

IBC

Iron Brigade Chronicles

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Fighting Eagles hunt for insurgents

Pages 6-7

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Cover Photo

Pfc. Gary Dishroon, an infantry man with Company B, 1-8 Combined Arms Battalion, looks through a window during a patrol.
Photo by Sgt. Zach Mott

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Strikers,

The last two weeks have been extremely busy in the AO and our Soldiers and leaders are doing phenomenal work for both our Nation and for the Iraqi people. My assessment is that we are inside the enemy's decision cycle in many areas. Yes, he occasionally is able to score a punch or two, but largely we have him off balance from the tempo and precision of our operations. The pressure that we are exerting collectively is starting to cause the enemy to expose himself and we are experiencing success against his terror cells and hidden caches. Our partners in the Iraqi army and police gain proficiency every day and have been instrumental in allowing us to attrite the enemy consistently.

This does not come without cost. In this same two-week period we have had at least 10 Strikers wounded by small arms fire or IEDs. (Thankfully, none too seriously.) Yet, both our Soldiers and our partners continue to fight with the enemy aggressively and seek contact on terms that allow us to kill or capture them.

Simply stated: courage under fire is not uncommon in our ranks, and this is exemplified by our Noncommissioned Officers. One young NCO the CSM and I visited at Balad, still groggy after surgery, just wanted to make sure the wound he received while clearing a room would not prevent him from going to the Staff Sergeant promotion board. If executing Battle Drill #6A under fire can't get you promoted, I'm not sure what can. I suspect he'll do just fine at the board (if he even has to attend).

Equally important, our efforts to provide basic services to the Iraqi people continue. Our Civil Affairs and Project Coordination Soldiers have worked on assessments of these basic services and designed simple plans to ensure the citizens of Iraq have safe access to their water, electricity and sewage services where available. We will run some test cases on these designs shortly, then begin contract programs to deliver these basic services to individual homes. I cannot imagine a simpler step toward improving the quality of life here.

The combined efforts of our brigade combat team Soldiers are having a tremendous affect of the enemy and on the local population. We continue to drive a wedge between the people and the insurgents, creating the environment for democracy to take hold in Iraq.

As I've said many times before; your work here is important to both the children of Iraq and the children of America. Your efforts here will help decide the future course of world events, and much of the history these children read will be written by the contributions and sacrifices of you and your comrades. Let's make our efforts, our sacrifices and our losses count.

Steadfast and Loyal!

Striker 6



Col. Brian D. Jones

The Price of Freedom

The men they walked down a dusty road,
On their backs there is a heavy load.

A rifle, bullets and a grenade,
with each step they wonder where a mind is laid.

Each man carries a load on his mind,
will he get home and his loved ones to find.

In his thoughts he gives a pause,
I am fighting for a good cause.

The price of freedom comes very high,
It is for sure many good men will die.

It is quiet while they are walking,
All in thought no one talking.

The quiet is broken, one speaks to a friend,
Someday buddy this will surly end.

He is dusty dirty and needs a shave,
With pride he replies, not until all these people we save.

Not until all the battles are done,
And freedom or all these people have we won.

There are people at home that don't understand,
The reason we are here in this land.

There are some folks that yell in protest,
Because some coward said it is the best.

Let them folks see a little boy,
That never in his life owned a toy.

Let them see a little girl in fear,
and in each eye a great big tear.

Do they want their children to be fools,
Just let a war destroy their schools.

I'm not just fighting for their land,
I am fighting for mine too and buddy it's grand.

Those people back there who think we are wrong,
Are not Americans and not very strong.

The price of freedom comes very high,
It is for certain many good men will die.

*Written by SSG K.N. List - 1970 Vietnam
Father of Command Sgt. Maj. David H. List*



Command Sgt. Maj.
David H. List

\$1 million worth of antique furniture returned to Iraqi control, placed in Baqubah museum

by **Spc. Lee Elder**

133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

After their first attempt was thwarted by a roadside bomb, U.S. forces returned a collection of antique furniture worth

more than one million dollars to the Baqubah museum, in Baqubah, Iraq.

The Victorian-era furnishings were in a Baghdad home belonging to family members of former Iraqi leader, Saddam

Hussein. Saddam's family was forced to relinquish the furniture under Iraqi law.

On March 9, a convoy, including three truckloads of the 17th Century Italian furniture, was forced to reschedule when one of the trucks was hit by an improvised explosive device.

While no Soldiers were hurt, some of the pieces were damaged and the convoy had to turn back.

Staff Sgt. Mageen Heffron, an Army Reservist with Company C, 445th Civil Affairs Battalion, made good on her second try the following Monday. On this day the furnishings were delivered to the downtown museum without further incident.

"The museum was ready for them, and they have a section set aside," Heffron said. "That day was unfortunate, but the mission had to go on."

U.S. Army Special Forces seized the items more than a

year ago, and Heffron has worked to return them to their rightful owner.

"It's been waiting here ever since," Heffron said. "We reached out and hit as many sources as we could to ensure these items belonged to the Baqubah museum."

"We've had some challenges getting (the furniture) out since the museum is not open right now and they've had some struggles finding a place to put it."

The museum is in the process of reopening and has a place set aside for the items, some of which are valued up to \$100,000. The furnishings are being stored until they can be used in a display when the museum reopens according to its director, Dr. Farsal Muhamed Saletz.

For his part, Farsal said he was pleased to have the items back under Iraqi control. He was present for the handover and ensured workers carefully loaded the items in the museum's storage area.

"These are very expensive furnishings and lovely antiques," Farsal said through an interpreter. "It is better that they are in a museum as opposed to the other place."

Farsal said the furniture has been in Iraq for about 35 years. Saddam bought the pieces to furnish one of the many houses he had throughout the nation.

Heffron said the collection would be in good hands under Farsal and that he has been trained by the Smithsonian Institute in archeology, and he is a well-respected scholar in the field.

Soldiers from 3rd Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Task Force Band of Brothers, provided security for the operation, and provided most of the manpower for the convoy. Heffron said the unit had been most cooperative in helping her stage the handover operation.

"At the end of the day, it's their items," Heffron said. "The Baqubah Museum is responsible for them."

LEFT: Iraqi workers move furniture that was given back to the Iraqi government. The 17th Century Italian furniture, which once belonged to Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, is now being kept at the area museum.



Photos by Spc Lee Elder

Anheuser-Busch extends their military tribute -- 'Here's to the Heroes'

Courtesy Anheuser-Busch Corporation

A tribute program that provided free admission to Anheuser-Busch theme parks to more than 900,000 members of U.S. and coalition armed forces and their families has been extended through 2006.

Anheuser-Busch launched "Here's to the Heroes" in February 2005 to acknowledge the service of military men and women and the sacrifices made by their families.

"It is gratifying to all of us at Anheuser-Busch that so many members of our armed forces took advantage of this program and honored us with a visit," said Keith M. Kasen, chairman and president of Busch

Entertainment Corporation, the family entertainment division of Anheuser-Busch. "This is a difficult time for our men and women in uniform and we are honored to give them something back."

Here's to the Heroes provides a single day's free admission to any one SeaWorld or Busch Gardens park, Sesame Place, Adventure Island or Water Country USA for the service member and as many as three of his or her direct dependents.

Any active duty, active Reserve, ready reserve service member or National Guardsman is entitled to free admission under the program. He or she need only register, either online at www.herosalute.com or in the entrance plaza of a participating park, and show a Department of Defense photo identification. Also included in the offer are members of foreign military forces serving in the coalitions in Iraq or Afghanistan or attached to American units in the U.S. for training.

"This is one small way we can acknowledge and thank the Soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen and Coast Guardsmen whose service helps to preserve the freedom and safety of every American," Kasen said. "It's important to all of us at Anheuser-Busch that we show our gratitude to the men and women of our armed forces and their families for the sacrifices they make on our behalf."

Here's to the Heroes is the fourth tribute to military personnel offered by Anheuser-Busch since Yellow Ribbon Summer welcomed service members home from the Gulf War in 1991. More than 3 million people have visited Anheuser-Busch Adventure Parks free under these programs.

Anheuser-Busch has supported the military for more than 150 years, and in 2005 launched the Here's to the Heroes Tour,

which allowed everyday Americans to record video messages of support and thanks for the men and women of the U.S. military.

The Heroes Tour traveled more than 29,000 miles to towns and events across America from April through December, collecting mes-

sages from more than 11,000 Americans. Working with the America Supports You program, the messages were aired on American Forces Radio and Television Service on U.S. military installations in more than 177 countries and on 150 installations in the United States throughout 2005.

Three Anheuser-Busch parks -- SeaWorld Orlando, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay and SeaWorld San Diego -- operate year round. The company's remaining parks are seasonal, with varying opening dates this spring. Each park's operating schedule is available online.

Inactive, standby and retired Reserve members, military retirees, U.S. Merchant Marine and civilian Department of Defense workers are ineligible for the program.

Anheuser-Busch operates nine U.S. theme parks: Busch Gardens Tampa Bay and Busch Gardens Williamsburg; SeaWorld Orlando, SeaWorld San Diego and SeaWorld San Antonio; Discovery Cove in Orlando; Sesame Place near Philadelphia; Water Country USA in Williamsburg and Adventure Island in Tampa.

Anheuser-Busch Adventure Parks play host to more than 20 million guests each year.

If you would like more information on the opportunity, please visit their Web site at www.anheuser-busch.com.

**Active duty, active reserve,
ready reserve service members
and National Guardsman are
entitled to free admission
through the end of 2006.**

In memory of ...

Cpl. Dimitri Muscat
Alpha Company, 1-8 Combined
Arms Battalion,
4th Infantry Division

Pfc. Jesse Gabbard
Headquarters and Headquarters Company
1-8 Combined Arms Battalion,
4th Infantry Division

Gone, but not forgotten



Alleviate of mort



BELOW LEFT: Staff Sgt. Marion Flint, a squad leader from Company B, 1-8 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Task Force Band of Brothers, uses his weapon sight to search an open field while on a patrol in an area near Balad, Iraq.

ABOVE LEFT: While patrolling an area near Balad, Iraq, Sgt. Steven Lamonds, medic from Company A, 1-8 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Task Force Band of Brothers, cleaned up a cut on an Iraqi boys' finger.

ABOVE CENTER: Soldiers from Company B, 1-8 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Task Force Band of Brothers prepared to enter a door of an apparently abandoned building near Balad, Iraq.

ABOVE RIGHT: In orchards that surrounded the area, Soldiers searched the rows for possible weapons cache's or signs of mortars being fired.



Photos by Sgt. Zach Mott

ing the nuisance ar, rocket attacks

by **Sgt. Zach Mott**
IBC editor

Mortar and rocket attacks have increased in the Iraqi city of Balad in recent days. To help alleviate this nuisance, Soldiers from Company B, 1-8 Combined Arms Battalion conducted a knock and search patrol south of the city.

“(We wanted to) see if we can find anything, if we can get any info from the local people out there, if anything was going on bad out there,” said Staff Sgt. Marion Flint, a squad leader from Co. B, 1-8 CAB, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Task Force Band of Brothers.

During the patrol, the Soldiers encountered many smiling and inquisitive children, as well as somewhat surprised and supportive adults. To help add to the smiles, the group passed out

“Operation Iraqi Children” packets, which consist of school supplies and a

stuffed animal, to each of the children they saw.

“It’s basically just to give the kids and the families stuff just to show them that we are trying to help in any way possible,” Flint said.

While at one house, there was a child who had a scratch on his finger. The medic who was traveling with the patrol, Sgt. Steven Lamonds, from Company A, 1-8 CAB, cleaned and re-dressed the wound.

This patrol was quiet, each home that was searched -- after obtaining permission from the homeowner -- was found to be in compliance with policies and rules. But, the presence of Coalition Forces served to alert the people that friendly forces are in the area and they can be trusted to assist the people.

“It’s important for a lot of reasons: one, our guys always have to be familiar with our area,” said Capt. Brian Kavanagh, platoon leader with Company B. “We’ve got to be

walking down the alleys, walking up paths, walking through orchards so they’re familiar with the terrain. Also, we need to make sure that people aren’t stockpiling weapons or caches. If we have a presence around this area, nobody knows when we’re going to show up walking through their orchards they’re going to be more deterred from doing that type of thing.”

Soldiers of the company enjoy getting out and seeing the fruits of their labors as well.

“It’s good for them to see us looking for (the caches) and going out to those little farm areas,” said Pfc. Gary Dishroon, an infantryman with Company B.

In the nearly three months the Fighting Eagles of 1-8 CAB have been operating in this area, attacks on coalition forces have decreased.

“We’ve disrupted enemy in this area quite a bit,” Kavanagh said. “I think 1-8 is pretty effective.”

A Band of Brothers reenlist together



Photo by Staff Sgt. Sheryl L. Lawry

Seven Soldiers from the same platoon of Alpha Battery, 3-29 Field Artillery, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Task Force Band of Brothers raised their right hand and pledged continued protection to America from enemies both foreign and domestic when they all re-enlisted together. Since March 15, more than 270 Soldiers in the brigade have re-enlisted since deploying to the middle east.

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

“This man’s life is not for everyone; being in the Army is not for everyone,” said Sgt 1st Class Troy Jordan, also known as smoke, the platoon sergeant for Alpha Battery, 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Task Force Band of Brothers, to his Soldiers after he and six others within their platoon reenlisted together.

As of March 15, more than 270 Soldiers in 3rd HBCT have again raised their right hand and pledged to protect America from enemies both foreign and domestic. Proud to be among the seven, Jordan feels he has made the right decision to reenlist - with his Soldiers.

“These guys, they’re important to me. We are such a close knit platoon. I owe it to them and the Army to stay in as long as they need me to.”

Just as proud to be among the seven was Pfc. Joshua Dolin, who has been a member of the unit since he finished Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training.

“This is the first platoon I’ve been in,” Dolin said, “if this is how this platoon can be, then I’m pretty sure this is how the rest of the Army’s going to be.”

Dolin explained it was his close relationship with everyone in his platoon that helped cement his decision to reenlist.

“The whole platoon made an impact on my life. We all come from such different backgrounds, different places, but were all one family and were always together. If one of us goes out, we

all go out.”

That camaraderie extends to when one of them gets in trouble too. “If one of us gets in trouble, we all get in trouble.”

“The brotherhood and camaraderie is very strong in our battery,” added Cpl. Edgar Rodriguez, who reenlisted with Jordan and Dolin.

Rodriguez, however, draws his decision to reenlist from the basic sense of patriotism.

“I’ve always wanted to join the military since I was a kid. 9/11 helped give me that extra push to join the Army,” he said. “I’ve always supported the U.S. Sometimes we forget why we join, why we wear the uniform – today made me realize and appreciate it all over again.”

As for the war and any advice he has for those on the threshold of making a final decision to reenlist or not, his words are simple.

“Sometimes we take what we do for granted, that we do this to keep our families safe and to keep the war off our shores and over here.”

“We left the most technically advanced nation in the world to come overseas to protect the nation – I find that impressive – I find that remarkable. I have two young boys and I would be proud to have them standing in your ranks” said Col. Brian D. Jones, commander of 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Task Force Band of Brothers, at the reenlistment which he conducted. “Everybody talks about the greatest generation - the greatest generation is standing right here.”

Force protection is no small affair

by Spc. Lee Elder

133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The Mountaineer Academy is designed to turn legal clerks, medics and truck drivers into a single unit charged with protecting the lives and property of all those who are stationed at Forward Operating Base Warhorse.

Prior to going on shift as a member of the base's force protection, Soldiers must complete the day-long academy training. It includes a review of the duties guard posts, rules of engagement, a weapons systems refresher and finally an orientation on the guard post itself.

"You guys are a very important piece," said 1st Lt. William Cunningham, 64th Brigade Support Battalion, who serves as force protection officer for FOB Warhorse. "Don't discount the importance of your duties over the next couple of weeks."

Cunningham, who hails from Berryville, Va., presides over the initial briefing along with the sergeants of the guard. He tells the incoming guard force that they need to be in the proper uniform whenever they are on duty and that they must remain vigilant as a deterrent against insurgent forces.

One of the sergeants of the guard is Sgt. Anthony Smith from Compton, Ky. A former Marine, Smith is a TOW missile systems technician who is permanently assigned to the Base Defense Operating Center.

"You stay busy," Smith said. "It keeps you occupied."

Smith works a 12-hour shift each day. He is responsible for ensuring guards are properly stationed and is the first person notified if anything out of the ordinary happens.

Many Soldiers have varying degrees of experience both in the Army and familiarity with weapons systems used in the base's defense array. While some have served here during previous rotations others are fresh out of advance individual training.

"The hardest part is training up some Soldiers who have never been on Guard," Smith said. "It's our job to make sure they are mentally prepared to handle the different guard posts."

The force handles security at all the post's gates and towers as well as the dining facility. Each position has its own unique set of challenges and procedures.

Most Soldiers pull four-hour shifts twice a day for two weeks. Many also continue working in their normal places of duty while working on force protection duty.

After the briefing is over, Soldiers are quickly formed up and bussed to the range. Once there, they will be familiarized with the 50-caliber machine gun and the squad automatic rifles used at the various guard posts. They are also instructed on the use of the thermal sight device.

Among those Soldiers pulling her first stint as a member of the guard are Pvt. Justine Novak, Company B, 64th Brigade Support Battalion. She is a Madison, Wis., native who normally maintains computers and radios in the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team's communication shop.

"I don't know what to expect yet," Novak said. "I've never done this before so I'm kind of excited."

Along with other Soldiers, Novak sees her time on shift as a welcome change in routine. It's a break of sorts from the long hours in an office or a company area.

"I'm probably not going to get a

chance to go off the FOB," Novak said. "A guard tower may be the closest I'll get to see the outside of the base camp."

Also new to Iraq is Pfc. Yolanda Santos, a medic with Company B, 64th Brigade Support Battalion. She had only been in country two weeks and was now attempting to fire the .50-caliber mounted on the back of a Humvee. Her instructors, Sgt. Doug Winchester, of Paris, Tenn., and Spc. Eric Baird of Tucson, Ariz., watch her closely.

"We do this every day," Winchester said. "I could see how somebody who hasn't done this much might be a little nervous."

Soldiers are assigned to their posts and finish their training by observing those manning their soon-to-be duty positions. Then, they are ready to take their places.

At the forefront of all the training is the seriousness of the task at hand. It's a point that is reinforced by each instructor.

Sgt. Donald Hawthorne is another of the sergeants of the guard. The Eufaula, Ala., native usually works repairing tank turrets, but is now working fulltime with the Base Defense Operating Center.

"It's a really important position to be in because we are responsible for the safety of everyone on this FOB," Hawthorne said. "I don't take it lightly."



Photo by Spc. Lee Elder

Sgt. Donald Hawthorne, Company B, 64th Brigade Support Battalion, explains some of the finer points of the thermal imaging device used by Soldiers performing base force protection duties. He serves as one of the force's sergeants of the guard.

Another successful mission for the IA

by Staff Sgt. Mark Wojciechowski

133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Successful Iraqi Army operations are essential to the stabilization of Iraq. To ensure the stabilization of Iraq comes to complete fruition, the Soldiers of 4th Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division was tasked with planning and executing a brigade size cordon and search mission in Baqubah's Hibhib area.

During a morning targeting meeting the Iraqi army battalion commanders briefed each other of their areas of operations. Overseeing their plans was 2nd Lt. David Hulse, a member of the Military Transition Team who observes and advises his 4th Battalion 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division counterpart.

"They have grown by leaps and bounds since we showed up in December," said Hulse. "I give additional suggestions on anything they may have missed as far as targeting. They have been doing a good job."

The mission kicked off with elements of the Iraqi army 1st, 3rd and 4th Battalions moving into place. Each battalion element sectioned off their mission assigned area of operation, and began their search for insurgent targets.

When the three neighborhood areas were completely searched and all detainees were brought to the collection point, the elements mounted back up and traveled a short distance to a palm grove where they conducted a sweep of the vegetation.

Assembling on line and communicating with their adjacent elements, the brigade swept the grove looking for weapons caches and anyone who may have tried to flee the neighborhood.

When the mission ended, 20 insurgents were apprehended

including three Iraqi Army High Value Targets. One apprehended insurgent confessed to being a member of the Zarquwis terror cell Ansar Al-Sunna, attacking coalition forces, placing IEDs and killing two members of the Iraqi army.

A small cache was also found consisting of one rocket propelled grenade launcher, one unauthorized AK-47 assault rifle and one gas mask.

Successful proactive operations such as this by the 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division are proving to be a positive step toward the future of the Iraqi Security Forces, and the stabilization of Iraq.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Wojciechowski

An Iraqi Army Soldier signals to his men to spread out and search an area of palm grove in the Hibhib area of Muqadiyah, Iraq.

Army changes tattoo policy to boost recruitment

The Army revised its policy on tattoos in an effort to bolster recruitment of highly-qualified individuals who might otherwise have been excluded from joining.

Tattoos are now permitted on the hands and back of the neck if they are not "extremist, indecent, sexist or racist." Army Regulation 670-1, which was modi-



Tattoo artwork by Stacy K. McCleaf

fied via a message released Jan. 25, also now specifies: "Any tattoo or brand anywhere on the head or face is prohibited except for permanent make-up."

For women, permanent make-up will be allowable: eye-liner, eyebrows and lips, officials said. They said permanent make-up should be conservative -- complementing the uniform and complexion in both style and color, and not be trendy.

The change was made because Army officials realized the number of potential recruits bearing skin art had grown enormously over the years. About 30 percent of Americans between the ages of 25 and 34 have tattoos, according to a Scripps Howard News Service and Ohio University survey. For those under age 25, the number is about 28 percent. In all, the post-baby-boom generations are more than three times as likely as boomers to have tattoos.

As a result of tattoo attitude changes, Army Regulation 670-1, chapter 1-8E (1) has been modified via an ALARACT 017/2006 message. Additionally, para-

graph 1-8B (1) (A) was revised to state: "Tattoos that are not extremist, indecent, sexist or racist are allowed on the hands and neck. Initial entry determinations will be made according to current guidance."

The Army has never allowed indecent tattoos on any part of the body, G1 officials pointed out. The new policy allows recruits and all Soldiers to sport tattoos on the neck behind an imaginary line straight down and back of the jawbone, provided the tattoos don't violate good taste.

"The only tattoos acceptable on the neck are those on the back of the neck," said Hank Minitrez, Army G-1 Human Resources Policy spokesman. "The 'back' of the neck is defined as being just under the ear lobe and across the back of the head. Throat tattoos on that portion of the neck considered the front, the ear lobe forward) are prohibited."

Soldiers who are considering putting tattoos on their hands and necks, should consider asking their chain of command prior to being inked. To read this full story, visit www4.army.mil/ocpa

1-68 CAB bids adieu to wing men, 1-32 CAV

by Spc. Lee Elder

133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

It's a homecoming of sorts for Soldiers with Troop B, 1st Squadron, 32nd Cavalry, 101st Airborne Division as they leave Forward Operating Base Warhorse to rejoin the bulk of their squadron at FOB Normandy.

The bulk of the troop members began their departure during the second week of March. They received a rousing farewell from one of their commanders prior to their departure during a brief ceremony.

"I'm sorry to see you go," said Lt. Col. Thomas Fisher, who commands 1-68 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Task Force Band of Brothers. "We were proud to fight on your wing during a very rigorous two months of work."

After a rousing seven-minute speech, Fisher, who hails from Sioux Falls, S.D., handed out unit coins to several of the unit's key players. He thanked each Soldier for their efforts.

"You need to hear it from me that I appreciate what you have done," Fisher said. "A lot of times, you don't hear about the great things that you're doing because you're driving hard to make sure that you're accomplishing the mission."

Prior to their coming here, Fisher said their sector had "the worst security situation" of many of the surrounding areas. One highway in particular dubbed "Route Cheyenne" was a real danger area.

"It was known for 30 years as being 'the golden highway,'" Fisher said. "That was where they would do all the high-jacking, carjacking and highway robbery was how they made a living there."

"Your efforts contributed to establishing a safe and secure environment."

The unit will now go back under its parent squadron, which is based at Fort Campbell, Ky. They will be working to train Iraqi army forces there.

This is the fourth move the troop has made since it came to Iraq, according to 1st Sgt. Michael Crosby, the troop's first sergeant, of Montgomery, Ala. He said the current movement was brought about because of the ongoing rotation of the Iraqi army battalions in the area surrounding FOB Normandy.

"It's time for us to rotate back to our squadron," Crosby said. "The Soldiers are very motivated, and they are ready to link back up with their squadron."

One of those receiving coins was Sgt. Phillip Schrinsher. A Huntsville, Ala., native he serves as the troop's fire support sergeant. He said most Soldiers leave with mixed feelings.

"I would really like to have stayed here longer, but I'll go where they need us," Schrinsher said.

Their time serving with 1-68 CAB was quite eventful, Schrinsher said. They met many dangers on and off the road.

"What's most memorable for me was just being with the guys," Schrinsher said. "Both on and off duty, we made a lot of memories."

Their next challenge will be no less formidable. However, the troop – whom one leader described as "the best damned Cavalry troop in the entire U.S. Army" – is up for what lies ahead.

"This will be a good move," said Pvt. Aaron Barnes of Canton, Ill. "It's going to be a different mission, but we're used to the danger factor."

For his part, Fisher advised troop members to be proud of themselves for their accomplishments. He said they should always be glad to tell their friends and families of their accomplishments.

"Be there no doubt, the mortar missions were running up there, the cordons, the raids and the IEDs you found and the sacrifices you paid, was all working towards establishing something that will help our children and grandchildren in the future get a grip on this thing called 'terrorism,'" Fisher said. "That's what we're really doing here."

ABOVE: Lt. Col. Thomas Fisher, commander 1-68 CAB, thanks the Soldiers of Troop B, 1st Squadron, 32nd Cavalry, for a successful mission under his command. The troop is moving to FOB Normandy.

LEFT: Sgt. Phillip Shrinsher, right, is congratulated by Lt. Col. Thomas Fisher, commander 1-68 CAB. He was given a coin for his role as a member of Troop B, 1st Squadron, 32nd Cavalry. The troop is moving to FOB Normandy.



Photos by Spc. Lee Elder



FAR # 4

Every Soldier is a sensor and a shooter ... pay attention to constants and note change ... and provide detailed patrol reports!

Soldiers are on the front lines serving as the first line of defense while we continue to serve in Operation Iraq Freedom. They are the ones who patrol the streets day-in and day-out, and they are the ones who travel across the worn roads of this country. Soldiers are the ones who will notice what doesn't belong or what is missing from an area they regularly patrol.

Noting changes in routines or practices during normal missions help identify possible danger areas or situations. If your patrol typically drives down a clean road in a village, but today the road's littered with trash - that's a potential danger area.

Anything that appears out of the ordinary or out of place or different from the norm, is a sign of potential danger.

Little things can be the difference between success and failure. By noting even the smallest change in the routine, Soldiers are alerting their comrades to the danger that exists in that region.

Detailed reporting allows commanders to have all of the information needed to make a wise and timely decision regarding a potential area of danger.

Even if something seems small or insignificant, it can, coupled with other information, provide a hint as to Anti-Iraqi Force activity in the region. As a result this could save numerous lives of American Soldiers as well as our Iraqi brothers-in-arms.

Random Thoughts

How strong is your foundation when life's storms come? What happens when adversity comes? A solid foundation for your home provides safety and comfort. Yet, many people trust their souls' security to the shifting sands of this world. The materials you use to build your life will determine your measure of strength during the storms of this life.

In Matthew's Gospel, during one storm, Jesus Christ's disciples feared greatly they would perish. When they called upon Jesus to save them, they found him asleep!

How could he sleep in a storm at all? He slept because he had a great calm in his spirit, circumstances notwithstanding. How precious to know calm in your soul when chaotic circumstances surround you. How is it Jesus had such calm in his soul? The simple answer: his relationship with his heavenly Father.

I propose that a secure relationship to God as the foundation of our lives lets us weather any storm. You find numerous examples in the Bible of real people facing severe trials but finding their stability in God. Repeatedly, Scripture declares God is the Rock of salvation, the Rock of Israel, my Rock. An early hymn declares God is "the solid rock" on which we stand, all other ground is sinking sand ..."

On what rock do you depend in this uncertain life? Is it this turbulent world in which we struggle? Is it yourself; made of clay and passing into eternity? Is it an ideal or an uncertain dream? Some make money their rock. Others have no rock on which to build their life. I hope you will consider the sure foundation throughout man's history -- GOD. My prayer is that you make him your Rock upon which you build your life and face life's storms with surety, confidence, peace -- even with joy.

Amen

Photo share -- show off your view of Iraq here



Photo by Command Sgt. Maj. David H. List

Lt. Col. James Rice, deputy commander, 3rd HBCT, shoots an M-14 rifle during Sunday's Striker Shooting Club on FOB Warhorse. CSM List started the club so Soldiers could blow off steam, increase marksmanship and have a little fun while in a deployed setting.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kenneth Lima

An AH-64 crew with the Air Weapons Team stops a dump truck on the highway until Soldiers with the 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division and the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team's Military Transition Team could arrive. Two suspects were detained.

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.