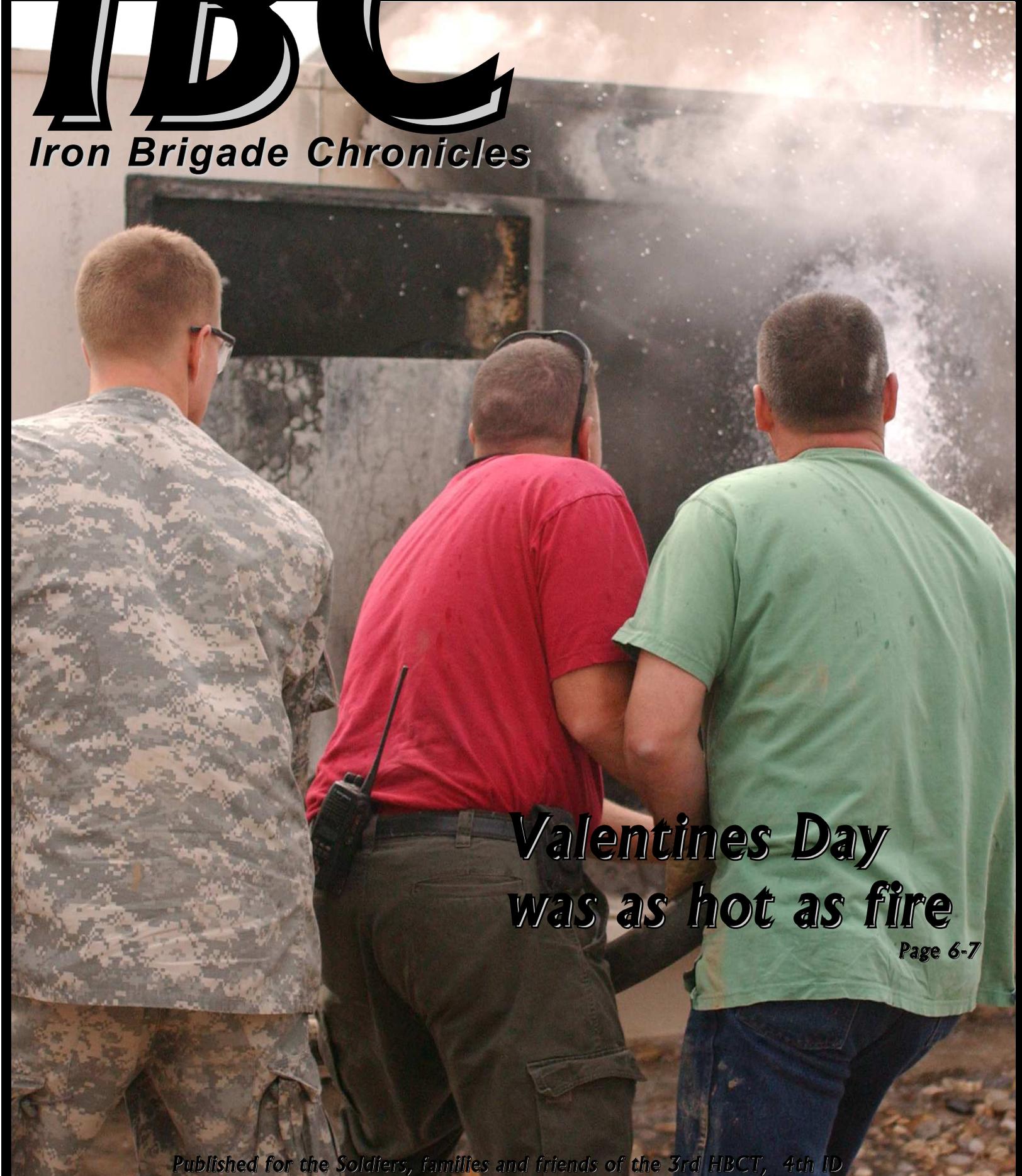


IBC

Iron Brigade Chronicles



**Valentines Day
was as hot as fire**

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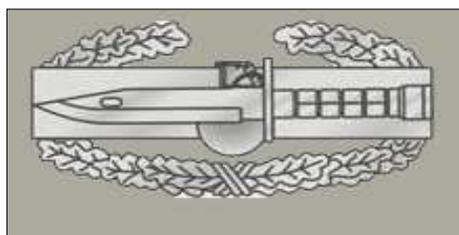
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Cover Photo

A Soldier and two KBR employees work a hose together to put out a generator fire on Valentines Day. Photo by Staff Sgt. Sheryl L. Lawry

The *Iron Brigade Chronicles* is published in the interest of the Soldiers, families and friends of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. The *IBC* is an Army-funded newsletter authorized for members of the U.S. Army, under the provision of AR 360-1. Contents of the *IBC* are not necessarily the official views of, nor endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense or Department of the Army.

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Striker 6 sends



Col. Brian D. Jones

Strikers,

Before we discuss anything else, it is only appropriate that we acknowledge the loss of Cpl. Walter Howard and Pfc. Scott Messer. Both Soldiers served proudly and the circumstances surrounding their respective losses can only underscore our commitment to vigilance and safety.

As our time in Iraq continues, the mission requirements for our specific battlespace become more clearly focused. As a result, it is of little surprise to us that this fight has two components: a kinetic fight and a non-kinetic fight.

The first fight is the kinetic fight, and it the type of fight in which we are most comfortable. Your NCOs and officers have prepared you well for facing the enemy with lethal means, and you are doing an incredible job. With our Iraqi army and police partners, you have conducted nearly 1,000 combat patrols, captured more than 200 detainees, and discovered more than 75 caches of weapons, ammunition and IED making materials. Materials that we know would have been used against us, our Iraqi brothers and innocent civilians at a later time. Additionally, we have found 168 IEDs before detonation and weathered nearly 160 that did detonate. Although most detonated with no significant damage; they serve to remind us that this enemy is dangerous and the effects he generates can be deadly. Each day, as the capabilities of the IA and IP grow, we become more proficient at this component of the fight and better postured to allow the Iraqis to assume the lead in the area of security.

The second fight is the non-kinetic fight. This is the fight where we are less comfortable because we are not used to it. This is the fight over the perceptions and realities of security, economic growth, basic services, and functioning government. This fight is the one that will result in long term improvements in the quality of life for the Iraqi people. Winning it allows us to achieve the end state of ensuring a democratic Iraq that joins us in the community of Nations as a partner against terrorism. Winning this "fight" will take some hard, well thought out efforts in conducting our engagements with local leaders; in assessing basic service project submissions and monitoring completion; in giving ad hoc civics lessons to local governments; and, in encouraging initiatives to create jobs and growth. This non-kinetic fight, although less exciting than the kinetic aspects of the mission, is absolutely necessary for our success in Iraq as it creates the conditions for a truly better life for the average Iraqi citizen.

Clearly, prosecuting and winning both of these fights simultaneously, while training and integrating the Iraqi security forces, is a tough mission. Only a disciplined, well led, unit with a comprehensive approach to both fights can accomplish such a difficult and seemingly divergent mission set. You represent the very best of America and are exactly the right Soldiers for this demanding mission. Lets get after it!



Steadfast and Loyal!
Striker 6

List's List



Command Sgt. Maj.
David H. List

1. Trash: We live at FOB Warhorse, Anaconda, Paliwoda, Normandy, Gabe and many points in between. These FOBs are your communities, your housing areas and your neighborhoods. You wouldn't trash your yard in Fort Carson or Colorado Springs, so don't do it here.

Besides the fact that keeping your area clean demonstrates good discipline and professionalism, it is also a health issue. Trash attracts flies, rodents, birds, and other feral animals and parasites that carry disease. Our job here is dangerous enough without worrying about leishmaniasis or avian flu. Pick up your trash!

2. Standards: Following the standards means being professional, being disciplined. Following the standards means wearing your ID tags, kevlar, eye protection and gloves at all times, and your IBAS with groin protector, neck protector, DAPS, enhanced SAPI plates and ear plugs when you leave the FOB.

Discipline in the Striker Brigade is most important because of the stakes involved. In civilian life, the lack of discipline may cause a little discomfort, or at worst get you in trouble with the law, but here poor discipline can result in the loss of a Soldier's life. That is too high of a price to pay. Follow the standards!

3. NCOs are the Standards Bearers: Noncommissioned officers have the distinguished task of enforcing the standards in our Army. You above everyone else need to understand the standards and enforce them on every Soldier, including yourself.

We live at FOB Warhorse, Anaconda, Paliwoda, Normandy, Gabe and many points in between. These FOBs are your communities, your housing areas, and your neighborhoods. You wouldn't trash your yard in Fort Carson or Colorado Springs, so don't do it here. Pick up your trash!
-- Striker 7

Our Soldiers look to you for guidance, training and mentorship. If you cut corners, they will too. If you walk by a deficiency, you have just created a new standard.

The fine NCO's in our brigade have a tough, demanding, but very rewarding job. Your most important duty is to the Soldiers, ensuring that they understand and adhere to standards.

4. Safety: Every operation, no matter how routine, should be planned and conducted like it is the first. PCIs, PCCs, a detailed risk analysis and implementing measures to reduce the risk. Use your Sergeant experience and don't walk past an unsafe act. NCOs, take care of your Soldiers. Soldiers, take care of each other. Be safe!

God Bless the Soldiers and Families of the 3rd Brigade!
Striker 7

The Combat Action Badge: who gets it?

by **Pfc. Paul J. Harris**

IBC staff writer

There have been a lot of inquiries by Soldiers asking "what are the rules for receiving a Combat Action Badge." The Department of the Army message states the CAB may be awarded to any Soldier performing assigned duties in an area where hostile fire pay or imminent danger pay is authorized. Soldiers must be personally present and actively engaging or being engaged by the enemy, and performing satisfactorily in accordance with the prescribed rules of engagement. For the purpose of awarding the CAB, engagements with the enemy include attacks by mortars, rockets, rocket-propelled grenades, improvised explosive devices, suicide bombers or other projectiles qualify for the badge.

Yet, depending on who reads the message, some deserving Soldiers may be missing out, while others are awarded. In order to help everyone understand the difference between the truths and myths circulating, Command Sgt. Maj. David List, command sergeant major, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Task Force Band of Brothers, weighs in and sets the record straight.

Question: What is the 50 meter rule everyone keeps hearing about?

List says: There is no 50 meter rule in reference to attacks by the enemy using mortars, rockets, RPG, improvised explosive devices, suicide bombers, or other projectiles. List uses the idea of imminent danger when reviewing a CAB award application.

Question: So if a Soldier is in the din-

ning facility and the FOB is mortared does that earn the Soldier the CAB?

List says: "You have to put imminent danger into perspective. Imminent danger is a reasonable distance where you could be injured by a piece of shrapnel or object. If you are standing at the PX and a mortar lands at 3-29 where they have their field artillery pieces set up (roughly 1km away), you are in no way or shape in imminent danger."

Question: If a Soldier is in a convoy that is struck by an improvised explosive device. Does that automatically qualify all the Soldiers on that convoy for the CAB award?

List says: The idea of imminent danger again plays a key role in answering this question. For instance, you are in a seven vehicle convoy, the second vehicle gets hit by an IED. Vehicles one and three are eligible for the CAB. Those vehicles were in imminent danger, while vehicles four, five, six and seven were not. These are parameters that have been set forth by me and Col. Jones (Col. Brian D. Jones is the brigade commander for 3rd HBCT, 4ID).

Question: Do Soldiers have to return fire when under direct fire to earn a CAB?

List says: You do not. If you are receiving rounds from the enemy, under direct fire, whether it is machine gun, Rocket Propelled Grenades, small arms, rifles or pistols you are eligible for the Combat Action Badge. You do not have to return a round. But you better fire at the target until it changes form.

Speaking now directly to all noncommissioned officers, List provided a few tips for submitting the paperwork for the

CAB.

The more information as to what happened the better, and be as detailed as possible. Draw a diagram, it helps as well. If a Soldier receives the Bronze Star or Purple Heart, those documents can be used to submit for a combat action badge too. You have 30 days to submit the paperwork from the time of the incident. If submitting a CAB packet after 30 days NCO must submit all of the following

- DA form 4187 and 4187-1r
- Deployment orders
- ORB/ERB
- Description of qualifying incident
- A certified copy of DD form 214 (if applicable)
- Any supporting documents, such as official unit reports, casualty reports, or line of duty investigation report.
- Two or more eyewitness statements from Soldiers who participated in the same ground combat action

"Though there is no 50 meter rule, it's still best to submit a distance from where the explosion occurred to where the individual was. We will know exactly what type of ammunition it is by the size of the crater or the angle in which it came in," said List. "Each award application is reviewed on a case by case basis. What I do is take an educated guess, knowing munitions, or I will ask the experts if I have to. I'm not going meter-for-meter, I'm not going out there with a tape measure. I do not draw a circle with a compass on a map and say you're in and you're out, besides Col. Jones, the DCO, the XO or the S-1 wouldn't allow me to do that. When in doubt, write it out."

In memory of ...

**Corproal
Walter B. Howard II
Alpha Company, 1-8 Combined
Arms Battalion,
4th Infantry Division**

**Private First Class
Scott A. Messer
Blackhorse Troop
1st Squadron, 32nd Cavalry
101st Airborne Division**

Gone, but not forgotten



Iraqi Police cadets graduate Scorpion Academy



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Wojciechowski
Seventeen Iraqi Police Cadets receives there Scorpion Academy graduation certificate. The Cadets were trained in everything from first-aid to urban patrolling techniques.

by Staff Sgt. Mark Wojciechowski

133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Iraqi security forces are working on their own despite insurgents attempts to disrupt the growing progress in Iraq. Adding to this growth is a unique academy that is graduating capable officers to enforce the law in a volatile Iraq.

The Academy provides a two-week course of comprehensive training in first-aid, basic rifle and pistol marksmanship, urban patrolling techniques, vehicle checkpoint procedures, prisoner searches, room-to-room searching and cordon and search.

Overseeing the Iraqi Police Academy, known as the "Scorpion" Academy, is Staff Sgt. Michael Barnette of the 101st Airborne Division's 1st Battalion, 32nd Cavalry.

"The academy is almost entirely operated by Iraqi police officers," said Barnette. "There are three Iraqi Police liaison Officers that are here to assist. Each have between 15 and 18 years of service as police officers in America."

The Iraqi cadre teach the entire course. The IPOs and coalition are merely there to facilitate the training, explained Barnette.

The graduates of Scorpion Academy rejoiced at the end of their training and they left with a message: to take what they learned and use it to train the new recruits who will help become the protectors of the people of Iraq.

Protective glass saves Soldiers life in IED blast

by Staff Sgt. Mark Wojciechowski

133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Rolling through the streets of certain areas in Iraq is no doubt hazardous, so using the right protective gear and exercising good patrolling discipline can mean the difference between life or death for Soldiers in combat.

The Bradley Section of A Troop, 1st Battalion, 32nd Cavalry, 101st Airborne Division, Task Force Band of Brothers, was returning from a night mission on the morning of Jan. 25, when they were hit by a 155 mm improvised explosive device. Keep in mind the blast from this size of IED has a potential kill radius of about 75 meters.

The first Bradley had rolled past, and just as the second Bradley passed ... it detonated.

Pfc. Robert Conley, who was in the turret protected only by thick glass recalls, "it started as a little flash and then everything just exploded sending dirt and shrapnel everywhere."

The blast blew three skirts off of the lower portion of the Bradley, peppered the whole right side of the vehicle and shattered one of the two-inch thick panels of protective glass around the turret.

"All I heard was a pop and I saw light flash through the periscopes and then the cabin started filling up with smoke," said Sgt. Steve Adams, who was inside the Bradley.

One Soldier received a shrapnel wound to the hand and a few of the crew members were bumped around a bit, but not many people live to tell about a blast of this magnitude.

The turret gunners are usually exposed to more hazards, however this attack is proof positive that staying below the blast shields can definitely save lives.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Wojciechowski
The turret glass of a Bradley Fighting vehicle that was hit with shrapnel from a 155mm IED. The Soldier manning the gun for the Bradley walked away with only minor shrapnel wounds to his hand, while the rest of the Bradley crew experienced bumps and bruises.





Prior to the water truck arriving more than 20 fire extinguisher were used.



ABOVE: A fan no more – the fire completely melted the fan blade. RIGHT: Staff Sgt. Logan Brown and two KBR employees put water on the generator's motor. It is suspected that a fuel line may have caused the fire.



by Staff Sgt. Sheryl L. Lawry
3rd HBCT PAO NCOIC

It was a hot, hot, hot Valentines Day for some Soldiers of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Task Force Band of Brothers, but not because it was the holiday of love. In a fluke incident, one of the 440k generators providing power to the 64th Brigade Support Battalion caught fire.

Smoke bellowed from the generator's seams and air vents creating a thick fog making visibility difficult. Soldiers and civilians quickly reacted with fire extinguishers to calm the flames flickering through the air vent.

One of the first people on the scene was Maj. Brent Ruhlen, the automation officer in charge for the brigade S-6. "I was standing right next to it when Totzke (Capt. Chris Totzke, the brigade's deputy S-2) pointed out the smoke," said Ruhlen.

Ruhlen and Totzke extinguishers without delay. Totzke said they tried to get a power agency shutoff, but that didn't work. So they cut the fuel line.

"That's when it burned out," Totzke said. He also suspected the generator motor may have thrown a spark and that was how the fire started and all over the motor.

Following up behind the fire, Totzke was Cpl. Kenyon Mills. Mills works in the brigade's S-6. Back from the DFAC, he saw the smoke. I went into the generator room there was a fire. At first I thought it was joking until they started to extinguish it.

Mills then posted a sign for a fire extinguisher replacement. He took them back and fourth throughout the building. In each office, I went in



A smoldering Valentines D



A KBR employee opens the door to flames.

grabbed fire extinguishers and went to work. I tried to use the emergency extinguisher but it was not working. I turned it off instead. I ran first into flames," Joslin said he thought the fire was under control with a couple of rods but the fire spread to the fan and started on its own. Joslin and Ruhlen and Mattyatta Mills, who also works at S-6. "I was coming to work when I saw the fire. I called the TOC and told them what happened. First they thought I was outside." Joslin described himself as the fire incident man. "I brought the generator as I found them. There's some in the room and grabbed them."

Just as the fire extinguishers were running dry, the water truck arrived and replaced their efforts. Together, civilians working for Kellogg, Brown and Root and Soldiers worked the hose. Within 10 minutes the fire was out and KBR's workers were assessing the generator's damage and talking about its replacement.

Not your normal every day event, KBR's Facility Manager, Ralph Joslin, said this was only the second generator fire he has seen in his 32 months at Forward Operating Base Warhorse. "This was just one of those things."

Joslin said that this type of generator, which cost an estimated \$75,000, produces roughly 6,200 hours of running time. It could be a safe guess that this generator, which ran all-day, non-stop and was assumed from the unit prior, had used its hours quota and went out of service with a hot, hot, hot exit.



Smoke and flames caused visibility in the area to be difficult.



Soldiers and civilians work together with the hose to douse the flames.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Sheryl L. Lawry

A melted air filter displays how hot the fire was.

Day courtesy a generator

Watching from above with eyes of an Eagle

by Staff Sgt. Mark Wojciechowski

133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Troops being on the ground in Iraq is a risky business. Insurgents and Anti-Iraqi Forces are devious when it comes to placing IEDs and hiding their caches. So it always helps to have an extra set of eyes watching over the streets of Iraq.

Providing the extra set is the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Platoon of Company A, 3rd Special Troops Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, Task Force Band of Brothers who maintains and operates the Shadow UAV. Their mission is to fly route reconnaissance and surveillance, providing intelligence reports for commanders of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team.

Staff Sgt. Brian Ward, the platoon sergeant of the Shadow platoon, said the Soldiers conducting ground patrols like it when the Shadow is soaring above them. The insurgents know that when the Shadow is in the air, they are being watched. This leads to fewer incidents.

Spotting IEDs and following insurgents as they try to hide is all part of the Shadow's mission and it has been successful. The Shadow recently spotted two 155 mm rounds being emplaced as a roadside bomb. Providing early warning of troubled areas is what this platoon does and does well.

Staff Sgt. Robert L. Lilly is a section leader in the platoon and who is responsible for deciding who will fly and on what missions.

"They (Soldiers) love the mission. It's a great job," said Lilly "We get to fly airplanes and help people while we are doing it."

Spotting IEDs is not the only thing the Shadow's camera is good for, it is capable of spotting disturbances in the dirt where a weapons cache may be buried, or following a high value target

as they move about. The Shadow platoon enjoys their job knowing that they can spot troubled areas before the ground troops roll upon them, endangering their lives.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Wojciechowski

Spc. Rosa Mendoza, Company A, 3rd Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Task Force Band of Brothers, conducts a walk around inspection of the Shadow UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle).

Iron Brigade earns OIF combat patch -- again

by Pfc. Paul J. Harris

IBC staff writer

With a firm slap on the upper right arm, Soldiers from the 3rd Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Task Force Band of Brothers ceremoniously received their combat patch for participation in Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07 at Forward Operating Base Warhorse.

"Today, we the officers, non-commissioned officers and Soldiers of the 3rd Special Troops Battalion join the ranks of heroic Americans from generations past who have answered our nations call to arms and served in harm's way in foreign lands," said Lt. Col. Leonard Wells, commander, 3rd STB, 3rd HBCT, 4ID, who has served multiple tours of duty in Iraq, but this was the first combat patch ceremony he participated in.

The tradition of wearing the right sleeve patch started back in the World

War II era. The patch was designed to designate a unit's involvement in ground combat operations.

"We now have several things in common (with our Army predecessors). We share their courage, fears, set-backs and victories" Wells said. "We also share unit patches representing our service in combat. Congratulations warriors. You have earned recognition only a small percentage of our society has received."

Recognition for service was on the mind of Spc. Keith Beeson, the commander's driver, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd HBCT, 4th ID who recently re-enlisted, and was also a participant in the ceremony.

Beeson could have stayed at Fort Carson on a medical deferment and been apart of the rear detachment, but he instead chose to come to Iraq and fight alongside his fellow Ivy Division men and women.

"I signed up with the Army to come to Iraq," Beeson said. "I chose to be here and it means a lot to me to be recognized for my choice to serve my country."

The 4th Infantry Division patch design consists of four green ivy leaves joined at the stem with an opening at the four corners. The 4th ID is nicknamed the Ivy Division and ivy is a play on the Roman numeral "IV."

Ivy leaves are symbolic of fidelity and tenacity, traits that Sgt. Maj. Gerald Kinloch, command sergeant major, 3rd STB, 3rd HBCT, 4ID is are proud to be associated with.

"When we take the oath (of enlistment) in the Army, it is to serve our nation and protect the constitution of the United States and to fight our enemies foreign and domestic," Kinloch said. "When you have the opportunity to serve in that capacity it means a whole lot, it means you have contributed."





Photo by Staff Sgt. Sheryl L. Lawry

Staff Sgt. Tony Fincher, a class instructor explains what a map legend is to soldiers with the 1st Compny, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi army Division. Around 30 IA soldiers attended the class, which will be followed up with refresher and sustainment training.

Class in land navigation, map reading bring IA soldiers one more step closer to control

by Staff Sgt. Sheryl L. Lawry
3rd HBCT PAO NCOIC

Gathered in an underground bunker — a setting very different from what American Soldiers would be accustomed to as a place for training — a group of Iraqi army soldiers sat ready and waiting to receive a class on basic land navigation and map reading. The group's ranks ranged from privates to sergeants major to officers, all eager to learn what a map legend and declination diagram is.

Typically, this type of training falls in the realm of responsibility of U.S. Military Transition Teams, who are tasked with training the IA. However, because the Company D, 1-68 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Task Force Band of Brothers, works closely with the soldiers they were training, all of whom are from 1st Company, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 5th IA Division, it was decided that to help increase camaraderie, trust and confidence between the two unit, that Co. D should perform the training, explained 1st Sgt. Tommy Hunt, first Sergeant for Co. D, whose noncommissioned officers conducted the class.

"This was a very good class, most helpful," said Najem Mohamed, a soldier with 1st Co., 3rd Bn., 2nd Bde., 5th IA

Division. "This training will help me when my officer gives me a target, I will be able to see it on the map." Mohamed added that because of how well the class was given, he was more confident in his abilities.

This sentiment was echoed by the class instructors. "When they make contact (with insurgents) and need our assistance, we will be able to respond that much faster if they can give us a grid, and vice versa," Staff Sgt. Terry Bingham, an instructor. "This training for the IAs will increase reaction time to IEDs and in retrieving high value individual targets," said Staff Sgt. Mark Saunders, another class instructor.

Besides the increased capabilities the IA will have, thanks to this and other planned follow-up training, many see this as a direct contribution to the future — a future where the IA is in control of protecting their country without the assistance of coalition forces.

"Land navigation and map reading skills are the foundation of any military operation. Knowledge in this area is essential to the success of the IA," said 1st Lt. Brad Caton, also a class instructor. And, "the feeling of satisfaction is what comes to mind knowing that the IA is one step closer to assuming full responsibility for Iraq."



Mascal exercise preps Soldiers for real deal

by Pfc. Paul J. Harris

IBC staff writer

A mass casualty exercise is an event in which a large number of casualties pour into a medical facility at a rapid pace. To ensure the readiness of the brigade medical staff, a simulated insurgent attack followed by a mass casualty event was conducted Jan. 18 at Forward Operating Base Warhorse. It was the job of the highly trained medical staff of Company C, 64th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Task Force Band of Brothers to keep a sense of order, to what can be, a chaotic event.

When the ambulance rolls into the medical compound with “casualties”, a litter team greets the ambulance to offload the wounded. Then it is up to the triage officers to determine what level of care is needed based on the severity of the patient’s wounds.

“If there is excessive bleeding or danger of losing life, limb or

eyesight then they go into immediate care first” said Capt. Derek George, physical therapist, 64th BSB, 3rd HBCT, 4th ID. Not as severe cases go into the delayed care category. Walking wounded or stable cases go into minimal care category.”

In some cases, the 64th BSB medical staff might have to treat an Iraqi or one of the many foreign nationals who work on FOB Warhorse.

“Language barriers propose a problem for our medical workers, to combat this we have interpreters on staff to help out,” George said. “If we get a prisoner of war in (the troop medical clinic) they have to be screened first at the (front) gate and then they are screened again at the aid station for potential security risks, making sure that their weapons are gone or they are not booby-trapped before receiving aid.”

From the triage area a patient is moved inside the medical clinic for treatment. One of the first people a patient can expect to encounter is someone like Pfc. Megan Berry, medic, 64th BSB, 3rd HBCT. It is her job to prep the patient before a doctor arrives.

“When the patient comes in I make sure their vital signs are recorded and hook up an IV if needed,” Berry said. “I also make sure the patient’s airway is open, cut their clothes off to check for any other wounds that they might not be complaining of and get them ready for the doctors to see them.”

After being treated by a doctor a patient can recuperate at the medical clinic or if further medical attention is needed they can be airlifted to Logistical Support Area Anaconda.

It is very important for the 64th BSB medical staff to work like a well-oiled machine, having everyone know their responsibilities provides the best care for patients. To get real-world feedback on the quality of patient care the battalion decided to have one of its own, Pfc. Heidi Freeman, medic, 64th BSB, 3rd HBCT, be a casualty during the exercise.

After a simulated attack of indirect fire, Freeman was one of the casualties with a lower leg fracture. She was then picked up by the Perimeter Reaction Force who took her to the troop medical clinic.

“I went through triage very quickly where I was determined urgent critical. The doctors determined that I needed to be medically evacuated by a helicopter. I was taken to the helipad where I was simulated being loaded onto a Black Hawk helicopter. The process was very smooth,” Freeman said.

Though it was only a simulation, being a casualty can be an intimidating experience, even for the most seasoned medics.

“I was scared because you are lying on your back (on the litter) thinking that this could be me in real life and how traumatic that would be,” Freeman said. “But the medical staff was very professional and talked to me through every procedure making sure to explain what task they performed on me.”

With the deployment of 3rd HBCT in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom just getting under way Berry remains upbeat about the road ahead.

“With the docs and the equipment we have, we are very prepared to handle emergencies like a mass casualty with very little difficulty,” she said.



Photo by Pfc. Paul Harris

Medics from 64th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Task Force Band of Brothers, hang IVs in preparation for treating a “casualty” during a mass casualty exercise Jan. 18 at Forward Operating Base Warhorse.



Presence on ancient river disturbs AIF

by Sgt. Zach Mott
IBC editor

Stopping the flow of supplies is one of the most basic ways to stop an armed aggressor. If they don't have the means to fight you, there will be no fight, as the concept goes.

A platoon from Crazy Company, 1-8 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Task Force Band of Brothers, patrolled the banks of the Tigris River in an effort to stop the flow of improvised explosive device materials from crossing the river.

"There is some intel that believes that the north side of the river, which is not patrolled as heavily as where we're at now, they could sneak into the backdoor of our (area of operations)," said 1st Lt. Bryan Feldmayer, platoon leader, Crazy Co., 1-8 CAB.

The point in the river Feldmayer's platoon was patrolling has easy access to one of the main supply routes used by military patrols across Iraq.

By crossing the river with IED materials, small arms, RPGs ... and just load it onto a truck and bam, they're heading

down the MSR, Feldmayer said.

If any of the AIF are brazen enough to try to cross the ancient river on this patrol, it will help to soften the resistance against coalition forces and the emerging Iraqi security forces.

"If you catch the guys, detain them or engage them, then they're out of the fight, not to mention whatever materials they were bringing," Feldmayer said. "It also might force them to alter their route and run into one of our checkpoints or our normal patrols or (traffic control points.)"

By putting a military presence in this region, coalition forces hope to compel the AIF into changing their tactics.

"They may get scared if they feel our presence here then they'll try another route and

then we'll adapt to that," Feldmayer said.

Prior to setting up the observation points, Feldmayer's platoon delivered a hot meal to another Crazy Company platoon living with the Iraqi army at a forward location.

"The IA provide their own food, but we wanted to make sure it was double the amount if that wasn't the case," Feldmayer said.



Staff Sgt. James Denby explains to 1st Lt. Bryan Feldmayer, both from Crazy Company, 1-8 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Task Force Band of Brothers, the turns of the Tigris River and where the best place to position observation points would be.



Photos by Sgt. Zach Mott

1st Bryan Feldmayer and Staff Sgt. James Denby, both from Crazy Company, 1-8 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Task Force Band of Brothers, stand on a hilltop beside the Tigris River to determine the best vantage point for spotting insurgent activity along the ancient river.

FAR #2

Be professional, be polite, be vigilant, be disciplined; and always be ready to kill. (Never come off

your weapon system or give up your personal weapon.)

Iron Brigade Soldiers demonstrate this each and every time they handle detainees.

Bulldog Battery, 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery's Counter Insurgency Platoon escorted five detainees recently.

"You don't want anything to get out of control, especially with (escorting detainees)," said Spc. James Isbell, a supply clerk with Bulldog Battery, 3rd Bn., 29th FA. "We have two guys in the back of the truck making sure that nothing happens."

Soldiers keep a keen eye on the detainees to ensure safe passage for both the Soldiers and their passengers.

"Right before you put them in the back of the truck, they're always messing with their zip ties, messing with their hands," Isbell said. "So you're always worried about the two guys in the back that are guarding them. So, it's really important to keep control."

During the bumpy ride to FOB Warhorse, the patrol encountered a suspected improvised explosive device — an artillery round along the side of the road. While the patrol stopped, a few members of the patrol searched the immediate area for the explosives' trigger man.

"Any time that something like that happens we get a little bit of adrenaline flowing because you don't know what's going to happen, you don't know if it's more than one IED or where the trigger man is. It gets the adrenaline going," said Sgt. Erick Millette, a truck commander for the COIN Platoon.

Despite this small victory against the anti-Iraqi forces, there are many more battles left to be fought.

"It will continue to be a regular mission as long as we continue to eliminate the insurgents," Millette said.

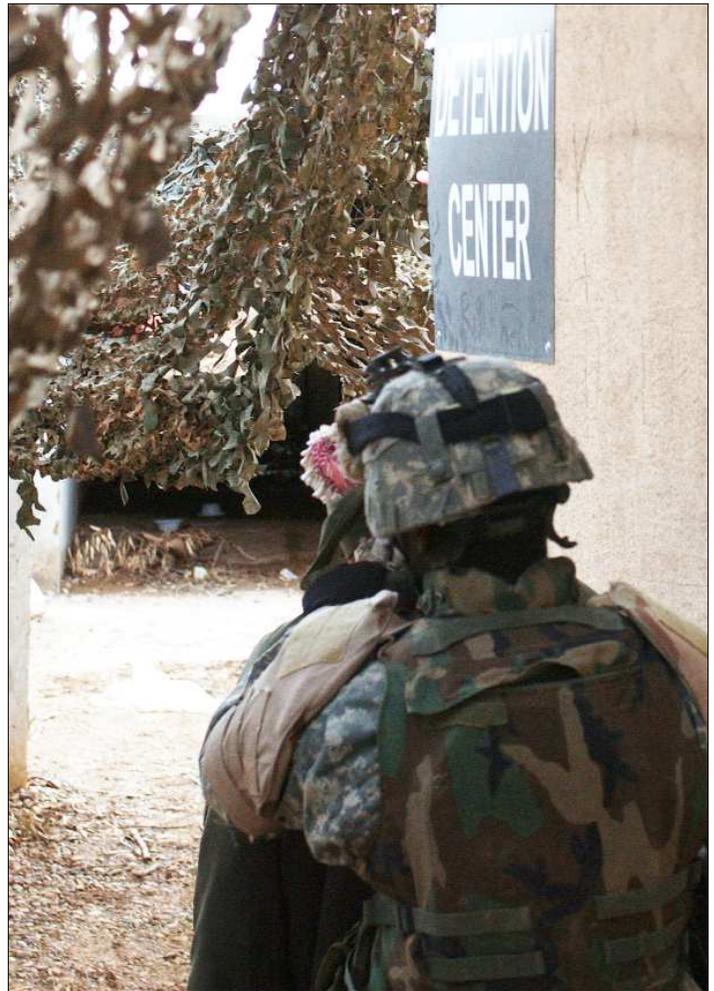


Photo by Sgt. Zach Mott

Pfc. Winslow Jones, Counter Insurgency Platoon, Bulldog Battery, 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, escorts a detainee from the detention office at Forward Operating Base O'Ryan.

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Three Soldiers take a break from trudging through the flood waters caused by three straight days of rain on FOB Warhorse. Photo was taken by Terry Moore, a paramedic with KBR.



Continuing with a flood water theme, three straight days of rain prevented Soldiers from using the calling center due to more than a foot deep of water blocking the path. Photo by Staff Sgt. Sheryl L. Lawry

To see your photos here, e-mail them to: zachary.mott@us.army.mil. Photos can be anything from a promotion to everyday life on the FOB. Please include as much information about the pictures as possible.

