



# Rakkasan Report

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## Rakkasan Medic Makes House Calls

By Spc. William Jones  
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**SAMARRA, Iraq (January 18, 2006)**

In old black and white television shows and movies, doctors were often seen walking up to their patient's house carrying a little black bag. There used to be a term for these visits, "house calls."

Today's doctors hardly ever have time to make house calls, but Specialist Clint Radcliffe does. Clint is a medic in the Rakkasan's Military Integrated Transitional Training team, from the 3rd Support Troops Battalion or MITT team as they are known.

Radcliffe has been deployed to Iraq since last fall and in the course of his duties he claims he has just about

seen it all. He goes outside the wire almost daily with his unit and they work directly with Iraqi soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army based in the northern Iraqi province of Salah Ad Din. In addition to being the MITT team medic, he is also in charge of the 2nd Battalion's aid station. He gets a lot of personal satisfaction from work, especially when his works allows him to help others.

"I joined the Army to help people and it's one of the best ways to make a difference," says Radcliffe.



Photo By Spc. William Jones

Spc. Clint Radcliff, Military Integrated Transition Training Team, 3 STB, listens for signs of asthma in a young Iraqi girl during a patrol in Samarra, Iraq.

Following a successful Iraqi led raid, Radcliffe received a call on the radio there was a young child whose mother said was having trouble breathing. "The mother told - See *MEDIC* Page 2

## Red Knights Discuss Role in Elections

By Spc. Waine Haley  
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



Photo By Tech. Sgt. Andy Dunaway

Iraqis voted for the members of their Parliament in December. Rakkasans of 3-320th FA met with officials from Salah Ad Din Province to plan for and decide what role Coalition forces will play in the upcoming provincial elections.

**TIKRIT, Iraq (January 10 2006)** – Coalition Forces met with Salah Ad Din Province officials Jan 10th at the District Election Office in Tikrit to begin planning for the upcoming provincial elections

A special team of Rakkasans from the 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, met with officials to decide what role Coalition Forces would play in the elections and to determine what help was needed.

The actual date of the provincial elections will not be determined until the United Nations releases the official count from the national elections. The Iraqi people requested UN assistance processing the results from the December elections, after allegations were made of tampering and fraudulent ballots. - See *ELECTION* Page 2

## Editors Notes

The 133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment is currently attached to the 3rd BCT Public Affairs Office to help us cover all units in the Rakkasan area of operations.

The journalists from the organizations listed below will be covering the Rakkasans in January and February. Look for their stories on television and your local news stands.



Steve Harrigan



Tom Lasseter

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## MEDIC

me that her daughter has asthma. I listened to the little girl's breathing and it turned out she had an upper respiratory infection."

Medical facilities are scarce in most areas outside of the larger cities in Iraq. "Most children never see a doctor unless their family has the money to pay for it. The child's mother surprised me when she brought me a couple bottles of medicine that had been prescribed for her daughter. I don't think the doctor told her how to give the little girl her medicine so I told her. I also told her to make sure she kept the girl warm," said Radcliffe.



"I wish I could have done more than I did, but there is only so much I am able to do."

Specialist Radcliffe is 24 years old and is from Orangeville, Ohio. He has been in the Army for four years and he volunteers at his hometown's fire department when he is on leave. When he enlisted he had already received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Kent State University, but he has decided he would like to go to medical school when his enlistment is over. "I'd like to be doctor someday or at least a registered nurse."



## ELECTION

In anticipation of the release, planning is now underway to prepare for the provincial elections expected to take place in February.

According to Akeel Hussein Abdullah, director of the election office, the Iraqi constitution states that elections are held in order from national to provincial to local. Without the results of the national elections, the next step in the election process can not be taken. However, all involved in the Salah Ad Din Province elections will be ready to take the next step when the time comes.

## Rak 7 Sends

RAKKASANS - I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the Hunters from 2nd Squadron 9th Cavalry Regiment out of Ft. Carson, Co, to the Rakkasan family. The Hunters have been taking the fight to the enemy in Ad Dawr since December.

I have been traveling throughout the Rakkasan AO and there are a lot of great things that your organizations are doing on a daily basis: Force Protection, discipline, safety, and aggressive combat operations which are the hallmark of the Rakkasans. It is appreciated and not going unnoticed.

In addition, the partnership with the Iraqi Security Forces draws us closer to mission accomplishment. This is evident everyday. 3-187 In. and A Co. 3rd STB are partnered with Iraqi Army units in Bayji. 2-9 Cav. is conducting joint operations with IA. 3-320th continues providing tactical overwatch with Iraqi Police on our supply routes and conducting joint operations with IA.

Lastly, we are in good hands with 626th BSB spearheading the Rakkasan Armorment Program and continuing Road Warrior supply to all of our Forward Operating Bases. I want to thank the Golden Rakkasans, former Rakkasans, Rear Detachment and family members. Your support is incredible and because of your support morale is high and our heads are in the fight.

Thank you for all you and your Soldiers do each and every day in this challenging environment. It is a pleasure and an honor to work with you and for you

"Ne Desit Virtus"

Command Sergeant Major Vincent Camacho

# IA Key To Self Governing Iraq

*By Spc. Matt Wrzesinski  
3 BCT Public Affairs*

**BAYJI, Iraq (22 January 2006)** -A capable, professional Iraqi Army is an essential element in Iraq becoming a self governing nation. The security they will provide is instrumental to safeguard trade routes and allow for economic development.

Coalition forces have partnered with Iraqi Army units since shortly after the Hussein regime was toppled. Though every Iraqi unit suffers from training and equipment shortfalls, the Leader Rakkasans has one Iraqi company well on its way.

The mortar platoon from Headquarters Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 187<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, completed training with Company C, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division on Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>. The training began Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> and taught the IA skills that will help them in their future mission.

The IA company had to learn how to look and act like Soldiers first. Stricter uniform codes were enforced and the Rakkasans placed strong emphasis on developing military bearing.

The Soldiers also helped the IA understand and take responsibility for the logistics of leading Soldiers in combat. They had to make daily reports on personnel, weapons, communication devices and ammunition. This was the first time they ever kept track of these items. These standards were maintained throughout the training.

The tactical training began with basic marksmanship techniques and gradually advanced until the IA Soldiers were able to conduct missions on their own. They also learned basic first aid skills and how to set up control points around their city.

Once the IA possessed the basic skills to safely carry out missions, they partnered with Rakkasans from Task Force Leader on a variety of combat operations. They successfully completed numerous raids and one air assault mission.

“They know what to do,” said Cpt. Jay Bessey, Iraqi Security Forces Team Leader. “It’s time for them to start honing their skills.”

As natives of Iraq, the IA Soldiers brought something new to the table while on patrol.

“They speak the language and know

the culture,” said Bessey. “Most (Iraqis) are more comfortable working with them.”

The Iraqis made great strides throughout their training and built confidence in their trainers that they could complete the mission.

“They have grown,” said Sgt 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jeffery Johnson, Platoon Sergeant, Mortar Plt. “When I tell them to hit the house, I know that they are going to stack on the door and clear it.

“There were many times when I had to be confident that they had my back. I felt they could do the job.”

The IA Company has been attached to Task Force Leader’s Company A since they completed their training and will remain with them until they reunite with the rest of their battalion in a few weeks. Their departure will leave room for the next group of IA Soldiers which will be a full battalion. The battalion will go through the same training and integration as Company C.

“They (the Iraqi Army) are doing something that will make a difference here,” said Johnson, “and cause us to let go of Iraq.”



Photo By Spc Matt Wrzesinski

An IA Soldier pulls security while Company A, 1-187 In. conducts an air assault mission on Bayji Island Jan. 15.



Photo By Spc Matt Wrzesinski

IA Soldiers from Company C assist Rakkasans from 1st Bn. in blocking all the routes to Bayji island during an air assault mission Jan. 15.

# HUNTERS TRAIN IA MEDICS

*By Staff Sgt. Jesse C Riggin  
3 BCT Public Affairs*

**AD DAWR, Iraq (2 February 2006)**  
The Hunters of 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron, 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment, joined the Rakkasan family taking over operations in Ad Dawr in December.

The Hunters are collocated at Forward Operating Base Wilson with Company D, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 4<sup>th</sup> Iraqi Army Division. Like the rest of the Rakkasans, the Hunters are working with the IA to integrate them into the operations in their area and eventually hand over control to them.

“Anything that we can do - combined operations, training them, supplying them within the limits that we have and teaching them to do that for themselves - is what is going to eventually win Iraqi freedom,” said Lt Col. Louis Lartigue, 2-9 Cav. Commander.

Since they arrived, 2-9 Cav. has developed a comprehensive training and integration plan for Company D, and on 28 Jan. they celebrated the partnership and some of the units’ accomplishments.

Lt Col. Louis Lartigue awarded eight



Photo By Staff Sgt. Jesse Riggin

**1st Platoon, Company D (IA), marches out to the training area at FOB Wilson as their Platoon leader Lt Abdulla Kasim Shallow critiques the movement.**

Soldiers from Company D Combat Life Saver certificates. 2-9 Cav. also allocated six armored Humvees to Company D temporarily to help equip them as they take on greater responsibilities in their area.

The eight CLS qualified Soldiers received additional training on basic medical diagnostic and treatment procedures. Lt Col. Richard Knowland, Nurse Practitioner, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop 2-9 Cav., led the training along with other members of the Medical Operations team.

The Soldiers will act as medics in their unit and will eventually start working in clinics around the city of

Ad Dawr.

According to 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt Fared Rashed Abed, Company D, he is going to use his CLS qualified Soldiers to help reopen and run his companies’ aid station.

“This training is very important,” said Fared. “It builds confidence in my Soldiers to know that their medics are trained by US Soldiers.”

The training has already paid off for one IA Soldier. Cpl. Alli Mohammed Nidi, 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, Company D, reacted when one of his fellow Soldiers was shot in the shoulder on a patrol. Alli controlled the bleeding and prepared the Soldier for transport to a medical treatment facility.

These immediate results are reassuring, but the goal is for the IA to be able and equipped to train themselves in the future.

“The Soldiers from this class will eventually be the instructors,” said Knowland. “The intent is to turn it over to them to do a lot of the training.”



Photo contributed by 2-9 MEDO

**An Iraqi Soldier practices intravenous cannulation on his buddy and a medic from 2-9 Cav observes his technique.**

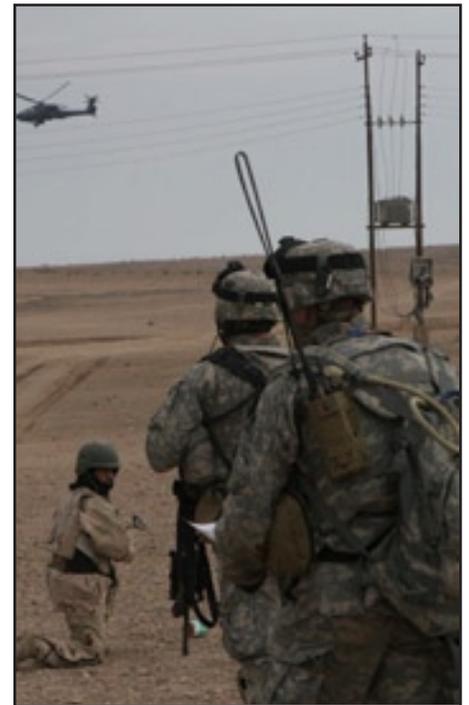
# Apache Teams With IA on Air Assault



*Photos By Spc. Matt Wrzesinski*



Apache Rakkasans of Troop A, 1st Squadron, 33rd Cavalry Regiment, and Soldiers from Company C, 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division, air assaulted on a small village near the east side of the Tigris Jan. 19. The Soldiers searched the village for a suspected arms dealer. Although nothing was found, the units worked together to make the mission run smooth.



# PUTTING A PRICE ON INTEGRITY

## RAKKASAN TURNS IN LARGE AMOUNT OF GOLD FOUND IN OFFICE

*By Maj. Tom Bryant*  
3 BCT Public Affairs

**TIKRIT, Iraq (February 2, 2006)** Soldiers expect a deployment to challenge them physically, mentally, and emotionally; no matter how hard they train, a year in the desert is tough.

For two of the Soldiers in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, a unique challenge arose recently with the discovery of a very special doorstep in the terrain team's work area: a 25-pound block of gold.

"I noticed it during the RIP (relief in place) with the unit before us, sitting under the table in the office," said Sgt. Teresa Burroughs, a Terrain Analyst in the Rakkasans' Intelligence Section. The Shenandoah, Iowa native said the outgoing unit "used it as a doorstep in the summer."

During a recent cross training session in the Terrain Team office, Master Sgt. Jay Phelps, the BCT S-2 NCOIC, noticed the brown shape on the floor. He tried to move the shape with his foot – and it didn't budge.

Phelps, a native of Colon, Michigan who now lives in Union Grove, Alabama, picked up the dense block and wiped away some of the dirt. After scraping his knife across the block, Phelps was relatively sure he'd found something.

"I couldn't be certain, but I thought this is probably a block of gold," Phelps said.

Phelps and Burroughs immediately notified the commander



Photo By Staff Sgt. Jesse Rigglin

**Master Sgt. Jay Phelps, BCT S-2 NCOIC, and Sgt. Teresa Burroughs, Terrain Analyst, hold the 25 lb. ingot discovered in the Brigade Headquarters at FOB Speicher.**

and secured the block in the company safe. Burroughs, due to depart for two weeks of leave, took a small piece of the ingot with her for testing in the States.

Back in Shenandoah, Burroughs called on the Hansen Jewelers to determine the block's composition. The jeweler confirmed that it was a low-quality – around 10 carat – amalgam of gold.

Phelps and Burroughs never wavered in making the right decision; they agreed the gold was not theirs and should be given to the proper Iraqi authorities.

"You of course think to yourself – wow, there's kids' college, a house, tons of people you could help with that money," said Phelps. "And then you immediately know it's not worth it."

The estimated value of the block is nearly \$110,000 US dollars.

A second source was used through the Tikrit Provincial Joint Coordination Center to confirm the block's composition; a local jeweler used a scrape test involving nitric acid to further grade the gold's quality.

The gold block will be returned to the government of Iraq in the coming weeks.

Both Phelps and Burroughs agreed this has been the most unique occurrence on the deployment – or any deployment – to date.

"It ultimately came down to what's your integrity really worth?" said Burroughs. "My parents taught me that money isn't everything, and what I've done in the Army is more important," she added.

## Flooding of The Tigris a Concern Of Locals



Photo By PFC Cassandra Groce

**Capt. Stephen Lavelle, Commander Company A, 3rd Support Troops Battalion, and Kareem Hassan, the Director of the Ministry of Water in Samarra, Iraq, review the agreement.**

*By PFC Cassandra Groce*  
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**SAMARRA, Iraq (January 9, 2006)** -- Rakkasan Soldiers and the Director of the Ministry of Water in Samarra, Iraq, have found a solution to increasing concerns over the water level of the Tigris River.

The meeting between the director, Kareem Hassan, and Coalition Forces commanders was arranged by Maj. Roger Stark, team leader for Bravo Company, 445th Civil Affairs

Battalion tasked to the 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment in Samarra.

"The Tigris pumps up to 60,000 cubic meters of water depending on rain," said Stark. "The Iraqi water workers regulate the flow, redirecting the excess to Lake Thar Thar for irrigation purposes."

Until recently, the dams did not need monitoring because the wet season in Iraq had not started. Now, with rain consistently falling, problems with the dam have been pouring in.

- See WATER Page 6

# Rakkasans Detain Two of Samarra's Most Wanted

By Spc. William Jones

133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**SAMARRA, Iraq (January 19, 2006)** – Fort Campbell's Rakkasans and soldiers of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 4<sup>th</sup> Iraqi Army detained seven men linked to making and trafficking improvised explosive devices.

A tip from a Samarra resident led the soldiers to the home of the suspected insurgents in a predawn raid Wednesday.

The raid was planned and executed by the Iraqi army officers with the assistance of the Military Integrated Transitional Training (MITT) team from 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Troops Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne

Division.

Inside the home, the Iraqi soldiers found seven men along with four women and a dozen children all sleeping. The women and children were taken into another room while the MITT team Soldiers questioned the men. It was discovered during the questioning that two of the seven men were on the area's most wanted list. All seven suspects were taken into custody without incident and transferred to a nearby Iraqi Army camp for further questioning.

"There are a lot of good people living in Samarra and throughout the surrounding area trying to make a living, trying to do the right thing,"



Photo By Spc William Jones

**Iraqi soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army prepare to go on a raid of a suspected improvised explosive device trafficker.**

says 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Matthew Upperman, a MITT team member. "It's just those few neighbors that live amongst them that cause problems for everyone."

## WATER

"The flooding would be a concern for all Iraq," said Hassan. "Not just Samarra, or Bayji, or Tikrit."

Barges that sank in the Tigris, or float around unmanned since the rains began, are another issue of concern. The loose barges could potentially be sucked into the hydroelectric dam's pull, damaging the equipment.

Silt and dirt fall into the river, building up mud along the bottom of the river. This decreases the amount of water actually traveling through the dam. The barges dredge up the mud, increasing the water flow.

"Right now, the dam is only operating at 60% [due to the silt build up]," said Stark.

The water produces electricity that is transferred to a national grid, supplying electricity country wide. Without it, there would be widespread electrical problems.

The monitoring needed at the dam would require 24-hour access to the bridge. Curfews around the city, initiated because of security concerns

with Anti-Iraqi Forces, prevent the 24-hour access.

Another issue included fears of an AIF attack on the bridge. An agreement was reached outlining the procedures for workers, which includes updated ID badges, call ahead procedures and documentation for the checkpoints.

Coalition Forces can provide a general "overview" of security from patrol bases at each end of the bridge but Iraqi Security Forces have the primary job of securing their own citizens.

"This was exactly what I wanted," said Hassan at the conclusion of the meeting. "The arrangement is just for both sides."

The meeting concluded with the commanders of the patrol bases and Hassan signing papers agreeing to the contract.

The arrangement made it possible for Iraqis to check on water levels as well as dredge up the river bottom, preventing electrical issues. It also ensures security for the Iraqis, the bridge and Coalition Forces. But most importantly, brings the Iraqi people one step closer to becoming self reliant in their new democracy. 🇮🇶



Photo By Spc Matt Wrzesinski

Flooding of the Tigris River is a main concern for citizens all across Iraq.

## Chaplain's Corner

### RAK Devotional

In the book of Hebrews it says that "The Word of God is living and active and sharper than any double edged sword." I encourage you to read, study and apply the Bible to the way you live and work as a soldier. God's Word can be a combat multiplier in your life by helping you become more like who God created you to be. God is your ultimate rater and he wants to encourage and guide you through his Word. Rakkasan...

CH (CPT) Scott Crosley  
1-187<sup>th</sup> IN BN

## Rakkasans Meet With California Reps



Photo By Spc Matt Wrzesinski

Col. Mike Steele, commander, 187th Infantry Regiment, talks with California Representatives (from left) Ken Calvert, Mike Thompson and Duncan Hunter during the Reps visit of Forward Operating Base Speicher Jan. 27. Hunter and Calvert are also members of the House Arms Services Committee. During the Reps visit they went to the Rusty Nail facility where Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Blake, 626th Brigade Support Battalion, showed them modifications that he made on the M114 including upgrading the 1/4 in. metal lining to 1/2 in. The Reps ended their day by eating lunch with California natives across FOB Speicher.

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The Rakkasan Report is an official publication of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). It is an electronic publication posted bimonthly and can be viewed at [www.dvidshub.net](http://www.dvidshub.net) under Military Publications. The contents are not necessarily the official views or endorsed by the US Government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Army or the 101st Airborne Division.

We welcome submissions and story ideas of any kind. Submissions should be made through Staff Sgt. Jesse C. Riggin at [jesse.charles.riggin@us.army.mil](mailto:jesse.charles.riggin@us.army.mil)

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# TASK FORCE RAKKASAN

IN MEMORY OF

GREATER LOVE HAS NO ONE THAN THIS,  
THAT A MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS  
JOHN 15:13



SPC JESSE ZAMORA

B 1-187 INF

28 SEPTEMBER 1983 - 2 FEBRUARY 2006

TIL WE FORM AGAIN...