

April 2006 ♦ Vol. 1, Issue 6



# BAND OF BROTHERS





Soldiers from 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division take up security after dismounting a UH-60 Blackhawk from the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade's Task Force No Mercy during an air assault mission in the Al Jazira Desert, Iraq, March 22.

photo by Staff Sgt. Aaron Allmon

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# On the cover...

A specialist with the Quick Reaction Force, 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division searches an area in the Al-Siniya village. Soldiers of the QRF air assaulted to the location to search for a weapons cache.

photo by Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klika



# EAGLE SENDS



## Greetings from Tikrit,

I would like to thank each and every Soldier of Task Force Band of Brothers for all you do every day.

The end state of this mission has never changed; "An Iraq at peace with her neighbors, an ally in the War on Terror, with a representative government that respects the human rights of all Iraqis, with security forces capable of providing domestic order and denying safe haven for terrorists."

Everyday we march closer to that end state, in large part due to the actions of the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and those allies that are assigned, attached or under the tactical control of Task Force Band of Brothers.

The capability and professionalism of the new Iraqi army and police forces improve daily, largely through your hard work and your visible example of professional Soldiers living the Warrior Ethos and Army values.

We will not achieve the end state prior to our departure. With your continued hard work, however, we will posture the units that follow us for success, by training the Iraqi Army, coaching them through operations to kill or capture AIF elements, and aiding local and provincial governments to deliver essential services to the people of Iraq.

As we begin the second half of our mission in Iraq, I'd ask you to redouble your efforts to achieve our objectives. We will not achieve our objective if we remain static, tied to a FOB and establish patterns that make life comfortable for us.

Those traits we took pride in prior to arrival are more critical today than ever – agile, adaptable, flexible Soldiers and formations.

I would also ask you to increase your efforts at risk assessment and mitigation. Do not become complacent, expect the unexpected, prepare and take care of each other.

Once again, thank you for the incredible job you're doing. Dedicate yourself now to defeating the terrorists, training the ISF, and providing the Iraqi people the future they deserve. We have paid too high a price in the blood of our sisters and brothers to do any less.



## BAND OF BROTHERS

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### **Fellow Warriors of Task Force Band of Brothers,**

The month of March was an outstanding month for our Task Force in terms of successful combat operations. We conducted numerous operations throughout each Brigade Combat Team sector. Our Iraqi allies led the way on all of these operations and really came into their own.

Without a doubt, our operations in March have set the standard for how we will continue to operate for the remainder of our time in theater. A testament to our awesome success is the fact that American forces had the fewest number of Soldiers killed in action for a one-month period in two straight years, even with our continued presence off the forward operating base.

The enemies of a peaceful and prosperous Iraq are really feeling the talons of the Eagle. Operation Swarmer inserted hundreds of Coalition Forces by Air Assault to the east of Samarra.

This operation projected Iraqi government influence into an area that was a haven for terrorists -- a haven no more. Prior to Swarmer, a combined raid west of Samarra netted a mother lode of caches and intelligence.

Operations with Iraqi forces in the lead on the Jabouri Peninsula have led to that piece of terrain actually being pacified for the first time in three years. The residents of the Jabouri Peninsula are eagerly giving Coalition Forces vital intelligence and cache locations in the quest to bring normalcy to their lives.

In the Hawijah area, Iraqi Security Forces are conducting Operation Scorpion and routing out terrorists who thought they had found a safe operating area. Our successes in Mosul and Tall Afar are still being expanded and are allowing the free peoples of Iraq to enjoy prosperity in those regions.

Also, we cannot forget about our two brigade combat teams operating in and around Baghdad and our battalion operating in Ramadi.

These Screaming Eagle forces are continually setting high standards of combat effectiveness in some of the most contested areas in Iraq. Keep up the great work.

America is proud of you and the free peoples of the world thank you.

Let's switch gears now to an issue that all Soldiers on the battlefield face daily -- the proper use and understanding of Escalation of Force measures.

First, I want to thank all our combat leaders for the proper training and equipping that has led to our sector of Iraq, Multi-National Division-North, having the lowest rate of innocent Iraqis killed by EOF incidents. Although our statistics show a positive side to our operations, some Soldiers I speak to are a bit confused as to proper EOF procedures. This a major concern of mine. Although this is not widespread, confusion can lead to unjustified warning shots or unwarrant-

ed hesitation to escalate force. This of course can lead to innocent casualties or Coalition casualties.

Some Soldiers believe they will face punishment if their decision to engage an unknown approaching vehicle leads to the death or injury of an innocent Iraqi. Bottom Line: we will never sacrifice the right of our Coalition Forces to protect themselves and others by using the appropriate amount of force in self-defense.

You are all well-trained and well-equipped. You understand the steps to escalate force and the standards. You will not be second guessed or prosecuted for making a reasonable judgment call in combat. The Commander's inquiry, or Army Regulation 15-6 investigation, that is conducted after an EOF incident is to bring out all facets of the engagement to ensure we are to standard and to highlight to our Iraqi allies that the safety of Iraqi citizens is paramount to our operations.

We can not allow the enemy to use our EOF incidents as an "Information Operations" victory to further their deranged cause. Task Force Band of Brothers FRAGO 158 to OPOD Carentan, published on Mar. 30, is our newest EOF standard.

I directed all our BCT CSMs to ensure that a hard copy of this FRAGO is distributed all the way down to team level. Learn and train to its standard, use the prescribed equipment and signaling devices, and we will stay on the path to protecting ourselves and the Iraqi people.

You all are doing fantastic out there on the battlefield, keep up the great work. God bless America, our Task Force Band of Brothers and each and every one of you .....HooAhh..... Air Assault!

**Command Sgt. Maj.  
Frank Grippe**

**Division Command Sergeant Major**

# EAGLE SENDS

# AROUND DIYALA

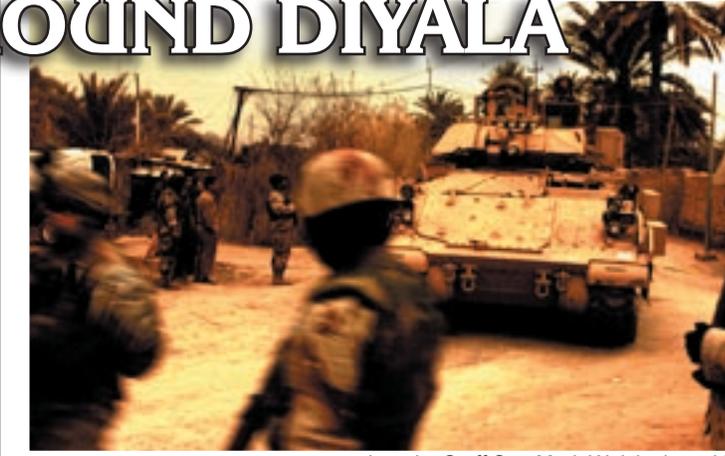


photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Wojciechowski

Clockwise from top: Iraqi Army Soldiers patrol an area in the Diyala Province. Sergeant Matthew Woosley, squad leader, Troop B, 2nd Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, inventories a weapons cache unearthed in Al Buhishama, Iraq. Sergeant Carlos Loya, 2nd Platoon, 978th Military Police Company, watches as friends, family and loved ones visit inmates at the Diyala Province jail in Baqubah, Iraq. Soldiers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, and the Iraqi Army uncover a barrel full of weapons that had been buried in an orchard on the Jabouri Peninsula. Iraqi police from Jedediah, Iraq, practice walking in a line formation.



photo by Sgt. Zach Mott

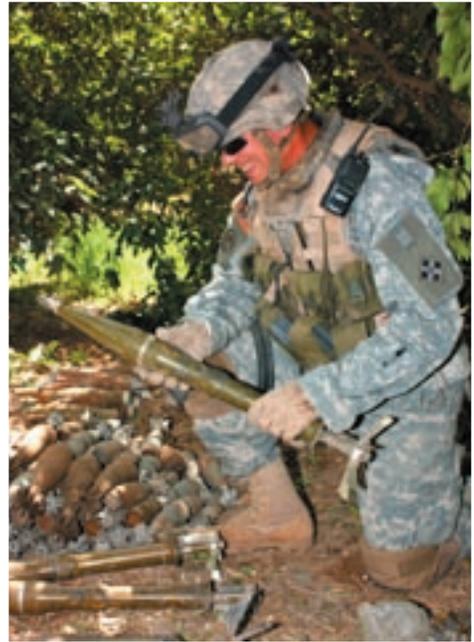


photo by Sgt. Zach Mott



photo by Sgt. Zach Mott



photo by Spc. Lee Elder

*Answering a cry for help...*

# Iraqi forces take control of Narwhan

**Staff Sgt. Mark Wojciechowski**

133rd Mobile Public  
Affairs Detachment

**NARWHAN, Iraq** -- Periods of civil unrest have long been a problem in northern and north-central Iraq. Attacks in the area spiked after the Golden Dome mosque in Samarra was bombed.

The most heinous of these attacks came against the citizens of Narwhan in February. Gunmen killed 47 civilians from the small village that lies in the southern part of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division's area of operations.

"Narwhan was believed to be the spot where civil war in



Iraq was going to break out," said Maj. Byron Sarchet, information operations officer for 3rd HBCT, 4th ID. "The inflammatory cartoons of Mohammed released by Dutch newspapers, followed by the bombing of the Golden Mosque in Samarra brought ethnic tensions to a boil, and then the murder of the 47 people in Narwhan happened."

According to Sarchet, Narwhan did not have much Iraqi police presence in it at all, and the Iraqi Army was not working much outside the city. Shortly after the murders, about 300 demonstrators gathered in town to petition the police. They were concerned about the lack of security.

Units from 3rd HBCT began patrolling the area within days of the demonstration, Sarchet said. At the same time, the unit began working with both the Iraqi Army and police to help synchronize their efforts in securing Narwhan.

"The IA showed up on the scene and established check points [in Narwhan], which helped [security] a lot," Sarchet said. "The Iraqi police pushed further out of the city and that helped [security as well]. We engaged the police chief and got them working with the Iraqi Army to better synchronize their efforts."

During a recent mission in Narwhan, troops from the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division and 3rd HBCT Soldiers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment set off to patrol the area and search for any signs of insurgent activity.



photos by Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klika

**Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division search Narwhan for insurgents and weapons caches in response to increased violence in the area. The patrol was a joint operation with 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, which netted several suspected terrorists and four weapons caches.**





**(Top left) Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division inventory a weapons cache discovered in Narwhan. (Top right) A Soldier from 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division prepares to move out on a foot patrol on the bank of the Diyala River. (Bottom left) Two Iraqi Soldiers discuss the day's mission. (Bottom right) A squad of Iraqi Soldiers moves through an area of Narwhan, searching for signs of insurgent activity.**

The combined patrol descended upon a village known to the locals as "the corner," a suspected hide-out for terrorists. "The mission was to capture, kill or detain the anti-Iraqi forces responsible for the murders of the 47 people that were killed north of Narwhan," said 1st Sgt. David Pasquale, Co. A, 1-68. The patrol also searched for weapons caches.

Coalition Forces and their Iraqi Army counterparts searched their designated sectors, walking the streets, searching the houses and questioning the residents.

After a sweep through the village, the Soldiers moved to the Diyala River's edge and found four caches consisting of mortars, anti-tank missiles, artillery shells, anti-personnel mines, rocket-propelled grenades and thousands of rounds of assault rifle ammunition.

The Iraqi Soldiers found a cache with machine gun ammunition and rocket-propelled grenades and also detained several suspects linked to the murders.

Iraqi security forces have maintained a strong presence in the region, with little help from the coalition.

Their success has been reflected in the calm that has descended upon the area, renewing the confidence of Narwhan residents. ■



# H O L O C A U S T

**1934** Adolf Hitler is appointed Chancellor of Germany, a nation with a Jewish population of 566,000. By March, Hitler had dictatorial powers and had opened four concentration camps.

**1938** At Evian, France, the U.S. convenes a League of Nations conference with delegates from 32 countries to consider helping Jews fleeing Hitler, but results in inaction as no country will accept them.

**1939** Nazi troops seize Czechoslovakia (Jewish pop. 350,000) and invade Poland, which had a Jewish population of 3.35 million -- the largest in Europe. World War II begins Sept. 3 as England and France declare war on Germany.

**1940** Nazis invade Denmark (Jewish pop. 8,000), Norway (Jewish pop. 2,000), France (Jewish pop. 350,000), Belgium (Jewish pop. 65,000), Holland (Jewish pop. 140,000), Luxembourg (Jewish pop. 3,500), and Romania (Jewish pop. 34,000). Approximately 29,000 German Jews are deported to Vichy, France.

**1941** Nazis invade Yugoslavia (Jewish pop. 75,000), Greece (Jewish pop. 77,000), and the Soviet Union (Jewish pop. 3 million). Hitler declares war on the United States Dec. 11. United States President Franklin Roosevelt then declares war on Germany, concentrating nearly 90 percent of the military resources to defeat Hitler.

**1942** Mass killings of Jews using Zyklon-B begin at Auschwitz-Birkenau in Bunker I with the bodies being buried in mass graves in a nearby meadow.

**1943** The number of Jews killed passes one million. Nazis then use special units of slave laborers to dig up and burn the bodies to remove all traces. Germans surrender at Stalingrad in the first big defeat of Hitler's armies.

**1944** In response to political pressure to help Jews under Nazi control, Roosevelt creates the War Refugee Board. D-Day: Allied landings in Normandy June 6.

**1945** Hitler commits suicide April 30 in his Berlin bunker and Americans free 33,000 inmates from concentration camps. German troops surrendered May 7, signed by Gen. Jodl at Reims.

## Sgt. 1st Class Dawn Perry

101st Airborne Division  
Equal Opportunity Office

The Holocaust was a state-sponsored, systematic persecution of Jewish people by the Nazi German Regime from 1933 to 1945. It is estimated that over six million people were murdered -- most of them Jewish.

This act of genocide occurred because the Nazis thought the Jewish people were inferior. At the time the Holocaust began, there were over nine million Jews living in areas that became occupied by the Third Reich.

In the end, almost two out of every three Jews were killed in what is known as the Final Solution. In reference to this horrible act of genocide, Congress designated this time of year as the *Days of Remembrance* -- a time to reflect on those who lost their lives.

The Remembrance Day falls on the 27th of the Hebrew month of Nisan. The Israeli Parliament chose this date because it falls between the dates of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and began Israel's Independence Day.

Before the Holocaust came to be, it was the Nazis who began building concentration camps for the sole purpose of imprisoning Jews and other victims of racial hatred, as well as political opponents of Nazism. These camps came to be known as ghettos, transient camps or forced labor camps.

There were a thousand of these camps in Europe, and each had a different way of identifying captives. The 101st Airborne Division holds a piece

of history in Days of Remembrance.

Established in 1942, the 101st parachuted into Normandy, France, on D-Day -- June 6, 1944. There, the Screaming Eagles division engaged in fierce fighting with German forces.

The 101st was deployed to Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944 and was subsequently surrounded in Bastogne by German troops.

The unit refused to surrender and held out until the 4th Armored Division arrived to provide it with badly needed support.

During the 101st's drive into southern Germany, the unit uncovered Kaufering IV, one of 11 camps in the Kaufering complex in the Landsberg region. The Kaufering complex was

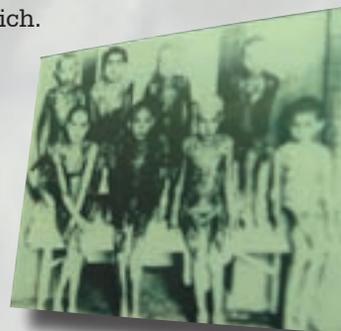
under the administration of the Dachau concentration camp.

At its height, the camp held more than 3,600 prisoners, but in the days before U.S. troops arrived, the SS had evacuated many of the prisoners on a death march south in the direction of Dachau.

When the 12th Armored Division and 101st Airborne Division arrived at Kaufering IV on April 27 and 28, respectively, the Soldiers discovered some 500 dead inmates.

In the days that followed, the U.S. Army units ordered the local townspeople to bury the dead.

The 101st Airborne Division was recognized as a liberating unit by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1998 for their actions in war. ■



# Setting your fitness GOALS

**Capt. Reva Rogers, RD**  
101st Airborne Division  
Dietician

**A**s we crest the six-month mark of the deployment, this is a good time to revise and revitalize your workout plan. The first step in revising your workout program is to establish goals.

What do you want to get out of your workout program? Do you want to run faster, bench press more, increase flexibility, or simply look better naked? After you have determined your goal, it's time to start planning.

When developing a workout program, keep in mind some general training principles. A popular acronym for remembering the fitness principles is **PROVERBS**.

## Progression

To continue to improve at an exercise, sport, or task you must continue to run farther or lift more to train those muscles, depending on your goal.

A good rule of thumb to follow when weight lifting is the two-for-two rule -- if you can perform two additional repetitions on your last set for two consecutive workouts, you should increase the amount of weight.

The recommended increase for upper-body and lower-body exercises is five to 10 pounds and 10 to 20 pounds, respectively.

When increasing the distance you run, be careful not to increase your mileage by greater than 10 percent, which greatly increases your risks for becoming injured.

## Regularity

To see an increase or maintain your fitness level, you need to workout regularly. Working out three times a week should help you maintain fitness levels, while working out five to six days a week should increase your level of fitness.

## Overload

To get stronger or faster, the load you put on your muscles must continue to push you. Once you get used to lifting a certain amount or running at a certain speed, you should progress to a higher load and faster pace.

## Variety

Adding variety into your workout plan can help keep you motivated and continue to change the stress you are placing on your muscles.

## Endurance

To achieve overall fitness, you should plan an endurance activity into your workout, even if your workouts are primarily strength training. Bumping up cardio can help increase muscle definition. Think six-pack abs -- you probably already have the muscles, increasing cardio will help you see them.

To increase muscular endurance, you can increase the number of repetitions and sets, or decrease the amount of rest in between sets. To increase your cardiovascular endurance, you should plan at least one long workout per week.

## Recovery

During strength training you should rest your muscles for at least 48 hours. For example, if you work your chest muscles on Monday, the earliest you should work your chest muscles again is Wednesday.

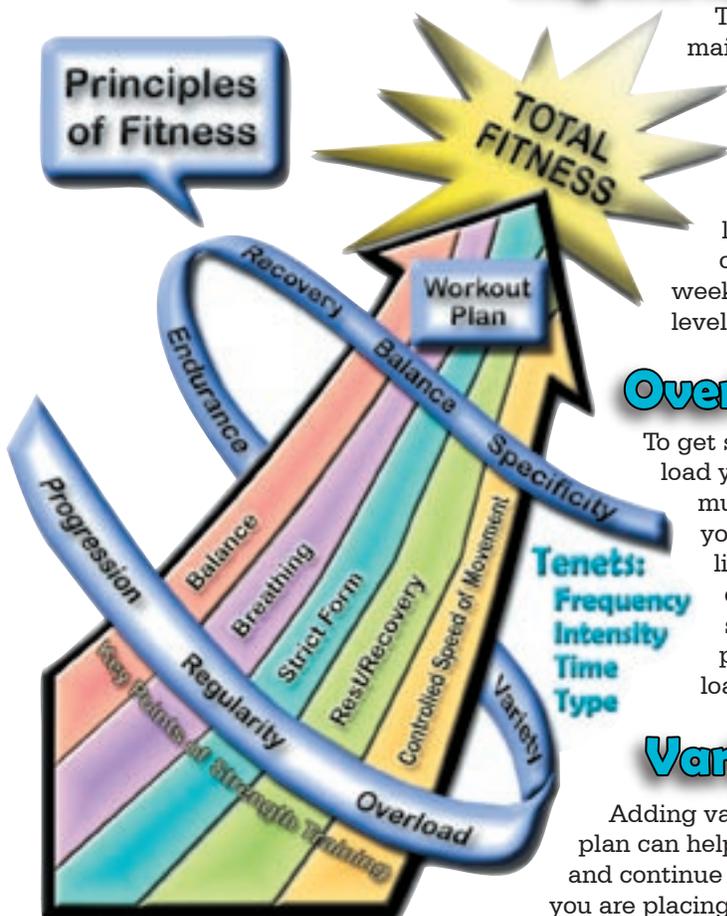
High-intensity cardiovascular workouts, such as interval training or road marching, also require recovery time. Plan a low-impact cardio workout for the next day.

## Balance

Your workout plan should train the antagonistic muscle groups. That is, if you are doing exercises that target your pecs, or chest muscles, you should also plan in exercises that work your lats, or upper back muscles. Unbalanced workouts can increase risk for injury and give you an unbalanced appearance (think huge upper body, tiny legs).

## Specificity

If you want to improve performance of a particular exercise or activity, you have to train for that exercise. To do more pull-ups, you must perform pull-ups and target your lats and biceps in your training program. To run faster, you must practice running faster by adding intervals, tempo workouts, or fartleks into your training plan. ■



Enduring the odds:

# Soldier survives IED blast; credits faith

**Sgt. Waine D. Hailey**  
133rd Mobile Public  
Affairs Detachment

**AD DAWR, Iraq** -- Donning body armor, adhering to proper military tactics and techniques, and maintaining situational awareness can help a Soldier come home in one piece, but sometimes a little something else comes into play.

In March, 1st Lt. Adam Rivette, platoon leader, Troop A, 2nd Battalion, 9th Cavalry Regiment, attached to the 101st Airborne Division, and his troops were chasing down a suspicious vehicle. The pursuit did not pan out -- it did however lead to the event which Rivette refers to as "a blessing from God."

As the Soldiers were releasing the driver of a vehicle, a group of locals reported an IED to the Iraqi Army troops with Rivette's team.

The team was told the IED was at a nearby location on the road, so they went to check it out.

As the team moved into position near the location, they took precautionary measures, trying to discover the explosives from a distance. When it was clear that no one could see

any signs of an IED, they "circled the wagons," moving their humvees into a perimeter around the site.

They still could not see the IED. At that point, Rivette, accompanied by Staff Sgt. Kenneth Poss, walked towards a small pile of dirt in the center of the road.

"[The dirt pile] didn't look possible that it was anything serious, but it was the only thing that, we thought, looked out of place," Rivette said.

As the two Soldiers walked towards the mound -- Poss about five feet to its left and Rivette about 15 feet in front of it -- the explosives were detonated.

Both men recall the mushroom cloud of fire, smoke and dust. Rivette said all he had time to do was cover his face. Poss fell and rolled to one side.

"I started walking back to the truck in a cloud of

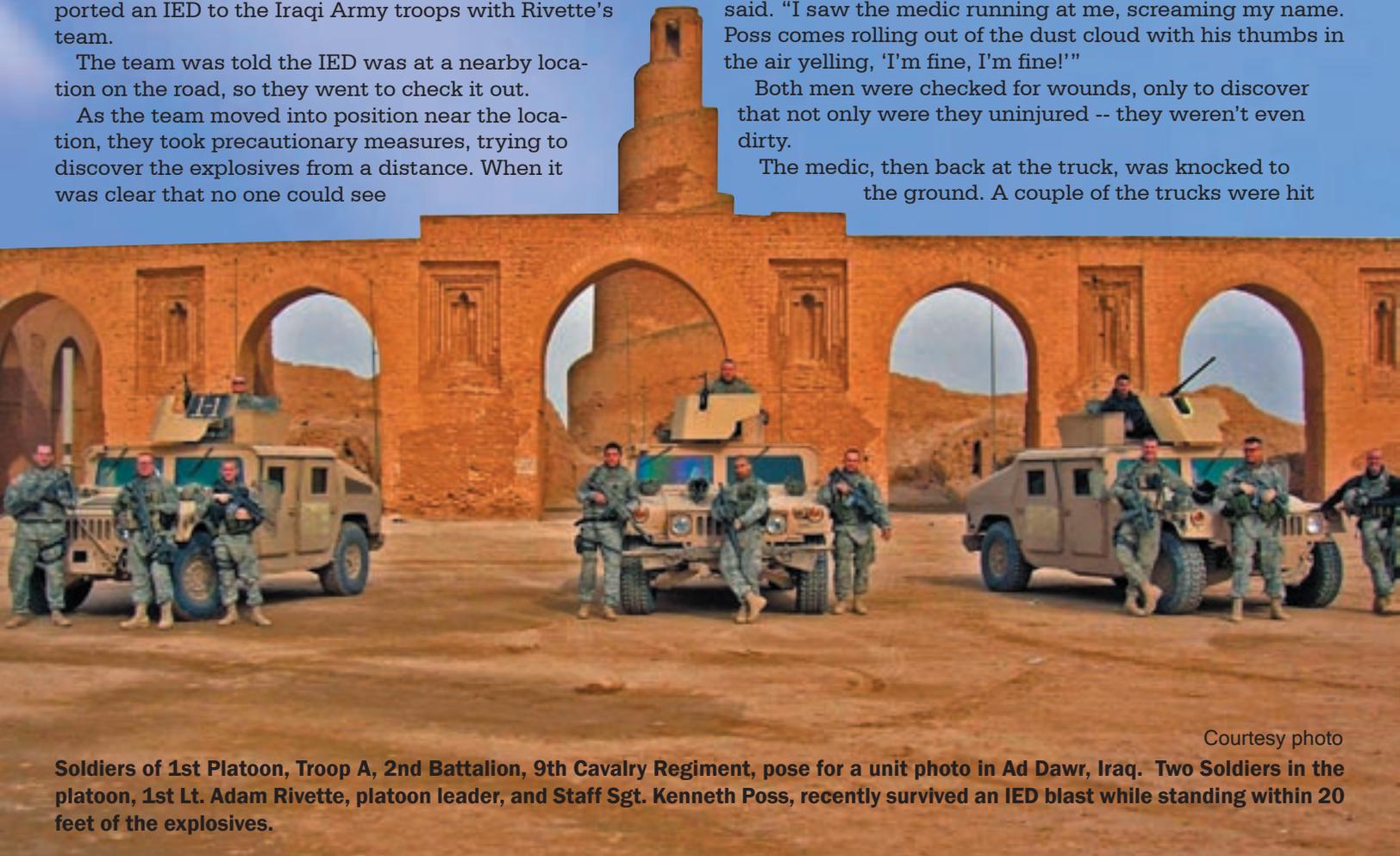
dust... in a daze, like --wow, what just happened?" Rivette said. "I saw the medic running at me, screaming my name. Poss comes rolling out of the dust cloud with his thumbs in the air yelling, 'I'm fine, I'm fine!'"

Both men were checked for wounds, only to discover that not only were they uninjured -- they weren't even dirty.

The medic, then back at the truck, was knocked to the ground. A couple of the trucks were hit

*"For some reason, no one was hit. There were 30 bullet holes surrounding the truck, but not one person was hit."*

**1st Lt. Adam Rivette**  
Platoon Leader



Courtesy photo

Soldiers of 1st Platoon, Troop A, 2nd Battalion, 9th Cavalry Regiment, pose for a unit photo in Ad Dawr, Iraq. Two Soldiers in the platoon, 1st Lt. Adam Rivette, platoon leader, and Staff Sgt. Kenneth Poss, recently survived an IED blast while standing within 20 feet of the explosives.

# Inspiration

## As long as God is awake

with shrapnel and the gunners reported hearing metal and dirt whizzing by their heads. The force of the shrapnel and percussion of the blast were so intense, they shattered windows in the surrounding homes.

When the Soldiers returned to the blast site, they saw Rivette's boot-prints and shards of shrapnel all around them. Where Poss had lain on the ground was more shrapnel.

The Explosive Ordnance Disposal team was called to the site. From information gathered, a 155mm artillery round, with a 40 to 50-meter kill radius, was used with a remote-controlled detonator.

"I grabbed Sgt. Poss and said, 'Dude, there's no reason for us to be alive,'" Rivette said.

Rivette considers himself a spiritual man and reads Psalms 91 before going on patrol every day.

"God is definitely the only one that can be given the glory for this incident," said Rivette, a West Point graduate from Augusta, Ga. "It's really uplifting to us and lets us know God is watching over us."

This is not Rivette's first encounter with a close call. Two days prior to the IED blast, a rocket-propelled grenade hit 200 meters from his truck and the area around his humvee was riddled with small-arms fire.

"For some reason, no one was hit," Rivette said. "There were 30 bullet holes surrounding the truck, but not one person was hit. Not a single one of my guys have been hit since we've been here. It is amazing -- God has been taking care of us."

Even though his men face adversity on a daily basis, they go out the next day with a smile on their face, renewing their hunt for the bad guys.

Rivette realizes not all Soldiers are as fortunate as his troops.

"I feel like our squadron has been blessed," Rivette said. "It's rough to think about those guys who haven't made it, but for some reason, God hasn't wanted me to die yet -- maybe tomorrow, but not yet." ■



**Chaplain (Maj.) Scott Hammond**

Last month, we lost two great heroes from the 101st on Contingency Operating Base Speicher. I sensed the Lord walking beside me as I said a prayer over these dear fallen comrades. I was deeply touched to see the tender care given to our fallen as they were being moved on to their next destination. As I said a prayer over them, it was brought to my mind that the Lord continues to carry these Soldiers as I committed them into His loving arms.

I was also reminded vividly that He carries you and me in our troubled and difficult times.

In Exodus 14, the Israelites had an enemy all around them and impossible obstacles in front of them.

**Exodus 14:** *They were terrified and cried out to the Lord. Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord. The Lord will fight for you. Then the Lord said to Moses, Tell the Israelites to move on. Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, The waters were divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground.*

How do you and I face an enemy all around us with some challenges that may appear bigger than we can handle in front of us?

Realize that God's guidance does not necessarily keep us from the battlefields. He does promise to walk beside us each

step of the journey. You and I are here by no accident. It is God who has brought us here for a mission, and He will walk beside us and enable us to complete that mission.

God's instructions through Moses are four-fold.

1. "Fear Not" -- He instructed the people first of all not to be afraid.

2. "Stand Firm" -- Reflecting on faith and confidence in the delivering power of

the Lord. Now is not the time to shrink away from the battle, but to stand firm, realizing that we stand together as a Band of Brothers and that the Lord stands besides us.

3. "Watch" -- Moses said, "See... what the Lord will accomplish for you today." We must keep our eyes on the Lord and not on the storms and battles around us. We cannot ignore the battles, but must never forget it is the Lord who battles with and for you.

4. "Keep Moving Forward" -- God tells Moses to tell the people to go forward. "Stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea."

The Angel had been in front of them, but now He repositions Himself and moves behind them.

God moves to our back to keep the enemy from overcoming us. In other words, God stands between our circumstances and us. God is saying to us, we must go forward. He is saying I did not bring you here to stop.

God told Moses to stretch out his hand over the sea, and he caused the waters to go back, and made a way for them to walk over on dry land. You see that is what God does, just when you feel that you can not make it, you can not see your way clearly, just when you are about to throw in the towel and give up, God opens a way.

He is ready to move in front of your enemies and be a light to your dark path so that you can see the way.

God never slumbers or sleeps. He continues to watch over us and walk beside us each step of the journey. ■



## *Experience behind the wheel...* **Chinook pilot advances career in Iraq**

“It was always a dream for me. If you would have talked to my parents when I was little, they would have told you ‘Oh Scotty, he’s going to be in the Army. He wants to fly helicopters.’”



photos by Sgt. Ryan Matson

**Chief Warrant Officer Scott Moore, Company B, 6th Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, conducts some pre-flight inspections prior to a night mission. He has flown Chinooks for five years, and will soon be evaluated to become a PC -- pilot in command.**

### **Sgt. Ryan Matson**

101st Combat Aviation Brigade  
Public Affairs Office

**TIKRIT, Iraq** -- You name it, Chief Warrant Officer Scott Moore, Company B, 6th Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, has probably flown it during his 14-year military career.

He started with UH-1 Hueys in 1992, immediately after he had graduated from college and then from flight school, while serving in the Missouri National Guard. During this time, Moore also flew AH-1 Cobras. From 1998 until 2001, he was an AH-64 Apache attack pilot. Since then, Moore has settled into the cockpit of his newest, and quite possibly last, Army aircraft, the CH-47D Chinook helicopter.

“I envisioned myself as one of those guys who spent 20 years flying the same aircraft,” he said. “I didn’t plan on flying several types of helicopters, it just kind of worked out that way.”

During his career, Moore has flown every type of Army mission -- attack missions with Apaches, air assaults and troop and cargo transport with Chinooks, medical evacuations

with Hueys, and just about everything else in between. And while he said he has loved flying the different airframes, the Chinook is a particular favorite.

"The Chinook is the most awesome airframe I've ever flown in my life," Moore said. "It's the best instrumented, the best total package, it virtually flies itself. It really is the nicest airframe to fly in the Army."

Moore affectionately refers to the Chinook as "the workhorse." It is capable of lifting a combined gross maximum weight of 50,000 pounds. Besides its tremendous power and lifting capacity, the Chinook is also known for its troop and cargo hauling ability. The aircraft has seats for 32 Soldiers and more can be carried if necessary.

To the people who knew him growing up, Moore said it is no surprise he ended up an Army helicopter pilot.

"It was always a dream for me," he said. "If you would have talked to my parents when I was little, they would have told you 'Oh Scotty, he's going to be in the Army. He wants to fly helicopters.'"

Moore's passion for flying is so great that he turned down more money and higher rank to continue doing it. He was a captain when he went to Panama as a staff officer, and every day that he was sitting at his desk instead of in a cockpit, Moore said he was miserable and longed to get back in the air.

"When I entered the Army, I really didn't understand what warrant officers were, and that they were the pilots who

flew all the time," he said. "My dream was to fly. If you have a dream, you have to go for it."

So Moore went to Warrant Officer School and in May of 1998. He became a warrant officer, climbed back into the cockpit, and hasn't looked back since.

Now on his second deployment, Moore said his primary mission in Iraq is to fly battlefield circulation missions throughout Iraq on a mission known as the Eagle Express.

If you name a town in Iraq, Moore said he's probably been there. He takes passengers around the country and flies on a constant basis, usually several times a week.

In addition to these missions, Moore also flies combat missions, primarily air assaults, in which troops and equipment are moved through the air to a combat area.

After all these years of flying, he is about to reach yet another milestone in his career. Already a certified Huey instructor pilot, Moore is about to be evaluated to become a PC -- pilot in command, for the Chinook. This means his senior pilots have enough confidence in his knowledge and ability to operate Chinooks, that they will give him a comprehensive flight test for the chance to be in charge of the aircraft.

After 14 years of flying, there is one more flight Moore is looking forward to -- the flight home at the end of this deployment. Back in Tennessee, he and his wife Cynara have two daughters, Megan, 15, and Alexa, 13, and a son, Scotty Jr., 6.



**Moore sits in the cockpit of a Chinook helicopter prior to a night mission Feb. 5 at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq.**



**machine gun training**



Rakkasans lead Iraqi Soldiers through

# machine gun training

**Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klika**

133rd Mobile Public  
Affairs Detachment

**BAYJI, Iraq** -- Coalition Soldiers held a seven-day crash course for Iraqi Army Soldiers on the fundamentals of firing a PKC-47 machine gun on Forward Operating Base Summerall.

Weapons squad leaders of 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, known as the Leader Rakkasans, gave select Soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 4th Iraqi Infantry Division each a belt of ammunition to zero their weapons. The Soldiers were required to demonstrate their ability to fire

from the sitting, kneeling and standing positions.

Upon completion of the training, each Iraqi Soldier will be responsible for training other Iraqi Soldiers within their respective units.

Iraqi Army Sgt. Saheed from Kirkuk quickly led the way by hitting 97 out of 117 targets.

"Every Soldier exceeded our expectations by successfully zeroing their weapons," said Staff Sgt. Tracy Loveall of Crocker, Mo.

The Soldiers were taught to work as a team when operating the weapons.

"Because of the language barrier and having only one interpreter, we

found it to be quite challenging to coach the Soldiers, so we gave them a lot of trigger time to learn the techniques," Loveall said.

One week and around 20,000 rounds later, the Soldiers were ready to engage the enemy, said Staff Sgt. Matthew Evans of Fort Collins, Co.

"We gave them a good building block, and it is now up to them to teach their Soldiers what they have learned this week," Evans said. "I'm 100 percent confident that they will pass on their new skills. You have to remember, these Soldiers have no [enlistment] contract to be here. They are here to learn how to make Iraq a safe and peaceful country." ■

**“They are here to learn how to make Iraq a safe and peaceful country.”**

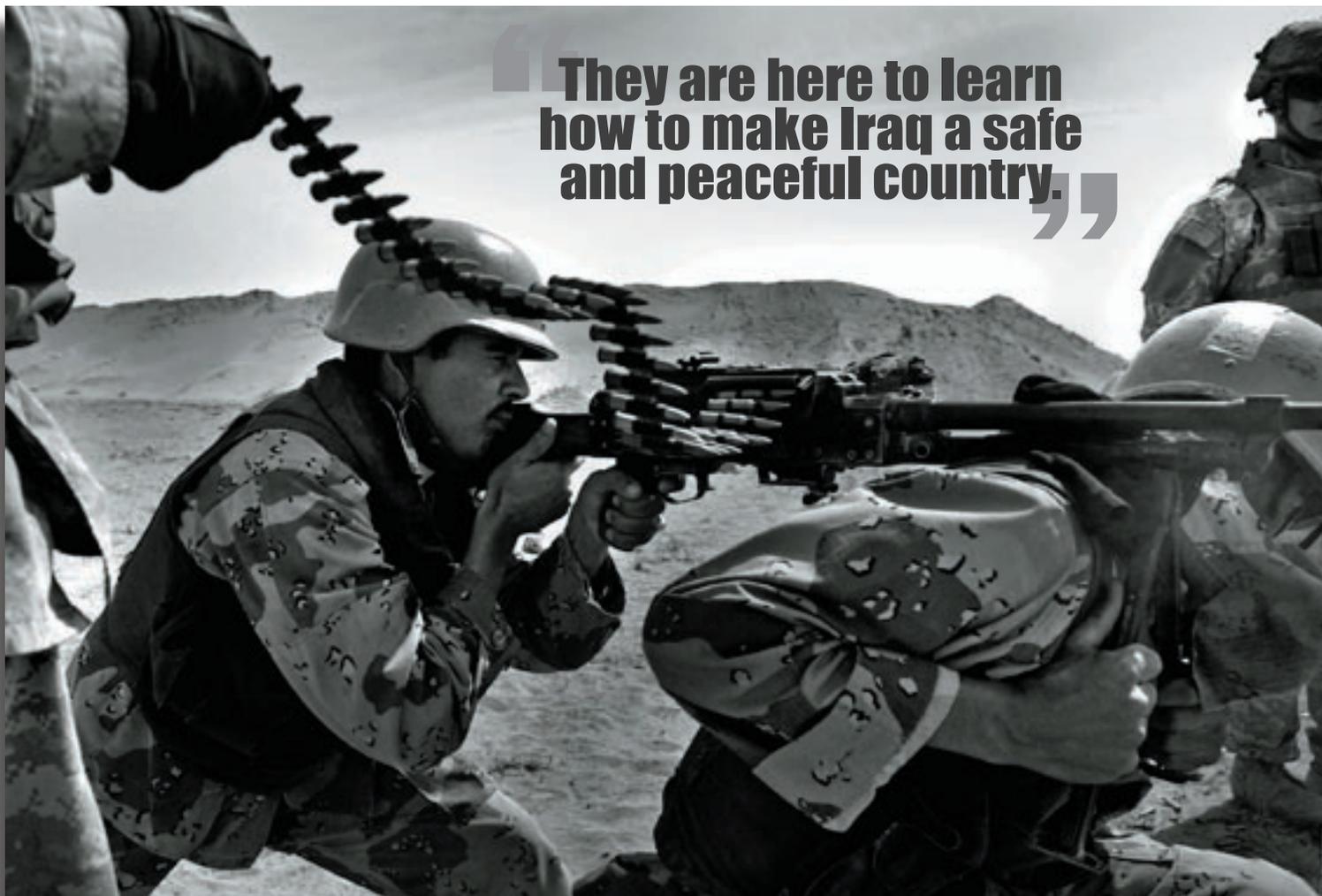


photo by Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klika

# IA proves worth in validation exercise

## 1st Lt. Will Bardenwerper

1st Brigade, 1st Armor Division  
Public Affairs

**TALL AFAR, Iraq** -- Soldiers of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division embarked on a validation exercise -- a real-life cordon and search mission of the Sinjar Cement Factory April 5.

The mission was designed to prove whether or not the battalion was ready to assume control of land in Iraq's western Ninawa Province.

The Sinjar Cement Factory is a large, semi-modern facility, employing hundreds of workers from the area, but also believed to possibly harbor anti-Iraqi forces and weapons.

The battalion began the mission by setting a cordon around the facility, moving from south to north. The unit was aided by a platoon from Company B, 1st Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment. One platoon leader and platoon sergeant was sent with each Iraqi platoon for further oversight.

"They're pretty good. They just need

to work on the details and they'll be alright," said Staff Sgt. James Light, as he watched 2nd Platoon, 4th Company search an underground room.

First Lt. Jason Rose, observing 1st Platoon, noted that the Iraqi platoons were doing a fine job staying on line and keeping communications with each other. Coalition Forces were most concerned about how Iraqi Soldiers would control civilian workers within the search area. But as it turned out, they had an effective method of dealing with the personnel.

After the lead search teams swept an area, ensuring that none of the civilians present posed an immediate threat, a follow-on team policed up all personnel and escorted them to a holding area outside the main gate to the factory.

In all, it took 3rd Battalion several hours to conduct a thorough search of the cement factory. By the evening, the unit was prepared to conduct night operations on-site and further, more detailed searches the following day. ■

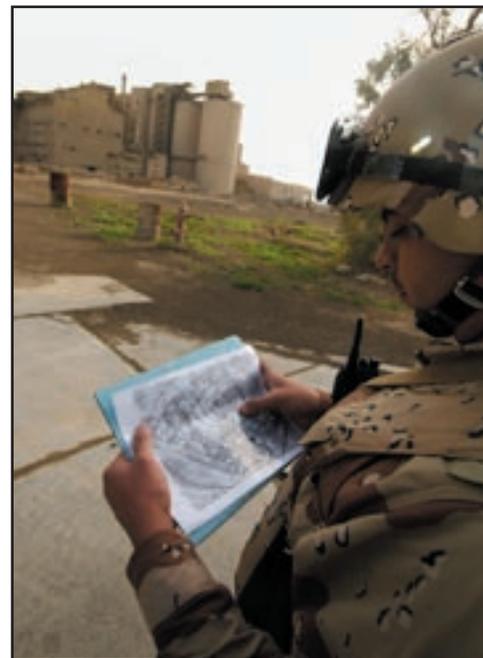


photo by Staff Sgt. Aaron Allmon

**A Soldier from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division looks at a map and prepares to cordon and search the Sinjar Cement Factory April 5.**



photo by Spc. Matt Wrzesinski

**Specialist Mike Schultz, 626th Brigade Support Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, helps load a detainee captured during Operation Red Light II in Tikrit, Iraq, March 31.**

## Operation Red Light II nets detainees

### Spc. Matt Wrzesinski

3rd Brigade Combat Team  
101st Airborne Division

**TIKRIT, Iraq** -- Rakkasans from 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment partnered with Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division, to conduct Operation Red Light II west of Tikrit March 31. The objective was to kill or capture known anti-Iraqi forces in the area and to search for weapons caches.

Intelligence gathered from a previous mission, Red Light I, led to the follow-up mission.

After the initial operation, which netted a stock of weapons, citizens from the area contacted Iraqi Security Forces to report information that led to Red Light II.

"The intel was developed by the IA," said Maj. Tom Hansbarger, operations officer, 3-320th FA. "This shows that the local populace is starting to trust the IA enough to give them information."

The air assault mission began in

the early morning as 173 troops, both Iraqi and U.S. forces, were dropped into their target area.

A ground assault convoy brought 80 additional troops to meet up with their counterparts.

The Soldiers quickly cordoned and searched the area, setting up tactical check points and stopping all vehicles coming into the area.

Over the two-day mission, 45 suspects were detained and screened. Seventeen of which were taken in for further questioning, including six who were on the battalion's high value target list.

Four caches were also found during the raid, including 108 mines, four surface-to-air missiles, 32 rockets ranging from 57mm to 122mm, small arms ammunition and materials used to make IEDs.

"With the people detained and the caches found, I think we disrupted an IED cell that operated in and around Tikrit," Hansbarger said. "The mission also validated with the locals, the capabilities of the IA." ■

# IRAQI POLICE:

## Training to protect Iraq

### Sgt. Zach Mott

3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team,  
4th Infantry Division Public Affairs

**BAQUBAH, Iraq** -- Army training is typically broken down into three phases -- crawl, walk, then run. As Coalition Forces continue to train the Iraqi Security Forces to protect and secure their country, they have adopted the same three-step philosophy.

"We go there, we teach [the Iraqi police] a certain thing, and we'll just work on that for a couple days," said Sgt. Frank Zavala, who is a lead instructor in police training. "Then we'll just keep building up on that until they get it down."

Zavala and other members of 2nd Platoon, 978th Military Police Company, attached to 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, conducted training on proper procedures for room clearing at a police station in Baqubah, Iraq, April 4.

The 978th is responsible for training more than 15 Iraqi police stations in Diyala Province. The unit instructs on everything from the most basic police procedures from hand cuffing a suspect to securing and conducting raids and clearing rooms.

"The toughest thing to grasp is your fields of fire," said Spc. Robert Stearns, 2nd Platoon, 978th MP Co. "You don't want to hurt your own buddy, and those are the guys on your left and right. You have to make sure they're coming out with you every time."

The learning curve for the new IPs can be likened to that of a new enlistee learning the ropes through basic and advanced individual training. The Soldiers of 978th are now trying to pass that training, as well as lessons learned through experience, along to the IPs.

"We can obviously tell that a lot of these people have not done

this before," Stearns said. "When we do our own AIT in the MP Corps, it is very similar."

The Iraqi police will continue to be an important part of the future stability of security in Iraq. Because of this, each station is responsible for varying tasks. Some stations might be assigned as a quick reaction force, while others are primarily responsible for patrolling the roads or conducting traffic control points.

"We try to do training that is suited to that station and plus a little outside the boundaries," said Sgt. Andrew Turner, an instructor from 2nd Platoon, 978th MP Co. "If you're doing a checkpoint, you might have to stop and search a vehicle, which might lead to an arrest. We'll also teach them how to search a person and handcuff a person as well because obviously that will be applicable."

Iraqi police units are increasing their presence in both size and location and becoming more integrated into Coalition Forces missions.

As the grass-roots training efforts of Police Transition Teams, such as the 978th MP Co., continue to take hold, the intent is for IP units to become fully integrated into Coalition Force missions, and ultimately, assume those missions completely.

"In the overall picture, what we're trying to do is to get the IPs to transition to working by themselves instead of [with] Coalition Forces," Zavala said. "[We want them] to be independent so they can know how to train and they can train other IPs and they can become efficient."

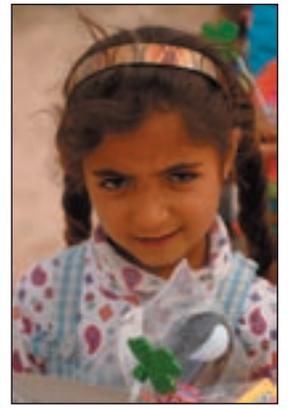
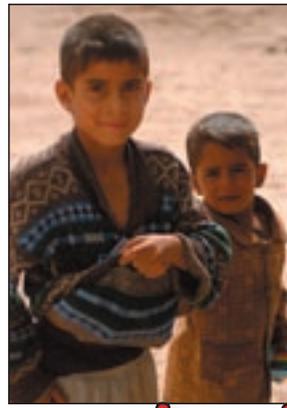
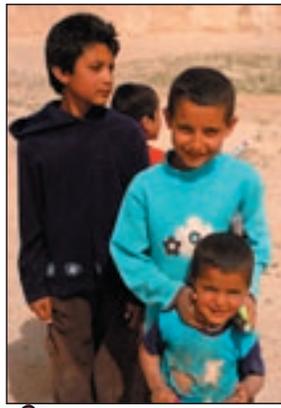
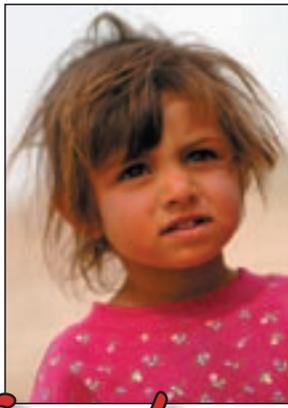
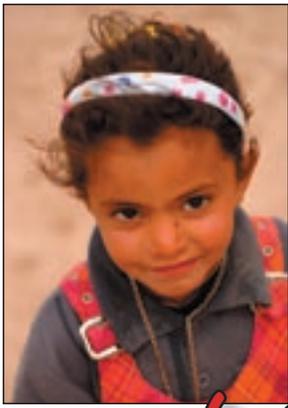
With each new technique the IPs master, they are one step closer to assuming control of the security and future of Iraq.

"We don't want them to fail," Stearns said. "We want them to be able to stand up on their own to make sure they know what they're doing every time." ■



photo by Sgt. Zach Mott

**A member of the Iraqi Police in Baqubah, Iraq, instructs Sgt. Andrew Turner, 978th Military Police Company, to place his hands behind his head. Turner was acting as a hostile resident as part of a police training exercise.**



# Pathfinders' new mission...

## OPERATION VICTORY BOX

**Spc. Jeanine Kinville**  
101st Airborne Division  
Public Affairs

**TIKRIT, Iraq** -- Task Force Band of Brothers Soldiers make an impact in Iraq everyday with their continued efforts to bring peace and prosperity to Iraq, but some take extra time and effort to contribute.

Soldiers from Pathfinder Co., 4th Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, currently attached to 501st Special Troops Battalion, 101st Airborne Division, began conducting missions known as Operation Victory Box, a humanitarian aid effort to bring much needed hygiene products, clothing and toys to Iraqi families who live around Contingency Operating Base Speicher in Tikrit.

Collaboration between Maj. Jennifer Bailey, the division aviation maintenance officer, and the Pathfinders began the effort to provide relief with donations made possible by Americans back home who were interested in helping Iraqis.

"Our company performs these missions because we all want to help the local population with a better way of life," said Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Armstrong, the Pathfinder operations NCO who coordinates the missions. "We assist them in improving their condition of living and providing educational supplies for children, which are vital for their progress here."

Highly-skilled infantrymen, specializing in reconnaissance and sniper operations, the Pathfinders conduct protective services for the division command group and combat patrols in the 501st area of operations. When out on patrols, they bring along boxes of supplies to hand out whenever they get an opportunity, which has helped build trust and support from the Iraqis.

"The trust we have established with the Iraqis has already provided our Pathfinders with extremely valuable human intelligence on insurgent activity in our [area of operations] and has led to the capture of anti-Iraqi forces operating against Coalition Forces," Armstrong said.

In what started as an online posting, the operation has grown to a flood of care packages arriving each day.

"The main source of donations are thanks to Mary Margaret Halleck, who began the organization out of her home in Colleyville, Texas," Bailey said. "Word keeps spreading and the generosity has been overwhelming." ■



photos by Spc. Jeanine Kinville

**(Top) Major Jennifer Bailey, 101st Airborne Division aviation maintenance officer, hands out supplies to a group of Iraqi women living outside Contingency Operating Base Speicher in Tikrit during an Operation Victory Box mission March 25 with Pathfinder Co., 4th Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade. (Above) First Lt. Joshua Brown, Pathfinder Co. executive officer, hands out donated school supplies to an Iraqi boy living in the outskirts of Tikrit.**

# RECONSTRUCTION

## Rebuilding a nation

Stories by Sgt. Dennis Gravelle  
138th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**MOSUL, Iraq** -- The 401st Civil Affairs Battalion followed up on several projects in Hammam Al Alil to verify the reconstruction progress currently under contract.

The reconstruction projects will improve the quality of life for the residents of this northern town once controlled by anti-Iraqi forces.

"Ten months ago, we could not walk down the streets without worrying about being shot at," said Maj. Roy Outcelt, team leader, Team A, 401st CA Bn.

According to Outcelt, the first major project was upgrading and paving 16 kilometers of a local road, at a cost of \$1.89 million.

He said the residents of Hammam Al Alil tried for 30 years to get this road repaired. Saddam Hussein refused to fix the road, as it would benefit the Al Jabouri tribe.

Outcelt met with Mayor Khalif Jabouri to discuss reconstruction projects in Hammam Al Alil. He said the mayor has been instrumental in helping Coalition Forces work in the area, despite intimidation and instability.

"Contractors are still afraid to work there, and we can do little without his assistance," Outcelt said. "I don't know if anyone could do what he has done in the last two years."

Jabouri and Outcelt discussed projects such as a new fire station and

a school project in Arij and planned completion dates for both.

"The fire station will be done soon," Jabouri said.

According to Outcelt, the fire station will cost \$165,000 and the school project will cost \$63,000 to complete.

"I was very impressed to see the [school] principal working as a laborer on the project, to get the most out of the money, and work to improve his school," Outcelt said.

The CA team has also completed a school renovation for \$15,000, the reconstruction of two municipal buildings that were destroyed by anti-Iraqi forces at a cost of \$40,000, and the Arij medical clinic project for \$227,000.

"We are also working with higher headquarters to complete an unfinished UNICEF clinic left abandoned at the start of the war," Outcelt said.

According to Outcelt, his team is accomplishing what they were sent here to do, to establish relationships with Iraqis and to coach and mentor men like Jabouri to become democratic leaders.

"It has not always been easy, and we haven't always achieved what we attempted," Outcelt said. "I am very proud of our achievements and helping get a new democracy established. Iraq will not be perfect when we leave, but will be better in a small way than when we arrived." ■



**Hammam Al-Alil Fire Station**



**Balkis School**



**Al Hadi School**

## NCO deploys with Corps of Engineers



**GREEN**

**MOSUL, Iraq** -- Whether it is peace time or war time, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is there to help the Coalition Forces rebuild nations.

Rebuilding a war-torn country is a daunting task that will take years to complete. One Soldier is helping bring the process along, one day at a time.

Command Sgt. Maj. James Green, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, works closely with Iraqi government officials to ensure

security issues are met and projects are successful.

"We are the ones that help them get construction going -- projects that will help their people," Green said.

A year ago, he was in DeSoto, Mo., working in the Mis-

souri Army National Guard. Today, Green has the responsibility of managing reconstruction projects in Iraq and making sure quality of life issues are met.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provides vital engineering capabilities as a public service, across the full spectrum of operations, from peace to war, in support of national interests.

Green strongly believes in what Coalition Forces are doing in Iraq, and is very proud to be able to be a small part, helping the Iraqi people.

"It's been very rewarding, I am able to get out and see Iraqi faces, walk with them, talk with them, and see the possible changes we can make in their lives for the better, and healthier," he said. "It's been a great experience. I wouldn't trade it for anything." ■

# OPS

## IRAQI SECURITY

**Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klika**  
133rd Mobile Public  
Affairs Detachment

**BAYJI, Iraq** -- More than 600 Iraqi security personnel conducted an independent operation throughout the city of Bayji and surrounding villages in northern Salah Ad Din Province in an effort to rid the area of criminals and anti-Iraqi forces.

The operation was one of the first solely planned and executed by Iraqi Security Forces in the area. The planning and direction was spearheaded by Maj. Gen. Hamid, provincial police chief, and other ISF leadership, with Coalition Forces taking on only a perimeter security role.

The mission kicked off the morning of April 4 with Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, and the 4th Iraqi Army Division providing blocking positions and tactical check points around the outskirts of the city.

Two special police battalions known as emergency services units conducted the main portion of the operation along with members of the provincial Iraqi police department.

"As we came in, [ESUs] were everywhere. You couldn't turn the street without seeing one of these guys stopped in a blocking position," said Capt. Michael Starz, assistant operations officer for the 187th Inf. Reg. "[This was] a very effective operation and we are excited to see the results from it. We know that two pretty bad guys that were directly tied to killing four of our Soldiers were caught. We have been looking for them since November."

The ESUs began by searching two villages south of Bayji during the early morning hours. The searches resulted in 16 detainees, including one former colonel in Saddam Hussein's army and three henchmen connected to one of



photos by Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klika

(Above) Emergency services units patrol the streets of Bayji, Iraq, during a sweep of the city that involved more than 400 ESU personnel. The sweep netted 25 suspected insurgents throughout the city and surrounding area. (Left) First Lt. David Howald of Company A, 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, and his translator check over a citizen's paperwork before letting him through a checkpoint in the city of Bayji.

Bayji's most wanted criminals. Later, the cities of Al Suniyah and Al Suliyah were searched netting nine more suspected criminals.

The operation is a significant step toward establishing self-sufficient security operations for the ISF in the Salah Ad Din province. In all, 25 suspected criminals and insurgents were detained and transferred to Tikrit through Iraqi channels for questioning.

It was a very successful mission for

the ISF and a good day for Coalition Forces, Starz said.

"They maintained operational security... they hit time on target exactly... [and] they caught guys they said they were going to catch," Starz said. "We are excited to see this kind of progress -- ISF running around the battlefield... [engaging] the enemy, developing their own intelligence [and] operating like you would expect a country to have its forces operating." ■

# BOB ON THE FOB

by SGT Albert J. Merrifield

Yeah, yeah, yeah... I know they're on a patrol base, with limited water, electricity, and daily attacks, but it's not tough like it was during OIF I... Man, I remember one time, we were staying in this palace, and I ran out of butane in my lighter, so I had to use a match on my cigars...



## Storyfeller n. (stor'·e·fel'ər)

1. One of few animals common in all areas of the world, the storyfeller is drawn to the sound of talking like a moth to flame. The mating call of the storyfeller is to "one up" any and all stories, anecdotes, jokes, and tales being told within its hearing. Storyfellers native to Iraq and the surrounding areas are commonly heard denigrating any stories that don't involve how tough things were during OIF I, no matter how plush and easy the storyfeller's job during OIF I was, or how hard the jobs of those around storyfeller currently are. Storyfellers are often found in areas with high concentrations of **good idea fairies**. See also *OIFer*.

Got a phrase for BOB on the FOB? Email it to [bobonthefob@gmail.com](mailto:bobonthefob@gmail.com), and if your suggestion is used, you'll receive credit in the strip!



# HUTCH'S TOP 10

## Top 10 Things To Do While You're On Leave

by Spc. Joshua Hutcheson

10. If you're male, grow a big ole Grizzly Adams beard, one so unkempt that by the end of leave you're fishing out food from meals at the beginning of leave. Extra points if birds confuse it for their nest. Remember to take pictures.

9. If you're female, wear so much make up that people on the street confuse you for a Kabuki actor. Wear hoop earrings large enough for dolphins to leap through. Remember to take pictures.

8. Put out a restraining order against anybody in the military so they can't come within 1,000 feet of you. Avoid Army posts like vampires avoid church.

7. Play up the Soldier-on-leave angle wherever you go. Recount the time you saved five, no 10, no 25 lives.

6. If you don't already have one, set up a myspace.com page.

5. Organize trips to run errands that include at least three vehicles. Give convoy briefs prior to going to the mall. Make sure to have insertion and extraction plans for getting into and out of Hecht's.

4. As soon as you get off the plane, buy a lot of headache pills. You're going to need them -- hangovers can get rough.

3. Go to your favorite restaurant and buy one of every item on the menu. Gorge yourself and savor the taste of real food. Promise to begin a diet as soon as leave ends.

2. Climb on the roof of your house wearing nothing but pajamas and cammo on your face. Pretend that your broom is an M16 and begin overwatch of your neighborhood. You can never be too careful; those garbage men look pretty shift.

1. Come back to Iraq.

## Amu Shabi residents get much-needed dental care

**Spc. Anna-Marie Hizer**

133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**AMU SHABI, Iraq** -- A smile can light up a face and brighten someone's day.

Iraqi Army troops and U.S. Special Forces medics gave more than 200 Iraqis a reason to smile April 12 in Amu Shabi, Iraq.

The Soldiers teamed up with the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, and 451st Civil Affairs Battalion, and traveled to a school in the town to provide a dental assessment and care clinic for local citizens.

"[We are] concentrating on dental support," said a Special Forces medic, who asked that his name be withheld. "It allows us to give something back to the community."

The group spent five hours evaluating and treating patients of all ages. They performed extractions and temporary fillings and gave tips on proper oral hygiene -- tips that, according to the medics, are vital to helping the

people maintain their teeth.

"It's a lack of knowledge," the SF medic said. "We're giving them classes on proper dental hygiene."

Another reason for the assessment was to show the Iraqi Army's and Minister of Health's presence in the area.

"It helps enforce the [position of] the IA and the Iraqi Ministry of Health," medics said. "It shows the Iraqi people that their health care system does work."

Major Jack Scharrett, Company B, 451st CA Bn., added that their presence will help reinforce the people's belief in their government.

"We have seen some problems and some unrest [in the area]," he said. "So we want to ensure that the people know that the government of Iraq is helping them."

The medics noted that the response was good, reflected by the massive turnout at the small school.

"The response has been fantastic," they said. "They're grateful for the IA's interest in their community." ■

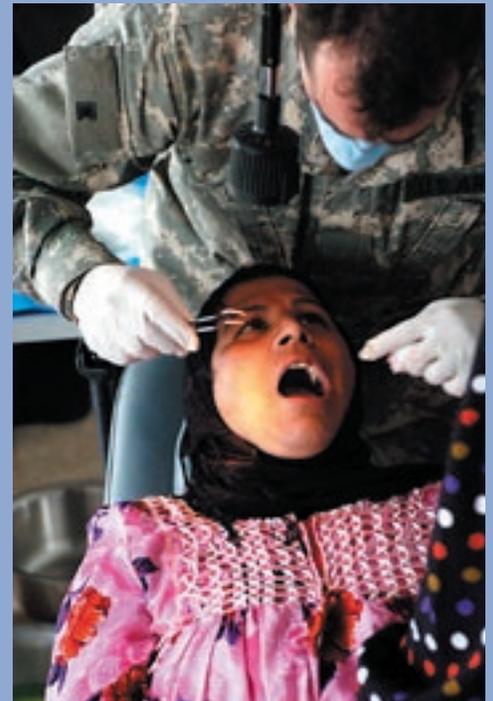


photo by Spc. Anna-Marie Hizer

**A U.S. Special Forces medic works on an Iraqi woman's teeth during a dental assessment and care clinic April 12.**

# GOLF...



## *It's just a chip in the sand*

**Spc. Jeanine Kinville**  
101st Airborne Division  
Public Affairs Office

**TIKRIT, Iraq** -- Tee time in Iraq officially began March 31 with the grand opening of the Band of Brothers Golf and Country Club for Soldiers on Contingency Operating Base Speicher in Tikrit.

Professional Golfers' Association Tour member Capt. Mark Flit-

ton, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 445th Civil Affairs Battalion, was in attendance and hosted a free golf clinic for those on hand at the event.

The driving range, with a desert view and 350 yards of open terrain, offers Soldiers a chance to keep their swing up to par while being deployed.

"The course is open 24 hours-a-day for anyone interested in hitting a few

balls or improving their stroke," said Chap. (Maj.) Mike Yarman, 18th Field Artillery Brigade chaplain attached to Task Force Band of Brothers. "So many people play golf in the rear that it was a no-brainer to make one here for Soldiers."

The idea to start a driving range came to Yarman, who had already successfully creating one during a 1995 deployment to Bosnia. He got together with the 101st Airborne Division operations and provost marshal sections to make it happen here.

"Edwin Watts Golf donated all the equipment, which included golf clubs, balls and retrievers," Yarman said. "It is a team effort to keep the range up with maintenance and retrieving the balls, but everyone puts in their part to keep it up and running."

The range opened to a positive reception of Soldiers from around the COB who traveled to take in a few strokes. Yarman coordinated with Flitton on giving a clinic after a friend told him a professional golfer was in the ranks at Speicher.

"Mark Flitton was happy to come out and provide the Soldiers who attended the opening a few lessons and give pointers to new golfers," Yarman said.

Since all Soldiers can't make it to COB Speicher to work on their game, Yarman is working on those Soldiers receiving golf equipment in the future. For more information, e-mail Chap. Yarman at [mike.yarman@us.army.mil](mailto:mike.yarman@us.army.mil) and be sure to include contact information. ■



photos by Spc. Jeanine Kinville

(Left) Major Tim Hight, G7 plans officer, takes a swing at the Band of Brothers Golf and Country Club driving range. The grand opening of the range was held by Chap. (Maj.) Mike Yarman in a ceremony March 31. Hight won the longest drive contest, whacking the ball over 225 yards into the desert. (Above) Captain Mark Flitton, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 445th Civil Affairs Battalion, and Professional Golfers' Association Tour member, helps a golfer with his swing.

# Bastogne trains Iraqi Soldiers in Hawijah

**Sgt. 1st Class Paul Schultz**  
1st Brigade Combat Team  
101st Airborne Division

**HAWIJAH, Iraq** -- More than 60 Iraqi Soldiers, from three separate units, graduated platoon-level training in Hawijah March 30, increasing the effectiveness of the Iraqi Army in the War on Terror, and taking another step toward autonomy in protecting citizens of the region.

Bastogne Soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, currently stationed in northern Iraq, are using a series of week-long classes to teach Iraqi Soldiers how to use a variety of weapon systems as well as room clearing techniques used during cordon and search missions. The platoon training course gives the Iraqi Soldiers confidence in their ability to work as a cohesive unit, as well as experience at performing the tasks they will perform in the defense of the country.

Thirteen platoons from the 5th Iraqi Army Battalion have completed the first phase of the course, and six platoons from the 1st Iraqi Army Battalion have completed the second phase. ■



photo by Spc. Barbara Ospina

**Specialist Justin Prince, native of Clifton, Texas, discusses shot patterns with an Iraqi Soldier during training in Hawijah, Iraq. Prince, assigned to 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, has been in Iraq training and fighting alongside Iraqi Security Forces since November of last year.**

# U.S. Pacific commander visits Stryker Soldiers

**Spc. Lindsay Holguin**  
138th Mobile Public  
Affairs Detachment

**MOSUL, Iraq** -- The commander of the U.S. Pacific Command, Admiral William J. Fallon visited Forward Operating Base Marez March 13 to see the progress Iraqi Army Sol-



photo by Spc. Lindsay Holguin

**Admiral William J. Fallon, commander of the U.S. Pacific Command, stands on the hatch of a Stryker and talks to the crew.**

diers are making during their training here, and visit with Soldiers of the 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

During his time in Mosul, he went to the compound where Iraqi Soldiers conduct classes and training. He spoke to a group of Soldiers and provided them with some words of encouragement, at a firing range.

"I was on the ground in 1991 [in Iraq], so I think I understand a couple of your challenges in this country," Fallon said to the Soldiers.

Fallon commanded Carrier Air Wing Eight on the U.S.S. Theodore Roosevelt to the Arabian Gulf for Operation Desert Storm in 1991.

"You have an opportunity to make a new future for yourselves, for your families and for all of your people, but it is not going to be easy," he said. "It is going to require leadership. It will require you to step up, to have initiative to do things that maybe you wouldn't think you could do before. You are the future leaders of the Iraqi Army and it's important that you learn as much as you can and that you'll be willing to be the leaders for the younger people."

Fallon encouraged the Iraqi Soldiers to step-up to the challenge of fighting the Global War on Terrorism in their own backyard, and to be resilient.

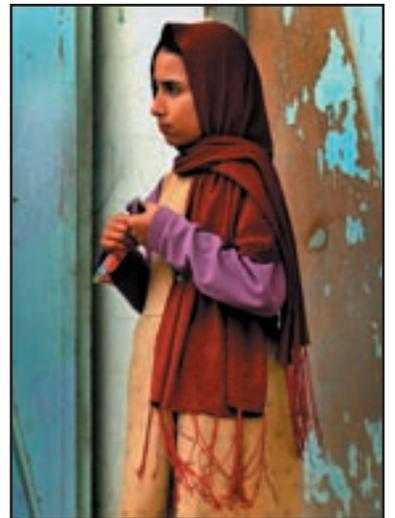
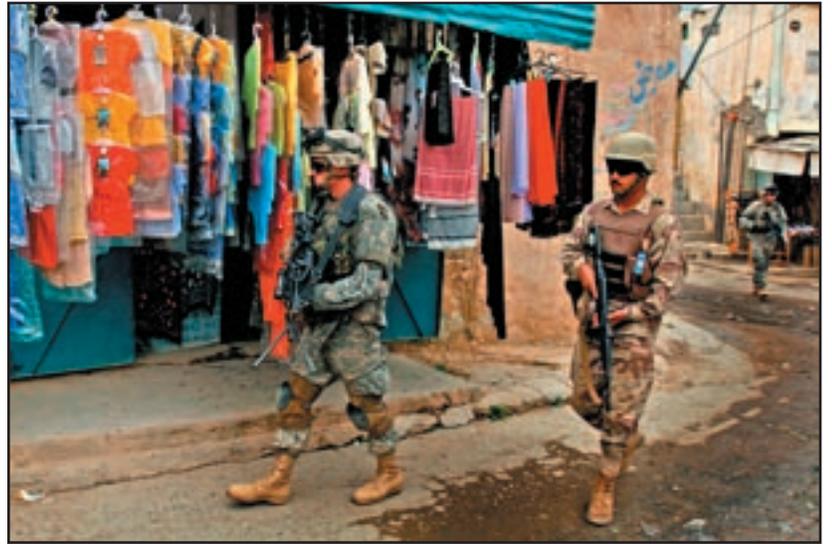
"In my experience, you can't just rely on the guys at the top, the old men like me," Fallon said jokingly. "You must have your own leadership skills and must be willing to step up and do things everyday." ■



# Through the Lens

photos by Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klika  
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment







# TASK FORCE BAND of BROTHERS IN MEMORIAM

*Once firmly grounded upon this earth,  
these Screaming Eagles now soar in brighter skies.*

**March 30**



***Pfc. Joseph J. Duenas, 23***

1st Battalion, 327th Infantry  
Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team  
Mesa, Ariz.

**April 2**



***Pfc. Jeremy W. Ehle, 19***

1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment,  
1st Brigade Combat Team  
Richmond, Va.

**April 4**



***Spc. Ty J. Johnson, 28***

2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery  
Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team  
Elk Grove, Calif.

**April 6**



***Spc. Dustin J. Harris, 21***

172nd Brigade Support Battalion,  
172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team  
Bangor, Maine

**April 8**



***Pvt. Jody W. Missildine, 19***

2nd Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment,  
1st Brigade Combat Team  
Plant City, Fla.

*(These are the names that have been released as of April 12)*