

THE

Grey Wolf

HOWL



VOLUME I, ISSUE 8

JUNE 15, 2007



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Commander's Column

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



Grey Wolf!

We are at the nine-month mark of our deployment. I cannot tell you how impressed I am with the increased capabilities of our Iraqi Army counterparts and your ability to coach and mentor them, even while in contact. The citizens of Diyala are gaining confidence in their security forces and are counting on us, the Iraqi Security Forces, and the provincial government to continue working to improve their security and bring progress to the province. They are grateful for your sacrifices and I'm proud of your performance under the harshest of conditions. Thanks to your commitment and hard work, we have recently seen improvements in areas of Baqouba such as Tahrir and Buhriz. These two neighborhoods have seen a great transformation -- from an al Qaeda strong

hold where the citizens were afraid to leave their houses, to safe and secure neighborhoods. Thanks to your efforts, the children can go to school and play outside, and the markets are thriving with food and people. These are the fruits of your hard labor and it makes me, the Army, and our families proud.

During the month of June, we have seen new faces on Warhorse as the surge to secure Baqouba and Diyala takes its course.

We now welcome the Ugandans, who are taking over security of some key areas in our AO, and bid farewell to our friends from Georgia. The Georgian Soldiers have done an excellent job here in Diyala and will be sorely missed. We also welcome the Soldiers from 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, who join the efforts to bring security and stability to Diyala. They will continue to capitalize on our successes inside Baqouba. We will bring to justice the terrorists operating in the city. We will stop their killing of innocent civilians, to include women and children.

It would be easy at this point in our deployment to become complacent as things become routine. However, I urge you to remain vigilant, break up your routines, and always stay on the offensive. We are fighting an enemy who is always watching, always changing tactics, and always looking for an opportunity to inflict pain and terror on the people of this province. We need to remain one step ahead to defeat this enemy. We will bring the terrorists to justice by being attentive, proactive, offensive, and always focused on the task at hand.

I would like to conclude this message by thanking our families back home. This has been a challenging deployment, but our families have remained strong through it all. Their unconditional support has allowed us to remain focused and without distractions. We can never thank you enough for that. May God continue blessing our troopers, our families, our country, and the United States Army.

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'Hooah' Corner

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



HOOAH!

Three guys were standing at a construction site. A man walks up and asks, "What are you doing?"

The first man responds, "Making little rocks out of big rocks." The second man responds, "Making a living." The third man said, "Building a cathedral!!!"

All three men were doing the same thing, yet there were three different responses -- three different attitudes.

One man sees the big picture. He knows he is part of something bigger than himself. He knows he is part of something that will last. He knows his work is important.

Attitude.

From Joe's foxhole, the big picture is often hard to see. Though Iraq's "cathedral" may be a ways away, know that you, the American Soldier, are part of something bigger -- something that will last.

232. Two hundred thirty two years. The U.S. Army celebrated its birthday on June 14th, which coincidentally, is also Flag Day -- the birth of our nation's flag.

From Lexington and Concord; to Yorktown to New Orleans; to Mexico City to Gettysburg; to Cuba and the Argonne Forest; to Normandy to Inchon; from the Irang Drang to the Dominican Republic; to Desert One to Grenada; to Panama, Kuwait and Somalia; and Afghanistan and Iraq, the United States Army has been there.

TIME Magazine picked the U.S. "G.I."

as the Man of the Century a few years ago. The American Soldier, Sailor, Airman and Marine has been the most influential person during the history of the world throughout the last century.

You are part of something bigger than yourself. Your work is important. In my estimation, it's the most important work an American can do. Freedom and liberty are under attack. They attack in-

nocent people -- women and children included. They are ruthless and evil. Extremists will not quit. Someone must stand up for freedom and liberty.

You have answered that call. I applaud your service. I appreciate that you are a .5%er. You are the American Soldier -- a part of something bigger -- a part of something that will last.

Thank you for your service.

Live the Legend,
Greywolf 9



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

Soldiers Create Brotherhood In Iraq

By Pfc. Ben Fox
3rd BCT Public Affairs

Gathered around a makeshift table made from a sheet of plywood resting on Meals Ready-To-Eat boxes, Soldiers at Khan Bani Sa'ad played a game of cards in the middle of their compound.

These Soldiers talked, joked and fought the entire game as if they all had known each other their whole lives. The truth is, many of these men have known each other for just over a year, some even less.

"I just came to this platoon four or five months ago," said Spc. Miguel Luzunaris, or "LZ" as his friends call him.

Yet, at this compound run by the 1-12 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, the men have bonded in the same way a family would after years of living together.

"I would put my life on the line for everybody out here," said Luzunaris.

"It's more of a brotherhood than anything out here," said Spc. Jeffrey Marder.

"We are with each other 24 hours a day, seven days a week," he said.

In this "brotherhood," the Soldiers have built their bonds from the experiences they share.

"When you're out there and you have to trust your life

to your friends, it brings you a little bit closer," said Pfc. Matthew Taylor, the platoon's combat medic.

"If you're pulling 360 security or doing (small kill teams) at night, you are watching out for each other," he said.

"Infantry, we are in the fight a little deeper than anybody else," said Luzunaris. "You have to trust the man behind you, and you have to trust the man in front of you."

"I think we are a lot closer because we go through a lot of stuff together," he said.

"We go on numerous missions, and the missions are always more than one person," said Marder. "Everybody is helping each other out."

Not only do the Soldiers come closer together through combat experiences, but personal experiences also increase the bond they share.

"We are all dealing with close to the same things," said Luzunaris.

"We all have family... back at home," he said. "We are all



Photo by Pfc. Ben Fox, 3BCT Public Affairs

Spc. Miguel Luzunaris and Pfc. Matthew Taylor, 1-12 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, patrol together through palm groves in Judidah, Iraq.

trying to get back to them.

"It's the support, 'I know you have your family and I have mine so let's help each other make it back to them,'" said Luzunaris. "We all just gather up... and take care of each other."

"We are always going through certain instances... or certain personal problems that may happen within the platoon," said Marder. "People just need to come to you to talk or you need to go to somebody else just to talk to."

Many of the Soldiers feel like they are just as close to each other as they are to their families back home.

"I treat them like I do my brothers," said Taylor. "I have two younger brothers and a younger sister."

"They are as much family as my own family," he said. "If they need something, I'm there for them and they are there for me."

"You get to know everybody around you," said Marder. "You get to know their lifestyle and their home life, even their personal life."

"I know the same amount about my brother as I do these guys," he said.

"I just wasn't born from the same family," said Marder. "Brothers from another mother basically."

The men also get into brotherly fights.

"We rag on each other like you wouldn't believe," said Taylor.

"Griff and I as roommates...every day we are messing with each other," said Luzunaris. "If he isn't messing with me, I'm going to pick a fight with him."

"Just because, I guess we feel comfortable like that," he said.

"It doesn't feel right if we don't bicker with each other at least once a day," said Luzunaris. "If I can fight with you and five minutes later we are back laughing, that's when you really know that is a real friend right there."

These Soldiers are also willing to put their lives on the line for each other.

"Friends are friends but... family, you always have them," said Luzunaris.

"Even if I don't get along with one of them, if we are in a firefight out there... they are going to protect you," he said.

"I have friends back at home... now that I think about it, they are more acquaintances," said Marder. "I'm not too sure that my friends back at home would jump in front of a bullet like these guys would for me."

"And I would do the same for them," he said.



Photo by Pfc. Ben Fox, 3BCT Public Affairs

As a group of school children follows him down the street, Pvt. Brad Griffith, 1-12 CAB, 3rd BCT, 1st Cav. Div., talks to his convoy commander over the radio in Judidah, Iraq.

Diyala Receives Much-Needed Ambulances

Multi-National Division North

Diyala Governor Ra'ad Tamimi received the keys to new ambulances for the provincial Ministry of Health during a ceremony May 10 at Forward Operating Base Warhorse.

The ambulances are 18 of 35 that were purchased by the Diyala Provincial Reconstruction Team and will be distributed to hospitals across the province.

"We've traveled around and we've done assessments of other hospitals, like Muqdadiah, Khanaqin, and other places," said Capt. Jan Rose, a nurse with Company C, 431st Civil Affairs Battalion, from Little Rock, Ark.

The unit works with the State Department-led provincial reconstruction team to rebuild infrastructure in Diyala, including schools, water systems, and health clinics.

"We hear that they're having a hard time having access to care. So, through these vehicles, hopefully they'll be able to deliver supplies, transport patients – just have a better, safer way to get their patients back and forth to community hospitals," said Rose.

The ceremony was the culmination of a long process that started with the previous unit in Diyala, the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. They identified the need from the Ministry of Health to get ambulances, said Capt. Henry Shih, the brigade surgeon of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, from Fort Hood, Texas.

Shih said that up until now, they only

had half the ambulances they needed.

"They needed 70 ambulances for the province. They only had 35 on hand. So, through the Provincial Reconstruction Team and brigade commander's emergency response program funds which are used for reconstruction projects in Diyala, they were able to contract to have 35 ambulances produced and delivered here to Baqouba," said Shih. "This multiplies a great deal their capability to bring patients to the hospitals."

The ambulances are minivans that have been converted into medical vehicles, capable of transporting one patient and equipped with a roll-out stretcher, oxygen tank, and patient monitoring equipment. The Directorate General of Health, Dr. Homm, has a staff of paramedics who will drive the ambulances and help take care of patients.

"Dr. Homm has a distribution plan. He's already decided which areas need them the most,"

added Shih.

Shih said handing over keys to the ambulances to Governor Tamimi was not only symbolic but also very significant.

"I want to give credit to the last unit for starting this project. All the people in the civil affairs teams and the provincial reconstruction team are really pushing a lot of these rebuilding projects, trying to help the Iraqis become more self-sufficient," said Shih.

"I think that says a lot to the efforts of the units and the Soldiers here and the civilians that work with us."



Photo by Sgt. Armando Monroig, 5th MPAD

Gov. Ra'ad Tamimi, Diyala province governor, speaks during a ceremony at Forward Operating Base Warhorse near Baqouba, Iraq, May 10. The ceremony marked the handover of 18 ambulances from the Diyala Provincial Reconstruction Team to the Diyala Ministry of Health.

Useful Iraqi Phrases

I don't understand
meda af-te-him

On the cover ...



Pfc. Matthew Taylor, 1-12 CAB, 3rd BCT, 1st Cav. Div., moves with his platoon to an Iraqi Police station in Judidah, Iraq.

Photo by Pfc. Ben Fox, 3BCT Public Affairs

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Chaplain's Corner

Hello from Forward Operating Base Normandy. The weather has been extremely hot. I received some 'Icee Pops' in the mail the other day and I will be distributing them shortly to the Soldiers for Morale, Welfare and Recreation. It's wonderful to have support from the states, and please know that all the Soldiers appreciate it.

I stand amazed each day at the endurance level of each Soldier. Some of the jobs involve Soldiers standing out in the hot sun for extended periods of time, or boxed up in a steel Bradley for several hours at a time. I have spent some time in Bradley Fighting Vehicles and I can tell you from experience, "It's not cool."

It not only amazes me about the work being done out in the hot sun, but hearing their jokes and seeing the smiles on the Soldier's faces let's me know there is more to this work than most realize.

This past week had two very important days; Father's Day and the Army's Birthday. Many Soldiers were able to call home for Father's Day, so again, something to be thankful for -- phones!! When I began to look at the history of the Army's Birthday, I quickly saw the relationship between our founding Fathers and the Soldiers fighting in Iraq. Back in 1775, when the Army was being formed with riflemen, the numbers were exploding with men who wanted to fight and show bravery for the United States. That same fight and bravery shows up almost everyday over here in Iraq.

When I hear a joke or I see a smile pop up on a Soldier's face in the middle of a hot day with sweat actually drenching the uniform, my heart skips a beat and pride swells up into my throat. Many years from now, when people talk about the Soldiers from 6-9 ARS and the other men and women throughout Greywolf that supported our country and sacrificed their time and family, hearts again will fill with that same pride that fills my heart now. Happy Birthday Army!

My prayers are with you and the Soldiers of the Greywolf Brigade.

Chaplain (Capt.) Soon Jung
6-9 ARS Chaplain

MNC-I Commander Visits Greywolf



Photo by Sgt. Armando Monroig, 5th MPAD

Lt. Gen. Raymond Odierno, commander of Multi-National Corps – Iraq, visits Soldiers of the 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment Reconnaissance (Airborne), at a patrol base near Balad Ruz, Iraq.

Soldier on the FOB

"What do you miss the most from home?"



Staff Sgt. Daniel Lewis
HHT, 3rd BCT

"I miss spending time with my kids."

Spc. Timothy Reed
Co. A, 215th BSB



"My free time because I can get up and do what I want to do."



Sgt. Andrew Njenga
HHC, 3rd BSTB

"I miss home and being with my family, especially my mom."

Sgt. Stephen Hummell
HHC, 3rd BSTB



"I miss being with the with the kids getting ready to go into summer."



Spc. Wesley Heine
215th RSD

"I miss... waking up next to (my wife) every morning... and watching movies with my daughter to get her to go to sleep."

By Pfc. Ben Fox, 3BCT Public Affairs

GREY WOLF



Photo by Pfc. Ben Fox, 3BCT Public Affairs

Above, Pvt. Destry Mulloy, 1-12 CAB, pulls guard on top of his compound in Khan Bani Sa'ad, Iraq. Mulloy was deployed in the middle of his unit's deployment and has quickly adjusted to life with his platoon.

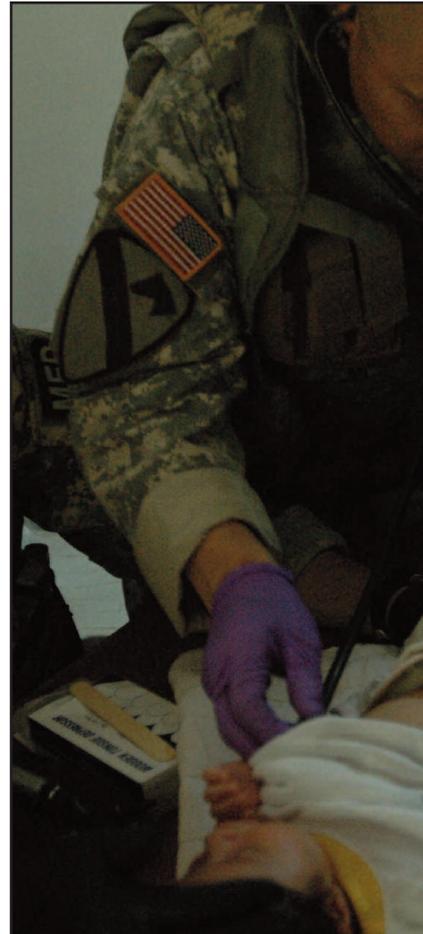
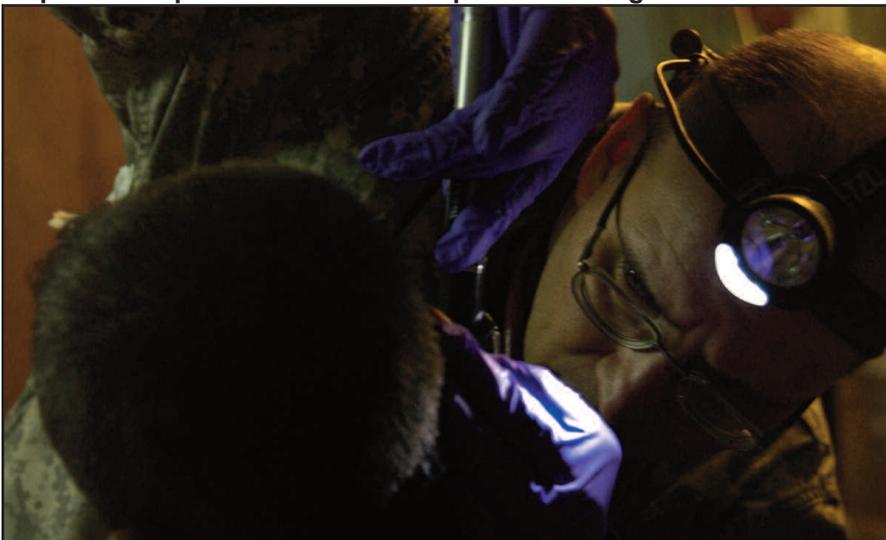


Photo by

At right, Capt. Henry Shih, brigade surgeon for 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, checks the heart rate of a child at a clinic in Buhriz, Iraq, May 27. U.S. troops helped an Iraqi doctor see over 200 patients during the visit.



U.S Air Force photo by A1C Christopher Hubenthal, Joint Combat Camera

Above, medics from 3-1 Cav. , treat individuals discovered by U.S. and Iraqi Soldiers at a suspected al-Qaida prison six miles south of Baqouba, Iraq.

At right, A Soldier with Troop B, 1-14 Cav., 3-2 Stryker BCT, provides security for a member of the 4-2-5 IA Division. The two units conducted a joint effort to locate weapons caches and clear terrorists from Abu Karuum, Iraq.

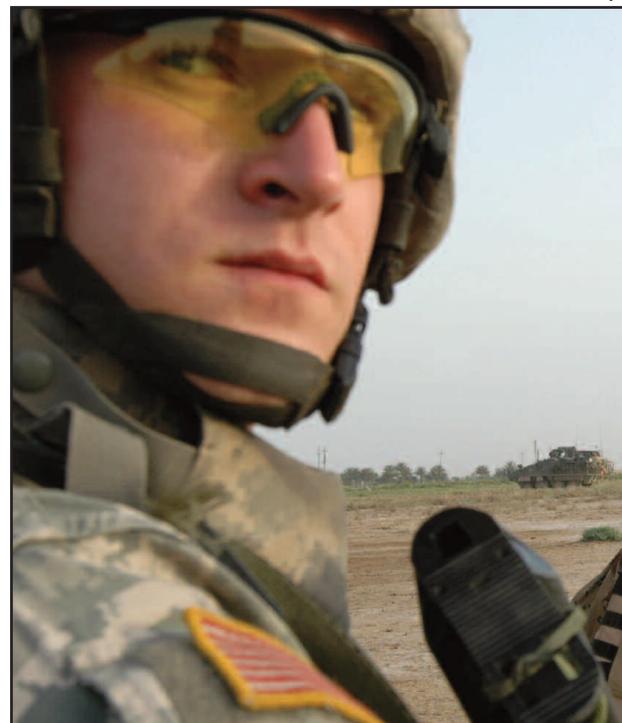


Photo by

F IN ACTION



Sgt. Armando Monroig, 5th MPAD



Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs



Sgt. Armando Monroig, 5th MPAD

Spc. Dacoven Phillips, A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, handles the new Excalibur round, preparing it to be fired during his certification, May 20. Phillips was a part of a team to fire the first Excalibur round in Diyala province.

RSD Provides Security for Combat Logistic Patrols

By Pfc. Ben Fox
3rd BCT Public Affairs

Watching the road for hazards, looking for suspicious activity and feeling the tension on the streets all played a vital role in the patrol's safe returning.

Improvised explosive devices, small-arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades were all dangers these Soldiers were up against, and they had their guards up, constantly vigilant and alert for the slightest thing out of place, because the lives of their comrades depended on it.

While this may seem like a normal instance for an infantryman or scout, the Soldiers in these trucks were mostly mechanics.

These Soldiers are a part of a unique unit called the Reconnaissance Security Detachment from the 215th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

The entire detachment is made up of non-combat Soldiers who leave the safety of Forward Operating Base Warhorse to provide security for supply trucks en route to other military installations in and around the Diyala province.

"I get to work with good people," said Pfc. Garrett Terral, the gunner who had to fire the warning shot. "I get to go out and see all of the different places in Iraq."

Terral said he would rather be running missions outside the wire than be in a motor pool on the FOB fixing vehicles every day.

Even though a mechanic's job of fixing vehicles is vitally important to the mission, getting outside of the wire feels more like adding to the fight, said Terral.

"I couldn't stand the (idea) of sitting around on the FOB," said Staff Sgt. Keith Coren, a platoon sergeant. "It's just not me."

As a generator mechanic, Coren does not get a lot of opportunities to do his job, so he volunteered for the RSD to protect supply assets.

"We can protect them while they worry about the supplies," said Coren.

Terral said he likes "being able to say that I provide security and get supplies from one point to another."

"Out here you actually get to get out on the road and feel like you are important," he said.

"We get to scout out and see what possible threats are out there and then relay it back to the (supply trucks) so that they know what to look out

for," said Terral.

"I feel that we are doing more for the mission," said Pfc. Nevar Shoulders. "The elements back in the rear are helping the mission inside the FOB and we are helping the mission outside the FOB."

"When you go out of the wire you get to do more, and you get to see more," said Shoulders.

Coren said his unit's job was also vital to combat Soldiers.

"We move the logistics... needed to keep the scouts and infantry in the fight," said Coren.

"I wanted to know that I was out doing my part, getting these guys (combat troops) in the fight and doing what I could to win this war," he said.

The RSD has been training since February, 2006 and has more mobility and experience with reacting to contact than the supply trucks, said Coren.

"We know what to do out there and we know how to provide security," said Shoulders.

"Basically, we are their ace of spades," said Spc. Ronald Morton.

Morton said the training schedule the unit had at Fort Hood gave them an edge in the fight.

"We constantly train," said Morton. "If you aren't doing anything, you're training."

While the job is stressful and dangerous, there aren't many complaints from the Soldiers.

"For the most part, every body here is a volunteer," said Coren.

"They love doing what they do, they are good at what they do and hopefully we continue doing what we do so everybody goes home as a group," he said.



Photo by Pfc. Ben Fox, 3BCT Public Affairs

Pfc. Nevar Shoulders, Reconnaissance Security Detachment, 215th Brigade Support Battalion, prepares his .50 Cal machine gun before going back out on mission at Forward Operating Base Normandy in Muqdadiya, Iraq.



'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. Annamarie Conklin
Staff Sgt. Margaret Smothers
Staff Sgt. Don Jewell
Staff Sgt. Richard Erickson
Staff Sgt. Keston Dyer
Staff Sgt. Daniel Beltran

Balad Ruz Safer Four Months After Operation

Multi-National Division North

Four months after U.S. troops and their Iraqi Army counterparts launched a massive military operation in the villages Turki, Hamoud and 30 Tamuz, what was once an insurgent safe haven is now considered one of the quietest places in Diyala.

During the massive, nine-day assault dubbed "Turki Bowl II," which concluded Jan. 13, about 100 insurgents were killed and 54 were detained for suspected involvement in terrorist activities in the area.

The operation, led by the 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, from Fort Bragg, N.C., yielded weapons caches containing more than 1,100 Katyusha rockets, 1,500 rocket-

propelled grenades, 500 mortars and a variety of materials used to make roadside bombs, called Improvised Explosive Devices.

The area is now considered under control by Iraqi and Coalition Forces, which has established a joint patrol base in Turki to maintain a constant presence there.

"It's quiet. Four months before the operation, I saw the shooting of (local leaders), many IEDs, the road was dangerous," said 1st Lt. Ali, a company commander in 3rd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division.

"Now, it is safe. No terrorists are in this area, because the Iraqi Army and U.S. Army always patrol together."

Ali and his soldiers share the responsibility of running the

patrol base with their U.S. counterparts, who confirm a decrease in the level of violence in the area.

"Since we've been out here after Turki Bowl II, things have been pretty quiet," said Sgt. Brandon Herron, from Troop B, 5-73 Cav. Regt. "With all the IA check points in the area, the incidences of IEDs have cut down dramatically.

"We've pretty much rooted out all of the enemy in the area. They've either fled, been captured or are lying low. I think having the IA and our presence out here has made a huge difference in the security of this area," Herron said.

Despite the improved security in the Balad Ruz area, Staff Sgt. Donald McElroy said there's still a possibility that his

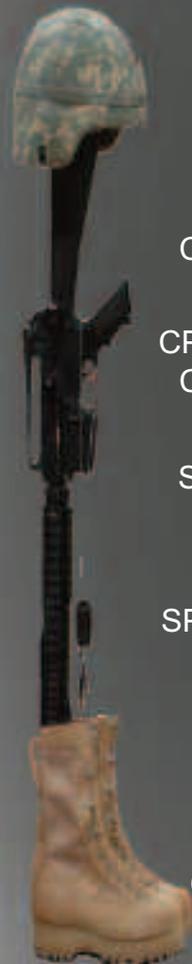
unit will find more insurgents while patrolling the canals and villages assaulted by coalition forces in January.

"I believe that those who weren't killed, detained, and were lucky enough to get out of here, still come back," said McElroy, also from Troop B. "That's why we continue to patrol, because you never know."

"Before Turki Bowl, (local residents) did not trust the coalition forces in the area," said 2nd Lt. Jeremy Dionida, platoon leader for Recon Platoon, 5-73rd Cav.

"Now with them telling us where the IEDs and (anti-tank) mines are, that's a good indication that they put a lot of trust in us."

In Memory Of....



SPC Dan Nguyen
HHC, 1-12 CAB
3BCT, 1CD

SGT Joel Lewis
Co. A, 5-20 Inf. Regt.
3BCT, 1CD

CPL Anthony Bradshaw
Co. A, 5-20 Inf. Regt.
3BCT, 1CD

SPC Joshua Romero
Co. B, 1-12 CAB
3BCT, 1CD

SPC Francis Trussel Jr.
Co. D, 1-12 CAB
3BCT, 1CD

CPL Zachary Baker
A Trp., 6-9 ARS
3BCT, 1CD

CPL James Summers
A Trp., 6-9 ARS
3BCT, 1CD

SSG Vincenzo Romeo
Co. A, 5-20 Inf. Regt.
3BCT, 1CD

SGT Jason Vaughn
Co. A, 5-20 Inf. Regt.
3BCT, 1CD

CPL Michael Pursel
Co. A, 5-20 Inf. Regt.
3BCT, 1CD

SGT Anselmo Martinez
Co. B, 1-12 CAB
3BCT, 1CD

SGT Iosiwo Uruo
B Trp., 1-14 Cav.
3BCT, 1CD

SGT Anthony Ewing
A Trp., 6-9 ARS
3BCT, 1CD

1LT Kile West
A Trp., 6-9 ARS
3BCT, 1CD

SGT Jason Harkins
Co. A, 5-20 Inf. Regt.
3BCT, 1CD

CPL Matthew Alexander
Co. A, 5-20 Inf. Regt.
3BCT, 1CD

1LT Andrew Bacevich
Co. D, 3-8 CAB
3BCT, 1CD

SPC Casey Nash
HHC, 1-12 CAB
3BCT, 1CD

SPC Alexandre Alexeev
A Trp., 6-9 ARS
3BCT, 1CD

SGT Anthony Markham
A Trp., 6-9 ARS
3BCT, 1CD

SGT Deriek Dehn
C Trp., 6-9 ARS
3BCT, 1CD



IA, MiTT Conduct Successful Cordon, Knock

By Spc. Ryan Stroud
3rd BCT Public Affairs

Dust and dirt flew from under the tires into the air as a long row of Iraqi Army and Coalition Forces' humvees and Bradley Fighting Vehicles cordoned the dirt roads of the city of Hadid, Iraq.

With little updated intelligence about the area, both IA and U.S. Soldiers had to use past information they had learned about the town.

The last time these Soldiers traveled the roads of Hadid, they discovered 11 improvised explosive devices on a small section of the road into town, placed there to attack both the IA and Coalition Forces.

But this past experience would not shake the determined fighters of freedom. They had a mission -- make their way into the city to conduct a cordon and knock, and go door-to-door; meeting every citizen they could and gather as much information about the presence of al-Qaida in their city.

With the 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army leading the way into Hadid, Soldiers from different units of the 3rd "Grey Wolf" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, combined forces to form the 1-2-5 Military Transition Team to help guide the young group of Iraqi soldiers into the city.

The job's of those in the MiTT is to travel with the IA and make sure they are carrying out their missions to the proper standards, and with the mission they faced, the IA soldiers were about to learn about a different way to gather information.

"The purpose of the mission



Two Iraqi soldiers stand guard outside a house in Hadid, Iraq, during a cordon and knock mission.

was to capture and defeat Iraq insurgents in the town of Hadid in order to make it a safer place to live," said Capt. Brian Slotnick, a native of Tom's River, N.J., and a member of 215th Brigade Support Battalion.

"The mission was to help clean up the town," he said.

"We conducted a cordon and knock mission," said Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Gage, a native of Fort Wayne, Ind., and a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-12 Combined Arms Battalion.

"We didn't have any hard intelligence about what was happening in Hadid, but we knew from previous missions that the village was starting to become a hot-bed for insurgent activity," he said.

"The main reason the mission was [a cordon and knock and not a cordon and search] was because we didn't have specific targets," Maj. Dominique Dionne, a member of the brigade's Headquarters and Headquarters Troop.

"When we have no intelligence driving an operation, we inform the [IA] leaders that this is more of a presence-type mission," Dionne, the MiTT Leader, said. "You knock on the doors, you talk politely to the people, you conduct your search and you find out what they know and what information they can give you."

"We were starting to see a lot more IEDs while traveling down [the roads toward the village] and the last time we were down there, we found 11 IEDs and they were all in one major spot," Gage said. "Our mission was to go down there to see if there was anybody down there who didn't belong there and just let the people know we're here to help them out."

The IA and MiTT made their way into the streets of Hadid early in the morning, pulling their vehicles into the town to begin their mission of going door-to-door. With the IA leading the way, Slotnick quickly followed into the houses, hoping to get some greater information about terrorist activity in the city.

The IA soldiers knocked on the doors to homes, checked identification and asked if the citizens had any information they would like to share about the area. The cordon and knock was beginning to become a success when information about two abandoned cars in the town, believed to be al-Qaida related, and a small cache in the palm groves, were dis-

covered through the citizen's help.

"[Through the help of the citizens] we did capture some good intelligence as well as some weapons and ammunition," said Slotnick. "That's one less thing the insurgents will have in their hands."

What was found, as well as received, a lot of helpful information from the mission," added Gage. "A lot of our suspicions were confirmed that a lot of insurgent activity is not necessarily being conducted out there but it is being planned out there."

As the mission drew to a close, the members of the IA and MiTT headed back to their patrol base to catch a few hours of sleep and prepare for the next day's mission. With another successful mission behind them, the MiTT feels the IA is one step closer to providing security to their local cities without Coalition assistance.

"I felt the mission was a success," said Gage. "We got some people who we think are bad guys and we were able to show some community support. I think this was a good day for us."

"The situation has changed the past few years in Iraq," added Slotnick. "It used to be busting down doors, but for [the day's mission], the intelligence we had wasn't at a specific target, so we were very respectful with entering the houses."

"We knocked; we talked to the leader of the house, searched the house and just went from there," he said.

"The big thing is to put the IA in the lead," Dionne said. "We want the people in the villages and towns to actually see the Iraqi soldiers actually going through and conducting the missions and searches. We used the Coalition Forces to provide the outer cordon, which enabled more of the Iraqi units to get their feet in the city to conduct the search."

"It was a lot more successful mission than I thought it was going to be," said Dionne, who mentioned problems in Hadid included IED emplacements, snipers and possible al-



Photos by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs

Capt. Brian Slotnick, a member of the 215th BSB, travels with the 1-2-5 IA during a cordon and knock mission in Hadid, Iraq.

Qaida influence.

"But when we got in the city and talked to many of the community leaders and teachers, they were saying the people do not like the al-Qaida and the majority of the people want the IA and the [Iraqi Police] in there patrolling to keep the bad people out," he said.

"That was a good thing for us to hear and it will help convince the IA to conduct more patrols in the town now that they know the population does support them," Dionne said.

"The Iraqis are a lot better than I thought they would be and they've only gotten better," said Gage. "When we first got here, they had a lot of problems with discipline. Since we've gotten involved with them, there have been very few incidents that I've heard about."

"The Iraqi NCO corps is starting to step up and take charge of things they never did in the past," he said. "That's really helping them out and making the mission an even greater success."

Since the MiTT has been working with the IA battalion, Dionne said they are helping the IA understand how important it is to interact face-to-face with the local population.

"[If the IA conducted missions without talking to the people], the soldiers would get the impression that all the people are all bad," he continued. "It's never that black and white."

"If we get [the IA soldiers] to see that these are real living, breathing, bleeding people on both sides, they start to get the common bond that they are all Iraqis, they all have problems and they need to work together to come up with the solution," he concluded.

Working Dogs Bring Bite to the Fight

By Sgt. Armando Monroig
5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers went into the village hunting for insurgents and the materials they use to create weapons like car bombs, roadside bombs or suicide vests.

The troops took with them their normal weapons and equipment – Bradley fighting vehicles and Stryker vehicles, rifles and ammunition, radios – as they searched the outskirts of Khan Bani Sa'ad, about 15 miles south of Baqouba, Iraq, May 15.

As the convoy of Stryker vehicles pulled up to the next group of buildings to be searched, they summoned a unique weapon from their arsenal. The Stryker ramp dropped, and out jumped King, a six-year-old explosives military working dog, with U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Dennis Browning in tow.

The military working dog team emerged, ready to search for insurgents and enemy weapons.

As Soldiers from Company C, 1-12 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, out of Fort Hood, Texas, will tell you, they can be an important part of any mission.

"The military working dog is a valuable asset in our eyes," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Gibson, platoon sergeant for 2nd platoon, Company C.

"We've had numerous operations down here where we've used the working dogs. He can go out, sniff and find stuff that we might have overlooked or might not even thought to look at," he said.

"Stuff" such as weapons, ammunitions, mortars, or home-made explosives that can be used against Coalition Forces, said

Browning, a dog handler with the 21st Security Forces Squadron, out of Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Browning and King were part of a village search operation with Company C, 1-12 CAB, and Troop B, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, out of Fort Lewis, Wash., who recently assumed responsibility for Khan Bani Sa'ad and the surrounding areas.

Having them on the battlefield allows his unit to be more efficient, said Capt. Jason Rosenstraugh, commander of Troop B, 2-1 Cav. Regt.

"It allows us to search an area deliberately without taking a lot of time," said Rosenstraugh.

It is the dogs' efficiency that can save lives, said Browning.

"Since the dog's smell is a lot stronger than a human's, he'll find (the explosives) a lot quicker than a squad would. He's trained (to recognize) special key elements that are in all explosives, so he'll pick it up a lot quicker," Browning said, adding that King can also sniff out hiding insurgents.

King can also switch into attack mode, if he has to.

"If he feels there is a threat to us, he'll act. He knows when he's in that situation," Browning said.

Knowing that his dog "has his back," is comforting to Browning.

"I trust King a lot. A lot of people do because he is a hard worker and usually I don't have to tell him what to do. He does everything on his own," he said.

As they kick off their deployment and face the long, hot summer ahead, Browning is confident they will succeed in helping

Soldiers in Diyala accomplish their mission of finding insurgents and weapons caches.

Even though the Soldiers, Browning and King didn't find anything significant this day, it was still a hard day's work for the team.

"We did pretty well today, even though it was hot – didn't we buddy," Browning said with a smile to his partner King as he patted him on his belly.



Photo by Sgt. Armando Monroig, 5th MPAD

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Dennis Browning, a military working dog handler, and King, an explosives and patrol attack dog, prepare to enter and search a building during a clearing operation near Khan Bani Sa'ad.

IA, CF Detain Suspected Terrorist In Muqdadiya

Multi-National Division North

Twenty one suspected terrorists were detained near Muqdadiya, Iraq during a joint Iraqi army and Coalition operation Wednesday.

Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade, 5th Iraqi army, led the operation, supported by Soldiers from 6-9 Armored Reconnaissance Squadron, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, to provide a safe and secure environment for the people

throughout the Muqdadiya Qadah.

"With the Iraqi army in the lead, this operation allowed the soldiers to gain confidence in their abilities as the true defenders of their nation," said Lt. Col. Keith Gogas, 6-9 ARS commander.

"They were able to successfully plan and conduct operations independent of Coalition Forces, which is a vital step toward their transfer of authority."

The 21 detainees were from the Muqdad and Al-Ahmer districts of Muqdadiya, and were transferred to an IA detention facility for further questioning.

"Through this intelligence-driven and target-based operation, the people of Muqdadiya have also been able to gain confidence in their security forces as the IA was able to rid the area of people involved in terrorist activity," Gogas added.

"We will continue to work with the Iraqi army as they assume more planning responsibility," he said.



Photo by 1st Lt. Tom Radabaugh

Maj. Muslim, 2-3-5 IA commander, conducts a rehearsal for an Iraqi army-led operation.

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Photos From the FOB...



Pfc. Matthew Taylor (front) and Spc. Daniel Baker, 1-12 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, relax during a down time at their compound in Khan Bani Sa'ad, Iraq. The compound does not have many comforts the Soldiers used to enjoy, such as toilets, internet, phones and showers.

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