

# The Warrior

November 2005

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## LOOKING FOR AL QAEDA IN BAGHDAD

Essential Services

China, IA Raid

Saber Tankers

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**COMING IN DECEMBER**  
**OIF III Year in Review**

# 'Broken record... or golden oldie?'

Whoever came up with this idea for the *The Warrior* is a genius. This magazine is a great way to showcase all the Spartan Warriors' superb accomplishments, give some good press to all the teams that comprise this great BCT, and give our families back home insight into all you do.

*The Warrior* also provides me with an opportunity to articulate what's important in the near term.

I know I sound like a broken record with the constant harping on a) understanding your task and purpose; b) PCC/PCI; c) rehearse everything, nothing is routine; d) always execute risk mitigation before every mission; and e) it ain't over until it's over. And as long as we all continue to execute missions successfully, I will continue to sound like a broken record, so bear with me. This month, however, I will add some new verses to the same song.

First new verse: As we prep for redeployment, ensure accountability procedures are tight. If you are signed for it, it is on you to get your property shipped out and linked back in at Fort Stewart. You are physically present when that container is locked and sealed and when it is opened on the Fort Stewart end. We need all our stuff back; so do not lose accountability.

Second new verse: I have no idea what the training calendar looks like after we complete block leave. Do not worry about when our first gunnery is, when our first NTC is, etc. All I want you to focus on is defeating the terrorists and setting the great 4th BCT, 101st, up for success.

Third new verse: Everyone must take their block leave within the 30-day interval. Right now that 30 day interval is Feb. 3, 2006, to March 3, 2006, plus or minus a few days. Do not make plans to do block leave outside that interval (for example, Feb. 20 to March 20). Directly after block leave, we must download all the containers and reestablish accountability; that is why I need everyone present for duty.

Fourth new verse: "Currahee," (4th BCT 101st), our replacements, have started flowing into zone. We will set them up for success. Small things count; therefore you will start to see Currahee crests spring up in the FOBs. Our FOBs will "de-Spartify" slowly, so by the time Currahee main bodies arrive they will drive onto the FOBs seeing their own crests. It sets the right tone.

Fifth new verse: Main effort remains election prep and the actual elections, and grinding the enemy into the ground.

OK, the song is complete. Hopefully this is more of a golden oldie than a broken record. For the record (be it golden or broken), every one of you continue to make a huge difference over here with your great service. As you all continue to make history, know that you also continue to make a positive difference for freedom starved people. Keep up the great work and God Bless.

SEND ME,  
DiSalvo



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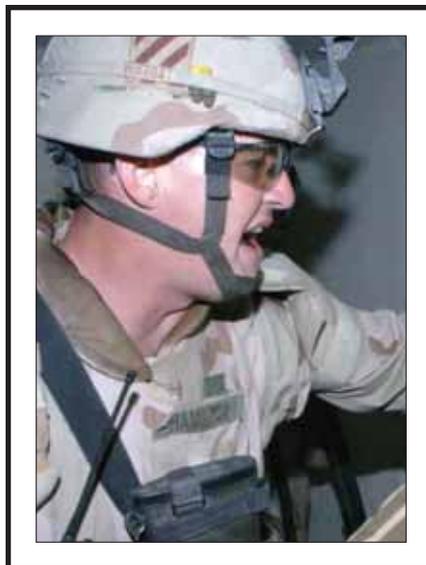
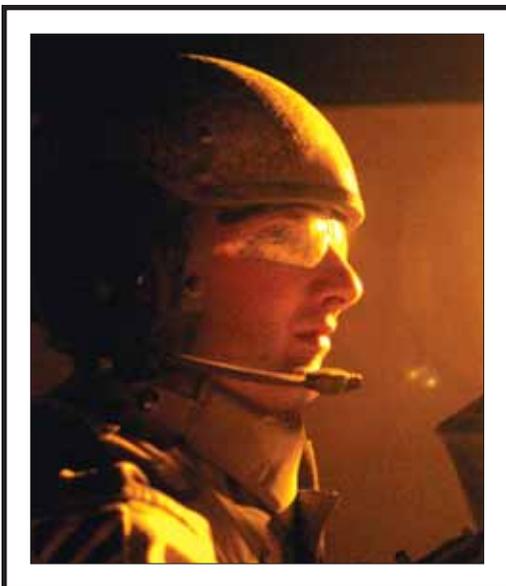
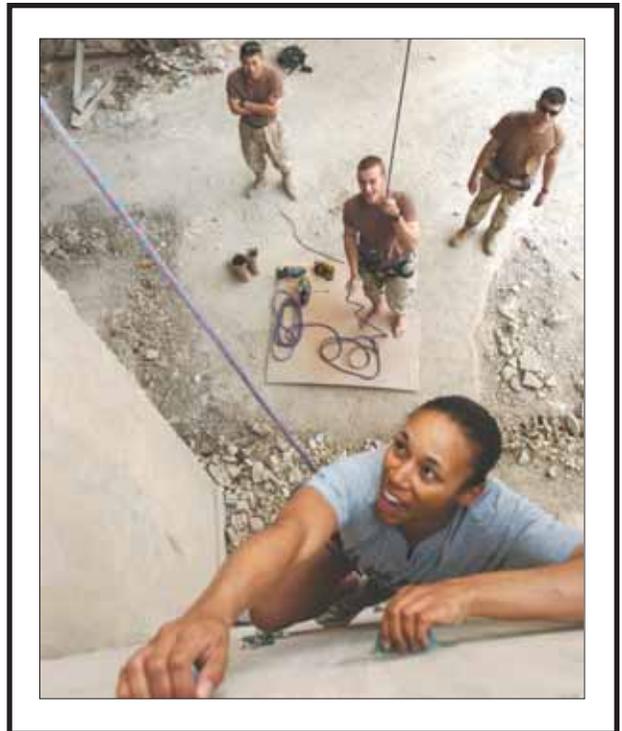
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# ATTENTION!

“Shots from the field” is always looking for photos taken by Spartan Brigade Combat Team Soldiers serving in Iraq. If you have a good photo, and we have room, we’ll print it. Email your photos via AKO to: [craig.zentkovich@us.army.mil](mailto:craig.zentkovich@us.army.mil), Subject: Shots from the field. Be sure to include your rank, name, and unit as well as a caption for the photograph that includes the subject of the photograph with names and dates. I look forward to receiving your shots.

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



Saber tankers...

# Keep armor ro

Story and photos by  
Spc. Ben Brody

BAGHDAD, Iraq – While a M1 Abrams main battle tank may look indestructible rolling down the highways of Baghdad, a trip to the motor pool reveals how much maintenance the 70-ton machines actually require.

Tankers from 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry, are conducting daily operations in Eastern Baghdad, while constantly making sure their tanks are roadworthy and combat-ready.

“For every hour you spend driving a tank, that’s two hours you spend in the motor pool maintaining it,” said Sgt. 1st Class Robert Derington, B Troop, 3-7 Cav., platoon sergeant. “That’s not to say that they’re delicate – it’s just the reality of operating any machine with that much power.”

Baghdad highways generally do far more damage to tanks than insurgent attacks, because tanks are well-designed to withstand attacks, but not to endure constant driving on asphalt.

Saber tankers primarily conduct security patrols on the highways, in



addition to setting up observation points and creating improvised roadblocks.

During a night mission Nov. 13, tankers patrolled a major Baghdad highway for hours looking for insurgents planting improvised explosive

devices.

“Since we’ve been showing a constant presence with the tanks, attacks in our sector have definitely decreased,” said 1st Lt. Sean Gavin, B Troop, 3-7 Cav., platoon leader. “The tanks make a big difference when you’re out patrolling – they’re very safe.”

During the mission, a road wheel sheared off of Gavin’s tank, and Soldiers rushed to fix it well enough to drive back to Camp Rustimiyah.

“The tanks will almost always roll back in under their own power, but a lot of times there’s work to be done,” said Pfc. Zeb Saul, B Troop, 3-7 Cav., loader. “It’s an unforgiving machine, but tanks are as fun as they are hard.”

Upon their arrival at Rustimiyah, the 4th Platoon tankers set to work repairing the damaged tank, an all-day job.

“We’re like a pit crew with this tank, we fix it so fast,” Saul, from Daytona Beach, Fla., said. “Go on a mission, fix the tank, and get back out



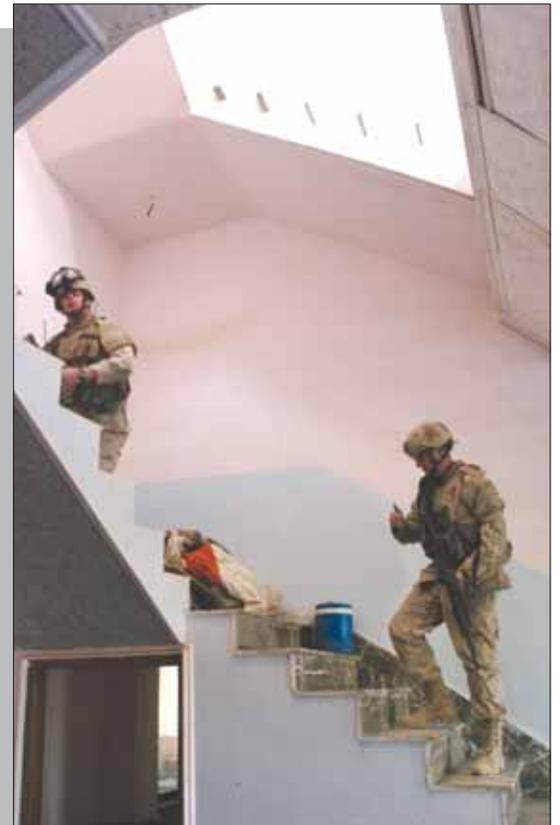
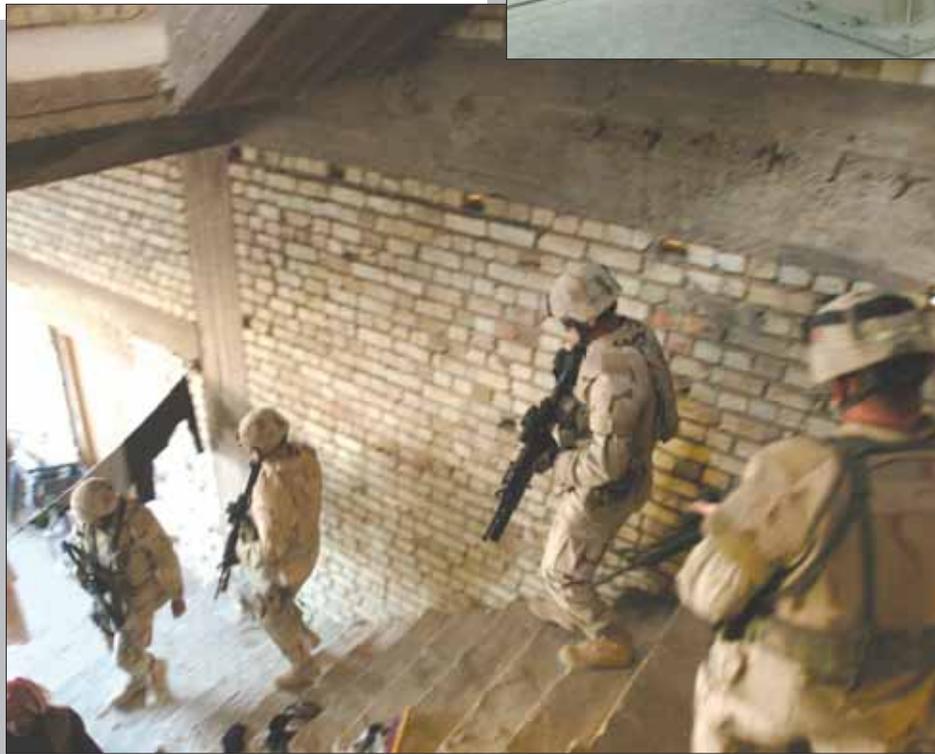
(Above) Spc. Eziquel Guitierrez, B Troop, 3-7 Cav., work on their tank after a patrol in Baghdad Nov. 13. (Right) Pfc. Zeb Saul, B Troop, 3-7 Cav., loader, repairs a worn track.



# lling



(Opposite page) Saber tanks scan the roadway during a patrol in Baghdad. (Above) 1st Lt. Sean Gavin, B Troop, 3-7 Cav., platoon leader, pulls security atop his tank during a patrol Nov. 13. (Left and below) When not patrolling the streets via tank, Saber troopers conduct cordon-and-search missions throughout Baghdad as they did Nov. 12.



there again.”

B Troop’s 4th Platoon has logged over 7,000 miles in their tanks during their deployment, according to Spc. Eziquel Guitierrez, B Troop, 3-7 Cav., driver.

“About 90 percent of our missions are with tanks,” Guitierrez, from Amarillo, Texas, said. “It’s definitely hard to be a tanker, but definitely fun.”

Tankers are a superstitious group, probably due to the amount of work that goes into repairing tanks. Apricots are seen as bad luck by most tankers, and some refuse to carry any kind of fruit on a tank.

“Never bring an apricot on a tank, you’ll regret it,” Derington, of Killeen, Texas, said.

“Talking trash about your buddy’s tank is another good way to get your own tank to break down. Just try it and see.”

As the day wore on, the 4th Platoon tankers repaired the tank’s broken arm, and replaced many of the track’s worn-down rubber pads.

“We’re going to finish up here, grab some chow, take a quick nap, and head right back out,” said Sgt. Jay Schade, B Troop, 3-7 Cav., gunner. “That’s the tanker’s life for you.”

# Battlekings pressure



**B Btry., 1-9 FA, troops raid a house in Zafaraniya Nov. 1. They netted two suspected members of Al-Qaeda.**

## Story and photos by Spc. Ben Brody

ZAFARANIYA, Iraq – Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, conducted operations throughout November in order to capture insurgents identified by informants in Zafaraniya.

The raids resulted in the detention of numerous high-priority targets suspected of carrying out attacks against coalition and Iraqi forces.

Battlekings raided the residences of two suspected Al Qaeda conspirators, taking two men into custody in Zafaraniya, Nov. 1.

The two are suspected members of a Yemeni branch of Al Qaeda, on a reconnaissance assignment in Baghdad.

They were both in possession of Yemeni passports.

“They both admitted to being from Yemen, and we found advanced mapping software among their personal effects,” said Capt. Matthew Wheeler, 1-9 FA, intelligence officer.

“There’s a lot of circumstantial evidence against the detainees, and that will solidify as we examine the electronic evidence more

closely.

“Al Qaeda is probably the biggest long-term threat in Iraq – after the destruction of their bases in Afghanistan, they’re trying to regroup in Iraq,” Wheeler, from Kissimmee, Fla., said. “The capture of these two guys is another solid step forward against Al Qaeda in Iraq.”

After the detainees were transported to the brigade internment facility, Soldiers and the 2nd Iraqi Public Order Brigade troops searched several large fields nearby.

“It’s possible insurgents use the field as a staging area for (car bomb) attacks, so we just wanted to check it out,” Wheeler said. “The POB added a lot of combat power to the search force, and it was good training for them.”

Later that week, Battlekings conducted Operation Full Court Press, a two part mission, to capture insurgents and search for illegal weapons in Zafarania, Nov. 6 and 9.

During the first leg of the mission, 1-9 FA detained four suspected insurgents during Operation



**Soldiers from 1-9 FA search a field in Zafaraniya for weapons caches Nov 9.**

# terrorists in Zafaraniya

Slap Shot in Southern Baghdad Nov. 6.

The men are suspected of involvement with Ansar Al Sunna, a terrorist group most notorious for kidnappings and executions.

One detainee, the primary target of the mission, was a known operative of AAS, and is suspected of plotting to kidnap U.S. troops.

“His plan was pretty far-fetched, to use captured U.S. troops as human shields at Iranian nuclear sites,” said Capt. Matthew Wheeler, 1-9 FA, intelligence officer. “But his plans for the actual kidnappings were corroborated by many sources – we take that very seriously.”

Battlekings conducted Operation Fast Break Nov. 9, which resulted in the seizure of illegal ammunition.

2nd POB troops worked alongside 1-9 FA, searching homes and interviewing residents.

During the early morning mission, Soldiers spoke with residents of a neighborhood primarily housing disabled veterans of the Iran-Iraq war.

“I think we made some friends today,” said 1st Lt. Clements Gover, B Battery, 1-9 FA, platoon leader. “People responded really well to our presence and that of the POB guys with us.”

Soldiers from Special Police Transition Team were on hand to monitor the POB’s progress. The SPTT is responsible for training the POB until it is capable of totally independent operations.

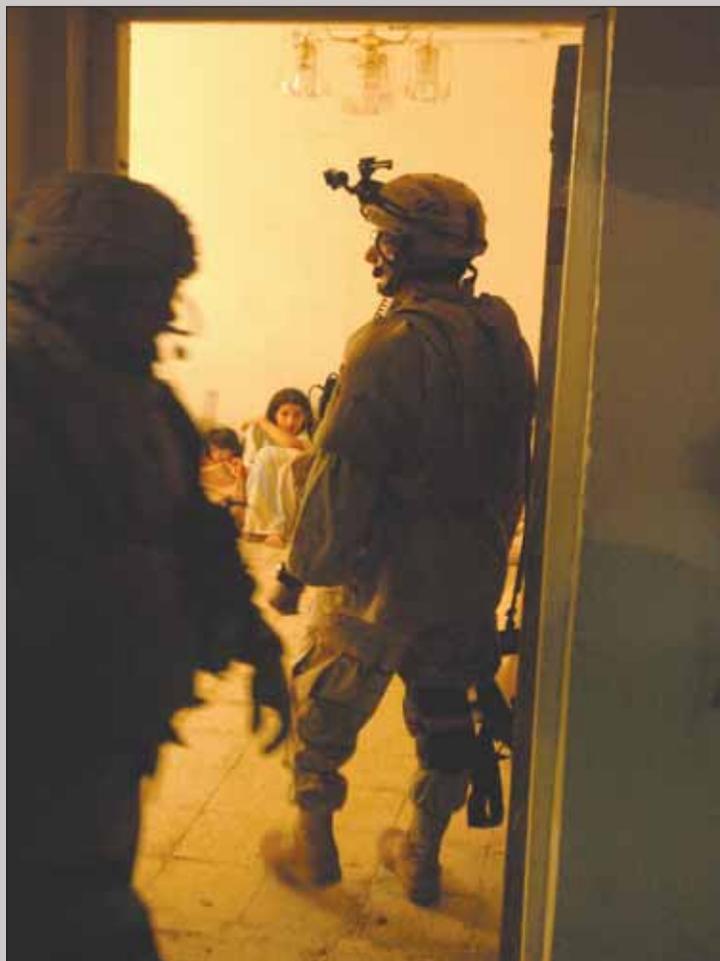
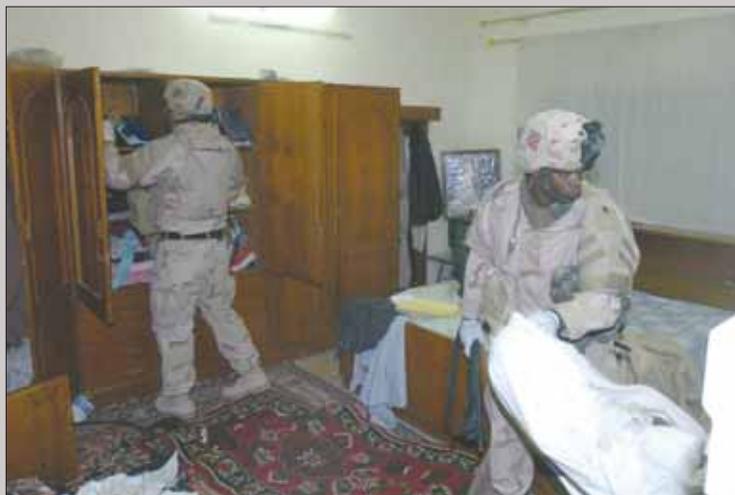
“The POB is increasing in efficiency and effectiveness every day – they grow with each mission they conduct,” said Maj. Rich Ackerman, SPTT member. “Operationally they do very well, and today was a fine example.”



**(Above) Soldiers search a palm grove near the target houses for weapons caches Nov 1.**

**(Below) Sgt. Luke Roach, 1-9 FA, driver, keeps an eye on residents during the raid.**

**(Bottom left) Soldiers from 1-9 FA search a home.**





Iraqi Army trucks race toward a target house during a raid that nabbed 15 terrorists in Sadr City, Nov. 14.

# China guides Iraqi Army during terrorist sting

Story and photos by Spc. Ben Brody

SADR CITY, Iraq – Iraqi Army troops raided the residences of suspected insurgents in Sadr City, and detained 19 men, Nov. 14.

Fifteen of the men are suspected members of a terrorist group responsible for countless murders and kidnappings in Baghdad.

Although the mission was Iraqi-planned and led, Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry provided additional security and guidance.

Just before dawn, 3-15 Inf. and Iraqi Army trucks swarmed the target houses and Soldiers raced to clear the buildings.

Gunfire immediately erupted from a rooftop near a target house, but troops could not see the shooter and continued the mission.

Just as quickly as they entered, Iraqi troops burst from the houses hauling handcuffed and blindfolded detainees.

“The IA did a great job on this one, they got the targets quickly and quietly,” said Sgt. 1st Class Luis Molina, 3-15 Inf., operations sergeant. “They had good coordination and set up blocking points effectively.”

In addition to the 15 targeted suspects, three men were detained when Iraqi troops found body armor in their possession. Another suspicious man

was detained when he made cell phone calls after being told not to.

Soldiers from Tactical Psychological Operations Team 1412 brought a truck equipped with loudspeakers to instruct residents to stay indoors during the operation. An interpreter pre-recorded Arabic messages for them before the mission.

Sgt. Shawn Cutler of TPT 1412, approached people who were outside anyway, and engaged them in conversation.

“I try and talk to people to find out what’s going on in the neighborhood,” Cutler, from Orange County, Calif., said.

“I go out and do this every day, trying to inspire people to work with us, not against us.”



(Above) An Iraqi Army soldier pulls security during the Nov. 15 raid in Sadr City. (Left) Lt. Col. Gary Luck, Jr., 3-15 Inf., commander, speaks with Staff Sgt. Jason Dene, 3-15 MiTT member, during a raid in Sadr City Nov. 14.



# Iraqi Army, Civil Affairs aid Seven Palaces area

Story and photos by Spc. Ben Brody

SEVEN PALACES, Iraq – Iraqi Army troops, in coordination with Soldiers from 448th Civil Affairs Battalion, distributed food and water to residents of Seven Palaces, in North Baghdad, Oct. 26.

Troops passed out 1,200 Halal-certified food rations that had been stockpiled as a contingency against referendum day violence, as well as 1,200 1.5 liter bottles of water.

Since the Oct. 15 constitutional referendum went smoothly, Iraqi Army Sgt. Maj. Nameer Mohammed said he felt the food should go to needy families in Baghdad.

“The people feel happy when we come to their neighborhoods, because we often give away food to the poor,” Mohammed said. “It is good training for the soldiers too, and they learn to organize the crowds that arrive.”

Seven Palaces is a poor area that was once farmland but is now home to many people who came to Baghdad seeking work, but can't afford to live downtown. The name

is a joke from the area's farming days, when there were only seven small houses in the neighborhood, according to Iraqi Army Warrant Officer Abdul Razak.

“We are working for one goal – to build the army that will protect and free Iraq,” Razak said. “It will take time, but we are building the confidence of the people everyday.”

Razak, a former Iraqi Army sergeant major, said he was imprisoned at Abu Ghraib for five years under Saddam Hussein's regime for speaking out against the dictator. He was liberated in 2003 by U.S. forces.

A crowd quickly assembled around the trucks carrying bottled water and Halal rations, as residents eagerly carted away the donations.

“Civil military operations like this are relatively new to the Iraqi Army, but they're picking it up quickly and see the importance of assist their people,” said Capt. Roger Miick, 448th CA Bn., A team leader. “They're still fighting a battle against insurgents, but they know

it's important to do what they can to help.”

Miick, from Kennewick, Wash., observed the humanitarian aid drop to both assess the Iraqi Army's competence and determine residents' additional needs.

“Everyone wants shoes, winter clothes and blankets as soon as we can get them,” said Capt. Michelle Dyarman, 448th CA Bn., A team leader. “We have hundreds of kerosene heaters to distribute, but we need to line up a consistent supplier of fuel with the Ministry of Oil first.”

Dyarman, from Hanover, Pa., said the mission was a big success, after receiving a kiss on the cheek from a little girl who had her arms full of donated food and water.

“This is the best HA drop yet – the Iraqi Army did a great job,” Dyarman said. “People are happy to see us and really appreciate what the troops are doing.”



(Above) Iraqi Army soldiers distribute food and water to residents of Seven Palaces Oct. 26.

(Left) Iraqi Army Sgt. Maj. Nameer Mohammed and Capt. Roger Miick, 448th Civil Affairs Bn., A team leader, discuss the humanitarian aid mission.

# Essential services

## Al Ameen water project near completion

Story by Spc. Ben Brody

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Residents of Al Ameen, a Southeastern Baghdad neighborhood, will soon reap the benefits of their first-ever water network, courtesy of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The \$580,000 project is 95 percent complete, and is scheduled for completion by Nov. 7.

“This project will provide potable water and fire hydrants to an area that has never had a water network,” said Mike Mitchell, a USACE project engineer coordinating the project. “Before, water was either trucked in and sold, or illegally tapped from neighboring towns’ pipelines.

Mitchell coordinates between all interested parties to assure the completion of the project, including the Baghdad Water Authority, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, the Al Ameen Neighborhood Advisory Council, a project contractor, quality assurance inspectors, and USACE headquarters.

Local laborers have laid about 8

kilometers of ductile iron pipes that should last around 50 years, Mitchell said. Pipes leading to individual residences are made of PVC.

“Each home in Al Ameen will have a spigot installed on their property, which is time consuming but worth it,” Mitchell, from Albuquerque, N.M., said. “If we didn’t hook every house up, people would just break the pipes and make their own connections. It’s in our best interests to do it this way.”

Because of security concerns, Mitchell rarely visits the project sites personally.

Rather, he relies on local quality assurance inspectors from an agency that hires well-trained Iraqi engineers.

“The QA guys are my eyes and ears on the ground,” Mitchell said. “They bring me photos of the project’s progress and make sure the work is done to the highest standard.”

Atheer Mohammed, a QA inspector who works with Mitchell, is a

graduate of Baghdad’s University of Technology and a working civil engineer.

“I make sure the safety requirements are met, and the work and materials are up to specifications,” Mohammed said.

“I double check Mike’s designs before the project starts and do what I can to help.”

Mohammed said he feels the project will help modernize Al Ameen, and pave the way for further development.

“The water network in Al Ameen will raise property values, and help the economy,” Mohammed said. “People feel good about the future when they have the basic necessities of life.”

Mitchell said the project is funded by the commander’s emergency relief program, which uses U.S. Army funds to tackle projects prioritized by 2nd BCT and Al Ameen’s local government.



2-3 BTB

(Above) Iraqis lay pipe for the water network in Al Ameen, where a \$580,000 water project is nearing completion.

(Right) Local laborers fine-tune the pipes in Al Ameen.



## Local workers renovate Sadr City hospital

Story by Capt. Jack Mooney

BAGHDAD – Along with numerous sewer, water, and electric projects, a hospital for women and children is being refurbished in Sadr City.

Since July 5, 2004, Parsons Delaware, Inc., has been working on Ibn Al Baladi Hospital (Arabic for “Son of My Town”), a facility in southern Sadr City primarily providing health care to women and children.

Patients previously suffered from unsanitary conditions and stifling temperatures due to lack of functioning environmental controls. Now, the temperature is cooling off thanks to new air handling systems, and infants and the elderly are less susceptible to the effects of heat.

The renovation of the hospital, divided in four different zones, is taking place in four phases. In order to prevent any lapse of health care availability, the hospital staff compressed the facility and patient living space into three-quarters the space they previously used. Meanwhile, Parsons started work in Zone 1, refurbishing the walls, floors, ceilings, plumbing, wiring, and ductwork. As the workers complete each zone, the staff moves patients and equipment into the completed areas, allowing Parsons to move to the next area.

The \$19.3 million project is currently halfway complete and is scheduled to finish in late February, 2006.

“They’ve completed Zone 1, and are really cranking on Zones 3 and 4,” said Jeremy Way, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project engineer.

In addition, the Iraqi Ministry of Health has planned to construct a new annex to the hospital to use as a blood laboratory. The contract includes provisions to purchase new medical equipment following the construction phase of the contract. Coalition Forces worked with the Ministry of Health to ensure the people of Sadr City would receive exactly the facility they need.

Although this project will provide improved health care to the people of Sadr City, it also has a side benefit. Parsons has employed nearly 220 people at a time, providing a stabilizing effect in the surrounding community.

“The differences [between the finished and unfinished portions of the hospital] are night and day,” said Maj. Paul Ashcraft, a representative from 2nd Brigade Combat Team, which is responsible for the area. “They’ve taken a hospital that’s been neglected for 30 years, and are turning it into a first-class facility.”

The renovation of Ibn Al Baladi Hospital is part of an overall effort to improve health care facilities in Baghdad. Five outpatient clinics being built across Sadr City will put competent care within much easier reach.

**Hoaxes are a real threat.**

**Always treat them as real.**



# Baghdad fire chief, 1-9 FA team up with residents, firefighters abroad

Story by Spc. Ben Brody

RUSAFA, Iraq – Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, firefighters from Fort Wayne, Ind., and residents of Kissimmee, Fla., have a friend in Col. Laith Y Abbas, fire chief of Central Baghdad.

Firefighters from Fort Wayne have given Abbas training aids, while Kissimmee is in the process of becoming a ‘Sister City’ to Rusafa.

Lt. Col. Steven Merkel, 1-9 FA, commander, who is from Fort Wayne, and Capt. Matthew Wheeler, 1-9 FA, intelligence officer, from Kissimmee, were instrumental in pushing the project.

“We first worked with Colonel Laith during Operation Double Steal, when we were clearing a highway median to prevent (improvised explosive devices),” Merkel said. “There was a lot of brush that needed to be burned and his guys controlled the fire and kept things safe during the mission.”

Since that time, cooperation steadily increased between the Battlekings and the Rusafa Fire Department.

Like the military, U.S. firefighters have common task training, which involves a lesson plan and tests.

Among the donated items were CD-ROMs and training manuals to help develop the Rusafa firefighters’ skills.

“The donations really show that people in the U.S. want to help make things better here – it’s a big confidence boost,” Merkel said during a visit to Abbas’ station Nov. 3. “I’m extremely proud of the Fort Wayne firefighters – it says they believe enough in what we’re doing in Iraq to volunteer their time and resources.”

Abbas also proudly displays a Fort Wayne FD year-book in his office.

Soldiers from 1-9 FA stop by the Rusafa fire station regularly during patrols. Since local residents routinely bring unexploded ordnance to the station, U.S. troops assist in proper munitions disposal.

“We’re working with Colonel Laith to increase force protection at his station, and to the dud pit,” said Maj. Jay Sawyer, 1-9 FA, operations officer. “We just call (explosive ordnance disposal Soldiers) to come over when the dud pit is getting full.”

EOD came to the station Nov. 3 and removed 11 155mm artillery rounds, 11 120mm mortars, and many smaller explosives, including hand grenades and rifle grenades.

Abbas said that in his 18 years of firefighting in Baghdad, he has never received an influx of support since coalition forces arrived in 2003.

He said his stations have been refurbished and have received 300 modern fire trucks since then.

The assistance does not run one way; Abbas and his men have aided U.S. troops on numerous occasions. “We will respond to any bomb strike, no matter who is hit – American or Iraqi,” Abbas said. “We come to put down the fire, and help our friends.”

Abbas’ firefighters responded to a blast near Sadr City in which one of 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry’s Bradley Fighting Vehicles was damaged, and helped extinguish the resulting fire.

“We don’t care if the TV cameras are filming, we want to show that we work together and support each other,” Abbas said.



**Soldiers from 1-9 FA and EOD load 155mm artillery rounds onto a truck, removing them from a fire station in Rusafa, Iraq, Oct. 3.**

# Stateside

## Please repeat that address

LOS ANGELES - Michael Fisk is a street fighting man.

And the street he's fighting is named Dicks

Fisk, who lives on Dicks Street in the Los Angeles suburb of West Hollywood, has gone to city hall to get the road's name changed — saying that its slang meaning has made life difficult for homeowners.

"Since we moved in four years ago it's just become a hassle," he said. "It's embarrassing. Something definitely needs to be changed. 'I realize that it's a man's name, but words change meaning, and this one has.'"

Dicks Street is in a neighborhood that fancies first names for its roads, with Keith and Norma among the choices. Fisk, who collected signatures on a petition from half of the residents on Dicks Street, has so far

been met with a lack of interest from city officials.

They say that changing a street name is too much work.

## Man seeking taxi hops into police car

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. - A night of drinking left a man so disoriented that he hopped into a police patrol car thinking it was a taxi, police said.

The 20-year-old man was arrested on Saturday soon after he let himself into Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Deputy Esther Beckman's car while she was out of the vehicle questioning a bicyclist.

The suspect's name was not available Tuesday.

Officers let the bicyclist go, but the man in search of a ride was taken to jail on suspicion of being under the influence of alcohol and cocaine.

## 100-pound woman wins turkey eating contest

NEW YORK - How much turkey can a person shove into their mouth in 12 minutes?

A group of competitive American eaters assembled at in New York on Nov. 23 to gobble down 10-pound roast turkeys and find out. Eric "Badlands" Booker started quickly, ripping through two turkey breasts and establishing an eight-ounce lead after three minutes. As time ticked down, Sonya Thomas and Tim Janus gained speed. After 12 minutes, nearly all had stripped their bird to the bone. After examining the scales, the judges announced a verdict: the 100-pound Thomas, of Alexandria, Va., had taken first prize, worth \$2,500. Booker dropped to sixth place.

How much turkey did Thomas eat? A total of 4 pounds, 3.1 ounces.

# Around the world

## Not-so-frequent flyer lands in jail

SYDNEY - An Australian man who illegally collected 17.6 million frequent flyer, without getting onto a plane, was jailed for fraud Wednesday, local media reported.

Austin Perrott, 45, pleaded guilty in the Victorian County Court in Melbourne to nine counts of obtaining financial advantage by deception and was jailed for six months, local newsagency Australian Associated Press reported.

The court was told Perrott received the points between February 1996 and October 2002, while working as a Singapore Airlines customer services supervisor in Melbourne.

Perrott used a computer irregularity to collect points on 29 accounts from frequent flyer programs at nine airlines.

Perrott never used his frequent flyer points to fly but redeemed 4.3 million points, which he mostly sold to family and friends for money.

Judge Roy Punshon said the value of the points stolen was about A\$400,000 (US\$296,000) and that

Perrott's motive was his desire to make his family's life comfortable.

## Israel army rescues wayward paraglider from Lebanon

JERUSALEM - Israeli troops exchanged fire with Hizbollah gunmen Wednesday to provide cover for an Israeli paraglider pilot who drifted into Lebanon by accident, military sources said.

They said the paraglider, which took off from the Israeli border town of Manara, went astray and landed just inside Lebanese territory.

"Soldiers who were near that spot saw him land. They basically opened a gate in the fence and told him to go through it," a source said. Military sources earlier said troops had entered Lebanon to rescue him.

Hizbollah sources confirmed the brief gunfight with Israeli troops at Mais El-Jabal, a Lebanese village just across the border from Manara. There were no reports of casualties on either side. The exchange of fire came two days after the worst clashes at the border in five years. Four guerrillas were killed and 11 Israeli troops wounded

in what Lebanese security sources said was a botched Hizbollah attempt to kidnap soldiers.

## Brazil to Crown Miss Penitentiary

SAO PAULO, Brazil - Like beauty pageant contestants everywhere, Caroline Goncalves hoped a victory could launch her modeling career. But she'd be satisfied if it helps shave some time off her prison sentence.

"This will put me a little closer to getting out of here," the 25-year-old convict said Nov. 24 as stylists tugged at her blond hair and put the final touches on her penciled-in eyebrows.

The heat inside the women's detention center was made worse by the dozens of hair dryers working overtime, but the 40 contestants from 10 prisons around Sao Paulo didn't seem to mind.

The women were vying to be named Miss Penitentiary 2005.

After more than six hours of ceremonies, Angelica Mazua, a statuesque Angolan serving five years on international drug smuggling charges was declared this year's winner.

# *To Our Fallen Warriors*

## ***Soldier's Creed***

*I am an American Soldier.*

*I am a Warrior and a member of a team. I serve the people of the United States and live the Army Values.*

*I will always place the mission first.*

*I will never accept defeat.*

*I will never quit.*

*I will never leave a fallen comrade.*

*I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills. I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.*

*I am an expert and I am a professional. I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.*

*I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.*

*I am an American Soldier.*



***Col. William W. Wood***  
*1-184 Inf.*  
*Killed in action*  
*October 27*



***Capt. James Gurbisz***  
*26th FSB*  
*Killed in action*  
*November 4*



***Spc. Dustin Yancey***  
*26th FSB*  
*Killed in action*  
*November 4*