



The Striker Torch

Edition Thirty-One

September 17, 2006



Capt. Klaudius Robinson (left) and Staff Sgt. James Russell (right), both of Troop B, 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, pose for a photo in their Bradley Fighting Vehicle after conducting operations in Baghdad, Iraq.
Photo by 1st Lt. Gary Barney

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Front Page

Left: Spc. Michael Jensen of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, mans the gunners hatch while on a convoy in Baghdad. *Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey*
Middle: 1st Lt. Tatiana Nita of Company C, 47th Forward Support Battalion, hands out medicine to residents of the Baghdad's neighborhood of Ghazaliyah during Operation Together Forward. *Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey*
Right: Spc. Jeffery Fertitta of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 40th Engineer Battalion, mans his crew served weapon while performing duties as a vehicle gunner during a mission in Baghdad, Iraq. *Photo by Capt. Chris Eastburg*



Top Left: Thamer Hadi and Capt. James Nelson, from Company A, 412th Civil Affairs Battalion (attached to 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment), talk about ways to increase the quality and quantity of water to the people of the Khan Dari Nahia. *Photo by 1st Lt. James Spofford*

Top Right: Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, practice firing machine guns while on the move prior to leaving for a patrol near Forward Operating Base Justice, Iraq. *Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey*

Bottom Left: Spc. Nicholas Hensley, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, mounts an M2 .50 caliber machine gun on his Humvee prior to a mission at Camp Liberty, Iraq. *Photo by Capt. Dan Tower*

Bottom Right: Sgt. Ricardo Torchon of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, fires a shotgun at a range in Forward Operating Base Justice located in Northern Baghdad. *Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey*

Quote of the Week:
 - George S. Patton

“There is a time to take counsel of your fears, and there is a time to never listen to any fear.”





Capt. Jeanne Deden of Company C, 47th Forward Support Battalion offers medical advice to a mother and her child while assisting Iraqi army medical staff in providing care to the citizens of the southwestern neighborhood of Ghazaliyah . *Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey*



Coalition Medics Serve in Ghazaliyah

Story by 1st Lt. David Chapman

A medical operation was conducted at the Ghazaliyah Neighborhood Advisory Council building northwest of Baghdad. The combined MEDOP featured Iraqi and Coalition Forces medics and specialists that examined and helped many members of the Ghazaliyah community. The event, planned by members of the Ghazaliyah NAC, was designed to provide additional health care to the people of Ghazaliyah. The MEDOP was needed because Anti-Iraqi Forces often intimidate workers and clients of the local clinics, affecting their hours of operation and stealing medical supplies meant for the neighborhood's residents. This threat has kept many of the needy from receiving quality health care provided by the Ministry of Health.

"This event would not have been successful without the delicate coordination completed by the NAC," said Capt. Robert Callaghan, the 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment's Fire Support Officer, who is a key liaison to the NAC. "The Ghazaliyah NAC did a beautiful job coordinating with several different agencies in order to pull off the event on such short notice," said Capt. Matthew Pike, Commander of Company C, 1st Bat., 23rd Inf. Regt. The Ghazaliyah NAC coordinated with the Ministry of Health for medical professionals and supplies, and with the Iraqi Army for security and informing the citizens of the



Citizens of Ghazaliyah wait in line to be seen by Iraqi Army and Coalition Army medics and physicians at a recent Medical Operation held in the Baghdad neighborhood. *Photo by 1st Lt. Mark Miller*

Coalition Forces Committed to Medics

The Chaplain's Corner

Your fear level gives the best indication of your faith level. So just how fearful are you today? It's been said, "The greatness of our fears shows the littleness of our faith." The reverse is also true: "Great faith makes fear small."

It's been written that Alexander the Great once rode upon a beautiful, black stallion named Bucephalus. Originally, the horse was rejected by his father's court because of its temper; it lunged and kicked off every would-be rider.

Still, Alexander was taken by the horse's beauty and asked his father for the chance to ride him. Alexander suspected that the horse acted wildly because it was afraid of its own shadow. With this in mind, he

mounted and rode the horse directly into the sun. Sure enough, the horse calmed down and was soon galloping along peacefully. As a result, Bucephalus became



Alexander's prize stallion. Too often, fear is a shadow of our own invention. Though it lacks any real substance or power, fear can still frighten us into a state of emotional paralysis.

If we'd only turn into the light and embrace the truth of God's greatness.

When David was held hostage by the Philistines, he overcame fear with faith. Despite his life-threatening situation, David declared, "I trust in God. Why should I be afraid? What can mere mortals do to me?" (Psalm 56:4, NLT)

John echoes this confidence when he writes, "Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world." (1 John 4:4, NAS)

Because God's "The Greatest," it's foolish to fear anyone or anything other than Him. And because He lives in you, you can overcome any situation. The shadow of fear always fades in the light of that truth.

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

Coalition Medics - Continued from Page 3

event. Company C, 1st Bat., 23rd Inf. Regt., integrated with Iraqi Security Forces, provided additional security.

The event was almost overshadowed by Anti-Iraqi Forces resistance who threatened to target locals who would be attending the MEDOP. "The first hour was tense," said Staff Sgt. Sager, the Fire Support NCO for Company C. "The locals were hesitant to show at first, but after a while, it became a jovial event; families from all over central Ghazaliyah showed up—the children really seemed to enjoy the gifts handed out by Col. Shamel [The Commander of the Iraqi Army's 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 6th Division]."

The Iraqi Police also showed up during the event and were integrated into the MEDOP security plan by Col. Shamel. Maj. Kassem did final coordination at the last minute. "The Iraqi Police presence was very significant event," said

Capt. Pike, "many of the locals are scared of the police. Some acts of violence have been committed by insurgent forces posing in police uniforms." He smiled and continued, "This event showed the local people that the Iraqi Police are committed to the safety and security of Ghazaliyah." He grinned looking over the people attending the MEDOP, and the long awaited medical attention, "The people of Ghazaliyah are receiving medical attention now-- thanks to the hard work of the Ghazaliyah NAC, the Iraqi Security Forces, and the Iraqi Medical Staff."



Lieutenant Dhafer Aziz (right) of the 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, checks the blood pressure of a local man, during the Coalition sponsored medical event that brought medical care to the citizens of the southwest neighborhood of Ghazaliyah. *Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey*



SCORPION MWR

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

- Monday, 18 September:** Ping Pong Tournament
- Tuesday, 19 September:** Madden 2006 Tournament
- Wednesday, 20 September:** Texas Hold Em Tournament
- Thursday, 21 September:** Karaoke, Spades and Dominoes Tournaments
- Friday, 22 September:** 8 Ball Billiards Tournament
- Saturday, 23 September:** Oldies Night
- Sunday, 24 September:** Salsa Night and Air Hockey Tournament



From Fighting Fires to Fighting Insurgency

Story by 1st Lt. James Spofford

Back home in the desert of California, less than an hour away from each other, two Company D, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment Humvee drivers worked the same job, yet never knew each other. It's no wonder that these days, Spc. Eric Gustafson, the driver for the Company 1st Sergeant, and Spc. Roy Watson, driver for the Company Commander, are best friends. Even though they have different training; Spc. Gustafson is a Cavalry Scout, and Spc. Watson is a Chemical Operations Specialist, they each accomplish their mission with the utmost skill while adding levity to every situation.

Both men worked as Firefighters for the State of California before joining the Army. Spc. Gustafson, of Palm Springs and Spc. Watson, of Victorville, worked tirelessly to battle some of Southern California's worst forest fires. Even though they have fought the same blazes, they never met each other until being assigned to Co. D, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt. "I think that's why we have become such good friends over here. We had the same job in the same area. We can share the

experience of fighting some of the same fires," stated Gustafson. They have put their skills to the test at least once since deploying to Iraq. "We had a guy come up to us and tell us his house was on fire; when we got to his house, we realized part of his roof was smoldering, so we grabbed some water bottles and put it out," stated Watson.

Both men have aspirations of returning to Southern California when their deployment is over. Additionally, both would like to settle in their hometowns to be with their families, but they say they will stay close friends and probably both return to fighting fires. Gustafson says "It would be fun to fight fires with [Spc. Watson], especially after being deployed in Iraq together."



Top: Spc. Eric Gustafson of Company D, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment provides security in Baghdad, Iraq. *Photo by 1st Lt. James Spofford*

Bottom: Spc. Roy Watson (right) and Spc. Eric Gustafson, both from Company D, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment at Camp Liberty, Iraq. *Photo by 1st Lt. James Spofford*

Wear Your Seatbelt

The majority of serious injuries and fatalities caused during motor vehicle accidents are a direct result of not wearing seatbelts. Seatbelt use is mandatory, especially in a combat zone. If you are caught by the MPs, failure to wear your seatbelt will result in your vehicle being confiscated for 30 days. Non-use of seatbelts due to the seatbelt being



inoperative or not installed is not an excuse. In other words, if your seatbelt is broken, the vehicle is dead-lined until you either replace the seatbelt or receive authorization from the first O-6 in your Chain of Command to proceed with the mission. Follow proper procedures and

“Drive to Arrive!”



Left: Spc. David Whidbee, of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, loads a Squad Automatic Weapon prior to test firing and going on patrol near Forward Operating Base Justice, Iraq. *Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey*

Right: Sgt. Gary Brown, Bandit Troop, 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, pulls security behind his Humvee while conducting operations in Baghdad, Iraq. *Photo by 1st Lt. Gary Barney*





Preserving the Iraqi Fighting Force

Story by 1st Lt. Matt Ewens

Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment, have been teaching basic medical skills to Iraqi Security Forces in Ar Ramadi over the past several months. They have taught classes to the Soldiers of the 1st Brigade, 7th Iraqi Army Division and the Iraqi Police in order to improve their combat effectiveness.

One team of instructors, Cpl. Jon Andersen and Pfc. Wesley Parker, recently concluded a class with the Iraqi Army. The instructors typically show up an hour early with medical supplies and prep their equipment. They use an interpreter to help clarify questions and to communicate the names of the equipment, but the class revolves around the demonstrations.

Cpl. Anderson and Pfc. Parker begin by introducing themselves and teaching the first vital skill for the Iraqi Army Soldiers to learn: how to stop bleeding. They then began wrapping each other with Emergency Trauma Bandages, Kerlix and Ace Wraps to demonstrate the correct use of each type of bandage. The Iraqi Army Soldiers then got their turn to wrap injuries on their legs, arms and heads. Thanks to their previous military training, the Iraqi Army Soldiers are already familiar with the bandages. The instructors then shifted the focus of the class to the Combat Application Tourniquet which was relatively new to the Iraqi Army Soldiers.

Second, Cpl. Andersen and Pfc. Parker taught the best way to care for burns. One treatment for burns is to use Water-Jel, which the medics don't actually demonstrate. They instead talk through how to use the thick, gel-covered bandage on a burn victim. They do demonstrate that abdominal dressings can be soaked in water and lightly applied to burns if Water-Jel is not available.

They followed up their burn class with a block of instruction on broken limbs. Treatment for broken limbs is introduced by breaking out a moldable

SAM Splint. This ingenious device is soft yet rigid, so a broken arm can quickly be immobilized and slung across the body with a cravat.

The last major technique covered is treatment of a chest wound. Pfc. Parker demonstrated proper usage of the Acherman's Chest Seal, a device that helps cover an open wound and prevent further infection. He emphasizes that it probably won't stay attached to moist skin so tape will have to be applied. As a response to Iraqi Soldiers' concern they may not have that type of bandages, Pfc. Parker quickly demonstrates a field expedient equivalent using a square piece of plastic and some tape, leaving one end open for drainage.

As the class ends, the Iraqi Soldiers are more confident in their abilities. The learning does not stop at the conclusion of the class; Iraqi Soldiers can continue training with the additional medical supplies left by the instructors. At the end of the day, Cpl. Andersen and Pfc. Parker were happy to have had this opportunity. Pfc. Parker believes that, "The more training we can give to the Iraqi Army, the better they'll be at helping themselves."



Top: An Iraqi Soldier practices using an emergency trauma bandage at training conducted at Ar Ramadi, Iraq. *Photo by 1st Lt. Matt Ewens*

Bottom: Pfc. Wesley Parker (left) and Cpl. Jon Andersen (right) teach a class on the emergency trauma dressing to Soldiers of the Iraqi Army in Ar Ramadi, Iraq. Both Soldiers are members of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment. *Photo by 1st Lt. Matt Ewens*

Iron Soldiers Strike





Hard! Iron Brigade



Top Left: Staff Sgt. Aaron Graham, from Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, reports the status of a vehicle he recently searched in Baghdad, Iraq.

Photo by Spc. Jeremy Neece

Top Middle: Sgt. Joshua Cooper of Battery C, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, inspects his .50 caliber machine gun prior to a convoy at Camp Liberty, Iraq.

Photo by Sgt. Raul Montano

Top Right: Spc. Joshua Toth, of Troop C, 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry, sights down his M14 rifle during platoon operations in Ameriyah, a neighborhood in Baghdad, Iraq.

Photo by 1st Lt. Brian Murphy

Bottom Left: Spc. Kanin Palmer of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, stands guard during a patrol in the Baghdad neighborhood of Bakriya.

Photo by Sgt. Raul Montano

Bottom Middle: Sgt. Juan Objio of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, installs new filters for some of the Battery's M42 Chemical Masks at the Battery's command post on Camp Liberty, Iraq.

Photo by 1st Lt. Paul Radion

Bottom Right: Spc. Tyler McKinley from Battery B, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, Task Force Gator, pulls a security halt in West Rasheed during a night combat patrol. Photo furnished by Task Force Gator Public Affairs Representative



Reenlistment News and Options

There are several options available to Mid-term and Career Soldiers right now. Keep in mind that this information expires on the 30th of September, 2006.

Mid-Career Soldiers can reenlist for 2 years with up to 12 months of stabilization guaranteed. Soldiers between 18 and 24 months from ETS are eligible for this option. CONUS based Soldiers stabilization will start on date of reenlistment; OCONUS Soldiers stabilization will start on DEROS.

Career Soldiers in the rank of Staff Sgt. or above with a contractual ETS from 1 Oct 06 and beyond are restricted to extensions only, until the 30th of September. Periods of extensions will not exceed 23 months.

***If you have any questions or are thinking of reenlisting, talk to your unit career counselor.**



Capt. Michael Findlay (left), of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, congratulates Staff Sgt. Mark Schenk, also of HHT, after a re-enlistment ceremony at Camp Falcon, Iraq. *Photo by Capt. Dan Tower*



Redlegs Clean Up Ameriyah

Story by 1st Lt. Bryan G. Fanning

Battery A, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, was recently given the difficult task of cleaning up one of Ameriyah's dirtiest streets. Battery A, operationally controlled by 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, worked hand in hand with Iraqi contractors and local nationals to beautify al-Monadama, more commonly known as Route Spruce to Coalition Forces. Trash along this main avenue in Ameriyah is undesirable in two ways for American Soldiers, Iraqi Security Forces and the citizens of Ameriyah: First it is

a breeding ground for germs and disease, and second it provides perfect concealment for improvised explosive devices.

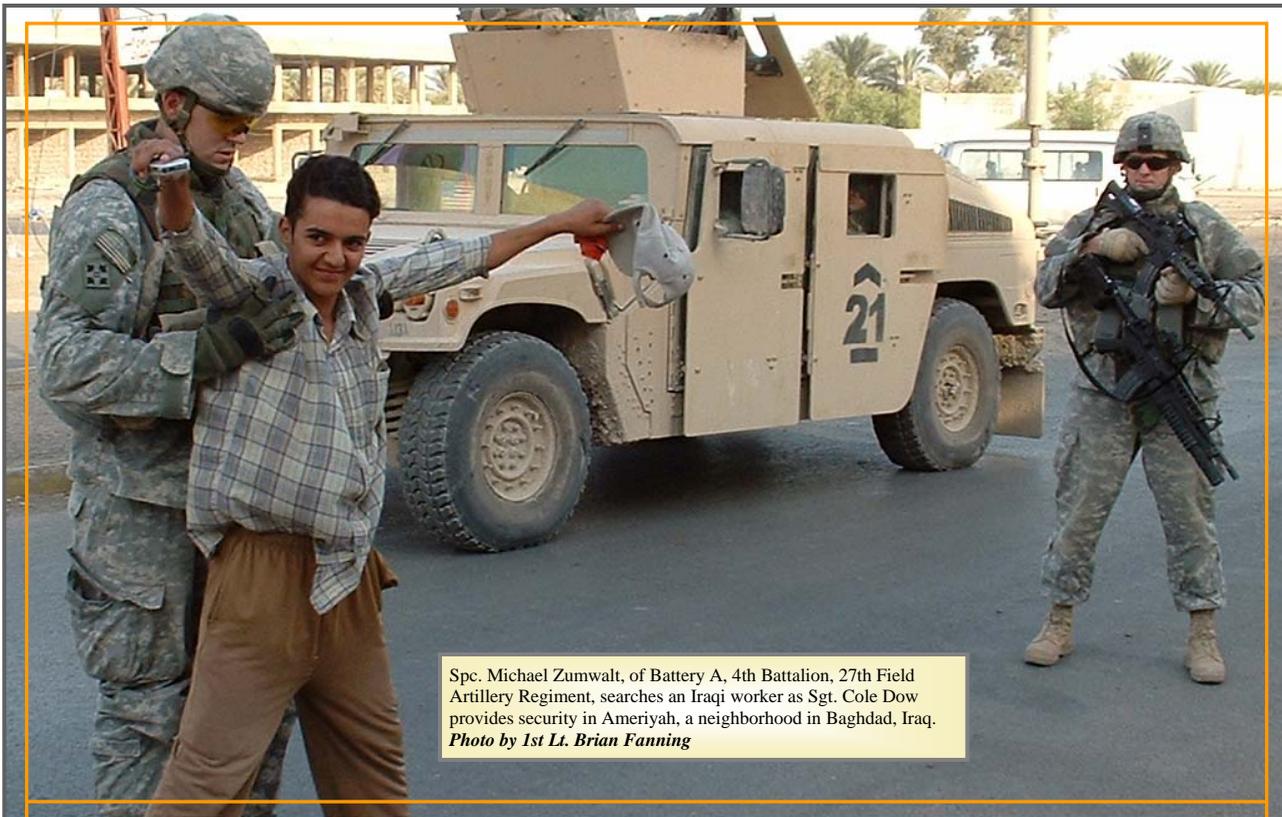
Lt. Col. Gian Gentile, commander of 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, saw this as an opportunity to better the lives of the citizens of Ameriyah, improve relationships with Iraqi citizens and security forces, and to protect his Soldiers. Instead of using his

Redlegs Clean Up - Continued on Page 9



Spc. Jerod Gott provides local security as Iraqi contracted workers clean the streets of Ameriyah, a neighborhood in Baghdad, Iraq. *Photo by 1st Lt. Brian Fanning*





Spc. Michael Zumwalt, of Battery A, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, searches an Iraqi worker as Sgt. Cole Dow provides security in Ameriyah, a neighborhood in Baghdad, Iraq.
Photo by 1st Lt. Brian Fanning

Redlegs Clean Up - Continued from Page 8

own assets, Lt. Col. Gentile turned to the local Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) and the residents of Ameriyah. By identifying and using a local contractor and local workers, this project provided much needed jobs to add momentum to the economic renewal that the local economy of Ameriyah is experiencing. Additionally, it allows Iraqis to take the forefront on a project to better their quality of life. Also, by providing security for local populace while they cleaned their streets, Soldiers of Battery A were able to interact with the general public in order to show their support for their neighborhood. This enabled the

Iraqi Army Soldiers and police to provide security in other much needed areas of Ameriyah. Lastly, Ameriyah's trash free streets allowed Soldiers from MND-B to move with greater freedom as they conducted their daily combat patrols.

Battery A's 1st Platoon, led by 1st Lt. Bryan Fanning and Sgt. 1st Class Charles Washington, was given the mission to provide security for the Ameriyah clean-up project. The enthusiastic clean-up crew worked tirelessly to police up all of the debris that has cluttered their neighborhood for many months. During the beautification project, word spread quickly as citizens began roaming the streets

and shop owners opened their businesses. The buzz created by this project has had a profound effect on the Ameriyah neighborhood by opening the eyes of Iraqis who were once skeptical of the abilities of their own people and American forces.

At the conclusion of the three day project, both the citizens of Ameriyah and the Redlegs of Battery A were left with a sense of accomplishment and pride. By participating in such an important mission, the Soldiers of Battery A and 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, were left with a feeling of accomplishment and pride that they will be able to reflect on for the remainder of their tour in Iraq.



Local Shop Owners Welcome Troops

Story by 1st Lt. Jason Blackston

Soldiers from Company B, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, along with a local Iraqi Police unit are conducting house-to-house searches in order to locate weapon caches and bomb-making materials in the Shula neighborhood of Western Baghdad. The searches are being conducted to find caches of weapons and the anti-Iraqi forces that use them to harm and intimidate the citizens of this western Baghdad neighborhood. The security situation has improved greatly in Baghdad, the

shops and businesses are starting to reopen in the city, and life is returning to normal.

1st Lt. Stewart Chapman, 2nd platoon leader, leads a mission along one of the main routes, searching storefronts and garages. "You can tell that the business owners are glad we are here by the way they greet us," said 1st Lt. Chapman.

At each business front, the owner of the shop meets Iraqi and American Soldiers with a smile and handshake, glad to assist in any way they can to

rid their neighborhood of the murderers and kidnapers that disturb the peace. "We only want peace," says one shop owner. "We do not want violence in the streets that kill our children." This is a sentiment that is echoed by many residents of this neighborhood, they are willing to work with the Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition Forces to root out those who would do harm to others.

While a mixed squad of Iraqis and Americans search a

Local Shop Owners - Continued on Page 11

INFOSEC IS EVERYONES' BUSINESS!



Consolidate classified material in an area away from unclassified material. Burn bags are good method to accomplish this mission.



Shredding secret documents is a fast way to destroy classified material. However, if the shredder is not a cross-cut DOD approved shredder, then the shreds MUST be burned.



Burning secret documents is the best way to destroy classified material. Soldiers must ensure that the documents being destroyed are completely burned.





A Stryker armored vehicle from Company B, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment patrols the streets of a city south west of Baghdad, Iraq. Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey

Local Shop Owners - Continued from Page 10

bakery, they are offered freshly made bread, right out of the oven. "This bread is really good," says Specialist Jonathan Shallow, who is a forward observer attached to the platoon for this mission. Specialist Shallow has been in the Army for only two years, and like many of his fellow Soldiers, this is his first tour in Iraq. They return the generosity that has been shown to them, many of the Soldiers give

pieces of candy or other items to the kids that gather out of curiosity.

During this mission, no weapons or contraband are found. When the patrol reaches

the designated stop point, the Soldiers climb back into their Strykers for the ride back to base. They wave to the Iraqi soldiers as they head toward their own base.

As for the citizens of Shula they had met earlier that evening, everyone feels a bit safer knowing that the Coalition Forces and Iraqi Security Forces are dedicated to the safety of every citizen in this neighborhood, as well as all the neighborhoods in Baghdad.



A local shop in Shula, a western neighborhood in Baghdad that has been reopened after improved security in the neighborhood. Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey

What's in a Crest?

Ist Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment

The Regimental Crest of the Twenty Third Infantry is symbolized by a shield with the colors white and blue. Service in Alaska is portrayed by the totem pole with the Russian Bear, the old owner, and the American Eagle, the new owner, with a place between them denoting the feast given the eagle by the Bear. The totem pole is encircled by the French Fourragere, a unit decoration presented the Regiment for service during the First World War.



The Maltese Cross represents the Civil War Fifth Corps with which the 23d Infantry served in the Army of the Potomac. Philippine service is denoted by the sea lion of the Pacific.

The distinctive of being the first American Regiment to circumnavigate the globe is indicated at the base of the shield by a globe and two steamships. World War I service and commemoration of the Mont Blanc campaign of October 1918, is shown by the outline in the lower half of the shield.

Legal Issues to think about when you redeploy

#3 Credit Report

When Soldiers return to home station, there are many things going on at the same time. As you begin to plan your redeployment, make sure to keep in mind that there are legal issues that need to be addressed when you return. In this 4 part series, we'll discuss some things you should do upon your return from the deployment.

Each year you are entitled to one free copy of your credit report. The official free credit report website is www.annualcreditreport.com. This is the ONLY website you should use. There are hundreds and perhaps thousands of websites that promise free

credit reports, credit counseling, and the ability to clean up, or increase your credit score. Unfortunately, there is only one official website, and use of any other website may result in hidden fees or services. As a Soldier, you are at high risk for identity theft. The U.S. military requires a social security number on nearly every official document. In addition, members of the military often move frequently, whether due to deployments or reassignments. As a result, it is very important to regularly check your credit report for inconsistencies and irregularities. Ordering a free credit report can assist in determining whether you

have been a victim of identity theft, whether your trusted agent is misusing an old Power of Attorney, or determine if you have been the victim of a lawsuit. Ordering a free credit report can be done online. It's easy and it's free. In some cases, you may be able to receive your credit report via e-mail. If you find anything unusual or need help reading your credit report please stop by the Legal Assistance Office.

Next week, how to avoid being "scammed" by salespeople will be discussed.



Ameriyah Comes Back to Life

Story by Spc. Joshua Ramey

Coalition Forces began clearing Baghdad's neighborhood of Ameriyah as part of Operation Together Forward recently. Since then, the neighborhood has seen many social and economic improvements, as the Iraqi army and Coalition Forces work to rid the area of terrorist violence. Most notably, shops are opening up, people are working, driving, and the neighborhood is coming back to life after being one of the most violent areas in Baghdad prior to the Iraqi-led security operation.

The combined military operation in the area includes civil service projects such as a large-scale trash cleanup, medical services, and a generally close working relationship with civilians, which all serve to prevent further terrorist attacks.

Staff Sgt. John Davis, of Company A, 412th Civil Affairs Battalion, works to coordinate projects meant to serve the people of Ameriyah. He said, "Many of the shops that were once closed have reopened, such as a butcher shop and a bakery. Main roads in the neighborhood are starting to look and feel like a neighborhood again and economic activity and employment has increased since the beginning of the operation."

Capt. Stacy Bare, also of Co. A, 412th CA Bn., said, "The whole idea of Operation Together Forward is to help the Iraqis restore a sense of normalcy to their lives. The projects we have been doing have been at the request of neighborhood stake holders and the local population themselves. The local government is leading the charge back to prosperity."

Spc. Zachary Gray, of Troop G, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 2nd BCT, often works as a security escort through the neighborhood of Ameriyah. He noticed, "The residents are quiet accustomed to Coalition Forces' presence in the area. The civilian population is not hostile to our intentions despite the necessity of blocking off roads and enforcing a curfew. During the day, Ameriyah is extremely busy."



Top: Vendors from Baghdad's neighborhood of Ameriyah sell goods as part of a new trend of economic growth in mid-September. *Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey*
Bottom: Iraqi civilians from Baghdad's Ameriyah neighborhood move recently purchased furniture into their vehicle. *Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey*

What Do YOU Think?

"What do you think everyone can do to improve safety?"



Spc. Sean Eric Wilson,
HHC, 1-23 IN

"I think we can improve safety by prior to missions conducting rehearsals and going over contingency plans."



Spc. Michael Rajj,
Trp. A, 8-10 CAV

"Doing the right things and focusing on what we are supposed to. That will keep us alive."



Spc. Keith Rogers,
Co. B, 47th FSB

"Properly PMCS your equipment so it's safe to take out on missions."



Spc. Sean Smith,
Trp. C, 8-10 CAV

"Do your PCC's and PCI's before you go out on mission. Always have muzzle awareness."



Spc. Desmond Politini,
Co. A, 1-23 IN

"Always having situational awareness. Always being vigilant and never letting your guard down."

Next Week: "What do you do to relax when you're not out on missions?"



Members of Team A, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, Task Force Regulars, participate in a foot patrol in Jazeera, Iraq. *Photo by Capt. Kyle Marcrum*

STRIKER TORCH NEWS TEAM

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This Edition can also be found online at
<http://www.1ad.army.mil/2BCTNewsletters.htm>

**We are looking for any type of submissions to include:
letters, articles, comic strips or artwork, and photographs.**

If you would like a copy of this issue please contact your Battalion UPAR

- | | | |
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