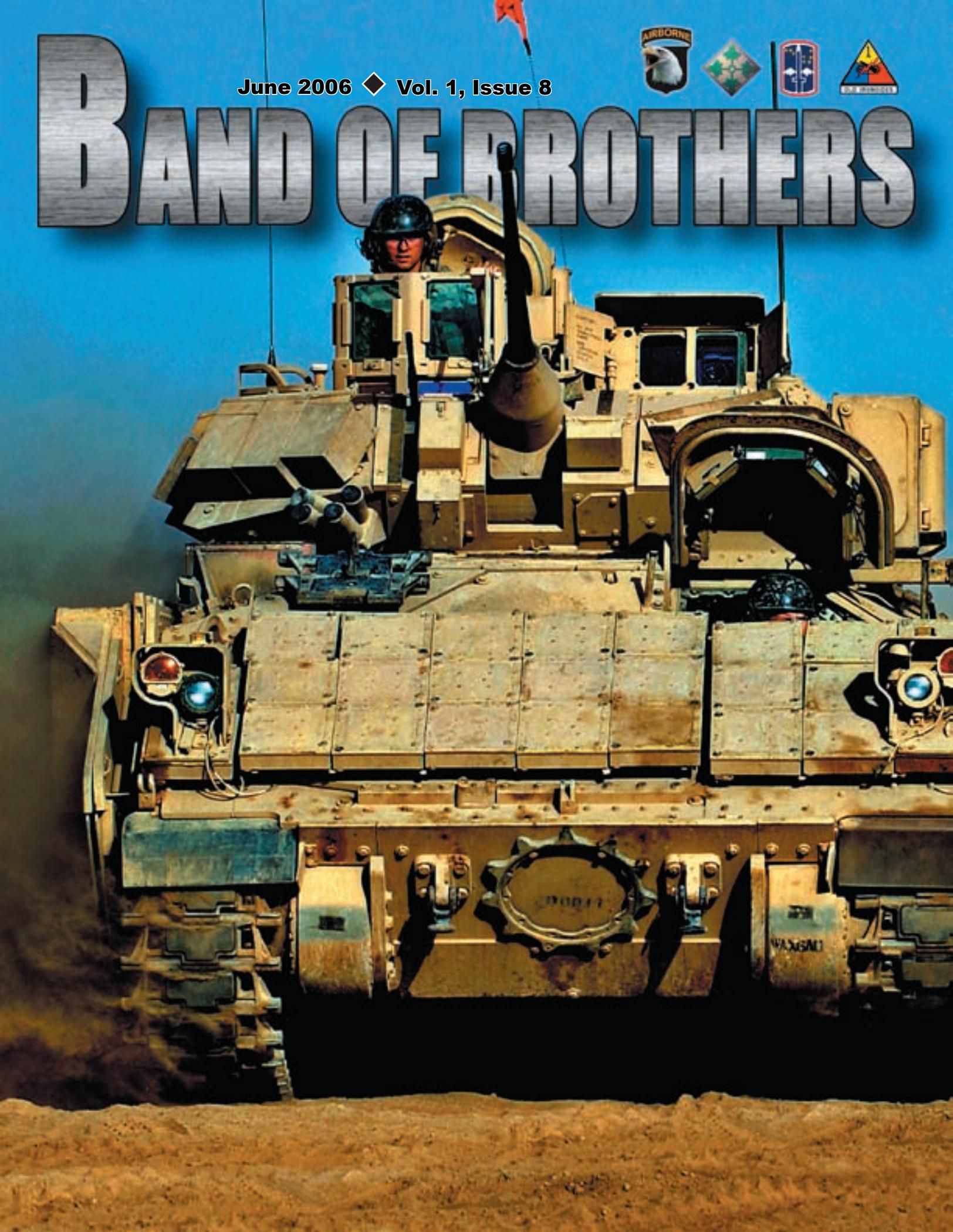


June 2006 ♦ Vol. 1, Issue 8



# BAND OF BROTHERS



Private 1st Class Shayne Sanderson, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, looks through a M-4 scope while providing over watch security in Tal Afar, Iraq, May 24.



photo by Staff Sgt. Jacob N. Bailey

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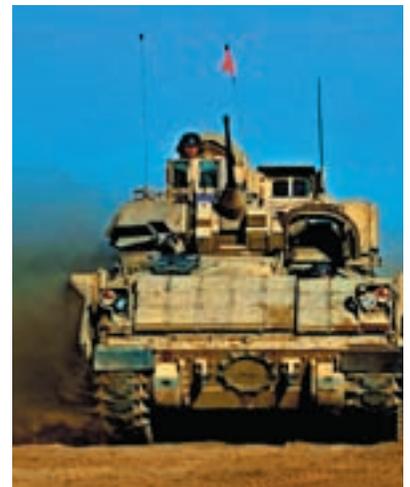
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## On the cover...

An M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle roars through the desert to its fighting position on the course. The Soldiers are from 2nd Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division. (For additional photos, see Page 26)

photo by  
Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klika



# Working hard...



photo by Spc. L.C. Campbell

**A Soldier from 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team listens to some music while taking apart an office cubicle in preparation of handing Forward Operating Base Courage over to the Iraqi Army.**

**Sergeant Tim White, NCOIC of the carpenter and paint shop, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 64th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, shapes a piece of wood to fit a shelf for a Soldier's containerized housing unit on Forward Operating Base Warhorse.**

photo by Pfc. Paul Harris

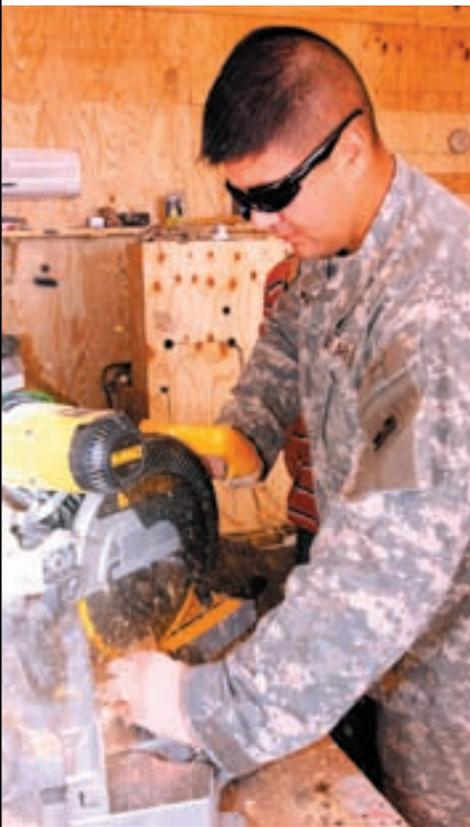


photo by Spc. Michael Pfaff

**Specialist Daniel Robinson, a metal worker with Co. E, 426th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st BCT, 101st Abn. Div., builds a piece of armor for a humvee at Forward Operating Base McHenry.**

## BAND OF BROTHERS

**TF Band of Brothers Commander**  
Major Gen. Thomas Turner

**TF Band of Brothers CSM**  
Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Grippe

### **TF Band of Brothers PAO**

Lt. Col. Ed Loomis

**Public Affairs NCOIC**

Master Sgt. Terry Webster

**Editor-in-Chief**

Sgt. Dallas Walker

**Copy Editor**

Spc. Joshua Hutcheson

### **Contributors**

1st BCT, 101st Abn. Div. PAO

3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Div. PAO

101st CAB, 101st Abn. Div. PAO

3rd HBCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO

138th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

### **Cartoonist/Illustrator**

Sgt. Albert Merrifield

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# EAGLES SENDS



Task Force Band of Brothers at war, in combat, it is particularly fitting that we honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and reflect on what it means. For what did they sacrifice their lives for?

Nearly five years ago our nation was attacked, signaling the beginning of the global war on terror, and the continuing defense of freedom everywhere. Today we are continuing this fight against terror and for freedom in Iraq. The objective in here is clear: an Iraq at peace with its neighbors, an ally in the war on terror, with a representative government that respects the human rights of all Iraqis; an Iraq with security forces capable of providing domestic orders and preventing safe haven for terrorists. Achievement of this objective is an important part of our nation's strategy in waging the war on terror: a strategy that provides for a free and democratic state in the Middle East, and the world; a strategy that offers hope for a better way of life than this crushing cycle of terrorism, and counters the Middle East as the birthplace of radical Islam and violence.

These noble warriors who have given their lives to achieve this goal have furthered our mission's noble objectives. We can best honor those who gave their lives for our country and this noble cause by succeeding in the mission to move this country toward this honorable, critical end.

On this day of reflection and remembrance, the 101st Airborne Division's veterans gathered at our memorial in Washington, D.C., a beautiful memorial located at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery. It consists of a large obelisk with a screaming eagle in flight at the top, with the wars in which the Division has served in and the numbers of Soldiers who died in those conflicts

inscribed on the granite. It is surrounded by a circular wall that has on it the units that fought as part of the Division during each war. Someday we will proudly add units such as 1st and 3rd Brigades, 3rd Infantry Division; 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division; the 172nd Stryker Brigade; 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division; and many others that fought the global war on terror as part of our task force.

Also at this ceremony were many of our Soldiers who are currently patients in Walter Reed Medical Center; Soldiers with missing limbs who were predicting how fast they'd be able to run the two-mile on their next APFT; Soldiers without legs that talked of being able to dance by the Christmas formal; Soldiers who wanted to honor their fallen comrades; Soldiers who, to a man, were anxious to return to the Division.

About a hundred meters from the Division memorial is a hall: a hall that honors the fallen; a hall in which a portrait of each Soldier killed in this war hangs; a hall where each Soldier from the Division has a Division coin

placed. We have added 106

portraits to that wall this deployment. It is those Soldiers and all who made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve our freedoms that we honor on Memorial Day.

On this Memorial Day let us reaffirm our commitment to them. Let us reflect on what we're doing to build a free and democratic Iraq. Let us honor those who gave their lives for this noble

cause by succeeding in achieving this end, and ensuring that they are never forgotten.



*The following are remarks made by Maj. Gen. Thomas Turner, commander, 101st Airborne Division and Task Force Band of Brothers, during the Memorial Day ceremony on Contingency Operating Base Speicher May 29.*

## **F**ellow Screaming Eagles and Soldiers of Task Force Band of Brothers,

On this Memorial Day we pause to remember our fallen comrades in arms who have given their lives in defense of liberty. It is a time for solemn reflection and appreciation; a day to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve our way of life. These heroes made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve the constitution of the United States, and the ideals of freedom and democracy.

On Memorial Day, today with the

# **A**mighty HoooAhhhh to all members of our Task Force Band of Brothers,

On the evening of June 6, 1944, Paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division conducted a night combat jump into the countryside of Normandy, France. Against great odds, the Screaming Eagles of the 101st met their objectives and began the final battle toward liberating the people of Europe from the evils of Nazi Fascism.



**Paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division during World War II.**

A mere 62 years later, the month of June finds our 101st Airborne Division and Task Force Band of Brothers assisting in the liberation of the Iraqi people from terrorists, and helping them to establish a free and democratic nation. Your continued commitment to military excellence and selfless service will ensure that peace and prosperity become the mainstay of modern Iraq.

Our operations during the month of May were quite successful throughout northern Iraq. The Iraqi Security Forces that we train and mentor continually gain proficiency and professionalism. In one insurgent attack against Iraqi Security Forces in the Balad area, Iraqi For-

ces held their own, destroying the enemy force. I am quite proud of the way you are partnering with and mentoring our Iraqi allies. The continued successes of the Iraqi Security Forces are a direct reflection of the personal time and effort each of you put toward this mission.

I would like to say farewell to our 1st Brigade of the 1st Armored Division.

The mighty "Ready First Brigade" was recently ordered to move south to the Ramadi area to join the 1-506th Soldiers of the 101st Airborne and the Marines of MNF-W.

I am sure the Ready First Brigade will be instrumental in assisting the people of Ramadi to establish a safe and secure environment in which to live. Our 172nd Stryker Brigade will assume responsibility of the area left by the 1-1 AD move and keep the

peace for Iraqis in our northern area of operations.

Okay, summer is finally here and the heat is up. This is the time of the year we all have been waiting for. Ensure we continue to focus on the fight more than ever. Constant hydration and attention to personal hygiene will ensure we keep at a razor's edge on our force. We cannot let the heat take away from our fighting abilities and our continued success.

Along with hydration and hygiene, physical conditioning and proper diet will keep our bodies in superb shape to handle the temperature extremes and the physical/psychological aspects of combat operations. The buddy sys-

tem and constant vigilance by combat leaders at all levels will guarantee we maintain our sharpness. Everyone is a leader in this area. Make sure you and your fellow Troopers are focused.

Finally; a Soldier's mental health is just as important as his or her physical health, so let's talk about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

We as a fighting force must understand and identify with this issue. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder is more than just a personal or a combat leader issue. Everyone must understand its effects and everyone must be able to identify if they, personally, or a fellow Trooper needs help. There is no bravado for "sucking it up" when it comes to PTSD -- identify, treat and follow up. This is the only way to keep our force at its finest.

Keep up the great work and I will see you all when I return from R&R. God Bless America, our Task Force Band of Brothers and God bless each and every one of you ... HooooAhhhhh ... Air Assault!



**Command Sergeant Major  
Frank Grippe**

**Division Command Sergeant Major**

# EAGLE 7 SENDS

**Abu Musab al-Zarqawi**



**DEAD**

**“No single person on this planet has had the blood of more innocent men, women and children on his hands.”**

**Donald Rumsfeld**  
U.S. Secretary of Defense



# ZARQAWI KILLED IN BOMBING

**Sgt. Dallas Walker**  
101st Airborne Division  
Public Affairs Office

**TIKRIT, Iraq** -- After years of causing death and violence, terrorist leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi was killed when two 500-pound bombs were dropped on the house he was in during an air strike north of Baghdad June 7.

One U.S. Air Force F-16 fighter attacked the safe house near the town of Baqubah, killing Zarqawi, his spiritual adviser, Sheik Abdul Rahman and four other people. Zarqawi was identified by fingerprints, facial recognition, and by known marks on his body.

“I think arguably over the past several years, no single person on this planet has had the blood of more innocent men, women and children on his hands than Zarqawi,” said U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. “He personified the dark, sadistic, and medieval vision of the future of beheadings, suicide bombings and indiscriminate killings.”

A collection of intelligence reports eventually led forces to Zarqawi and some of his associates who were conducting a meeting approximately eight kilometers north of Baqubah.

The successful operation “was the product of painstaking intelligence-gathering from local sources and within Zarqawi’s network,”

said Maj. Gen. William B. Caldwell, during a press conference.

Zarqawi initially survived the air strike, but died from his wounds while lying on a stretcher shortly thereafter, Caldwell said.

Iraqi police were the first people on the scene following the air strike. After finding Zarqawi alive, the police placed him on a stretcher. U.S. forces arrived moments later. Zarqawi mumbled a few indistinguishable words before he died, Caldwell added.

“According to the person on the ground, Zarqawi attempted to sort of turn away off the stretcher,” Caldwell said. “They re-secured him back onto the stretcher, but he died almost immediately thereafter from the wounds he had received from the air strike.”

Zarqawi, a Jordanian-born Sunni militant with a \$25 million U.S. bounty on his head, is Iraq’s most nefarious terrorist, known to be responsible for bombings, assassinations and the beheading of foreign hostages.

He first appeared in Iraq as the leader of the Tawhid and Jihad insurgent group, merging it in late 2004 with Osama Bin Laden’s al-Qaeda network.

In the run-up to the Iraq war in the February 2003, US Secretary of State Colin Powell told the United Nations Zarqawi was an associate of

Osama Bin Laden who had sought refuge in Iraq.

Intelligence reports indicated he was in Baghdad and, according to Powell, this was a sure sign that Saddam Hussein was helping al-Qaeda, which, in turn, justified an attack on Iraq.

“Although the designated leader of al Qaeda in Iraq is now dead, the terrorist organization still poses a threat as its members will continue to try to terrorize the Iraqi people and destabilize their government as it moves toward stability and prosperity,” said Gen. George W. Casey Jr., commander, Multinational Force Iraq. “Iraqi forces, supported by the coalition, will continue to hunt terrorists that threaten

the Iraqi people until terrorism is eradicated in Iraq.”

Caldwell noted that Zarqawi’s death “is not going to stop the violence here in Iraq. It is an important step forward, but we still have some tough times ahead of us.”

Zarqawi’s ultimate goal was to incite a civil war between Sunnis and Shiites that would bring down the new democratic Iraqi government, Caldwell added. However, “the elimination of Zarqawi has dealt a serious blow to al Qaeda in Iraq.”

Caldwell said Zarqawi’s death marks “a stride in the direction of law and order in Iraq that is primed for the future by a government that respects the rights of all Iraqi citizens.” ■



U.S. Army photo

**Army Maj. Gen. William B. Caldwell briefs reporters in Baghdad, June 8, 2006, on the June 7 air strike that killed terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. U.S. military officials released the photo to the right of Caldwell of the deceased Zarqawi.**

# WHAT'S BITING YOU?

**Capt. Lewis S. Long, Ph.D., Entomologist**  
223rd Medical Detachment, Preventative Medicine

**W**hile on deployment, it is expected for you to come across things that are not as common back home. There are several critters in Iraq that can get you with a bite or a sting and are dangerous in their own right -- like spiders and scorpions -- but the military is mainly concerned with those that are associated with disease -- sand flies and mosquitoes.

Historically, three-quarters of deaths

during wartime are from non-battle injuries. Soldiers are trained to prevent, and if necessary treat, things like heat injuries and cold related casualties. Safety is preached to Soldiers constantly to avoid accidents. And Soldiers get more vaccinations than they can count before deploying to help prevent disease. But, there are some diseases that are transmitted by insects that shots won't protect you from.



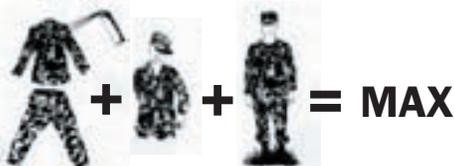
## LIONS AND MOSQUITOES AND SAND FLIES... OH MY!



**A hand infected with a form of leishmaniasis -- a disease spread by sand flies that causes open sores to develop on the body.**

### PREVENTING BITES

*DOD Insect Repellent System*



Permethrin on uniform +  
DEET on exposed skin +  
Properly worn uniform =  
Maximum protection

**MOSQUITOES** have always been a problem with the military and this operation is no exception. Beyond being a nuisance, female mosquitoes are capable of transmitting diseases like malaria, West Nile virus, and many more unpleasant illnesses. Malaria, which causes over one million deaths per year, is one of the diseases of concern here in Iraq.

With the combination of the presence of the mosquito that spreads malaria, a local infected human population, and a susceptible population (i.e., unprotected), this disease could easily become a major problem among deployed Soldiers and civilians alike.

Anti-malarial drugs, which are currently not required because of the low incidence, can be used to protect us if needed.

**SAND FLIES** are much smaller than mosquitoes, but just as troublesome. Like mosquitoes, they

feed on blood and are active from dusk and dawn.

They are capable of transmitting a serious disease called leishmaniasis, or more commonly known among Soldiers as "Baghdad Boil." This disease is caused by a parasite that either causes the cutaneous (skin) form, or the more serious visceral (internal) form.

Cutaneous leishmaniasis appears as open sores that develop anywhere from a week to several months after a bite from an infected female sand fly. While not life threatening, the lesions can lead to permanent scarring. Visceral leishmaniasis is more serious, affecting the liver, spleen and bone marrow, and is potentially fatal.

Since January 2003, there have been almost 1,000 confirmed cases of leishmaniasis among Coalition Forces. Currently, there are no vaccines to protect us against either form of leishmaniasis. However, researchers are finding increasingly effective treatment.



# TO DEET, OR NOT TO DEET...

Soldiers can do their part to protect themselves by using the DoD Pest Repellent System, which offers greater than 90% protection against biting insects. This will reduce the chances of becoming infected with insect-borne diseases. The system consists of treating the uniform with permethrin, use of the insect repellent DEET on exposed skin, and wearing the uniform correctly, with top worn while outside during the evening and early morning and trousers bloused into the boot.

Uniforms can be treated with either the permethrin spray can, which lasts for approximately 6 washes, or with IDA kits, lasting for about 50 washes -- the combat life of the Army Combat Uniform. The main chemical in the spray or IDA is the safest and most environmentally friendly in use and offers the greatest protection when used correctly. Always follow the directions for use to ensure proper application and safe use.

The use of DEET in concentrations of 30% or greater on exposed skin will protect the areas not covered by your uniform. DEET-brand lotion lasts for approximately twelve hours while the commercially available versions only last a portion of that time and repeated applications are necessary. It is strongly recommended for those outside anytime from dusk till dawn to use DEET to protect against bites.

Finally, by removing rubble, unused berms and other resting sites, sand flies will be forced to go elsewhere. Eliminating standing water reduces mosquito populations since it is a requirement for their development.

**For additional information on this topic or any other related to Soldier health and readiness, just contact your local Preventive Medicine Detachment or the Division Preventive Medicine team leader. ■**



## Inspiration

# A strong finish

Michael Jordan is known as "Mr. Clutch." He had 25 game-winning shots during his career with the Chicago Bulls.

Randolph Junah was a World War I hero and a golfer who had lost his swing. You may remember him from the *Legend of Bagger Vance*. He made a comeback in what was billed as the greatest game ever.

During the match, he found himself at a decision point. He was ahead, but in attempting to clear debris around his ball, it moved. The rules state he must take a penalty stroke. He did not hesitate and reported this to the officials.

Whether it is real-life or Hollywood, we all admire the person who finishes strong. Most of us are entering our ninth month in this deployment. It's okay to be tired, but it's not okay to falter in doing our best.

I would like to believe that every member in Task Force Band of Brothers has on their heart the desire to do their very best all the time.

Pastorally speaking, I would like each member to realize that what matters most is that God has us here and expects us to do our best. We may not fully realize the purpose now, but I can say with certainty that we will not realize that purpose if we quit or just do enough to get by. Our best is what is required.

One of the Biblical heroes, the Apostle Paul, gave the following charge to a young man in First Timothy: to fight the good fight by pursuing with endurance that which is right, faithful, and godly. Paul, near the end of his



**Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Ronald Thomas**

own journey, would say, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

The first twenty miles of a marathon only gets you to the race. I am told that the hardest part of a marathon is the last ten kilometers. I wouldn't know. Anything past four miles is a marathon to me.

One would think the hardest part would be getting started, knowing how you're going to feel those last few miles. Although finishing strong is vital to winning, everyone who crosses the finish line receives their own reward.

Michael Jordan missed more than 9,000 shots in his career and missed a game-winning shot 26 times. Regardless, his record and place in sports history are secured because he did his best every game.

Randolph Junah was remembered most for taking a penalty stroke. His integrity was more important than winning.

Before something can become a habit, it must first be practiced as a discipline.

Military discipline is founded upon self-discipline, respect for others, respect for proper authority, and embracing the Army values. Let's practice winning and discipline ourselves to always giving our best. ■

# IRAQI SECURITY FORCES

## *Making a difference*

### Spec. Anna-Marie Hizer

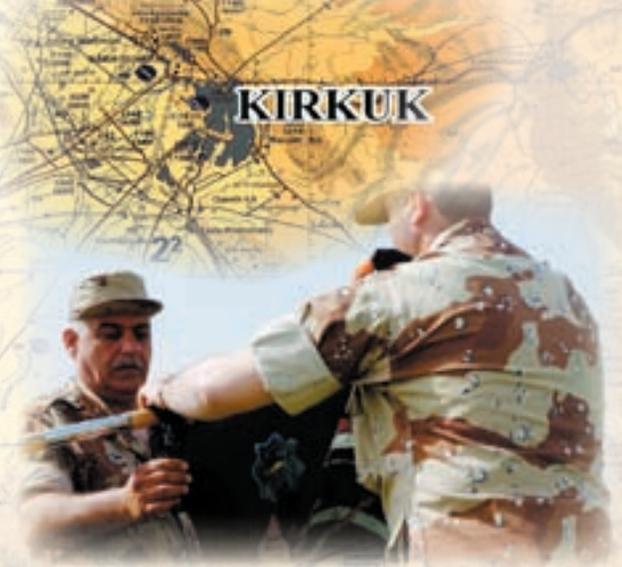
**KIRKUK, Iraq** -- Soldiers and leaders celebrated the hand over of Kirkuk's maneuver space from 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, to 2nd Bn., 2nd Bde., 4th Iraqi Army Div., May 2, marking a big step in Iraq's progression toward a free nation.

"Since the fall of the old regime, we have been looking forward to this day," said Col. Malik, commander 2-2-4th IA Div. "This is the day Iraqis

can lead themselves ... and leave the darkness of the old regime."

Coordination and training between the two units will continue, despite the hand over, making for even stronger bonds between American and Iraqi forces, said Lt. Col. James Johnson, 2nd Bn. commander.

"The American Soldiers of [2nd] battalion have been proud to work alongside the Iraqi Soldiers of the Eagle battalion," he said. "The spirit of cooperation has allowed unprecedented partnership between our units." ■



### Spec. Cassandra Groce

**TIKRIT, Iraq** -- The steady hands of a medic focusing all his energy on the protection of another life is a vital part of life on a battlefield. Now Iraqi Army Soldiers are bringing their own medics to the fight, which is one less dependency on coalition forces.

During the recent Operation Iron Triangle, medics from 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division were a prevalent active force among detainees.

"My duty is to help anyone who is sick or a casualty," said 1st Sgt. Zaed Sudan, an Iraqi Army medic.

The medics spent the days during the operation checking on detainees and helping treat any injuries that arose.

The increasing assertiveness of the Iraqi Army medics is a testament to their training.

The Iraqi Army medics maximized the capabilities of both forces during the operation, and the practical experience taught them the responsibilities of caring for Iraqi Army Soldiers.

"This isn't our first rodeo," said 1st Lt. Roland Breden, a medical platoon leader in the 3-320th Field Artillery. "We've worked together before and seen traumatic injuries together. With a few words of encouragement, they take on the challenges. They're pretty good." ■



### Spec. Cassandra Groce

**TIKRIT, Iraq** -- In the streets once known as Saddam Hussein's "Red Light" district, Iraqi Army Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division are shedding their dependency on Coalition Forces, becoming the forerunner on patrols and self-planned missions.

"Right now we are leading in our area of operation," said Capt. Ismael Salih Abdullah, commander of Company B, 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 Bn., 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," Abdullah said, referring to his counterpart, Company B commander, Capt. John J. Montgomery.

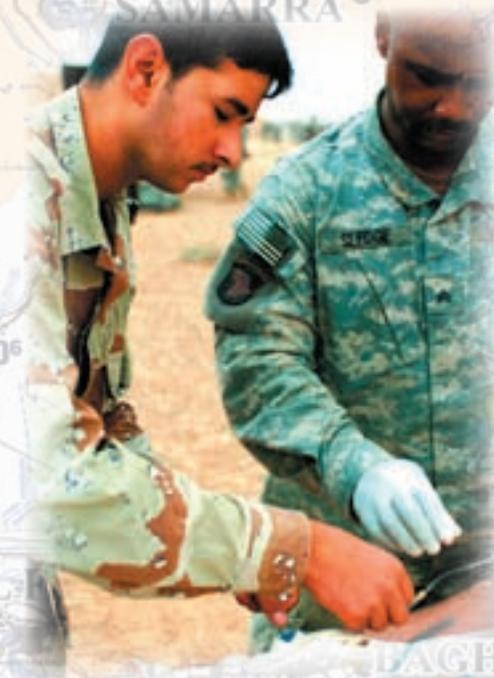
Local civilians who may have been wary of the newly-formed Iraqi Army in the past, are now trusting them more.

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

TIKRIT

SAMARRA

DAGHI



## Staff Sgt. Mark Wojciechowski

**BAQUBAH, Iraq** -- Sending the Iraqi Army forth to take care of security operations is the key to the overall safety of the Iraqi people and the groundwork for the establishment of a free government.

Iraqi Army Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division, are independently conducting operations in their area of Diyala Province, performing tasks such as gathering their own intelligence, patrolling the streets, and hunting suspected anti-Iraqi forces.

The unit has been conducting operations on their own under their young brigade commander, Gen. Saman Al Talabani.

"Talabani refers to himself as a modern general," said Maj. Jeff Arrington, Military Transition Team, Multi-National Corp – Iraq. "Under the old regime, a general would not ask someone for their advice on how to do something. Talabani inquires how to do things better." ■



## Staff Sgt. Mark Wojciechowski

**HUSAYN FAYSI, Iraq** -- Two companies from the 2nd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division traveled to a remote location of Diyala Province, not far from the Iranian border, to distribute humanitarian supplies and build relations with the impoverished people in the village of Husayn Faysi, near Baqubah May 3.

Maj. Hasim Shamin, 2-1-5 IA commander, approached the sheik to greet and ask if it would be okay to distribute some toys and clothes to his people. The sheik agreed.

Boxes of toys and clothes were unloaded from the back of the Iraqi Army humvees.

"A lot of times in these smaller villages even clear drinking water is not available," said Master Sgt. Carl Waddle, 2-1-5 IA Military Transition Team NCOIC, who oversees the training and missions that the IA take part in. "The IA goes out on these types of missions to help build the relationship between the Iraqi Army and the general population out here."

Goodwill missions such as this one lead by the 2nd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division, are a great step in developing the confidence and camaraderie between the people of Iraq and the Soldiers that protect them. ■



## Spc. Lee Elder

**NEFAV SHA, Iraq** -- Iraqi Army medical personnel took the lead on a humanitarian mission to provide medical treatment for people in the Iraqi village of Nefav Sha, near Baqubah, May 3.

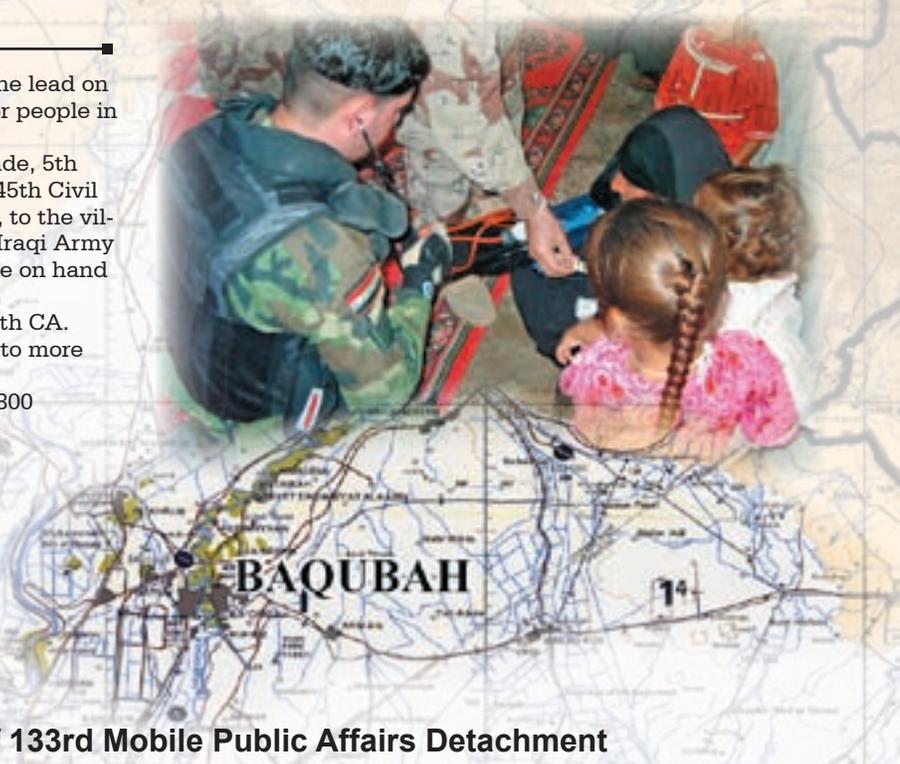
Ambulances from the Iraqi Army's 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 5th Division, were escorted by U.S. Soldiers from Company A, 445th Civil Affairs Battalion and the 1st Brigade Military Training Team, to the village located the southeast corner of the Tahwillia area. Two Iraqi Army doctors and medics from both the U.S. and Iraqi Armies were on hand for the mission.

"It was really well received," said Sgt. Michael Moon, 445th CA. "They treated everything from bloody noses and dysentery, to more serious medical problems."

Moon said Nefav Sha is a largely Shi'a village with about 800 residents. Although it has been a "hot spot" for insurgent activity in the past, residents of the village responded well to the Iraqi Army's humanitarian aid.

"It was really important for the Iraqi Army to be seen in a positive light there," Moon said. "For a lot of people in the village, it was one of their first exposures to the Iraqi Army. The people were really very receptive."

In addition to medical treatment and prescriptions, Iraqi Soldiers gave out donated clothing, medical supplies and toys to the village children. ■



Special report by Soldiers of 133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

# Support Soldiers vital to combat readiness



photo by Chief Warrant Officer Robert Lakes

(Above) Private 1st Class Shannon Tadela, maintenance team generator mechanic works on a generator at Contingency Operating Base Speicher. (Below) Specialist Zachary Boudreau (left), and Pfc. Joshua Tidyman (far right), take instructions from Chief Warrant Officer Robert Lakes, battalion maintenance technician.



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

**TIKRIT, Iraq** -- Combat arms Soldiers may get most of the media's attention, but it's the support personnel who keep their equipment moving and keep them in the fight.

Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Special Troops Battalion, 101st Airborne Division, maintain a wide range of machinery, from the generators at Division Main to the M1114 Humvees that roll out the gate every day.

The 30-plus Soldiers at the 3rd STB motor pool realize their job is mission essential. They might not be on the front lines, but they feel their job is just as important

to operations in Iraq. This is evident by the 97 percent readiness rate the team is maintaining.

"They do what they do, because they know it's an important job and they like being a mechanic," said Chief Warrant Officer Robert Lakes, battalion maintenance technician for 3rd STB.

"We came over here and have done a whole lot without a whole lot," Lakes said. "We are still having some issues with the transformation to a Special Troops Battalion. The main issue is getting all the tools we need, but my guys find a way of getting the job done."

The Special Troops Battalion is a new concept that came along with Army transformation. It allows each Brigade Combat Team to have its own support personnel, eliminating the need for a brigade to pull assets from other parts of the division.

The 101st Airborne Division is the first division that deployed with a fully integrated STB.

Lakes is on his third rotation to Iraq with the experience of Operation Iraqi Freedom I, III, and now IV under his belt. He feels the STB concept is best.

"I think it works better this way -- the streamlining has helped in many different ways," Lakes said. "There isn't division in the shop... we're all on one team." ■

photo by Sgt. Wayne D. Hailey

# Better than 100%

## Work orders come, Work orders go... Always on time

**Sgt. Ryan Matson**

101st Combat Aviation Brigade  
Public Affairs Office

**TIKRIT, Iraq** -- The Soldiers of Company B, 96th Aviation Support Battalion Maintenance Company are responsible for repairs on all four of the airframes flown by the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade -- Kiowa Warrior, Chinook, Blackhawk and Apache helicopters.

The company is consistently exceeding 100 percent on its production index, meaning that every shop in the company has not only completed their work orders in the allotted amount of time given by Army standards, but ahead of time.

The company takes on more than the usual workload of an aviation maintenance unit while still eliminating any backlog tasks awaiting special parts or procedures.

"I've never been in a unit that's been over 100 percent on all their work orders, and this is the fifth month in a row this company has done it," said Staff Sgt. Steve Dickson, a quality control noncommissioned officer who signs off on the mechanics work.

The feat is especially impressive considering the high number of flight hours the brigade has flown over the course of the deployment, said Maj. Joseph Crocitto, Company B commander.

As of May 1, the Brigade had already logged over 65,000 flight hours. These massive flight hours gener-

ate a tremendous workload for Company B.

"The Soldiers of B Company jumped right into triple the amount of work they had at Fort Campbell, supporting every phase in the brigade, with no civilian contractor support, and exceeded every maintenance performance measure. I couldn't be more impressed," said Lt. Col. Joseph Jellison, the 96th Aviation Support Battalion commander.

Since December, the company has kept its production index above 100 percent.

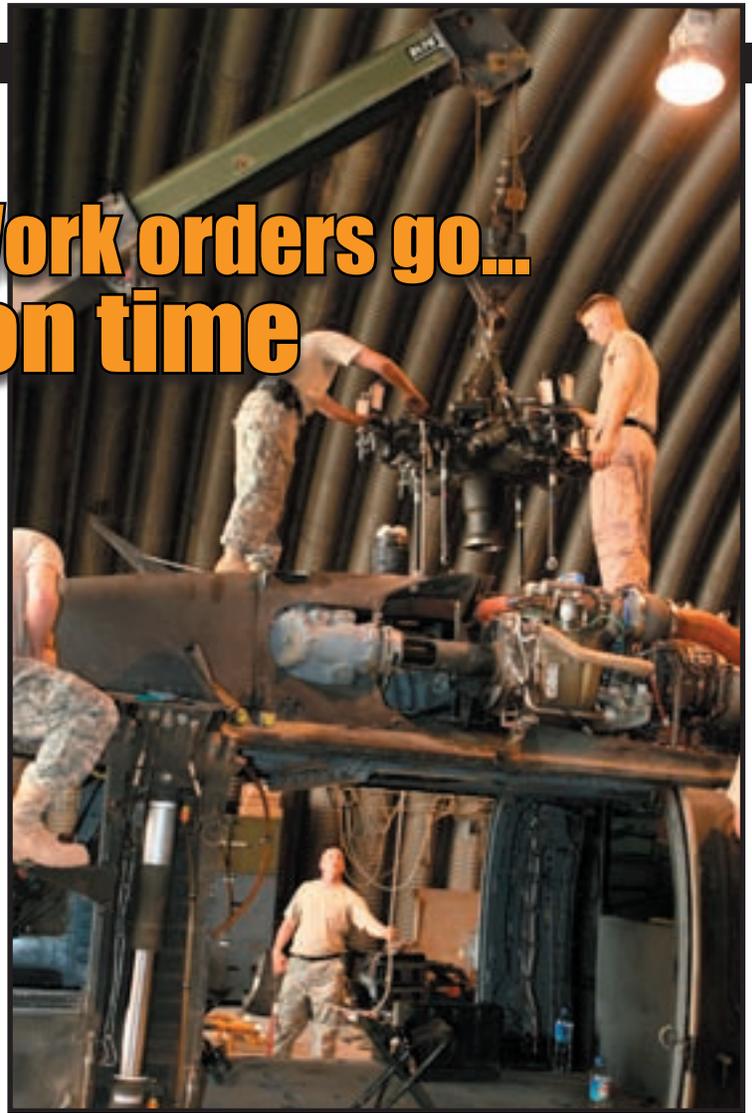
"Ninety percent is the Army standard," noted 1st Sgt. Vernon Brown, Company B first sergeant.

So how did Company B get above 100 percent on its work orders?

Crocitto said perhaps the biggest reason his company is able to achieve such high production levels is due to the creation of the specialized Aviation Support Equipment and Downed Aircraft Recovery Team (ASE/DART) platoon called the Aces.

This platoon handles all the duties which would normally fall on the Soldiers in a three-platoon company as additional duties, causing unnecessary distractions.

"They are the backbone of the company, allowing all the other platoons to focus on their specific mission, which increases the productivity of the entire compa-

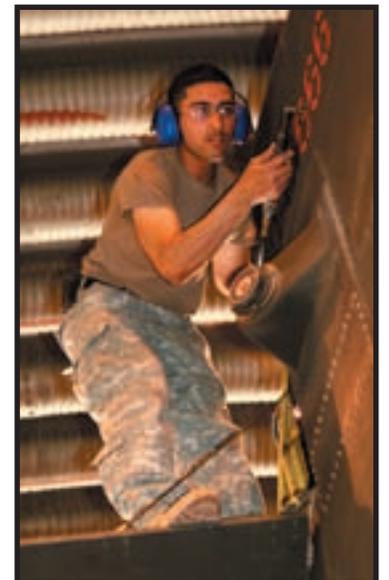


photos by Sgt. Ryan Matson

**(Above) Soldiers from Company B, 96th Aviation Support Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, lift off the rotorheads on a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter from 5th Battalion during a 360-hour maintenance phase reset on the aircraft. (Below) Sergeant Jeremiah Roman, an airframe mechanic with Company B, works on the aft pylon of a CH-47D Chinook helicopter to repair cracks in the airframe.**

ny," Crocitto said.

According to Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Herndon, the 96th Aviation Support Battalion command sergeant major, "B Company does genuine, multi-functional missions, including providing over 50 Soldiers to guard the entry control point each day, and battalion and brigade material handling missions. When you add in over 30 additional Soldiers on leave on any given day, their aviation maintenance efficiency and production is even more exceptional." ■



# Night Light

A photograph taken from the interior of a Stryker vehicle, looking out through the open top hatch. A soldier in a camouflage uniform is positioned in the center, aiming a large-caliber mortar. A massive, bright orange and yellow fireball is erupting from the barrel, illuminating the dark night sky. The interior of the vehicle is dimly lit, showing various mechanical components and equipment. The overall scene is dramatic and captures a moment of active combat.

**Specialist David Johnson, gunner, and Sgt. Justin Javar, assistant gunner, from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, fire 120mm illumination rounds over the city of Mosul, Iraq, June 1, from a Stryker vehicle. The illumination rounds are being fired to brighten the sky.**

photo by Tech Sgt. Jeremy T. Lock



**TOBY  
KEITH  
TOURS IRAQ**



photo by Sgt. Zach Mott



(Left) Toby Keith signs a guitar for a Soldier after performing an hour-long concert at Forward Operating Base Warhorse May 27. (Above) Keith jams on his guitar during a performance at Contingency Operating Base Speicher in Tikrit, Iraq. (Opposite) Service members and civilians stationed at COB Speicher withstand the heat to watch Keith perform an acoustic show with Scotty Emerick.

## Sgt. Ryan Matson

101st Combat Aviation Brigade  
Public Affairs

**T**IKRIT, Iraq -- He may claim to be not be as good as he once was, but for the hundreds of fans from the 101st Airborne Division and Task Force Band of Brothers, who gathered to cheer Toby Keith May 27 at Contingency Operating Base Speicher in Tikrit, Iraq, Toby Keith seemed like he was just fine.

Keith performed a free concert for the Soldiers, including such hits as *I Love This Bar*, *Who's Your Daddy?*, *The Taliban Song*, *Shoulda Been a Cowboy*, *Beer For My Horses*, and a new song from his latest CD called *Runnin' Block*. He played a couple of his patriotic songs, too – *American Soldier* and *Courtesy of the Red, White and Blue*.

The last number Keith performed was Lynyrd Skynyrd's classic *Sweet Home Alabama*, which he sang with the 101st Airborne Division Band, who

performed before Keith took the stage. Keith said it was his 64th USO show for troops stationed overseas.

Fellow recording artist Scotty Emerick performed with Keith during the hour-long acoustic set.

It was their second show of a two-day, eight-stop tour. He also played for Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Warrior in Kirkuk, FOB Warhorse in Baqubah, and Logistical Support Area Anaconda in Balad.

At the end of the show Maj. Gen. Thomas Turner, commander, 101st Airborne Division and Task Force Band of Brothers, greeted Keith. Soldiers from the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, presented Keith with some tokens of appreciation from the division.

Before departing, Keith participated in a new tradition for the 101st by signing a piece of flooring from the original Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, which is less than an hour drive from Fort Campbell, Ky., the division's home station.

Keith's autograph joins many other celebrities that have entertained 101st Soldiers during their deployment.

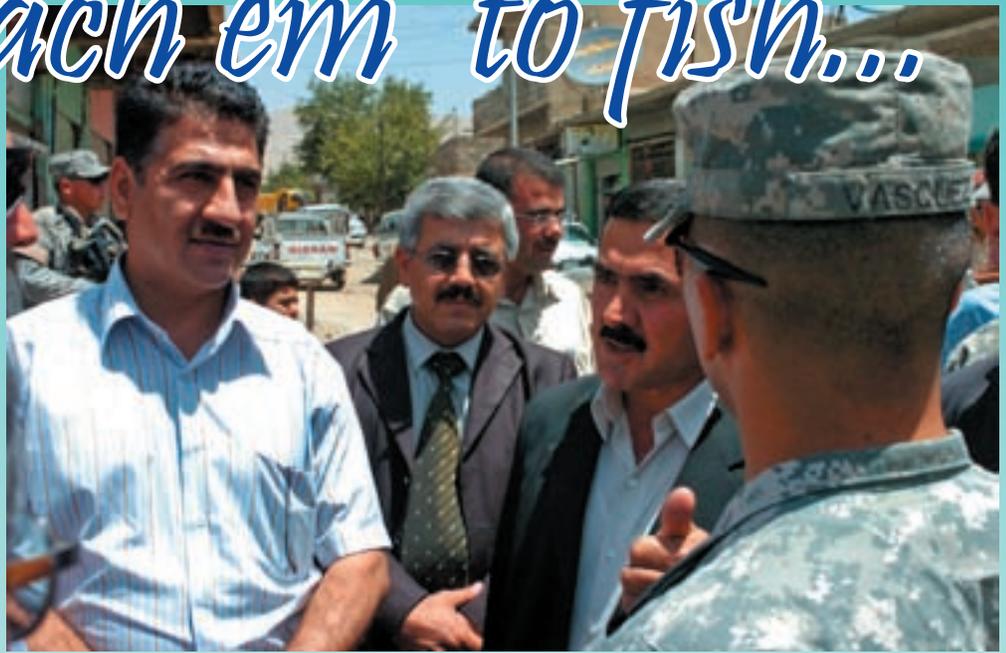
"From the beginning, no one has supported us more than the artists of country music," Turner said. "And of those artists, no one has been more supportive of our troops than Toby Keith." ■



photos by Sgt. Ryan Matson

Keith signs a piece of the original Grand Ole Opry's floor following his performance at COB Speicher, as Maj. Gen. Thomas Turner, commander, 101st Airborne Division and Task Force Band of Brothers looks on.

# Teach em' to fish...



story and photos by  
**Sgt. 1st Class Paul Schultz**  
1st Brigade Combat Team  
101st Airborne Division

**K**IRKUK, Iraq -- There's an adage often repeated by various members of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division that says "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime."

This idea is brought to life as Bastogne Soldiers work with local and provincial leaders to improve the quality of life for Iraqis in the region.

"The typical reaction is to give the people immediate results; build something that shows a physical result. This usually just creates a system of dependency," said Maj. Victor Vasquez, civil affairs officer for the 1st Brigade Combat Team, following a visit to Arbot, Iraq. "Giving someone an electric transformer seems like it solves problems, but it usually creates more problems than it solves. What happens when it breaks?"

Arbot is a Kurdish community in the mountains of northern Iraq's Sulaymaniyah Province. It is part of the Kurdistan Regional Government, and sits at the "T" intersection of two roads that lead to several smaller, and even more remote villages.

The city streets are clean, trees and flowers grow in the planters that line the main road, and half of a lamb hangs

**Major Victor Vasquez, civil affairs officer for the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, talks with (from left to right) Jotyar Nori Abdula, deputy governor of Sulaymaniyah Province; Hirsh Mohammed Sabir, director of municipalities in Arbot; and Kamal Ashraf Qaramani, mayor of Arbot, Iraq. The three are working together to develop systems capable of handling infrastructure issues in the small northern village. (Left) Meat hangs in the butcher shop in Arbot as the local butcher watches local leaders and U.S. Soldiers tour the city center.**

in the window of the corner butcher shop. During a fact-finding visit to the village, the brigade's civil affairs team had the opportunity to meet the local mayor and learn how he and his department heads interact with their provincial counterparts.

"We wanted to make the linkage between the deputy governor and

ing all ethnic lines. It continued with the deputy governor asking the Soldiers to help the mayor provide electricity to the city as well as a requesting equipment and material to build a sewage system that would keep the streets drained and sanitary during the wet winter months.

Vasquez responds that he and his team are not there to fix the problems, nor have they come to promise money. The goal of the CA team is to help the leaders of Arbot establish systems that will help the Iraqis fix the problems themselves and prepare them to handle any issues that arise in the future.

After a quick tour of the city center, Vasquez and his team leave, confident that their days work is a giant step forward for the proud people of Arbot.

"It's about them taking care of themselves," he said. "Under Saddam, and under a lot of Middle East regimes, the people are often like sheep -- they're shepherded, they're herded, and they really have no say in their destiny. We're empowering the people and giving them a say in their own future." ■

**The typical reaction is to give the people immediate results... This usually just creates a system of dependency.**

**-Maj. Victor Vasquez**

his directorate generals and the local mayor and his directorate generals, so that they can start working together," Vasquez said. "We need them to go out and govern. We need them to start communicating with each other so that they can address each others' problems."

The meeting started in typical Kurdish fashion: greetings to all in attendance, and a round of hot Chai -- the extremely sweet tea that is a favorite of every citizen in the country, transcend-

# New use found for IBA...

# FLOATATION DEVICE

## **Pfc. Paul J. Harris**

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

**BALAD, Iraq** -- In Iraq the insurgents have begun using the canals and waterways of the Tigris River as a means to move weapons caches while avoiding Coalition Forces patrolling the streets. With the battle being taken to the rivers of Iraq, the command group of 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Task Force Band of Brothers, developed training to help Soldiers survive in full combat gear if they fall in water.

With river boat patrols increasing, Sgt. Maj. Dean Keveles, command sergeant major, 3rd Bn., 29th FA, 3rd HBCBT and a team of his senior NCOs decided to test the buoyancy of the interceptor body armor system at the outdoor swimming pool at Logistical Support Area Anaconda

A Soldier going out on patrol wears about 40 to 50 pounds of gear. With the weight of the gear there was concern the Soldier would sink to the bottom of a canal.

It turns out the Kevlar inside of the IBAs will float and support the weight of the Soldier. It is like having a bullet-proof life vest. Keveles said.

From what they learned at the pool, Keveles and his NCOs were able to

put together a training exercise they could teach Soldiers. The exercise has Soldiers in full Army Combat Uniform wearing armored vests without ammo pouches.

The instructor would give a Soldier a kick in the back to simulate the surprise of falling into the water. After the Soldier fell in the water he would have to swim 15 meters before coming out of the pool.

We don't have a way to simulate river current in the training but at least

the Soldiers can build their confidence by doing the training, getting to the surface of the water and using their energy to get to the side of the pool, said Keveles.

1st Lt. Sean Craig, platoon leader, Battery B, 3rd Bn., 29th FA, felt no initial discomfort after hitting the water.

"I am a pretty strong swimmer so it felt fine, felt like I normally swim," Craig said. "It felt like a life jacket, a secure feeling because as soon as you get in it pops you back up." ■

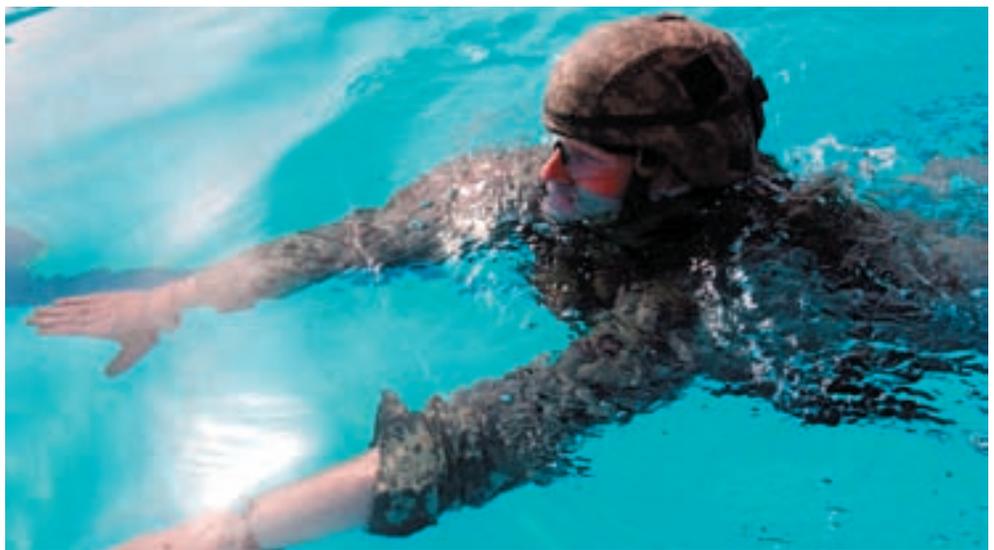


photo by Spc. Paul J. Harris

**First Lt. Sean Craig, platoon leader, Battery B, 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, swims a 15-meter distance in his interceptor body armor system during a drown-proofing class at the pool on Logistical Support Area Anaconda near Balad, Iraq.**



Stern's parents



man with brother

# Risking

**Pfc. Paul J. Harris**  
3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team  
4th Infantry Division Public Affairs

**B**ALAD, Iraq -- Imagine you were living the American dream -- you had the right degree, the right job, a wife, a car, and a condo in San Diego minutes away from the beach. Would you, in your early thirties, give all of that up to enlist in the Army as an infantryman and serve your country for the next three years?

Specialist Joshua Stern, dismount squad automatic weapon gunner, 2nd Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Armor Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, wanted to contribute to the Global War on Terrorism and decided to pause his life in the fast lane to come to Iraq to serve his country.

Stern took a military leave of absence with the bank where he worked as a financial analyst and enlisted July 2005. He went through basic combat training at Fort Benning, Ga., where he quickly adjusted to his new life.

"I was not as

*"Even though my family and friends supported the war, I felt that nobody really understood what people sacrificed to come over here."*

-Spc. Joshua Stern

mentally prepared for basic training as I should have been," Stern said. "[It took time] getting used to having someone tell me what to do every moment of the day. I did not really care for basic training too much."

He deployed to Iraq in late February 2006, and joined his platoon on Forward Operating Base Paliwoda. Their primary area of responsibility is the city of Balad. Being an infantry Soldier in a

mechanized platoon means being on call 24 hours-a-day and ready to go at a moment's notice.

They go out on patrol at varying times of the day as to not set a pattern. When out on patrol, his squad, nicknamed the Violators, looks for insurgents planting improvised explosive devices.

Other times it provides security around some of the reconstruction efforts like the new water purification systems in the eastern region of Balad, said Sgt. 1st Class John Guidry, Stern's platoon sergeant.

The experience of patrolling the streets and riverbanks of Iraq has not been exactly what the San Diego native expected.

"I expected the worst when I came out here, expecting to get into fire fights every day," Stern said. "You don't know who the enemy is, sometimes you feel like a target just waiting to make contact."



photo by Pfc. Paul J. Harris



# it all to serve in IRAAQ

photo by Pfc. Paul J. Harris

**H**e feels more like a cop out on patrol, where the mere sight of his platoon is a deterrence to the insurgents.

Stern's older brother is retired Army Lt. Col. Jack Stern. The elder Stern never pressured his brother to join the Army. In fact, Stern did not tell his older brother he enlisted until he signed the paperwork.

The only help Stern received from his older brother was information on what units would be deploying to Iraq soon and that is how Stern found his way to Fort Carson, Colo.

His wife Lorenda wasn't thrilled at the idea of Stern wanting to go to war, but it was something he felt compelled to do, even at the risk of their marriage.

"Even though my family and friends supported the war, I felt that nobody really understood what people sacrificed to come over here," Stern said.

There are six phones available to Soldiers on FOB Paliwoda but Stern tends to communicate back home mostly through e-mail. He never tells his wife what happens outside of the wire and tries to be as generic as possible in describing his day.

"It helps that she is in law school, which keeps her busy and does not give her a lot of time to worry," Stern said.

With the remainder of his free

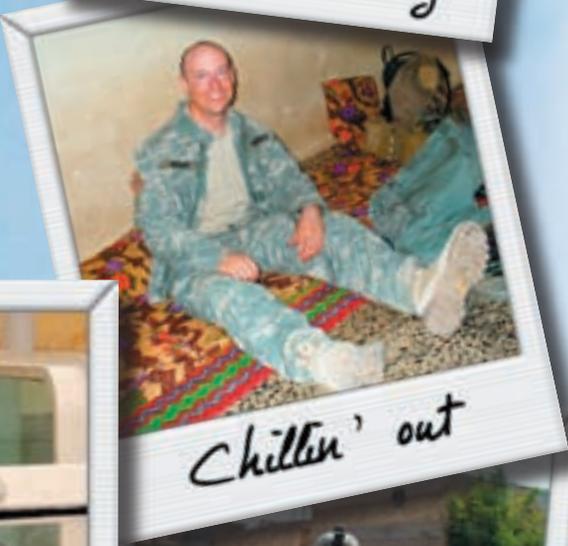
time Stern likes to read or watch a DVD with one of his roommates -- Sgt. James Craig, 3rd Squad team leader.

Craig has been pleased with the way Stern has come into the platoon and been able to fit right in.

"He is 30 years old, he has already had a career, so he knows the whole business of professionalism," Craig said. "He is serious about life, he is married and his maturity level is up a lot higher than some of the other privates that we get straight from basic. He has done really well, better than most." ■



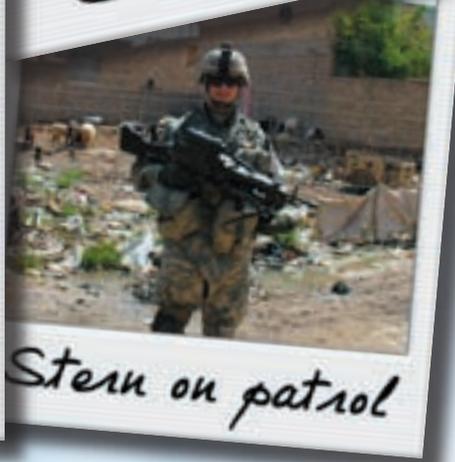
with SSG Cruz



Chillin' out



in the turret



Stern on patrol

# BOB ON THE FOB

by SGT Albert J. Merrifield

HEY MAN, I'VE LOST TRACK AGAIN...  
WHAT DAY IS TODAY? IS IT MONDAY OR  
TUESDAY? IT'S STILL JUNE, RIGHT?

THIS IS BEEF? I THOUGHT IT WAS PORK...  
WASN'T YESTERDAY BEEF? HEY, SHOULDN'T  
IT BE SEAFOOD DAY AGAIN SOON?

I HEARD ABOUT THIS GUY, OVER IN MY  
BUDDY'S BATTALION, WHO HAD TO GO TO THE  
AID STATION, HE HURT HIMSELF TRYING TO EAT  
THE CRAB LEGS...

NAH, IT'S WEDNESDAY. I CAN TELL 'CAUSE  
THEY'RE SERVING THAT NASTY BEEF AND  
NOODLE THING AGAIN... I DON'T KNOW HOW  
YOU CAN EAT THAT... BLECH.

YEAH, THAT'S TOMORROW. DON'T FORGET  
TO BRING YOUR BAYONET TO GET TO THE  
CRAB MEAT, OTHERWISE YOU'LL NEVER GET  
THROUGH THE SHELL...



## Groundfob Day n. (ground·fōb' dā)

1. The perception that each and every day in-country is indistinguishable from the one that preceded it; all days are the same. 2. The state of existence where the only way to tell one day from another is by using the menu at the dining facility to differentiate between days.

(See also *menu months*)

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!

# Commander goes on Tikrit Radio Show



photos by Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klika

Lieutenant Col. Louis Lartigue, commander, 2nd Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, and Lt. Col. Richard Root, commander, 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, both of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, listen to a caller at a live radio call-in show in Tikrit, Iraq. The two officers wanted to inform listeners of their concerns about the increase in hostile activities in the area and encourage locals to report insurgent activities.

## FINANCÉ FLASH

### Eagle Cash kiosks

Soldiers now have a new way of managing their cash -- the EagleCash Stored Value Card! The EagleCash card is very similar to a pre-paid debit card or gift card. Once you have stored value on your EagleCash card, you can use it at the PX, the post office, and at most local AAFES vendors located throughout Iraq. There are no fees or interest incurred for using the EagleCash card.

The systems will be installed throughout the summer months on the following bases in Iraq: COB Speicher; Baghdad Area - BIAP, Liberty, Stryker, Slayer, and Victory; and LSA Anaconda; as well as many bases in Kuwait. The system is already installed in Qatar at Ali Asalyeah, and at selected camps in Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Saudi Arabia, Bosnia, Kosovo, and Honduras.

For more information, call or stop by your local finance office.

### Now you can check your SDP balance on myPay!

Log on to [myPay.com](http://myPay.com) and select Savings Deposit Program statement. The account history shows all deposits made by allotment or cash collection voucher and the date the transaction credited to your SDP account. If you made a deposit more than 10 weeks ago and it does not appear in your account balance, scan and e-mail a copy of your voucher to [ccl-sdp@dfas.mil](mailto:ccl-sdp@dfas.mil). Deposit(s) will be posted to your account along with any back interest due.

### SGLI premiums to increase

On July 1, the Service Members Group Life Insurance (SGLI) premiums will increase from \$.065 to \$.070 per \$1,000 of coverage. If you have elected the maximum coverage of \$400,000, this will be an increase of \$2.00 per month on your premium. This will affect all members who have SGLI for Active Duty and Reserve Component, however it does not affect Family Service Members Group Life Insurance (FSGLI).

## HUTCH'S TOP 10



### Top 10 Things you'll miss about the Dining Facility

by Spec. Joshua Hutcheson

**10.** The approximately 8 million different names given to that one meal they do with beef cubes. The only noticeable difference each day seems to be the addition of barbecue sauce and whether or not noodles are involved.

**9.** People cutting in front of you because they just want one item at the end of the serving line and don't feel like going through the whole thing.

**8.** Being able to tell what day of the week it is by what's on the menu.

**7.** Ice-cold ketchup packets and room-temperature bottles of Gatorade.

**6.** The fun of finding spices and ingredients in dishes where you don't expect them. I would have never

thought to put pimentos in jell-o.

**5.** The sense of security and protection you feel, knowing that there are guards roasting in full battle-rattle at the entrance, making sure everybody has an I.D. card.

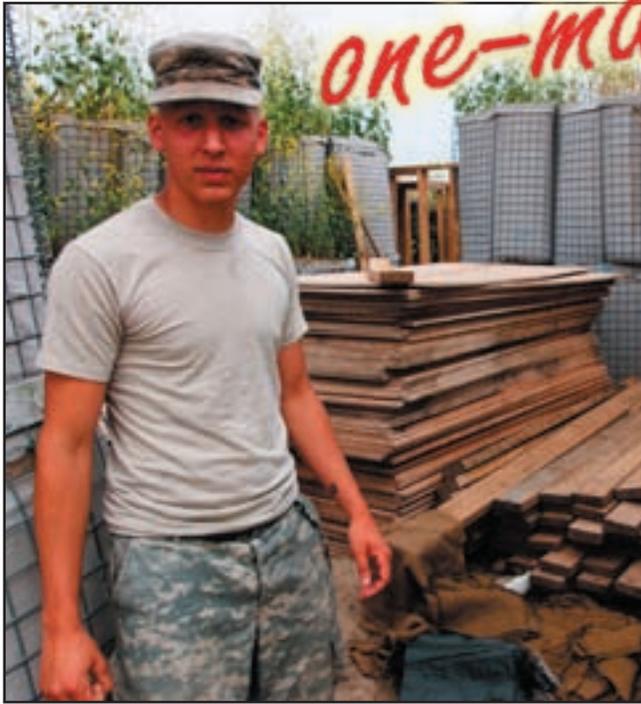
**4.** All the exercise your jaw muscles got from trying to chew those steaks.

**3.** The large amount of seafood that is served regardless of the curious fact that Iraq is almost entirely land-locked.

**2.** Ethnic Meal #47: fried chicken, collard greens and corn bread. Ethnic Meal #52: egg rolls, stir-fry and fried rice. And lastly, Ethnic Meal #23: beef fajitas, enchiladas and Spanish rice. Delicious!

**1.** The fact that it's all free!

# UNDER CONSTRUCTION



Private 1st Class Aaron Postma, 549th Military Police Company, stands among the building supplies he is using to build a new shoot house for Iraqi police training in Irbil, Iraq.

story and photo by Staff Sgt. Steve Duga  
138th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**Irbil, Iraq --** One Soldier is going above and beyond the call of duty in the name of training.

Private 1st Class Aaron Postma, IP trainer, 549th Military Police Company, has taken on a one-man crusade of building a bigger and better "shoot house" to train the Iraqi police of Irbil, Iraq.

"When I got here, I noticed that the existing shoot house was falling apart, because it is only made of reinforced sand barriers," Postma said. "So I had some lumber shipped to the range and then started building a new range."

The new shoot house will sit between two firing lanes, in the middle of the range that was just completely rebuilt by Postma and his team. The hardest part for Postma is finding time in his busy sched-

ule to work on it.

"It has taken me a long time to build it because it is hard to coordinate getting the tools I need, and any extra materials," he said.

At first glance, the shoot house looks like a yard shed under construction. When it is finished, it will have multiple doors, long hallways, and several rooms. It will serve as a training site where the IPs can learn basic techniques on entering a building and clearing a room.

"I have no doubt that the new shoot house will improve the level of training that the IPs receive," Postma said. "I am making it my personal goal to make sure that the shoot house is completed, and being used before I leave at the end of my deployment." ■

## Why do we wear these things?

### Sgt. 1st Class Steve Petibone

138th Mobile Public  
Affairs Detachment

**M**OSUL, Iraq -- Soldiers count on a lot of gear for their protection, and every day in a combat zone, that gear is taking a beating and proving its value.

For 1st Lt. Anthony Aguilar, platoon leader, Company B, Task Force 2-1, 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, one of the smallest pieces of equipment issued to Soldiers was the most important thing he put on while on a routine combat patrol in February 2006.

As his company was moving through Mosul, an unusually large Improvised Explosive Device detonated

on their convoy. The blast kicked Aguilar back into his vehicle, and fragments from the bomb scattered, one knocking his eye protection off his face.

"When I picked the glasses up and put them back on, I could feel the heat from the fragment near my eye."

The fragment hit the lens and melted to the plastic, less than inch below Aguilar's eyeball.

The blast caused considerable damage to a nearby house and cars parked along the street. Aguilar's unit cordoned off the area and immediately did an extensive search before leaving.



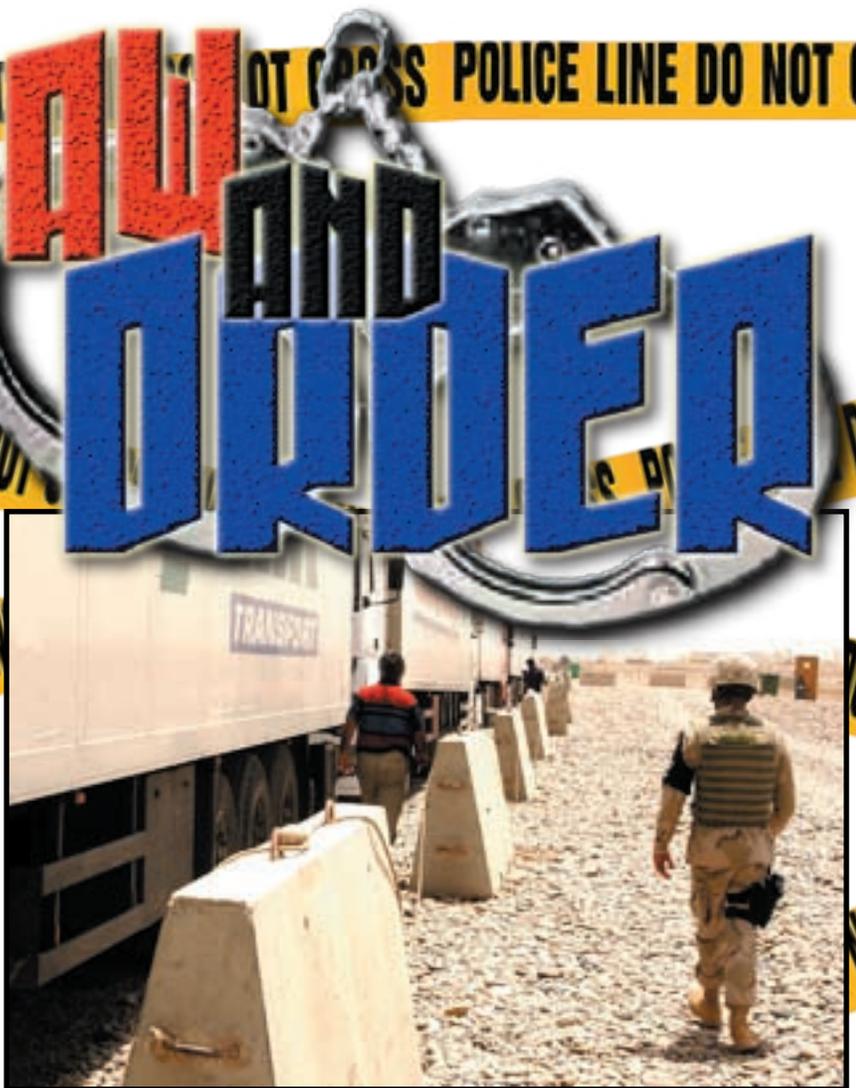
Courtesy photo

"As our company cordoned off the area, I kept the glasses on and continued with the mission," Aguilar said.

"Whenever someone asks me what I was wearing, I am sure to tell them I was wearing a great tactical product." ■



(Above) Senior Airman Sebastian Cruz, security forces member, makes his way down a row of trucks belonging to third country nationals, searching them for potential contraband items. Cruz and his team members often make random, spot inspections of vehicles, both civilian and military.



(Left) Sergeant Moe Haretuku, security forces member, Detachment 1, 732nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group, part of an Air National Guard unit out of Utah, uses his radar gun to clock the speed of vehicles on Contingency Operating Base Speicher in Tikrit, Iraq. When a speeder is discovered, tickets are handed out -- one copy to the speeder and one to the their unit commander. (Above) Cruz searches incoming and outgoing trucks for contraband, such as cell phones and alcohol. The airmen of 732nd handle all law and order missions on Speicher.

photos and layout  
by Spc. Joshua Hutcheson



## Through the Lens

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



# Honoring the fallen



**Top:** Soldiers salute the American flag while Amazing Grace plays during a Memorial Day ceremony for the Soldiers from 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, who have died during this latest deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. (photo by Sgt. Zach Mott) **Above:** Soldiers pause in a moment of silent remembrance for those who have lost their lives from 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, during a Memorial Day ceremony at Forward Operating Base Warrior in Kirkuk, Iraq. (photo by Sgt. 1st Class Paul Schultz) **Left:** Coalition forces on Contingency Operating Base Speicher in Tikrit, Iraq, render a salute during a Memorial Day ceremony at the Task Force Band of Brothers headquarters building. (photo by Spc. Joshua Hutcheson)



# TASK FORCE BAND of BROTHERS IN MEMORIAM

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

**Jan. 13**

**CW3 Mitchell K. Carver, Jr., 31**



1st Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment,  
10th Mountain Division  
Charlotte, N.C.

**CW2 Kyle E. Jackson, 28**



1st Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment,  
10th Mountain Division  
Sarasota, Fla.

**Jan. 20**

**Spc. Matthew C. Frantz, 23**



1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment,  
1st Brigade Combat Team  
Lafayette, Ind.

*(The above names were left out of previous editions)*

**May 15**

**Staff Sgt. Marion Flint Jr, 29**



1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment,  
3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team  
Baltimore, Md.

**Spc. Grant A. Dampier, 25**



1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment,  
3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team  
Merrill, Wis.

**May 29**

**Cpl. Jeremy M. Loveless, 25**



2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment,  
172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team  
Estacada, Ore.

**May 31**

**Sgt. Benjamin E. Mejia, 25**



4th Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment,  
172nd Stryker Brigade  
Salam, Mass.

**Cpl. Brock L. Bucklin, 28**



1st Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment,  
3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team  
Grand Rapids, Mich.

**June 7**

**2nd Lt. John S. Vaughn, 23**



2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment,  
172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team  
Edwards, Co.

**June 8**

**Spc. Luis D. Santos, 20**



1st Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment,  
3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team  
Rialto, Calif.

*(These are the names that have been released as of June 13)*