



The Striker Torch

Edition Thirty-Three

October 1, 2006



Sgt. Cory Hall, a squad leader from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 40th Engineer Battalion, moves between vehicles during a patrol on a patrol to recon a sewer repair project in the Baghdad neighborhood of Ghazaliyah. *Photo by Capt. Matthew Holbrook*

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Front Page

Left: Pfc. Ryan Dykes, a medic from Troop H, 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, provides security while his patrol talks to citizens in Baghdad, Iraq. *Photo by Spc. Benjamin Kolar*
Middle: Spc. Robert Miller, 412th Civil Affairs Battalion, attached to Company D, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, conducts a market assessment in the Shiha market. *Photo by 1st Lt. James Spofford*
Right: Spc. Michael Herkelrath, Company A, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, attached to 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, conducts searching and scanning techniques while dismounted in Baghdad, Iraq. *Photo by 1st Sgt. David McGuire*



Top Left: Soldiers of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, set up a cordon around the Ma'ah bin Jabal Mosque in Baghdad, Iraq. *Photo by 2nd Lt. Kellen Blythe*
Top Right: Staff Sgt. David Holder (top) and Staff Sgt. Shyler Dieuveille from Service Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, lower a Rhino prior to a Combat Logistics Patrol in Iraq. *Photo by 1st Lt. Phidel Hun*
Bottom Left: 1st Lt. Chris Thelen of Company A, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, discusses issues that were raised by Iraqi civilians while his squad was on patrol in Baghdad, Iraq. *Photo by 1st Lt. Robert Murray*
Bottom Right: Spc. Jimmy Vasquez of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, works out in a weight room at Forward Operating Base Justice in Baghdad, Iraq. *Photo by Spc. Adam Nolte*

Corrections: The story posted in last issue, "Family Affair" was published with the wrong author. The authors of the story were 1st Lt. Marc Miller and Staff Sgt. Daniel L. Paige.

Quote of the Week:
 - Bertrand Russell
 "To conquer fear is the beginning of wisdom."





Family Business

Story by Story by 1st Lt. Robert Murray

While guarding Division Headquarters one day in May 2006, Pvt. Larry Huissen of Company A, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, had an unexpected guest approach him. It was his second cousin, Colonel Bob Failie. Col. Failie was conducting business at Camp Liberty and noticed that Pvt. Huissen was working there. Pvt. Huissen was definitely surprised because he did not even know that Col. Failie was in theater.

In addition to Col. Failie, Pvt. Huissen has had other family members serving in theater. His sister,

Amber, served with the 101st Airborne Division and his step-father served with Special Forces. Pvt. Huissen, his sister Amber, and Col. Failie, were able to have lunch together one day at Camp Liberty. Pvt. Huissen's biological father is also active duty and is currently a drill sergeant at Ft. Jackson. Pvt. Huissen said that his father wishes he could be over here with him.

Pvt. Huissen joined the Army reserves when

he turned seventeen and was assigned to active duty in July of 2005. When asked why he joined, he said, "Ever since I was a little kid, I knew I would join the Army because my father was in." Pvt. Huissen is a member of 2nd Platoon (Roughnecks). He and his platoon have participated in numerous raids and have been responsible for locating over 25 caches since arriving in this area. They execute missions every day in an effort to disrupt Anti-Iraqi Force operations. When 1st Lt. Chris Thelen, his platoon leader, was asked about Pvt. Huissen he said "he is a very energetic and dependable Soldier; He



Col. Bob Failie (left) a relative of Spc. Larry Huissen (right) of Company A, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, capture a photo for their family in America. *Photo by 1st Lt. Robert Murray*



Spc. Larry Huissen of Company A, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment keeps a watchful eye on activity in Western Baghdad. *Photo by 1st Lt. Robert Murray*

is never afraid to ask questions when he does not know how to do something". His platoon sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Jose Davila, also has high praise saying, "Pvt. Huissen is one of the best Soldiers in the platoon."

Pvt. Huissen's plans for the future are to finish his three-year commitment and go back to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where his fiancée is currently studying. When he finishes college, he would like to work for the Federal Bureau Investigation, Drug Enforcement Agency, or the Central Intelligence Agency. As far as him seeing more family members while on deployment, his chances are good because his brother-in-law is getting ready to deploy later this year.

The Chaplain's Corner

An elderly lady once went shopping and, upon returning to her car, found four men departing with her vehicle. She immediately dropped her bags, drew her handgun, and screamed, "I have a gun and I know how to use it! Get out of the car, you scumbags!"

The four men scattered when they saw the gun. After she calmed down, the woman loaded her groceries and climbed in the car. But when she tried starting it her key wouldn't fit into the ignition. Then she discovered why. The car wasn't hers. Her car was parked four spaces over.

The woman felt so ashamed, she drove to the police station to report the incident. There, at the other end of the counter, she saw four men reporting a

car jacking by a mad elderly woman described as white, less than 5 feet tall, with glasses and curly white hair, totting a large handgun.

No charges were filed.



When was the last time you jumped the gun and made wrong conclusions about someone? At times we're quick to pull the trigger before we even know the person we're aiming at. Often, the art of snap assessment comes naturally. We see an act and assume a motive. We look on the

outward appearance and conclude we know the person within. We judge books—and people—by the cover instead of the content. But when we take the time to read people cover to cover, we discover how little we really know them.

Jesus once said, "Do not judge lest you be judged." (Matt 7:1, NAS). In other words, be slow in drawing conclusions. Remind yourself that there's more to each person than meets the eye. As Henry Wadsworth Longfellow once wrote, "If we could only read the secret history of our enemies, we would find in each man's life, sorrow and suffering enough to disarm all hostility."

*Wishing you the very best, I'm
Chaplain Anthony Horton.*

Legal Issues to think about when you redeploy

Claims - What you need to know and do!

During our move back to our home station, there is the possibility that items can be damaged or may be missing. If the U.S. Army shipped your items, you may be able to file a claim in order to repair or replace your property. If you ship your property by United States Postal Service, you should buy insurance. In any event, there are a few things you need to do in order to cover yourself and make the claims process a little easier.

While packing your property, take a picture of your high dollar



items. Take a picture while the items is powered up and working, then take a photo of the items in the box you are shipping. These pictures will serve as proof of the property's condition prior to movement. Be sure to make a list of

your high dollar items with the serial numbers on it. This will serve as a reminder when you receive your property back in Germany. If you do these two things, your claims process will go much easier, and you will be much more likely to get reimbursed for damaged or missing property.

Soldiers will have up to 70 days to turn in a DD Form 1840 showing the damaged items. The claims office will give you further guidance as to anything else you may need.



SCORPION MWR

All events start at 2000 hours, and are located in the Scorpion MWR recreation tent.

Monday, 2 October:	Ping Pong Tournament
Tuesday, 3 October:	Madden 2006 Tournament
Wednesday, 4 October:	Texas Hold 'em Tournament
Thursday, 5 October:	Karaoke, Spades and Dominoes Tournaments
Friday, 6 October:	8 Ball Billiards Tournament
Saturday, 7 October:	None
Sunday, 8 October:	Salsa Night and Air Hockey Tournament



Bulldog Gunners Take Aim

Story by Capt. Terry Moody

"Hey!" Spc. James Hills shouted from the Humvee gunner's hatch, prodding midday Baghdad traffic out of the way of his convoy. "Hey! Move over!" he yelled at a car, waving it to the side of the highway. He barked warnings a couple of hundred times during a day's mission conducted by Company B, 47th Forward Support Battalion, which supports the 2nd Brigade Combat Team in Baghdad, Iraq.

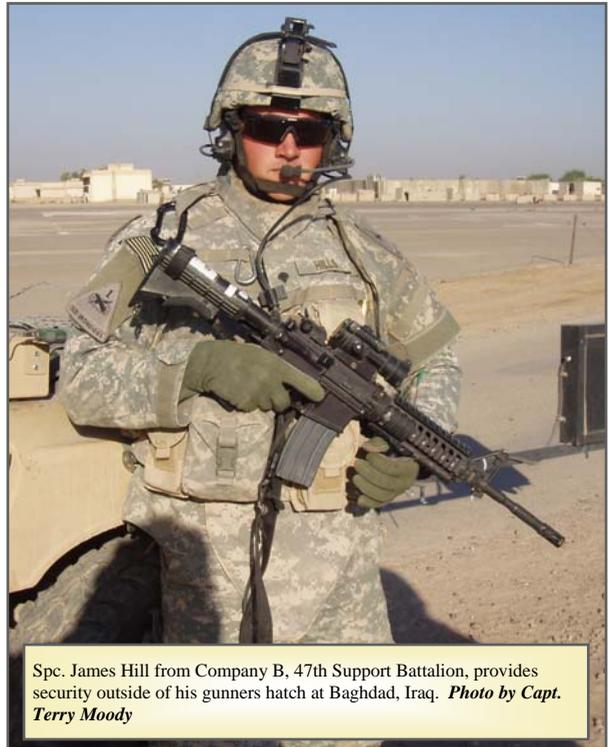
Iraqi drivers might not understand Spc. Hills' words, but they got the tone. As the lead gunner Spc. Hills has the training and attitude to defend against anybody who might pose a threat to his team and the convoy. "A don't-mess-with-me attitude is necessary for a gunner. Nobody messes with the guys in my truck," he said. "It's like a lion protecting his den."

Gunners hold one of the most important positions in a convoy. They are the only crew members who can see all around the vehicle, helping the driver navigate and giving the vehicle commander information to make critical decisions. The gunners are also the first line of defense

against suicide bombers. They try to maintain space around the moving Humvee, ensuring that the vehicle has plenty of room to maneuver. When the Soldiers are dismounted, the gunners busy covering their comrades by scanning rooftops, alleys and sidewalks for snipers.

"I feel free, not trapped inside the vehicle. You're in control, I like being in control too, seeing what's around me," Spc. Hills explained. Sgt. Fishbach added: "You just don't think about it. What gets to you is hearing a shot and not knowing from where it came."

"I'm proud of being a gunner," Spc. Hills said. "I never thought when I signed up that I'd end up being a lead gunner in Baghdad. It makes my fam-



Spc. James Hill from Company B, 47th Support Battalion, provides security outside of his gunners hatch at Baghdad, Iraq. Photo by Capt. Terry Moody

ily proud. They think I'm high-speed and I love it. I had a different reason for joining the Army, but all that has been changed by this combat experience."

Motorcycle Safety

USAREUR is very specific on the requirements to operate a motorcycle. According to USAREUR Regulation 190-1, each command-sponsored motorcycle rider in Europe is required to have:

- **Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) approved safety course certification within the last three years**
- **USAREUR driver's license with motorcycle endorsement**
- **Valid USAREUR motorcycle registration**
- **Proof of insurance**
- **A helmet meeting American National Standards Institute standard Z90-1 or the Economic Commission for Europe Norm 22-02**
- **Shatterproof eye protection meeting Vehicle Equipment Safety Commission Regulation**
- **Full fingered gloves**
- **Highly visible clothing or reflective belt**
- **Over the ankle shoes**
- **Long sleeved shirt and pants**



Riders participate in a Motorcycle Safety Course in Giessen, Germany.

Without a valid MSF card, you are not authorized to ride your motorcycle. Make sure that you meet the standard prior to taking your bike out for a ride. 2nd BCT OPORD 06-012 (Striker Safety Day) gives additional guidance from the Brigade Commander about what is required for Iron Soldiers to operate motorcycles while assigned to the brigade.



Sabers and Spurs

Story by 2nd Lt. Hunter Smith

The 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment's Headquarters Combat Patrol's (HCP) mission, in short, is to provide security for Lt. Col. Gian Gentile, squadron commander, and Maj. Scott Coulson, operations officer, as well as serve as combat patrol assets throughout the area of operations (AO). The HCP is made up of teams A and B, but are better known within Headquarters and Headquarters Troop as the "Saber" and "Spur" elements, respectively. They are a mix of Soldiers from the Squadron's five different troops, that have come together to form formidable teams.

The HCP runs missions everyday to allow Lt. Col. Gentile, and Maj. Coulson to get a daily feel of the

Rough Rider AO. Typically, the HCP visits various mosques to speak with local religious leaders, monitors the progress of various ongoing projects, and conducts general reconnaissance of different routes. While traveling to and from each mosque, "Lt. Col. Gentile likes to talk with Iraqi civilians, members of the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police on the streets to get a feel for the pulse

of Ameriyah," states Staff Sgt. John Tremblay, a truck commander in the HCP. Wherever there is a particular focused effort in the sector is where

Sabers and Spurs- Continued on Page 7



Chaplain (Capt.) Paul Berghaus (right center, no protective gear) conducts a short prayer with the Soldiers of 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment's Headquarters Combat Patrol team prior to a mission at Camp Falcon, Iraq. *Photo by Spc. Benja-*



Sabers and Spurs - Continued from Page 6

you will find the HCP providing their patrol leaders the means to monitor and be personally involved in the success of each operation.

Ameriyah is an important neighborhood, and ensuring its security and stability is a priority. Over the past few months, both HCP teams have had the honor of escorting many high ranking officers into this neighborhood. Also, many news agencies have spotlighted the 8th Squadron 10th Cavalry Regiment in news segments, television, and in newspapers. The escorted media ranged from Armed Forces Network and Stars and Stripes to Washington Post to BBC, FOX and CNN.

Rarely does the HCP have days off and the days they do have off are spent addressing maintenance issues. "We average one down day to every fourteen days in sector. Maintenance works around the clock to keep us on patrol," notes Staff Sgt. Jesse Sample, the Saber section sergeant. The time after missions is spent writing debriefs



Cpl. Christopher Meyer (left) from 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment's Headquarters Combat Patrol team pulls security while Lt. Col. Gian Gentile (right center) 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment Commander and his interpreter, Zak (right), monitor a check point during Operation Rough Rider Roundup in Ameriyah. *Photo by Spc. Benjamin Kolar*

and preparing for the next mission. There is little actual down time for these guys; by August, the HCP had completed over 450 patrols.

The Rough Rider HCP continues to patrol everyday and shows no signs of letting up. As long as there is a

mission for the 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, Lt. Col. Gentile and Maj. Coulson will continue to patrol AO Rough Rider; the dedicated and determined HCP will lead the way.

**REENLIST IN TODAY'S
ACTION ARMY**

**&
CONTINUE
TO
RECEIVE
AN
UNBEATABLE
BENEFITS
PACKAGE**

**Your Trash...
Could be an Adversary's
Treasure!**

**Remember
OPSEC
Operations Security**



Keeping the Cobra Medical Wheels Rolling

Story by Spc. Wesley F. Belcher

When someone says Armored Division, what is the first thing that comes to mind? For most people it is tanks and big vehicles, no one ever says mechanics. What people need to ask themselves is, "How do these big vehicles remain in the fight and mission capable?" For the Soldiers whose mission depends on these vehicles staying in the fight, the answer is clear. We have the Soldiers and NCOs of Headquarters platoon, Company C, 47th Forward Support Battalion. Although small in numbers, this team of mechanics is large in professionalism and dedication. Often times working in some of the harshest conditions such as the heat of the desert or the cold of Baumholder, Germany, these mechan-

ics accomplish their mission so that others can accomplish theirs.

All of the mechanics have their own specialties, but they come together to form a team. Sergeants Erik Nally and Jerry Powe, both of Co. C, are track mechanics. These two NCOs are tasked with ensuring that the M113 track ambulances that belong to the Evacuation (EVAC) platoon remain in a constant state of readiness, able to answer any mission that may be required of them. Working with the medics of the EVAC platoon, Sgt. Nally and Sgt. Powe use their expertise to face any challenge that may arise.



Staff Sgt. Mark Roberts, of Company C, 47th Forward Support Battalion conducts Quality Control/Quality Assurance checks on a Humvee. *Photo by Spc. Wesley Belcher*

Medical Wheels Rolling - Continued on Page 9

Creating a .PST File On Outlook For Storing Emails

After opening your outlook account, have you ever received the message "mailbox full?" If you have, then you should create a personal folder file, also known as a .pst file. .pst files allow a user to store large amounts of emails on the user's hard drive without filling up the user's email mailbox on the server. In addition, .pst files can be transferred from hard drive to hard drive without loss of data. You should backup your .pst files weekly to a rewritable storage media or when you are turning in your equipment for repair. Rule of thumb: If you feel the material is important, back it up!

Every outlook account user should have a .pst file created on their primary computer. Creating a .pst file is quite easy. The following steps should be taken when creating a .pst file:

Go to your Outlook email account

Click on **TOOLS**

Click on **EMAIL ACCOUNTS**

Click on **VIEW OR CHANGE EXISTING E-MAIL ACCOUNTS**

Click on **NEXT**

Click on **NEW OUTLOOK DATA FILE**

Click on **OFFICE OUTLOOK PERSONAL FOLDERS FILE (.pst)**

Click on **OK**

Name your personal folder file (.pst)

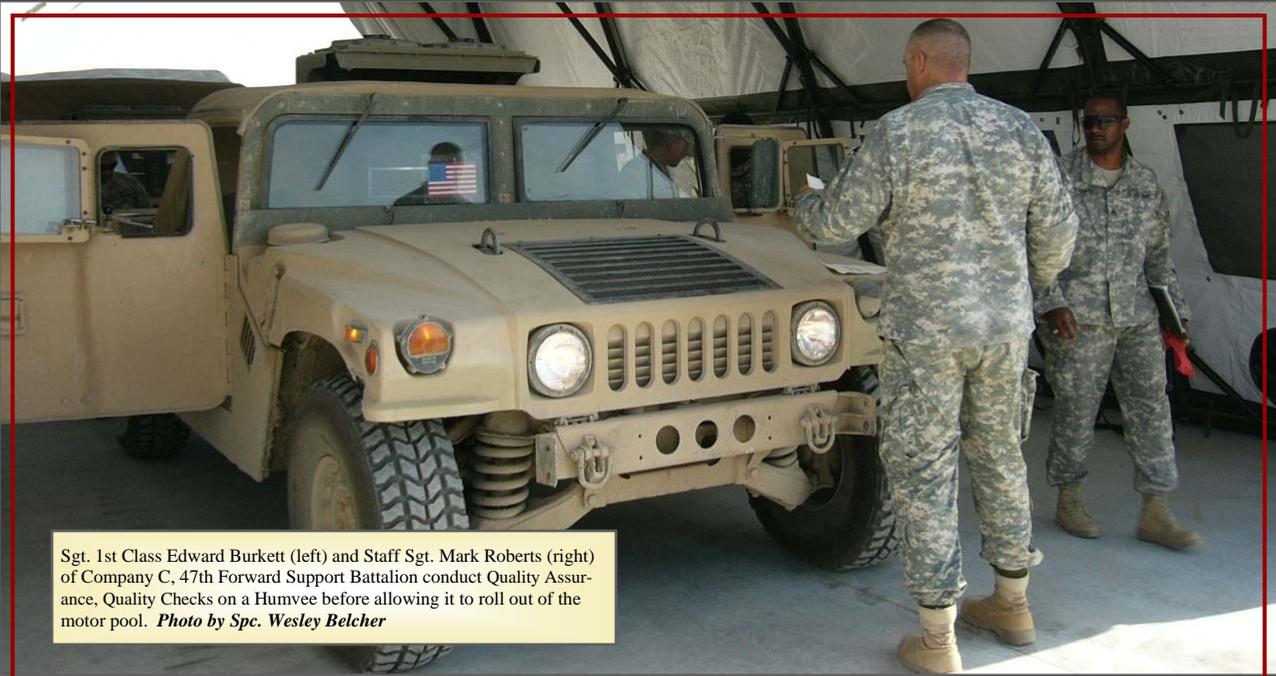
Click **OK**

Click **OK**

The final and most important step is to make sure new email is delivered to your .pst file. This is accomplished by switching email delivery from "mailbox" to the designated .pst file.

Click on **FINISH**





Sgt. 1st Class Edward Burkett (left) and Staff Sgt. Mark Roberts (right) of Company C, 47th Forward Support Battalion conduct Quality Assurance, Quality Checks on a Humvee before allowing it to roll out of the motor pool. *Photo by Spc. Wesley Belcher*

Medical Wheels Rolling- Continued from Page 8

Most recently Co. C received a large number of M113 personnel carriers from the units of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, and was tasked with doing complete inspections and repairs on the vehicles. In addition to their own tracks and multiple duties, the mechanics increased their workload to accommodate the additional vehicles they received. Regardless of the extra workload, the dedication to duty took precedence and all missions are accomplished.

Working alongside Sergeants Nally and Powe are the wheeled vehicle mechanics of Company C, Staff Sgt. Mark Roberts, Sgt. Keith Miller, Spc. William Blackburn and Spc. Paul Haarman. Together, these mechanics have one mission – to keep the fleet of light and heavy wheel vehicles on the road. Every day, this dedicated team works together to keep the force rolling with a strict regimen of Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services (PMCS) and Quality Assurance / Quality Checks (QA/QC) inspections. The inspections are designed to identify potential problems

with the vehicles that operators may have missed.

Among these mechanics is one member of the team that deserves recognition, Spc. Adrian Puentes, the generator mechanic. Company C has only one 15K generator, but Spc. Puentes took the initiative to be cross trained and work on tracks and wheeled vehicles with his teammates. Spc. Puentes also manages the company tool room. He accounts for and signs out the hundreds of tools that the mechanics of Company C need to accomplish their job.

Led by their Platoon Sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Edward Burkett, this small, highly

efficient crew works under the radar to keep the company ready for any mission. This may not seem like much to someone whose job or life does not rely on a properly running vehicle, but to those of us who do, these mechanics really are “Heroes.”



Soldiers of Company C, 47th Forward Support Battalion perform Quality Assurance, Quality Checks on a Humvee in Baghdad, Iraq. *Photo by Spc. Wesley Belcher*



Top Left: Sgt. Joshua Zimmerman (left) inspects the crew-served weapon of Pfc. Clayton Kidwell (right) before conducting a personnel security mission. Both Soldiers are from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment. *Photo by Spc. Adam Nolte*

Top Right: Capt. Klaudius K. Robinson (far right), commander of Bandit Troop, 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, stands by as six of his Soldiers are awarded medals for distinction in combat with Anti-Iraqi Forces at Camp Liberty, Iraq. *Photo by Capt. Dan Tower*

Bottom Left: Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 6th Iraqi Army Regiment stand in formation during a ceremony to reaffirm their oath of allegiance to the Iraqi Government in September, 2006 at Camp Constitution, Iraq. *Photo by Sgt. Raul Montano*

Center Right: Maj. John Culberson, Commander of Company A, 412th Civil Affairs Battalion (left) and Maj. Jason Kirk, executive officer of 40th Engineer Battalion, discuss security concerns with Iraqi contractors in Iraq. *Photo by Capt. Matthew Holbrook*

Bottom Right: Spc. Jason Coles of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 40th Engineer Battalion, provides security from atop his Humvee during a Mansour District Advisory Council meeting in Baghdad. *Photo by Capt. Matthew Holbrook*





Soldiers Helping Soldiers

Story by 1st Lt. Matthew DeWitt

Soldiers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, conducted a joint clearance of suspected Anti-Iraqi Forces safe houses on 25 September, 2006 in the Hurriya district of Baghdad. The operation came after Company D, 4th Battalion, 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division took small arms fire from several directions while on patrol in the area. 4th Platoon, of Company A moved to reinforce the Iraqi Army Company who were in contact. After several fierce minutes of fighting, the insurgent forces fled into surrounding houses.

“It’s difficult to know where to shoot. [Anti Iraqi Forces] hide, spray a few rounds, run, hide again and spray some more. Luckily they can’t aim,” said 4th Platoon Leader 2nd Lt. Dan Futrell.

IA Soldiers from Company

D, found 4 AK-47s, 1 RPK Machine Gun, and 1 Rocket Propelled Grenade launcher in one of the houses. Although locals

said it has been abandoned for months, the house showed signs of recent activity.



Top: Soldiers from the 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division and Company A, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment provide security during a mission in the Baghdad neighborhood of Hurriya. *Photo by 1st Lt. Matt Dewitt*

Bottom: Soldiers from the 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division provide security during a mission with Company A, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment in the Baghdad neighborhood of Hurriya. *Photo by 1st Lt. Matt Dewitt*



For most States, you **MUST** be registered to vote to participate in the November 7th general election!

To register, visit www.fvap.gov for:

State-specific rules on registration and absentee ballot request
 IVAS 2006: Electronic alternatives to the postal mail absentee voting process

- Absentee voting news and information

Get involved and **VOTE** in the upcoming election!



Legion of Doom

Story by 1st Lt. Douglas Healy

While half of the Company left for Forward Operating Base (FOB) Justice to act as the security force, the rest of Company B, 141st Signal Battalion, remained in Camp Liberty, Iraq. Playfully known as the “Legion of Doom,” these Soldiers fill their time with a myriad of duties; from guarding the Liberty Village, monitoring the Morale Welfare and Recreation and Gym facilities on East Liberty, to basic support to the rest of the company.

The Liberty Village is the home of the local national translators that assist all units with

their mission outside the camp. Company B was tasked to not only protect the FOB and the American Soldiers, but also to safeguard and protect these translators. The Soldiers on guard duty not only provide security for the translators but also help solve other problems that they face daily such as changing burned out light bulbs, broken air conditioners, and closing of the all latrines at cleaning times. The sergeants of the guard and their Soldiers have learned how best to handle these situations quickly and efficiently. The detail also

monitors the MWR and Gym on East Liberty where they ensure that all Soldiers who utilize those facilities are authorized to enter. The rest of the company that is not on guard provide the basic life support activities that keep the company running. Not only do they provide the necessary supplies, maintenance, personnel actions, and



Spc. Kate Leuthauser of Company B, 141st Signal Battalion, signs out Interpreters at the Liberty village on East Liberty. Photo by 1st Lt. Douglas Healy



Spc. Kenneth Cunningham of Company B, 141st Signal Battalion, signs out Interpreters at the Liberty village on East Liberty.. Photo by 1st Lt. Douglas Healy

manpower for various random duties, but they remain in constant contact with the rest of the Company at FOB Justice. This contact keeps supplies, information, and personnel actions flowing, and supports the rest of the company with transactions and supplies they can not get on their own. The “split” in company operations has been a limited hindrance due to the constant information and communications flow. Signal continues to keep the information and support flowing!





Gators Conduct Operation Relentless Hunt

Story by Maj. Jeff Grable

The ongoing efforts to secure Baghdad and prevent violence came to the south Baghdad district of Risalah recently.

Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, or Task Force Gator, conducted Operation Relentless Hunt during the first week of September. The Task Force operation was carried out in support of Multi National Division – Baghdad's Operation Together Forward and combined the efforts of both Iraqi and Coalition forces. The Risalah district of Baghdad has been the scene of many acts of violence as the terrorists attempt to destabilize the mostly mixed area. The operation, conducted by the Soldiers of Task Force Gator, came as a welcomed surprise to the residents of Risalah who desire peace in their district.

In the early morning hours of September 9th, over 500 Iraqi and Coalition Soldiers cordoned off a densely populated four square kilometer area that is inhabited by over 10,000 people. The Soldiers conducted three days of clearance operations by methodically searching everything within their objectives. The search teams from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, and Company C, 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regi-



Sgt. Joel Hamilton from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment uses a density detector during clearance of Objective Risalah in Baghdad during Operation Relentless Hunt. *Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Johnson*

ment (Stryker), descended upon the area and left no stone unturned or corner overlooked. Every Soldier was on the prowl to confiscate illegal weapons and contraband in order to secure the focus area and prevent the violence that could potentially spread into neighboring districts. Over a period of three days Task Force Gator confiscated 15 AK-47 automatic rifles, 18 pistols, 5 bolt action rifles, 5 Rocket Propelled Grenade (RPG) launchers, 18 RPG rounds, 5 rockets, 1 mortar tube, and numerous ammunitions and explosives.

In order to hold the area, Soldiers from both HHC, and 704 Support Battalion emplaced concrete

barriers that encompassed the entire area. Two points along the perimeter of the focus area were selected due to the suitability as Entry Control Points (ECP) allowing the Iraqi populace to enter in and out, but prevent the smuggling of illegal weapons essentially turning the focus area into a gated community. The Soldiers of Co. B, 40th Engineer Battalion, were responsible for the construction of the ECP, which involved the movement and emplacement of a total of over 100 tons of concrete barriers. The Task Force's civic action plan has led to the removal of large amounts of trash that serve to beautify the area, and employ the Iraqis who are contracted to execute the pick-up and hauling away of the rubbish.

Operation Relentless Hunt continues for the Soldiers of Task Force Gator as they maintain an overwatch of the focus area. Every Soldier in the Task Force is proud of what they are accomplishing in Baghdad during this pivotal time for the Iraqi people. This is seen everyday in the friendly smiles and greetings from the residents of Risalah.



Weapons found and confiscated by Soldiers from 2nd Brigade, 6th Infantry Regiment after conducting Operation Relentless Hunt in the Risalah district of Baghdad. *Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Johnson*

Top Left: Sgt. Joshua Zimmerman and Spc. Adam Nolte of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, lock and load prior to departure from Forward Operating Base Justice on a security mission. *Photo by Capt. Brian Gerber*



Top Right: Spc. David Whidbee of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, fires an M249 Squad Automatic Weapon at a range in Forward Operating Base Justice, in northern Baghdad. *Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey*



Middle Left: Staff Sgt. Jesse Sample of Troop H, 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, pulls security on a street corner in Baghdad, Iraq. *Photo by Spc. Benjamin Kolar*



Middle Right: 1st Lt. Jon Chychota (left) and Staff Sgt. Travis Parker (right) provide security during a mission in Western Baghdad. Both are from Company E, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment. *Photo by 1st Lt. Nate Rawlings*



Bottom Left: Cpl. Christopher Meyer, Troop H, 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, provides cover for his crew while dismounted in a neighborhood in Baghdad, Iraq. *Photo by Spc. Benjamin Kolar*



Bottom Right: Cpl. Ryan Meador of Company A, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, pulls security during a leaders engagement held in Baghdad, Iraq. *Photo by 1st Lt. Robert Murray*



What's in a Patch?

1st Armored Division

The 1st Armored Division's commitment to the civic and military values for which "Old Ironsides" has been renowned for half a century (patriotism, discipline, readiness, self-sacrifice, combined arms cooperation, shock action, decisiveness, and generosity in victory) remains relentlessly strong today.

The distinctive insignia of the 1st Armored Division is drawn in bold colors characteristic of the division. The insignia is designed from the triangular coat-of-arms of the American World War II Tank Corps. The yellow, blue, and red colors of the shoulder sleeve insignia represent the combined arms nature of the armored division (Armor, Infantry, and



Artillery).

Superimposed on the triangle is the insignia of the former Seventh Cavalry Brigade (Mechanized), the predecessors of the Old Ironsides. The tank track represents mobility and armor protection, the gun denotes firepower, and the chain of lightning symbolizes speed and shock action. Mobility, firepower, and shock action are the basic attributes of Armor.

The Arabic numeral in the apex of the triangle indicates the First Armored Division. The nickname of the division, officially sanctioned by the Department of the Army is emblazoned under the triangle and is an integral part of the insignia.



Left: Pvt. Kent Eaton, from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, conducts training while assisting in medical duties in Baghdad, Iraq. *Photo by Spc. Adam Nolte*

Right: Soldiers of Company A, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, conduct a joint patrol with the Iraqi Police. *Photo by 1st Lt. Robert Murray*

What Do *YOU* Think?

“What Would *You* Like Your Families to Know About Life in Iraq?”



SGT Brett Bussell,
Co. A, 1-22 IN

“That it is very hot out here and that I have lost a lot of weight and I have made a lot of new friends here in Alpha Company.”



SGT Devon Duncan,
Trp. H, 8-10 CAV

“It’s good to learn about a new culture.”



SGT Matthew Power,
HHC, 40th EN

“It was long and arduous, but well worthwhile.”



SGT Aaron Winegar,
HHC, 1-23 IN

“It is not as bad as the media portrays it.”



SFC Steven Bronson,
HHD, 47th FSB

“Life in Iraq is tough yet sustainable. We are making a difference in giving the Iraqi people hope and freedom.”

Next Week: “What Have *You* Liked Most About the Striker Torch?”

A view from a gunners perspective of a Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, during a patrol in Iraq. *Photo by Pfc. Julian Tamay*



STRIKER TORCH NEWS TEAM

2nd BCT Commander
Col. Robert E. Scurlock Jr.

2nd BCT Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Jose A. Santos

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