



The Striker Torch

Edition Thirty-Four

October 8, 2006



Sgt. Corey Tucker, of Company A, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, pulls security near an alleyway during Operation Half Nelson where Soldiers worked with local Iraqis to gather information on terrorist activities in Baghdad's Hurriyah neighborhood on October 4th. *Photo by Sgt. Raul Montano*

What's Inside?	Securing Al Dora	Baghdad and Back Again and Again	Tennessee Titans Support TF Ram	Delta Forward Support Troop	The Iron Thunder COIC	A Forward Logistics Element in Ramadi	Deployed Soldier Gets "Adopted"
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Front Page

Left: Spc. Jason Coles of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 40th Engineer Battalion, discusses the placement of Iraqi and Coalition forces with Iraqi Policemen during a counsel meeting in the Baghdad neighborhood of Mansour. *Photo by 1st Lt. Ryan Cleary*
Middle: Spc. Willard Peterson from Company E, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, tests out a newly constructed Iraqi Army guard tower in Western Baghdad. *Photo by 1st Lt. Nate Rawlings*
Right: Spc. Patrick Drake, of Company A, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, sweeps an area looking for possible enemy threats during Operation Half Nelson. The operation allowed U.S. Soldiers and Iraqi army soldiers to interact with residents of Baghdad's Hurriyah neighborhood and gather information of terrorist activity. *Photo by Sgt. Raul Montano*



Quote of the Week:
 - General Russell E. Dougherty
 "The issue is not war and peace, rather, how best to preserve our freedom."

Top Left: Spc. Elliot Stewart, assigned to 2nd Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, kneels next to a weapons cache that his platoon found. *Photo by 1st Lt. Robert Murray*
Top Right: Soldiers of Battery C, 4th Battalion, of the 27th Field Artillery Regiment, look to their Battery First Sergeant, 1st Sgt. Jim Cabrera as they receive a convoy brief before a long operation out in Baghdad, Iraq. *Photo by 1st Lt. Bryan K. Stephens*
Bottom Left: Maj. Huy Luu, a surgeon from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, explains to a local Iraqi woman how to take medication provided during a medical clinic held in Baghdad's Ghazaliyah neighborhood. *Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey*
Bottom Right: Soldiers of Company A, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, clear a building during Operation Half Nelson, where Soldiers worked with the Iraqi army and local citizens to gather information on terrorist activity in Baghdad's Hurriyah neighborhood. *Photo by Sgt. Raul Montano*





Pfc. Jason Beatty, of Company B, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, interacts with the children of the Al-Doura district of Baghdad. *Photo by Capt. Jose Nunez*



Securing Al Dora

Story by 1st Lt. Marko Kostovic

Company B, “Blackjack,” of 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, Task Force Gator, along with Iraqi Police, continued searching homes and providing safety within Baghdad’s neighborhood of Al Doura. Recently, the Soldiers constructed checkpoints – a key component of the widely publicized mission, Operation Together Forward. The Blackjacks managed to seize many unau-

thorized weapons, detain Anti-Iraqi Forces, and even make new friends. In one of the most successful search missions, Iraqi Police led the way in detaining insurgents in the area as well as discovering large weapon caches.

In the Al Doura focus area, local shop owners usually did not open during the week especially if there were rumors of criminals in the area. However, after the

Blackjacks finished their operations with the Iraqi policemen, shops were open, patrons were sitting outside tea shops and cafes, and a furniture shop was even showcasing its goods outside. Meanwhile, the local policemen continued their sweep of the area, with the support of Blackjack Soldiers.

When asked about their recent success, an Iraqi police officer stated, “It is a

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The Chaplain's Corner

Some people have to get in the last word, but even more important are the first ones.

Writer William Carter tells about a radio station that ran a contest a few years ago. Disc jockeys invited listeners to tune their clock radios to FM 106 then call the station and report their first spoken words of the day. Each day the third caller won \$106.

The first morning, caller number three said his first words were "Do I smell coffee burning?" Another day, a sleepy voice said, "Oh no, I'm late for work." Another caller said her first words were, "Honey, did I put out the dog last night?" A muffled curse was heard in the background, and a male voice said, "No, you didn't."

One morning the DJ asked the third caller for his first words and a

voice with a Bronx accent said, "You really want to know?"

"Yes, sir!" replied the DJ.

The Bronx voice responded, "Shema, Israel ... Hear O Israel, the



Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might."

After an awkward moment of silence, the DJ said, "Ah, sorry, wrong number," then cut to a commercial. (Taken from William G. Carter, *No Box Seats In The King*, CSS Publish-

ing, Lima, Ohio, 1996).

Obviously that DJ didn't know that those are the first words of the day for every pious Jew. Every day they apply Moses' command to put God commands "on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." (Deuteronomy 6:4-7, NIV)

Like the devout Jew, when you make God's words your first words of the day, you're guaranteed they'll be your best words as well.

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

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crime to let these cowards hurt the innocent people of Al Doura. It remains our mission to ensure the safety of the people and continue to defend the area against the insurgent activity at all costs."

1st Lt. Gregory Johnson, 1st platoon leader, said, "My guys have done an outstanding job in helping the Iraqi Security Forces do their part to secure Al-Doura. I think they know it helps to make our job a little easier."



A shop owner in the Al-Dora district who recently re-opened his business speaks with 1st Lt. Marko Kostovic and Staff Sgt. Erick Dealba, both of Company B, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, in Baghdad's neighborhood of Al Doura. *Photo by Capt. Jose Nunez*





Baghdad and Back Again and Again

Story by 1st Lt. James Spofford

Spc. Christopher Ashworth, of Slidell, Louisiana, first deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in April 2004 with the 1st Cavalry Division. While preparing to redeploy home from Baghdad, he made a decision to come back to Iraq with the 4th Infantry Division.

While in Baghdad with 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment from the 1st Cavalry Division, Spc. Ashworth re-enlisted with the goal of returning to Baghdad soon with the 4th Infantry, specifically 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment. It was a decision he made for himself, as well as those he serves with. "I figured since I had a lot of good knowledge of enemy Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures from my first deployment I would be better prepared to help others before and during our next one," said Spc. Ashworth, a tanker with First Platoon, Company

D, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt. The Soldiers of his platoon were the direct beneficiaries of his experience. "A lot of guys have been to Iraq before, but Spc. Ashworth had been so recently that it really helped out our platoon when we would talk about enemy tactics," said Spc. Scott Knox. Indeed, Spc. Ashworth has helped his platoon find numerous caches, roadside bombs and arrest insurgents.

Spc. Ashworth has requested to be placed back in his old unit, and to rejoin them in Baghdad just months after leaving Baghdad with 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt. Said Spc. Ashworth, "I wanted to be back with some of the guys from my first deployment and help them out the way I was able to help Red platoon out. Plus, what else am I going to do?"



Spc. Christopher Ashworth of Company D, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment holds an Iraqi child during a mission. Photo by 1st Lt. James Spofford

Bonuses are back effective 1 October 2006. Keep in mind that some Military Occupational Specialties will not be eligible for bonuses in Germany. If you have any questions about reenlistment, be sure to see contact your unit career counselors. They can let you know exactly what is available to you. See your Career Counselor today!!



Capt. Brian Cozine (left) congratulates Spc. Jesse Garcia, (right) both of Company A, 47th Forward Support Battalion, after a reenlistment ceremony at Camp Ramadi, Iraq.
Photo by 1st Lt. Seth Norman



Tennessee Titans Support TF Ram

Story by Capt. Matthew Holbrook

The 40th Engineer Battalion received support and well wishes from a high profile organization. Task Force Ram personnel received a package on Thursday from the Tennessee Titans, a National Football League team. The Titans, based out of Nashville, Tennessee, provided the Soldiers several practice balls, programs, posters, stickers, and hats. The Titans, who are known for their community outreach programs and support for the military, also sent well wishes and a note of support from their public relations manager Mr. Allen Barrett. Aside from showing support for the troops, the package also helped the Soldiers organize intra-battalion morale football games.

The initial idea to contact the Titans came from Cpl. Kevin Ward of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 40th Eng. Bn.'s Maintenance Platoon who had a goal of establishing a football league and having each team sponsored by an NFL team from the team captain's home town. The Tennessee Titans came through quickly, sending the care packages recently.

Once word spread of the package from the Titans, the Soldiers immediately put the footballs to use in a game of touch football between Headquarters and Headquarters Company's Maintenance platoon and Administration and Logistics platoon. The Maintenance Platoon, led by quarterback Staff Sgt. Daniel Montano, de-

feated the admin. platoon 21-7 in a game destined to become a Task Force Ram rivalry. The following day, the officers of the battalion gathered to make use of the equipment during their weekly Physical Fitness session, with all the officers splitting into 2 teams. When the game was over, the team led by Lt. Col. William Graham was victorious; the final score of the game was 28-21.

This simple gift from a team already very busy with the new NFL season may not seem like much, but for the Soldiers of the 40th Engineer Battalion, just knowing they are supported back home has increased their morale and motivation. HHC administrative specialist Spc. Louis Lou-

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briel, of Hartford, Connecticut, commented, "It's really cool that a team that you watch on television every week would take the time out to show support for us, and to get an official ball that they've actually practiced with was really nice, even if I am an Eagles fan." In appreciation for their support for his Battalion, Lt. Col. William Graham, Task Force Commander, sent the Titans a Certificate of Appreciation.

The Rams perform operations in a dangerous environment, clearing the streets of Baghdad. Assigned the missions of Explosives Ordnance Disposal, Route Clearance, Civil Military Operations, and Personal Security, Task Force Ram has responded to clear over 150 Improvised Explosive Devices, disposal calls, removed thousands of rounds of ammunition and hundreds of pounds of IED making materials off the streets, discovered 50 Improvised Explosive Devices, provided oversight for over \$2 million worth of



Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 40th Engineer Battalion, display items given to them in a care package from the Tennessee Titans at Camp Liberty, Iraq. Photo by Staff Sgt. Christy Lewis-McGadney

Iraqi infrastructure repair projects, captured several wanted criminals, and installed hundreds of force protection barriers around several Baghdad neighborhoods all in the course

of two months in Iraq. The Engineers of Task Force Ram work very hard, and now with the help of the Tennessee Titans, they can play hard too.

Drive to Arrive!

The majority of fatal accidents involve some or all of the following four contributing factors: Speed, Fatigue, Alcohol, and not using seatbelts.

Speeding is normally caused by poor planning, inattention to detail, or thrill seeking. Plan out your schedule and program sufficient time for travel. Intentionally racing on public roads is illegal. Not only are you breaking the law, but you are putting yourself and others at risk. It is not worth the cost!

Everybody knows that falling asleep at the wheel is dangerous. Fatigue does not necessarily mean falling asleep at the wheel. Fatigue slows your reaction time, limiting your ability to respond to events. Avoid leaving for long trips at the end of the duty day. Ensure that you are well

rested prior to beginning your travel and share the driving whenever possible.

Alcohol reduces your response time, increases fatigue and affects your judgment. Your tolerance for alcohol has greatly diminished during the deployment. Even one drink will affect your ability to respond. Use a designated driver or take a cab. Getting behind the wheel after you have been drinking is a risk you can't afford.

Seatbelt use is mandatory; there should be no question on whether or not to wear one. As you get back behind the wheel, remind yourself that even though you made it home, it can still be dangerous. Use basic precautions and drive to arrive!





Delta Forward Support Troop

Story by Capt. Gilberto Escobedo

Under the darkness of night, the Combat Logistical Patrol (CLP), from Delta Forward Support Troop, 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, leaves the secure walls of Camp Liberty on a long journey of night operations in Ameriyah or along Route Irish. With night vision goggles and the illumination of the moon the CLP maneuvers through the unimproved roads, narrow streets, and check points of the muhallas to avoid being detected. Delta Forward Support Troop (FST) strikes at night emplacing concrete barriers along the most dangerous streets of Ameriyah and along Route Irish, in

order to deny freedom of maneuver to the enemy.

“Ride or Die” is the motto as the Soldiers of Delta Troop embark on another long journey to recover disabled vehicles day or night. The Soldier’s quick response and expert actions on the ground are inspiring. The FST’s weapons are the palletized load system (PLS), wrecker, forklift, and motivated Soldiers. The smile of the Soldiers can be seen miles away as they know they have accomplished another successful mission.



Soldiers of Troop D, 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment emplace Jersey barriers in a neighborhood in Baghdad, Iraq. *Photo by Capt. Gilberto Escobedo*

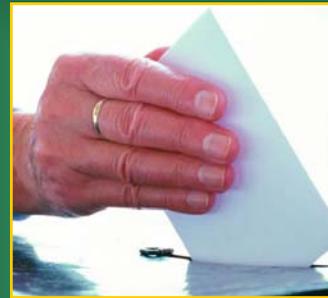
Delta FST- Continued on Page 9

He is Depending on YOU



To Remember **OPSEC!**

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.





Sgt. Justin Kinzey, of Troop D, 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, prepares to go on a humanitarian mission to the Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) building in Baghdad's Ameriyah neighborhood. *Photo by Spc. Amanda Oliver*

Delta FST- Continued from Page 8

These support Soldiers are as essential to the Armed Reconnaissance Squadron as the blacksmiths were to horse cavalry, over a century ago. There are no horses, mules, or wagons to maintain anymore, however, the blacksmiths (mechanics) work day and night caring for the most precious horses (Humvees or Bradleys) in the squadron's stable (motor pool). They do not wear Stetsons or Spurs to work; their uniform is only a one-piece jumpsuit (coveralls). Only the skillful art of maintenance and dedication to duty is what keeps the horses of the squadron galloping into the sunset. The day might be over for the blacksmith, but as the mechanic wipes the sweat from his/her face and cleans their greasy hands, another horse gallops into the stable for maintenance. Every day, Delta Troop's mechanics repair and replace en-

gines, transmissions, communication equipment and troubleshoot every vehicle. The day is filled with the most challenging maintenance problems ever seen. There are no maintenance issues too big or too small for Delta's mechanics to handle.

The wagon train (distribution platoon) stages inside the fortified walls of Camp Liberty waiting for the Cavalry to secure the dusty trails of Baghdad, Iraq. The wagons (PLS) are loaded with concrete barriers or classes of supplies. The cavalry distribution platoon Soldiers understand the danger they face going outside the gate, yet their willingness, initiative, and sharp focus are key to a safe and successful mission. The trails are full of booby traps and unexpected visitors. The mighty cavalry Soldier gallops to the rescue on his or her Iron Horse (HEMTT Wrecker or M88) to recover the dis-

abled vehicle in the alleys and streets of Baghdad.

The day is not over as the Delta FST cooks trade their aprons, pots, and pans to be part of the personnel security detail for the Squadron Commander, Delta Troop Commander or the female search team. The female search teams embark on a journey every night to search Iraqi females for contraband of weapons or explosives in homes or in automobiles. The female search team's success has contributed to the detention of two high value Iraqi females. The ability of the Troop to support the Squadron mission is due to the hard and skillful work of the Desperado Soldiers.

The Soldiers of Troop D are combat logisticians, but in the eyes of the 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, they are known as Cavalry Soldiers.

Top Left: Staff Sgt. Donald Anderson from 2nd Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, hands out backpacks, soccer balls, and t-shirts to children in Baghdad, Iraq. *Photo by 2nd Lt. Christopher Loudon*

Top Right: 1st Sgt. Joseph Glass (left) looks on as Staff Sgt. Jesse Sample (center) promotes Pvt. Andrew Adams (right) to the rank of Pfc. at Camp Liberty, Iraq. All Soldiers are members of Headquarters Troop, 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment. *Photo by Staff Sgt. Joseph Garcia*

Center Left: Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 40th Engineer Battalion's Administration and Logistics platoon receive the Army Commendation Medal for service in Iraq from their Company Commander, Capt. Christopher Eastburg. *Photo by Capt. Matthew Holbrook*

Center Right: Sgt. Kevin Cabais from Service Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, downloads supplies into a cargo container. *Photo by 1st Lt. Phidel Hun*

Bottom Right: Spc. Bradley Williams of 2nd Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, pulls security while members of his platoon conduct a leaders meeting. *Photo by 1st Lt. Robert Murray*

Bottom Left: 1st Sgt. Nelson McLin (right) and Sgt. 1st Class Rodman Delasko (left), both of Company C, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, ensure a security perimeter is properly established during a medical operation assisting residents of Baghdad's Ghazaliyah neighborhood. *Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey*





Top Left: Spc. Christopher Cantu from Company E, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, provides security during a recent patrol in Western Baghdad. *Photo by 1st Lt. Nate Rawlings*

Top Right: Sgt. 1st Class Robert Warman of 2nd Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, leads a dismounted patrol. *Photo by 2nd Lt. Christopher Loudon*

Center Left: Spc. Brandon Bosley (right) from Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, recites the Oath of enlistment while Sgt. Devon Duncan (left) holds the American flag in the background at Camp Liberty, Iraq. *Photo by Staff Sgt. Joseph Garcia*

Center Right: An interpreter working for 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, explains how to take medication provided by the Government of Iraq's Ministry of Health. *Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey*

Bottom: Soldiers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, patrol the streets of Baghdad's Hurriyah neighborhood during Operation Half Nelson Wednesday. The Soldiers worked with the Iraqi army and local citizens to gather information on terrorist activity in the area. *Photo by Sgt. Raul Montano*

Submitting and Updating Your Security Clearance

This is what you will need to Submit or Update your clearance, keep in mind that you will need to list information from the last 10 years of your life, or since you turned 16 years old.

- Where you have lived for the last 10 years, including address and phone numbers. You will also need to list someone that you knew at each place, including their address and phone number.
- Employment Activities for the last 10 years, to include unit/employer supervisor information, and the address of your employer (including military). Each duty assignment will be another entry.
- Three personal references from the last 10 years, you must include full names, addresses and phone numbers for each reference.
- Family information, including address and phone numbers for parents and spouses.
- Negative information, including arrests and credit information for past due bills.
- Proof of U.S. Citizenship (only needed for new submittal), either your Birth Certificate or Naturalization paperwork.
- Fingerprints (only needed for new submittal).

Maintaining good accountability of this information as you PCS, this will allow you to submit your clearance requests easily.



Top Left: A Soldier from Company A, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, hands a young Iraqi girl some candy while out on patrol. **Photo by 1st Lt. Robert F. Murray**

Top Right: Newly promoted Staff Sgt. Stephen Braccini (left), Sgt. Johnathon Axtman (center), and Spc. Victoria Miller (right), all of Troop D, 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, at Camp Liberty, Iraq. **Photo by 1st Sgt. Marcus Morrison**

Bottom: Spc. Wylie Anderson from Service Battery, Service Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, inspects his Humvee prior to a mission. **Photo by 1st Lt. Phidel Hun**





The Iron Thunder COIC

Story by Capt. James Collado

Since arriving in Baghdad, Iraq, the 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment has had the responsibility of running the 2nd Brigade Combat Team's Combined Operations and Intelligence Center (COIC). The function of the COIC is to serve as the brigade's single source for all things involving the Iraqi Security Forces, which include the local Iraqi Police Forces, the Iraqi National Police, and the Iraqi Army. The COIC also serves as the headquarters for all of the Military Transition Teams (MiTTs) operating in the brigade's area of operations (AO). The COIC is at the forefront of the long-term strategy of turning over more battle space to Iraqi units as they execute missions independently of and in conjunction with Coalition Forces. The COIC is part of the long term plan for Iraqis to take control of their country from the insurgents and militias that continue to disrupt Iraqi civil society.

The COIC is located in the former Iraqi Ministry of Intelligence building at Forward Operating Base Justice, which now serves as the headquarters of the 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division. Members of the COIC, work directly with Iraqi representatives from all Iraqi Security Forces in the 1st Bde., 6th, Iraqi Army Div. tactical operations center, as well as their MiTT counterparts to facilitate combined operations throughout the brigade's AO. For Staff

tween the Iraqis and Coalition Forces. Additionally, the COIC facilitates the briefing of monthly Training Readiness Assessments on the various Iraqi Security Forces for the Commanding General of 4th Infantry Division, Maj. Gen. James D. Thurman. The Training Readiness Assessments are used to assess how close Iraqi units are to becoming operationally independent.

For Sgt. Steven Bennett, a military intelligence analyst, working in the COIC with Iraqis has given him a broader perspective. "Being here and talking to the Iraqi officers and NCOs, I've come to find that all Soldiers have two basic missions in common: a safe and secure place for their families and themselves and that they will stop anyone that tries to prevent that from happening."

"Being here and talking to the Iraqi Officers and NCOs, I've come to find that all Soldiers have two basic missions in common: a safe and secure place for their families and themselves and that they will stop anyone that tries to prevent that from happening."

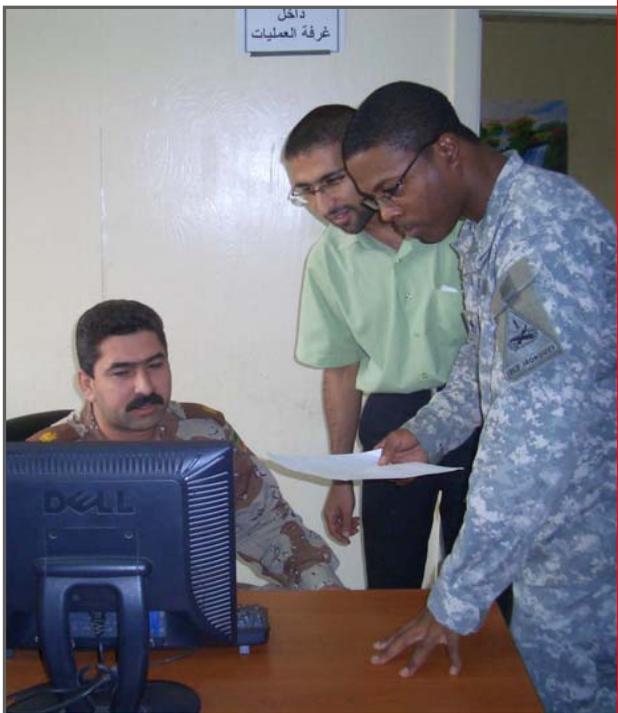
Sgt. Tyrone Hatcher, "The Iraqi Army Soldiers I've worked with are very cooperative and always anxious to gather and share information going on in their sector." The COIC also tracks Iraqi Security Force missions and helps coordinate combined operations be-

According to Spc. Frank Murillo, "Working in the COIC has been an exciting experience. The 12 hours a day in the COIC has allowed me an opportunity to make lasting friendships and gain a better understanding of the Iraqi lifestyle. It's fulfilling to know the

value of our work in Baghdad." Sensing the long term importance of their mission, Staff Sgt. Hatcher added, "It will be a joy to see the Iraqi Army's of 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division conducting joint operations with the

- Sgt. Steven Bennett
HHB, 4-27 Field Artillery Regiment

National Police and other divisions without Coalition Forces.



Staff Sgt. Tyrone Hatcher (right) of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery, discusses operations with Maj. Qais (left) of the 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division with the aid of interpreter Hussein Ali Abid al Jaburi (center). *Photo by Capt. James Collado*



A Forward Logistics Element in Ramadi

Story by Capt. Brian Cozine

It is another hot day in Ar Ramadi and Soldiers of 47th Forward Support Battalion prepare for another day of operations in support of 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division. The Forward Logistics Element (FLE) deployed in May in support of 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, and 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment.

The FLE is comprised of 38 different Military Occupational Specialties from all the companies in the 47th FSB. There are welders, medics, dental technicians, mechanics, ammo specialists, supply technicians, petroleum specialists, and water purification specialists, just to name a few of the key support personnel. Once deployed, the FLE can maintain its own internal support through its own administrative and organizational support, even its own security detachment.

Upon arrival to Ramadi, the FLE was split into two teams. One conducted their mission in Ar Ramadi, while the other was at Al Taqqadum airfield with the Company A, 501st FSB, 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division. To ensure that the best support was provided as far forward as possible, several Soldiers were even assigned to remote locations throughout the city of Ramadi.

While deployed to Ramadi, the FLE picked up several new requirements that were not expected. For example, the requirement for manning Heavy Equipment Transport systems to recover battle damaged equipment became a very high prior-



Staff Sgt. Lorraine Griffin of Company C, 47th Forward Support Battalion assists in a minor wrist surgery.
Photo by 1st Sgt. Vic Alvarez

ity tasking. Cross training Soldiers to operate the equipment became a top priority for Soldiers assigned to Company A, 47th FSB.

The 47th FSB Soldiers work extremely hard to ensure that all the Soldiers, Marines, Department of Defense Civilians and Iraqi Security Forces received un-interrupted support. In order to maintain this support, training was conducted to maintain Soldier proficiency. Small arms and crew served weapon ranges were conducted monthly. Additional

trauma and Combat Lifesaver training was conducted weekly to teach new lifesaving techniques.

One of the most challenging and rewarding missions for the FLE was the support to all the Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Iraqi Security Forces in the aid station. Soldiers from Company C, 47th FSB supported and saved the lives of Soldiers, Marines, and other Coalition Forces and helped the 1st Brigade successfully accomplish its missions.



SCORPION MWR

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

Monday, 9 October:	Ping Pong Tournament
Tuesday, 10 October:	NBA Live 2006 Tournament
Wednesday, 11 October:	Chess Tournament
Thursday, 12 October:	Karaoke, Spades and Dominoes Tournaments
Friday, 13 October:	9 Ball Billiards Tournament
Saturday, 14 October:	R&B Night
Sunday, 15 October:	Salsa Night and Air Hockey Tournament



Top Left: A Stryker vehicle from Company B, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment on its way to conduct a mission in Baghdad, Iraq. *Photo by 1st Lt. Jason Blackston*

Top Right: Sgt. Latavian Phipps and Pfc. Ryan Fizia from Company E, 1st Battalion 22nd Infantry Regiment stand in front of their fueler before heading out to Patrol Base Courage to re-supply Company A. *Photo by 1st Lt. Allen Hughes*

Bottom Left: Maj. Jon Culberson, commander of Company A, 412th Civil Affairs Battalion, discusses issues with members of the Mansour District Advisory Council. *Photo by 1st Lt. Ryan Cleary*

Bottom Right: Pfc. Courtney Washington from Company E, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, keeps focused on his job of feeding a company of Soldiers at Patrol Base Courage. *Photo by 1st Lt. Allen Hughes*



Deployed Soldier Gets “Adopted”

Story by Pfc. Stuart Smith

An Iraq deployment can be physically and emotionally draining. However, for one deployed Soldier, it just got a little bit easier thanks to his new Play Station Portable (PSP) he received from a stranger 7,000 miles away.

Pfc. Juan Antonio Limon, a twenty year old native of Houston, Texas, had been in the Army less than a year when his unit deployed. Assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, he had been a part of Operation Together Forward in Baghdad for only a month, but was already showing signs of a war-weary Soldier. His unit had arrived in the Iraqi capital in the middle of summer and the long patrols in the 120 plus degree heat were taking their toll. Then it happened, he received a letter.

The letter was from a young lady back in the United States. She was part of the “Adopt a Platoon Soldier Support Effort,” a non-profit organization designed to lift the spirits of service members overseas. The nationwide organization was founded in 1998 and is managed by volunteer mothers. AAP has organized many military support campaigns. Individuals get assigned an “adopted Soldier” and participate in programs ranging from “Operation Holiday Smile” to



Soldiers from Company B, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment conduct a meeting with Iraqi Army Soldiers prior to a mission during Operation Together Forward. *Photo by 1st Lt. Jason Blackston*

“Operation Underwear.” AAP has sent deployed Soldiers everything from snacks and toiletries to clothes and videogames.

Pfc. Limon’s first few letters were that of normal correspondence. Then the Squad Automatic Machine gunner received a special birthday surprise. He was sent a PSP with the game “Madden ’07.” “I was so excited! I never expected anything like that,” said the happy infantryman.

Since becoming the beneficiary of this charitable organiza-

tion, featured at www.adoptaplatoon.org, Limon has received approximately ten letters and five packages, in the two month span since his first letter, from young women all over the country. When asked about his benefactors, our cheerful Soldier responded that he cannot thank them enough.

“They make me feel good, like I’m not forgotten,” he said. Thanks to Adopt a Platoon, many deployed soldiers now feel the same.





Top Left: Capt. Brian Gerber (left), administers the Oath of Enlistment to Spc. Ryan Niziolek (left) on 8 October 2006. Both are from Headquarters Battery 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment.

Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey

Top Right: Spc. Jimmy Vazquez of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment installs a new spot light on his vehicle.

Bottom Left: Sgt. 1st Class Roger Peters (middle), a convoy commander for a Combat Logistics Patrol (CLP) for Service Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, inspects vehicle dispatches prior to departure from Camp Liberty to Forward Operating Base Justice, Iraq.

Bottom Right: Maj. Kyle Feger, operations officer for Task Force 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, pauses in the shadow of a minaret beneath the morning sun, and waits for Soldiers to catch up to him at Command Observation Point Eagles Nest in Ramadi, Iraq.



DOD Rules Regarding Downloading of Software

Make sure that you know what kind of software is on your government computer! Downloading and/or installing shareware or freeware software, and other non-approved executable programs (e.g., .EXE, .COM, .BAT, or script files) for non-Department of Defense approved functions is not permitted. This includes, but is not limited to, gaming software, file sharing software (KaZaA, Morpheus, Napster, BearShare, Gnutella, AudioGalaxy, Limeware, or Winmx), and instant messaging software such as AOL Messenger and Yahoo Messenger. Non-approved applications such as these use tremendous amounts of network bandwidth and have the potential of providing a gateway for malicious activity that could compromise our networks. Don't let the enemy have access to our networks and information; and use only approved software on your government computer.



Top Left: Spc. Robert Moret (right) stands by as 1st Sgt. Jim Cabrera (left) inspects his personal protective equipment, before a mission in Baghdad, Iraq. Both are from Battery C, 4th Battalion, of the 27th Field Artillery Regiment. *Photo by 1st Lt. Bryan K. Stephens*

Top Right: Staff Sgt. Timothy Bell, of Company A, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, talks with residents of Baghdad's Hurriyah neighborhood during Operation Half Nelson intended to gather information on terrorist activity. *Photo by Sgt. Raul Montano*

Bottom Right: 1st Lt. Nate Wilson, Platoon Leader, 3rd Platoon, Company D, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, takes a moment to play with some local children while out on patrol in Radwayniah. *Photo by Spc. Jonathan Rumsey*

Legal Issues to think about when you redeploy

One question that many Soldiers routinely ask is, what kind of souvenirs can I take home from my time in Iraq? General Order #1 and Multi-National Corps – Iraq have clear guidelines that describe what you can and can not take home with you.

The following are prohibited:

All weaponry whether operational or non-operational, this includes triggers, barrels, shells, receivers, rockets, rocket components, grenades, explosives, munitions, shell casings, primers, and projectiles. Any club type weapons, brass knuckles, blackjacks, or numchucks.

- No Switchblade knives or gravity knives.
- No Iraqi privately owned articles such as rugs, china, silverware, goldware, linens, furniture, or fixtures unless you have a purchase receipt for them.
- No objects of art, science, archeological, religious, national, or historical value.
- No personal items such as letters, family pictures, dog tags, or ID cards.
- No sand, dirt, rocks, stones, or gravel.
- No plants or animals to include mammals, fish, reptiles, or birds whether dead or alive. This includes body parts of such items.

Though you may not take any of the above items back with you as a war souvenir, you may take the following items with a letter from your commander.

- Helmets and head coverings, bayonets, uniforms, and uniform items such as patches and insignia.
- Canteens, compasses, rucksacks, pouches, and load bearing equipment.
- Flags, military training manuals, books and pamphlets.
- Posters, placards, and photographs.

You must have a completed CFLLC Form 603-1 in order to take any war souvenirs home with you. This form must be signed by your battalion commander and must accompany the item in question. If you have any questions as to whether or not you can take an item home with you please contact the legal NCOIC, Staff Sgt. Neal.



What's in a Patch?

2nd Infantry Division

The 2nd Infantry Division "Indianhead" patch is one of the most recognized unit emblems in the U.S. Army because of its distinctive design and 78 years of proud service by warriors.

The origin of the patch goes back to the earliest days of the division's history. While training with the French in 1917, Col. Herringshaw of the Service and Support Supply of the 2d Infantry Division Noticed that the French trucks were marked with symbols representing the unit which it belonged. He sponsored a contest among his men to design a symbol for his trucks. There were three winners: first prize winner was a design featuring an Indianhead; second prize went to a plain white star and the third prize is lost in history.

The Colonel was not completely satisfied and it is believed that, by chance, he combined the two sym-



bols of the white star and Indianhead and liked what he saw. Some theories say that the single star represents the state of Texas, while others claim the star is from the American Flag.

Regardless, the design was sent to the command headquarters for approval. Brig. General Omar Bundy, division commander, not only approved the symbol, but also ordered it put on his staff car. The size and shape of the patch changed in October 1918 when Maj. General John A. LeJeune, the new division commander, decided the color of the cloth behind each patch should represent the different divisional units. After World War I, the background of the patch was adopted from the design on the American Shield. In World War II, it finally took the shape, size and color it has today.

What Do *YOU* Think?

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



SPC Kathy Roy,
Trp. D, 8-10 CAV

“I like how it keeps the Soldiers updated about the weekly events.”



SSG Andrew Atwater,
HHC, 1-22 IN

“It’s very informative and does a great job covering the story of the Soldier.”



ISG Robert Beausoleil,
Co. B, 141 SIG

“It shows everyone the variety of elements that makes up our brigade and what they’re doing.”



SPC Tramania Allen,
HHC, 40th EN

“It gives the families back home a look at what we go through out here.”



SSG Michael Ewing,
Co. C, 1-23 IN

“It’s a great source of information.”

Next Week: “How Well Do *YOU* Think The Media Portrays The Environment In Iraq?”



Spc. Robert Moret of Battery C, 4th Battalion, of the 27th Field Artillery Regiment mans the .50 caliber machine gun on top of his Humvee as his convoy departs on mission in Baghdad, Iraq. *Photo by 1st Lt. Bryan Stephens*

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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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|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
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| 1-23 IN: Capt. Robert Callaghan | 40 th EN: Capt. Matthew Holbrook | 2-6 IN: Capt. Michael Cygan |
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