



Rakkasan Report

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Medics Give Help in the Heart of Samarra

By Spc. Matt Wrzesinski
3rd Brigade Public Affairs

SAMARRA, Iraq (May 22, 2006) --Since the coalition first entered Iraq, local citizens have made great strides in rebuilding their Army and Police departments. While much work remains, coalition forces are ready to give help in potentially problematic areas.

Medics from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, operate a medical station on Patrol Base Razor to help meet the needs of wounded in Samarra. The medics will see anybody with a serious injury including Iraqi civilians.

The medic station is in a strategic place in Samarra between Forward Operating Base Brassfield-Mora and Patrol Base Uvanni. This location is important because seeking

medical attention in the first hour - also known as the "golden hour" - is critical to a patient's survival.

"More time spent on the road cuts into the golden hour and lowers the patient's chances of recovering," said Capt. Chris Church, 30, the Physicain's Assistant and Rochester, MN native assigned to HHC, 3-187. "Here we have the ability to stabilize and move the patient quickly."

The medic station will see anybody whose life, limb or eyesight is in jeopardy. They have all the capabilities of a regular emergency room except for lab technology and an X-ray machine.

The Soldiers of the medical station are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. At any time of the day, they will meet the wounded at the gate and bring them to their

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Photo By Spc. Matt Wrzesinski

Medics from HHC, 3-187, conduct training on Patrol Base Razor May 22. The Soldiers practiced mass casualty procedures.

Iraqi Army Takes Lead on Patrols in Tikrit

By Spc. Cassandra Groce
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

TIKRIT, Iraq (27 May 2006) – In the streets once known as Saddam Hussein's "Red Light" district, Iraqi Army Soldiers are leading patrols ensuring no insurgents can utilize the now empty corridors for terrorist activities.

The 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division soldiers are shedding their dependency on Coalition Forces, taking the lead on patrols and self-planned missions in Tikrit.

Skimming tree lines and clamoring over rubble-strewn alleys may not always yield caches or insurgents, but for 1st Battalion it is a way to continually enhance their skills.

"Right now we are leading in our area of operation," said Capt. Ismael Salih Abdullah, commander of Company B in the

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Photo By Spc. Cassandra Groce

An IA Soldier attentively scans his area while pulling security for his fellow Soldiers. Iraqi Army Soldiers in the 1-1-4 IA Division have become very motivated to begin taking control of the Tikrit, Iraq

Editors Notes

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

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RAKKASANS MOVE THROUGH THE NIGHT



Photo By Spc. Matt Wrzesinski

2nd Lt. Micheal Clarke, a 26 year-old platoon leader from Burke, VA. motions to his Soldiers from Bravo Company 3-187 Infantry to jump the wall surrounding a house holding suspected insurgents in Samarra during Operation Battlehard Revelation II May 20. The objective of the mission was to capture insurgents who are responsible for the majority of the attacks in the area. The Soldiers left Patrol Base Uvanni early in the morning and foot marched to the two objectives. They quickly cordoned and searched the area, but the insurgents were not there. The Soldiers did capture information that will help them in the tracking of these insurgents in the future.

Rak 7 Sends

Rakkasan! We are now approaching the final phase of our mission here, and now – more than any other time – I need Noncommissioned Officers to enforce the standards all the time, in every situation. This is when a combination of complacency and lack of focus leads to Soldiers being killed or injured. We cannot afford to lose a single Rakkasan trooper to a preventable accident. This applies to conducting combat operations as well – the enemy is watching all the time and will immediately notice and capitalize on a lack of awareness. Maintain the same high state of readiness you've had since Day 1 in Iraq. Look out for your Buddy. Do not take shortcuts.

I have another concern, and that's Operational Security. It is absolutely unacceptable to compromise a mission because of carelessness with sensitive or classified information. It can get Soldiers killed, plain and simple. Every Rakkasan is responsible for safeguarding information and leaders need to emphasize that with every troop.

I want to let our Family Readiness Groups know that we appreciate your hard work and dedicated support to the Soldiers and units. Your efforts have been a key factor in the Rakkasans' success in this fight, and we cannot say thank you enough. The same goes for our Golden Rakkasans and everything they do for the team.

Finally, I want to let every Rakkasan Soldier know how proud I am to serve with you, to witness firsthand the incredible job you do every day. Your commitment to mission accomplishment – the same commitment that has made the 187th Infantry Regiment one of the best known and most respected in the Army's history – will continue to add to the Rakkasan legacy. Keep up the good work.

RAKKASAN!

RAZOR MEDICS

station for help.

“From the point we are notified to the point when we are at the gate ready to pick up the patient will be no longer than three minutes,” said Church.

The quick reaction time of the Soldiers is not the only factor attributed to how quickly a patient is seen. The Soldiers rely on the Iraqi people to bring local patients to them since they have limited evacuation capability. Some patients are seen by the Samarra Hospital and then transferred to the medic station by the Iraqi Police or Iraqi Army for further treatment.

“They just don’t have the capabilities we do to stabilize and evacuate the patient to another facility,” said Church. “We’re not here to take over; we’re just here to help.”

A landing pad is located just outside of PB Razor so the medic station can evacuate a patient quickly for further treatment. The base is located between Tikrit and Balad, where two major hospitals are located, increasing their options for follow-on treatment.

“We’re in a very unique place,” said

Sgt. Paul Carter, 35, medical station NCOIC and native of Dallas, TX. “We have two level three hospitals 15-20 minutes away.”

Between the point when the patient arrives at the base and when they leave, the medics of PB Razor are solely responsible for taking care of that patient.

Each Soldier has a specific job when a patient arrives and it is written on a dry erase board located in the medical station. The jobs include getting a clear airway and evacuating.

Every time a patient comes through the door the Soldiers are called on to do what it takes to help the patient, no matter what their rank is.

“The Soldiers are asked to do things well above their skill level,” said Carter. “Even a PV2 needs to be able to take charge if we need them to.”

Although they might not see a patient everyday, the medics are always training ensuring they are prepared to give that patient the attention needed. “We train six to seven days a week,” said Church, “on everything from knowing medical terms to how to set up for mass casualties.”



Photo By Spc. Matt Wrzesinski

Pfc. Greg Hawver, 21, Coldwater, MI, HHC, 3-187, prepares to give another Soldier an IV during training on PB Razor May 22.

without the help of the other Soldiers on PB Razor they would not be able to do their job.

Rakkasans from Alpha Company, 3rd Special Troops Battalion, base their operations out of PB Razor. When a patient arrives they give the medics all the help they need, including pulling security when the patient arrives and is evacuated.

“If they weren’t here we could not do our job,” said Church.

The medics ran an Eagle First Responder class to train all the Soldiers on PB Razor. They also conduct weekly EFR refresher classes for the Soldiers so they can help when the medic station receives an influx of patients.

“With them here they can help take care of the less critical patients so we can focus on the ones that need our immediate attention,” said Carter.

The medic station will not turn anyone away no matter what.

“If someone is hurt we will help them no matter who they are,” said Church.

The medics pride themselves on being able to help anyone in need. They also hope their station will contribute to a better relationship between coalition forces and the citizens of Samarra.

“I think our actions speak loads to the people of Samarra,” said Church. “We’re here to help.”



Photo donated by The Medics of HHC 3-187

Sgt. Charles Griffith, 31, Bartlesville, OK, HHC, 3-187, stitches a patient’s finger at the medical facility on PB Razor.

The medics have a job to do when a patient arrives, but

Commanders Speak to the People of Tikrit

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

TIKRIT, Iraq (May 28, 2006)- In a trailer no larger than a backyard shed sits a radio station that Coalition Forces are using to open the lines of communication with their Iraqi neighbors.

Lt. Col. Louis Lartigue, Commander of the 2nd Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, and Lt. Col. Richard Root, Commander of the 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, both part of the 3rd Brigade Combat team, 101st Airborne Division, recently took to the airwaves. The two officers informed listeners of their concerns about the increase in hostile activities in the area.

They told the audience that the security situation has deteriorated and is continuing to have a detrimental effect on the Coalition Force's ability to work with the local government and population towards a free Iraq.

They went on to say that these attacks are against the Iraqi people as well as their Soldiers, and, in the end, they only hurt the area's ability to live free. Lartigue warned listeners that continued Improvised Explosive Devices activity along the main road in Ad Dawr and Tikrit may cause roads to be closed. He then cited a recent example involving an IED hitting his convoy on the way back from a project. No Soldiers were injured but shrapnel hit a local pregnant woman standing nearby. Fortunately, a US Army medic from the convoy provided first-aid for the woman's



Photo by Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klika
Lt. Col. Louis Lartigue, Commander 2-9 Cav., and Lt. Col. Richard Root, Commander, 3-320th FA, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division listen at a live radio call-in show in Tikrit.

report with the Civil Military Operations Center and bring along photos to speed up the process.

"We will pay for the damage," he added.

A few listeners wanted to know about projects being worked on in the Ad Dawr area. Lartigue responded by saying that the Ad Dawr City Council is competent in managing reconstruction projects for the area to include school, roads and water projects.

Before wrapping up the show, Lartigue shared with the audience a recent visit to a rural school where he had the opportunity to visit with the students.

"Children of this region give me a lot of hope and serve as a good reminder of why we do the work we are doing here. Let us work together and bring peace and stability to this province. These children deserve nothing less," said Lartigue.

CAVALRY HIT THEIR MARK ON THE RANGE



Photo by Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klika

An M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle roars through the desert to his fighting position on the course during a live fire range.

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

AD DAWR, Iraq (May 26, 2006)- Operating a Bradley fighting vehicle range is no small feat...pulling-off a triple-range in the middle of a combat zone is truly an amazing act.

Soldiers of the 2nd Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment from Fort Carson, Colo. attached to 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, recently had the chance to re-zero their weapons on a range designed by Master Gunner Sgt. 1st Class

Scott Green, Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of the Personal Security Detail and Force Protection on Forward Operating Base Wilson, near Ad Dawr, Iraq.

"Lieutenant Colonel Lartigue's intent was to create a 'no-nonsense' range and to get the Soldiers out to the site, in as short a time as possible, get their weapons zeroed, and back out on missions again," said Greene. "We accomplished this by incorporating three ranges into one and by cycling through one troop a

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IA PATROLS

Iraqi Army's 1st Battalion. "I am sure that we are better than before because of the cooperation between the Coalition Forces and my men."

Each Iraqi Army company in the battalion has been paired with a Coalition Forces counterpart from the 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division for evaluation purposes. The commanders from both sides meet weekly to evaluate the IA Battalion's performance and to exchange ideas on how to make the Battalion better.

"My company is lucky because we work with a good leader that has one purpose - to accomplish things for the Iraqi benefit," said Abdullah referring to his counterpart, Battery B (Bandit) Commander Capt. John J. Montgomery.

While in the past, Iraqi civilians may have been wary of the newly formed Iraqi Army, this image is changing with the time and effort Iraqi Soldiers have put in building ties with the community.

"The picture that the Iraqi people have of us is being changed," said Lt. Col. Musab Josif, the Iraqi Army 1st Battalion's Executive Officer. "They now cooperate with us and give us the information we need to catch the bad guys."



Photo By Spc. Cassandra Groce

An Iraqi Army Soldier hangs a poster on one of the businesses in Tikrit, Iraq. The poster has a list of the most wanted insurgents in the area and is being placed throughout main areas in the city.

Overall, Coalition Forces have been impressed with the progress of the Iraqi Army Soldiers, with only minor suggestions offered for perfection.

"We are getting to the level that we can operate by ourselves," said Josef. "We are now on the level where the whole battalion is trained. We have control of all our patrols." 🇮🇶



Photo by Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klika

Two Soldiers from 2-9 Cav. take a break from being inside of the M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle May 26.

BRADLEY

day for four days," he added.

The weapons fired included the M-4 rifle and the M-2 Bradley fighting vehicle. Each morning of the exercise started with Green and his teams sweeping the area to ensure the range was clear of any local nationals. Then a ground reconnaissance team followed, to ensure that there were no direct-fire incidents. With only one access road to the range, Green had to ensure that it was clear of any Improvised Explosive Devices before the Soldiers entered the training area.

With the sun just up over the horizon, the day's shooters arrived. The Bradleys and Humvees stirred up plumes of dust that settled over everything. As some Soldiers lined up to zero their weapons, others created a security circle around the range's perimeter.

"The challenging thing about a range like this is while some of the soldiers are completing their training, others are performing a real-world security mission," says Green.

Once the vehicles were in place, the Soldiers were given instructions. The exercise included a small-arms fire, Bradley fire and a maneuver range. After the line of Bradleys took turns hitting their mark and their weapons were zeroed, each crew moved over to the maneuvering range, with offensive and defensive positions. Meanwhile, Humvee gunners zeroed their M-240B and .50 caliber machine-guns.

"Normally a course like this would take 2 weeks," said Greene, "but we have other missions to accomplish."

"After shooting roughly 50,000 rounds of ammunition, the Soldiers of 2-9 CAV can feel confident that when they engage the enemy they will shoot straight and be able to hit what they are aiming at," said Greene. "Everything went textbook style." 🇮🇶

Iron and IA Medics Reach Out to Citizens of Samarra

Photos By Spc. Matt Wrzesinski

Medics from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, and 2nd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division visited the citizens of Samarra, Iraq, May 24. The Medics went house to house asking the citizens if they needed any medical attention and assessing each situation. They also handed out gifts to the children including stuffed animals, personal hygiene items, and Iraqi flags.



MNC-I CSM VISITS HUNTERS

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

AD DAWR, Iraq- “You are the lions of the new Iraq. If your roar is loud enough, everyone will hear.”

These words were spoken to the Soldiers of an Iraqi Army platoon at Forward Operating Base Wilson by Multi-National Corps-Iraq Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph Beam after conducting a patrol with them and Soldiers from the 2nd Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division on May 19th. Beam took the opportunity to accompany the Soldiers on a mosque monitoring mission in a nearby village.

“It is the Sergeants that lead the way. It is the Sergeant that enforces the standards ... if the Sergeant is good, then his Soldiers will want to be Sergeants one day,” Beam told the Iraqi Army Soldiers.

Beam spoke of all Soldiers as if they were his own. “My boss has hand receipted to me more than 100,000 American Soldiers and nearly 200,000 Iraqi Army Soldiers. Yes, I am very



Photo by Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klika

MNC-I Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph Beam makes his way up the hill side at Outpost 3 that overlooks Ad Dwar Iraq.

concerned as to how the IA is doing. It is my job to see that things are going the way they should be going,” said Beam.

The team hits the road four to five days a week visiting Soldiers and accompanying them on missions. Beam said that keeping his boots on the

ground is the best way for him to keep his finger on the pulse of what is happening in his area of operations.

“My driver has just informed me that in the last 45 days we have logged 6,000 miles.” A smile breaks out on Beam’s face. “I am out here to see that the Sergeant is doing his job, not to interfere.”

Stressing the importance of doing the right thing,

especially when it comes to the people of Iraq, is a big issue for Beam.

“If you see a low wire, take the time to lower your antenna. Don’t rip out their [the Iraqi nationals’] cable. If you don’t need to stop the flow of traffic--don’t,” said Beam. “The insurgents like to condition us; by that, I mean, if you see a new mound of dirt alongside of the road, don’t just drive by it. Stop and check it out. If you don’t, then the next time you drive by-- it could have an IED in it.”

The Command Sgt. Maj. feels privileged to be able to be a squad leader one last time, referring to the team of Soldiers he travels with, proudly mentioning each Soldier in his squad and what they do.

“It’s a great way to end a 30-year career,” he explains.

Before departing, he re-emphasized the importance of doing the right thing all of the time to the Soldiers and that the Sergeants continue to set the standards and lead by example.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klika

MNC-I Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph Beam listens to Sgt. 1st Class Rich Dupont of the 2nd Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division as he informs two women that their husbands had been arrested for placing Improvised Explosive Devices in the city of Ad Dwar, Iraq.

Lazarus Reloaded

*The Truth About The Power
Of Resurrection In Your Life*

*Speaker : Chap. (Col.) Kenneth Brown
MNC-I Chaplain*

North Speicher Chapel

June 22-25 Nightly 1900 Hrs.



Asian-Pacific Month Ends With Fun Run



Photo by Sgt. Ryan Matson

Maj. Jimmy Blackmon, 37, from Ranger, GA , and assigned to Headquarters, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), crosses the finish line first in the 5K fun run May 28. The run was sponsored by the Rakkasans of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, AAFES, and the 101st Div. Equal Opportunity Office. The event marked the end of the month long observance of the contribution of Asian Pacific - Americans to society.

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

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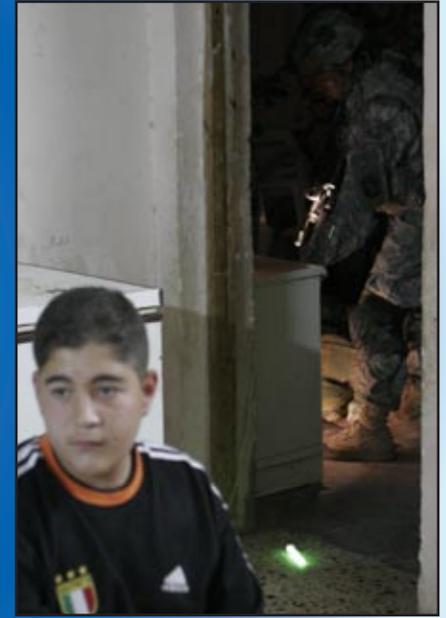
Iron Rakkasans Operate From Patrol Base Olsen

Base is one of Three Located in Samarra



Photos By Spc. Matt Wrzesinski

Rakkasans from Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment and Alpha Company, 3rd Special Troops Battalion, conduct their daily missions from several locations in Samarra.



Chaplain's Corner

Forgive me...

“Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me...”

The youngest son demanded what he believed was rightfully his. Imagine how the dad must have felt knowing that his youngest son demanded his inheritance before his own death? The son wanted to experience life and needed money to fulfill his expectations. Even though he lived with his family, it was not enough. A whole world was waiting to be discovered.

“...not many days later the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living”

A whole world waiting to be discovered was found. The experiences of life stole his money. He was forced to work in a demeaning job with little or no future. Life was not what he expected. It most certainly was not like home. HOME???

“But when he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! I will get up and go to my father...’”

What would the neighbors or relatives say? What would the oldest brother say about his “wayward” brother? After losing all his money and facing death from hunger, now the son wanted to return. Was it not a little too late? After all, the inheritance was gone. What sacrifices would the family have to make to save another inheritance? Would the dad accept him or reject him? How would you respond if you were his dad?

“And he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him, and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him, and kissed him. And the son said, ‘I have sinned against heaven and in your sight...’”

Wow...a wayward son had returned. Was the dad willing to forgive? Yes, because that right belonged to the dad. Like the rudder of a ship, fathers can steer the lives of their children through stormy and smooth waters of life. As dads, we have the opportunity to teach our children how to live by how we react when forgiveness is required. We demonstrate forgiveness when we need forgiveness ourselves.

“And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ has forgiven you.

Like the dad who was willing to forgive his wayward son, God is also willing to forgive when we ask for forgiveness. As we celebrate Father’s day, remember that forgiveness is a powerful tool in the hands of dads.

Happy Father’s Day!!

CH (CPT) Ivan Arreguin, Battalion Chaplain (3STB)