

THE

Grey Wolf

HOWL



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Commander's Column

By Col. David W. Sutherland
3BCT, 1CD Commander



We are beginning the seventh month of our deployment. It seems not so long ago when we began our right-seat and left-seat ride, however, our accomplishments incredible. Our Soldiers have conducted over 7,000 patrols; they have unearthed hundreds of weapons caches, to include an EFP cache that contained materials to construct over 100 IEDs.

We have also conducted 5 Brigade-level operations, and over 250 Battalion-and company-level operations—all in partnership with the Iraqi Security Forces. These operations are focused on keeping the people of Diyala safe, by bringing to justice

those who exist only to hurt innocent people, and establishing an environment that supports economic growth and better services. Our Soldiers will continue doing an outstanding job, as they understand the reason we are here...the people of Iraq.

I would like to welcome the Soldiers of 5-20th (Strykers). They arrived in Diyala March 13 and were able to hit the ground running. They have assumed control of Baqubah and are doing a wonderful job at helping our Iraqi counterparts keep the citizens of Baqubah and Diyala safe. I cannot express how proud I am of their performance, and the performance of each and every Soldier assigned to the Greywolf Brigade. The people of Diyala, and especially Baqubah, are gaining confidence in the ISF and their ability to safeguard the population, thanks to the combined efforts

of our Iraqi counterparts and our Soldiers. However, regardless of all our accomplishments since arriving in Diyala, we still have more work ahead of us. I encourage every Soldier and leader in the "Greywolf" brigade to remain focused, maintain discipline and make a difference.

I would like to conclude this message by thanking our families for the unwavering support our Soldiers are continuously receiving. We understand how difficult it is to be separated from our loved ones for such an extended period of time. The strength they continuously display keeps us strong and focused. May God continue blessing our families and Soldiers, as they are truly deserving of all his blessings.

I will see you all on the high ground.

Greywolf 6



Chaplain's Corner

Dealing with Bad News

Have you ever heard the adage, "Hope for the best, but brace for the worst?" What a tremendous truth. We try our best to be optimistic about life. Being optimistic is better than being fatalistic. That is too true, but the truth to the matter is that life is not always roses; there are thorns in our daily walk. Breaking bad news to people requires great empathy and skillfulness. Unfortunately, this important task is not always done as well as it should be. Frequently, the setting is wrong and the communication takes place in a hurried fashion. People frequently complain of the inadequacies of others when engaged in this important task. Understanding this reality in which we live this article is intended to guide you in what to do when receiving bad news.

The Reaction

The initial reaction people have to any bad news is being trapped into a state of shock. The shocked reaction blocks them from clearly receiving the total message being conveyed to them. People often describe a scenario where they hear an important medical term, such as 'tumor' and then their mind goes blank. People often say that we should be optimistic about things, and we should; but you also need to brace yourself for the bad news.

When we confront those good/bad news dilemmas, we immediately ask the following questions:

1. Could we live with it?
2. How will we deal with it?
3. What will we do next?

Most of the time, we'll have those questions answered — and always, we're okay with whatever happens because we know we'll move on regardless of the outcome.

What to do? Avoid Being Alone

In the event of receiving bad news, whatever they may be, try to surround yourself with family and friends. This often times minimizes

the stress levels and help to cope with the trauma that bad news may cause. Should you need to deal with other situations such as children or work or if you were to have to make important decisions try all possible to delegate such matters to family or friends. It makes little sense to be in a state of psychological overload before you even try to work with the bad news.

Avoid alcohol

If you have difficulty sleeping the days after receiving bad news, try to avoid consuming too much alcohol. A modest nightcap is perfectly acceptable but too much alcohol can affect the nervous system and result in you being a little edgy days after the initial shock. If sleep disturbance is causing you distress, then your doctor may be able to prescribe sleeping pills for you.

Avoid Felling Guilty

At times, when we receive bad news such as the loss of jobs, rejection, the brake of relationships or the death of a love one, we tend to blame ourselves for the situation at hand. Remember that you do not have control of such events. Don't second guess what you could have done better to avoid the pain. Embrace life and those who surround you and love you. Remember, you are not alone.

Prayer, the Antidote for Hopelessness

As one who has received bad news many times, I have found refuge in prayer and hope. I expect for the best outcome when I surround my hopelessness with the power of prayer and faith. Yes, I know the pain is real and is there to stay for at least a while, but prayer and faith are the ingredients to overcome anything.

Chaplain (Capt.) Jesus Perez
3BSTB Chaplain

'Hooah' Corner

By Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Felt
3BCT, 1CD CSM



Did I ever tell you...? Probably not this one. So, here it goes.

I want to share an Army success story with you – a story that illustrates how a Soldier can use the Army to improve their station in life and capitalize on Army programs to provide for their families.

I talked to a young man on the brigade staff the other day. I asked, “When are you taking leave?”

He said late May.

“Why?” I asked.

“To see my daughter graduate,” he responded.

“Graduate from where?”

“High school,” he said.

I was surprised he said high school; I didn't think he was old enough to have a daughter old enough to graduate high school. But unlike certain people I know, he doesn't look his age. Without trying to pry, I asked leading questions to ascertain the facts. He proceeded to tell me a remarkable story – a story about how a young man made a life for himself and his family.

You see, he and his sister grew up in a single-parent home in Missouri. When he was 13, his mother moved them to Florida to be with a boyfriend and his work. From the age of 13 to 16 he worked as a dish washer and a short-order cook. Somewhere along the way, it was decided that it was better for the children to return to Missouri, where extended family could better care for them.

From 1989-1991, while still attending school, he worked at night as a cook in order to rent a room from a friend. In 1991, he received a DUI, dropped out of school and lived in the backroom at a garage where he worked during the day. During that same year, he managed to receive a GED and in January of 1992, he reported to Fort Dix, NJ, when he entered the Missouri National Guard.

He was refused entrance into the active Army for the next two years, having only earned a GED. In January of 1995, he was granted a waiver for the GED and entered Active Federal Service in the U.S. Army as a specialist, 52C, with a wife and two children. His first duty assignment was Fort Stewart, Ga., with the 24th In-

fantry Division, where his daughter started kindergarten. The first thirteen months of active duty he was hounded by his squad leader to start the Army correspondence program and enroll in college classes.

After listening to his NCO for over a year, he enrolled, “Just to get him off my back.” At that time, the Army paid 75% of tuition and he qualified for Pell grants for the rest. Through hard work and dedication, he was promoted to sergeant in September of 1996 with 960 + promotion points.

By attending night school, weekend classes and through correspondence while deployed, he was awarded an associate's degree through St. Leo college in November of 1997. After a 36-month tour filled with field training, deployments and TDY, he PCS'd to Fort Carson, Colo. He was assigned as a commander's ground maintenance advisor in the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Having attained a promotable status to staff sergeant, he found it nearly impossible to get promoted because of points. One day he talked to the retention non-commissioned officer who informed him that he could re-enlist under the B.E.A.R. program and change his MOS to 74D, attend BNCOC, get promoted to staff sergeant and receive a \$16,000 bonus. His only question was, “Where do I sign?”

After re-enlisting, he attended BNCOC and was promoted to staff sergeant. In March of 2000, he reported to Fort Rucker, Ala., where he was assigned to a vertical engineer company, and served as a platoon sergeant for 23 months. During this 23-month tour, while deploying to the Joint Readiness Training Center and Border Enforcement Missions, he completed his bachelor's degree.

In September 2001, after 6 ½ years of hard work and dedication, he received his diploma. Shortly thereafter, he applied to drill sergeant school and officer candidate school. He was accepted to both. He chose OCS.

In the spring of 2002, he reported to Fort Benning, Ga., graduated in May 2002, and was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. in the chemical corps. In November 2002, he reported to Germany, where he was assigned as a squadron staff officer and platoon leader during Operation Iraqi Freedom I and II.

After a 16-month deployment to the

Iraq theatre of operations, he reported to the captain's career course. While attending the captain's career course, he signed up for a program that would earn him a master's degree if he would commit to 18 months of service. After 10 years of military service, the commitment to another year and a half was a “no brainier.”

In February of 2006, he reported to the 3rd Greywolf Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. He deployed to the Joint Readiness Training Center and Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08 with the Greywolves.

By his own omission, he has moved from a position where his net worth was (-) \$852 and he paid \$125 rent for a room in a garage; to a net worth in excess of \$300k and owner of a 4 bedroom house. If he retires at 20 years of service as a major, his monthly income would be approximately \$3,500. If he serves until his 24th year and achieves the rank of lieutenant colonel, his retirement check would be approximately \$5,300 a month.

That means that if he retires at the age of 44 and lives 30 more years, he will collect \$2.4 million in retirement.

Of course, all of this came at a price. It involved hard work and dedication. Many long hours were invested into a career plan that included institutional instruction, self development and sacrifice. It involved educational pursuits in the evenings and on weekends. It included internet courses and lots of study. The good news is, it didn't cost a dime. The Army provided all the recourses. By his own admission, “If I were still a civilian and hadn't enlisted, I would probably be an out of shape, aging, grocery store manager living in mid-America and praying that someone doesn't come along and take my job at a cheaper wage.”

This Soldier is respected by his peers and fellow officers for his hard-working, dedicated, responsible approach, and as an officer who has enormous potential. He is respected by me for his service to his country and to his family.

I think it is a perfect example of the Army's old motto, “Be all you can be.” This young man has demonstrated the epitome of self improvement; through service to his country, both are much better off for his efforts.

He is “Army Strong!”

**Live the legend,
Greywolf 9**

Local Media Increases Throughout Diyala

Multi National Division-North

The Independent Radio and Television Network in Diyala is now transmitting broadcasts throughout the province, as well as to Baghdad, Fallujah, Tikrit, Al Kut, Balad and other areas throughout Iraq after virtually no local media in the area.

The network includes both radio and television stations, which will broadcast a mixture of popular music and TV programming, news, information and educational programming, and religious discussion.

One of the premier new shows, "Common Ground," will feature four Iraqi friends, two Sunni and two Shia, one of whom is a woman, talking about the world they share. They will discuss common and different customs, all within the context of living together in peace.

Additionally, the Balad Ruz and

Khanaqin radio stations continue to transmit daily to their local populations, while an ongoing project is underway to restart the printing of the Al Parlaman newspaper.

"These changes represent positive steps toward ending the culture of fear and rumor that enables terrorists to intimidate the people," said Col. David W. Sutherland, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division commander and senior U.S. Army officer in Diyala.

The availability of these networks is important, as the government of Diyala and the Iraqi Security Forces are able to inform their people of efforts and progress in the province.

According to Governor Ra'ad Hameed Al-Mula Jowad Al-Tanimi, the Provincial Governor, he will provide information and perspec-

tive to his people through interviews and statements to these stations. Media that focuses on Diyala is critical to a transparent and representative government and security force.

Ra'ad has already conducted several media engagements discussing his plans for security and support to the region.

"These stations are important because they allow the people to see their government at work. The Provincial Council will be able to show the people of this province their work on various issues such as the Provincial Budget and reconstruction projects," adds Sutherland. "These stations represent a tremendous source of news and information for the people of Diyala, and a way to end unwarranted hysterics."



Rafed Araby Makh'moud, general manager for IRTN, speaks during the grand opening of the station in Diyala province, March 25.



Photo by Sgt. Serena Hayden, 3BCT Public Affairs
As part of the grand opening of the Independent Radio and Television Network in Diyala province, the producer works the soundboard for a live newscast, March 25.

Useful Iraqi Phrases

Where is your family?
wein Ah-lek?

On the cover ...



Soldiers from the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, attached to the 3-1 Cav., conduct their first mission in Diyala province, engaging anti-Iraqi forces in Baqubah, Iraq, March 14.

U.S.A.F. photo by Staff Sgt. Stacy L. Pearsall

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U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center

Heat Injuries are a major threat in both training and combat. They kill or disable Soldiers every year.

Why? The human body is a small radiator that is easily overloaded by: Exercise/work (15 times more heat is produced).

Hot/humid weather

Too little fluids

Too few electrolytes (salts or minerals), which can be caused by too much water

Heat injuries kill or disable by “cooking” internal organs.

Human organs cannot be trained to tolerate heat (i.e. to not get cooked). When it occurs, organ damage is permanent; it cannot be overcome by willpower or motivation.

The best solution is **PREVENTION!**

Heat Injury Risk Management

1. Identify hazards
2. Assess hazards to determine risk
3. Develop controls and make risk decisions
4. Implement controls
5. Supervise and evaluate

Recognize Heat Injuries

Heat Cramps/Heat Exhaustion

Weakness or inability to work; Muscle cramps; Dizziness; Headache; Clumsiness, unsteadiness, staggering gait; Irritability (grouchy); Involuntary bowel movement

Heat Strokes

Convulsions and chills; Vomiting; Confusion, mumbling (Does not know Who, When, Where); Combative; Passing out (unconscious)

What Decreases Heat Injury Risk?

Drink cool water frequently (but no more than 1.5 qts/hr or 12 qts/day).

Eat food (vegetables, fruits, salty snacks, electrolyte-carb-protein beverages or gels* (every 4 hrs or less).

Consume sufficient electrolytes (salty snacks, salty soups, electrolyte beverages or gels*).

Soldier on the FOB

What is your favorite war-related movie?



Spc. Travis Neal
HHT, 3 BCT

“‘Apocalypse Now’ because it shows the Soldier’s side of the war in Vietnam.”

Staff Sgt. Maurice Bruner
A Co., 2-82 FA



“‘We Were Soldiers’ because of the camaraderie, brotherhood and because of the leader who stands by his Soldiers and leads by example.”



Spc. Michael Belk
B Co., 2-35, 25th ID

“‘Saving Private Ryan’ because its got all the best parts of the infantry in it.”

Spc. Kisha Smith
7th Finance Det.



“‘Black Hawk Down’ because it’s a real, true story that depicts the truth of the situation.”

Spc. Thomas Cetta
HHC, 5-20 IN



“‘300’ because of the loyalty of his men [to the main character,] the ability to work as one and to conquer all against all odds.”

By Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs

GREY WOLF



Photo by Staff Sgt. Antonietta Rico, 5th MPAD

Above, Soldiers of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, react to enemy fire in Baqubah, Iraq.



Above, Soldiers with the 5th MPAD react to enemy fire in Baqubah, Iraq.

Below, Spc. Jaime Martinez, a medic with the 3-1 Cav. commander's personal security detachment, provides medical care to a local Iraqi citizen.



Photo by Sgt. Serena Hayden, 3BCT Public Affairs



Below, Soldiers full of food and water.

F IN ACTION



Photo by Staff Sgt. Antonieta Rico, 5th MPAD with Co. B, 5-20 Inf. Regt., and Soldiers of the 1st IA Division cross a palm grove in

Soldiers from Co. A, 6-9 ARS, unload a truck with water in Shakarat, Iraq.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Stacy L. Pearsall



Photo by Sgt. Armando Monroig, 5th MPAD

Soldiers of 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, out of Fort Lewis, Washington, pull security while on patrol in Baqubah, Iraq. The 5-20 Inf. Regt. was moved to Diyala to reinforce recent successes by the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, against anti-coalition forces in the province.

Stryker Battalion Enters Fight in Baqubah

By Staff Sgt. Antonietta Rico
5th MPAD

Soldiers who arrived in Baqubah yesterday to bolster the effort to root out terrorists in the Diyala province, wound up in several battles against insurgents on their first day in the city, March 14.

Those Soldiers, who are members of the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, from Fort Lewis, Wash., arrived the day before from Taji, which is located on the outskirts of Baghdad.

They joined the 1-12 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, for a mission to get acquainted with Baqubah and speak to its residents.

"It basically turned into a fight," said Staff Sgt. Dewey Knapp, with 2nd Platoon, Company B, 5-20th Inf. Regt. "We found a whole bunch of IEDs, got hit with an IED, and got hit with small arms fire and (rocket propelled grenade) fire."

One Soldier from each battalion was killed during the day's fighting.

The 5-20th Inf. Regt. reported that Soldiers from Company B and the 1-12 CAB's Company A, destroyed an enemy RPG team which targeted them at the site of one of the roadside bombs.

The bomb was planted in front of a school in western Baqubah.

The cavalry Soldiers, who have been conducting military operations in Baqubah since arriving from Fort Hood in November 2006, responded immediately to the Stryker vehicle, said Spc. Daniel Mendoza, from Company B, 5-20th Inf. Regt.

"We stand together," Mendoza said of his cavalry counterparts, "We know they are right by us. They have our backs, our front, and our sides."

The bomb blast sparked an initial fire fight, with the cavalry and Stryker Soldiers engaging insurgents for about 30 minutes. Sporadic fire continued throughout the entire day.

Mendoza said he was expecting intense fighting in Baqubah, but didn't think it would happen on the first day.

"They are going to come at us with all they have," said Mendoza.

Spc. Alex Horton, also with Company B, feels that Baqubah has been infused by insurgents who left Baghdad to escape the troop surge in the Iraqi capital.

Although the Stryker Soldiers are trying to cope with the death of two of their comrades, one of whom was from their own battalion, Knapp said it won't affect the job the Soldiers are here to do.

"We'll go out tomorrow and do what we got to do to try and eliminate the threat," he said.

Above, Stryker Soldiers from 5-20 Inf. Regt., roll over a pontoon bridge en route to Baqubah, Iraq, March 14.

Below, Soldiers from 5-20 Inf. Reg. prepare to enter a building in Baqubah, Iraq.

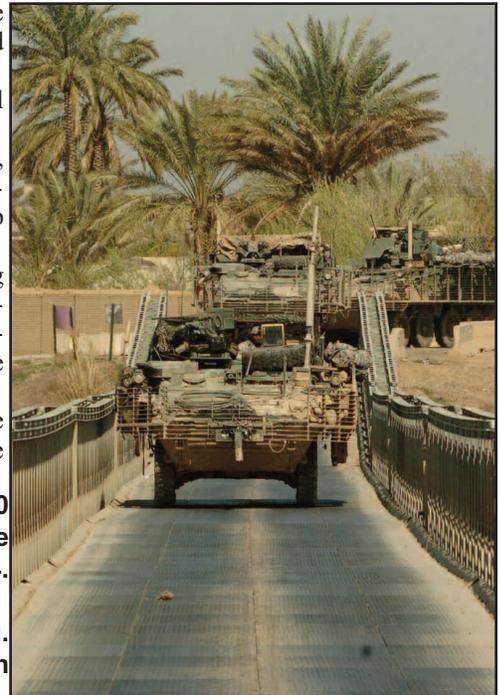
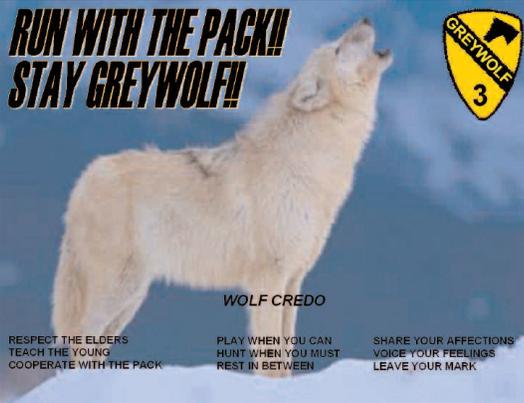


Photo by Staff Sgt. Antonietta Rico, 5th MPAD



Photo by Sgt. Armando Monroig, 5th MPAD

**RUN WITH THE PACK!!
STAY GREYWOLF!!**



WOLF CREDO

RESPECT THE ELDERS
TEACH THE YOUNG
COOPERATE WITH THE PACK

PLAY WHEN YOU CAN
HUNT WHEN YOU MUST
REST IN BETWEEN

SHARE YOUR AFFECTIONS
VOICE YOUR FEELINGS
LEAVE YOUR MARK

'Grey Wolf' Retention Team

3 BCT Senior Counselor
3rd BSTB
1st-12th CAV

215th BSB

3rd-8th CAV
6th-9th CAV

2nd-82nd FA

Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Helmes
Staff Sgt. Luis Carter
Staff Sgt. Jason Folmar
Staff Sgt. Alegray Hamer
Staff Sgt. Annamaria Conklin
Staff Sgt. Margaret Smothers
Staff Sgt. Don Jewell
Staff Sgt. Richard Erickson
Staff Sgt. Keston Dyer
Staff Sgt. Daniel Beltran

FA Soldiers Bring More Than Fire Power to the Fight

By Staff Sgt. Samantha M. Stryker
5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

If any one knows what it means to adjust fire, it is the Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. Instead of sending rounds down range, these Fort Hood Soldiers served as infantrymen, and even called for fire support during their previous deployment to Iraq.

Those missions included security escorts, presence patrols, and conducting raids aimed at capturing suspected insurgents and confiscating prohibited weapons and bomb-making material used against coalition forces.

This time around, the Soldiers are doing the job they know best; sending 155mm rounds down range in support of on-going operations in the Diyala Province for 3rd BCT.

"We have trained for years and finally we get the opportunity to fire. We are energized by that," said 1st Lt. Sean O'Keefe, A Battery, 2nd platoon leader.

"We are here to support units with the type of mission needed, whether its illumination or high explosives, we will support them within minutes," O'Keefe added.

Along with their mission to provide indirect fire support for the brigade and attached units, O'Keefe said the 2-82 FA also supports fire missions requested by Iraqi Security Forces working with Military Transition Teams.

"Some MiTT teams have the capability to talk to the battery," he said.

Fire Support Officer, 2nd Lt. Jeremy

Duplechin, B Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Combined Arms Battalion, stressed the importance of the experience by the 2-82 FA Soldiers and how it has made them better.

The young artillery officer is attached to an infantry company as an artillery advisor to coordinate artillery support during any type of mission.

"These artillery Soldiers have a new perspective on their mission and how forward operating units work in conjunction with indirect fire," said Duplechin.

"I bet they have a better appreciation and understanding of how important their job is after they have been on the ground," he added.

Knowing what the Soldiers who are forward in the fight see and experience when rounds strike their targets is valuable knowledge, but time and accuracy are even more crucial. This is how artillery Soldiers prove themselves in battle.

"We learned more about both sides and how each of them are needed and work together to accomplish any mission," said Spc. Efren Ordaz, A Battery, 2-82 FA, referring back to their last deployment.

"When patrols need artillery support, we understand firsthand...how fast they need it," he said.

This unit is divided between two bases in the Diyala province, with each battery providing indirect fire support for current and future operations.

Providing support for units forward in the battle is not the only mission for these artillerymen. They also provide protection for the Soldiers on those bases.

"The less we shoot, the more we get

mortared," said Sgt. 1st Class Eric Andersen, acting first sergeant for A Battery, 2-82 FA.

The battery's top enlisted member, often called 'Smoke,' offers this explanation for the loud booming sounds of artillery leaving Forward Operating Base Warhorse, leaving trembling buildings in its wake.

"It is 'piece of mind' what service members hear as the roaring thunder of artillery rounds leave the gun tube of a howitzer," Andersen said.

"Here is a reality check," he said with a grin, "The artillery guys shoot at and remove a positively identified target or threat that is either firing at us or some one innocent."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Samantha M. Stryker, 5th MPAD

Sgt. Albert Cook pulls a charge from a 155mm round canister to prepare for the gun crew's next fire mission at FOB Warhorse.

In Memory Of....



SGT Blake Harris
HHC, 1-12 CAB
3BCT, 1CD

SPC Ryan Russell
HHC, 1-12 CAB
3BCT, 1CD

PV2 Barry Mayo
HHC, 1-12 CAB
3BCT, 1CD

SPC Jason Swiger
Troop A, 5-73 CAV
3BCT, 1CD

SPC Adam Rosema
E FSC, 215th BSB
3BCT, 1CD

CPL Brian Chevalier
Co. B, 5-20 IN
3BCT, 1CD

SPC Jason Nunez
Troop A, 5-73 CAV
3BCT, 1CD

SPC Orlando Gonzalez
Troop A, 5-73 CAV
3BCT, 1CD

SPC Stephen Kowalczyk
Troop C, 6-9 ARS
3BCT, 1CD

SFC Benjamin Sebban
HHT, 5-73 CAV
3BCT, 1CD

SPC Anthony Kaiser
571st MP Co.
3BCT, 1CD

SPC Anthony White
Troop A, 5-73 CAV
3BCT, 1CD



3rd BCT Surgeon Breaks Barriers with Local Doctors

By Spc. Ryan Stroud
3rd BCT Public Affairs

Henry Shih had one mission on his mind – the delivery of medical books to Iraqi doctors in Baqubah, Iraq.

Even a night of rainfall, muddying up most of the roads in Baqubah, making it difficult to travel in at times, would not stop him from achieving his goal. He gathered Soldiers to help him move almost 1,000 medical books donated by a Boy Scouts of America troop, located in Fort Hood, Texas, to deliver to a group of doctors in desperate need for the material.

Shih, who is the brigade surgeon for 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, was hoping these books could achieve a goal he has been working on for almost six months – share medical information and break down the barriers between the coalition forces and the doctors of the Diyala province.

The idea for the mission started for Shih when he was finally invited to a monthly conference between doctors in Diyala, a conference he has frequently requested to be a part of.

Shih gathered up the books and made his way into the heart of Baqubah, ready to bring information to a hospital that was in desperate need of medical material.

“Today I went to the Al Batol Women’s and Children’s Hospital to partake in a monthly conference between local Iraqi doctors,” said Shih. “All the doctors from [Diyala] will come to this conference for continuing education.

“This was the first time I was invited to the conference,” Shih proudly continued. “I felt it was a privilege to be asked. After over five months, they have begun to trust me more and that’s why they have invited me to deal with them more directly, become a part of their physician group and join the conference. Before, they had denied me access to the [meeting], so I feel this is a big step

for us.”

As Shih entered a room full of local Iraqi doctors, he was warmly greeted and a smile quickly ran across his face. This meeting was big for Shih, he said. He was even asked to speak about the topic of the day – polio in Iraq.

“Today’s meeting was a discussion on polio in Iraq,” said Shih. “One of the doctors went to a conference in Jordan, discussing polio in the Middle East. He came back to share his information with all the other doctors.”

“I brought a lecture on several types of [polio and paralysis] that I shared with the Iraqi doctors, discussing how we see it and how we treat it in America,” he said. “I wanted to compare and contrast what treatments were available here [in Iraq] and how they diagnose and perceive these diseases out here.”

As Shih’s lecture came to an end, he spoke with Dr. Homm S. Malallah, the General Director of Health in Diyala, about other issues the coalition forces and 3rd BCT could help out with.

“We talked about the needs of the hospitals in the area, as well as security needs of the hospitals, but their biggest issue is Baqubah General Hospital,” said Shih. “That is the only trauma center in Diyala. All the civilians, Iraqi Police, Iraqi Army have to go to Baqubah General Hospital and the biggest concern is security, which is preventing patients from coming to Baqubah.

“[Security of the hospitals] is a major step to us helping them get back on their feet, and is making it to where their info structure works without depending on us too much,” he added.

Soon after Shih spoke with Malallah, the books arrived to the great surprise and delight of the doctors.

“If you go to any of the Iraqi hospitals, there is a great need for books and equipment...so I hope this helps,” Shih said. “That’s why we delivered several hundred medical

books that were collected by the Boy Scouts at Fort Hood, from local physicians in the local Fort Hood area. These books cover areas of all different specialties which will greatly contribute to their medical library.

“I think they were pretty happy with [the books],” he said. “They all looked pretty interested in what we brought them and what they can use.”

Malallah went through the stacks of books with excitement and pride.

“This is so nice,” Malallah said. “The books will help fill the shelves of our medical library.”

The library, which is located across the hall from where Shih gave his lecture, is full of bookshelves, but hardly any books.

“[Malallah] said he was very grateful for the books,” Shih said. “All the doctors here are really bright, they are well educated, they just don’t have the equipment or the materials to be able to practice to the level that they are capable of.”

Shih said he hopes these books encourage the doctors to stay in Diyala and help their people. Many doctors are fleeing to safer areas due to threats they have received from dealing with the coalition forces.

“A lot of doctors have left Iraq because of the threat to them,” said Shih. “I think they are afraid of dealing with the coalition forces because if you are seen with Army Soldiers,

you become a target for the insurgents.

“Many of the doctors have been killed here or have fled to other areas of the country because of this,” he said. “It has taken some time for them to trust me but I think they are coming around. I want to help them as a doctor, not someone who’s going to let them down.

“I think this is part of a rebuilding effort,” said Shih. “They are learning to work with us and let us help train them, and in turn, they also train us. This will help rebuild the health care system here. I know this will help them to become more self sufficient; it will help the citizens in the area, plus the other units who might come in [after us].”

As Shih was leaving the hospital, a group of doctors gathered around him to thank him for his time and efforts to help the hospital.

“I think this was a very positive mission,” said Shih. “We went out there and accomplished something, we covered some solid ground. We contributed great books to their library, shared materials and information with them and I hope this encourages other doctors to make an [extra effort to visit] the local hospitals.

“It was a mission of sharing information and breaking down barriers,” he said. “We [the U.S. Army and 3rd BCT] are here to help them and that’s what we’re going to do.”



Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs

Capt. Henry Shih and Dr. Homm S. Malallah exchange information after they partook in a conference between local doctors in Diyala.

UAS Flies High, Provides Support, Saves Lives

By Spc. Ryan Stroud
3rd BCT Public Affairs

The skies were empty with no clouds in sight as the Unmanned Aerial Systems team from Company A, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, loaded their small plane, otherwise known as a "bird," onto a launcher to be shot into the sky.

The bird's job will be to scope out the surrounding area of Forward Operating Base Warhorse, located in Baqubah, Iraq, for surveillance purposes through the area.

The bird is a new tool the armed services have been using to help save the lives of the Soldiers supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08.

Soldiers quietly and thoroughly inspect the launcher and the bird, making sure all the pre-flight checks are complete.

They then huddle on the opposite side of the runway, headphones on to protect their ears, and wait for the launch.

Moments later, the bird launches with a speed up to 80 miles per hour, off the launcher and into the open sky, ready to begin its mission of surveillance.

"This job is important because [the troops] might not be able to see what's beyond a hill or what's happening ahead of them," said Spc. Renay Forney, Co. A, 3rd BSTB, "So we give the Soldiers an idea of what's going on around them so they can get a better feeling of their surroundings and feel more comfortable [on the battle field.]"

Forney is one of the UAS operators, controlling the launch and monitoring the

progress of the flight until the bird reaches a higher altitude.

Once the bird reaches a certain point, Forney will hand over control to the ground-control station, which will monitor the flight, control the camera and provide further information to the Soldier, she said.

"We do surveillance, reconnaissance and support missions to help the troops on the ground," Forney said.

"A lot of our time is consumed by looking for insurgents."

"We also assist units by having a bird in the air and giving them a tail number," said Spc. Sean Sowles, Co. A, 3rd BSTB.

"When they plug the number into their systems, they can see what we're seeing and that really helps them out. They can't control the birds but they can request us to go to an area that might help their unit with their current mission."

Sowles is one of the team's UAS repair Soldiers, maintaining the birds, launcher and conducting pre-flight checks to secure a successful launch into the sky.

After flying for a maximum suggested time, the bird will land and the team will begin its routine checks and preparations for its next flight.

"I love this job," said Sowles, a native of Madison, Ala. "There's just so many capabilities this bird can do. It's amazing to work with and it's very exciting. You get used to the system and you learn new things everyday."

"I also love this," added Forney, a na-



Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs

While inspecting the Unmanned Aerial System, Spc. Renay Forney, Company A, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, takes a quick look at the "bird's" propeller during her preflight checks before the bird takes off into the sky.

tive of Traverse City, Mich. "You do learn something new everyday. The guys teach me about their jobs and the maintenance of the bird. This is a unique experience and I'm glad to be a part of it."

Though UAS, formally known as UAV, or Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, is new to the services, Forney believes it will become a major asset to units in future deployments.

"I think this field is going to continue to progress," she said.

"Right now we are spending a lot of our time assisting the brigade and surrounding battalions. They have noticed the difference in their mission when the UAS is up in the air.

"They really appreciate it and ask for it," Forney added.

"It's a good feeling to be needed and appreciated like that. And it feels good to get to help."



Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs

The Unmanned Aerial System launches into the open sky to patrol the surrounding area, looking for improvised explosive devices and other obstacles Soldiers might face.

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Photos From the FOB...



A gospel choir sings praise and worship during the Good Friday Prayer Breakfast at Forward Operating Base Warhorse in Baqubah, Iraq, April 6.

Got Photos?

If you'd like to see your photo in *The Grey Wolf Howl*, e-mail Sgt. Serena Hayden at serena.hayden@us.army.mil.

Photo by Pfc. Ben Fox, 3BCT Public Affairs