



Vol. 1, Issue 4

Published for the Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division and Task Force Liberty

April 15, 2005

# SECURING THE FUTURE:

3rd BCT's 'Dragon'  
Battalion trains  
Iraq's 203rd  
Company

Read the story on page 2



*Photo by Spc. Natalie Loucks*

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# Ad Duluiyah army company trained by Task Force 1-15

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

FOB MACKENZIE, Iraq -- "The soldiers are doing great; they have come a long way," Staff Sgt. George Orange, Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of Obstacles Section, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Liberty, said as he watched

the 203rd Iraqi Army company soldiers execute a stack maneuver as they prepared to enter a mock building looking for "Ali Baba," a nickname given to the fictitious enemy.

The goal of the American Soldiers of Task Force 1-15 Infantry is simple: train the Iraqi Army company to be able to handle the security of the city of Ad Duluiyah.

This 'simple' objective cannot be accomplished

without the hard work, determination and cooperation of both the American Soldiers of TF 1-15 Inf. and the 203rd IA company.

"They know why we are here," Orange said. "They are willing to work with us for one common purpose ... to get rid of all of the insurgents."

Orange said training is conducted to the same standards as the U.S. Soldiers are held to.

Orange explained the IA soldiers conducted raids, patrol formations; like wedges, reactions to enemy contact, and area security. The training site has ranges and a mock building built and used to train the IA soldiers on techniques used to search and clear rooms.

The U.S. instructors take their Iraqi counterparts though the training exercise step-by-step. Once the concept of the exercise is grasped, the soldiers will run through what they have just learned.

"Since they have been training, their patrols have gotten a lot better," Orange said. "They've improved so much; they are more confident in what they are doing."

The IA company conducts training at the Joint Coalition Center directly outside the main gate of Forward Operating Base Mackenzie.

Orange said the soldiers are ahead of their training schedule and are presently conducting training missions that were originally scheduled for August through October.

"The 3rd Brigade Combat Team has stepped it up a notch and is conducting advanced training with these (203rd IA) soldiers."



**Iraqi Army soldiers of the 203rd Iraqi Army Company provide security, and execute a 'stack' formation under the watchful eyes of their 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Task Force Liberty, instructors at Forward Operating Base Mackenzie, Iraq. The IA soldiers are preparing to enter a mock building using U.S. Army techniques taught by U.S. Soldiers.**

**See ELIMINATORS, Pg. 3**

Hammer Times is published in the interest of the servicemembers of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division and Task Force Liberty. Hammer Times is an Army-funded newsletter authorized for members of the U.S. Army, under the provision of AR 360-1. Contents of the Hammer Times are not necessarily the official views of, nor endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense or Department of the Army.

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# Eliminators help Iraqi Army soldiers help themselves

Continued from Pg. 2

Not only are the Soldiers of 1-15th Infantry providing the soldiers of the 203rd IA company with the skills they need to defend their city, they are also supplying them with the latest equipment. When the soldiers look good they feel better and in turn, perform better, Orange said.

"We just got them knee pads and they love them," Orange said. "They saw the American Soldiers with them and they wanted to wear them.

"Now we just have to teach them to put the pad around their ankles when they aren't training," Orange said as he bent over to help adjust one soldier's knee pads.

Outside of training, the 203rd IA company along with Soldiers of TF 1-15 Inf. are working hand in hand to uphold the security of the city of Ad Duluiyah, the main city in the task force's area of operation.

"They pick up techniques from the American Soldiers while they are out on missions," Orange said.

Already, soldiers of the 203rd IA have found over 15 improvised explosive devices and apprehended a terrorist that held a day job as a teacher in Ad Duluiyah.

Maj. Abeb Al Karim Naji, the commander of the 203rd IA company said most of the people of Ad Duluiyah are

appreciative of the work that his soldiers are doing and respect the professional attitudes of the company and their U.S. Army counterparts.

Abeb said the supporters cooperate greatly with the military forces by providing intelligence, but he said he would like to see more cooperation from some of the tribes within the community.

The Iraqi Army company is currently over 200 soldiers strong but, despite the company's successes, he said a further 250 to 300 soldiers are necessary.

"They're doing a great job," said Abeb through an interpreter. "I greatly appreciate what the American Soldiers are doing for my company." ☑



**203rd IA soldiers practice squad movement techniques during recent lane training at FOB Mackenzie, Iraq. Soldier/instructors with 1-15 Inf., 3rd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., TF Liberty work with the 203rd IA company to help bolster the IA unit's confidence and ability to provide security and defend the nearby city of Ad Duluiyah. Since their training began, the 203rd IA company has been responsible for finding over 15 Improvised Explosive Devices and recently captured a known terrorist in the city.**



## Fresh Coffee

**Col. Steven Salazar, (left), the commander of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Task Force Liberty, Joan Klenk, (center), the Army, Air Force Exchange Service manager and Command Sgt. Major Jesse Andrews, cut the ribbon officially opening the 'Green Beans' coffee on Forward Operating Base Warhorse April 1.**

Photo by Maj. Steve Warren

## WARHORSE CHAPEL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Friday

1 to 3 p.m.  
Muslim Juma Prayer

6 to 8 p.m.  
Jewish Prayer and Fellowship

### Sunday

8 to 9 a.m.  
Early Bird Protestant – Chaplain  
(Capt.) Smith

9 to 10:30 a.m.  
Gospel – Chaplain (Capt.) Pickens

11 a.m. to Noon  
Mid-Morning Protestant – Chaplain  
(Maj.) Rauch

12:30 to 1:30 p.m.  
Latter Day Saints

1:45 to 2:45 p.m.  
Roman Catholic

8 to 9:30 p.m.  
Evening Protestant – Chaplain (Capt.)  
Smith

### Bible Study

Tuesday:  
6 to 7 p.m. at Education Center –  
Chaplain (Capt.) Pickens

Wednesday:  
7 to 8 p.m. at Warhorse Chapel-  
Chaplain (Capt.) Smith

### Mid-Week Service

Thursday:  
7 to 8 p.m. at Warhorse Chapel –  
Chaplain (Capt.) Pickens

Friday:  
10:15 p.m. – Chaplain (Capt.) Smith  
'Movie of the Week'

## Life experiences can leave their mark

By Chaplain (Capt.) Craig Ludwig  
2-34 Armor Regiment

Stains. Stains come from normal wear and tear. I have stains, you have stains.

I was putting away my uniform the other day and noticed stains. Little stains and big stains were on my pants and shirts. When you only have four uniforms, stains are bound to happen.

From a distance, you would never know they were there. The stains seemed to blend into the material. Some stains looked as if they belonged in the pattern of the uniform. Some stains looked completely out of place. I don't know where they all came from, but they were there none-the-less.

As I closely examined my uniforms, I began to reflect. I reflected upon the stains that were part of my life. We all have stains. While they are unwanted, they are there. These stains come from many places. It could be something as simple as a lie.

It can be guilt from a past relationship. These experiences have a way of leaving their mark on us. They can make us feel unclean and somewhat unwanted. They might make us have a tough time dealing with ourselves. So, what do we do with these stains? How do we get rid of them? How do we wash them out of our lives?

The stains that we have upon our lives concern our Heavenly Father. If you are dealing with past hurts and pains, take them to the Lord.

If you are dealing with guilt, ask our Heavenly Father for forgiveness.

John 1:9 tells us that "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Knowing that God has forgiven you can make a world of difference. God can cleanse us and set us free. ☑



**LUDWIG**  
2-34 Armor Chaplain

## Soldiers Honored at Ceremony

*Spc. Matthew Bane, of Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, salutes 42nd Infantry Division and Task Force Liberty Commander, Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, after being presented with a Purple Heart. Bane and others from his unit were recognized for their service during an April 9 combat patch award ceremony hosted by the commander of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Inf. Div., TF Liberty, Col. Steven Salazar, at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq. Other awardees honored during the ceremony; 1st Sgt. Jeffery Lytle, Spc. Dustin Bunce, Spc. Yance Nunez and Spc. Michael Webster, all of HHC, 2-34 Armor, and Sgt. David Michaels of Hq's 350th Finance.*

Photo by Maj. Michael Charlebois



# Sledgehammer Soldiers pour down rain

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

MUKHISA, Iraq -- Soldiers from Company B, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Task Force Liberty, along with support elements from Brigade Troops Battalion, 3rd BCT, prepared their vehicles and themselves in the darkness of the early morning April 12 at Forward Operating Base Warhorse.

The mission of Operation Hammer Rain, according to 2nd Lt. Chardon Hyde, 1st Platoon, Company B, 1-30th Infantry, was to hamper the ability of the insurgents by removing personnel that finance the insurgency or items used to make improvised explosive devices.

The task of the operation was to search houses in the town of Mukhisa and seize personnel who were considered high-value targets. These individuals are deemed high-value due to intelligence gathered from various sources that indicated they were engaging in, or preparing to engage in terrorist action.

According to Hyde, the searches conducted in the houses of Mukhisa looked for weapons and materials that have the potential to be made into lethal weapons like IEDs.

According to Iraqi law, each family in the town is allowed one AK-47 and one loaded magazine. If more than the permitted amount was found in any house, the weapons and ammo were taken.

Those who were apprehended were flex-cuffed, tested for explosive residue on their hands and face and placed in the back of M2A2 Infantry



**Private 1st class Gene Kemper, a squad designated marksman in 1st Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, observes the area as he and his fellow Soldiers prepare to take on their next objective.**

Fighting Vehicles.

According to Hyde, the weapons, any suspicious matter and the detainees were taken to FOB Normandy to be investigated.

"The severity of what they have been charged with and what they have been found guilty of decides what will happen to them," Hyde said. "What is also looked at is the information and what evidence is known about them."

Hyde was pleased with the outcome of the mission.

"Tactically, the mission went well," he said. "The Soldiers did what they were supposed to do and the support was there like it was supposed to be. Overall,

it was a good mission militarily."

Staff Sgt. Felix Cruz, a squad leader for 1st platoon, understood the mission well and knew exactly what he and his Soldiers had to do to accomplish the mission.

As the temperature rose and the day became longer Cruz and his Soldiers could feel the weight of the day beating down on their shoulders and legs, but the rising temperature and long hours did little to damping their enthusiasm. Cruz said he was very satisfied.

"The mission went well," he said. "We captured some of the personnel that were on the list. Our mission was accomplished." 



## Changing Command

**Capt. Vern Tubbs, former Commander of Company A, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Liberty, Lt. Col. Gary Brito, Battalion Commander of 1-15 Inf., and Capt. Jimmy Hathaway, the new Commander for A, 1-15 Inf., face the company guidon in preparation to change command in a ceremony held April 2 at Forward Operating Base Mackenzie, Iraq.**

Photo by Spc. Natalie Loucks

# 'Scouts Out!' Keeping roads open for all

Story and photo by  
1Lt. Christopher Distifeno  
2-34 Armor Regiment

FOB NORMANDY, Iraq -- Units deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom have quickly learned that successful units are those that can adapt to their surroundings and perform non-traditional roles while still maintaining proficiency in their core Military Occupational Specialty tasks. Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Liberty, Scout Platoon have done all of this and more while keeping Alternate Support Route Detroit, a main artery linking Baghdad with several cities in northern Iraq, open to civilian and military traffic during the recent Corps Main Support Route switch.



In stark contrast to the recent history of route Detroit, civilian and military traffic have enjoyed an unprecedented freedom of maneuver using

the Corps MSR over the last few weeks. This has been achieved by

See SURVEILLANCE, Pg. 9

## Task Force 1-15 takes hand in Ad Duluiyah council

By Spc. Natalie Loucks  
3rd BCT PAO

AD DULUIYAH, Iraq -- A city council meeting was held April 5 at the Joint Coalition Center outside of Forward Operating Base Mackenzie, for the city of Ad Duluiyah.

1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Task Force Liberty, currently resides at FOB Mackenzie and takes an active role in the construction and management of Ad Duluiyah.

Marwan Mutaab Abdullah, the mayor of Ad Duluiyah, Mohammed Khalaf Hussein, the city's Police Chief, Capt. Muhee Ali Shay, the executive officer of the 203rd Iraqi Army Company, Maldy Salah Ibrahim, the director of the JCC and key leaders of the community representing multiple tribes within the city were present at the meeting.

Members discussed topics concerning the upcoming council elections; how to incorporate the Iraqi security forces in the elections, and maintenance and security to the city.

Focuses concerning the city council elections are where they are going to be held, how the site locations will be publicized and security issues. Also, the issue of whom and how many members will be elected to represent each tribe and the people of Ad Duluiyah.

Mayor Marwan suggested the announcements to the polling sites be made by pamphlet or through mosque speakers.

Also regarding the elections, the suggestion was made for each tribe to have one representative on the council. The

mayor felt each tribe will be represented equally.

According to representatives present at the council meeting, a problem occurred in the difference in the sizes of the tribes. The larger tribes feel they should have more seats in the council.

Lt. Col. Gary Brito, Battalion Commander for 1-15th Infantry, sat in on the meeting to provide assistance and guidance where needed.

"From your heart," he said, "vote for the person who best represents all of the tribes."

Sheiks are known to hold precedence within the community and were advised to use their influence to positively affect the community.

Brito also underlined the function of the American forces in their city.

"American Soldiers are doing their job to maintain security," he said.

American forces are also doing their job to provide resources unavailable to the city to help reconstruct and improve the city conditions and quality of life, according to Capt. David Stanley, Commander of Company E, 1-15th Infantry and Iraqi Security Forces Liaison Officer.

Projects to repair and repave the roads in Ad Duluiyah and to move the JCC building to a new location — from the current 203rd Iraqi Army compound to downtown Ad Duluiyah — are underway.

Stanley said the goal of the participating Soldiers and leaders of 1-15th Infantry is to help the city leader help themselves by providing necessary capabilities required to allow the city council to make the right decision. ☑

Hammer Times will accept your stories and photos! Send your submissions digitally by emailing the Editor at sean.riley@us.army.mil, or bring them to the Public Affairs Office next to the 3rd BCT TOC on FOB Warhorse. 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 include information on all people in the shot. DO NOT embed photographs into the story! Please include author's point of contact information will all submissions. ☑

# 2-69 Armor Soldiers appreciate 'snail mail'

Story and photo by  
**Capt. Chaz Cannon**  
 2-69 Armor Regiment

FOB SCUNION, Iraq -- These days, with all of the technological improvements and advancements, "snail mail" may seem like a thing of the past to many. Not so in the 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Task Force Liberty. When the mail arrives at Forward Operating Base Scunion, usually by the truckload, Soldiers absolutely love it. Many a Soldier offers his hand in helping to unload the myriad of brown boxes and orange mail card bags. Most of the time, one of those boxes is for him.

"It's nice to hear from home every now and then in the form of a letter as

opposed to just e-mail," Capt. Carlos Moya of Headquarters, Headquarters Company 2-69 Armor remarked, adding that with "snail mail", "food and

movies come too." Although every Soldier has access to a computer, telephone, and web-cam, some still like to receive a letter made by putting pen

to paper. Many Soldiers have remarked that they enjoy re-reading letters from home during their down time. It helps to keep them focused on their family while they are in a combat zone.

"It brightens your day to know that people back home are thinking about you," said Capt. Mike Jones.

"I just think it's more personal," added 2nd Lt. Warren Withrow.

Many wives or girlfriend's send letters with their husband's or boyfriend's favorite perfume sprayed on it. At any rate, Soldiers greatly appreciate any and all "snail mail" they receive from back home. It's always a good feeling to get some recent DVD's or some junk food that is not readily available in theatre. ☑



**Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Task Force Liberty on Forward Operating Base Scunion, unload and sort a recent shipment of mail prior to distribution to recipients.**

**DRUM MAJOR**  
 31 MAR 05  
 TF 2-34 AR

**LOO:** Security  
**WHO:** D/213th IA  
**WHAT:** Destroyed insurgent attack  
**WHEN:** 20 March 2005  
**WHERE:** Al Abarra, Iraq

**WHY/SIGNIFICANCE:** D/213th IA quickly crushed a coordinated attack from insurgents in Al Abarra. The IA, without the immediate assistance of US troops, reacted to a VBIED and RPG attack. They collected themselves and stood their ground to drive away the follow on assault from the terrorists. This demonstration of military power clearly shows the progress the IA has made and its increased ability to act independently of US forces.

**BULLETED:** Bottom Left: Despite a large VBIED, the IA station and standing. Bottom Right: IA soldiers sweep away the debris in their head. Background: The Iraqi Army always stands ready to protect the citizens

# DRUM MAJORS

**TF 1-10 DRUM MAJOR**

*The Rock's Support*  
 1st BN, 10th FA

**Line of Operation:** Joint Operations  
**Who:** IPS, TF 1-10  
**What:** Flash check point  
**When:** 05 April 2005  
**Where:** IPS flash check point

**Why/Significance:** During a flash check point, the IPS helped get the IO message out. While other IPS checked vehicles, two IPS took time to hand out hand bills, stickers and posters to the local populace. The officers were happy to hand out the information. There was a positive response from the local civilians. This was a positive example of how the IPS can help get the IO message out.

**Bulleted:** IPS help get the IO message out.

الله أكبر

Each battalion submits a daily good-news story called a "Drumbeat" to the Brigade. Weekly, a distinguished panel of judges evaluates the "Drumbeat" and selects the best one, which is crowned the "Drum Major". *Hammer Times* proudly presents the "Drum Majors" for the last two weeks. ☑

# Iraqi Police learn to help themselves

Story and photo by Spc. Natalie Loucks

3rd BCT PAO

AD DULUIYAH, Iraq -- Iraqi Police personnel from the city of Ad Duluiyah line up at the firing line of the Joint Coalition Center, ready to take aim at the paper targets down range. Despite the hot weather, these policemen are motivated and eager to train.

1st Lt. Jerry Jones from Company E, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Task Force Liberty, is the Liaison officer for the Iraqi police in Ad Duluiyah, looks on, pleased with the pistol training exercise the policemen are executing.

The police officers of Ad Duluiyah police department have been training with Jones and civilian police officers from various units out of the U.S., for approximately four weeks. There are six police stations in Ad Duluiyah and each station sends personnel to train which, makes for about 350 students.

On this particular day, after sitting through a class that was taught in the chow hall of the JCC, the Iraqi policemen are learning the fundamentals of pistol marksmanship.

According to Jones, who aids in administration and planning the training for the students, the Iraqi Police know how to use the AK-47 but they are unfamiliar with the pistol.

"The pistol is a status symbol in Iraq," Jones said. "Only the important people carry pistols."

Although the ranges are a large part of training for these policemen, training consists of more than just marksmanship.

Procedures for vehicle searches, traffic control points, Iraqi Police leadership skills and first aid are also incorporated into the training, said Jerry Catron, International Police Liaison Officer out of Killeen, Texas.

Catron said he feels his job is very important to train the Iraqi police to take care of themselves and the people of the city of Ad Duluiyah. He has been here since July 2004 and said he will not leave until his mission is complete. ☑



**Capt. David Stanley, Iraqi Security Force Liaison Officer, helps an Iraqi Police student with his ammunition. (Below) An Iraqi Police Officer fires his Glock 19 at a paper target. The police officers trained on pistol marksmanship fundamentals at the same ranges used by the 203rd Iraqi Army Company in Ad Duluiyah, Iraq.**



# Surveillance, patience key to platoon's success

Continued from Pg. 6

removing the ability of the insurgents from emplacing complex and deadly Improvised Explosive Devices along the route. Denying the enemy the use of terrain has been the task of the 2-34 Armor Scout Platoon, call sign "Saber".

Before the Scout platoon had begun operations along the MSR, IED emplacement teams had freedom of movement nightly to set up some of the most deadly IEDs in all of Iraq. As a result, insurgent forces exploited this ability and posed a great threat to civilian and military traffic alike.

2-34 Armor deployed multiple assets to include sniper teams, and over watched the teams using mounted observation positions, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, Long-Range Scout Surveillance Systems and M1 tanks. Within hours of their first stake-out, the Scout platoon spotted three individuals digging and chipping away at

the roadway only 100 meters from a previous IED crater. As the sniper teams moved in to detain the enemy, the enemy escaped using their advanced knowledge of the terrain. At first this seemed like a disappointment, but after weeks of constant night operations no other emplacement teams have been spotted and no complex IEDs have been laid. It would seem as though word has spread quite quickly among the insurgents, who try to disrupt operations along the 60-kilometer MSR, as it is no longer safe to use the night as concealment for time-intensive IEDs.

The only IEDs found since the Scouts began their operations have been hastily dropped munitions. These poorly disguised bombs are obvious to even the untrained eye and are spotted well before friendly units get within dangerous range. This has kept military convoys safe and the Corps MSR open. Additionally, civilian traffic is safer and not held up for hours at messy IED blast sites.

Military construction assets can now safely move in to repair the road quickly and then move on to more rewarding projects.

Keeping the Corps MSR open has been a tedious, always demanding but never-the-less critical task not only for the Scout platoon of 2-34 Armor, but for the reconstruction of Iraq. Long nights and frequently interrupted rest periods are the norm, but despite the difficult circumstances, they have been highly successful in keeping their MSR open.

Route Detroit now belongs to the Scouts of 2-34 Armor and offers unfettered access to civilian and military traffic along one of the major commercial roads from Baghdad to the northern provinces. Continuing to over watch the MSR has made its way into the decision making cycle of the enemy, forcing him to change his tactics. As the enemy evolves, the Scout platoon will be there to stop him. ☑

## 2-69 Armor mortar platoon continues to take fight to the enemy

Story and photo by Capt. Chaz Cannon

2-69 Armor Regiment

FOB SCUNION, Iraq -- The 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Task Force Liberty, mortar section has been doing its fair share of work in the past weeks, more even than first anticipated. In a recent interview, the platoon leader, Capt. Carl Quinlan, explained that the mortar men perform several missions including; vehicle check-points, counter-mortar patrols, Iraqi Army check point inspection, and Quick Reaction Force. In addition to these requirements, they are also called on by troops from the country of Georgia to fire illumination missions, as well as HE, or high explosive missions.

The mortar platoon, usually a stable or an immobile unit, has been on the roads of Iraq much more than it anticipated. That is fine with the mortar men, according to Quinlan.

Quinlan also praised his platoon for performing exceptionally well in a recent joint Iraqi Army raid that resulted in the apprehension of dangerous anti-Iraqi forces and insurgents.

"They seem to enjoy getting off the FOB and out into sector. They like being on the road," said Quinlan.

Recently, while on a QRF mission,



**The 22 mortar rounds retrieved by the mortar platoon of 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Task Force Liberty.**

the mortar platoon came across an impressive enemy weapons cache. Concealed in four feet of standing water were twenty-two 120mm mortar rounds. In order to retrieve these rounds, Staff Sgt. Larry Goins, Sgt. Earvin Reyes, Sgt. Robert Grant, and Sgt. Marcus Merritt shed their boots

and waded the entire length of the channel to remove these munitions from possible enemy hands. It was a selfless act, considering that many of Iraq's canals contain raw sewage. However, the Soldiers secured the rounds anyway, took a hot shower, and continued the mission. ☑

# Post office helps bring a touch of home to deployed Soldiers

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

FOB WARHORSE, Iraq -- "Where is my mail? Did we get any mail? How long before my package gets here?"

Countless questioning about Soldier's mail is a daily occurrence for Sgt. 1st Class Marlon Daniels, Post Master for 300th Adjutant General Postal Unit on Forward Operating Base Warhorse.

"I try to ensure that the Soldiers packages and mail will get here," Daniels said. He is the mediator between the troops and the postal services-- and he loves it.

"Mail is a huge moral booster. It's a tie to home and Soldiers need that," he said.

If there are any missing pieces of mail and the missing mail is brought to the attention of the post office on Warhorse, Daniels said his Soldiers will take the names of the recipients and try to locate the missing pieces of mail.

Daniels and his Soldiers of the 300 AG Postal Unit out of Chicago, in addition to Warhorse, conduct postal operations out of FOB Gabe, FOB Scunion and FOB Normandy. Mail clerks from these bases will travel to Warhorse, to pick up parcels belonging to Soldiers of their base.

"Scunion is so close that we usually just take the mail to them," Daniels explained.

Spc. Carvella Sarchione, Spc. Dewain

Graeen, Private 1st Class Cesia Bear and Spc. Jeff Thorne all work for Daniels and the 300

**"Mail is a huge moral booster. It's a tie to home and Soldiers need that."**

--Sgt. 1st Class Marlon Daniels  
Post Master  
300th Adjutant General Postal Unit

AG Postal Unit agree the best part of the job is meeting new people from different units and getting used to seeing them everyday.

Although, the postal service at Warhorse is efficient, mail doesn't just show up. It must make the extensive trip from Logistical Support Area Anaconda.

Truck drivers from Kellogg, Brown & Root Construction Company

work to get the Soldiers what they long to have, their mail.

Mark Turberville has been in Iraq for 14 months and said he plans on staying for another year. He proudly declared the best part of the job is working with "the best people in the world; the Soldiers".

The mail trucks, which are armored with metal plates on the front of the vehicles and metal fencing over the windows, travel with military convoys everywhere they go, said Jerald Goad of KBR who travels with the mail.

"I will be here as long as there is mail to be delivered," he said. He started to laugh after a brief pause, "or until my wife says its time to come home."

Turberville said he has already been shot at, mortared, hit with improvised explosive devices and rocket propelled grenades but he still loves what he does.

Maurice Works has been working with the "Pony Express," a nickname given to the mail carriers traveling from Anaconda, for four months and said the job is highlighted by all the people he has encountered and continues to meet along the way.

"Mail is a touch of home and that's what important," Goad said.

Works and Goad are veterans from the Vietnam War and say they understand what its like to go without ties to home. They say that's why they do what they do. 



Private 1st Class Cesia Bear helps download packages from a container outside the post office at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq. Bear enjoys her job and says the best part is the people she meets along the way.