

February 2007

Vol. I, Issue VI

# *the* STATIC LINE





# the **STATIC LINE**



## MESSAGE FROM THE MNF-I COMMANDER



To the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Civilians of Multi-National Force-Iraq:

We serve in Iraq at a critical time. The war here will soon enter its fifth year. A decisive moment approaches. Shoulder-to-shoulder with our Iraqi comrades, we will conduct a pivotal campaign to improve security for the Iraqi people.

The stakes could not be higher.

Our task is crucial. Security is essential for Iraq to build its future. Only with security can the Iraqi government come to grips with the tough issues it confronts and develop the capacity to serve its citizens. The hopes of the Iraqi people and the coalition countries are with us.

The enemies of Iraq will shrink at no act however barbaric. They will do all that they can to shake the confidence of the people and to convince the world that this effort is doomed. We must not underestimate them.

Together with our Iraqi partners, we must defeat those who oppose the new Iraq. We cannot allow mass murderers to hold the initiative. We must strike them relentlessly. We and our Iraqi partners must set the terms of the struggle, not our enemies. And

together we must prevail.

The way ahead will not be easy. There will be difficult times in the months to come. But hard is not hopeless, and we must remain steadfast in our effort to help improve security for the Iraqi people. I am confident that each of you will fight with skill and courage, and that you will remain loyal to your comrades-in-arms and to the values our nations hold so dear.

In the end, Iraqis will decide the outcome of this struggle. Our task is to help them gain the time they need to save their country. To do that, many of us will live and fight alongside them.

Together, we will face down the terrorists, insurgents, and criminals who slaughter the innocent.

Success will require discipline, fortitude, and initiative—qualities

that you have in abundance,

I appreciate your sacrifices and those of your families. Now, more than ever, your commitment to service and your skill can make the difference between victory and defeat in a very tough mission.

It is an honor to soldier again with the members of the Multi-National Force-Iraq. I know that wherever you serve in this undertaking you will give your all. In turn, I pledge my commitment to our mission and every effort to achieve success as we help the Iraqis chart a course to a brighter future.

Godspeed to each of you and to our Iraqi comrades in this crucial endeavor.

**Gen. David H. Petraeus,  
Commander,  
Multi-National Force - Iraq**

## *-CONTENTS-*

**SECURITY IMPROVES IN SINIYAH, PAGE 1**

**POLICE RECRUITS GRADUATE TRAINING COURSE, PAGE 1**

**COMMANDER LEADS POLICE TO SUCCESS, PAGE 3**

**82ND CHORUS PERFORMS FOR TROOPS IN IRAQ, PAGE 4**

**TROOPS RENOVATE NEIGHBORHOOD NEAR BALAD, PAGE 4**

**ENGINEERS REPAIR MAIN SUPPLY ROUTE, PAGE 5**

**HEALTH ASSESSMENTS IMPROVE LIVING ON FOBS, PAGE 6**

**TIRE SHREDDER TO RAISE STANDARD FOR CHECKPOINTS, PAGE 7**

**3rd BCT Commander:  
Col. Bryan Owens**

**3rd BCT CSM:  
CSM Bryant Lambert**

**3rd BCT Public Affairs Officer:  
Capt. Aydin Mohtashamian**

**3rd BCT PA NCOIC:  
Staff Sgt. Michael J. Carden**

**3rd BCT PA Specialist:  
Spc. Joshua R. Ford**

**3rd BCT PA Specialist:  
Spc. Amanda Jackson**

**The Static Line is an authorized monthly publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of this monthly publication are not necessarily the official views of or endorsed by the United States Government or the Department of Defense. The editorial content of this monthly publication is the responsibility of the Public Affairs Office of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division.**

*the Static Line welcomes columns, commentaries, articles, and photographs from our readers. Send submissions to Staff Sgt. Michael J. Carden at [crdn.carden@us.army.mil](mailto:crdn.carden@us.army.mil). We reserve the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, policy, clarity, and space.*

# Security improvements made in Siniyah

**Spc. Joshua R. Ford**  
**3BCT, 82nd Abn Div PAO**

**SINIYAH, Iraq** - Insurgent uprisings during the last week of October forced the majority of the city's police officers, the mayor and the entire city council to resign. The fighting resulted in the complete destruction of the police station and left the city without security.

After the devastating blow, a new police station began construction and police officers are being trained to standard, said Antoine Dunmyer, commander, Company A, 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division.

The few police officers that stayed on duty opened recruiting stations throughout the city. So far more than 80 recruits have joined the force, said 1st Lt. Qaiss Kamal, a Siniyah police officer.

"They want to serve the people of Siniyah and they want to support the families of Siniyah," said Kamal.

The police are currently operating out of the Siniyah municipal building, which is located near the mosque at the center of the city where most of the October attacks occurred. Already, the city's security situation has improved, said Kamal.

A permanent police station is in the process of being built nearby. The new floor plan includes elevated police se-

curity points, almost like guard towers, which will provide an eagle's-eye view of the streets.

The officers are also looking forward to furthering their professional training, said Dunmyer. They will learn basic skills such as protecting the police station and conducting street patrols.

"Insurgents don't bring the fight to you. They take one shot and run. Once we are provided the equipment and the intelligence we need to patrol, we will definitely go after the bad guys to make Siniyah a safer place to live," said Kamal.

Dunmyer's company and the 4th Iraqi Army Division have provided 24-hour security for Siniyah since mid-November and will continue to do so until the police force becomes strong enough to defend and protect the city on its own.

The newly-trained police officers will form police transition teams, which trained in mid-January with the 303rd Military Police Company, 89th MP Battalion - an Army Reserve unit out of Jackson, Mich. - on Forward Operating Base Summerall.

Staff Sgt. Jeremy Hockey, a squad leader, 303rd MP Company, said the police officers will make their transition once they complete three stages, beginning with police station security, getting new uniforms and getting new equipment.



Photo by Spc. Joshua R. Ford/3BCT, 82nd Abn Div PAO

**An Iraqi policeman pulls security Jan. 1 at the temporary police station in Siniyah. So far the Siniyah police force has recruited more than 80 individuals to be trained as police officers by coalition force's police transition teams and Iraqi police.**

"(We are) teaching them how to defend the building and how to show the people of Siniyah that they can be trusted," said Hockey. "(The last step) is basic patrolling the city itself."



Photo by Spc. Joshua R. Ford/  
3BCT, 82nd Abn Div PAO

**More than 80 police cadets marked the commencement of their training with a graduation ceremony Jan. 21 at Forward Operating Base Lion near Bayji.**

## Police training graduates 80

**Spc. Joshua R. Ford**  
**3BCT, 82nd Abn Div PAO**

**FOB SUMMERALL, Iraq** - Siniyah and Sulihyah are seeing new policemen out on the beat with the recent graduation of more than 80 Iraqi police officers.

General Ahmed Abdullah, the governor's security advisor for the Salah ad Din Province, Col. Saad Nafoos, Bayji district chief of police, and Lt. Col. Scott Harris, commander, 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, attended the graduation Jan. 21 at Iraqi Forward Operating Base Lion's Iraqi Police training course. "Security will go to a very high level in Siniyah and Sulihyah because of the professional training coalition forces have provided for us," said Nafoos. "I am very proud of the men that have graduated here today."

A number of military units and contracted civilian police officers began training recruits Jan. 7 at FOB Lion to bolster Siniyah and Sulihyah's police force.

More than 45 Iraqi police candidates arrived the day prior for in-processing. The following day nearly 30 returned to begin the course. Throughout the first week more than 80 candidates came for the training.

The candidates were nominated by each city's local leadership and tribal sheiks, said

see **GRADUATION**, page 2

## GRADUATION

General Abdullah. He made it clear to each city that there would be no tribe discrimination in the nomination process, this way it would build camaraderie between the local tribes.

Since the two cities are adjacent to each other the two police forces will be working together often, making camaraderie between the forces an important factor.

The Iraqi police training course included classes on force protection, roadside bomb awareness, maintenance, securing a crime scene, first aid, weapons familiarization, range training and physical fitness training.

“I want to be here,” said Ali Nif Hassad, Iraqi police training course graduate from Siniyah. “The training was hard, but it was very good. We are ready to fight the terrorists and protect Siniyah now.”

The police recruits seemed very enthusiastic about the training. Every morning the candidates would march to FOB Lion’s front gate for an accountability formation, which distinguished their discipline and motivation, said Herb Rouse, international police liaison officer.

“I have never seen anything like it before,” added Rouse. “It’s like night and day compared to other places I’ve worked and trained (Iraqis). These

guys are motivated, and they caught on quickly when it came to the training.”

“This is a once in a lifetime opportunity — to build a police force from scratch,” said Capt. Paul Hoiland, commander, 303rd Military Police Company. “It is critical that we get this right and continue to move forward in establishing security here. I am impressed by the motivation of these men and their courage to step forward.”

Seasoned noncommissioned officers from 4th Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division, assisted with the instruction in an effort to also foster greater camaraderie between the Iraqi army and police force.

“It is critical for us to build a sense of cooperation between the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police. They must trust one another and be able to rely on one another in tough circumstances,” said Lt. Col. Scott Harris, 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry commander. “These two units, in addition to the Strategic Infrastructure Battalions within the Bayji area, need to work side-by-side in providing security. This is an amazing first step.”

Coalition forces recently isolated Siniyah and cleared the city of terrorists; terrorists who influenced the majority of the city’s police force to quit by constantly threatening to harm their families.



Photos by Spc. Joshua R. Ford/3BCT, 82nd Abn Div PAO  
**Iraqi police cadets practice procedures for clearing buildings Jan. 17 at Iraqi Forward Operating Base Lion near Bayji during the three-week long police training course.**

Now, in accordance with the basic counterinsurgency strategy of clear, hold and build, coalition forces are in the beginning of the build phase, said Maj. Curtis Buzzard, executive officer, 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

Harris will continue to engage the leaders of Siniyah and Sulihiyah to provide additional recruits in order to ensure that there are a sufficient number of policemen to secure both cities.

If necessary 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, and the 303rd Military Police Company will conduct future classes to support the police forces in both cities.

“People in Siniyah and Sulihiyah had no trust in the police force. With (recent operations conducted in the area) and the professional training these men have received, the people now have confidence in the police,” said Abdullah. “Hopefully, if coalition forces will be willing to do another class, we will accept and provide more recruits for the training.”



**Iraqi police cadets from Iraqi Forward Operating Base Lion’s Iraqi Police Academy work on marksmanship with 9 mm pistols Jan. 18 at a range on Forward Operating Base Summerall near Bayji.**

# Col. Jalil leads Samarra police to success

**Spc. Amanda Morrissey**  
**5th MPAD**

**SAMARRA, Iraq** - It is a day much like any other for the U.S. Soldiers and Iraqi police in Samarra. They dismount from their vehicles and spread out, Iraqis and Americans intermingling ranks as they work together to patrol neighborhood streets.

The increasing levels of proficiency Iraqi police demonstrate gives confidence to Soldiers at Patrol Base Olson, who work closely with the local police to maintain security in the city.

"[The Police] are more motivated," said 1st Lt. John Johnson, 4th platoon leader with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment. "It takes a load off our chest, because we don't constantly have to tell them how to pull security or to get their fingers off the triggers."

The Soldiers who regularly conduct the patrols with the police appreciate the professionalism they display during operations. Many of them credit this to Col. Jalil al Dalemi, the Samarra chief of police who took command in November, Johnson said.

"[Jalil] is well-known around the country as being a good combat leader, so the [police] have somebody to look up to. They know he's a 'been-there, done-that' type of role model for them," said Sgt. 1st Class Christian Requejo, a platoon sergeant with Company C. "You can see the confidence in the local [police] pick up quite a bit."

Jalil started his career in Baghdad working with the National Police, and eventually was promoted to 1st Battalion



Photo by Spc. Amanda Morrissey/ 5th MPAD

**U.S. Paratroopers with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, conduct a joint patrol with Iraqi police Jan. 30 in Samarra.**

commander. He was then promoted to 4th Brigade commander in Baghdad, and also served as the 3rd Brigade commander in Mosul.

Jalil used his experience with the National Police when he took command to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the police force. He started by focusing on the management of the operation.

He was shocked by the lack of organization when he first arrived, Jalil said through an interpreter. Paperwork was not being completed, and not all of the police were working because of threats to their families.

He fired 12 high-ranking police officers who were not doing their jobs and imprisoned two for corruption. Even though he's now working with half as many officers, the system now operates much

faster and smoother than before, Jalil said.

Jalil is now focusing his attention on training the police officers in Samarra. He has plans to send groups of officers to a training academy in Tikrit, whom he will place in different stations throughout the city.

Jalil also encourages his police to learn from examples set by the U.S. Soldiers they work with. It is an idea the Soldiers support by implementing a "buddy system" when they conduct joint patrols with police.

"We put one of their policemen with one of our Soldiers, and basically they just mirror what we do. As those guys are walking with us, they're actually learning our tactics," Requejo said. "These guys have picked it up to a point where they're more efficient."

The police now take an active role in patrols pulling security down alleyways and roads without being prompted by their U.S. counterparts. The police also conduct several missions each week without the assistance of U.S. Soldiers.

The burden of security in the city will fall mainly on the shoulders of Iraqi security forces when U.S. Soldiers eventually pull out of Patrol Base Olson. U.S. forces will still be in the area, but located farther away from Samarra at Forward Operating Base Brassfield-Mora.

"I think the [police] have come leaps and bounds just in the last three months since Colonel Jalil got here. I think the city's ready for them to take over, but we'll still be here if they need our assistance with any missions," Requejo said. "I think they'll be okay."

# All American Chorus hits the stage in Iraq

**Spc. Joshua R. Ford**  
3BCT, 82nd Abn Div PAO

**COB SPEICHER, Iraq** - A resonance rang throughout the 3rd Brigade Combat Team Headquarters Jan. 13 as combat boots tapped in time and hands clapped to the be-boppin' rhythm of "Rockin' Robin", a song made famous by Bobby Day in the 1950s.

A quintet of Paratroopers stood in a gaggle in front of a neat row of chorus members – baritones, basses and tenors. They snapped their fingers, whistled and choreographed along with the energetic tune as if to revive the spirit of Motown. This was the 82nd Airborne Division's All American Chorus, entertaining deployed Paratroopers.

Division's chorus arrived in December to motivate the Paratroopers of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division. They performed patriotic songs, such as American Soldier, originally recorded by country music star Toby Keith, as well as the All American Song and others.

For nearly 30 days, the chorus has traveled to many of the forward operating bases where 3rd Brigade Combat Team



Photo by Spc. Joshua R. Ford/3BCT, 82nd Abn Div PAO

**Sgt. James Johnson, baritone in the 82nd Airborne Division's All American Chorus, leads the chorus in a choreographed marching cadence Jan. 13 at Contingency Operations Base Speicher, Iraq. The chorus visited 3rd Brigade Combat Team to entertain the deployed Paratroopers.**

Paratroopers are serving.

"Traveling around, we are able to give units a little piece of home," said Pfc. Michael Ortiz, baritone in the 82nd Airborne Division's All American Chorus.

"We're also showing the Paratroopers that the people back home support what

they're doing over here."

"(The Chorus) boosts morale like you could not believe," said Command Sgt. Maj. Bryant Lambert, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division.

————— see **CHORUS**, page 6

## Conditions improve for neighborhood near Balad

**Spc. Amanda Morrissey**  
5th MPAD

**AL ZAHRAH, Iraq** - It is a small neighborhood about twelve blocks long and five blocks wide, just a few miles from Balad. The main street is roughly paved; the others are dirt tracks filled with trash and mud, teeming with kids. All in all, there is nothing remarkable about Al Zahrah.

It has, however, managed to capture the attention of the U.S. forces at Forward Operating Base Paliwoda, which is right across the street.

"The people in this neighborhood have been good to us here. We'd like

to do something in return for them," said 1st Lt. Anthony Fazio, the projects purchasing officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Combined Arms Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment.

The unit is proposing a \$4 million renovation project that includes installing an underground sewage system with connections to each house in the area, drain culverts, sidewalks and paved roads.

The long term benefits of this project would be numerous. Its construction would provide about 150 people employment for at least six months, as well as create other jobs, such as

garbage disposal, in the effort to maintain the neighborhood, Fazio said.

The improvements in the neighborhood would also catch the attention of the provincial government, and could result in more money to continue other projects. The result would be an all-around economic improvement for the town, said Fazio.

The greatest benefit, however, would be the improved health of the inhabitants.

"The old sewage system backs up here, especially when it rains, causing dirty water and debris to rise to the surface," said Fazio. "The kids go out and play in this stuff,

and people are getting sick."

The new sewage system and drain culverts will remove the dirty water and debris from the streets, greatly improving the living standard for the Al Zahrah residents.

"We hope that people will see the improvements made in this neighborhood, how it looks and how it works, and want the same for their neighborhoods. Then they would be willing to work with U.S. forces to stabilize the violence in their area so we can go in there and do it," said Staff Sgt. Sean Cummins, the 404th Civil Affairs Battalion team leader.

————— see **BALAD**, page 5

The civil affairs team works as the eyes and ears for Fazio to provide information on what projects are most wanted and needed by the people, said Cummins.

The Al Zahrah renovation is actually a continuation of a project begun by a previous unit at FOB Paliwoda, but was not completed before they were redeployed back to the United States. Fazio and his team did not hesitate to take up the challenge of its completion when they arrived to the area.

Amir ab Dalhide Morhan, the mayor of Balad, is working with Fazio on the project.

“Even though there is a change in the commands [at FOB Paliwoda], the policy always remains the same – to work with the people of Balad,” said the mayor.

Fazio patrols with the 404th Civil Affairs team to gain a better understanding of what improvements have been completed and to determine what developments still need to occur. He talked with the locals about the problems they are having, and explained how the proposed project will help to alleviate those issues.

Fazio, with the mayor’s cooperation, has established several mandates to ensure the project will move forward with minimal disruptions.

Fazio intends to hire a local contractor who actually lives in Al Zahrah because the contractor will have a vested interest in making sure the project gets done.

He also included the stipulation that locals must clean up garbage in the area before the project can get started, and that they must keep it clean once it is completed.

“I’m trying to change the mindset of the people. If they have to earn something, then maybe they will take pride in it and maintain it,” Fazio said.

The approval process for the Al Zahrah renovation project could take up to two months. Once approved, the project is scheduled to be finished within six months of its start date.



Photo by Spc. Joshua R. Ford/3BCT, 82nd Abn Div PAO

**Spc. Estephane Vodio, combat engineer, Company A, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, clears debris out of a crater while Staff Sgt. Adam Myer, squad leader, instructs a bobcat to cut into a crater Jan. 26 on Main Supply Route Tampa in Tikrit.**

## Engineers clear the roadways

**Spc. Joshua R. Ford**  
**3BCT, 82nd Abn Div PAO**

**TIKRIT, Iraq** - Armored vehicles crept down Main Supply Route Tampa in Tikrit on a pitch-black night. Spotlights from the vehicles lit the road like a rock concert. This gave the combat engineers of Company A, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, a full view of what they were looking for.

Their mission was two-fold; clear the route of roadside bombs and clean debris and garbage off the road. Once they discover craters or potholes, they fill them with cement.

Route Tampa is a thoroughfare used to transport supplies, military equipment and troops to bases and camps in Iraq. That makes this stretch of highway important to keep open for movement.

Garbage found on the road was cleared off by use of a buffalo.

A buffalo is an armored military vehicle with a retractable arm used to move debris or pick up objects.

“There they are,” said 1st Lt. Brandon Drobenak, light equipment section platoon leader, Company A, over the radio referring

to two big holes on the side of the supply route’s south-bound lane.

Quickly one of the security trucks responded informing Drobenak that the holes were clear of any threat.

The engineers quickly began digging rubble out of the holes and squaring the craters with a Bobcat’s pavement breaker.

The mission is fairly new to Company A’s engineers, but they have adapted to it quickly, said Spc. Ryan Wilkinson, combat engineer, 1st Platoon, Company A.

“We have only been doing this for about three weeks now, and we have come a long way,” said Wilkinson. “It’s an important job because most of the deaths you’re seeing in Iraq right now are from improvised-explosive devices. We would rather be the first ones to discover a roadside bomb than have some convoy run into it causing a catastrophe.”

The engineer company works throughout the 3rd Brigade Combat Team’s area of responsibility and covers more than 90 miles of pavement.

“We are trying to stop the bad guys from emplacing more bombs by filling every hole,” said Wilkinson. “We will keep filling them because it’s protecting routes and saving Soldier’s lives.”

# Troops depend on special team for basic needs

*Preventive medicine team ensures healthy living and quality of life during deployment*



Photo by Spc. Amanda Morrissey/ 5th MPAD

**Spc. Benjamin Sites, a preventative medicine specialist with Company C, 82nd Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, sets up a mini-vol, which takes samples of the air to test for particles, Jan. 27 at Patrol Base Olson.**

## **Spc. Amanda Morrissey** **5th MPAD**

**FOB BRASSFIELD MORA, Iraq** - Hot showers, good food, and clean air are little things which are normally available to everyone in the United States. In a combat zone, however, they're harder to come by, and it's up to a special team of Paratroopers to ensure that these minimal necessities are available.

A preventative medicine team from Company C, 82nd Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, visits many coalition force posts, checking everything from environmental factors to living facilities in order to ensure the continued health of U.S. Soldiers in Iraq.

"Basically, we're a jack-of-all-trades. We need to know a lot about a little bit of everything," said 1st Lt. Samantha

Rieger, an environmental science officer with the team. "I have a big job preventing things from happening.

"We go out and see if there's any trend of Disease - Non-battle Injury (DNBI)," Rieger continued. DNBI's are illnesses contracted from contaminants that make Soldiers sick. "As long as there has been no increased DNBI, then I'm doing my job."

The preventative medicine team visits up to six different locations in any given month. The places they go to are small, meaning that they don't have the same services, such as pest control, that civilian contractors provide at larger forward operating bases.

Commanders depend on the assessments the preventative medicine team provides. The size and remoteness of the smaller bases makes it difficult for them to keep tabs on the Soldiers' living conditions.

"[Commanders] don't always see what's going on at the smaller FOBs," said Spc. Benjamin Sites, a preventative medicine specialist. "We let them know what is needed in order to improve the health and living standards of the Soldiers there when we do the base camp assessments."

Every aspect covered by the base camp assessments is important to the health of the Soldiers. However, at very small installations such as Patrol Base

\_\_\_\_\_ see **HEALTH**, page 8

## **CHORUS**

"It gets me fired up every time (the chorus) performs and a lot of people feel the same way," said Maj. Hugh Bair, 3rd Brigade Combat Team's operations officer.

"We get very encouraging responses when we come out here to perform," said Spc. Allen Ronney, baritone, 82nd Airborne Division Chorus. "Everybody seems to love the stuff we do."

The All American Chorus is always on the move and ready to perform for Paratroopers wherever they may be, said Ronney.

"Where ever the 82nd is — that's where we go," said Ortiz.

The performances always end traditionally with a song very familiar to the Paratroopers and former Paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Division.

"Put on your boots, boots, boots and parachutes, chutes, chutes, we're going up, up, up, we're coming down, down, down," was the tune sung by the All American Chorus.

The crowd traditionally stood at attention, singing along to the 82nd Airborne Division's song — a tune which reminds all Paratroopers of their proud Airborne heritage.

The group's next stop is Afghanistan, where they will do what they do best; sing songs that uplift, encourage and motivate the deployed Paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Division.

# Paratroopers improve security at checkpoints

**Spc. Joshua R. Ford**  
**3BCT, 82nd Abn Div PAO**

**COB SPEICHER, Iraq** - Recent operations throughout Salah ad Din Province have called for security upgrades at permanent checkpoints that are strategically placed on main supply routes in the province.

Paratroopers from 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, have designed a contraption to prevent vehicles from running checkpoints.

Paratroopers are calling it the "Tredway Tire Shredder", since the basic idea and design came from Staff Sgt. David B. Tredway, assistant operations noncommissioned officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division.

Tredway's sergeant major attended a 3rd Brigade operations security meeting where he came up with the spike strip idea at checkpoints.

When Tredway's sergeant major returned from the meeting, he brought the idea up to Tredway and asked if he would work on a design for a more permanent spike strip than the ones the Iraqi police use.

"He told me to run with it, so I did," said Tredway. "I put a lot of work in designing something simple but effective."

"I went out and measured a bongo truck because if anything is going to run a checkpoint it's going to be a bongo truck or a small car. I wanted [the tire shredder] to be big enough to where the biggest truck would be effected by it and at the same time the smallest vehicle," said Tredway.

Overall it took Tredway three days to come up with a design that was simple to build but strong enough to be effective.

With a design on the drawing board, it was time to get some support and input from the welders at 82nd Brigade Support Battalion.

Tredway brought his idea to the welders, and they were motivated to work on it, said Pfc. Joseph Young, welder, Company B, 82nd Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division.



Photo by Spc. Joshua R. Ford/3BCT, 82nd Abn Div PAO

**The second-class tires of a quarter-ton humvee are slashed during a test run of the "Tredway Tire Shredder" Jan. 31 at Contingency Operations Base Speicher. The tire shredder is a contraption designed and built by a group of Paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team to improve safety at checkpoints.**

"We saw the basic design and started to play with it. There were a few things that needed to be changed but [the welders] and sergeant Tredway figured it out," added Young.

Tredway and the welders worked late nights trying to get a prototype of the tire shredder operational. At one point in the process, the team had to scavenge for parts in the motor pool's junkyard.

"We had to take apart a broken jack to get the spring we needed for the lever," said Tredway.

After the parts were gathered, they started the building process of what Tredway called a "medieval contraption".

The prototype came out to be ten feet long with thirty-two spikes shaped like fangs. At the pull of a lever, the spikes would lock up in place preventing any vehicle from getting more than 25 feet away, said Tredway.

Three-eighth-inch armor was used for the bottom plate and quarter-inch armor was used for the top three plates, shaping the mechanism like a triangle with a flat top.

The spikes were hand-cut individually from three-eighth-inch steel plating with each spike being longer than 4 inches.

The device weighed more than 400 pounds when the work was done.

Since the tire shredder is so heavy, it can only be placed at more permanent checkpoints where a 24-hour guard is present, said Tredway.

"Depending on our work load, we can produce close to two of these a day," said Lupercio.

Col. Bryan Owens, commander, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, and the brigade's sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Bryant Lambert, recently attended a test run of the contraption versus a quarter-ton military vehicle.

All four tires were slashed and deflated instantly, and the device stayed in place making it a successful demonstration, said Young.

"This is great. We need something like this out at the checkpoints," said Lambert. "We need to get this design to the Iraqis and the army, especially the Iraqis', because it is easy to produce."

"I think it is a good design, but there are improvements to be made. If we had the resources, we could beef it up a bit and make it a lot better. Hopefully other units will see it and be able to use it and benefit from it," said Tredway.

## **EAGLE CASH: A new alternative for deployed troops to manage their money**

The Eagle Cash Card (ECC) is a new technology being fielded to assist Soldiers in accessing and efficiently managing their hard earned dollars. Approved for deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, ECC is an electronic alternative to receiving cash through check cashing and casual pays at the local finance office. By the end of January 2007, Soldiers operating in Multi-National Division - North will have the capability of using ECC at AAFES concessionaries in seven operating bases. In May 2007, the service will be expanded to include postal facilities.

The ECC is a pre-paid encrypted-stored value card which allows Soldiers and other authorized personnel to make discretionary purchases. ECC gives Soldiers the ability to transfer funds to and from their military Sure Pay accounts using kiosks, which is similar to an ATM machine. These self-service kiosks will be available in all seven locations throughout MND-N, most notably your local Post Exchange and finance office.

**SOLDIERS WILL BE ABLE TO USE THE KIOSKS 24 HOURS A DAY, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK.**



**SOME OF THE BENEFITS ARE:**

-IT REDUCES RISK ASSOCIATED WITH SOLDIERS HOLDING/TRANSPORTING CASH FOR DISCRETIONARY REASONS

-SIMILAR IN CONCEPT TO DEBIT, PRE-PAID GIFT OR PHONE CARDS

-THROUGH THE USE OF KIOSKS, PROVIDES DEPLOYED PERSONNEL 24/7 ACCESS TO PERSONAL FUNDS

-FAST, EASY TO USE, CONVENIENT; PRESENTS MORE OPTIONS THAN GOING TO THE LOCAL FINANCE OFFICE

-NO TRANSACTION FEES

-REPLACED IF LOST AT THE LOCAL FINANCE OFFICE

-EFFECTIVE TOOL FOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

-FAMILIAR TO YOUNGER SOLDIERS (USED AT BASIC TRAINING)

-CAN DOWNLOAD MONEY OFF OF ECC INTO CASH OR BACK INTO YOUR MILITARY SURE PAY ACCOUNT DURING R&R, EMERGENCIES, OR REDEPLOYMENT

ECC is the wave of the future for Soldiers in deployed areas. The benefits of the card are numerous, and it is fast, easy, and convenient. Check with your local finance office today to get your ECC!

## **HEALTH**

Olson, where living space is at a minimum, it is difficult for the team to improve the living conditions for the troops stationed there.

“What I target there is the food and the water, because those are the things that [the Soldiers] interact with everyday,” Rieger said. “Those are the big show-stoppers if anything’s wrong with them.”

The team gathers water samples from main distribution points around the base, such as the showers and dining facilities, and analyzes them for bacteria and contamination. They also check the expiration dates and cooking temperature of the food served in the dining facilities. This is done to prevent the Soldiers from contracting any water or food-borne illnesses.

The preventative medicine team looks toward long term progress as well as immediate improvements for the FOBs they visit. The thoroughness of the base camp assessments gives the team a “big picture” outlook for improving the health and living conditions of U.S. Soldiers in Iraq.

“The first aid stations catch the immediate threats to the Soldiers currently deployed,” Sites said. “Preventative medicine helps to ensure those threats don’t occur again for the next group coming in.”

It takes approximately two days to take the samples and complete the tests, and then give the evaluations and recommendations to the installation commanders, before the team moves on to their next destination.

Even though the preventative medicine team doesn’t stay around long at the FOBs they visit and don’t meet everyone living there, they do have a personal interest in each and every service member stationed in their area, Rieger said.

“You just always have to think that you’re preventing [the Soldiers] from being sick, so that’s what’s rewarding. We’re there basically to help the unit,” Rieger said. “I like ... protecting the troops from getting sick from the environment. That’s what really brought me to this job.”

*IN HONOR OF THOSE WHO MADE  
THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE ...*



**CPL STEPHEN RADERSTORF**  
**KIA, 3-8 CAV**  
**BALAD, IRAQ**  
**DEC 23, 1985 - JAN 7, 2007**



**MAJ ALAN JOHNSON**  
**KIA, 402ND CA BN**  
**BALAD, IRAQ**  
**DEC 3, 1962 - JAN 26, 2007**



**SGT WILLIAM SIGUA**  
**KIA, 1PANTHER**  
**BAYJI, IRAQ**  
**MAR 21, 1985 - JAN 31, 2007**

# 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment 82nd Airborne Division



**All the Way!!  
H-Minus!!**

