



THE WARHORSE STABLE



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By Cpl. Michael Molinaro
Editor



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FOB KALSU, Iraq – Keeping potential munitions and weapons out of terrorists’ hands is one-half the battle during counter-insurgency operations, and getting to those munitions first is a victory in itself for Iraqi and Coalition Forces Soldiers.

A recent operation, combining the efforts of soldiers from 4th Battalion, 8th Iraqi Army Division and 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4 ID Soldiers, turned up a significant number of unexploded ordnance that will never be used against innocent people.

“We clean up these UXOs so no one can use them to blow up Iraqis or Soldiers,” said Capt. Rick Showalter, commander, Battery A, 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd BCT.

During the operation, Iraqi and U.S. vehicles went over the desert like a fine-toothed comb, driving hundreds of miles altogether in a search for dangerous weapons and munitions. But all of the digitized maps and high-tech equipment in the world can’t compare to the knowledge of locals, who know where all sorts and sizes of unexploded devices may be nesting.

“You can’t just drive around in a humvee looking for these things expecting to find a lot,” Showalter said. “You have to get out and talk to the locals who know the area.”

Two local shepherders did just that, directing one search team of Iraqis and



PHOTO BY CPL MICHAEL MOLINARO

Capt. Rick Showalter, commander, Battery A, 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, writes down information about a weapons dump found Feb. 26. A local Iraqi directed Iraqi and U.S. Soldiers towards the site.

Americans to more than 12 sites. High-explosive, phosphate and mortar rounds were among those discovered, which have all been used as weapons against Soldiers and Iraqis alike.

“I do not want the bad guys using these things to hurt people, and I don’t want them anywhere near my house or my family,” said one local. “If the Americans get rid of all the stuff that is out here, then no strangers will come around here.”

Soldiers have many different theories on why so much ordnance is scattered in such a wide area. The area in the desert was used as a firing position against advancing American forces, so many of the rounds may have been left here after the enemy abandoned their positions, Showalter said.

“It may be a redundant job, but it is important,” said Pfc. Shawn Eilerman, training room clerk, Battery A, 3-16 FA. “Others could find the rounds and do harm with them, so it is our duty to make sure Iraqis have a safe place to live.”

Warhorse 7 on Point!

As we move into our third month of the deployment I continue to be amazed at the courage and fortitude displayed by our Soldiers. They continue to maintain their warrior skills and remain focused on the mission.

The Warhorse BCT continues to face trials but as our division motto tells us we remain "Steadfast and Loyal."

The quality of life for our Soldiers continues to improve daily. The Soldiers of Dealer initially had to rough it a bit but with the help of our Division CSM we were able to make vast improvements through renovations and construction.

Our Saber Soldiers were able to take over a compound that had been neglected and turn it into a place where the Soldiers can relax and work in comfort. Our Soldiers of Thunder Pride and Rough Rider continue to enjoy the facilities that they inherited. I have been known, on occasion, to take a couple of days R&R at FOB Duke.

As we move into our summer months it will become extremely hot and you can expect your Soldier to make many unusual requests. They will ask, mainly, for items to beat the heat. During the BCT's last rotation here we had temperatures as high as 142 degrees in the shade. We expect to have similar conditions this summer.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our Rear-Detachment personnel and FRG Leaders for the excellent job that they are doing for our



Soldiers.

Having served as a Rear Detachment NCO, I know that it is not easy and requires many late nights and a lot of patience.

Finally I want to say thanks to all the individuals, organizations and others who write and send e-mails asking what our Soldiers need and want. I am particularly grateful for the support we receive from the First Cavalry Association and our friends of the Purple Heart Association. I can not imagine what we would do without them.

Until next time God Bless you all and remember that we do what we do for you and our great nation. My personal motto: "One Team, One Fight"

CSM Elijah King Jr.
Warhorse 7

Ask the Judge



Dear Judge: What is Identity theft, and how do I protect myself from this?

In simple terms, Identity Theft occurs when somebody gets a hold of personal information and uses it for his or her own benefit. For example, SSN#, checking or savings account numbers, credit card numbers etc., can be used by Identity thieves to gain access to your money, benefits or other entitlements with what is rightfully yours. Here is a quick and simple list of ways to avoid being another statistic in this growing crisis.

First, never provide your Social Security number, credit card number or other personal information unless you are absolutely certain of what the intended use is.

When you lose important documents or cards, immediately contact government agencies to cancel and replace them. Regarding credit cards and other financial documents, call immediately to cancel them, and file a police report to track it. Most importantly, call the three credit bureaus to place the credit fraud alert.

In practical terms, let me share a few simple steps that can minimize your risk of being a victim of ID Theft: (1) Order checks and have only your initials written on them. This would confuse anyone stealing your checks, and they will not be able to "fake" your signature with your full name. (2) If you write a check to pay your credits, do not write the full account in the memo, but rather just the last four. That way, the many hands that handle the processing of checks will not have access to that extra information. (3) Last, but definitely not least, place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine. Do both sides of your credit cards, license, etc., and add all account numbers with contact phone numbers.

By CPT Carlos A. Calderon, 2nd BCT Trial Counsel

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|  <h3 style="text-align: center;">THE WARHORSE STABLE</h3> | | <p>The Warhorse Stable is produced in the interest of the Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. The Warhorse Stable is an Army-funded newsletter authorized under provision of AR 360-1. Contents of the Warhorse Stable are not necessarily the views of, nor endorsed by the, U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 4th Infantry Division.</p> |
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Cruisin' on the River

By Cpl. Michael Molinaro
Editor

ISKANDARIYAH, Iraq – Some of them are tankers, some of them are infantryman. But now some of them are ... sailors?

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, are keeping the pressure on terrorists in the Babil province and have taken counter-insurgency operations to the least common of places for an armor unit: the water.

Insurgents will do whatever it takes to go undetected in this area, and using the river is one of the ways they transport and hide bomb-making materials, said Staff Sgt. Paul Jones, combat engineer with the battalion's Company E. Last month, a substantial cache was discovered on one of many islands along the river.

Islands are a clever place for terrorists to hide improvised explosive devices and other weapons used against Coalition



PHOTOS BY CPL. MICHAEL MOLINARO

Soldiers from Company E, 1st Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, assisted by Soldiers from the 50th Engineer Co., Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., scan the banks of the Euphrates River during river operations Feb. 16. Terrorists have been known to use the river as a means of transporting and hiding IED-making material.



Sgt. Lonnie Lewis, bridge crew chief, 50th Engineer Company, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, listens to a report of possible terrorist activity near the banks of the Euphrates River during river operations Feb. 16.

and Iraqi security forces, said Jones. Having a presence on the rivers to prevent terrorists from getting to those islands only makes sense. Soldiers probe the islands and search for weapons and other material terrorists use to do harm.

"It's a nice change-of-pace to be on the river after patrolling the roads all of the time," said Spc. Michael Komaromy, also a Co. E combat engineer. "There are bad guys on the water, so we need to get them too."

Since arriving in Iraq, and the introduction of the mission, it has been on-the-job training for these medics, scouts and other Soldiers tasked with keeping the water routes free from terrorists.

"We had two or three days of getting familiar with the boats: knowing where everything is and going over man-over-board drills," said Komaromy, "but the reactions to contact are just about the same as in a vehicle."

The river operations have been effec-

tive, Jones said. IED emplacement was more prevalent in the area prior to 1-67 AR's operations. Now, with checkpoints set up and a presence on the water, terrorists are finding fewer places to hide.

"Locals may feel more comfortable and secure knowing that we are providing security all around them," said Jones. "They want to feel better about the area they are living in, and this is one of the ways to make sure that happens."

Co. E lost one of its own during the early days of this deployment, and the reminder drives these Soldiers to make sure terrorists are taken off the streets – and the water.

"If cruising this river all day and all night is what it takes to take the bad stuff out of the (terrorists') hands, then that's what I'll do," concluded Jones.

Iraqi Police Graduate 1,000 into Force

By Maj. Anna Friederich
2nd BCT Public Affairs Officer

AL HIILA, Iraq – A formal ceremony with all the pomp and circumstance deserving of the occasion was the order of the day as Iraqi Police officials and local provincial leaders welcomed the newest “comrades in arms” here Feb. 12.

The IP academy graduates, decked out in their finest, displayed their best drill and ceremony techniques for the audience as they took the parade field for the formal portion of the graduation ceremony.

More than 1,000 IPs were in formation, standing tall as several dignitaries praised their achievements and lauded their determination and courage in joining the ranks of such an elite force.

Speaking on behalf of the Babil Provincial Police was Brig. Gen. Qais Hamza, provincial police chief. He expounded on the accomplishments of those currently serving and the future success of those joining their team.

Maj. Gen. Joseph Peterson, Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq, commended the courage of the newest IPs and their dedication in keeping the province safe from terrorist activity and moving the region toward stability.

Approximately 50 IPs were awarded distinguished honor



PHOTOS BY MAJ ANNA FRIEDERICH

The newest additions to the Babil Provincial Police Academy wait patiently for the graduation ceremony to begin here Feb. 12 where more than 1,000 recruits earned their place amongst the ranks of the elite force.



Seasoned Iraqi Police show off their skills in a demonstration at the IP graduation here Thursday where more than 1,000 recruits earned their place amongst the ranks of the elite force.

graduate certificates for their exceptional performance during the training. Quais, Peterson and Col. John Tully, commander, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, shared the honor of personally awarding the certificates and congratulating the security officers.

A demonstration took place on the parade field following the ceremony in which an IP bus, sirens blaring, entered the area followed by several law enforcement vehicles loaded with seasoned policemen. As the vehicles slowed to a stop, the officers jumped from the vehicles and raced to the bus. They swiftly secured the area, using distinct tactical formations learned at the academy and cleared the bus of role-playing suspects.

Once they had the “terrorists” face-down on the ground and their hands secured behind their backs, they were escorted to the waiting security trucks and whisked them away to face justice.

The demonstration achieved its purpose: to showcase the skills taught at the academy and portray a potential real-life situation. “It was very impressive and smoothly executed, a good combination of their tactical proficiency and road experience,” said Tully.

The day ended with a tour for the guests through the Hall of History which opened last month. Peterson marked the event by signing the guest book as dignitaries and IP leadership thanked him for his attendance and support of the force.

CF, IA Pay Tribute to Fallen Marine

By Cpl. Michael Molinaro
Editor

FOB DUKE, Iraq – Marines, Multi-National Division — Baghdad Soldiers and Iraqi army soldiers gathered at the chapel to pay their final respects and honor one of their fallen comrades Feb. 24.

Staff Sgt. Jay Collado, 31, Columbia, S.C., died Feb. 20 when a roadside bomb struck a combat patrol north of Najaf.

He was a member of Battalion Military Transition Team 0841, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, tasked to 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

His patrol was struck by an improvised-explosive device. Three of his comrades in the vehicle were injured and are currently recovering.

The chapel was packed and those who could not fit in the building waited outside to pay their respects to a man described as “a devoted husband and father, and the kind of man we all aspire

to be. Quite simply one of the finest men I have ever known,” said Marine Maj. Scott Lacy, commander, MiTT 0841.

Collado was nicknamed “Jet Li” by the MiTT’s Iraqi army counterparts, the only team member to have the privilege of earning a nickname.

They gave this to him in reference to his high-flying attitude and love for martial arts, said Capt. Andy Christian, MiTT team member.

“He exemplified the words honor, courage and commitment,” Christian said. “He will be remembered as a selfless warrior.”

Collado is survived by his wife, Judy, and daughter, Kaiya, 6.

His military awards include the Purple Heart, the National Defense Service



PHOTO BY CPL MICHAEL MOLINARO

Marines salute during the playing of "Taps" at the memorial service for Marine Staff Sgt. Jay Collado. He died when a roadside bomb struck his combat patrol north of Najaf Feb. 20.

Medal (2nd award), and the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal (2nd Award).

“His memory is treasured, his spirit unconquered, and all of us (are) better for having known him,” said Lacy.

(Bottom) Sgt. Venus Connor, 1-67 AR, poses with kids in Karbala Feb. 26. (Right) Maj. Joanna Sonmor, veterinarian, Public Health Team, A Co, 422nd Civil Affairs Team, discusses battlefield first aid for explosives dog "Mongo" with his handler, Sgt Clinton Hallibaugh, 40th MP, and Spc Kevin Smith, medic, B Co, 2-8 Inf.



PHOTO COURTESY OF 1-67 AR



PHOTO BY CH (MAJ.) DAVID BAUM

Discovering Democracy for the First Time

By Cpl. Michael Molinaro
Editor

FOB KALSU, Iraq – The Nahia City Council, made up of representatives from the cities of Iskandariyah and Haswah, met with Coalition Forces leaders Sunday to discuss a variety of issues facing the region in Iraq’s up and coming democracy.

“The Nahia council is where you find out the will of the people,” said Maj. Curt Taylor, battalion S-3, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. “The mayor and the police chief then carry out the will of the people.”

A big issue brought up during the meeting was a concern about a lack of representation at higher levels of government. Iskandariyah is the largest city in the Qaadaa, or county, yet has little representation at the Qaadaa level of government.

“This is a historic time for this council,” said Capt. Carlos Badillo, civil affairs officer, 2-8 Inf. “They are trying to get representation at the higher levels of government as the progress of democracy grows.”

Abbas Khafaji, mayor of Iskandariyah, stated the need for coordination between himself, the council, and Iraqi and Coalition Forces in order to establish checkpoints and the ability to block access roads in an effort to maintain an effective security cordon.



Lt. Col. James Howard, commander, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd BCT, greets members of the Nahia City Council Feb. 19

The leaders discussed ways of getting the local government to have more input and oversight on future reconstruction projects and management of a new Nahia sanitation program.

“Democracy is not just having elections,” said Sebah Khafaji, chairman of the city council, “it’s doing things in good faith and for the people.”



PHOTOS BY CPL MICHAEL MOLINARO

(Top) Members of “The Fuzzband” gets the crowd into the concert with a melody of popular hip-hop songs. The Hampton, Va.-based group recently released a new CD “Collision.” (Right) Soldiers from FOB Kalsu applaud the sounds of “The Fuzzband” during the first live concert of this deployment at the base. Soldiers, firemen, and local nationals created positive energy on a beautiful night.

All for the Troops

“The Fuzzband” entertained Soldiers Feb. 28 at FOB Kalsu. The band, which hails from Hampton, Va., played for more than an hour with their jazz-hip hop-funk sound. Two opening acts also took to the “stage” on the basketball courts for the evening concert. The band has been touring Kuwait and Iraq for three weeks in support of Soldiers deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Night Raiders

By Cpl. Michael Molinaro
Editor

HASWAH, Iraq – In the shadows of the night, the enemy sleeps, dreaming of ways to impede Iraq’s progression to democracy and to disrupt the process of bringing peace to the nation.

Thankfully for the people of Iraq, the country’s security forces aren’t sleeping but rather searching and finding those same terrorists and bringing them to justice.

Iraqi army soldiers from the 4th Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Division, have stepped up counter-insurgency efforts with Soldiers from 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, since the Warhorse Brigade arrived in December.

“Our goal is to get to the same level as the Americans,” said Lt. Assad, 4th Bde., 8th IAD. “We like working with them because we realize that our goals for this country are the same.”

Assad’s Soldiers conducted a number of combined raids searching for terrorists with Soldiers from Co. B, 2nd Bn., 8th Inf. Rgmt., 2nd BCT, since the start of the new year.

Operation Cobra Calm was a shining example of how the partnership between

Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition Forces has evolved from a training program to a brotherhood-in-arms force aimed at denying Iraq as a safe haven for terrorists.

Soldiers from both companies combined forces and searched a house suspected of harboring a leader of an improvised explosive device-planting cell in 2-8 Inf.’s area of responsibility. While the target wasn’t at the house, Assad and his men questioned and detained a man found inside. The man ended up being the father of the suspect and provided important information on his son. It was another example of how the IA is transitioning from a partnership to self-reliance.

“Every one of these raids is a small victory,” said Capt. Colin Brooks, commander, Co. B, 2-8 Inf.

“The importance of having an Iraqi face through the door on these raids cannot be overstated,” Brooks said. “It will pay big dividends down the road. Our aims are the same – a secure and stable environment, but they have way more invested in this than we do. This is their home.”

“It’s important that we keep going on these raids and catching



PHOTOS BY CPL MICHAEL MOLINARO

Lt. Assad, commander, 4th Co., 2/4/8 Iraqi army division, and Capt. Colin Brooks, commander, Co. B, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd BCT, decide what to do with a male found inside a house suspected of harboring a terrorist Feb. 20.

terrorists to help change the locals’ perceptions of Iraqi Security Forces, especially as we see Americans recede into the background,” added Assad.

The IA still has areas that need to be addressed, and Soldiers from 2-8 Inf. are more than willing to show them the way, Brooks said.

“It’s definitely attainable in our rotation,” said Brooks. “We want to be able to hand them a piece of intelligence, ask them what they need from Coalition Forces, and then they take the lead.”

IA soldiers live at bases scattered throughout the region and have only one goal in mind: clearing areas of enemy control and gaining the confidence of their neighbors.

“These raids we perform show the Iraqi people they have a national army here for them,” said Sgt. Razaq Abed, infantryman, 8th IAD. “But the raids also show the terrorists that they are not welcome here, and we will make sure every one of them faces justice.”



Iraqi army soldiers and Soldiers from 2-8 Inf. walk through a field on their way to the objective during a raid Feb. 20.

A Long Wait Is Over

By Maj. Anna Friederich
2nd BCT Public Affairs Officer

CAMP SLAYER, Iraq – Staff Sgt. Sidney Gamo, cook, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, arrived at Camp Buering, Kuwait, in November and began a quest to locate his big brother.

Gamo, a cook assigned to Forward Operating Base, Kalsu, said that prior to deployment he found out through old friends that his brother, John, worked for Kellogg, Brown and Root in Iraq.

“I’ve only seen my brother once in the last 10 years – and that was about five years ago,” said Gamo.

They lost both their parents when they were teenagers, and Gamo said he feels their deaths contributed to the distance between the two of them.

Gamo struck a “dry well” in Kuwait. However, when he arrived at Kalsu, he immediately struck gold.

“Don Webber, who works for KBR Human Resources at Kalsu, was a very big help,” said Gamo. “He listened to my story and immediately offered his assistance.”

Webber said he was a little reluctant at first.

“I wanted to ensure his brother didn’t owe him money or that he was mad at his brother for some reason,” he said jokingly.

After several days of investigating, Gamo’s wish finally came true when Webber told him he had located his brother at Camp Slayer. Without wasting a moment, Gamo called his brother to connect the first link in a chain of events that would bring them together again.

After Gamo spoke with his brother, he said he felt even more of a desire to see him in person.

He met with Capt. Karel Butler, commander, Company D, 204th Forward Support Company, 2-8 Inf. Reg., and together they devised a plan to get him to Slayer for the reunion.

Butler arranged for Gamo to accompany him in a combat patrol headed for Baghdad International Airport to pick up supplies.

He then took Gamo from BIAP to the Slayer KBR office.

“I didn’t think this dream of mine would become a reality, but with the help of my chain of command, it was possible,” said Gamo. “They were very supportive in reuniting us.”

When Gamo finally rolled into Camp Slayer, he said he was-

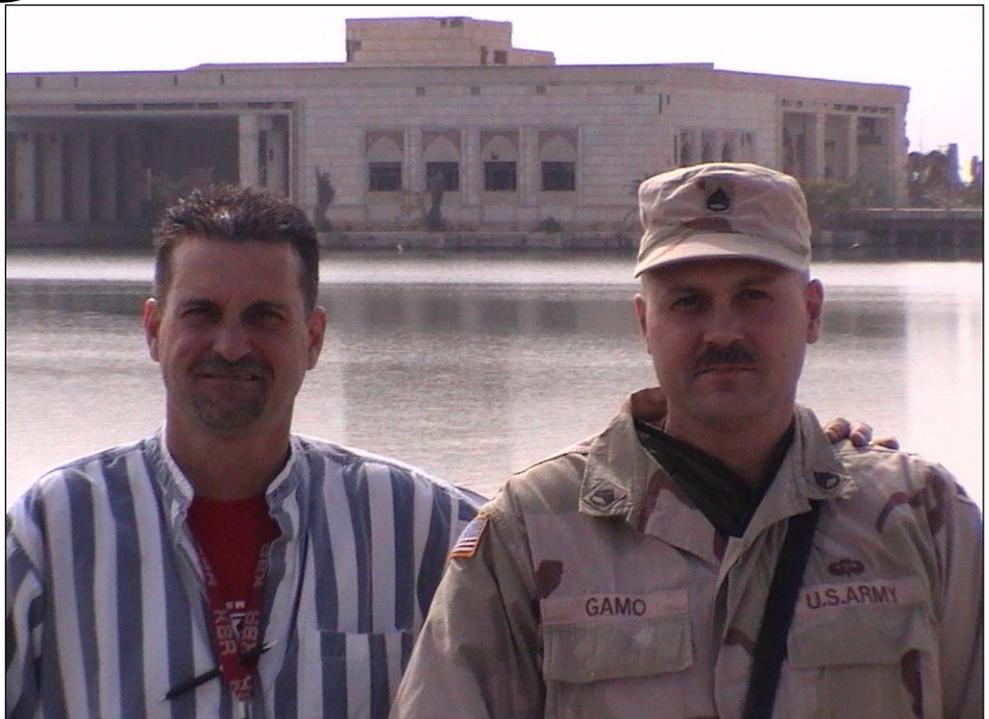


PHOTO COURTESY OF U.S. ARMY

John Gamo and Staff Sgt. Sidney Gamo, cook, E Co, 2-8 Inf., pose for their first picture taken together in ten years. The brothers reunited in Baghdad. John is a civilian contractor, and Staff Sgt. Gamo is a cook at FOB Kalsu.

n’t sure what to expect –or even what his brother looked like now.

The KBR HR office had it all planned, said Gamo.

“They called John and told him to come to the work order office to address a problem they were having, they then had me walk in after,” said Gamo. “At first he did not recognize me until he saw my name tag. I’ve put on a few pounds and grown a mustache since he saw me last,” he chuckled.

When Gamo’s brother realized who he was, he said he hugged him in disbelief several times.

The two were very excited to see each other, said Butler. “I’m glad I played a part in getting them together again.”

After renewing an old kinship, the two settled in to talk about family and future plans.

His brother told him he had remarried, and Gamo told his brother about the small inheritance they received from their great grandfather.

They both hope to take mid-tour leave at same time in Texas, where they might once again live near one another.

Gamo’s brother is hoping to extend his current job at Kalsu this summer, which Gamo said he wouldn’t argue with at all.

“It will be great to have my brother close to me again,” said Gamo.

Never Forgotten

By SPC Christopher Minshall
3-16 FA

On the morning of January 5, Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment lost five members of its family from a roadside bomb. But the bomb failed to take away the five's spirits from their friends and fellow warriors in 3-16 FA. The lessons and sacrifices they made were stamped permanently into their unit's collective hearts. So much so, it was decided to manifest that sentiment physically in their honor.

The memorial needed to be somewhere in plain sight for the Soldiers of 3-16 FA, especially for those who rolled out nearly every day. Every convoy begins and ends at the same point on FOB Duke, right outside 3-16 FA's own TOC, so the decision was not hard: it would be inside the TOC. Not only is the TOC a centralized location, it also hosts the offices that two of the Soldiers had worked in every day. A room, much like an oversized foyer, was chosen for the memorial. Until that day, the foyer served as a break room, a dining area, and a hallway to access various TOC areas. Preparations were made to make this communal area into a much more sacred location.

First, the room was emptied out, scrubbed, and repainted. A desert brown was chosen to replace the faded and cracked yellow layer that appeared to have been slapped on twenty years earlier. A map was constructed with that momentous day's events plotted and framed as was a summary report of the follow-up mission that apprehended the insurgents who planted the bomb.

A trio of crests was painted along a wall—the 4ID Ivy crest, the Warhorse brigade crest and the battalion crest. Soldiers skilled in metalwork created two additional 4ID crests, one large one on the wall facing the painted crests, and one mounted on a metal stand to remain near the inner door of the TOC.

An ornate Persian rug, purchased at the local market, covers the floor where there was once a dusty tiled floor. Alongside the rug a stand was erected to display the battalion colors and the American flag, framing the three painted crests at an angle reminiscent of “at ease” when held in formation.

Pictures of the five were carefully selected from the dozens taken by friends and fellow Soldiers to adorn the wall. Each portrait was then followed up with a typed biography of the warriors, taking care to include their personal and civilian accomplishments as well as their military achievements. The portraits and biographies hang prominently together so that each one might address every Soldier entering 3-16 FA for business. A pair of stands holds one item each underneath the gallery; a painted wooden carving of the battalion crest on one and a program from the memorial ceremony held in their honor

on the other

It is the final addition, the placement of the lost heroes memory in the Hall that is the most personal; the one that fully demonstrates there will always be a place reserved in the hearts of the 3-16 FA Soldiers for the five warriors.

As each Soldier reports for duty in the TOC, a familiar routine is followed; boots are kicked to shake the desert dust on the outside steps, protective eyewear is pulled off and weapons are placed in gin racks for safekeeping. Covers are pulled off heads and are placed on racks just outside the TOC's war room. Every TOC Soldier follows these established routines, knowing there is one rack that remains off-limits.

Underneath the portraits and biographies, a smaller rack has been emplaced for just five covers. Each of these covers are accompanied by dog tags of Soldiers who are permanently stationed with 3-16 FA—always “on duty” at the TOC, always in our thoughts, always in our memories, always in the hearts of 3-16 FA.

Major William Hecker
Captain Christopher Petty
Sergeant 1st Class Stephen White
Sergeant Johnny Peralez
Private Robbie Mariano

A Hall of Heroes



Iraqi, U.S. Soldiers Treat Local Residents

By Cpl. Michael Molinaro
Editor

DIYARA, Iraq – The Iraqi army conduct missions every day with the intent of securing and stabilizing their country. A recent mission was done so with the health and welfare of Iraqi citizens in mind.

Aided by Coalition Forces, Iraqi soldiers from 4th Brigade, 8th Iraqi army Division traveled here to provide the local health clinic with supplies long needed and assist in the treatment of patients.

“The medical support provided to the local community was well received,” said Maj. Steven Bauer, brigade surgeon, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

Iraqi and Coalition Forces medical personnel assessed the clinic’s ability to treat its own patients, said 1st Lt. Jonathan Welborn, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd BCT. While it was determined the clinic is in poor condition and is in need of some repairs, the manpower and supplies provided to them by the Iraqi army was greatly appreciated.

Soldiers ensured that there was enough medication in general, especially for children. While they discovered there was not a substantial amount of medication on hand, the mission brought the facility closer to achieving its goal of becoming a completely functional clinic, capable of treating patients of all ages.

A civil affairs team provided nets for soccer goals across the



PHOTO COURTESY OF 2-8 INF.

An Iraqi army soldier takes the blood pressure of a resident of Diyara. IA and U.S. Soldiers went to the town to conduct an assessment of the local clinic and to treat patients.

street from the clinic. The real success is the confidence the people of Diyara are beginning to have in their newly elected government.

“The war will be won in the hearts and minds of the people,” Welborn said. “Happy, healthy people are less likely to harbor hatred against Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces than people who lack the necessities of life.”

Local Tips Off Coaliton Forces to Cache

2nd BCT PAO, 4th ID

NAJAF, Iraq—Coalition Forces Soldiers, acting on a tip from a local citizen, discovered a weapons cache Feb. 9.

Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, were conducting a routine combat patrol when a local resident asked the Soldiers to stop.

The Soldiers found 71 100 millimeter high explosive rounds, eight 122 mm projectile rounds, five 115 mm heat rounds, and four 90 mm rounds. An explosive ordnance disposal team detonated the munitions at the site.

Since late January, CPT Pablo Diaz, commander, B Battery, 3-16 FA, made a point to wave to a group of children that lined the road outside of a house in Najaf. Several of the children were very

small and young and were standing closer to the road than what CPT Diaz felt was safe.

On one particular morning, CPT Diaz decided to stop and give the children a friendly warning to back away to a safe distance when vehicles approached and to give them some candy and a few stuffed animals.

The children were very excited and when they spoke to CPT Diaz, they told him that strangers were burying bombs in the surrounding desert. CPT Diaz told the children if they ever found any bombs, they could write “Stop” on a sign and hold it up and he would get rid of the bombs for them.

Just days after this meeting, a patrol sighted the father of the children standing by the road with a sign that read “Stop” along with a picture of a bomb.

CPT Diaz was contacted on the radio

and called out to the sight. The father led CPT Diaz’s patrol to over 80 rounds of illegal explosives, including nearly a dozen 122 millimeter high explosive rounds.

The father then told CPT Diaz men were burying arms around the area frequently and promised to contact them again when he could pinpoint locations.

CPT Diaz also found that the children’s grandfather was weak and unable to move himself around the house freely and promised to look for a wheelchair for him.

This was another successful operation made possible with the cooperation of Iraqi civilians.



PHOTOS BY CPL. MICHAEL MOLINARO

Command Sgt. Maj. Elijah King Jr., shows Soldiers at FOB Kalsu how it's done on the dance floor at the dining facility Feb. 11. Soldiers had a dance contest, took photos for family members back home, and shared many laughs as they found a short amount of time to get away from work.

Getting Their Groove On



"DJ's" Col. John Tully and Sgt. Alberto Olivera keep the party going as they "spin" records on Olivera's virtual turntables.

The "Kalsu Calientes" perform a three-song routine to kick-off the FOB Kalsu Valentines Day party Feb. 11.



Hot Off the Press

News From AO Warhorse

ISF and CF discover roadside bombs

ISKANDARIYAH—Iraqi army and Coalition Forces Soldiers discovered three roadside bombs without incident Feb. 12.

Iraqi army soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Division, along with Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Div. found two roadside bombs near Kazim Nazir. The bombs consisted of three 122 millimeter rounds.

The third bomb, discovered west of Iskandariyah by 1st Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 2nd BCT, along with Iraqi army soldiers from 1st Bn., 4th Bde., 8th IA Div., consisted of one 155 mm round and two gas cans.

The 53rd Explosive Ordnance Detachment quickly responded to the threat, removed the bombs from the immediate areas and control detonated all the munitions.

Iraqi government and CF make strides in medical care

NAJAF-- On February 6, LTC Michael Hilliard, commander, 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, celebrated the halfway point in the completion of the Najaf Maternity Pediatrics Hospital.

Hilliard was greeted by Dr. Raed Hohammed Ruhliah, assistant director of the NMP hospital and received a tour of the facility. Hilliard, along with Ruhliah and Assad Sultan Al-Tae, the Najaf Provincial Governor, shared the honors of marking the occasion by cutting a red ribbon to symbolize the progress of the construction and the partnership shared by the Iraqi government, citizens of Najaf and Coalition Forces.

The NMP hospital will provide

numerous services for women and children up to 14 years old, accommodating up to 250 patients at a time. Modern medicine and specialized doctors are among the new benefits the hospital will provide to the local Iraqi families. "This was another monumental project demonstrating the abilities of the new Iraqi Government who continue to make landmark strides," said Hilliard.

Iraqi Army Forces Conduct Security Operation

NAJAF-- In the predawn hours of Feb. 14, elements of 2nd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Division and 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Div., conducted a joint cordon and search operation to capture improvised explosive device making materiel caches, as well as detain members of an IED cell operating in the rural areas on the outskirts of Hayderia. While 3-16 FA provided the outer cordon, 2/1/8/ IA made up the inner cordon and strike force responsible for the capture of the suspects. The operation was a success, resulting in 1 enemy casualty, and the successful detainment of 3 suspects.

"This operation was yet another unique opportunity demonstrating that equipped and properly trained, the Iraqi Security Forces can successfully conduct complex nighttime operations resulting in the capture of suspected terrorists," said Lt. Col. Michael Hilliard, commander, 3-16 FA.

CF finds weapons cache, IED

JURF-AS SAKR-- Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Div., discovered a weapons cache today for the second consecutive day.

While conducting a routine combat

patrol, Soldiers from Company C found 11 81-milimeter rounds, 6 61-mm rounds, six rockets, 2 unknown rounds, and three grenades. This comes one day after finding three separate caches in the same area.

In Jarbella, Soldiers from 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd BCT, found an improvised explosive device today. The IED was made up of one 60-mm round. An explosive ordnance disposal team took control of the device and transported it back to FOB Iskandariyah.

CF, ISF discover IEDs, bombs

ISKANDARIYAH—Iraqi Security and Coalition Forces successfully identified and removed three roadside bombs, uncovered two weapon caches and detained three suspects Feb. 15-16.

The caches consisted of approximately six hand grenades, three grenade fuses, five Rocket Propelled Grenades, nine RPG propellers, 1250 7.62 millimeter rounds, 21 AK47 magazines, two AK47s, 300 7.62-mm AK47 rounds, 200 7.62-mm NATO rounds, one Iraqi protective mask, one bolt action rifle, 28 100-mm rounds, and one 130-mm round.

Elements of 2nd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Division, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Div. and 1st Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 2nd BCT identified three roadside bombs near Iskandariyah while conducting combat patrols in the area.

Iraqi Police and Company C, 2-8 Inf. Reg. detained three suspects east of Iskandariyah in connection with the roadside bombs.

The 53rd Explosive Ordnance Detachment collected all munitions from the caches and bombs and transported them back to FOB Iskan for a controlled detonation.



PHOTO BY PH2 KATRINA BEELER

HATEEN APTS--2nd Lt. Amos Fox, fire support officer, Company B, 2nd Batalion 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, secures a building in the Hateen weapons compound to set up security for the Ashurah pilgrims that will be passing through to Karbala, Iraq.



PHOTO BY CPL MICHAEL MOLINARO

FOB KALSU--Col. John Tully, commander, 2nd BCT, reads the Oath of Enlistment to five Soldiers Feb. 13.



PHOTO BY CPL MICHAEL MOLINARO

BABIL PROVINCE--Spc. Nicholas Sinosky, infantryman, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 4th Inf. Division, looks out from a tower overlooking a highway for any terrorist activity Feb. 14. Soldiers are scattered throughout the province, set to deter any terrorist activity in the area.

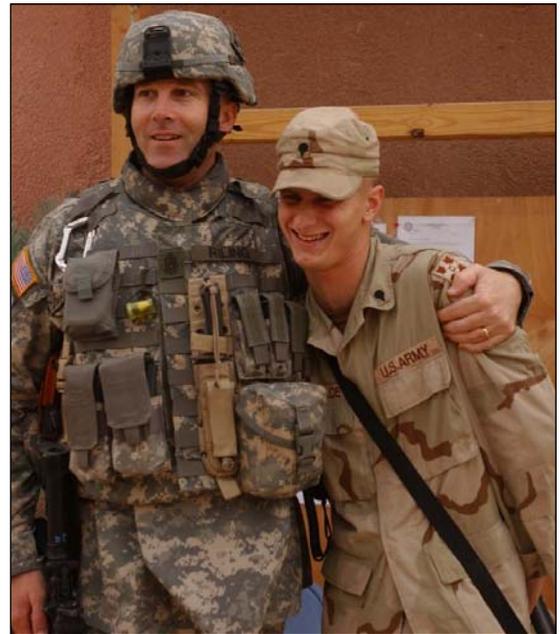


PHOTO BY PFC DANIEL TURNER

FOB KALSU--4th Inf. Div. Command Sgt Maj. Ronald Riling poses with Spc. Matthew Wallace, HHC 2nd BCT, during a visit Feb. 13. Riling made his way to all of the FOBs in 2nd BCT's area of responsibility to check the well-being of the Warhorse Soldiers.