

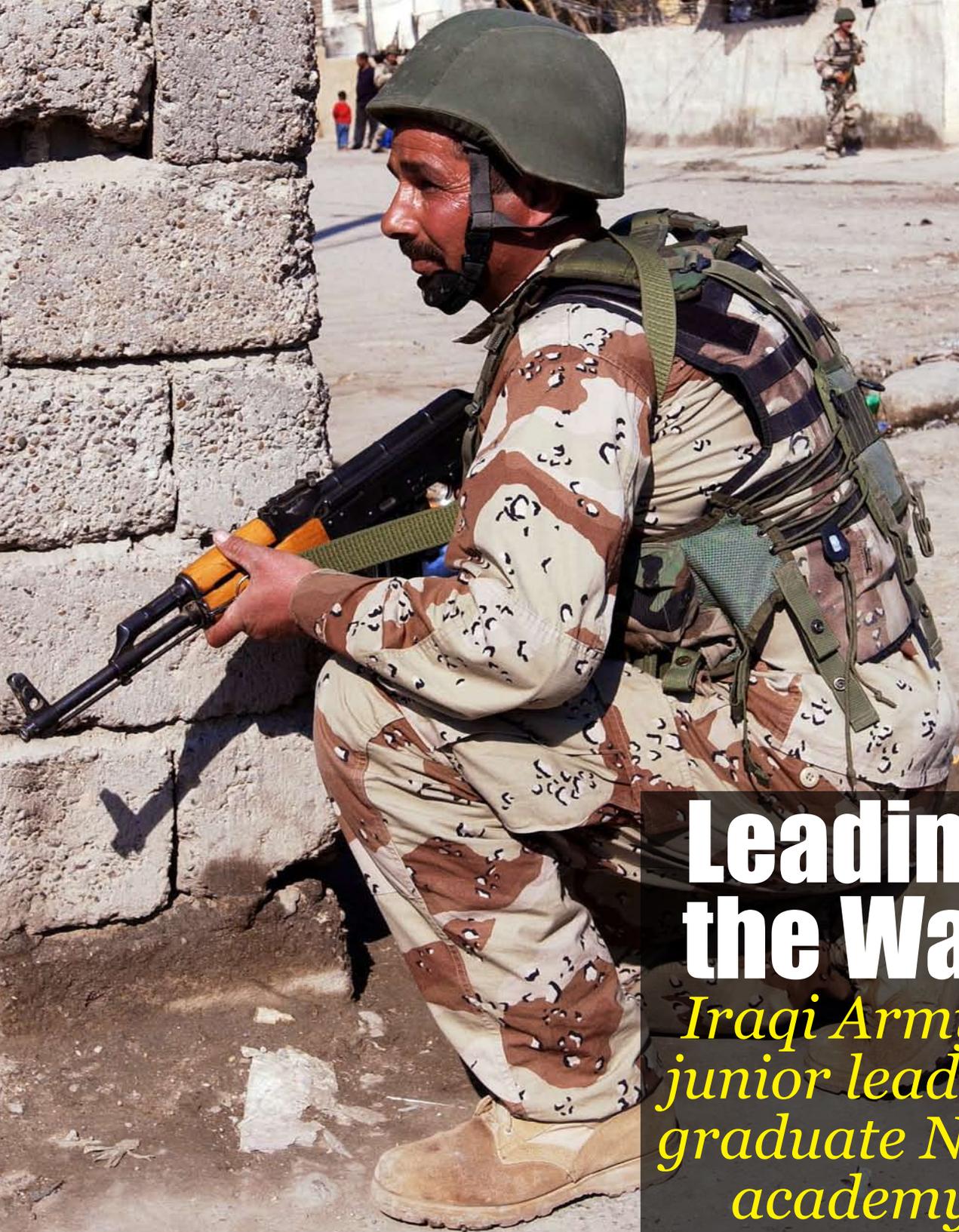
Return to AZ-Zaidon • New bridge relinks communities

www.mnci.centcom.mil/Chronicle

THE COALITION CHRONICLE

Volume 2, Issue 3

March 2007



Leading the Way

*Iraqi Army's
junior leaders
graduate NCO
academy*

What's Inside

Leading the Way

Iraqi Army's junior leadership graduates from NCO academy run by 10th Mountain Division Soldiers

Page 5

Bombs Away

Bosnian EOD teams clean up artillery cache

Page 7

Building Bridges

Rebuilt structure opens up Euphrates valley

Page 18

Education Begins

Zaytuns finish mountain schools

Page 21

Return to Az-Zaidon

Air assault returns coalition presence

Page 22

Looking for Answers

CA Group aids Iraqis with

Page 24

Departments

Commander's Voice

Page 1

CSM's Corner

Page 2

Coalition News Briefs

Page 4

Freedom's Focal Point

Page 8

Warrior Spirit

Page 27

In Remembrance

Page 28

THE COALITION CHRONICLE

The Official Magazine of
Multi-National Corps-Iraq

March 2007
Volume 2, Issue 3

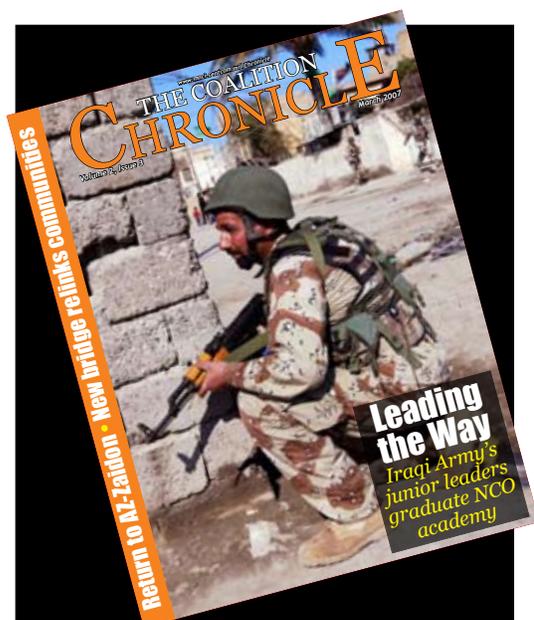
MNC-I Commander
Lt. Gen. Ray Odierno

MNC-I Public Affairs Officer
Lt. Col. James Hutton

MNC-I Command Information Chief
Sgt. 1st Class Terrence Hayes

Editor
Sgt. Jacob Boyer

Staff Writers
Spc. Laura M. Bigenho
Spc. D. A. Dickinson
Spc. Abel Trevino
Cpl. Jess Kent



This month's covers

Up front: Sgt. Hamdullah Mullawez of the 3rd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division pulls security at a corner in downtown Mahmudiyah. Photo by Army Spc. Chris McCann.

On the back: A Marine with Regimental Combat Team 7 stands watch at a transfer of authority ceremony at Camp Ripper near Al Asad. Photo by Marine Lance Cpl. Tyler W. Hill.

The Coalition Chronicle 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 U.S. Government or the Department of Defense. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Public Affairs Office of the Multi-National Corps-Iraq.

Questions, comments and concerns about The Coalition Chronicle can be addressed via email at jacob.boyer@iraq.centcom.mil. The Chronicle accepts articles, photos and letters for submission. Send submissions to terrence.hayes@iraq.centcom.mil. The Chronicle reserves the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, clarity and space.

COMMANDER'S VOICE

Much of my time this month has focused on the Baghdad Security Plan, "Fardh al-Qanoon".

I have been working closely with Lt. Gen. Abud, who heads up the Baghdad Operation Command, to ensure the plan is receiving the necessary support from coalition forces. The BOC is supported by a unit from MNC-I to ensure close working relations and effective communications.

While the number of attacks has decreased in recent weeks, the number of those killed has not. This is due to the massive destruction caused by VBIEDs. In order to decrease the opportunity for such attacks, we are assisting the Iraqis in turning market areas into pedestrian zones similar to those found in numerous cities in Europe.

Last week, Col. Bannister took me around the Rusafa and Doura markets and I saw for myself the dramatic improvement these measures have made. I spoke with Iraqis that shop and live there. They told me that they feel more secure now that barriers and checkpoints make it very difficult for those intent on mass murder to enter these markets.

Another key element to the plan is the joint security stations established in each of the 10 security districts of Baghdad. I visited a JSS in Adhamiyya, which is the area of operation of the 2nd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division. I met with the Iraqi Army commander of the sector, the chief of police, the coalition battalion commander and the MiTT Advisor. They described to me how they all work together side by side, ensuring a 24-hour pres-



Lt. Gen. Ray Odierno
MNC-I Commanding
General

ence in the community. Even in its early stages, tips from Iraqis have more than doubled.

Although we see some initial progress, I am cautious in my optimism. We know that extremists do not want this plan to work. They will continue to try to de-legitimize the government as well as coalition forces by carrying out bombings and killing civilians, all for the sake of gaining power or creating chaos.

We know there will be tough days ahead. The overall success of this operation will be told over the months – not weeks – ahead.

We are making progress in other parts of Iraq as well. Earlier last month I traveled to Bayji to visit the oil refinery. It is no secret this country has vast amounts of wealth sitting just below the surface, but due to poor infrastructure and corruption the citizens of Iraq have yet to truly benefit from these resources.

We are working to help the Iraqis secure the refinery in order to increase the level of fuel supplied to Iraqi citizens across the country. However, the most complex aspect of this is dealing with the corruption which impacts on both production and distribution.

It can range from militia members driving up to the Bayji oil refinery in an oil tanker, filling it up, and selling it on the black market to an Iraqi security official using an oil pipeline behind his office as his own personal gas station. I gained an understanding of the complexity of the issues from talking to Capt. Kuhlman. The Soldiers of Company B, 1st Battalion, 505th

Parachute Infantry Regiment are helping to ensure the oil refinery's security and Iraqi Army units are escorting every convoy of fuel trucks to their destination.

Encouraging signs are coming out of al-Anbar Province. For the third month in a row, more than 1,000 Iraqis joined the police and army in al-Anbar. And this is in a province in which a year before, suicide vest bombers hit the Fallujah recruiting drive and before that 15 police officers were killed in the soccer field in Haditha.

As I watched the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force and 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division transition responsibility to the 2nd MEF and 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, I was able to reflect on just how far we have come.

Only a year ago we were fighting neighborhood to neighborhood for control of Fallujah and Ramadi. Today we have cleared all but a small section of each of those cities with offensive operations still underway to clear the final portions of Ramadi.

We have, indeed, tried this before only to have these cities become re-infested with an insurgent presence. What makes it different this time is we are not doing it alone. Previously it took almost an entire year for the units in MNF-West to recruit around 1,000 individuals to join the Iraqi Security Forces. Last month alone they were able to reach that mark. Sunni tribes have banded together and appear determined to fight al-Qaeda. They have decided that their own interests will be met from working in cooperation with coalition forces rather than against.

This is the result of patient, hard work with religious sheikhs, tribal leaders and local officials. Brave

individuals like Sheik Sattar and other local leaders are now actively engaged in driving out those who are seeking to destroy their country.

Along the Euphrates River valley, out west to al-Qaim, and in other towns in between, we have Soldiers and Marines permanently stationed to help develop relationships with the citizens and their capabilities to secure their own towns and villages.

Our presence has led to a sharp increase in ISF recruiting. It has had such an effect in Al Qaim in particular that I was told the Marines of the 2nd Regimental Combat Team have yet to encounter any direct-fire contact since last November. This was unthinkable a year ago.

The dynamics at work in this

country are delicate and volatile. It took one attack in Samarra last year, which destroyed the Golden Mosque — but did not kill a single person — to ignite a wave of violence.

Through our efforts, we are giving the Iraqi people hope. We are giving their security forces a chance to develop, their government a chance to establish itself as a viable authority throughout the country, and most importantly we are giving

the people of this great country a chance to build new lives for themselves.

We look forward to the day when an Iraqi mother does not have to worry about her children going to school, when an Iraqi father can go to work and back without fear, when Iraqi children can have a normal childhood. The Iraqi people deserve this, and

we are committed to making this happen. 

We have indeed tried this before, only to have these cities become re-infested with an insurgent presence. What makes it different this time is we are not doing it alone.

CSM's CORNER

I found myself trying in vain to keep track of the number inscribed on the Kevlar of each trainee running past me. Though I did not show it, I felt for the guys with illegible numbers on their helmets who were asked to yell out the same as they approached. The bayonet qualification course was only about 750 meters long, but it would smoke even the fittest troopers in the company.

I was one of 30 officers and NCOs who stood adjacent to each target, scoring the trainees' ability to engage it with rifle and bayonet. It was the culmination of the training battalion's effort to instill a warrior spirit in youngsters attempting to gain access to the Army in 1997.

Across from me was a recent arrival to the battalion, a 17-year veteran communications sergeant first class who had just completed inprocessing and a two-week indoctrination into the battalion. He wore his round, brown campaign hat proudly — low over the eyes and level with the ground. He scrutinized



**Command Sgt. Maj.
Neil Ciotola
MNC-I Command
Sergeant Major**

every aspect of the trainees' moves as they executed at his station. In between each iteration of Soldiers, we closed on one another's position and struck up conversations ranging from what life was like off the installation to the professional development of NCOs.

It wasn't long before the sergeant first class felt confident and comfortable enough to ask me what on earth he was doing as a drill sergeant. I asked him to clarify. He said he did not understand why the Army had seen fit to select him for the duty.

In his estimation, it was a position for those attempting to gain sufficient notoriety during a centralized promotion board process; you know — that one assignment that will put you over the top. I looked at him quizzically until he finally decided to take a breath. Then I had my say.

I asked the young (relatively speaking) sergeant first class if he thought there was any difference between the skill sets and responsibilities of a staff sergeant versus a sergeant first class. I asked him if a sergeant first class possibly possessed a deeper haversack of real life and maturity skills over that of a staff sergeant. I asked him if a staff sergeant needed a mentor in order to develop professionally and personally. And finally, I asked if he had ever

heard of a place called Aberdeen.

The sergeant first class — a great one mind you — did not understand the profound reasoning behind his being selected at such an advanced period in his service. To me, the reasons were obvious: maturity and perspective.

As a former basic combat training and one-station unit training command sergeant major, I watched as energetic young staff sergeants would literally run over their trainees on occasion when there was no sage counsel present. I watched as young drill sergeants would come right up to the line, and on occasion cross it, in their constant engagement with America's newest wannabe Soldiers.

I interceded on all too many occasions because of an absence of senior leadership that could walk up, place their hands on the shoulder of the younger NCOs and tell them to go take a break for a while and relax.

We take for granted the tremendous obligation we have to lend perspective to a given situation. There are entirely too many situations our troops are confronted with that demand the presence of a senior NCO or officer, in the absence of which our young, well-meaning Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines can make wrong — or not quite right — decisions.

I recently returned from a visit to one of the brigade combat teams assigned to Multi-National Corps-Iraq. During said visit, as I typically do, I ate a meal with about 30 junior enlisted Soldiers.

During the conduct of the meal I spoke to and entertained questions from all in attendance. During this most recent trip I was struck by the presence of two young Soldiers, one an infantryman.

The Soldier in question, a young specialist, expressed his frustration over all manner of things ranging from rules of engagement to the manner in which we're engaging the Iraqi people and our enemies. The young specialist, while emotional, conducted himself with all the decorum you would expect from a seasoned troop. I addressed the concerns of the young Soldier and left it at that.

The following day, I conducted a series of patrols that took me to some distant combat outposts of the brigade in question. At one of our four stops, as fate would have it, I met the platoon sergeant of

the young infantryman I had talked to the previous night.

I shared about an hour with the NCO in conversation before we headed out to visit and check on his Soldiers. After just a short time with the platoon sergeant, a sergeant first class, I was struck with the realization that he sounded just like the specialist I had talked to. I asked if he knew the Soldier I had

met and he went on to tell me that the Soldier was in fact one of his.

I thrill at the times I engage Soldiers who present the same mature outlook as their leadership. It scares the absolute hell out of me when a sergeant first class sounds just like — and has the same opinions as — a young specialist with two years in the Army.

What happened to "All Soldiers are entitled to outstanding leadership. I will provide that Leadership?" Again, it's a wonderful thing when a junior enlisted Soldier possesses the same grounded perspective as his or her senior NCO. It's an altogether different thing when a senior leader sounds like a private.

Remember how large the military seemed when you first joined? Remember how large, and in some respects overwhelming, that first installation seemed upon your arrival? It takes only a short time in the military to gain a sense of perspective.

That the young Soldier I engaged at dinner was frustrated over his interpretation of the ROE, the current state of affairs in theater, and the apparent lack of tangible progress to date is understandable. What is not acceptable is that a senior NCO would express the same concerns when he is the very leader who's supposed to provide perspective to the trooper.

Each of our respective services can be a bit overwhelming to our youngest service members. It takes a while for each to find their niche. This thing called asymmetric warfare is difficult for even the best of us to embrace and understand at times. The cultural differences which confront us and the Iraqis can make one's head swim. With all this in mind, it's incumbent on all senior leaders to learn as much as we can, pass on all we can, and — if nothing else — not sound like just another private. ☺

***It's a wonderful thing when
a junior enlisted Soldier
possesses the same grounded
perspective as his senior NCO.
It's an altogether different
thing when a senior leader
sounds like a private.***

COALITION NEWS BRIEFS



Combined op leads to cache find

KIRKUK — Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team and Iraqi Security Forces discovered two ammunition caches in a combined air assault operation near the village of Dugmat Jan 30.

The first cache consisted of 21 rifle-propelled grenades, two rocket-propelled grenades, blasting caps and several thousand rounds of small-arms ammunition. The second contained 30 anti-aircraft rounds.

“That’s the whole purpose of searching these towns and villages,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Louis Angelucci, command sergeant major, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 3rd BCT. “We’re not only looking for personnel, we are looking for caches. They both are extremely important for the success of these operations, so if we didn’t get the personnel, we definitely got the caches.”

According to Capt. Ryan Nacin, battalion task force fire support and assistant plans officer for 2-35, this operation drew in support from 4th Iraqi Army Division, the Emergency Services Unit, Rashaad Iraqi police, and U.S. Air Force and Army assets.



Polish troops meet with Al Qadisiyah sheikhs

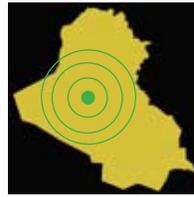
CAMPECHO — Multi-National Division–Central-South commander Maj. Gen. Pawel Lamla met with the Sheikhs Council of Al Qadisiyah Province Feb. 1.

During the first meeting, leading issues were connected with the security and economic development of Al Qadisiyah province.

“I am glad that I met here Sheikhs who I cooperated with two years ago, during the fourth rotation of our Polish Military Contingent,” Lamla said. “MND-CS cares deeply about good cooperation with Sheikhs as representatives of the local community.

“It is one of the key community organizations,” he continued. “Cooperation between the Sheikhs Council and MND-CS is a high priority,” he added.

The Sheikhs council consists of the heads of Al Qadisiyah province families. The council represents the families to local authorities and coalition forces. The sheikhs are an important informal authority in local society.



IA kills rogue leader near Baqubah

BAGHDAD — 5th Iraqi Army soldiers killed a reported leader of rogue Jaysh Al-Mahdi violence and criminal activity within Diyala Province during operations Feb. 4 near Baqubah.

The suspect was killed during a raid by Iraqi forces and coalition advisors to capture him on suspicion of controlling rogue JAM violence and criminal activity in Al Huwaydir and other areas north of Baqubah. The suspect is believed to have facilitated and directed numerous kidnappings, assassinations and other violence targeting Iraqi civilians and Iraqi Police. He is reportedly responsible for several attacks against coalition and Iraqi forces in the area. Reporting indicated he was directly linked to rogue JAM leadership in western Diyala Province and Baghdad.

Iraqi forces did not find the suspect in the building they first entered. Believing he had fled to a second building, Iraqi forces entered it and encountered a man, armed with an assault rifle, displaying hostile intent and posing an immediate threat to them. The man was shot by two Iraqi soldiers and killed. The man was identified as the suspected rogue JAM leader.

One additional suspect was detained.

The operation caused minimal damage and there were no Iraqi or coalition casualties.



IA troops detain 11 suspects in Ramadi

RAMADI — Soldiers of the 1st and 9th Iraqi Army Divisions detained 11 suspected insurgents Feb. 1 in northeast Ramadi during operations with Coalition advisers to capture the leader of an insurgent cell network.

The Iraqi-led operation was targeting a man believed to be running two cells conducting improvised explosive device attacks and murders against Iraqi civilians and Iraqi Security Forces. The cell leader is suspected of being directly involved in the deaths of two Iraqi Soldiers.

The suspect owns several businesses and is believed to be using their profits to fund violent and criminal activities committed by insurgent cells.

There was minimal damage done to the objective and no Iraqi civilian, Iraqi forces or coalition forces casualties.



LEADING THE WAY

IRAQI ARMY'S JUNIOR LEADERS FINISH NCO COURSE

Maj. Abbas Khuddur of the 3rd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, patrols the streets of Mahmudiyah with the soldiers of the battalion on their final dismounted patrol during the Warrior Leaders Course for new noncommissioned officers.

Story, photos by
Army Spc. Chris McCann
2nd BCT, 10th Mountain Div. PAO

The Iraqi Army has historically been top-heavy, giving leadership responsibility to officers and officers alone. Enlisted members were not afforded much responsibility or authority. But the “backbone” of the U.S. Army is the NCO Corps – charged with leading troops and looking after their well-being – while officers plan and execute operations.

To help build the Iraqi Army into a well-oiled and highly-functioning force, the 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) has worked extensively with the 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division to train new NCOs in the soldier and leadership skills necessary for success. A class of about 30 NCOs graduated from a Warrior Leaders Course in a ceremony at the Iraqi Army compound in Mahmudiyah Feb. 21.

“The principle is the same as in the U.S. Army,”

said Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Mahoney, 2nd Brigade’s senior NCO. “It’s an entry-level course on the fundamentals of being an NCO. If the Iraqi leadership will delegate duties and responsibilities to new NCOs, they will become a force multiplier.”

Training Iraqi soldiers is a critical part of the brigade’s mission in Iraq, he added.

“Our main emphasis here is to partner with and train Iraqi security forces,” said Mahoney. “One of our efforts is to develop the enlisted leadership within the ISF, so they can provide better service for the good citizens of Iraq.”

The brigade’s efforts – and those of the Iraqi Army leadership – have been bearing fruit.

“The course was too easy,” said Sgt. Ali Kazam Radban, a new graduate, using a phrase he learned from American Soldiers. “We learned to search cars, read maps, basic maneuvers and mounted and dismounted patrols. Dismounted patrolling and map reading were my favorite parts, because I like learning new things like that, and going out and seeing the surrounding areas is good too, because I’m pretty familiar with this town.”



Command Sgt. Maj. Wessam Muhammad of the 3rd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, stands at attention during a graduation ceremony for soldiers who completed the Warrior Leaders Course under his tutelage and that of Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) at the Mahmudiyah Iraqi Army Compound, Feb. 21.

The course culminated with a two-hour dismounted patrol of the town of Mahmudiyah, as the students put their skills to work securing street corners for their fellow soldiers moving in the market and various neighborhoods.

Sgt. 1st Class John Lindsey, a native of Chattanooga, Tenn., and a military transition team leader, assisted with much of the course.

"They've learned techniques in patrolling, inspecting houses and vehicles, and how to teach physical training," Lindsey said. "They've also had several classes such as first aid and training on different weapons systems like hand grenades, AK-47s, and machine guns."

The Iraqi troops were eager to learn for the most part, he said.

"They're doing good. (Sgt. Maj. Wessam) Muhammad did an assessment of them," he said. "Some were having trouble, but the leaders have been working with them, just like in our Warrior Leaders

Course."

Muhammad, the primary instructor for the course, agreed that the students were very successful.

"The soldiers are doing well, of course," he said. "They're learning a lot of new information. Before, many soldiers only knew how to kill, and most of those are gone now."

"The new American skills are helping a great

deal. The U.S. Soldiers are giving a lot of knowledge and skill to our Iraqi soldiers."

Over 110 Iraqis have graduated from WLC since the program started, and many are continuing to go to other military courses, where they learn to be snipers and mechanics.

After the graduation ceremony, during which the new NCOs re-

cited the Iraqi NCO creed, the top three graduates were presented coins by Multi-National Corps-Iraq Command Sgt. Maj. Neil Ciotola, a native of Elizabeth, N.J.

"I want this to be a reminder,"

Ciotola told the graduates through an interpreter, "of your obligation to your country. I want this to be a reminder of your obligation to pass on what

you have learned. If you love Iraq, together we will make this the paradise God intended it to be for all people. I want to come here on vacation one day."

The meaning was not lost on the soldiers.

"I am very proud to be an Iraqi NCO," Kazam Radban said. "I am very proud the Americans have taught us so much." ☺

"The U.S. Soldiers are giving a lot of knowledge and skill to our Iraqi soldiers."

**IA Sgt. Maj. Wessam Muhammad
WLC primary instructor**



A Bosnian EOD specialist rigs ordnance with plastic explosive before it can be destroyed.



A pair of Bosnian soldiers carry an artillery round left over from the Baath Party regime to a site where it will be destroyed.

Bombs Away

Bosnian EOD team keeps ordnance out of insurgents' hands

Story, photos by
Capt. Szczepan Ghuszcak
MND-CS PIO

In Asal Belly, 30 kilometers east of Ad Diwaniyah's Camp Echo, Iraqis stashed a large cache of artillery ammunition before Operation Iraqi Freedom started. Mortars, artillery shells, antitank mines and aircraft bombs were spread across 16 square kilometers.

A Bosnia and Herzegovinan explosive ordnance disposal unit set off to this dangerous place in order to search for and destroy unexploded ordnance Feb. 28. It was a crucial mission because each piece of ammunition could become a potential IED used against Iraqis or coalition forces.

After they reached their destination, a maneuver group secured the area of operation.

Professionals from the EOD unit started to identify a selection of

found ammunition.

"The main priorities are ammunition with caliber over 120 mm, because it poses the biggest threat," said 1st Lt. Samir Husanovic, liaison officer. "We are going to collect all the explosives in one place and destroy them."

This task was difficult. Some of the ammunition was rusted or damaged and could not be moved. It was necessary to destroy those pieces where they were found.

After they planted plastic explosive charges, the EOD soldiers withdrew to a safe place where they could observe the efficiency of their work. Two huge blasts shook the ground before big plumes of smoke appeared in the distance.

After finishing the demolition,

the soldiers double checked to ensure all the ammunition had been destroyed. A patrol went to the spot and did a thorough examination before returning to the Multi-National Division-Central-South's Camp Echo.

"Today we have destroyed

359 pieces of unexploded ordnance, including 126 projectiles and mortar grenades of caliber 120 mm," said Capt. Her-

man Jerman, the EOD unit's commander. "We have also destroyed over 6,000 pieces of unexploded ordnance with an overall weight of more than 14 tons during the last week."

This day was a huge success and one step forward in the struggle against terrorism, he said. 

Each piece of ammunition could become a potential IED used against coalition forces.

Freedom's Focal Point



Freedom's Focal Point



Pvt. Brian Curatoro, a build boat operator with the 502nd Multi-Role Bridge Company pulls a section of an assault float bridge away before the unit assembles a new one outside Camp Taji Feb. 11. Photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kitt Amaritnant.



Top Left: A Latvian soldier fires from the standing position during a live-fire exercise Feb. 12 near Ad-Diwaniyah. Photo by Army Sgt. Rob Summitt.

Top Right: Pfc. Rickey Clanton, radio transmission operator with Alpha Company A, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, communicates with other Soldiers during a cordon and search operation in a village west of Baghdad Feb. 17. Photo by Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kitt Amaritnant.

Bottom right: An Iraqi Army soldier digs in search of weapons in Al Doura Feb. 11. Photo by Army Spc. Olanrewaju Akinwunmi.

Bottom Left: Iraqi soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division tear down a palm fence during a cordon and search for insurgents and caches in Chubinait Feb. 3. Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Stacy L. Pearsall.



Freedom's Focal Point



Freedom's Focal Point



Iraqi army soldiers from the Emergency Service Unit get extracted on a CH-47 Chinook helicopter after a search to find weapons caches and known terrorist suspects in Dugmat Jan. 30. Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Maria J. Bare.



Freedom's Focal Point

Freedom's Focal Point





Top left: An Iraqi soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division, tries to kick open a gate during a cordon and search for insurgence and weapons caches in Chubainait Feb. 3. Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Stacy L. Pearsall.

Top right: Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Ogawa, Company B, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, opens a lollipop for an Iraqi boy in Baghdad Feb. 6. Photo by Army Sgt. Tierney Nowland.

Borrom right: Iraq Police clear a room during a patrol of Riyahd Feb. 5. Photo by Air Force Master Sgt. Andy Dunaway.

Bottom left: Before heading out on a mission, Spc. Timothy McClellan, Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, plays a game of rock-baseball before heading out on a mission at the Army outpost in Kahn Bani Sahd Feb. 6. Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Stacy L. Pearsall.

Freedom's Focal Point



Spc. William McGrath, Company B, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, engages the enemy after coming under fire in Buhriz Feb. 15. Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Stacy L. Pearsall.



Freedom's Focal Point

Building Bridges

Western Euphrates River Valley moves toward economic, social development with bridge opening

Story, photos by
Marine Cpl. Michael S. Cifuentes
3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment PAO

Local Iraqi leaders, members of local Iraqi Security Forces and U.S. Marines and Soldiers serving in western Iraq came together Feb. 1 in Ramana to celebrate the opening of a bridge which stretches across the Euphrates River.

The celebration included a ribbon-cutting ceremony. It was followed by a feast hosted by the mayor of Ramana, Raffi Harrab.

Local sheiks, along with Lt. Col. Scott C. Shuster, commanding officer of Task Force 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, a Twentynine Palms, Calif.-based battalion, and the mayors of Husaybah and Ramana marked the celebration by walking across the bridge

after the ribbon was cut.

The bridge was decorated with a palm-made arch over its south entrance, flanked by two Iraqi national flags. All of the day's events were planned and organized by local Iraqis, and security was left up to the local Iraqi Security Forces. Shuster said he was pleased the Iraqi people, army and police had done such a thorough job for the ceremony.

The bridge was constructed by a U.S. Army platoon with 362nd Engineer Company, a unit based out of Fort Benning, Ga. The construction of the bridge began in December 2006 and was completed less than a week before the grand opening.

Budgeted at \$6.5 million, the steel, double-truss designed bridge, known as a Mabey-Johnson Logistic Support Bridge, was named the Ramana Bridge after the one it replaced. At 268 meters long and two lanes

Mayor Farhan T. Farhan, the mayor of Husaybah, Iraq, speaks for a moment before cutting the ribbon during the opening of a bridge Feb. 1 in Ramana as Army Staff Sgt. Glenn Fulton, senior boat operator with 362nd Engineer Company, looks on.





A Humvee leads a Marine convoy across the bridge after it opened.

wide, the bridge connects two Euphrates River Valley cities — Karabilah and Ramana.

The bridge was originally an Iraqi-constructed bridge.

In November 2005, Marines with 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, a Camp Lejeune, N.C.-based battalion, destroyed sections of the original bridge with an air strike in order to interdict insurgent activities and to support counterinsurgency operations in the area. This was just three months before a 16-day operation dubbed Steel Curtain, in which Marines and other coalition forces here ousted insurgents from the area.

Since then, the effects of the disabled bridge were “tremendous” for the people of Ramana, Karabilah, and other local cities such as Sa’dah, and Husaybah, said Army 1st Lt. Po Chun Tsui, platoon leader with 362nd Engineer Company.

Shuster said it was clear the loss of the bridge had a very negative impact on the local populace and local businesses.

“The bridge served not only as a link to commerce and economic development but also a conduit to relationships, families and a complex social network

with far reaching effects,” said Tsui, a Honolulu native. “The restoration of the Ramana Bridge is a step toward garnering support to the coalition forces and 3/4 effort in the area.”

“The restoration of the Remana Bridge is a step toward garnering support for coalition forces and the 3/4 effort in the area.”

Army 1st Lt. Po Chun Tsui
platoon leader

In June 2006, an assault float bridge, more commonly known as the ribbon bridge, was emplaced by the 74th Engineer Company, an Army unit from Fort Bragg, N.C., to assist locals in resuming vehicle and pedestrian traffic in the Ramana area.

But in October 2006, sections of the bridge were damaged due to rain storms and flooding on the Euphrates River.

Although the ribbon bridge, which was dubbed the Golden Gate Bridge, was emplaced across the river, it was designed for tactical application and not for long-term use as a fixed bridge, said Tsui.

The Marine Corps purchased the MJLSB with funding allocated for Iraqi civil infrastructure development, Tsui said. After a month without a bridge between Karabilah and Ramana, construction began in December.

Building materials and labor came directly from the U.S. Army bridge building company, Shuster said.



Iraqi leaders, members of Iraqi Security Forces and Marines and Soldiers celebrate the opening of the bridge.

“This project showed our commitment to the Iraqi people and positive growth in the area,” he said.

During the ceremony, Mayor Raffi Harrab, the mayor of Ramana, said the connection and relationship between Ramana and Karabala was almost dead, but thanks to the rebuilding of the bridge, it is “revived.”

“We’re all very happy for such a good achievement from the Americans,” said Harrab through an Arabic-English interpreter. “We all give our thanks to the troops who made this good project happen.”

The MJLSB project required the effort of every Soldier from 362nd Engineer Company’s 1st Platoon, said Army Staff Sgt. Glenn Fulton, senior boat operator with 1st Platoon, 362nd Engineer Company.

“For most soldiers in the platoon, the construction of the [bridge] is one of the highlights of their military career,” said Fulton, an Oakdale, Conn., native. “The thought of leaving a legacy of their time in Iraq for the Iraqi people was a motivation for of all Soldiers involved. Every member of the platoon played a major part in this mission.”

The construction of the Ramana Bridge also improves logistical and Quick Reaction Force support for the battalion, said Shuster.

The Marine battalion, nicknamed “Shanghai” for their garrison duty in Shanghai, China, in 1927, is currently serving its fourth deployment to Iraq since the initial push to Baghdad in 2003, in which they participated. The Marines and Sailors of the battalion are now into their sixth month of a nine-month deployment.

Daily life for 3/4’s service members means patrolling the streets of these Euphrates River cities in search of insurgent activity. They are also tasked with mentoring and monitoring the local Iraqi Security Forces, imparting with them essential military tactics and procedures they will need in order to man

their country on their own.

Coalition overwatch on the bridge site is maintained by Marines with 3/4 from a nearby outpost. Local Iraqi Security Forces constantly conduct security operations in the area through patrols and random vehicle searches at check points. As long as the task force is serving the area, overwatch on the bridge will continue, said Shuster.

“The same reason we want to use the bridge is the same reason the terrorists want to stop us from using the bridge. We’re providing support for the Iraqi Security Forces,” said Shuster.

Aside from combat operations in the area, this bridge will mostly be used by the local populace, said Sgt. Dmitriy Y. Degtyar, a team leader and civil affairs specialist with 4th Civil Affairs Group, an attachment that supports Task Force 3/4.

Funding allocated for civil infrastructure development was granted to local Iraqi contractors in Ramana. All materials needed for construction projects come from south of the Euphrates River, across from Ramana. But without the bridge, the materials had to be rerouted to another bridge, several miles away from Ramana, costing more money to the contactors, said Degtyar.

“This was very inconvenient to the local contractors,” said Degtyar, a Denver native. “With the bridge put in, construction projects in the area will surely speed up.

“The Ramana Bridge is an open gate toward economic development and growth,” he added.

This development is very important to the region, which is filled with famers and sheep herders, say some Iraqis.

“The Ramana Bridge’s presence will serve as a symbol of the United States commitment to the nation of Iraq and the Iraqi people,” said Tsui. “This is a significant leap forward.”



Zaytun Division completes schools in northeastern Iraq

A Perar child and a Zaytun Soldier celebrate the completion of the new school the delivery of its classroom supplies.

Story, photos courtesy of
Multi-National Division-Northeast

In the undeveloped and secluded village of Pirar, located far from the soldiers of Multi-National Division-Northeast, only mountains, earthen houses and cattle can be seen. Pirar, which is very small, is home to about 130 people in 20 households.

An 11-year-old village boy named Reycout, along with all the other children of Pirar, can now smile because the construction of Pirar Elementary School was completed Jan. 21. This project, started in April 2006, took 10 months of hard work and dedication. Reycoutt was so excited about the brand new school where he and his friends could learn and play together.

“Very ood”, he expressed excitedly. He said that he is so thankful to the Zaytun Division.

The division also held an opening ceremony Jan. 14 for another new school in Oghsar, a mountain village where 200 people live in 30 households.

The new schools each cover about 445 square yards

with three classrooms.

However, they are equipped with modern facilities including electric generators, air conditioners and instantaneous water heaters. This helps provide the best educational facilities regardless of extreme weather conditions or power outages.

In addition, high technology automation supplies, including four computers, software, a TV, two printers and a copier were provided to each school. Office furniture and supplies, including 75 desks and chairs for students, seven desks and chairs for teachers, 15 drawers and three white boards were also added to further enhance the learning environment.

“Getting a haircut or putting on makeup brings you happiness for a day. Planting a tree brings you joy for the next 10 years. For the next 100 years, you must invest in education. I cordially hope these completed projects will be foundational pillars for the development of these villages and the Kurd Region. We will continuously support the education with you”, said Brig. Gen. Ik-Bong Choi, the 11th Civil Affairs Brigade, Zaytun Division, commander. ☺

Return to Az-Zaidon

Early morning air assault reestablishes U.S. presence in village

Story, photos by
Army Spc. Chris McCann
2nd BCT, 10th Mountain Div. PAO

It was a scene that could almost have been taken from the movie “We Were Soldiers.” Troops stood in darkness, waiting to get into helicopters to air-assault into an area of Iraq that had not seen U.S. forces in nearly a year, and someone mumbled something very like Lt. Col. Hal Moore’s comment in the film.

“Round-trip with choppers, 30 minutes – that means the first 60 men will be on the ground a half-hour alone.”

Fortunately for the Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), the similarities to the story stopped there.

The 2-14th Infantry “Golden Dragons,” joined by troops from the 3rd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, surrounded the village of Ibrahim Sallal, southwest of Az-Zaidon, in the pre-dawn darkness of Feb. 3.

The first drop of Soldiers from Company B waited silently for the other half of the company to arrive before going to homes in the area, waking the occupants and collecting all military-age males in the village for questioning. They also gathered weapons they found in the houses.

The men were taken to the school in the center of the village, where they waited to be questioned as Soldiers set up a defensive perimeter. Other Soldiers searched the village again, this time more thoroughly after the initial hunt, during which time was of the



Sgt. 1st Class James Reichert, 1110th Tactical Psychological Detachment, 303rd Tactical Psychological Operations Company, hands out backpacks and school supplies to children of Ibrahim Sallal village Feb. 3.

essence. They turned up another man who had been sleeping and a few more weapons.

The Iraqi soldiers searched the local mosque, where they found a few jihadist propaganda pamphlets.

Questioning began early and continued throughout the day. While the families seemed a little frightened by the early intrusion, wives and children soon came to the school, bringing socks and scarves for the men, who did not have time to get them. They also brought food for the men of the village and the Soldiers alike. Some of the women brought sick children to be treated by the medics and were given medicine.

“Everything has been very successful so far,” said Maj. Joel Smith, Brisbane, Australia, native and 2/14’s executive officer. “We did a rapid clearance of the houses on the objective, controlled all the military-aged males and took contraband weapons. The mission is to get a better picture of the area; since our transfer of authority, we’ve had no presence here.”



Staff Sgt. Matthew Bonchi, 1110th Tactical Psychological Detachment, 303rd Tactical Psychological Operations Company, adjusts the straps on a backpack for one of the village's children.



Spc. Michael Hardiman, a member of the personal security detachment for 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, climbs onto a roof of the school in the village.

Several men told interrogators that there was terrorist activity in the area, and said that one local man had been forced to leave days prior after terrorists threatened him and his family.

Despite the early morning wake-up call for this operation, the Soldiers of Co. B were unfazed and even excited about the mission.

"We're always out at 4 a.m.," said Army Pfc. Charles Marcille, a native of Metamora, Ill., and a rifleman with the company, as he stood outside the mosque guarding two men who had been found there. "This was my second air assault. I'm not a big flyer. It's nerve-racking when you're in a helicopter, but it's exciting too."

Army 1st Lt. George Webb, a native of Madison, Va., and a platoon leader, was also enthused about the early-morning assignment.

"I couldn't see myself — nor would I want to be — anywhere other than here, doing what we're doing," he said. "It's neat seeing the reaction, especially from the children, and seeing the improvements we could make in the neighborhoods by bringing the sheiks to a council."

The mission included four Iraqi

soldiers who often work with the company.

"We hope to catch insurgents on this mission," said Koteba Hamid Ahmad. "We came in here to see the area, and everyone did a great job. The kids seem happy, the helicopter ride in went well. Working with the Americans is always good. We enjoy it every time."

Bassim Muhammad Ali, who has done seven air assaults with the unit, agreed.

"I love working with the American Army. We four are always out with 2-14th. This sort of mission isn't new."

Civil affairs Soldiers came in by convoy later in the morning, distributing school supplies such as backpacks and colored pencils to dozens of eager children. Although the 10th Mountain Division's 2nd "Commando" Brigade Combat Team has not had much presence in the area, the hope is that the time spent there will bear fruit.

"I think we're doing something

productive and helping here," said Pfc. Stephen Harris, a rifleman with Co. B and native of the Cayman Islands. "We did a patrol to find caches and searched buildings. It will definitely help. We're

taking a proactive approach. Ever since we've been proactive in an area, (improvised explosive device) attacks have gone

down, because we're keeping the insurgents on the run."

While the men were detained for questioning until after dark, all were released to their homes when the company left that evening.

"The decisive part of this mission was intelligence gathering," said Army Capt. Palmer Phillips, a native of Swampscott, Mass. "All our reports were six months to a year old. We have a start on developing information on Zaidon, and established ties between the Zaidon area and (the village of) Sadr Al-Yusufiyah, which will be important in developing future operations. This mission was substantively useful." 

Some of the women brought sick children to be treated by the medics and were given medicine.



Marine Master Gunnery Sgt. Salvatore Rignola, CAG senior enlisted advisor, tries to get answers for a local Haditha citizen who came to the Civil Military Operations Center there to inquire about the whereabouts of a relative detained a few days prior.

Looking for Answers

**Haditha residents
go to Marine CA
Group for help**

Story, photos by
Marine Cpl. Luke Blom
2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment

“I need kerosene.”

“Do you know anything about my son who was detained yesterday?”

“Can you fix the damage that was done to my house when Marines were fighting Ali Baba?”

Citizens from this western Al Anbar city come to the U.S. Marines of the Virginia-based 4th Civil Affairs Group seeking answers for their many questions.

Whether the CAG Marines were able to accommodate all the requests or not, they have built a strong rapport with the local population in the four months since their arrival through their tireless effort to help, according to Marine Capt. William Parker, the CAG team leader.

The CAG acts as a link between the local Iraqi population and the infantry Marines of the Hawaii-based 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, who have been securing the Haditha Triad region since September 2006. The region is home to 50,000 and consists of the cities of Haditha, Haqlaniyah and Barwanah, which all sit on the banks of the Euphrates River.

While the Marines of 2nd Battalion hunt down insurgents, search for weapons caches and patrol the streets of these Euphrates River cities, CAG Marines are busy building the foundation of a strong community, said Parker, a 36-year-old from Boston.

“Traditionally the CAG mission focuses on projects – building schools, hospitals and other infrastructure facilities,” Parker said. “The reasoning behind this is that these projects are built by local contractors, so you’re putting money back into the community and providing jobs.”

However, many local contractors are reluctant to work with the coalition on building projects due to threats from the local insurgency. Undeterred by the insurgents’ murder and intimidation campaign, the CAG Marines here have tailored their operation to slowly build community support and involvement.

“Right now we’re doing smaller things on a more personal level,” said Parker.

“We’re understanding who these people are, what their belief systems are, what their feelings towards the coalition and insurgents are, what their goals are, and what they would like to see happen here.”

When Parker and his team of 12 Marines arrived in the triad in September 2006, the local population had minimal contact with the CAG. In their first couple weeks operating in the triad, they would be lucky to have five local Iraqis come into the Civil Military Opera-

In this culture, as long as they see that you’re making a strong effort, they feel like they’re being taken care of.

Marine Capt. William Parker
CAG team leader



Capt. William Parker, the Haditha Civil Affairs Group team leader, speaks with two citizens about current vehicular transportation restrictions.

tions Center, the hub for all CAG business, according to Master Gunnery Sgt. Salvatore Rignola, the CAG’s senior enlisted advisor.

There was even talk of shutting down the CMOC because it was thought to be ineffective, Parker said. Instead, the CAG Marines began going on patrols with Marines from 2nd Battalion in an effort to talk to as many locals as possible and spread the word about what the CAG could do for them and their community.

“On the patrols, the CAG mission never stopped,” he said. “It didn’t matter if there was a fire-fight going on outside, we kept talking to the people. The people saw that we were making a huge

effort to reach out to the community and see what they were concerned about or what they needed.”

The word spread around to the entire triad that if anyone had an issue concerning the coalition or their own community, they should go to the CMOC and talk to the CAG Marines.

“When we first got here, the people of Haditha wouldn’t even talk to an American, much less be seen going to the CMOC because they feared the insurgents would kill them,” said Rignola, a 46-year-old from New York City. “Now the CMOC is packed everyday.”

Whether they’re looking for a condolence payment, vehicle permit, information on the status of a detainee, money to repair damages caused by Marines or simply asking a question, the locals who come to the CMOC are looking for answers in some form.

“We’re not always able to give them what they’re looking for,”



In a four-month period of time, the Virginia-based 4th Civil Affairs Group has seen the number of visitors to the Civil Military Operation Center rise from a five a week to 60 Iraqis each day.

Parker said. "But in this culture, as long as they see that you're making a strong effort they feel like they're being taken care of."

Apparently, word has traveled so far around the entire triad that when residents go to the CMOC "you can get something done," Parker said.

People walk for miles from neighboring cities just to get to the CMOC and speak with the CAG Marines.

The amount of triad residents

who come to the CMOC to speak with the Marines has ballooned from five per week four months ago to an average of more than 60 people each day.

A line of people waiting to talk with a CAG Marine spills out the door of the CMOC daily.

Some local citizens come to the CMOC on such a regular basis that they are on a first-name basis with Rignola, who considers many of the Iraqis he's met here friends of his.

"If they remember a Marine treating them good, they'll keep that in the back of their mind for the rest of their lives," said Rignola, a reserve Marine who works for the New York City Fire Department investigating arson and explosions when not activated.

"No matter what someone tells them later on in life, they'll know that the Marines were good to them. It just comes down to treating people as you would like to be treated," he said. ☺



Warrior's Edge



I am extremely proud and honored to command the finest Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines in the world as we assist the Government of Iraq to secure peace, stability, and freedom from terrorist oppression for the people of Iraq. Without any doubt, the barbarism we witness gripping this nation confirms that we are on the front lines of the fight against terrorism. By standing with the Iraqi people to bravely fight for liberty, prosperity, and justice under the Rule of Law, we deny terrorists a haven from which to advance their ideology of hate, violence, and chaos. Our cause is just and right.

As we advance our noble task, I demand that each of you maintain the MNC-I Warrior's Edge. Our advantage over the enemy consists of a moral, physical, emotional, and military superiority. Our edge is based upon always doing right, maintaining the legal and ethical high ground while taking full advantage of our dominant strength in personnel, equipment, training, and doctrine. The most vital component of our Warrior's Edge is individual discipline, initiative, and fighting spirit.

In that light, I charge you to maintain an offensive mindset to drive our enemies to defeat. From every private to every general, I challenge you to be an expert in your field, to study your opponent with intensity and to capitalize on your problem-solving skills, preparation, and professionalism. Without tiring, increase the pressure on him at every turn. The Warrior's offensive spirit enables us to focus the full power of the Corps relentlessly against the enemy while protecting Iraqi civilians from unnecessary harm.

MNC-I Warriors know that the undisciplined use of force reduces our effectiveness and greatly undercuts the justness of our cause. Our respect for non-combatants is not incompatible with the offensive mindset. In fact, an offensive mindset requires you to always be mentally alert to identify hostile acts and hostile intent and be ready without hesitation to defend yourself and others with necessary force.

To that end, trust your training, battle drills, other operational procedures, and judgment. Our Rules of Engagement and Escalation of Force practices are fundamentally sound. They protect our forces and help to accomplish the mission with honor and precision by dramatically reducing needless civilian casualties. Continue to follow those standards and proven techniques with confidence. Do not be reluctant to root out the enemy and to engage him IAW the ROE whenever and wherever found.

Keep in mind, however, that EOF practices DO NOT replace the exercise of reasonable discretion and judgment. Under the ROE and EOF practices, persons committing hostile acts or exhibiting hostile intent may be engaged with necessary force to eliminate the threat without progress through EOF measures. The split-second decision on when and how to eliminate a threat is a matter of sound judgment left to individual troopers, leaders, and commanders.

You often make these life and death decisions in just a few seconds under arduous and tense circumstances. I, along with my subordinate commanders, proudly stand by your performance record in those trying situations. Understand that the various forms of information gathering through SIGACTS, AARs, Inquiries, and Investigations are tools for your leaders to assess the effectiveness of ROE and EOF practices, to capture TTP lessons learned, and to preserve evidence of Law of Armed Conflict and ROE compliance in case of later inquiry. You have nothing to fear from these necessary information-gathering tools. They assist us to maintain the Warrior's Edge and improve our fighting efficiency.

In conclusion, Iraq is a complex battlefield where we are engaged in counter insurgency operations against a devious and despicable enemy. To win we must take full advantage of our Warrior's Edge, seize and maintain the offensive, and remain vigilant, honorable, and professional in every action.

My God bless each and every one of you and thanks for all you do every day.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ray Odierno'.

RAYMOND T. ODIERNO
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

IN MEM

NAMES OF COALITION SERVICE MEM
OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM BETW

Jan. 16, 2007

Spc. Collin R. Schmockel, 19
1/9 Inf., 2nd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.

Jan. 17, 2007

Petty Officer 2nd Class Joseph D. Alomar, 22
Navy Provisional Detention Bn.

Jan. 18, 2007

Spc. William J. Rechenmacher, 24
STB, 1st Bde., 1st Cav. Div.

Jan. 19, 2007

Cpl. Jacob H. Neal, 23
1/24 Mar. Regt., 4th Mar. Div.
Sgt. 1st Class Russell P. Borea, 38
2/7 Cav., 4th Bde., 1st Cav. Div.

Jan. 20, 2007

1st Sgt. William T. Warren, 48
1/185 Avn., 77th Avn. Bde.
Maj. Michael V. Taylor, 40
1/185 Avn., 77th Avn. Bde.
Spc. Toby R. Olsen, 28
3/509 Inf., 4th Bde., 25th Inf. Div.
Pvt. Johnathon M. McMillan, 20
2/377 PIR, 4th Bde., 25th Inf. Div.
Sgt. Phillip D. McNeill, 22
3/509 Inf., 4th Bde., 25th Inf. Div.
Capt. Sean E. Lyerly, 31
36th CAB, 36th Inf. Div.
Cpl. Victor M. Langarcia, 29
86th Sig. Bn.
Sgt. 1st Class Floyd E. Lake, 43
Virgin Islands Army National Guard
Sgt. Jonathan P.C. Kingman, 21
1st Eng. Bn., 1st Bde., 1st Inf. Div.
Col. Paul M. Kelley, 45
Joint Forces Headquarters
Pfc. Allen B. Jaynes, 21
3/61 Cav., 2nd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.
Pfc. Ryan J. Hill, 20
1/26 Inf., 2nd Bde., 1st Inf. Div.
Command Sgt. Maj. Roger W. Haller, 49
70th Regt., Regional Training Institute
Command Sgt. Maj. Marilyn L. Gabbard, 46
Joint Forces Headquarters
1st Lt. Jacob N. Fritz, 25
2/377 PIR, 4th Bde., 25th Inf. Div.
Capt. Brian S. Freeman, 31
412th Civil Affairs Bn.
Sgt. Sean P. Fennerty, 25
3/509, 4th Bde., 25th Inf. Div.
Pfc. Shawn P. Falter, 25
2/377 PIR, 4th Bde., 25th Inf. Div.
Spc. Johnathan B. Chism, 22
2/377 PIR, 4th Bde., 25th Inf. Div.
Lance Cpl. Luis J. Castillo, 20
1/24 Mar. Regt., 4th Mar. Div.
Lt. Col. David C. Canegata III, 50
Virgin Islands Army National Guard

Sgt. 1st Class John G. Brown, 43
1/185 Avn., 77th Avn. Bde.
Staff Sgt. Darryl D. Booker, 37
29th Inf. Div.
Spc. Jeffrey D. Bisson, 22
3/509 Inf., 4th Bde., 25th Inf. Div.
Col. Brian D. Allgood, 46
Med. Bde., Europe Regional MEDCOM

Jan. 21, 2007

Pvt. Michael Tench, 18
Co. A, 2nd Bn., The Light Infantry
Lance Cpl. Emilian D. Sanchez, 20
2/4 Mar. Regt., 15th MEU, 1st MEF
Cpl. Daniel J. Morris, 21
2/10 Mar. Regt., 2nd Mar. Div., 2nd MEF
Lance Cpl. Andrew G. Matus, 19
2/4 Mar. Regt., 15th MEU, 1st MEF

Jan. 22, 2007

Staff Sgt. Jamie D. Wilson, 34
3/509 Inf., 4th Bde., 25th Inf. Div.
Spc. Brandon L. Stout, 23
26th MP Co., Michigan ANG
Spc. Nicholas P. Brown, 24
2/7 Cav., 4th Bde., 1st Cav. Div.

Jan. 23, 2007

Staff Sgt. Michael J. Wiggins, 26
79th EOD Bn.
Sgt. Michael M. Kashkoush, 24
23rd Intel Bn., 3rd MEF
Sgt Gary S. Johnston, 21
3rd Recon Bn., 3rd Mar. Div., 3rd MEF

Jan. 24, 2007

Staff Sgt. Hector Leija, 27
1/23 Inf., 3rd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.
Sgt. 1st Class Keith A. Callhan, 31
2/325 PIR, 2nd Bde, 82nd Airborne Div.

Jan. 25, 2007

Pfc. Darrell W. Shipp, 25
2/5 Cav., 1st Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Cpl. Mark D. Kidd, 26
1/24 Mar. Regt., 4th Mar. Div.
Sgt. Alexander H. Fuller, 21
3/61 Cav., 2nd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.
Pfc. Michael C. Balsley, 23
3/61 Cav., 2nd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.

Jan. 26, 2007

Maj. Alan R. Johnson, 44
402nd Civil Affairs Bn.
Pfc. Nathan P. Fairlie, 21
6/9 Cav., 3rd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.

Jan. 27, 2007

Pfc. David T. Toomalatai, 19
2/8 Cav., 1st Bde., 1st Cav. Div.

GREAT HATH N THAN THAT A LAY DO LIFE FO FRIE

JOHN

Cpl. Timothy A.
2/8 Cav., 1st Bde.
Pfc. Jon B. S.
2/8 Cav., 1st Bde.
Lance Cpl. Anth
2/4 Mar. Regt., 15
Sgt. Mickel D.
91st MP Bn., 10th

Jan. 28

Spc. Carla J.
250th Th
Capt. Mark
4/227 Avn., 1st Air Co
Chief Warrant Office
4/227 Avn., 1st Air Co

Jan. 29

Lance Cpl. Ada
3/4 Mar. Regt., 1st

Jan. 30

Cpl. Stephen I
397th E
Sgt. Milton A
1/77 AR, 2nd B
Sgt. Alejandr
CL Bn. 7, CL Regt. 1, 1st

Jan. 31

Sgt. Corey
1/77 AR, 2nd B

Jan. 31

Sgt. William
1/505 PIR, 3rd Bde.,

Feb. 1

Spc. Eric R
1/12 Cav., 3rd B

MORIAM

MEMBERS WHO DIED WHILE SERVING IN
BETWEEN JAN. 16 AND DEC. 15, 2007

EVER LOVE
NO MAN
THIS:
A MAN
OWN HIS
OR HIS
HANDS.

15:13

A. Swanson, 21
1st Cav. Div.
t. John II, 25
1st Cav. Div.
ony C. Melia, 20
15th MEU, 1st MEF
L. Garrigus, 24
10th Mountain Div.

Feb. 3, 2007
Stewart, 37
Trans. Co.
T. Resh, 28
1st Cav. Div.
r Cornell C. Chao, 36
1st Cav. Div.

Feb. 4, 2007
am Q. Emul, 19
1st MEF

Feb. 5, 2007
D. Shannon, 21
1st Eng. Bn.
A. Gist Jr., 27
1st Inf. Div.
o Carrillo, 22
1st MEF

J. Aultz, 31
1st Inf. Div.

Feb. 6, 2007
M. Sigua, 21
82nd Airborne Div.

Feb. 7, 2007
L. Sieger, 18
1st Cav. Div.

Cpl. Richard O. Quill III, 22
2/4 Mar. Regt., 1st Mar. Div., 1st MEF
Sgt. Maj. Michael C. Mettelle, 44
134th BSB
Gunnery Sgt. Terry J. Elliott, 34
2/3 Mar. Regt., 3rd Mar. Div., 3rd MEF
Hospitalman Matthew G. Conte, 22
2/3 Mar. Regt., 3rd Mar. Div., 3rd MEF
Pfc. Kenneth T. Butler, 21
8th MP Bde., 8th TSC
Pfc. David C. Armstrong, 21
8th MP Bde., 8th TSC

Feb. 2, 2007
Pvt. Matthew T. Zeimer, 18
3/69 AR, 1st Bde., 3rd Inf. Div.
Chief Warrant Officer Keith Yoakum, 41
1/227 Avn., 1st Air Cav. Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Spc. Alan E. McPeek, 20
16th Eng. Bn., 1st Bde., 1st Armored Div.
Capt. Kevin C. Landeck, 26
2/15 FA, 2nd Bde., 10th Mountain Div.
Staff Sgt. Terrence D. Dunn, 38
210th BSB, 2nd Bde., 10th Mountain Div.
Chief Warrant Officer Jason G. Defreem, 34
1/227 Avn., 1st Air Cav. Bde., 1st Cav. Div.

Feb. 3, 2007
Staff Sgt. Ronnie L. Sanders, 26
407th BSB, 2nd Bde., 82nd Airborne Div.

Feb. 4, 2007
Pvt. Clarence T. Spencer, 24
1/12 Cav., 3rd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.

Feb. 5, 2007
Lance Cpl. Brandon J. Van Parys, 20
3/6 Mar. Regt., 2nd Mar. Div., 2nd MEF
2nd Lt. Jonathan Carlos Bracho-Cooke, 24
Co. C, 2nd Bn., The Duke of Lancaster's Regt.

Feb. 6, 2007
Sgt. Joshua J. Frazier, 24
1/6 Mar. Regt., 2nd Mar. Div., 2nd MEF
Pfc. Brian A. Browning, 20
4/31 Inf., 2nd Bde., 10th Mountain Div.

Feb. 7, 2007
Sgt. James R. Tijerina, 26
MMHS 364, MAG 39, 3rd MAW, 1st MEF
Cpl. Thomas E. Saba, 30
MMHS 262, MAG 36, 1st MAW, 3rd MEF
Petty Officer 3rd Class Manuel A. Ruiz, 21
2nd Med. Bn., 2nd ML Group, 2nd MEF
Sgt. Travis D. Pfister, 27
MMHS 364, MAG 39, 3rd MAW, 1st MEF
Lance Cpl. Matthew P. Pathenos, 21
3/24 Mar. Regt., 4th Mar. Div.
Cpl. Jennifer M. Parcell, 20
CL Regt. 3, 3rd ML Group, 3rd MEF

Petty Officer 1st Class Gilbert Minjares Jr., 31
MAG 14, 2nd MAW
1st Lt. Jared M. Landaker, 25
MMHS 364, MAG 39, 3rd MAW, 1st MEF
Pfc. Tarryl B. Hill, 19
1/24 Mar. Regt., 4th Mar. Div.
Capt. Jennifer J. Harris, 28
MMHS 364, MAG 39, 3rd MAW, 1st MEF
Sgt. Maj. Joseph J. Ellis, 40
2/4 Mar. Regt., 15th MEU, 1st MEF

Feb. 8, 2007
Pvt. Rymond M. Werner, 21
321st Eng. Bn.
Sgt. James J. Holtom, 22
321st Eng. Bn.
Spc. Ross A. Clevenger, 21
321st Eng. Bn.

Feb. 9, 2007
Pvt. Luke Daniel Simpson, 21
1st Bn., The Yorkshire Regt.
Staff Sgt. Alan W. Shaw, 31
1/12 Cav., 3rd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Staff Sgt. Eric Ross, 26
1/12 Cav., 3rd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Sgt. James J. Regan, 26
3/75 Ranger Regt.
Spc. Leeroy A. Camacho
1/12 Cav., 3rd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.

Feb. 10, 2007
Capt. Donnie R. Belser Jr., 28
524th TT, 1st Inf. Div.

Feb. 11, 2007
Sgt. Robert B. Thrasher, 23
2/12 Cav., 4th Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Spc. Denis L. Sellen Jr., 20
1/185 Inf.
Sgt. Russell A. Kurtz, 22
3/509 PIR, 4th Bde., 25th Inf. Div.

Feb. 13, 2007
Pfc. Nickolas A. Tanton, 24
STB, 3rd Bde., 25th Inf. Div.
Sgt. 1st Class Allen Mosteiro, 42
1/7 Cav., 1st Bde., 1st Cav. Div.

Feb. 14, 2007
Sgt. Carl L. Seigart, 32
1/12 Cav., 3rd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Sgt. John D. Rode, 24
1/12 Cav., 3rd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Lance Cpl. Daniel T. Morris, 19
2/3 Mar. Regt., 3rd Mar. Div., 3rd MEF
Spc. Ronnie G. Madore Jr., 34
1/12 Cav., 3rd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Pfc. Branden C. Cumings, 20
1/12 Cav., 3rd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.

