

Mechanics keep paratroopers rolling along

By Sgt. Marcus Butler
4-25 Inf. Public Affairs

KALSU, Iraq - A vehicle breakdown on a major U.S. highway is an inconvenience. A breakdown on a highway or by-way in Iraq can be life-threatening. For paratroopers with Company F, 725th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, being the oil for the gears and wheels is a way of life.

Company F is the maintenance section for the 3rd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment and is tasked with keeping the vehicles for the battalion mission capable.

"Our mission here is to train, deploy and employ a physically and mentally fit airborne forward support company, an FSC capable of providing maintenance, recovery and field feeding in direct support of the 3-509th PIR while maintaining combat power in an

Army at war," said Staff Sgt. Tim J. Shutters, the motor sergeant for Company F.

The structure of Company F, encompasses five major missions performed by the unit -- the shop office, recovery, maintenance, missile and communi-

cation.

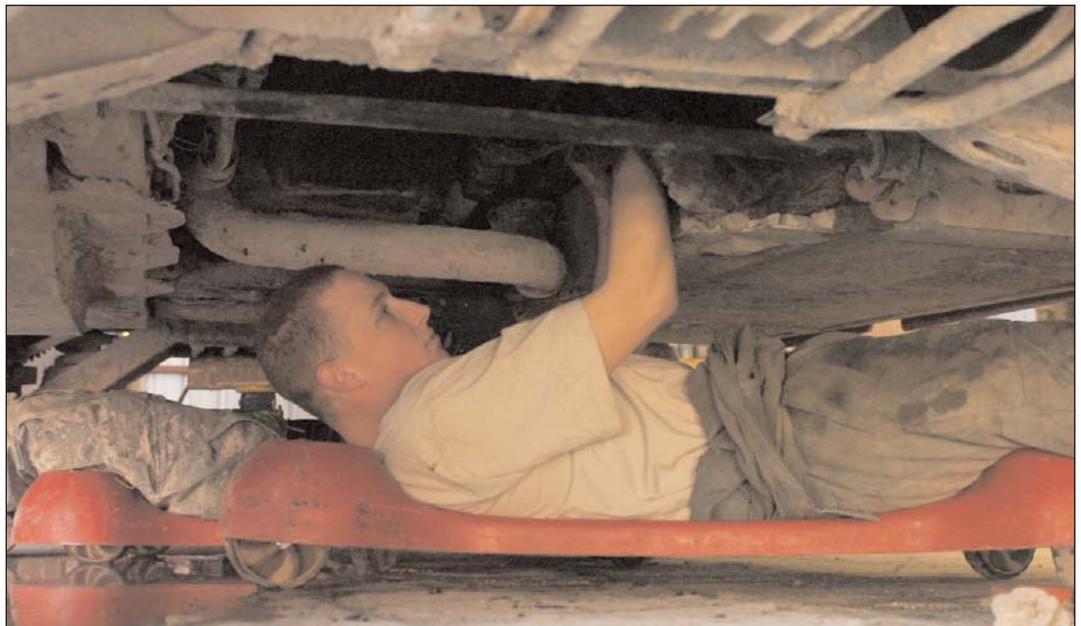
The shop office is the first stop that any maintenance problem or question goes through.

"The shop office is like the ring leaders of the entire FSC," said Shutters. "It is the help

desk counter. When a maintenance problem comes in, the shop office directs the traffic to the appropriate area."

Depending on the particular circumstances of the main-

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(Photo by Sgt. Marcus Butler, 4-25 Inf. Public Affairs)

Spc. Andrew Brough, from Pope Valley, Calif., works on the propeller shaft and transfer case which controls four-wheel drive for the vehicle.

Reserve Soldiers put civilian skills to work rebuilding Iraq

By Sgt. Paula Taylor
4-1 Cav. Public Affairs

MOSUL, Iraq-Soldiers of the U.S. Army Reserves 403rd Civil Affairs Battalion, Mattydale, N.Y., who are now attached to the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, have been working to help rebuild northern Iraq since their arrival here eight months ago.

Capt. Liane Dare, executive officer, A Company, 403rd Civil Affairs Reserves

Battalion, said her unit has about 130 troops assigned. Her company covers the eastern and southern Ninewa Province, including Mosul and Qayarah, while B Co. covers Tal 'Afar, Al Kissik, Sinjar and the surrounding area.

"The Civil Affairs teams are composed of U.S. Army Reservists called back to active duty because of their civilian skills, and this has helped with regards to project management," said Capt. Ralph Sarmiento, executive officer, B Company. "Moreover,

these projects ensure that the maneuver commanders have a safer area to work in."

The purpose of the civil affairs team is to meet with the local Iraqi people and find out what reconstruction projects are needed most, then help make arrangements to pay for the approved jobs, said Dare.

"We go out and conduct an assessment of the area," she said. "We talk to the mayors, muktars, sheiks and the local people

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(Photo by Sgt. Richard Kolberg, Bat. C, 1st Bn., 7th FA Reg.)

Feel like take out?

Sgt. James Paska (right), from Florham Park, N.J., and Pvt. Thomas Allen, from Portland, Ore., both from Battery C, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, distribute food supplies to residents in a western Baghdad neighborhood Jan. 6.

Arabic Phrase
of the Day

jaysh

Defined:
army

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report

	Today	Tomorrow	Monday
High: 55	High: 53	High: 54	
Low: 40	Low: 39	Low: 37	

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(Photo by 403rd Civil Affairs Battalion)

Coalition Soldiers from the 403rd Civil Affairs Battalion visit with a local family from Mosul, Iraq, to hand out toys and supplies. The battalion is responsible for interacting with the local people to find out what projects in their neighborhoods they would like to have built. The information the unit collects is then handed up to the Iraqi government.

Civil Affairs team works with local agencies to rebuild Iraq

Rebuilding

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and see what their complaints are, what their problems are, and identify what we can possibly do to help them. Then we try to pass that information up the Iraqi government's chain-of-command so they try to fix the problems themselves."

The civil affairs personnel help the Iraqi government put together a list so they can determine exactly what needs to be done and exactly what their local governments underneath them want the focus to be and then determine if the provincial government has the same focus, or whether it's something they can afford to do right now.

One important aspect of the PRT is to meet with the Ninewa leaders as mentors, she said.

"They can make suggestions to the governor to hold a town hall meeting in an area that the governor hasn't visited in a while that may be feeling neglected," added Dare. "They also help the governor build lists and schedules of things that need to be done and help him prioritize projects."

One challenge for the Iraqi govern-

ment is that they need to make sure they are not completing too many projects in one religious sector because the locals may see it as favoritism.

"The PRT tries to help ensure the projects are divvied up equally to each religious sector of the province," she said. "The challenge is to make sure there is a political balance and that they spend the money properly so there is no suggestion that they are biased toward one area or the other."

To help complete projects, the local government has a Ninewa Business Center. "The goal of the NBC is to give out loans to help Iraqis open up their own business to improve economic development. The center also advertises contractor positions that are open for bidding on projects," she said.

Since Dare's unit has been here, she said they have funded more than 40 projects in Qayarah, valued at more than \$1.7 million and 27 projects in Mosul, totaling over \$1.8 million. Some of the projects that have been completed are: the reconstruction of schools; the building of playgrounds; renovating gyms and pools; water, sewer and cleanup projects; providing medical and food supplies; and road repair and bridge work.

Baghdad in Brief



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Bronco Suzuki, 982nd CCC)

An officer with the 2nd Battalion, 8th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi National Police Division prepares for a cordon-and-search operation in east Baghdad Jan. 10

East Baghdad Operation detains seven suspects

FORWARD OPERATING BASE LOYALTY, Iraq - A joint operation in east Baghdad led to the capture of seven suspected terrorist during Operation Ottawa Jan. 10.

Soldiers with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division made the capture during the operation. Members of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi National Police Division also participated.

The detainees are being held for further questioning.

The operation was part of a U.S. plan to help Iraqis establish security.

Paratroopers detain man suspected of IED attacks

KALSU, Iraq - Paratroopers detained an Iraqi man in connection with an improvised explosive device explosion outside Iskandariyah that prematurely detonated in front of a patrol Jan. 11.

Paratroopers from the 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division went out to investigate and discovered five local nationals nearby who were questioned.

One man was detained for further questioning. No one was injured in the blast.

New retention slogan hits Cav Country in Iraq

By Spc. Shea Butler
7th MPAD

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq - Army slogans have come and gone. They have adapted to the generations.

You all remember "Be all that you can be" and the most recent "Army of One," but the Army has now changed the slogan to "Army Strong" to embody the spirit and guts of the new age Army, an Army at war.

Using pictures taken from the most recent deployment to Iraq, the Multi-National Division- Baghdad now has a new retention poster.

"The poster represents all of us in MND-B. All of the division patches are shown on the poster," said Sgt. Maj. Derek Dahlke, the division

command career counselor.

The new poster is about to hit the streets of Baghdad and some of the troops are inspired by it.

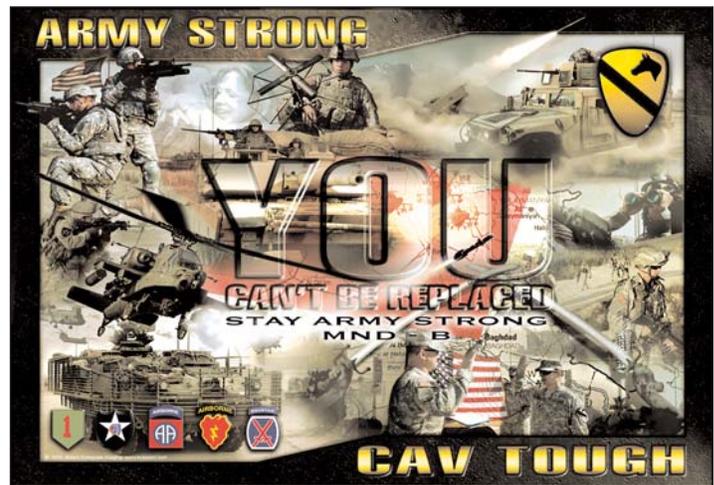
"I love all of the pictures on the poster," said Staff Sgt. Nick Strong, with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Cavalry Division.

"I am trying to get the poster as the background on my computer," Strong added.

The poster has more than just pictures. There are a few inspiring words as well.

"The most important part of the poster is the phrase 'You can't be replaced.' It is true. Every Soldier, no matter what your job or rank is in the Army, you can't be replaced," Dahlke said.

Others have a different take on what the phrase "You



can't be replaced" means.

"Cav can't be replaced. We are the best unit in the Army," said Sgt. Hal Spiller, HHC, 1st Cav. Div. "The poster just makes me want to stay Cav."

The First Team has taken a new approach on the Army Strong theme and added their

own Cav touch with the phrase "Cav Tough" tagged on to the end of the Army slogan.

If Spiller's reaction to the new poster and the new slogan are any indication, the division retention office has hit the mark as their latest product hits the streets of Baghdad.

Mechanics help mission continue

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tenance issue, that particular trouble ticket could go to any of the four remaining sections.

Along with the duties inside of the maintenance section within the walls of Forward Operating Base Kalsu, the company also has duties that exceed the boundaries of the FOB and onto the streets of Iraq.

"Our recovery section goes out to retrieve vehicles that cannot be recovered by the original element. Whether the vehicle was hit with an improvised explosive device or just stuck in the mud, we go and get it", said Shutters.

Keeping vehicles up and running can be a big responsibility.

"I have a pretty important

job here and I am up for the challenge to perform my duties," said Spc. Mikeal Dupnik, one of the mechanics in Company F.

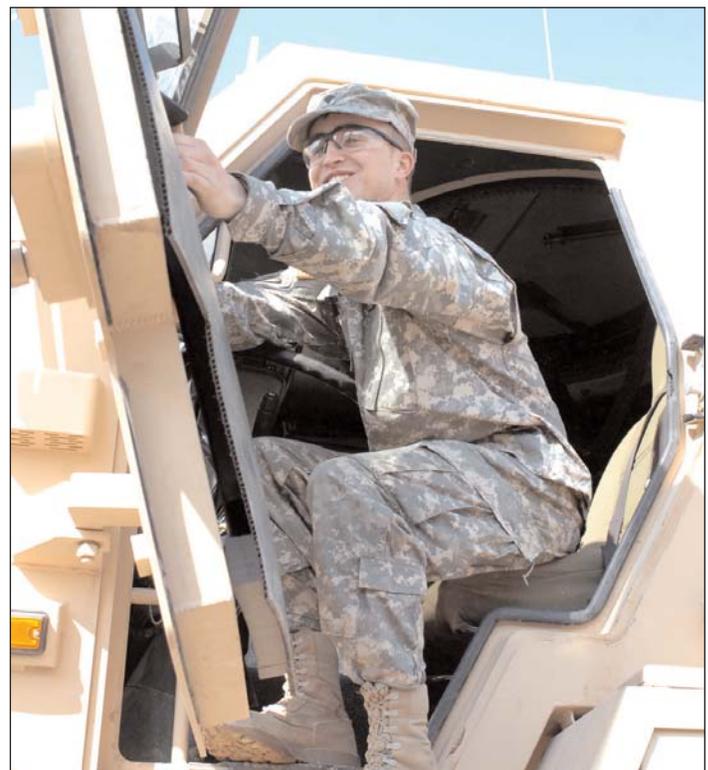
"I know if the trucks stop rolling then the mission cannot continue. I will not let that happen," Dupnik added.

Even though vehicle maintenance is the mission for the mechanics, it starts with every single Paratrooper who starts an engine.

Nine times out of ten, there won't be a problem.

When there is a problem, the one-stop maintenance shop delivers.

"Keeping the vehicles on the road is our main priority," said Shutters. "As long as we keep the vehicles moving the mission can continue. From bumper to bumper no matter the problem, we can fix it."



(Photo by Sgt. Marcus Butler, 4-25 Inf. Public Affairs)

Spc. Mikeal Dupnik inspects the door of a heavy vehicle as part of a technical inspection.

Blue turf has mental side effects

By Pfc. Benjamin Gable
7th MPAD

Yes, I picked the winner of the Tostitos Bowl Championship Series National Championship game. So I would like to start off this column by wallowing in my own pride for just a second.

Ah yes, that feels good. As I forecasted in my last sports column, the Florida Gators routed the Ohio State Buckeyes. The Gators were even more impressive than I had imagined, winning 41-14, Monday in Glendale, Ariz.

The season is over. We should be moving along with our lives and looking forward to next year when the Georgia Bulldogs, (Go Dawgs!), will go undefeated and win the title. For some reason though, Boise State University players and fans want a shot at the Gators to prove their worth.

My response: potatoes come from Idaho, not national championship teams.

Why do the Broncos deserve to be on the same field as the mighty Gators? Simple answer: They don't, and never will.

The Broncos play in the Western Athletic Conference (WAC). The only reason they are even in a bowl game is because there are 750 of them now.

There is no credit due to the Broncos for beating the Oklahoma Sooners, who had a down year that started with the dismissal of their starting quarterback and a



Trigger Pull
Pfc. Benjamin Gable

starting offensive lineman.

The Sooners' star running back, Adrian Peterson, was also coming off an injury which sidelined him for several weeks.

The Broncos finished the year 13-0. Their record is less than impressive when you consider the teams they defeated. Sacramento State, Utah Sate, Idaho and Louisiana Tech are just a few.

Meanwhile, the Gators are playing teams like Louisiana State University, Arkansas, Auburn, and, of course, the Georgia Bulldogs. There is simply no comparison there.

The final Associated Press poll has five teams from the Southeastern Conference, where the Gators play, in the Top 25, the most of any conference. The only other team the Broncos played that made the list was the Oregon State Beavers, who ended up being the 22nd ranked team in the nation.

The Gators beat five teams during the year who are ranked in the top 13 at season's end. The Broncos beat only one

team, the down and out Sooners.

Let's forget about statistics for a second and use common sense.

Just because the Broncos went undefeated doesn't mean they deserve a shot at the Gators. BSU played a schedule full of patsies who are never contenders for any "real" bowl games. The Gators played and beat teams that annually play in major bowl games. It is common knowledge that the WAC is a cupcake league and the SEC is the toughest league year in and year out. That in itself should prove the Broncos unworthy of a title shot.

The final AP poll, the USA Today poll and the BCS poll has Boise State ranked no higher than 5th. That means there are at least three other teams that would play for the championship before BSU would get a shot.

I end this article by saying there is no way the Broncos will ever challenge any team for the national championship. The current BCS polling system will not recognize BSU because of the lack of schedule strength. It isn't the Broncos fault they play in one of the weakest conferences in sports. They should, however, realize they will always be a second-tier team that in no way, shape or form belongs mentioned with the powerhouses of college football.

Stop asking for what you don't deserve Boise State! Enjoy your time in the spotlight now, because this will be the closest you ever get to winning it all.

		TELEVISION						
		8:00p.m.	8:30p.m.	9:00p.m.	9:30p.m.	10:00p.m.	10:30p.m.	11:00p.m.
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