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the **STATIC LINE**





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MESSAGE FROM THE TF 1-PANTHER COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR



previous command sergeant major. Command Sgt. Maj. Donovan E. Watts was a man who spent more than half of his life as the epitome of a Paratrooper in every way. I took the torch of the phenomenal Task Force 1-Panther and continued to drive on with the principles instilled in every Paratrooper by Command Sgt. Maj. Watts.

Dedication to the mission, standards, and discipline are the staples, which have created the exceptional results the Panther Family has seen thus far in Iraq. As we approach the eighth month of this deployment, it is ultimately the responsibility of every leader to reinforce the standards and maintain the discipline of every Paratrooper and fight complacency. Paratroop-

ers must maintain the high standards expected of them.

It will be critical to our mission success if families and Paratroopers are prepared to push forward and maintain the proper focus to ensure Task Force Panther's continued success in Iraq. Every Paratrooper must be able to complete their mission each day! In order to achieve this, our family must be taken care of in all aspects should the need arise. Each unit's Family Readiness Group is well prepared to assist as necessary.

No matter the position or location, every Paratrooper is critical in Task Force Panther's efforts to make a difference in Iraq. The un-relenting focus and determination of everyone is necessary for Task Force Pan-

ther's significant and continuous contributions to the Iraqi people. Teamwork between Task Force Panther and the Iraqi Security Forces is the only way we can make a difference.

I am honored to serve alongside every Paratrooper in Task Force Panther, and I am humbled by the professional, dedication and hard work displayed day in and day out. Always set the example and continue to raise the standards as only 82nd Airborne Division Paratroopers can.

**ATW!!
H-minus!!!
CSM King O. Parks
"1-Panther-9"**

It's a pleasure and an honor to have the opportunity to address not only the Paratroopers of Task Force 1-Panther, but the entire 3rd Brigade Combat Team and the Panther Family.

Immediately upon assuming the role of command sergeant major for 1-Panther, I realized the remarkable legacy left by the

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**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:
Sgt. Joshua R. Ford**

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

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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. We reserve the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, policy, clarity, and space.



Photo by Spc. Amanda Morrissey/5th MPAD

82nd Airborne Division Soldiers practice loading a casualty into a Paratrooper Medical Platform vehicle during practical combat exercises Feb. 10 at the Tactical Combat Casualty Care class, also known as TC3. The TC3 class is offered at the 82nd Airborne Division Troop Medical Clinic on Contingency Operations Base Speicher and trains Soldiers in first-aid techniques for battlefield operations.

TC3 prepares troops for combat care

Spc. Amanda Morrissey
5th MPAD

COB SPEICHER, Iraq - A Soldier in the front passenger seat of the humvee screams, writhing in agony from an injury to his right leg caused by a roadside bomb. The driver of the vehicle struggles to reach him, crawling over equipment and leaning over the back of the injured Soldier's seat, working to put a tourniquet on the wounded leg and save his life.

"Time's up! Switch partners!" an instructor yells, her voice ringing out over the screams of the wounded Soldiers.

This is no war-time scene, but a training scenario for Tactical Combat Casualty Care class, also known as TC3, at the 82nd Airborne Division Troop Medical Clinic on Contingency Operations Base Speicher.

"The [TC3] class focuses primarily

on preventing the cause of loss on the battlefield, which is bleeding," said Staff Sgt. Audrey David, a medic and TC3 instructor with Company C, 82nd Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division.

"We teach Soldiers about tourniquets, Israeli bandages, Hem-Con dressings, and have them practice using these materials in combat scenarios," David continued.

David and her fellow instructors teach the TC3 class every other Saturday, training anywhere from 15 to 30 Soldiers in techniques that may save the lives of their fellow Soldiers in combat situations.

"I'm glad for the opportunity to get such realistic training," said Pfc. Ariel Shane, a unit supply specialist with Company B, 82nd Brigade Support Battalion, who recently took the TC3 class.

"Getting around inside the vehicles to

help wounded Soldiers was very hard and made me realize that teamwork is vital in these situations. We can't do much without it," Shane said.

The four-hour block of instructions, which consists of slide presentations and practical exercises, serves as a precursor to the Combat Life Saver class. CLS is a longer, more involved first-aid-training class and teaches more advanced life-saving skills.

Many of the Soldiers who participate in the TC3 class are scheduled to attend a CLS class within a few weeks.

"This [TC3] class has inspired me," said Maj. Tim Gilhool, a support operations officer with Company C, 82nd Brigade Support Battalion. "I can't wait to take the CLS class and to learn as much as possible."

The TC3 class is offered every other Saturday, and is open to all Soldiers who are interested.

Paratrooper wins 2006 Super Sapper award

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

COB SPEICHER, Iraq - Airborne combat engineer Spc. James Lugari brought much recognition not only to his company but to his battalion, brigade, and division by winning the 2006 Super Sapper award, which was presented Feb. 25 during a ceremony at COB Speicher.

Lugari, Company A, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, is the second Soldier to receive the Super Sapper award. The award is presented to any lower-enlisted engineer in the Army annually by the Army's Association of Engineers.

"I had no idea I was going to receive the award. I guess I stood out on a couple of occasions when leadership wasn't around and I took charge," said Lugari. "I just did my job the way I thought it should be done. It's every Soldier's job to step up a level."

"[Lugari] takes a lot of initiative. If I give him a task, as long as it is humanly possible, he will complete it, and most of the time he will do more than I asked him to," said Sgt. James Mullin, Lugari's team leader. "His initiative takes a lot of pressure off me, making my job easier."

Lugari, a native of Monroe Mich., looked into joining the Army three years ago not



Photos by Sgt. Joshua R. Ford/3BCT, 82nd Abn Div PAO

Lt. Col. Troy Stephenson, commander, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, presents the 2006 Super Sapper award to Spc. James Lugari, combat engineer, Company A, Feb. 25 at Contingency Operations Base Speicher, Iraq.

knowing what he wanted to do in the service, he said.

After talking to his recruiter, who was a combat engineer, about the different jobs the Army offered, he found that being a combat engineer was exactly what he was looking to do for the Army.

Lugari is the first in his family to

ever join an armed service and says he is contemplating reenlistment.

To receive the Super Sapper award, a Soldier's command has to submit a packet to the Association of Engineers. The association then looks at the individual's

_____ see **SAPPER**, page 8

Hospital makes use of new air conditioners

Sgt. Tony White
5th MPAD

SAMARRA, Iraq - The delivery of new air conditioners to a hospital in the United States would not garner headline attention. It may not earn much ink in a local Iraqi paper, but it may ease pain and recovery at the largest Iraqi medical facility in Samarra, Iraq.

Medical officials at the Samarra Hospital received 15 air conditioners Feb. 5 from coalition forces. While the air

conditioners may be a visible improvement for the hospital and will lessen the number of heat casualties during hot summer months, they only provide a solution to one of many problems facing the hospital.

The biggest problem in Samarra is that it's nearly impossible to get medical re-supply through official channels.

The system currently in place for medical re-supply is a work in progress, said Sgt. 1st Class Juan Almonte, medical platoon

sergeant, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment. Logistical issues have forced Samarra medical officials to look elsewhere for supplies - doctors often turn to street vendors.

"They buy their medications from the streets in the city of Samarra," Almonte said. "The local vendors are aware of [the shortages] and have tried to help as much as they can. Actually, according to the doctors, the medications are inexpensive there. The

bottom line is they still need those supplies."

While going through the local vendors may not seem like a good idea, the hospital felt it was the best option at hand considering the difficulties getting supplies from Tikrit-area institutions, which are also dealing with the same problem.

"We are not authorized to give them medical supplies, but we are supposed to enable them to run their own system," said

_____ see **HOSPITAL**, page 8

Police establish new facilities after attack

Staff Sgt. Michael J. Carden
3BCT, 82nd Abn Div PAO

AD DAWR, Iraq - An abandoned youth center is now the new headquarters for the Ad Dawr police department. An attack on Feb. 11 left the previous headquarters in rubble.

The attack came somewhat as a surprise. Ad Dawr is a very close-knit community and violence in the area hasn't been an issue like it has in other parts of the country, said an Ad Dawr police lieutenant through use of a translator.

The source of attack was a car bomb detonated from within the perimeter of the police station at around 9 a.m. Feb. 11. It killed at least nine policemen and wounded six others, two of which were innocent bystanders.

"I think some people must hate us," said the lieutenant. "No one can expect something like this. The attack was out of hate."

Patrolling U.S. Paratroopers from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, were about three miles away when they heard the

blast. They verified the bombing with policemen at a nearby checkpoint and moved toward the police station.

"The explosion was massive," said Capt. Greg Sakimura, commander of Company B. "It completely destroyed the building."

The Paratroopers aided in blocking off the area and sifting through the debris for casualties. They were just as surprised as the police about the attack.

No one is sure what sparked the attack. It was unusual because, according to reports, there hasn't been a car bomb or attack of this size reported in Ad Dawr for a couple of years, said Sakimura.

After the attack, the abandoned youth center was promptly chosen as the new headquarters building because of its location. The police force was adamant about remaining in the city even though another building was available just a few miles outside.

Sakimura and his Paratroopers helped with the move by delivering barbed wire, sand bags, wood, and pickets Feb. 12, 2007, so the police could fortify their new facility.

"I think it's great that the police



Photos by Staff Sgt. Michael J. Carden/
3BCT, 82nd Abn Div PAO

A police officer from the Ad Dawr police department unloads a picket Feb. 12 at the new police headquarters in Ad Dawr, just east of Tikrit, Iraq. The previous police headquarters was destroyed by a car bomb the day prior.

are making progress so quickly," said Sakimura. "The police chief said he felt the only way the police station could support the community is from within the community."

Although similar incidents across Iraq, such as a November attack in Siniyah, have caused entire police forces to quit, no one from the Ad Dawr department has, said the police lieutenant.

"This will not happen again," he added. "We will be patrolling around the tower and the new station and the city at all times."

Sakimura said he's impressed by the policemen's resilience in making the necessary steps to establish their new headquarters so quickly.

The fact that policemen were already at the new police headquarters to download and receive their barrier equipment was a positive sign that they are ready to move forward, he added.

"If there's anything we can do to assist them and support them, we will," continued Sakimura, "but in the end, it's their choice to determine whether or not they want the new facility to be successful."



Sgt. Aaron George, infantryman, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, unloads a piece of wood Feb. 12 at the new police headquarters in Ad Dawr, just east of Tikrit, Iraq. The previous police headquarters was destroyed by a car bomb the day prior.

IRAQI ARMY MEDICS AWARDED



Photos by Sgt. Joshua R. Ford/3BCT, 82nd Abn Div PAO

TIKRIT, Iraq - More than 20 Iraqi army medics with the 1st Battalion, 4th Brigade, 4th Division, completed a course equivalent to the U.S. Army's expert field medic training Feb. 14 in Tikrit.

1st Lt. Manuel Menendez, physician's assistant, 1st Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, and his assistant, Sgt. Matthew Chandler, trained the Iraqi medics for five days.

Land navigation classes and reacting to roadside bomb training were some of the areas the medics studied during the duration of the course.

The majority of the course was hands-on and mirrors the techniques and skills honed by U.S. Army medics.

Menendez and Chandler provided everything for the class, from field dressings to study books.

Menendez plans on holding similar classes for the Iraqi security forces.

EXPERT FIELD MEDIC BADGE



Top Left: Iraqi army medics demonstrate their ability to stabilize a casualty in a transport vehicle before moving him a medical facility.

Bottom Left: An Iraqi army medic pulls security while another medic treats a casualty during a simulated attack.

Top Right: Iraqi army medics litter carry a casualty to a transport vehicle during a simulated attack on their patrol.

Right: Iraqi army medics treat casualties during a simulated attack on their patrol.



Terrorist financiers taken down in Tikrit

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

TIKRIT, Iraq - It seemed like an ordinary Saturday in Tikrit before more than 150 U.S. Soldiers and Iraqi security forces in more than 30 gun trucks swarmed businesses throughout the city to disrupt insurgent financiers.

Several money exchanges, known as hawalas, were raided Feb. 17 resulting in seven individuals detained, three of whom the Iraqi government has been pursuing for some time. An assortment of documents and a significant amount of unregistered, unregulated Iraqi, Iranian and American currency was also confiscated.

Hawalas are typical for use among terrorists. Many national governments have been trying to shut down hawalas because of this.

A similar operation took place in the same area more than six months ago, resulting in the seizure of more than \$10 million in U.S., Iraqi and Iranian currency.

Some of the recently raided hawalas were fronted by a legitimate business like a restaurant or an electronics shop. This was a way to make the crooked businesses look legal from the outside.

Hawala is Hindi for "in trust" which is a fitting name since each exchange is based on a trust system hawala owners

— known as thakedars — around the world developed over years of business.

Hawalas have been in business around the world for centuries. This ancient method of transferring money has slowly migrated from transfer by donkey, to mail, and now transfers are commonly done by email or telephone.

An individual can put money in a hawala branch in Baghdad and with one call can pick that money up days, weeks, or even years later where ever a hawala of the same branch can be found.

Insurgents put their money in the exchanges because world governments' treasury departments have no idea the money exists making the transactions nearly impossible to monitor, said Capt. Greg Sakimura, commander, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division.

There are many other reasons why insurgents use hawalas. Insurgents can get money transferred to them in different countries, there is no tax set on the money, the money is not accounted for by any government agency, and money-laundering laws can be broken easily, added Sakimura.

More than a year ago Iraq's central government addressed the people to inform them about the dangers that come with putting money in hawalas. After the announcement, many Iraqis withdrew their money.



Photos by Sgt. Joshua R. Ford/3BCT, 82nd Abn Div PAO
Iraqi security forces search men in front of a restaurant during an operation planned to disrupt insurgent finances Feb. 17 in Tikrit.

Iraqi and American forces pay extra attention to those who still have their money in hawalas, because it is the number one way to transfer funds among terrorists, said Sakimura.

"Iraqi security forces will keep raiding the hawalas because of the large amounts of insurgent money that is in them," said 2nd Lt. Anseif Jasim Muhamed, an Iraqi police officer in Tikrit. "We will take their money away to make things safer in Iraq."

"It was a great joint-operation," said Sakimura. "We were quick on securing the objective, and we found some of the guys we were looking for, which will lead to more intelligence leading to more operations."

The combined operation included Paratroopers from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division and Iraqi security forces within Tikrit as well as other towns in Salah ad Din.

All worked side-by-side with great success in the end, said Muhamed.

"These people were illegally exchanging money between insurgents," said Sakimura. "What we did won't stop the insurgency but, it will damage it."



Iraqi security forces and U.S. Soldiers put detainees into a transport vehicle during an operation planned to disrupt insurgent financiers Feb. 17 in Tikrit.

Troops work to stop refinery corruption

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

BAYJI, Iraq - When the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, deployed last August in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, leaders saw fit to place the task of providing security for the Bayji Oil Refinery to the Paratroopers of Company B, 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, in hopes of preventing corruption and ensuring security.

Capt. Kwenton Kuhlman, Company B's commander, works diligently trying to end the corruption at the refinery and to help form a foundation which incoming units may continue to build on.

The Bayji Oil Refinery is one of the three largest refineries in Iraq by producing more than 75 percent of Iraq's refined products and making it one of the more important infrastructures in the country.

The facility employs more than 5,000 people, including security guards hired by the Oil Protection Force, which are all employed by Iraq's Ministry of Oil.

"Security is always at an elevated level, especially when we start to disrupt corruption. When [anti-Iraqi forces] start to lose money, it increases our threat level. Basically the better we [and the Iraqis] do our job, the more danger we are in," said Kuhlman.

The Oil Protection Force provides security for the refinery by manning the gates and more than 30 guard towers strategically placed around the perimeter.

Because of problems with guards bribing and extorting drivers, the Oil Protection



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

The Bayji Oil Refinery stands as one of the top three oil refineries in Iraq. The facility produces more than 75 percent of Iraq's gasoline and employs more than 5,000 Iraqis.

Force fires and hires at least 10 people a week, said Hassan Ahmad, an employee of the Oil Protection Force.

Ahmad added that the problem is not nearly as severe as U.S. Forces suggest, though evidence collected by Company B contradicts his assumption.

"We have caught guys at the pumps, pumping extra fuel. We have caught guys short-changing government fuel tankers. We have caught a couple of Oil Protection Force guys taking bribes from oil tankers," said Kuhlman. "The Iraqis are very aware of what is going on at the refinery."

This has caused many problems including increased black-market fuel points. Everyday Iraqis wait hours in line to get a tank of gas or pay double the government price, said Maj. Curtis Buzzard, executive officer, 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry

Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division.

"I am beginning to get a sense that the people are fed up with it, especially the average Iraqi. They are tired of their day-to-day lives being interrupted by this fuel process," said Kuhlman.

In general, people affected by this are scared to stand up and stop the corruption in fear for their lives or their family's safety. Many key leaders and sheiks are frustrated feeling that they can't make a difference, said Buzzard.

Bayji's oil refinery produces \$8 million to \$11 million in potential exports every year.

"Ultimately it is the Iraqis' problem to solve. All security issues here should be solved by Iraqis," said Kuhlman. "It is an assistance role we take, it's not a lead role and that's the bottom line. We are like an honest broker out there."

Lt. Gen. Abdul-Aziz,

commander of the 4th Iraqi Army Division, has told Kuhlman that he will permanently garrison an infantry battalion at the refinery to help with the security and corruption issues and is currently in the process of making good of his promise.

Iraqi soldiers from strategic infrastructure battalions will also provide security at the front gate of the refinery, based on Aziz's plan for the facility.

To help be the "honest broker" Kuhlman tasked two of his men to assist him in finding who the key players are in the extortion and corruption that is plaguing the facility.

Sgt. Stephen Truesdale and Pfc. Roger R. Dean make up the Oil Gas Refinery Enforcement team. Both are infantrymen with Company B and have law enforcement backgrounds as police officers

————— see **OIL**, page 8



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

Command Sgt. Maj. Charles E. Hawkins, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, recognizes Spc. James Lugari, combat engineer, Company A, for winning the 2006 Super Sapper of the year award during an award ceremony Feb 25 at Contingency Operations Base Speicher, Iraq.

demonstrative potential, his technical and tactical knowledge and expertise in demolition, reconnaissance and patrolling, said Command Sgt. Maj. Charles E. Hawkins, Lugari's battalion sergeant major and the senior enlisted combat engineer in 3rd Brigade.

"[Lugari] has demonstrated the soundest foundation [of any other lower enlisted Soldier in the Army] to be awarded the Super Sapper engineer soldier of the year, said Hawkins.

"What makes a good soldier is leadership. If you don't have good leadership you don't have anything. So I thank my leaders for the Soldier I am today," said Lugari.

Lugari has been deployed to Iraq for more than six months now and has performed the role not only as a combat engineer but as an infantryman as well.

"It means a lot and tells me what I'm doing is not going unnoticed. [This award] makes me appreciate what I have done," said Lugari.

"I am proud of him. The engineer community is small, especially the airborne engineer community, so for him to get recognized as one of the best lower-enlisted engineers says a lot about him," said Hawkins.

OIL

before enlisting into the Army. They use basic investigative techniques and know-how to propose methods to reduce corruption.

The team also assists Iraqi Security Forces in acquiring information from people to form prosecutable cases.

"It's not something that you can do every now and then. It's something that you will need to be dedicated to," said Truesdale. "If I'm not at the refinery, doing paper work on the refinery or teaching people about the refinery, then I'm on the internet researching different ways we can go about stopping the corruption."

Truesdale compares the situation to the Donnie Brasco story saying it took Brasco seven years to get into the mafia and start getting evidence to prosecute the guilty.

"It's not something we can solve while we're here, but what we are doing will lay a good foundation for the next unit that comes in," said Truesdale. "This is a system that has been in place for a long time so it's not something we can change drastically, but if we can change the way they do business, hopefully we can detour it enough to make a lasting dent in the money flow between the corruption, refinery and the insurgency."

We're trying to find the honest men in there. Just somebody who wants turn to this money over to what it can do instead of what it is doing," said Dean.

HOSPITAL

Almonte, a native of New York City.

"Unfortunately it doesn't always work out the way it should."

The medical supply shortage has caused several outbreaks of diseases throughout the city. Recently, hospital officials faced a moderate case of the rabies virus among local children.

"If a little kid pokes an animal and the animal bites the kid, he has to come in," Almonte said.

"Unfortunately they have had a few children pass away due to rabies. They don't have the access to the medication and or vaccination. That was what they requested of us."

Since arriving in August, Almonte has visited the hospital three times. Almonte said these doctors are trying to do all they can with whatever supplies they can obtain.

"They do some things that we would say are unorthodox," Almonte said. "We have all of this technology and they don't. Even if they had the technology, they don't have means to maintain it.

"They do practice semi-street medicine," he continued. "They may reuse a couple things, but they have to. But the medicine is still effective and there is not too much a difference



Photo by Sgt. Tony White/5th MPAD

Two Iraqi electricians put the finishing touches on the wiring of an air conditioner at the Samarra Hospital. The hospital was supplied with 15 new air conditioners Feb. 3 in preparation for the upcoming summer heat.

there. The only difference from where we are and where they are here is that they have to work with the means that they have."

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



**SGT JEREMY D. BARNETT
DIED OF WOUNDS, 3-8 CAV
TARMIYAH, IRAQ
DEC 6, 1979 - FEB 24, 2007**



**SPC RYAN M. BELL
KIA, C/ 2PANTHER
SAMARRA, IRAQ
APR 24, 1985 - MAR 5, 2007**



**SSG JUSTIN M. ESTES
KIA, C/ 2PANTHER
SAMARRA, IRAQ
DEC 28, 1981 - MAR 5, 2007**



**PFC CHRISTIAN C. KOSTERS
KIA, C/ 2PANTHER
SAMARRA, IRAQ
JUN 16, 1987 - MAR 5, 2007**



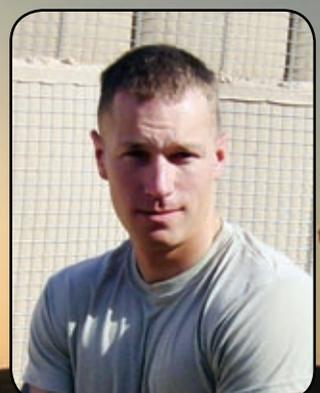
**SGT ANDREW C. PERKINS
KIA, C/ 2PANTHER
SAMARRA, IRAQ
MAY 21, 1979 - MAR 5, 2007**



**SPC JUSTIN A. ROLLINS
KIA, C/ 2PANTHER
SAMARRA, IRAQ
NOV 10, 1984 - MAR 5, 2007**



**SSG ROBERT M. STANLEY
KIA, C/ 2PANTHER
SAMARRA, IRAQ
AUG 21, 1979 - MAR 5, 2007**



**SGT DANIEL E. WOODCOCK
KIA, B/ 2-505, TF LOYALTY
TIKRIT, IRAQ
APR 21, 1981 - MAR 11, 2007**

505th Parachute Infantry Regiment 82nd Airborne Division



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

