



# 'Sledgehammer' assumes authority

Story and photos by Spc. Natalie Loucks  
3rd BCT PAO

After several weeks training during a detailed relief in place, the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division assumed military authority of the Iraq province of Diyala.

A transfer of authority ceremony took place Feb. 17 at Forward Operating Base Normandy.

The 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, of the 3rd BCT, transferred command of FOB Normandy from 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade 1st Infantry Division who will make their way back to Vilsek, Germany.

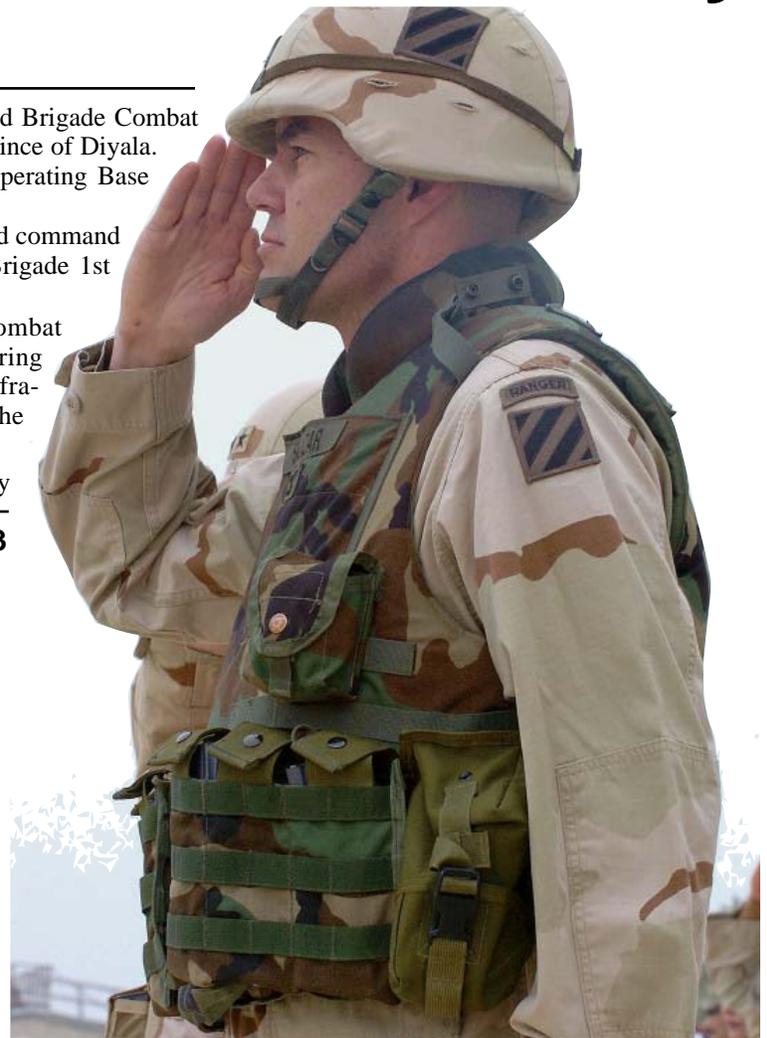
The departing unit, the "Ramrods," conducted over 1,000 combat patrols and operations to interdict and destroy Anti-Iraqi Forces during OIF II. Over \$5 million was spent on projects to improve the Iraqi infrastructure and quality of life. Over \$3 million was spent to improve the security forces in Iraq.

The 1-30 Infantry "Battle Boars," arrived at FOB Normandy

See 3RD BCT, Pg. 3



Unit guidons are lowered in salute during the playing of the National Anthem at the transfer of authority ceremony, Feb. 21, at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq.



Col. Steven Salazar, the 3rd BCT, 3rd Infantry Division commander, salutes the commander of the outgoing unit during the TOA Feb. 21.

# Keeping CMOC 'up on net'

Story and photo by  
Sgt. Joseph Skelly

411th Civil Affairs Battalion

In the U.S. we all recall the famous telephone refrain that encouraged us to "reach out and touch someone." In Iraq, members of 2nd Platoon, Company A, 3rd Brigade Troops Battalion, stationed at the Civil-Military Operations Center in Baquba are helping their fellow Soldiers to do just that.

They have brought with them an array of state-of-the-art equipment, and a commitment to their mission, that will make it easier for the fighting men and women of the "3rd of the 3rd" to shoot, move and communicate. Their dedication is a reminder of the vital role that signal units play in any theater of operations. Communications networks, after all, are the invisible circulatory system of the military. Across these interlocking patterns of microwave capillaries and short-wave arteries flows a lifeblood of data essential to the Army's mission.

The Soldiers of 2nd Platoon

are keeping these channels open. Their efforts, in short, are allowing the troops of the 3rd Infantry Division scattered across the province of Diyala to reach out and touch someone.

There are two commo teams at the CMOC, the small extension node, and the retransmission cell.

The mission of a SEN is to link voice and data streams from its location, whether that is the desert, the mountains or, in this case, an urban environment, with the larger communications network in the area of operations.

Pvt. Amanda Jarosz and Spc. Candice Osborn are making this happen. These two Soldiers are multi-channel transmission systems operators. Jarosz is from Cullman, Ala., and is stationed at Fort Benning.

On a recent day in Baquba, while activity swirled all around her, she was calmly "working the shot in," as she describes it, a commo lexicon for sending a signal from a line-of-site antenna to a node center several miles away. This presence of mind has enabled Jarosz and her colleagues

on the SEN team to achieve several important objectives in a short amount of time; they have transported and set up a large amount of sophisticated equipment, raised voice and data commo, and maintained their soldiering skills in a challenging environment.

Osborn has contributed to this effort. Hailing from Fort Worth, Texas, she has served in the Army for two years. She works long hours in the SEN trucks so that her fellow troops in Baquba can reach out and touch other Soldiers in Eastern Iraq at any time of the day or night. She is also soaking up the history of the country and learning some Arabic which will help her communicate with local nationals. This extra effort complements the mission of the CMOC, which, among other things, serves as an interface between the Army and the Iraqi civilian population in the region. Her interest in Iraqi culture highlights the versatility of the American Soldier. It will surely help her communicate more about Iraq to her friends and family when she returns to the U.S.

At another site on the compound the retransmission cell can be found hard at work. The core of its equipment consists of a series of inter-connected radio receivers. These inter-linked retransmission units push out the range of the central node in a brigade level radio system, allowing it to both send and receive signals over greater distances. This critical asset provides commanders on the ground with access to information throughout and beyond the margins of their areas of operation, thus giving them more tactical options.

Private 1st Class Kevin

Hulsebus and Sgt. Cedric King know this system very well. They are retransmission operators at the CMOC, where they diligently monitor radio traffic across the regional battle space. Hulsebus grew up in Wisconsin and calls Fort Benning home when he is in the U.S. He is in Iraq, he recently said, "helping to rebuild the country," and his important work will do just that by allowing Soldiers in Diyala to communicate more effectively with one another. The same holds true for King, the team chief, who works double-time, serving as a radio transmission operator and pulling maintenance on the equipment.



**SKELLY**  
411th Civil Affairs Bn.

He and his Soldiers play a crucial role in Baquba, he rightly pointed out, by "providing commo support for most of the CMOC staff."

King and the other members of the signal team at the CMOC are making an indispensable contribution to the mission of the 3rd ID in Iraq. They are experts in their chosen line of work. They keep the communications network, the hidden circulatory system of the Army, operating at top speed. In the U.S., when we want to call one of our friends we just reach for our cell phones. In Iraq, Soldiers depend on radios, transmitters and satellites to reach out and touch someone. In Baquba, the troops of 2nd Platoon are making that possible. They are making all of the right connections. ☑

*(Editor's note; Skelly is a college professor in New York City, serving in Iraq with the 411th Civil Affairs Army Reserve Bn.)*



**Spc. Candice Osborn and Pvt. Amanda Jarosz stand outside at the CMOC. Their signal platoon is responsible for keeping the CMOC 'on the net.'**

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# 3rd BCT to continue role

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early February.

"We look forward to continuing the great relationships and forward progresses you have made," said Lt. Col. Roger Cloutier, 1-30 Battalion Commander to the outgoing troops of 2-2 Infantry.

The 2nd Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, 3rd BCT, 1st ID resigned their command of FOB Scunion Feb. 18 and 2nd Battalion, 69th Armored Regiment acquired the command of the camp.

The 2-63 Armor deployed to the Middle East in support of OIF II in February of 2004 as part of Task Force Danger and assumed control of the Khalis Qada in the Diyala Province of Iraq.

2005 marks the second deployment to Iraq for the arriv-

ing 2-69 Armor. The unit played a key role in OIF I when they led the 3rd Infantry Division's attack into Iraq after a 25 day trip into Baghdad.

2-69 Armor arrived to FOB Scunion early February.

Control of the Diyala province and FOB Warhorse was given over to Col. Steven Salazar, the commander of 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division on Feb. 21.

"Diyala has an important role in the future of Iraq," Salazar said. "The forces of good and evil struggle here but the people of Diyala have clearly spoken. They reject violence and oppression and they have hoped for a brighter future for their children and grandchildren."

The departing unit, 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division has lost 36 Soldiers during their deployment to OIF II.



**Soldiers of the "Big Red One," 3rd BCT, 1st Infantry Division, listen to Col. Dana Pittard's remarks during the TOA at Forward Operating Base Warhorse. Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, the 42nd ID commander, was guest speaker for the event.**

"Thank you, Dukes, for all you have done for the people of Diyala and all you have done to ensure the Sledgehammer team is

ready to nourish the seeds of freedom that you have helped sow," Salazar said to the Soldiers of 3rd BCT, 1st Infantry Division. [Z](#)

# Ties reach all the way to Iraq

*Three families reunite in the most unlikely of places*

Story and photo by Capt. Phil Lacasse

HHC 2-34 Armor, 1st Infantry Division

North-central Iraq is not the most likely location for a family reunion, but for Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Ladisic, of Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment from the 1st Infantry Division out of Fort Riley, Kan., deployment to Iraq as a member of the 34th Armor has turned into just that.

Ladisic, who hails from Beallsville, Penn., has met up with not one but two close family members in Iraq. His cousin, 1st Sgt. Christopher Rafferty, is the First Sergeant of Company C, 82nd Engineer Battalion. Task Force 82nd Engineers has been deployed to Iraq for the past year and is on the verge of being relieved by 2-34 Armor in the coming days.

Meanwhile, Ladisic's younger brother, Spc. Joseph Ladisic, recently deployed to Iraq as a member of the 114th Cavalry, part of the Pennsylvania National Guard. The two brothers will be less than 50 miles from each other during their respective deployments.

It is unlikely, however, that they will be spending much time with each other.

Jeffrey Ladisic will find employment throughout the year as the platoon sergeant for



**1st Sgt. Christopher Rafferty, of Company C, 82nd Engineer Battalion, and Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Ladisic, of Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, stop for a photo at Forward Operating Base Gabe, located in Iraq's Diyala province.**

the personal security detail for Lt. Col. Oscar Hall IV, the battalion commander of the 2-34 Armor. As such, Ladisic will accompany Hall wherever he goes and will be responsible for the conduct and employment of the security

force, both while on security missions and around the Forward Operating Base Gabe, where the battalion is headquartered.

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# Family shares time in Iraq

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Rafferty has spent the past year the company First Sergeant for a combat Engineer company. He has been responsible for approximately 80 Soldiers throughout the past year.

Joseph Ladisic is currently assigned as a Scout platoon gunner and will spend the year conducting stability and support operations that will include patrols, convoy escort missions, and raids.

Jeffrey Ladisic is not the only member of the 2-34 Armor who has a close family member in theater. 1st Sgt. Jeff Lytle, company First Sergeant for HHC, 2-34 Armor, has a son who is currently a member of the 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment located in Baghdad. Additionally, Spc. Billy Alexander and Spc. Greg Alexander, both of Colorado Springs, Colo., are in Iraq together. Billy Alexander is assigned to HHC 2-34 Armor while Greg Alexander is assigned to HHC 2-70 Armor in Baghdad. 

## Election Day in Iraq: The Day of Days

Story and photo by  
**Maj. Benedict Conboy**  
CMOC Commander,  
411th Civil Affairs Battalion

As the world watched the first steps of Iraqi democracy unfolding on Sunday, Jan. 30th, they didn't see the vast preparation by American Soldiers, especially its citizen Soldiers.

In Baqubah, a large and contested city 35 miles north-east of Baghdad, two Civil Affairs Soldiers from the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion worked in support of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. Sgt. 1st Class Brian Coons and Sgt. Kiel Goodian combined their civilian and Soldier skills to midwife the birth of Iraq's democracy.

Coons, a city planner from Poughkeepsie, New York, brought over 16 years of military service to his assignment as the Non-Commissioned Officer-In-Charge of the Civil Military Operations Center in Baqubah.

Goodian, a college student from Minnesota, volunteered for Operation Iraqi Freedom five months after returning from Afghanistan and was anxious to be a part of this crucial event.

The day before the election was dedicated to pre-mission checks. It was pervaded by the solemn quiet before the inevitable storm that Soldiers have experienced from Bunker Hill, Gettysburg, and Normandy, through today. Testing the weapons systems, performing

vehicle maintenance, and conducting radio checks consumed Coons and Goodian all day. Both drew from their NCO and Civil Affairs training to insure they were ready to assist in the delivery and recovery of voter ballots.

Shortly after dark on Feb. 29, Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team rolled into the CMOC compound. The steady roar from the Humvee's accompanied the sound of distant artillery as the citizen Soldiers joined the convoy. Throughout the night, both Coons and Goodian moved with the convoy to help local Iraqis disperse ballots to polling locations in Baqubah.

At dawn, an unusual hush filled the air as the streets of a city with over 400,000 inhabitants were empty of vehicle or pedestrian traffic. Performing what could be best described as the quintessential Civil Affairs mission of their generation, Coons and Goodian went from polling site to polling site to monitor and report voter turnout.

The early afternoon brought the long anticipated result: numerous civilians walked to the polling sites. Men and women brought their children to watch. Many, dressed in their best and most western style fashion, smiled and waved to the Soldiers driving through their neighborhoods.

"The faces of the voters

## Brigade lawyer defines disrespect

**Maj. John Moore**

3rd BCT Staff Judge Advocate



**'I get no respect!'**

**-Rodney Dangerfield**  
Actor, Comedian

Too bad for Rodney. Had he joined the Army and earned some rank, he would never have had this problem.

He would have taken advantage of laws and customs of the service that, under most circumstances, would have entitled him to respect, and even obedience!

Rodney could have taken the officer, warrant officer or noncommissioned officer career route to overcome his problem. The military gives its higher ranks special protections that the civilian world does not. The Supreme Court noted in the case *Parker v. Levy* in 1974 that "the military is, by necessity, a specialized society," and "the consequent necessity for imposition of discipline, may render permissible within the military that which would be constitutionally impermissible outside it."

(*Parker v. Levy*, 417 U.S. 733, 743,758). A good example of this is telling off the boss. As a civilian, if you get passed over for a raise, you can quit and give your supervisor the one-fingered salute and cuss him out as you walk out the door. Not a smart thing to do, but not illegal.

Articles 89 and 91 under the Uniform Code of Military Justice criminalize such instances of disrespect by subordinates toward officers (Article 89) and warrant or noncommissioned officers (Article 91). Common to both Articles is the definition of "disrespect." Disrespect is mainly behavior that "detracts from the respect due the authority and person" of the officer or NCO. *Article 89, UCMJ, paragraph c(3)*. There is disrespect by words, and disrespect by acts that show a "marked disdain, indifference, insolence, impertinence, undue familiarity, or other rudeness." *Article 89, UCMJ, paragraph c(3)*.

What are the differences between the two Articles? Do these differences mean that an officer is entitled to more respect than an NCO? No! The differences lie in the maximum confinement you can get if convicted. You can get up to a year for disrespect to a commissioned officer, nine months to a warrant officer, and six months to a noncommis-



**MOORE**  
3rd BCT SJA



**Sgt. 1st Class Brian Coons and Sgt. Kiel Goodian stand outside the Civil Military Operation Center in downtown Baquba. Coons and Goodian, both National Guardsmen, brought a unique blend of civilian and military experience to the elections.**

See ELECTION, Pg. 5

See DISRESPECT, Pg. 5

# Election Day in Iraq: 'a Day of Redemption' for Citizens

Continued from Pg. 4

were filled with optimism and hope. It was now evident that many were eager for a new beginning and a better way of life," Coons said.

The strong presence of American ground troops and low flying fighter jets signaled to friend and foe alike that the Iraqi people were not going to be intimidated. Months of coalition sacrifice and planning were validated with each vote.

As night fell, their work was far from over. Insurgents were determined to keep the ballots from reaching their destinations to be

counted. Both stayed with their active duty counterparts to help recover and transport ballot slips. Large diesel trucks filled with pallets of voting ballots made their way through the streets to the designated collection point. While proceeding into an area of Baqubah, which experienced high voter turnout, their convoy was hit by a well-coordinated attack by insurgents using mortars and rocket-propelled grenade launchers. Coons and Goodian witnessed the Coalition response, as Bradley Fighting Vehicles cut loose on a palm grove, providing cover and concealment to the enemies of Iraq's freedom.

Some 36 hours later, Coons and Goodian, cold, hungry, and exhausted, returned to the

CMOC for their well-deserved respite. Goodian knows that all of the hard work has paid off.

"After months of watching Iraqis suffer in the face of an insurgency, there has finally been a day of redemption for the general population of Iraq," he said.

These two citizen Soldiers were warriors in the continuing battle for Iraq's freedom. Like the other citizen Soldiers who represent 40% of total American forces in Iraq, they knew that Iraq's initial vote was critical for all future voting. Being cold, hungry and tired could never replace the feelings of accomplishment and victory at this crucial time and place in world history. **[Z]**

## The *buzz* on bugs

By Capt. Mark Hayden

3rd BCT Medical Ops. Officer

As the warm weather approaches, you can almost hear the buzz of excitement from hungry sand flies and mosquitoes. The balmy conditions and plentiful water provided by the canals make the Sledgehammer Area of Operations a paradise for insects. However, with a little prevention, you can stave off these bugs and the diseases they carry.

So why do these varmints bite humans so unmercifully? Adult female mosquitoes and sand flies need our blood to mature their eggs (the males don't bite). Nature has adapted these insects so that they are sensitive to temperature and are drawn to humans and other animals with high body temperature. Additionally, mosquitoes are attracted by the carbon dioxide that we breathe out.

Currently one of the biggest medical threats in the Sledgehammer AO is contracting Leishmaniasis. Leishmaniasis is a parasitic disease spread by the bite of infected sand flies. There are several different forms of Leishmaniasis. The most common form of the infection causes skin sores that can take weeks or even months to heal. The most

serious form affects the body's internal organs, including the spleen, liver and bone marrow. Leishmaniasis is endemic to Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan, and other places in the Middle East. The sand fly season in Iraq is from April through November and peaks in September/October. While effective treatment is available, prevention remains the best option.

There is no vaccine and no medication that protects against Leishmaniasis, but by taking the following precautions, you can prevent insect borne diseases:

Limit outdoor activity at dusk and during the evening, when sand flies and mosquitoes are most active.

Wear uniforms that have been treated with permethrin (the "shake and bake" kits provide protection for 50 weeks or 50 washings).

Apply insect repellent to exposed skin that contains at least 30% DEET.

Use a permethrin treated bed net over your sleeping area.

Use fans in living areas to increase air movement.

The bugs are out there and they are looking for you. But by taking a few simple precautions, you can keep from being on their dinner menu. **[Z]**

## Disrespect explained

Continued from Pg. 4

sioned officer. Also, the warrant or noncommissioned officer must be "in the execution of his or her office" for the offense to lie. Here in Operation Iraqi Freedom III, this means nothing because the law recognizes that superiors are always in the execution of their office while deployed. Even at home base, an NCO or warrant officer is in the execution of office nearly all the time.

Before you start thinking that NCOs get deprived under the UCMJ, Article 91 tells us that you don't have to be a superior NCO to enjoy the protections against disrespect. Officers must be superior in rank or command. Let's say that Sgt. Buck, a fresh Primary Leadership Development Course graduate, is leading physical training and keeps counting "zero" on the pushups because the Soldiers are not performing to standard. If Sgt. 1st Class Smoke gets disgusted and yells out, "Up yours, Sarge," he has committed disrespect even though he outranks the buck sergeant he insulted.

Getting back to that example in the second paragraph. We all know that you can't flip-off, moon, or swear at your boss in the Army. But what about the less obvious instances that constitute disrespect under Articles 89 and 91? Here are some examples of instances that the Army Court of Criminal Appeals and Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces found to constitute disrespect:

Subordinate said to female NCO, "Hi, sweetheart."

Eye rolling.

Failing to salute, then after correction, saluting and saying, "There you

are, Sir, whatever makes you happy."

Accused stops talking when told "At ease" by NCO, but shakes his head with impatience while the NCO counsels him.

Subordinate turns and walks away from superior who is talking to him

"Keep your g—d mouth shut you field grade S.O.B."

All right, so that last one was obvious.

Now, I know what some of you Port-a-Potty Attorneys are thinking. If the superior acts like a jerk, the Soldier can disrespect him and get away with it. Yeah, you're thinking of divestiture. While it is true that an obnoxious superior can lose the protection of Articles 89 and 91, it is only when his or her behavior is a "substantial departure from the required standards of conduct." Article 89, paragraph c (5). The appeals courts have given some examples of "divestiture:"

-Striking accused

-Racial slurs

-Open sexual harassment

-Inviting accused to fight

-Officer serving as bartender at an enlisted men's party

The behavior has to be extreme. This means that, if the superior becomes impatient or emphatic, or even uses some profanity, no divestiture.

The best way is for both superiors and subordinates to prevent these problems before they start. Each should size up the situation and try not to place the other in a bad position.

This office will arrange to lead Officer Professional Developments and NCOPDs on this and other legal topics upon request. **[Z]**

# Iraqi government officials meet for Unity Day summit

Story and photos by Spc. Natalie Loucks

3rd BCT PAO

A Unity Day summit was held Feb. 19 in downtown Baquba, Iraq, at the Provincial Government Center, also known as the "Blue Dome."

The conference was held to gather key leaders in the Diyala province together to express views on violence and security within the community and to move the peace process forward.

The goal of the meeting was to do all this in a healthy, violence free environment.

Among the many community leaders, Iraqi and U.S. military personnel who attended the meeting were Brig. Gen. Ha'ad Altimimy, commander of the 32nd Iraqi Army Brigade, and the Governor of the Diyala Province, Abdullah Rasheed Hassan Aljaboary, Col. Dana Pittard, the commander of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division and



**Brig. Gen. Ha'ad Altimimy, of the Iraqi Army speaks at the Unity Day press conference Feb. 19 at the Diyala provincial government center located in Baquba, Iraq. The conference was held to bring community leaders together to discuss issues concerning the Diyala Province.**



*Photo by Maj. Michael Charlebois*  
**Above, The "Blue Dome" is the civic center of the Diyala provincial government. It houses the offices of the governor of Baquba and the commander of the Iraqi Army.**

**Left, Soldiers of the Iraqi Army are offered coffee before the Unity Day press conference at the Blue Dome, in downtown Baquba.**

Col. Steven Salazar, the commander of the 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division. Other elected officials and religious leaders were also involved.

The two senior Army leaders were involved only to offer advice, answer questions and stress that the United States Army is here to support the Iraqi Government.

After the summit, attendees moved to a press conference held in the main conference room of the Blue Dome. At the conference, Ha'ad spoke to his subordinate commanders on topics relating to the interaction of its soldiers to the Iraqi people at the many check points located in and around Baquba.

"The Iraqi Army is coming to serve the people, not to harm them", Ha'ad said. "The people should be treated with respect."

Also mentioned by Ha'ad, was the importance of covering the soldiers faces to conceal their identity. With enemy still within the community, a soldier must not be recognized for the safety of themselves and their families.

There have been three previous gatherings of this type. Two "Peace Days" and one "Forgiveness Day" have already taken place in the Diyala Province.

The leaders of both the U.S. and Iraqi military were pleased at the turnout of Unity Day.

There was one vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated the morning of the conference resulting in the death of one Iraqi soldier and wounding two others.

It has not been said if the VBIED was intended for the Unity Day summit. 





# BCT mourns fallen Soldier

By Mick Walsh and Angelique Soenarie

Columbus-Ledger Enquirer

After a particularly grueling training exercise last spring, one that included a 12-mile road march and a test of his hand-to-hand combative skills, a tired Sgt. 1st Class David Salie summed up his afternoon's work for an Army reporter.

"This is the best job in the world," he said. "I'm 33 years old, I get to fight and shoot things and blow stuff up."

That, said Deanna Salie, "sounds just like my husband. He definitely loved the Army."

Few Soldiers epitomized the Army's Warrior Ethos spirit better than Salie, who stood 6 feet, 5

inches tall.

That's why it was so difficult for his family and friends to accept the fact that Salie, 34, became the 3rd Brigade Combat Team's first casualty Feb. 14.

The Humvee in which he was riding was hit by an improvised explosive device, killing him and injuring three others near Baquba.

"Oh, my God," Deanna said Wednesday, "I can't begin to tell you my feelings right now."

The couple have three children; 11-year-old daughter Chyna, a student at Fort Benning's Faith Middle School; 6-year-old son Luke, a student at Stowers Elementary; and 2-year-old son Hunter. David Salie also has a daughter from a previous marriage, Haley, 12.

"The youngest ones are taking it OK," Deanna said from her home on post. "The oldest is handling it as best she can. But I don't think it's sunk in yet."

During the Warrior Ethos exercise last April, Salie, who was born and raised in Columbus, was a member of Company B, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, on Kelley Hill. But when he was deployed to Iraq last month, he was with the 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment.

"He felt pretty good about his unit," Deanna said. "He respected the colonel (commander Lt. Col. Rob Roggeman) and liked the guys in his company."

It's not lost on Deanna that her husband was killed on Valentine's Day.

He sent me a card from Kuwait, one that showed a couple of elderly people on the front porch. He said that he had limited choices at the store over there."

Deanna received the news of her husband's death the evening of the 14th. She in turn personally notified his



**SGT. 1ST CLASS DAVID SALIE**  
2nd platoon, Company B, 2-69 Armor

father and mother, former Columbus police officer Jim Salie and Patricia Miers. Her own mother, Toni Brown, lived with David and Deanna for the past year.

"I couldn't be hurting more if he was my own son," Toni Brown said. "We're all taking it pretty hard. Especially my daughter."

Lt. Bill Rawn of the Columbus Police Department learned of Salie's death Feb. 15. "I know his dad and mother must be crushed," said Rawn, who has helped start a fund-raiser for David Salie's family.

"Jim, his dad, is one of ours and a police officer who was hurt in the line of duty," Rawn said. "A lot of people in this town know Jim and (his wife) Peggy and can feel their loss."

Jim Salie is a former Soldier

**See FAMILY, Pg. 8**



**A Soldier in the 3rd BCT Honor Guard mourns the loss of Salie during the ceremony dedicated in his honor.**



**Soldiers of the 3rd BCT, render their final honors at the memorial service honoring Salie's military service Feb. 18 at FOB Gabe.**

# 1-15 Soldier killed

By Mick Walsh  
Columbus-Ledger Enquirer

It wasn't until the conversation turned to the Red Blur — that's what folks in Mansfield, Mo., called Spc. Justin Carter's Toyota Tacoma — that Carter's stepfather, Brett Misemer, lost control of his emotions.

"Everybody in town knew Justin and his truck, everybody," said the 40-year-old Misemer, who was told Wednesday that his stepson, and huntin' buddy, had died in an apparent accident while serving his country in Iraq.

Carter, 21, was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, now serving as part of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team in Operation Iraqi Freedom III.

The family was told that Carter, a combat engineer, was killed in an explosion in his unit's arms room.

"But they said the investigation would take between 30 and 60 days," said Misemer, a helicopter mechanic in Mansfield, a town of 1,349 in the heart of the Ozarks and the place where Laura Ingalls Wilder wrote many of her famous books.

Gretchen Misemer, Carter's grandmother, said her son and his wife, Becky, have taken the news of Carter's death "pretty hard."

"They're dealing with it minute to minute, hour to hour," she said. "It's particularly tough since Justin was their only child."

Carter entered the Army a few months after graduating from Mansfield High in 2002, where he was active in the Future Farmers of America chapter.

He went with the family's blessing. "It's what he wanted to do and neither Becky nor I want-

ed to stand in his way," said Misemer.

After basic training at nearby Fort Leonard Wood, he spent a year in South Korea before being reassigned to the 1-15 at Fort Benning.

"He loved it down there," said his grandmother. "At Thanksgiving, he brought five of the young men from his barracks here for the holidays. They had a great time and talked a lot about their orders to go to Iraq."



**SPC. JUSTIN CARTER**

HQs platoon, Company E, 1-15 Infantry

The 1-15 left Lawson Army Airfield in mid-January and arrived in Iraq from Kuwait in early February.

"He called us from his new base on Saturday," said Gretchen Misemer, and "told us he'd soon be getting an e-mail address." Carter was serving at Forward Operating Base McKenzie at the time of his death.

"I'll tell you one thing — my son, and that's what I considered him to be, lived his life to the fullest," said Misemer.

Though funeral arrangements are incomplete, he will be buried in the family cemetery. ☑

# Memorial service held for 1-30 Soldier

By Spc. Natalie Loucks  
3rd BCT PAO

A very emotional memorial ceremony was held February 27, at Forward Operating Base Normandy, Iraq.

The service was to honor the fallen Cpl. Jacob Palmatier whose life ended February 24, when an improvised explosive device hit his vehicle as he was conducting a combat operation with his unit.

Palmatier was serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom III as the noncommissioned officer in charge of the electronic military personal office of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, in Maqadadiyah, Iraq at FOB Normandy.

Emotions ran high as colleagues and friends recounted special times shared with Palmatier.

1st Lt. David Suttles, 1-30 Infantry S-1, recalled a situation where Palmatier was sent out to buy four 1st Lt. ranks that were a crucial part of a promotion ceremony. No 1st Lt. rank was available for purchase. Determined to complete the mission, Palmatier used the money given to him and purchased four 2nd Lt. ranks and a black marker.

"He was resourceful and crucial to all S-1 operations," Suttles said. "Cpl. Palmatier never refused to grant a favor and was always willing to help no matter what the situation was."

The 29-year-old American Soldier earned his bachelors degree in History from Illinois College before raising his right hand and enlisting in the U.S.

Army August 6, 2002 as an Infantryman.

During his two-and-a-half years in the military, Palmatier earned many awards including the Purple Heart Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Korean Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, National



**CPL. JACOB PALMATIER**

S-1, HHC, 1-30 Infantry

Defense Service Medal and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Bridget Palmatier, Jacob's surviving wife, is grateful of the encouragement she has received.

"Please thank all the Soldiers and families that have provided support and comfort during this difficult hour."

In all the heartbreak she feels, Bridget Palmatier still has the Soldiers fighting for Operation Iraqi Freedom III in her thoughts.

"It's about the Soldiers that are still there getting the job done," she said. "They are in my prayers and I hope and pray that they come home safely. ☑

# Family feels loss

Continued from Pg. 7

who served in the first Gulf War in 1990, assigned to 3rd Army Headquarters. David also served in that war, with the 82nd Airborne.

"You hear about people dying but you don't know the full force of it until it happens

to you," Jim Salie said. "But his sacrifice will not be in vain."

Brian Salie, Dave's younger brother, who is stationed with the Army in Baghdad, will accompany his brother's body back to Columbus. ☑

(Editor's note; Salie was a platoon sergeant for Company B, 2-69 Armor.)

The Hammer Times will accept your stories and photos! Submit your stories digitally by emailing the Editor at sean.riley@us.army.mil. Submissions should be single spaced, non-tab format and are subject to editing of content by the Hammer Times staff. Ensure all identification used in stories includes rank, first name, last name, duty position, hometown and unit. When submitting photos, please submit with information on all people in the shot. DO NOT embed photographs into the story! Send them separate please. Please include author's point of contact information will all submissions. ☑

# New democracy, new freedoms

By Spc. Natalie Loucks  
3rd BCT PAO

Exercising the freedom that President Bush promised them, nearly 1,000 students from a University in Baquba, Iraq participated in a Feb. 23 protest that began east of the Civil Military Operation Center on Highway 5 in downtown Baquba and moved toward the Provincial Government Center.

The motivation for the protest was for students to speak out against the decision of Prime Minister Ayad Al-Alawi to establish Saturday as a day off for all government offices.

The protesters are familiar with Saturday as the Jewish Sabbath and do not want to consider it an Iraqi government holiday as well, according to Capt. Greg Szulis, Iraqi Police Coordinator working at the Joint Coalition Command in downtown Baquba.

The protesters would like to see Thursday become the day of holiday because that is a typical day of weddings and celebration in the Iraqi Culture, according to Maj. Dean Wollen, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division S-6.

The group is from the Iraqi Youth and Student Association and planned the protest a week in advance by handing out banners for the participants to carry, Wollen said.

Three students were invited by the Iraqi police to speak with coalition forces on the events of the day. All of the students said they were supportive of coalition forces in Iraq.

Jhazan, a 20-year-old student, of Baquba said he was applying his freedom.

Wollen said the demonstration proved to the people of Iraq they can have a peaceful protest and express their views. He expects more demonstrations of democracy from the Iraqi people. The freedom of demonstration is



Courtesy photo

**A photo taken by an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle of a group of protesters shows the 'Blue Dome' provincial government center compound and the street they gathered on. Nearly 1,000 Iraqi college students protested a decision by Prime Minister Ayad Al-Alawi to establish Saturday as a day off for government offices. The students excersized their new-found freedom to express their dislike of the decision.**

something the people of Iraq have never been able to practice.

Yaz, a 20-year-old student, of Majidiyah and Ibrahim, 17, of Baquba said remaining peaceful and respectful was important to the protest and felt they were mistreated by the Iraqi Police and the Iraqi Army.

As part of the protest, students plan to take off of school on Thursday and go to school on Saturday.

There were no reported casualties during the protest.

"I think it's a success story for the democracy beginning to grow in Iraq," Wollen said. [Z]

## Busting Track

**Private 1st Class Kenneth Thompson, Company B, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, changes a track on a Bradley Fighting Vehicle in preperation for combat missions Feb. 25 on FOB Warhorse. Maintainance on all military combat equipment is critical. A successful mission begins with equipment working properly.**

