

HAMMER TIMES

Sept. 11th Memorial Edition

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Remembering 9/11:
3rd Brigade, Task Force Liberty Soldiers
honor that fateful day

Remembering, honoring fallen on anniversary of terror attacks

Col. Steven Salazar
Commander, 3rd BCT

Today, we all serve together here in Iraq in support of the Global War on Terrorism. We are on the front line of that war. Many Americans believe this war began on that fateful day, four years ago. We understand that it is American nature that we don't call to arms until forced to do so.

Many understand that this war began many years before Sept. 11, 2001. Before it came to our shores and before it came to our homeland. When I look back to 1979, I recall over 400 days of American citizens held hostage in the U.S. Embassy in Iran. Hundreds of Marines killed in the Beirut bombing in 1983. I remember the attacks on the American Embassies in Africa in the late '90s, and the attack on the U.S.S. Cole. All were indicators of a growing threat to our way of life. A growing threat to what we represent as a democracy and as a beacon of freedom. But it took an act like this, on Sept. 11, to make everyone understand that this growing threat was not going to go away. So now we are engaged in the Global War on Terrorism, another World War. Much like was the case in WWII; this war was not recognized as war by Americans until it came to our shores on the 7th of December.

I, like many of you on Sept. 11 when these terrible attacks took place, felt discouraged and somewhat helpless. We felt as if we had failed because it is our responsibility as Soldiers to defend our great nation. It is our responsibility to serve and sacrifice so that 3,000 innocent Americans do not have to sacrifice.

It is now our policy that we will no longer wait for another fateful day. We are no longer on the defense. We are on the offense. That is why we are fighting here today in this Global War on Terrorism. But terrorism is only a tactic. The threat is radical Islam. Those who have taken this great, beautiful religion hostage, have yet to reconcile govern-

ment with religion. But that is now being done here. Iraq has written a constitution that will allow government to rule within the concept of a peaceful religion, just like our great nation has been able to do for over 200 years. The Iraqi people understand this. President Talibany said recently that we cannot afford to cede Iraq to the evil forces of terrorism and religious fanaticism. The Iraqi people understand that this is ground zero for the fight against terrorism. They understand that we are on the front line. They know that someday they will be able to pick up this fight for themselves. But they know that right now we are absolutely key to them being able to be successful in building a new nation. One that will bring peace and prosperity to this region and will ultimately defeat the evil forces of radical Islam who use terrorism as a tactic. They are grateful for the sacrifice of every single American Soldier, the sacrifice of our families and our great nation in this effort, but they understand as each of you understands, and as I pray that your families understand, how important this struggle is. So we commemorate this day and remember the 3,000 civilians, innocent Americans who were attacked and sacrificed at the Pentagon, at the World Trade Center and the field in Pennsylvania. It is appropriate we stand on this field with this beautiful "Never Forget" flag which represents the sacrifice made on that day. The stars represent the aircraft used as weapons, the symbol of the Pentagon, the symbol of the World Trade Center, the red field representing the sacrifice, the blue field representing our unity and our service and the entire flag representing that we will never forget the sacrifice on that day. We will never forget those terrible attacks and we will continue to serve to ensure that it never happens again.

Our nation is challenged right now. We are winning this war but there are some who don't understand it. They do not understand how important it is, they do not understand this risk. When

this nation was born during our Revolutionary War we were also faced with a crisis. Our Continental Army was being defeated and it looked like the birth of a nation was going to fail. We were in a crisis. Thomas Paine wrote about the crisis at that time. In a famous line he said, "These are times that try men's souls. The summer Soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman." Each of you stands it now and each of you deserves the thanks not only of every American man and woman but of every peace loving citizen around the world. We know that the 81 names on the monument standing behind those colors also deserve the thanks of every grateful American and every Iraqi who is grateful for the freedom that we have brought them. This tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered but the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. Lament the loss of every single American Soldier, we lament the loss of our fellow friends and citizens from around the world that sacrificed on that great day. We will rededicate ourselves to serving to ensure that these attacks will never happen again and that our nation will continue to be the beacon of freedom around the world; and our families will live in peace and prosperity. We will pass on that legacy to our children and to our grandchildren just as our forefathers have done for us. We will persevere in our effort. We will do as our Commander In Chief asked us to do following those attacks: We will not tire, we will not falter, and we will not fail in this effort. And so I thank all of you for your service. I thank you and your families for their sacrifice. God bless you, God bless our Soldiers and our families and God bless our great country. ☑



SALAZAR
3rd BCT Commander

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Struggle to restore democracy is pivotal

By Mick Walsh
Columbus Ledger-Enquirer

FOB WARHORSE, Iraq — When the 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Liberty, put down in Kuwait in February, waiting to convoy to its new home at Baquba, Iraq, former West Point football player Lt. Col. Rob Roggeman delivered a Knute Rockne-like pre-game speech to his troops.

Six months later,

Roggeman's boss, 3rd BCT commander Col. Steve Salazar, delivered the halftime speech, telling his forces "we're winning, but we can't afford to let up."

While it may be halftime in the brigade's second deployment to Iraq since 2003, no one knows exactly when the final whistle will blow in the struggle to restore democracy to the pivotal Middle East country.

But Salazar and the U.S. military hierarchy know how they can quicken the game — by

continuing to transfer certain duties to Iraqi security forces, something the 3rd Brigade has been doing in Diyala province almost since its arrival.

"We're making the Iraqi people more independent and self-reliant," said Maj. Kirk Luedeke, a deputy operations officer with the 3rd Brigade and temporarily the unit's public affairs officer. "That's the message the colonel has been delivering on his road trips."

That's right, even Army officers take summer road trips. Salazar has been speaking to troops at Forward Operating Bases Normandy, Gabe and Warhorse, updating them on the brigade's accomplishments since its arrival and what to expect in the months ahead.

"During Operation Iraqi Freedom I and II, Coalition Forces oversaw almost everything in Iraq, from military functions to civil and government functions," said Luedeke via telephone from FOB Warhorse Tuesday. "But now (in Operation Iraqi Freedom III) we've begun to hand over the fight to the Iraqis. They're in charge."

When Salazar talks to Soldiers in the field, that's the first point he gets across.

"I think the troops want to know of the colonel if we're actually making a difference over here," Luedeke said. "He emphasizes that we are."

Salazar, like Roggeman a West Point grad, also uses statistics in his speech.

Enemy attacks, for example, are down 20-30

"It's our responsibility to take care of our land and to protect our people and we will do it"

— Col. Saman Asi Talibany
Commander, 2nd Brigade of the Iraqi Army

percent from one year ago. He credits raids made during Operation Sunrise, one of which confiscated, and later destroyed, enough ammunition to make 160 roadside bombs. Improved technology is also responsible for the drop in effectiveness of the insurgents' bombing campaign.

"We're now able to block many of the signals that are used to detonate the bombs," Luedeke said. "And there's an increased awareness of the techniques of the enemy. We're more aware of how they disguise the IEDs (improvised explosive devices); our Soldiers are more aware of their surroundings."

"Also, the amount of indirect artillery fire is down. Our radar is effective and we've been aggressive in our patrols. We're getting the explosives off the street."

Salazar's "talking points" include the 260 rebuilding projects started by the brigade at a cost of \$213 million. "That's a perfect symbol of our presence here," Luedeke said.

One key project, the bridge over the Diyala River connecting Buhritz with Baquba, is well under way under the watchful eye of Lt. Col. Scott Spellmon, commander of the Brigade Troops Battalion.

"Plans for that bridge were drawn up 25 years ago," Luedeke said. "But

See SCUNION, Pg. 4



Photo by Spc. Natalie Loucks

The 3rd Brigade Combat Team transferred authority of Forward Operating Base Scunior to the Iraqi Army July 31.

CSM comments on post 9/11 Army

Command Sgt. Major Jesse Andrews
Command Sergeant Major, 3rd BCT

Every year when 9/11 comes around we conduct a ceremony to commemorate the great losses that we took and to keep us ever mindful of the fact that this is why we exist, this is what we do. We are Soldiers in the U.S. Army, we've sworn to protect and defend and that's what we're doing right now. We've been deployed for about 8 ½ months in the fight and I think right now the Soldier's really see the true essence of what the flag represents. Why it's important for us to come here to try to help these people transition to a more self-reliant government. If they don't do it here, if they don't fight terrorism on their own land, we will have a repeat if you will of 9/11 back the states. And that's what we're trying to prevent from happening.

We're going to nip these insurgents in the bud, right here on their own soil. So we don't have to worry about any more 9/11s. The Soldiers get it. I attended a memorial service yesterday for one of our fallen comrades out of Ramadi. A Soldier that was killed in an I.E.D. out there. I could see it in the Soldier's eyes. They're pissed, but at the same time they're focused and they understand that they're going to go out and they're going to get these guys on our terms. We will capture every one of the ones that we can capture and if we can't capture them, we will terminate them. Our Soldiers understand that. They realize that this is a lifetime of making sure that we preserve our freedom and liberty. I've got a 14-year-old daughter who I don't have to worry about joining the Army, the Air Force, the Navy, Marines, or Coast Guard unless she wants to. I don't want her to have to worry about joining to defend our country because, I want to make sure that our country is being defended and we've done the things that we need to do to set them up so they can live a life of freedom. [↑](#)



ANDREWS
3rd BCT CSM

Freedom isn't free...

By Chaplain (Capt.) Bryan Smith
3rd Brigade Troops Battalion Chaplain

Freedom has never been free. Since Patrick Henry said "Give me liberty or give me death", to this present day freedom has always come at a cost. A cost measured not only in money and materials but also in the lives of those who serve. Our founding fathers realized this during the Revolutionary War when they fought to end foreign oppression and to repel a foreign army from our soil. We who serve today fight also to end foreign oppression and to expel foreign invaders from our soil. These invaders seek to take away our heritage as Americans, to steal

from us the American way of life and in effect take from us our freedom. This was not a war that we started. For by nature we as Americans are a peace loving people who want to live in peace with other nations, respecting their way of life while preserving our own. We want to live our lives and raise our families according to our

"And let us not grow weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

– Galatians, Chapter 6, verse 9
King James Version

religious convictions and traditions. But this war was forced on us by the events that transpired on 9/11. When those who are opposed to the freedoms we have began force their way of life on us and rob us of our heritage as Americans. So now we fight, showing the world that it is not so easy to take from us our freedom.



SMITH
3rd BTB Chaplain

For it is our heritage as Americans to fight to protect our most precious commodity; our freedom. So with un wavering resolve let us continue as Soldiers to take the fight to the enemy where ever he may be found, whether it be in Iraq or Afghanistan or some other foreign soil. We will fight not only guaranteeing our freedom but the freedom of all those who are oppressed and thus we will continue to be the beacon of liberty and the light of freedom not only today but for the generations to follow. [↑](#)

Scunion transfer not first, nor last on BCT's agenda

Continued from Pg. 3

nothing was done during the Saddam regime. When we got here, we got the funds to build the bridge and secure the site. Spellmon has oversight on the project, but the Iraqis are doing the work."

Three weeks ago the brigade took a huge step in turning over security responsibility for 20 percent of the province to the Iraqi Army.

Citing improved security in the province, Salazar turned over operational control of FOB Scunion to Iraqi control.

"Today's ceremony is a demon-

stration of the Iraqi army's commitment to providing security for their own country," he said at the turnover. "They are well trained and equipped."

"It's our responsibility to take care of our land and to protect our people and we will do it," said Col. Saman Asi Talibany, commander of 2nd Brigade of the Iraq Army.

So what lies ahead?

"Colonel Salazar says we must sustain the progress we've made during the first six months," Luedeke said. "And he said we will do our part to make sure the Iraqi people have a fair election process. That will take us into December." [↑](#)

Hurricane Katrina hits close to home for 3rd BCT Soldier

203rd's 'Painkillers' supply sergeant tells tale of family's narrow escape from third deadliest storm to hit U.S.

Story and photo by Sgt. Sean Riley
Editor, 3rd BCT PAO

The tragedies surrounding the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina have affected many citizens in our Nation. None more so than the residents of the cities and towns still underwater in Louisiana and Mississippi. The far-reaching flood waters have seemed to spread all the way to Iraq and Afghanistan. Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines from those southern states who have been deployed world-wide now have one more worry.

Worries about family, friends and loved ones left homeless or without amenities most take for granted, like running water and electricity, can stretch deployed service members thin.

For one 3rd Brigade Soldier's family, trapped in the path of Katrina's fury, it has left them uprooted and feeling farther away from each other more than ever.

For Staff Sgt. Laurie Miorana, medical supply sergeant

for Company C, 203rd Forward Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Liberty, news of Katrina's impending land fall on Aug. 29, left her worried and very concerned.

"I was at the (Dining Facility) when the storm hit," said the 30-year-old Terrebonne Parish, La. native. "As soon as they said it was a Class 5 and it was headed towards the south east coast of Louisiana, I called my family that Sunday. Most of my family was already planning to evacuate, so that was a good thing. I made it a point to call all my immediate family and make sure everyone had plans to evacuate or some way of remaining somewhat safe."

With cell phone services overloaded, power failures and general disorder prevalent in New Orleans and the surrounding areas, it was difficult to find out if her family had weathered the storm. Miorana finally made contact with her family after nearly a week of phone calls. She finally reached her mother via e-mail, which is still Miorana's primary means of communication to loved ones at home.

After the call for evacuation went out, her mother, Elizabeth Leonard, moved north to Baton Rouge, and her father evacuated with friends. Miorana's young daughters, 2-year-old Shae and 4-year-old Kaley, evacuated to Alexandria, La., with their father's family.

"I didn't start getting (any response) from my family until the end of the week. It was Friday or Saturday when I reached my mom. I got an e-mail from her saying her side of the family was okay. It took almost a week to get a hold of my dad," said Miorana. "My mom has minor damage to her house, my dad has some major damage to his, but both are salvageable. They all lucked out; so far all of my family is good."

Unit commanders, in conjunction with the American Red Cross, notified Soldiers of the 3rd BCT of their options after the reports of the devastation in Louisiana and Mississippi came pouring in. Emergency leave packets were generated and prioritized for Soldiers with families affected by Katrina.

Miorana, who is slotted for R&R leave in October, said she thankfully has not had to return home any earlier than planned.

"They haven't even let the people that have evacuated from there start heading back south to assess damage to their homes," said Miorana. "You want to be there, but there's only so much you can do once you're there."

Being touted as the third-most intense hurricane to ever hit the United States since reliable records began in 1851 by the National Weather Service, Katrina has lain to waste the bayou, the delta region and port cities of the Gulf Coast.

For now, Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade whose families have been affected by Katrina have options available for them. The Army Knowledge Online website provides links to recovery efforts, as well as the American Red Cross. Soldiers are encouraged to contact their chains of command if they have questions or concerns for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. [Z](#)



Staff Sgt. Laurie Miorana, medical supply sergeant for Company C, 203rd Forward Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Liberty, stands outside the Teal Medical Clinic on Forward Operating Base Warhorse Sept. 9.



NEVER FORGET ...

Brigade Combat Team honors those who died



The 3rd Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Liberty hosted a ceremony on Sept. 11 in honor of the tragedy Americans faced Sept. 11, 2001. Terrorists crashed the hijacked aircraft into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a Pennsylvania field. The ceremony took place at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq in the "Never Forget" Memorial Garden where the 81 names of the Soldiers who gave all to the War on Terror are displayed. Soldiers of the 3rd BCT performed the ceremony as their fellow comrades stood out in the crowd singing the Marne Song, the Army Song and saluted as the National Anthem was played. Speakers at the event were Col. Steven Salazar, commander of the 3rd BCT, Capt. Bryan Smith, 3rd Brigade Troops Battalion chaplain gave the invocation, and Capt. Stephanie Stroik-Ramones, public affairs liaison for 203rd Forward Support Battalion.

Photos by Spc. Natalie Loucks



Civil Affairs Soldier wears two hats

From streets of New York to streets of Baquba, Reservist loves to serve his country

Story and photo by Sgt. Sean Riley
Editor, 3rd BCT PAO

For most Soldiers, enlisting in the U.S. Army and graduating from Advanced Individual Training, means a fresh start or a new life in the military. Just like Army Reserve Cpl. Thomas Donovan, a civil affairs specialist with Company C, 445th Civil Affairs Battalion, expected when he graduated A.I.T. Sept. 1, 2001. Like most, he had expected his hometown, New York City, to be a little different than when he left. Ten days later he, New York, and the world, would never be the same.

The aftermath of the terror attacks left Donovan wondering what he could do to help his fellow Americans.

The 30-year-old New York native knew no other job was going to allow him to make a difference like the New York Police Department. He was hired on to the force July 1, 2002 and was in the first class to graduate after 9/11.

"It's hard to be a New Yorker and not know someone whose life was forever changed that day," said Donovan. "I became a police officer because of 9/11."

Donovan feels the events on 9/11 shaped the world for better or worse.

"It certainly shaped the direction of my life," said Donovan. "I am proud of what I do. I try to do what I can to keep the world safe however little it may be."

Juggling his police officer duties and military commitments, Donovan worked Wall St. at an anti-terrorism post, all the while, volunteering for deployments.

"I volunteered for every rotation to deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan but my MOS, 74 C, Telecommunication Operator/Maintainer, was being phased out," he said. "So, I switched to Civil Affairs."

Donovan graduated with honors



Cpl. Thomas Donovan briefs a Soldier at Forward Operating Base Warhorse during a short halt of his Civil Affairs combat patrol, Sept. 12. Donovan and members of his CA team often travel to different FOBs throughout AO Hammer.

from his CA training in January, 2005. He finally stopped volunteering for overseas deployments when he received the call to deploy to Iraq with the 445th CAB.

"The NYPD and my precinct, Midtown North in Manhattan," he said, "have been very supportive of my deployment."

Donovan uses his NYPD experience to teach the Iraqi Police at the Police/Joint Coalition Center in downtown Baquba.

Currently, the PJCC Civil Affairs team, also known as team Cobra, has a team of Law Enforcement advisors. The team consists of Maj. Kenneth Robbins, a 14-year veteran of the San Diego PD, Spc. Conrad LaRocque, a graduate of the Napa Valley Police Academy in California, Spc. James Terry who delayed his entry into the Pittsburgh, Calif. Police Academy because of his deployment to Iraq. And, until his injury in a recent suicide bomber attack on PJCC, Sgt. 1st Class Daniel McKinney assisted and advised the PJCC training unit as they conducted the training and development of the SWAT teams and personal security details for the Police Department. McKinney, a decorated Vietnam veteran and U.S. Border Patrol K-9 handler, has rotated back to the states and is on the mend.

The CA works daily on validating the police department and provides

their technical expertise wherever possible. Among other projects, the team is currently working on creating a police patrol concept that meets international standards in Diyala.

Donovan's father, Kevin Donovan, retired as the assistant director of the New York office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation last July, had spent the last 25 years investigating terrorism around the globe to include the U.S. Embassy bombings in Africa and the attack on the U.S.S. Cole in Yemen.

His father served as mentor and best friend in his first few years as a police officer.

"Having lived in Yemen during the Cole bombing investigation and having spent a number of years interacting with an the Arabic community in New York and Newark, N.J., my father has given me great insight to the Arabic culture and their concept of law enforcement," said Donovan. "Halfway around the world, he gives suggestions into organizational changes, training, and development.

"Law enforcement and the War on Terror is kind of the family business."

Donovan feels if his helping combat terrorism ensures that his friends on the job in New York and around the U.S. are a little safer, then he'll stay as long as he needs to accomplish that mission.

"I work in Midtown North, or the

Being married and deployed together not always wedding bliss

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

For Sgts. Devona and Jonathan Spann, a celebration of the day they met three years ago might consist of a fancy dinner, a quiet evening at home or an exchange of gifts.

Instead, this Nov. 7, Jonathan Spann will meet his wife in the dining facility for dinner, then coffee at the Green Beans Café followed by a movie at Faulkenburg Theater.

At the nights end, the couple will walk back to their separate containerized housing units where they will wave goodnight to each other.

Devona and Jonathan Spann, married Mar. 26, 2003 are one of many married couples who are deployed Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Liberty.

Jonathan Spann, a medic in Company C, 203rd Forward Support Battalion said the two Soldiers met when he was drawing blood for Soldiers deploying to Operation Iraqi Freedom I.

"During the whole time he was drawing my blood we managed to exchange numbers," Devona explained. "We deployed together to OIF I and I would always joke about how he was the one I was going to marry. When we got back, I jokingly asked

him to marry me and he took me seriously. I was shocked."

Now they have deployed together as a married couple on Forward Operating Base Warhorse in Baquba, Iraq serving in support of OIF III.

"Soldiers are amazed at

how we make time for each other," said Devona, a supply specialist for Company A, 203rd FSB. "We try to see each other at least once a day, and if we can't pull that off we definitely make time the following day."

The Spann's explained living on the same base while on deployment has its ups and downs.

"Whenever my wife has a problem," Jonathan Spann explained, "she doesn't have to wait for a certain time to call me. I'm always available."

On the other hand, one of the stipulations of General Order No. 2 explains "service members are prohibited from going into assigned sleeping quarters of service members of the opposite gender, or permitting a member of the opposite gender to enter his or her assigned sleeping quarters unless required to do so in the course of official duties." It applies to all military and civilian personnel, regardless of their marital status.

"She is my wife," Jonathan Spann said. "I shouldn't have to ask someone else to see if she can come out of her CHU."

Jonathan Spann, also known as "Spann 1," said although he does not agree with the rules he understands them.

"Being in the Army, you know there are certain things you have to suck up," he said.

His wife, "Spann 2" agrees. "Yes,

we are married but we get our jobs done. We can work together and still be professional about it."

Capt. Mark Hartley, a Physicians Assistant for 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor



Sgts. Jonathan and Devona Spann during their re-enlistment ceremony Sept. 3 at the 'Never Forget' garden on FOB Warhorse.

Regiment, 3rd BCT who is currently serving in Ramadi, Iraq said he doesn't see the big deal with a married couple watching a movie together in the privacy of one of their CHUs.

Approximately three months ago, Mark Hartley moved to Ramadi from FOB Scunion, which was located directly across the street from FOB Warhorse and his wife, Capt. Cheryle Hartley, who is a PA located at the Teal Medical Treatment Facility.

"Are they afraid of us holding hands? Whispering sweet nothings to each other or heaven forbid, sex," he questions. "She is my wife. Who is that hurting?"

Just as the Spann's do, both Cheryle and Mark said they do not agree with the rules but they do understand and follow them.

The Hartley's, who met in PA school in 1994, said they got to see a lot of each other before Mark relocated.

"At least once a week I got to tell her I love her in person," he said.

Mark Hartley explained seeing his wife was both good and bad. Although she was routinely right in front of him, seeing her also made him yearn for the affection she could not give him because of regulation.

"You can't just hug, hold hands or get a kiss," he said.

"That, in turn, can make you angry and stressed out."

Both Cheryle and Mark agree, stress comes in higher levels when you know exactly what dangers your spouse faces being deployed.

Mark Hartley said he hears comments of jealousy from other Soldiers because they cannot benefit from the privilege of having their spouse out here with them.

"At least those people who complain don't have to worry daily about their loved one being injured in action," he said.

Both the Hartley's and the Spann's agree, having their spouses able to experience exactly what they are going through will make redeploying back to the states enjoyable and easy.

"As much as you try to explain what it's like over here you really can't get the idea until you have gone through it yourself," Cheryle Hartley said.

"We will share a lust for being back at home," Jonathan Spann said.

This year away from the comforts of home has forced everyone into their own separate lives with their own separate routines and both couples feel it may take some time to get back into the routine of a married couple.

"The key to making this work is communication," Cheryle Hartley said. ▣



Capt. Mark and Cheryle Hartley on FOB Warhorse.

Hammer Justice offers free advice

By Maj. John Moore
3rd BCT SJA

WAR TROPHIES For now, you will have to hold off because orders have come down that everything stays! It all belongs to the Iraqi people. Higher Headquarters is working on a plan to get the Iraqi Government to allow us to take home reasonable mementos like we could before. Until then, don't try to send any of those Iraqi Army items home yet. More to follow!

IMMIGRATION For those of you Soldiers who are not yet U.S. citizens, be advised that, starting in November, the Department of Homeland Security (formerly Immigration) will be doing both the interview and the swearing in at Anaconda. This is meant to speed the process up for you.

HOUSING INITIATIVE First, for those of you who have families living on post at Fort Benning, you will need to give someone a Special

Power of Attorney to enable your attorney-in-fact (your spouse, for example) to sign a lease with the Clark Pinnacle Family Communities company. The leases everyone signs will help the U.S. Government to form a partnership with this company, effective January 2006.

This company will then become responsible for the day to day operations of the Housing Office. The Government will have only the capacity of an overseer. You will not see the effects of this, at least not immediately. The program aims to bring private businesses into the Government housing process. This, in theory, will mean faster housing construction and more responsiveness to the needs of soldier's families. The things you see most often will not change. You still will not be allowed to walk outside your quarters in your underwear or live like a slob, i.e., leave your lawn uncut or yard trashy. And, yes, expect to get those nastygrams if you dare leave a porch

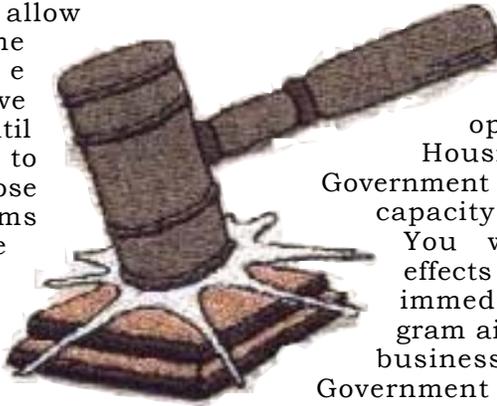
light on all night. A sticky thing with this is the money. You will begin to draw Basic Allowance for Housing on Jan. 1 while in quarters, but you will authorize the company to receive all this with the Special Power of Attorney. So it will be a wash. But the Army has to go through this drill so that the company can get paid. Part of the deal is that they get a direct payment of the BAH amount to help them pay for the day to day operations.

We have the forms in the legal office. We will soon be getting these to all the units so you can fill them out and have one of the paralegals notarize. Some of you were smart and did this already during our Soldier Readiness Certification. Others, like me, procrastinated and will have to do the POA here and send it to the rear. Be sure you tell your spouse what is going on.

HAMMER JUSTICE! ...Is here to help. ☑



MOORE
3rd BCT SJA



New CMOC Opened



1st Lt. John Forte, Vertical Platoon Leader, for Company C 463rd Engineers, cuts the ribbon during a ceremony held Sept. 7 in honor of the completion of the new Civil Military Operations Center located on Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq.

Soldiers of Company C, 463rd Engineers, were tasked with the project in May to provide infrastructure to support the mission of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Liberty, said Forte, for the reserve unit from W.Va.

"We appreciate the support we got from the 3rd BCT," Forte said.

"Everything went smoothly with no problems," said Brig. Gen. Thomas Lawing, Commander of the 463rd Engineers.

Photo by Spc. Natalie Loucks

DROP THE HAMMER

The Hammer asks; What does freedom mean to you?

"A great deal of loss is what 9/11 means to me. We are here to bring freedom to the oppressed people of Iraq."



– Staff Sgt. Julio Rivera
A Co., 203rd FSB

"We are here to ensure the people get the same rights and freedoms we have back home. To grow up in a neighborhood where they are safe and can send their children to school."



– WO Jason Dunn
HHC, 3rd BCT

"Satisfaction knowing that my family back home can live the way they want to and do the things they want to do."



– WO Jeannie Koch
B Co., 3rd BTB

"Not only to protect the U.S. but to protect the free world against those terrorists who are against any nation who has free values."



– Spc. Rita Flores
HHC, 3rd BCT

"Freedom to me means the world will live in peace. We are unifying a country that is oppressed. Our mission here is a very important one."



– Sgt. 1st Class Darron Miller
HHC, 203rd FSB

"Just by our presence here, we are showing we are the forbearers of freedom. We are bringing a democracy to this country."



– 1st Lt. Kenneth Cook
HHC, 3rd BTB

"Freedom to me is giving up a little so the people back home can have the rights given to them. We are here to help a foreign country get what we have."



– Spc. Richard Lavender
445th Civil Affairs Bn.

"Freedom means the gift I have to look my daughters and my wife in the eye knowing that their lives and everything I can provide for them came at a cost."



– 2nd Lt. Jeremy Brown
A Co., 203rd FSB

"I am fourth generation military. I am over here to free oppressed people."



– Private 1st Class Robert Viens
A Co., 203rd FSB

Hammer Times will accept your stories and photos! Send your submissions digitally by e-mailing 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 with all submissions. ☑

Iraqi Police Graduate

An Iraqi Police Officer gets his "Scorpion" patch pinned to his shirt during a Sept. 9 graduation ceremony at the Iraqi Police Academy on Forward Operating base Normandy.

Photo by Capt. Carlos Lago



New Yorker works towards Iraqi sustainment

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18th precinct in Manhattan with some of the greatest cops in the world, no joke," he said. "Some are in New Orleans and hurricane ravaged areas assisting in the restoration of order."

Donovan takes the concept of police brotherhood seriously.

"I want to ensure that my fellow brothers in blue get the support and training they need to survive," he said. "We try to teach the Iraqis that they belong to the tribe of police."

Donovan said he thinks the Iraqis lack the family connectivity and culture that keeps American cops alive. Culturally, in U.S. law enforcement, being a police officer is more than a job or a paycheck. It's a way of life.

Donovan and his fellow Civil Affairs team tries to instill those concepts along with whatever training they are doing.

"We work closely with the (International Police Liaison Officers) because our mission compliments theirs," he said. "We both work to develop the police department into an organization that can sustain itself and the free people of Iraq after Coalition Forces have gone." [f](#)



**Things are not
always what they
seem.**

**Check every
vehicle.**



STAY ALIVE