

# The Warrior

February 2005

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## TARGET UP!

**Soldiers hone skills during close-quarter marksmanship training**

Brigade says farewell

Convoy ops from the port

Snipers

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### Target Up! -

Soldiers from throughout the Spartan Brigade conduct reflexive fire training in preparation for an entry control point live fire and the mission in Iraq

On the cover: Soldiers from 3/15 Inf. engage targets during reflexive firing at Udairi Range in Kuwait. Photo by Spc. Ben Brody

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Spartan Warriors,

It's about time to move north and execute our mission. We all endured the hard good-byes as we left our loved ones behind for this mission. Our families and friends will remain in our thoughts and prayers while we answer our nation's call.

Superb job on RSOI, we all know it could always go smoother, but thanks for your flexibility and patience. I am very proud to say I did not hear one whine about cold showers, long chow lines, 13-hour convoy escort missions, etc. This did not happen by accident. As American Warriors, we all know we have an important mission ahead of us. While we enjoy the luxury of security as we generate combat power here in Kuwait, we all know our fellow Soldiers are successfully fighting a dangerous enemy every day up north. Spartan Warriors are not focused on the inconveniences of Camp NY; we are focused on readiness.

The Brigade Combat Team (Ironhorse Brigade) we are replacing has done a magnificent job in zone. They have paid the price in casualties. We all must keep this in mind as we begin right seat riding with our Ironhorse counterparts. We need to show them we are here on a mission that we take very seriously. We are appreciative of the sacrifices they made and vow to continue to build upon the successes they achieved. None

of us are here to simply mark days off until we hit the 12 to 15 month mark. Spartan Warriors are here to make a difference, and our goal is to be so successful no follow-on Brigade will be needed.

Expect the unexpected. Do not make new enemies. Game face on. Specific task and purpose. Rehearse everything. Always pause to mitigate risk. Buddy check everything. Never leave the moral high ground. Never forget you are an American Soldier, a Marne Soldier, and a Spartan Warrior. You all know the deal.

Rest assured, the Rear Detachment is focused on ensuring families have the correct information. They are dedicated to keeping everyone informed. They are also working property realignment hard, training up newly assigned Soldiers, managing stay-behind personnel, and ensuring the Family Readiness program is alive and well. We are all blessed with great families and friends, and appreciate their support, love, and prayers.

Time to show our country their sons and daughters are **THE GENERATION**. God bless you all and thanks for your loyalty, courage, and patriotism.

Col. Joseph DiSalvo

ROCK OF THE MARNE  
SEND ME



### *The Warrior*

*The official magazine of the  
Spartan Brigade and its Soldiers*

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## ATTENTION!

“Shots from the field” is a photo page in *The Warrior* comprised of photos taken only by Soldiers in the Spartan Brigade serving in Iraq. So, whether you are a novice who has only known disposable cameras or you liken yourself to a professional, this is an opportunity for your work to be seen by thousands. All you need is a digital camera and email access. Send your photos via AKO to: [craig.zentkovich@us.army.mil](mailto:craig.zentkovich@us.army.mil), Subject: Shots from the field. Be sure to include your rank, name, and unit as well as a caption for the photograph that includes the subject of the photograph with names and dates. I look forward to receiving your shots.

**Staff Sgt. Craig Zentkovich**  
Editor, *The Warrior*



Photos by Spc. Ben Brody

*From berets to boonies...*

# Spartans deploy

Story and photos by Spc. Ben Brody

CAMP NEW YORK, Kuwait – Nearly 18 months after returning from the invasion of Iraq, 3rd Infantry Division is on its way back.

Family members and loved ones bid Spartan Soldiers farewell, as 2nd Brigade began their march to a year-plus tour of Baghdad supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom III, flying first to Kuwait.

Deploying Soldiers from the brigade expressed a range of sentiments about the prospect of spending more than a year in a combat zone.

“I’m a little nervous, but we’ve had great training to prepare us,” said Pvt. Michael Kessler, B Co., 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, M240B gunner. “It’s tough when it first hits you – that you’re a long way from home, but when you get rolling and get into your job it’s not so bad.”

Kessler said he has spent a lot of time away from his Jefferson, Wis., home before, but never deployed. He credits veterans in his company with giving out helpful pointers, and said he is optimistic and grounded about the challenges ahead.

“I’m motivated to serve my country, and to get home when it’s over,” he said with a maturity outstripping his rank. “There are thousands over here doing their jobs, and I’m no different.”

Many other Soldiers echoed the sentiment.

“It’s not like I really want to go, but the mission’s got to get done,” said Staff

Sgt. Harry Anderson, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade, motor pool noncommissioned officer in charge.

Anderson, from Sumter, S.C., points to a common concern among deploying Soldiers – that the enemy will be difficult to identify and might hide behind civilians.

“We’re focused, trained and ready, but I’m worried about civilians caught in the middle,” he said. “You hit the wrong person, it’s on your conscience.”

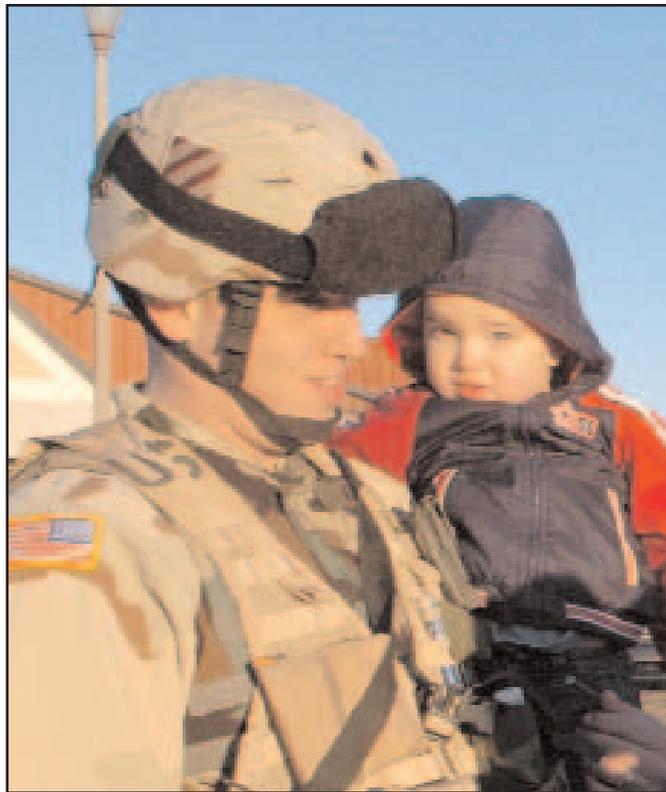
Returning veterans like Staff Sgt. Thomas Cook, A Co. 26th Forward Support Battalion, transportation platoon sergeant, say there is an important mission to complete in Iraq, and are motivated to see it through.

Cook, who served with 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment during the Gulf War, said he isn’t surprised to return to Iraq 13 years later.

“I felt we hadn’t finished when we left, like we needed to get Saddam,” the Yakima, Wash. native said. “Maybe it’s because I was 21 and all gung-ho, but I thought we’d be back.”

Cook said he volunteered for the deployment, giving up an “easy, non-deployable job” at Fort Stewart’s NCO academy.

“I think we’re doing the right thing, that a trained military bringing the fight to the enemy makes the U.S. safer,” he said. “Iraq needs us now to help stabilize the country so they can prosper.”



**Spc. Jason Kelley, 2nd Bde. colt team member, holds his son, Jason Jr., prior to leaving Fort Stewart for Kuwait Jan 20.**



**Soldiers get situated on the plane before departing Hunter Army Airfield en route to Kuwait.**

Cook said he misses his family, but “after 14 years in the Army, you get used to being away.”

He advises young Soldiers to have faith, trust their spouses and set their families up for success before leaving.

“Get your finances straight before you go, and keep them straight while you’re there,” Cook said. “Keep in contact with your family, but not so much that you go bankrupt from the phone bills.”

After a few weeks in Kuwait, the Soldiers of the Spartan Brigade will travel north to Baghdad by aircraft and tactical vehicles.



**(Above) Soldiers get some sleep on the bus taking them from Camp Doha to Camp New York Jan. 22.**

**(Left) The great white tent serves as their temporary home before they head north into Iraq.**





# ENEMY AT THE GATES

Soldiers find themselves in real-world scenerios during live-fire exercises on Range 8 at the Udairi Range Complex

Story and photos by Spc. Ben Brody

CAMP NEW YORK, Kuwait – Soldiers from E Co., 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade trained on defending an entry control point and quick target acquisition at a Kuwaiti range Jan. 27.

Civilian contractors, many of them retired command sergeants major from the Rangers and Special Forces, from Military Professional Resources, Inc. conducted the class, which included a simulated vehicle-borne improvised explosive device.

The day started with an overview of the new Rapid Fielding Initiative equipment many Soldiers are using for the first time. Since the items have long been in the SF and Ranger inventories, the MPRI instructors were able to explain their proper use.

Instructor Ted Carns showed

his group how to lessen the Interceptor vest's load on the shoulders by tightening the straps under the rib cage. After tightening each others' straps with pliers, many Soldiers said the relief was tremendous.

Taking a battle drill straight from 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment doctrine, Carns demonstrated a quick method of identifying, squaring off against and engaging a hostile target at less than 25 meters.

"You want to face the enemy as you engage, so the front plate in your body armor will protect you," Carns said. "As you square off, remember – slow is smooth, and smooth is fast."

The live fire drills included turning to engage a threat from four directions, firing while moving and firing from as close as four meters. The range had few of the safety checks practiced at Fort

Stewart, just buddy checks, muzzle awareness and common sense.

"We aren't going to rod you on and off the range, there are no safeties walking around and you not keeping your muzzle up and downrange because there are no safeties and rods on the street in Iraq," Carns said. "The responsibility is on you to be safe and check your buddy."

"The safety checks here are the same as in Iraq," said Col. (ret.) Larry Word, MPRI team leader. "Rules don't make units safe, leaders make units safe. You've got to trust Soldiers and nail the guy who messes up instead of bogging down everyone."

After a fusillade of gunfire pounded the plastic targets, Carns explained the workings of a good entry control point, the gate that must protect a base or camp from any ground threat. The training



(Opposite page) Spartans fire on the “driver” of a simulated vehicle-borne improvised explosive device while training to defend an entry control point at Range 8. The VBIED simulator can move up to 40 kph and is operated remotely.

(Left) A Soldier tries to shoot the “driver” with an M249 SAW from the range’s elevated platform.

focused on defeating VBIEDs, a growing threat in Iraq.

“That driver’s going to be coming at you, maybe with dismounts shooting at you as well, and there’s one thing you absolutely must do to protect the ECP – kill that driver,” Carns said.

The range featured a simulated ECP, consisting of walls of sandbags to force a driver to slow down and weave between them. A silhouette of a vehicle with a driver weaved toward the Soldiers at up to 40 kilometers per hour, as they fired at both the driver and other silhouettes that popped up from behind the sandbags.

It took two rounds in the torso to knock the driver

down, then it popped up again and the Soldiers resumed firing. Soldiers fired in groups of three or four, and expended about 40 rounds each.

“This is the best range I’ve been to – we’re learning at a good pace,” said Pfc. Jeff Johnson, HHC, 2nd Bde. “I was really impressed and had a good time.”

E Co. 3/15 is an engineer company, but in Iraq they will function like any other combat-arms maneuver company, according to E Co. 1st Sgt. Gary Yeatts.

“This type of training is essential to our preparedness as we head north,” Yeatts said after the range. “I’m pleased with our company’s performance today – we did great.”



Soldiers from E Co., 3/15 Inf. and HHC, 2nd Bde., turn and fire at targets from 10 meters, as they prepare for their upcoming movement to Iraq.

# Rogue and 'Can do' snipers...



*...reach out and touch someone*

Story and photos by Spc. Ben Brody

CAMP NEW YORK, Kuwait – Snipers, spotters and squad designated marksmen from 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment and 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, zeroed their long range rifles in preparation for Iraq Jan. 31.

Among the weapons fired were the M107 .50 Caliber Barrett Sniper Rifle, the M24 7.62mm rifle and modified M16 rifles. The M16 with bipod legs and a special sight is used by SDMs, while the larger weapons are used by sniper teams. All of the marksmen use special, match grade ammunition that can be fired very consistently.



“Nowadays there are often just one or two enemies in a crowd of civilians, and you can’t just start blasting a chaingun into the group,” said Pfc. Cory Hargraves of 3/15’s Shadow Team. “We’re able to take out the target with no collateral damage.”

Hargraves, a Toppenish, Wa. native added, “You can really demoralize the enemy with a few well-placed rounds.”

Blowing sand stung snipers’ faces as they lined up their long range shots, and the strong wind made sight adjustments necessary.

Spotters, looking through scopes, told the shoot-

ers where their rounds were hitting, and guided their corrections.

All the information about what worked at the range will be saved and referred to on future missions, making fewer calculations necessary.

“In an urban environment, when you’re on foot facing a hostile situation, one shot from a sniper can make all the difference in how the situation is resolved,” said Sgt. J.B. King, 3/15 Inf. “It’s often better to use the snipers than send a team running up into harm’s way.”

However, shooting enemies is only a part of being a sniper – surveillance and reconnaissance are also important roles, King, of Jesup, Ga., said.

“We overwatch a lot of (main supply routes),

looking for guys placing explosives,” said Sgt. Jacque Manuel, 1/64 Armor. “The tanks can’t sneak up to an enemy because they’re so loud. We can creep in close, and either take the shot or call for a (unmanned aerial vehicle) to follow them home.”

Manuel, from Baton Rouge, La., said his sniper team is very well trained and ready for action.

“For camouflage we’re thinking about spraying a poncho with adhesive and covering it with sand, also painting up some pilot suits,” said 1/64’s Pfc. Robert Bartlett, a native of Phoenix, Az.

Whatever’s in the area, blend in with it. If a heap of trash offers good concealment, I’ll use that.”

Manuel added, “You’ve got to be a chameleon in this business.”



To zero their specialized weapons properly, sniper teams must accurately record data such as windspeed, barometric pressure, and target distance. Small errors can lead to inaccurate fire at long range. Spotters help shooters adjust fire.

*“You’ve got to be a chameleon in this business.”*

# Roll 'em out

2nd Brigade Soldiers convoy vehicles and transport equipment from the Kuwait port to Camp New York, getting ready for the push into Iraq

Story and photos by Spc. Ben Brody

CAMP NEW YORK, Kuwait - Soldiers from 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, received their first shipment of wheeled vehicles in Kuwait, and drove them from the port to Camp New York Jan. 24.

Approximately 160 Soldiers traveled to the port in tour buses to retrieve the 80 Humvees, Light Medium Tactical Vehicles and HEMTT fuel tankers just unloaded from a cargo ship.

"We rode down to the port, did our (preventive maintenance, checks and services) on the LMTV and we're waiting to line up and convoy back (to Camp New York)," said Sgt. Tina Kelly, A Co., 3rd

Soldier Support Battalion. "The vehicle we're moving isn't our own, it's our parent unit's, but it's important we get it to camp safe."

Warrant Officer Lorena Peck, brigade mobility officer, was positioned at the port to oversee the unloading of the boat and to manage the movement of equipment to Camp New York, about a three hour trip, said Capt. Larry Ross, brigade assistant logistics officer. The 2nd Bde. had a constant rotation of Soldiers going to and from the port to ensure all vehicles and equipment were picked up and driven to the camp, he said.

The port operations were facilitated by a staff



of Soldiers and sailors wearing hard hats and reflective vests giving safety briefs and other administrative instructions..

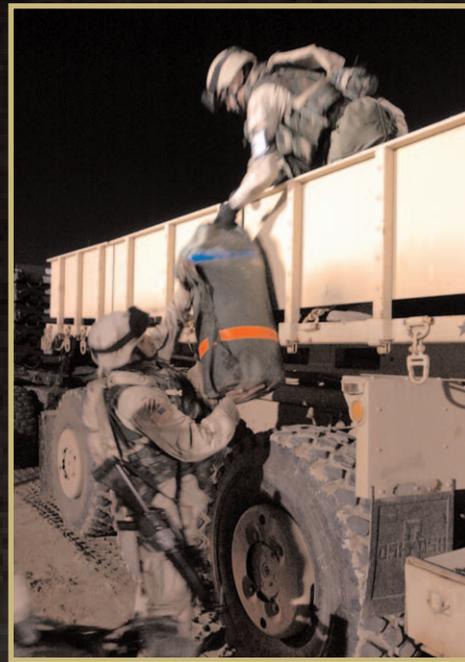
“I’m here to ensure units are being safe, and making sure everyone does a proper PMCS on their vehicle and drives at a safe speed,” said Chief Warrant Officer Santiago Arroyo, port safety officer. “There is a huge list of safety procedures to follow at the port because it can be an especially hazardous area, with so much heavy equipment moving around.”

During his safety brief, Arroyo covered speed limits and what to do if a vehicle rolls over or breaks down.

“Safety saves lives and equipment – our priority is to keep Soldiers safe,” Arroyo said. “When Soldiers get hurt or equipment gets damaged it degrades our mission.”

As a full moon rose over endless miles of barren highway, the convoy drove toward Camp New York, only to find the main access road had been washed out by heavy rain. The Soldiers of 2nd Bde. barely hesitated as they found an alternate route across the desert, following the bright lights of camp. “The ability of 2nd Bde. Soldiers on the move to make quick, thoughtful decisions under pressure is another testament as to why the Spartan Brigade is second to none on the battlefield,” said Ross.

The Spartan Brigade is presently preparing to move to Baghdad sometime in the near future.



**(Above) Soldiers from 2nd Bde. load duffle bags and rucksacks onto a HEMTT as they prepare to convoy from the port in Kuwait to Camp New York, Kuwait Jan. 24. (Below) A line of wheeled vehicles carrying containers and other equipment await the word to roll out.**



# — SLEEPING WITH ANGER —

**Chaplain (Capt.) Steve Hommel**  
*Chaplain, 3rd Bn., 15th Inf.*

The root cause of many of the problems facing families today is a failure to resolve anger and bitterness. Eighteen years ago, as newlyweds, the best piece of advice that my bride, Naomi, and I received from older couples was “Do not go to bed angry.”

Working my way through college doing part time construction work, I distinctly remember my crusty, old foreman, Bob, imparting that particular bit of martial wisdom to me.

Bob had been married for over forty years. Aside from the fact that anyone that has been married that long must be doing something right, what intrigued me about Bob’s advice was that he was paraphrasing Scripture without realizing it. Bob echoed Ephesians 4:26-27, “Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity.”

When we repeatedly go to bed angry we *do* give the devil an opportunity because in the morning, we will probably forget what we were angry about but the anger stays with us .

When couples go ballistic over what should be minor annoyances, like the proper place to squeeze a tube of toothpaste, whether the toilet paper rolls from the top or bottom, or the apparently annoying male habit of leaving the seat up, the root problem is really not poor bathroom etiquette or any other irksome annoyance.

It is unresolved anger that lingers just below the sur-

face waiting for an excuse to explode. In his excellent book, “Making Love Last Forever,” Dr. Gary Smalley said, “The average person has little or no idea how damaging forgotten or ignored anger can be—alienating loved ones, sabotaging relationships.

“Worse yet, most people don’t even know how much destructive anger they’re carrying around—and from past experiences, everyone has some degree of buried anger...This (unresolved) anger causes more pain, drowns more marriages, sinks more children than any other power I know.”

The Bible does not say, “Do not get angry.” There are many examples of when Jesus became angry.

It’s called righteous anger. There are certain things that should set you off righteously.

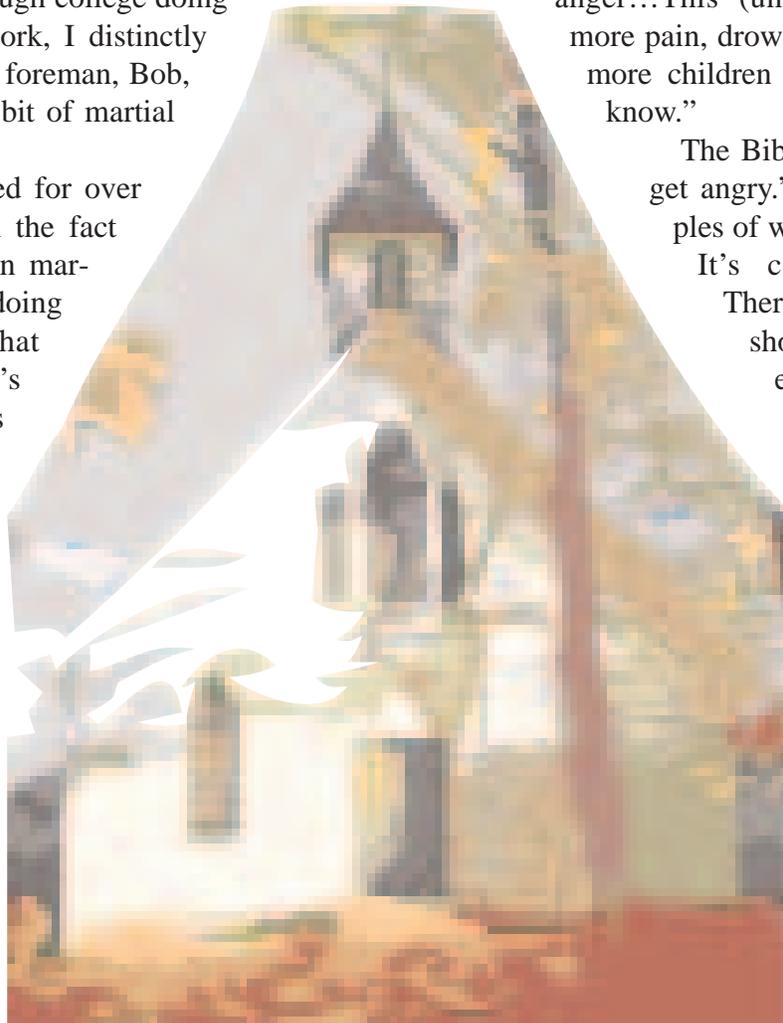
The important thing is to control the emotion and not let it control you.

Anger becomes destructive when it is expressed inappropriately or when we hold on to it, nurse it, bury it, and use it to harm others and ourselves.

The way a person expresses anger is behavior that is usually learned in childhood.

Angry, bitter parents usually go on to produce angry, bitter children.

It is a vicious cycle that can go on in families for generations. There is hope, but the *buck* must stop with you. It will be difficult breaking out of those old behavior patterns, but be encouraged; even small personal changes in this area can have an enormous positive influence upon your life and marriage.



# Motor Pool Safety

**Staff Sgt. Craig Zentkovich**  
Editor

Track and wheeled vehicles are the lifeline of the Spartan Brigade.

Soldiers operate and maintain them daily here in Iraq.

The Soldiers that do work on, in or around them, do it a lot.

According to Sam Champion, former 2nd Brigade safety specialist, the hours spent working with the vehicles tend to breed complacency when it comes to proper safety practices.

“Motor pool accidents are very common, but preventable,” Champion said. “Soldiers are taught to do a job – that the job comes first.

“Sometimes they’ll get the job done quickly and effectively, and forget about safety – safety doesn’t have to be compromised.”

High on the list of vehicle maintenance safety issues are jack stands.

“(Jack stands) are a big deal,” he said. “It’s important to have them load tested on schedule.”

He added that he’s come across some jack stands in the past that were either past their load test date or weren’t load tested at all.

“A soldier working under a vehicle with substandard jack stands could be killed.”

Soldiers that move around atop, as well as operate the vehicles, are also at risk for safety-related injuries.

“Slips, trips and falls are the very common amongst Soldiers in any unit,” he said, adding that a single Joint Readiness Training Center rotation (in 2004) had 24 (slips, trips and falls) that led to injury.

In Dec. 2003, on Fort Stewart during Spartan Focus, a Soldier was jumping from an M1A2 Abrams Tank when the back of his shirt got caught on the tank, and caused a serious injury to his back.

“There are people who like to work on or over a vehicle without maintaining three points of contact,” Champion said. “It’s not until they’re injured that wish they had.”

Topping wheeled vehicle safety concerns is the chock block. “I can’t stress enough the importance of putting down a chock block when you park your vehicle – especially on an incline or decline,” Champion said. “Depending on how steep the grade is, two may be required.”

He added that you can substitute any solid, stable, heavy object for a chock block if one isn’t

available or two are necessary, and advised, “Just make sure one is securing a front wheel and the other securing a rear wheel ... on the side of the down slope.”

An aspect of motor pool safety to be taken just as seriously, according to Champion, is environmental

safety. A vehicle’s drip pan can prevent leaks from providing the Environmental Protection Agency with greater job security.

“Spills and leaks are hassles, but most in a motor pool are preventable,” Champion said. “If you don’t have a drip pan, you can use a cardboard box with three trash bags and some sand at the bottom.”

Champion is convinced that soldiers want to do the right thing, and often times don’t realize when they’re not.

“You have to always think safety and, when in doubt, ask your supervisor – your (noncommissioned officer) – that’s what they’re there for.”

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**“A soldier working under a vehicle with substandard jack stands could be killed.”**

Sam Champion  
2nd Bde. former safety specialist

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# Iraqi Cultural Tips

## Do This

Shake hands gently in greeting and departure, always with your right hand.

(Males) Respond to a woman's greeting only when she initiates contact.

Be patient; the Iraqi approach to time is slow and relaxed.

In Iraqi homes, try all food offered to you, even if in small portions.

As a guest, be gracious; do not appear anxious to leave.

## Don't Do This

Use your left hand for contact with others, eating or gestures; considered unclean.

(Males) Show women attention by addressing, touching or staring at them.

Point with a finger; point with your entire hand instead.

Make the "OK" or "thumbs up" signs; they're considered obscene.

Engage in religious debate. Never offer a Muslim alcohol or pork.

## Spartan soldiers' mailing address in Iraq

**PVT John Q. Doe  
PLT, CO, BN, 2nd BDE, 3 ID  
APO AE 09380**

DO NOT list the name of the servicemember's forward operating base.

For units below the company level who are task organized at a FOB away from their parent company: That unit should adopt the mailing address of the company to which they are task organized.