civil affairs mission, Imperato said.

“They do well. They go out once a week by themselves,” Imperato said.

Based in Danbury, Conn., the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion is coordinating \$8 million of projects in Task Force Liberty’s area of operations, according to Capt. Tammie Perreault, battalion operations officer, from Seattle. These include minor school renovations, urban clean-up by local labor, the preservation of Iraqi historic sites, and improvement of Iraqi governance facilities.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company is supporting the 42nd Infantry Division, Miranda said, and his other companies are supporting Task Force Liberty’s combat teams. The civil affairs Soldiers helped coordinate elections with local officials, and recently, the battalion’s public health team conducted a health assessment in Samarra, and was able to provide

Iraqi health professionals with new medical equipment, sanitation support and medical reference material.

“It’s rewarding when you see needs and issues being resolved and taken care of,” Miranda said.

Rothermel said he “absolutely loves” civil affairs work.

“Having a positive effect on people’s lives here, like we do, is very rewarding,” he said.

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***“Having a positive effect on people’s lives here, like we do, is very rewarding.”***

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— Lt. Col. Edwin Miranda

Commander, 411th Civil Affairs Battalion

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**Staff Sgt. John Imperato of Rhinebeck, N.Y., a civil affairs team chief from the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion (left), speaks with an Iraqi businessman (center) through an interpreter (right), during a recent patrol in Tikrit. The mission of the patrol was to make contact with members of Tikrit’s business community and inquire about establishing a chamber of commerce and the effects of Iraq’s recent successful elections on business.**



*Cavalry Scouts assigned to 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division signal local traffic to stop during a routine patrol in Tikrit, Iraq. Cav scouts like these are now eligible for a close combat badge, similar to the combat infantryman's badge.*

## Non-infantry Soldiers eligible for CCB

**Story, photos by  
Sgt. Matthew Acosta**  
*22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, Tikrit, Iraq -- Non-infantry combat arms Soldiers may now be eligible for a badge similar to the coveted Combat Infantry Badge awarded to infantrymen who have been in combat operations.

Soldiers in specific armor, cavalry, field artillery and combat engineer units who have served as "purposefully reorganized" units and have performed "infantry-unique close combat" missions while deployed during Operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom, may now be awarded the new Close Combat Badge.

The Army gathered a panel of retired Soldiers, to include several generals to determine the qualification standards for the badge and to decide if the badge was warranted to certain units.

The CCB was designed to recognize the efforts of non-infantry Soldiers in units which have been used as infantrymen during combat operations since Sept. 11, 2001, said Lt. Gen. F.L. Hagenbeck, Army Deputy Chief of Staff, personnel.

Several Soldiers in Task Force Liberty said they thought the badge was a good thing.

"I think it's great to get some official recognition because prior to this the cavalry had their own unofficial traditions with spurs and Stetsons," said Pfc. Jaemyung Lee,

cavalry scout, 1st Brigade Combat Team, and active-duty Soldier from Fort Stewart, Ga.

Hagenbeck said the idea for the award came from commanders in the field who have reorganized existing units into formations designed to mirror infantry units and should specifically be awarded for their efforts.

"Our job is to do reconnaissance for the infantry, but here we do pretty much the same thing the infantry does and we're usually right there along side them," said Pfc. Matthew Meyers, cavalry scout, 3rd BCT. "We take the same risks they do and it's only fair to finally get recognized for it."

Unlike the Shoulder Sleeve Insignia-Foreign Service, commonly known as the "combat patch" awarded to those who served in a combat theater, the CCB is awarded to those who specifically meet the eligibility criteria and is not to have any impact on the 60-year tradition of the CIB.

"It's about time we (cavalry scouts) got something official to wear on our battle



*Army Sgt. Jason Wilding, Cavalry Scout squad leader, 1st Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Liberty, searches an Iraqi civilian while another squad member provides security.*

dress uniforms," said Lee.

The non-infantry Soldiers must have been present under enemy fire to qualify for the CCB and is strictly for those who have been "pulled out of their tanks and away from their guns to perform infantry missions."

The badge will be retroactive to Sept. 11, 2001 for those who qualify for it.

Although the design of the badge has not been determined yet, it will begin to be awarded in March and should be in AAFES Clothing and Sales stores by autumn.

*(Editor's Note: Some information in this article was taken from a story written by Eric Cramer of the Army News Service.)*

# Never Forget

## Cav troopers remembered

By **Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.**  
1<sup>st</sup> BCT PAO

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DAGGER, Tikrit, Iraq -- Three 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment Soldiers were remembered at a memorial ceremony Feb. 18.

Sgt. Rene Knox Jr., Sgt. Chad Lake and Spc. Dakotah Gooding died when their vehicle went into a canal near Balad, Iraq. All three Soldiers were light short range air defenders from Troop C, 5<sup>th</sup> Bn. 7th Cav. Regt.

The fallen Soldiers' are remembered as heroes for doing a dangerous job to protect the Soldiers around them, their commander said.

"These men were on a combat patrol," said Capt. Phillip Poteet, Troop C commander. "They were hot on the patterned trail of a rocket terrorist who had been attacking our (forward operating base.) No one knows what happened inside their humvee that morning, but they died while trying to defend us here on this FOB, and they died fighting for freedom. They were

incredible, caring, energetic men and they are heroes."

During the ceremony, the Regiment commander praised the acts of heroism displayed by members of the combat patrol who went into frigid waters trying to save their comrades. He said Iraqis and fellow service members tried to save them despite the danger to themselves.

Men from the 203<sup>rd</sup> Iraqi Army and a good Samaritan who pulled two Air Force rescue team members from the freezing waters helped keep the unit's faith in the importance of this mission by showing them what great friends the Iraqi people and army are to us, and how richly they deserve freedom, said Lt. Col. Jody Petery, 5<sup>th</sup> Bn. 7th Cav. commander.

"They demonstrated the true bond that this band of brothers shared. Every single leader in the platoon went into the freezing waters to rescue their brothers, only

leaving the water when they too had to be (medically evacuated)," he said.

The spouses of the deceased Soldiers reacted to the news of their husbands' deaths selflessly and unexpectedly, Petery said.

"When their spouses could hate the Army and be very bitter with each of us about the loss of their husbands, they instead asked how all of us were doing and (asked us) to remind all the members of 'Charlie Blue' that they are in their prayers," Petery said. "This demonstrates the camaraderie they felt along with their husbands for the great troopers of Charlie Troop."

Lake is survived by his sister. Knox is survived by his wife Symone, his sister and two brothers. Gooding is survived by his wife Angela and his sister.

## Raiders mourn two

By **Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.**  
1<sup>st</sup> BCT PAO

FORWARD OPERATION BASE DAGGER, Iraq -- Two Task Force Liberty Soldiers were killed and four injured when an improvised explosive device detonated beside their vehicle in Bayji, Feb. 4.

Staff Sgt. Steven Bayow and Sgt. Daniel Torres of 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division out of Fort Stewart, Ga., were conducting a joint raid with 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, when an IED exploded at a gas station near where they were driving.

A memorial service was held for the fallen Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Summerall, Feb. 6.

Torres, an infantryman and a native of Fort Worth, Texas, is survived by his parents Sergio and Maria Torres. Bayow, a rifleman and a native of Guam, is survived by his sister Maria Gu-pin.

Torres and Bayow were the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Combat Team's first casualties during Operation Iraqi Freedom 3.

The following Task Force Liberty Soldiers were lost and will always be remembered as heroes:

**Staff Sgt. Todd D. Olson**

1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 128<sup>th</sup> Inf. Reg.  
Samarra, Iraq  
Dec. 27

**Sgt. 1st Class**

**Mark C. Warren**

3<sup>rd</sup> Bn., 116<sup>th</sup> Armor  
FOB Warrior, Iraq  
Jan. 31

**Staff Sgt. Steven Bayow**

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 7<sup>th</sup> Inf. Regt.  
Bayji, Iraq  
Feb. 4

**Sgt. Daniel Torres**

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 7<sup>th</sup> Inf., Regt.  
Bayji, Iraq  
Feb. 4

**Sgt. Rene Knox, Jr.**

5<sup>th</sup> Bn., 7<sup>th</sup> Cav. Regt.  
Balad, Iraq  
Feb. 7

**Sgt. Chad Lake**

5<sup>th</sup> Bn., 7<sup>th</sup> Cav. Regt.  
Balad, Iraq  
Feb. 7

**Spc. Dakotah Gooding**

5<sup>th</sup> Bn., 7<sup>th</sup> Cav. Regt.  
Balad, Iraq  
Feb. 7

**Sgt. 1st Class**

**David Sallie**

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 69<sup>th</sup> Armor  
Baqubah, Iraq  
Feb. 14

**Pfc. David J. Brangman**

3<sup>rd</sup> Bn., 69<sup>th</sup> Armor  
Camp Uvanni, Iraq  
Feb. 13

**Spc. Justin B. Carter**

1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 15<sup>th</sup> Inf. Regt.  
FOB McKenzie, Iraq  
Feb. 16

**Spc. Jacob Palmatier**

1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 30<sup>th</sup> Inf. Regt.  
Qaryat, Iraq  
Feb. 24

*The 42nd Infantry Division Rainbow hanging outside the Division Main Headquarters building is illuminated Feb. 13, 2005, before the transfer of authority ceremony Feb. 14. The whole building was illuminated so that it could be seen all over Forward Operating Base Danger. (photo by Staff Sgt. Robert Timmons, 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)*

