

THE

Grey Wolf

HOWL



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Commander's Column

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



Grey Wolf!

As we near the ten-month mark of our deployment, there are many different ideas concerning what our government should do about Iraq and our mission here. Gen. Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker recently provided the President and the Congress an interim assessment of progress in Iraq. Of the 18 benchmarks stipulated by Congress, the Iraqis have achieved satisfactory progress on eight; eight others are unsatisfactory, and it is too early to make a determination on two. This report has caused a lot of discussions about our mission and our future here in Iraq. Our society wants to see immediate results. This desire will continue to drive discussions of policy changes in Congress and throughout our government. As you watch this debate on TV, I ask you not to lose focus. We still have a lot of

work ahead and the people of Diyala depend on you to help them improve their fragile democracy.

Regardless of what's being discussed by our politicians, one thing is clear—change is taking place here in Diyala. Security is improving. The local citizens are coming forward to give tips and provide actionable information against insurgents and terrorists. Communities are now standing up to the terrorists and taking ownership of their future. The local government is now focused on providing essential services to the people. All of these changes are due to your hard work, your commitment to make this a better place for the people of Diyala, and your commitment to honor the sacrifices of our fallen comrades. You have shown the people of Diyala and the world what a great unit and an extraordinary Army can do. I cannot be prouder of your achievements than I am.

Now that we are about five months from returning home, I urge you to give thought to your relations with your family members back home. I want you to expand your horizons.

It's never too late to begin improving yourself. Although it's never long enough, use the time off you have to learn something new each day. There is so much we can still learn about the world and about ourselves. I want you to look at your future and become the best Soldier and the best person you can be. Do this not only for you, but for those who depend on you.

I cannot thank our families enough for the unconditional support they have given us throughout this deployment. There is no doubt it has been hard, but they have shown a resilience that is uncommon in non-military families. Our loved ones are our strength. And thanks to them, we have been able to achieve numerous successes here. Our families continue to make us proud and we dream of the day we will be back with them. Words can never express the gratitude I have for our Greywolf families. May God continue blessing our families, our country, and the United States Army.

God bless you all!

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'Hooah' Corner

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



This morning, I meandered over to the dining facility and ordered me up a good ole fashioned American breakfast - bacon and eggs. I ordered them over easy, just

the way I like 'em.

I then sat down with a cup of coffee and a juice and watched the morning news. As I prepared to partake of this classic meal, I noticed something. There on my plate was an example of two different approaches to Soldiering - contribution and commitment.

Some Soldiers are walking around the FOB making contributions, others are walking around committed. You see, the chicken made a contribution to my breakfast, the pig made a commitment!

It's relatively easy to be the chicken. Every morning you pop out another egg, contribution complete, drive on. The pig on the other hand gave of himself, fully, completely.

Soldiering in the truest sense of the word

is a commitment. Soldiers give of themselves.

To fully live up to the "Army Values," a Soldier is selfless in their service. It's our duty. It's our honor. It takes loyalty to a cause greater than oneself. It takes integrity to fully commit oneself to the honorable duty of Soldiering for ones country while that country is at war. It takes courage; moral and physical to perform under pressure.

"Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experiences of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired and success achieved."

- Helen Keller

I ask you to take a look at your service. Introspection is helpful to stay on azimuth. Are you making a contribution, or are you making a commitment?

At this point in the deployment some may coast along, contributing to the mission, waiting out the heat. Making it to chow, eating till they're tired, and sleeping till they're hungry. If that's you, or someone you know, adjust fire.

Bracket yourself onto target. Commit yourself to the mission. Commit yourself to your unit. Commit yourself to your country. You will be a better person for that commitment. You will be the person of character, formed in the crucible of combat. You will be the one that will not be caught looking when life throws you a curve ball.

You may not even realize it yet, but your character is strengthening everyday. You are becoming "Army Strong." That will benefit you for years to come. It will, and already has changed your life.

As Helen Keller once said, "Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experiences of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired and success achieved."

Whether you spend three years in the service of your country, or you celebrate 24 years of service as I am today, you and your country will be better off for your service.

I thank you, and Uncle Sam thanks you.

**Live the Legend,
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Engineers Clear Way for New School

By Sgt. Armando Monroig
5th MPAD

Out of a tragic incident will come some good. U.S. troops triggered the process of healing and closure May 20 at a former combat outpost in As Sadah, four miles north of Baqouba, Iraq.

The outpost was partially destroyed by a deadly car-bomb attack in April. Members of 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, who operated the outpost, requested the remaining structure be torn down and a new school built in its place.

Combat engineers from Company E, 1-12 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, from Fort Hood, Texas, were called in to demolish the remainder of the structure.

The engineers placed 520 pounds of explosives in the building, wired them together, and within hours, turned the outpost into a pile of rubble, facilitating the construction process, said 1st Lt. Benjamin Dowell, executive officer for Company E.

Safety measures were taken to ensure that homes in the community and the nearby mosque would not be damaged from the blast.

“Charges were placed on the opposite side of the building as the mosque, so that not only would the force of the blast be less on that area, but also so that the building would be much more likely to fall away from the mosque,” said Dowell.

Prior to the demolition, Soldiers of 5-

73 Cav. Regt., from Fort Bragg, N.C., set up security and an attached civil-affairs team spoke with residents to ensure they stayed out of the blast area. No injuries were reported. Minimal damage was done to several homes across the street. Arrangements were made with those residents for compensation, said Dowell.

Dowell said the construction of the new school will most likely be contracted out to a local company in order to offer jobs in the community and help improve the economy.

Demolishing the building will make it easier for construction crews to clear the site, speeding the eventual construction of the school, he said.

“Today was really the beginning of a construction mission,” said Dowell. “And so today, although we took down a building, it was more of a rebuilding. We didn’t do it



Photo by Sgt. Armando Monroig, 5th MPAD

Clouds of dust and debris fill the air after explosives are detonated to demolish a former combat outpost in As Sadah, four miles north of Baqouba, Iraq. The building, damaged after a deadly car-bomb attack in April, was demolished and a new school will be built in its place.

to thwart the enemy. It was more to help the people in the area.”

And it was the easiest, quickest way to do it, said Staff Sgt. Terry Millender, platoon sergeant for 2nd platoon, Company E.

“It speeds up the time for building the new school. It took us four hours to do that mission... We didn’t have to organize convoys, putting Soldiers at risk, making up a big work site and imposing on the people like that. One boom and it’s done,” said Millender.

Prior to a U.S. combat outpost being set up in the area, there was a heavy al-Qaida presence in this town that ran many residents out of their homes, said Millender. For the residents who remained, today’s demolition was a quick start to a new beginning.

“It’s definitely going to turn a very negative event into something positive,” Millender said. “It will be something good for the Army to do for the people, as a show of goodwill.”

The combat engineers were happy to take on this task and help provide closure for Soldiers from 5-73 Cav. Regt., improve the quality of life in As Sadah, and allow junior Soldiers to put their demolition skills to use.

Millender said the mission was accomplished successfully because of his troop’s preparation and hard work.

“You could see the excitement of all the Soldiers. They don’t get to do this type of task (often), which is what most of them join the Army for when they see demolitions is part of our job title. Today, they got a chance to do it,” said Millender.



Photo by Sgt. Armando Monroig, 5th MPAD

An engineer with Company E, 1-12 CAB, marks the wall where an explosives charge is to be placed in a former combat outpost in As Sadah, four miles north of Baqouba, Iraq. The building, damaged after a deadly car-bomb attack in April, was demolished and a new school will be built in its place.

Soldiers Put Strength to Test in Competition

By Pfc. Ben Fox
3rd BCT Public Affairs

A Soldier stepped up to the weights on the stage and looked out at the crowd. Focusing, he bent down to grab the bar.

Shouts of encouragement erupted from the crowd.

"Through the roof!"

"Pull hard!"

"Pull it up!"

The Soldier suddenly burst upward with strength. His face was deep red and the veins in his neck were sticking out, but he kept pulling up.

Only about half way up he was stuck, pulling with what he thought was all of his strength. The crowd erupted again, yelling encouragements to bolster the Soldier's confidence.

Finally, the Soldier was able to pull the bar all of the way up and the judge motioned for him to go back down.

The weights came back down and the judge gave the thumbs up.

This was all a part of a dead lifting competition at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq, June 30.

There were 22 competitors from all different weight classes and even three females.

Sgt. 1st Class Alfred Jackson, 2-1 Cavalry Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, ended up winning the competition after lifting 530 lbs.

Despite his victory, Jackson claimed that he wasn't in the competition just to

win.

"Power lifting isn't about winning, it's about setting goals and accomplishing them," said Jackson.

Jackson said he has experience competing in weightlifting championships outside of the Army and likes to compete in all different kinds of events.

Sgt. Genaro Gutierrez, Co. A attached to Co. C, 1-12 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, joined the competition despite having never dead lifted before.

"I did better than I thought I was going to," said Gutierrez. "The only way to get better is to practice."

Gutierrez also said he was impressed with the females competing because it showed that the sport is not just for men.

"That was my third total time dead lifting," said Spc. Edward McMunn, Headquarters, Headquarters Troop, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. "I'm happy with my results."

"I could have done better, but I was second guessing myself and didn't do it properly," said McMunn. "The next time we do something like this I just have to give it my all."



Photo by Pfc. Ben Fox, 3BCT Public Affairs

Spc. Edward McMunn, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, lifts weights during a dead lift competition at FOB Warhorse, near Baqouba, Iraq, June 30.

The event helped Soldiers break up their everyday routine.

"I like to see Soldiers come out and break up the monotony," said Jackson.

"It makes you want to compete like you are some kind of professional," said Gutierrez. "It relieves a lot of stress from being where we're at."

"It's a good stress reliever, especially when you are deployed from your loved ones," said McMunn. "It's a lot of fun and it builds character I guess."

McMunn said that seeing others lifting more than he did made him want to improve on the event.

"It's making me want to push even harder to lift even heavier," he said.

Useful Iraqi Phrases

Do you understand?
de-tif-te-him?

On the cover ...



Spc. Christopher Rochelle, a combat engineer with Engineering Company, 1-12 CAB, provides security during a mission in As Sadah, a town four miles north of Baqouba, Iraq.

Photo by Sgt. Armando Monroig, 5th MPAD

3rd BCT Commander
Col. David Sutherland

3rd BCT PAO

Maj. Raul Marquez

raul.marquezhernandez@us.army.mil

3rd BCT PAO NCOIC/Editor

Sgt. Serena Hayden

serena.hayden@us.army.mil

3rd BCT PAO Staff Writers

Spc. Ryan Stroud, Pfc. Ben Fox

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Chaplain's Corner

As temperatures continue to climb and we near the one year mark, some may start to wonder, "What in the world am I doing here?" "Is spending a one year (plus) deployment to Iraq truly what God wants from me?" While we may not know specifically why God would place us here at Warhorse, be rest assured that God has a plan. While we may sometimes think that a God that would place us in sunny Baqubah obviously has a twisted sense of humor, the Bible records for us a plethora of situations where people, chosen by God, were sent to not so charming places as well.

The Bible tells us in Genesis 12 that God called Abram to go to a land that he would show him. In other words, God expected Abram to step out in faith walking in the wilderness/desert, before he would receive directions. Abram follows God's challenge and becomes Abraham the father of many.

Later in Genesis 37 we find the Biblical narrative of Joseph, usually known for his GQ coat of many colors. In reality, however, the point about Joseph has nothing to do with his fancy coat and more about the hardships that he endures as part of God's plan. Joseph is despised by his brothers, who only relent from killing him when they find that they can turn a profit and get rid of the runt as well by selling him to slave traders. After being deported to Egypt, Joseph would suffer many trials. In the end, he saves the day by his relationship with God that allowed him to prepare the nation for a great famine. In his focus on God, Joseph not only saved the lives of thousands of people, but he also saved the lives of his brothers and father. The real key to the narrative comes when Joseph finally comes face to face with his brothers and tells them that although they meant to hurt him for bad, God used it for good.

One other key phrase that I would like to emphasize comes from a story of a young lady who used her beauty and courage to save a nation. The Biblical book of Ester is usually not popular around HOOAH circles because of its romantic theme of a young lady selected to become queen because of her beauty, but it contains this very important verse from Ester 4:14; "for such a time is this?" Ester's uncle Mordecai ask her this question when she was having second thoughts about going to see the king in order to save her nation from certain slaughter. Understand that going to see the king without being summoned brought with it the penalty of death. Mordecai wisely instructs Ester to visit the king unannounced because he believed that is why God had placed her there to start with. Ester goes to the king and he is pleased and her people were saved.

I'm not sure why God placed you here, but I do know that it is for such a time as this. I've listened to some people say that they were born in the wrong generation that they should have been born during the Civil War or during WWII. I believe this is a misunderstanding of the importance of what they are doing now. Furthermore, it goes against the plan that God has for you right now. If you're walking around with your head down kicking sandbags, it's time to do an azimuth check. God has a plan for each and every person on Warhorse and even has numbered the hairs of our head, or the hairs that have been pulled or shaved away. The Lord has something great in store for us all; have you checked in to see what that might be lately? I challenge you to grow closer to God, seek after Him and find out what His plan is for you in such a time as this.

Chaplain (Capt.) Craig Honbarger
5-73 RSTACHaplain

Soldier on the FOB

"If you could be doing anything right now for summer vacation, what would it be?"



Pfc. Nathaniel Gay
HHC, 5-20 IN

"Taking my daughter to the zoo. She loves the animals and I just want to spend some quality time with her."

Spc. Joseph Armstrong
HHC, 3BSTB

"I would be spending time at the beach with my son. My son is about to turn four and I would like to be with him in a relaxing place."

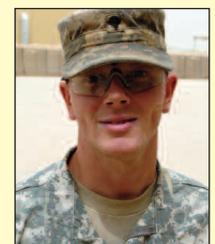


Spc. Rachel Tomlinson
HHT, 3BCT

"I would be on a week-long Caribbean cruise with my friends."

Spc. Jason Parson
HHC, 3BSTB

"I would be shark diving off the Faralong Islands in San Diego because it one of the most dangerous things to do."



Spc. Levi Estock
HHC, 215th BSB

"I would want to be in New Zealand, going rock climbing and rappelling, maybe even some base jumping."

By Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs

GREY WOLF



U.S. Air Force Photo by Steve Czyz, Joint Combat Camera

Above, Soldiers of Bravo Troop, 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division breach the gate of a house during a mission in Ar Raqqa, Iraq.



At right, Capt. Jan Rose, a nurse with Company C, 431st Civil Affairs Battalion, from Little Rock, Ark., checks a child while her mother watches at a clinic in Buhriz, Iraq. U.S. troops helped an Iraqi doctor see over 200 patients during the visit.

Photo by



Photo by Sgt. Serena Hayden, 3BCT Public Affairs

Above, Sgt. Thomas Haire, a member of the brigade commander's personal security detachment, mans the M240B while traveling in Baqouba.

At right, Soldiers with the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division's Combat Repair Team prepare to set the life-force of a Stryker vehicle at FOB Warhorse, Iraq.



Photo by Spc. Almedra

F IN ACTION



Sgt. Armando Monroig, 5th MPAD



o Fernandez, HHC, 5-20 Inf. Regt.



U.S. Air Force Photo by Steve Czyzs, Joint Combat Camera

Spc. Joseph Joiner of Bravo Troop, 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, attached to 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, provides security during a mission in Ar Raqqa, Iraq.

'New Guy' in Iraq Adjusts to New Life

By Pfc. Ben Fox
3rd BCT Public Affairs

Brotherhood – it is a major factor in keeping units together before they deploy so that Soldiers can learn to trust each other. It doesn't always work out that way though.

Pvt. Destry Mulloy is a new Soldier who went to basic training and was then immediately deployed to Iraq.

He shipped out to basic combat training Sept. 28, 2006 and graduated January 26. After spending a short time with the rear detachment at Fort Hood, Texas, Mulloy deployed to Iraq March 2.

Now, Mulloy is trying to fit into a brotherhood that has spent the last eight months in Iraq together, but he tries to look at things with a positive light.

"I had the chance to actually be in the field," said Mulloy. "When I get back I will have a (Combat Infantry Badge) and combat experience, which will be better for promotion points."

His new brothers at the unit treat him like the "new guy" at times, he said, but for the most part they try to help him out.

"You get the natural little bit of jokes because you're the new guy," said Mulloy.

Not only is Mulloy the newest guy to the unit, he is also one of the youngest.

"I turned 18 right before I graduated basic training," he said, as he talked about having to learn many things on his own.

"A lot of the stuff I didn't know, I picked up as I go," he said.

For the most part, though, Mulloy has had help from his leaders as well as his peers.

"Everybody here has experience and they kind of make sure you're not doing something stupid," he said.

Sgt. Patrick Miller, Mulloy's NCO, said, "It's probably pretty tough for him because he came over here and didn't know any of us."

Miller tries to help Mulloy out as much as possible, but also encourages him to learn from his peers.

"I've taught him as much as I can," said Miller.

Mulloy said Miller treats him well and tries to help him out by disciplining him.

"He gets onto me every once in a while... but that's my fault," said Mulloy. "He keeps me squared away."

Miller said he tries to be understanding though that Mulloy doesn't understand everything that goes on yet, and that it will take some time before he does.

"I learned so much in those couple of months that I had before I went to Iraq," said Miller. "He didn't really get that time."

Mulloy knew he was first heading over when he arrived at his duty station.

"They officially told me when I got to Hood," said Mulloy, who previously anticipated the deployment before being officially notified.

"I knew I was going to Cav. and Cav. was already over here," he said.

Mulloy said his initial reaction to his hasty deployment was disappointment, but he tries to look at the brighter side now.

"At the moment I thought it

sucked, but now I don't regret it," said Mulloy. "I'll have plenty of time to spend when I get back.

"If I were to stay in garrison, I would've actually known the guys a little better before I came over here," he said.

"It hasn't affected me so far, not knowing the guys when I got here," Mulloy said. "Plus I'm over here getting on the job training."

Mulloy's parents' initial reaction was shock, he said, but they understood that he had to go.

"It surprised them a little bit that I was coming over here so quickly, but they were already adjusted to the fact that I would be going sooner or later," he said.

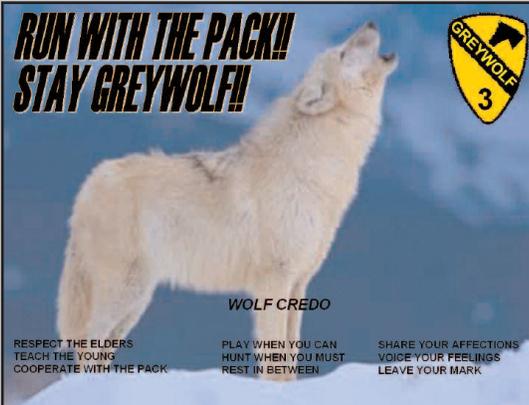
As for Mulloy, he has accepted his deployment with a sense of duty.

"I joined the Army, and I joined the infantry for a reason," he said. "I knew Iraq was going on, so I knew pretty much that I was coming here."



Photo by Pfc. Ben Fox, 3BCT Public Affairs

Scanning his sector, Pvt. Destry Mulloy, 1-12 CAB, pulls guard on the roof of his compound in Khan Bani Sa'ad, 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

Quartermaster Regiment Honors 215th BSB

**By Staff Sgt. Tyrone C. Marshall Jr.
Task Force Lightning Public Affairs
Contributions from Pfc. Ben Fox
3rd BCT Public Affairs**

The Quartermaster Regiment, based at Fort Lee, Va., has honored units within its regiment annually since 1993, with the exception of 2005, by designating them as distinguished units.

This year was no different; however, the Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division received a welcome surprise.

The 215th Brigade Support Battalion, has been selected as one of 2007's Distinguished Units of the Quartermaster Regiment.

The 215th BSB is currently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and is based at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, near Baqouba, Iraq. Many of its units are spread throughout Diyala province.

"This is a great accomplishment that only a select few units are recognized for," said Lt. Col. Ron Kirkland, commander, 215th BSB. "I am proud to be the commander of one of these units."

This program recognizes units with Quartermaster lineage, both active and inactive, that have significantly contributed to the proud heritage of the Army and the Quartermaster Corps.

The 215th BSB was one of six units selected for the regiment's distinct honor which

was formally announced May 18 at its annual U.S. Army Quartermaster Foundation dinner. The award is intended to stimulate esprit de corps, camaraderie and tradition throughout the regiment.

The Quartermaster Regiment maintains framed unit lineage, honor statements and proudly displays the selected units' insignias at Mifflin Hall, located at Fort Lee, Va.

All Quartermaster units are eligible and anyone can nominate a unit for the award as long as they provide a supporting packet with a letter of nomination, a narrative of the unit's contributions, official lineage and honor statements with a complete list of campaign participations and any awards and decorations.

DTAC Brings Personal Command to Diyala

**By Pfc. Ben Fox
3rd BCT Public Affairs**

Cold and impersonal, e-mail can be a useful resource when passing on information or giving orders, but technology will never be able to replace effectiveness of a face-to-face conversation.

With the beginning of Operation Arrowhead Ripper, the influx of troops into the Diyala province prompted the need for a forward command element that could provide a personal command responsibility.

The division tactical operations center (DTAC) has become the new command center for Diyala, located at Forward Oper-

ating Base Warhorse in Baqouba, Iraq.

"It provides the command with a forward element that can deal with brigades," said Maj. Tom Losik, Operations Officer of the DTAC.

"It is especially important here because it is a huge battle space," he said.

"Prior to the start of Arrowhead Ripper, as the main effort for Tropic Lightning Division, we deployed the Division TAC forward here to Warhorse to coordinate, communicate and synchronize operations," said Brig. Gen. Mick Bednarek, the Assistant Deputy Commanding Officer for 25th Infantry Division,

who is in charge of Operation Arrowhead Ripper.

"With a significant amount of forces involved, to have a Division TAC forward to help with the detailed coordinations is pretty important," he said.

Maj. Jerry Gardner, who is in charge of civil affairs operations at the DTAC, said his job could be done back with the division main, but it is better to be able to talk with people personally.

"It is an advantage to look a person in the eyes," said Gardner.

"There are certain things that you want to look somebody in the eye and know they understand what you are saying," said Losik.

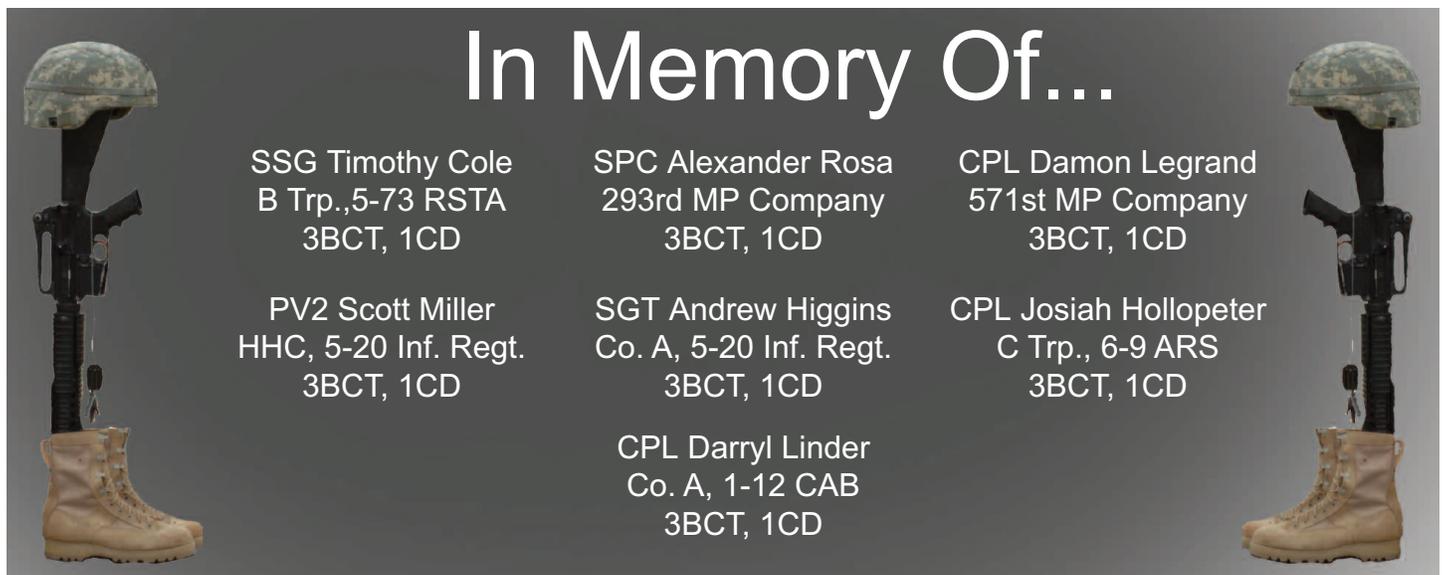
"We are actually a part of the

division command," he added. "We are a personal element of that."

The DTAC is meant to help out each brigade in the area of operations so that they can easily keep in touch with their superiors.

"It gives brigades an opportunity to personally interact with division," he continued. "We are a personal face to the brigades in Diyala."

"Certainly you could attempt to run this from a significant distance," said Bednarek, "but anytime you have a main effort of focus forward... it makes absolute sense to have the requisite command and control and decision authority forward."



First Sergeant Uses Drill Sergeant Skills to Lead Soldiers in Iraq

By Spc. Ryan Stroud
3rd BCT Public Affairs

When 1st Sgt. Harold Hall joined the U.S. Army in June 1987, he wanted only one thing – to become a drill sergeant and teach civilians how to become the best Soldiers they could be.

He finally reached his goal of becoming a drill sergeant in 2000, when he first placed the infamous round-brimmed hat on his head and took charge of new recruits at Fort Knox, Ky.

But while Hall was enlightening and guiding some of the Army's brightest minds, the rest of the Army was getting ready to head to war.

Now in Iraq himself, Hall has been selected to be the first sergeant of Company B, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

Once teaching Soldiers how to fight in battle as a drill sergeant, Hall is now leading Soldiers in the heart of the Diyala province and reaching back into his bag of experiences as a drill sergeant to make sure everyone of his Soldiers comes home alive.

For Hall, becoming a drill sergeant has not only shaped his life, but also shaped the way he

looks at situations throughout the Army and in life. He said he shares his experiences with his Soldiers in hopes they will make the right decisions in life and on the battlefield.

"I admired the drill sergeants; I admired their knowledge, their experience," he continued. "I admire anybody that can do things that I can't do. That gives me an incentive to try and to aspire for something. I think that's very important."

"That basically boils down to leading by example, setting the example, and giving your Soldiers an example to strive for," said Hall. "If you don't have something to strive for, it makes the world a very boring place because there is no excellence."

Once Hall graduated from drill sergeant school, it was time for him to apply his leadership skills that would shape him to this day.

Hall found his comfortable norm with leading and began applying it to his new recruits.

"I didn't do a lot of yelling; I spoke in a very loud voice, but I didn't yell a lot," he said. "I learned, in my opinion, people get used to yelling. There is a desired effect when you can talk to someone and reason with them. It was easier and more effective to get a trainee to do what you wanted them to do, through leadership, without all of the yelling."

Though not everyday was a good day for Hall, he said there were many pay-offs to the job and he never regretted becoming a drill sergeant.

"The ultimate payoff is graduation day when you see those Soldiers graduating in their Class A's, their families coming to see them, they are now Soldiers," said Hall. "At the end of every cycle, I had a renewed vigor for the job."

"I never once regretted becoming a drill sergeant," he continued. "I never regret anything that I've done in the past, whether good or bad. Anything that I've done in the past, I take the lessons

learned from it and that is what makes me who I am.

"I did the best that I could," he confidently said. "I never once gave up on a Soldier. I have no regrets. I would do it again the same way I did before."

A few years later, Hall now finds himself in a position he never thought he would obtain, a company first sergeant. With his Soldiers deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08, Hall said he now, more-than-ever, finds himself reflecting on his drill sergeant days to guide his Soldiers to success.

"I apply lessons [I learned as a drill sergeant] every day," said Hall. "Everything from combat training, weapons, to medical training."

"As a drill sergeant, rule number one is attention to detail," he continued. "That will always stay with you, never lose it, you'll never forget it. You have trained your eyes to be able to see the world and you expect it to all look the same, and you pick it out when it's not the same."

"Everything that you look at, you are expected to see a standard; and if you don't see that standard, then it's either above the standard or below the standard. You embrace what's above the standard and you fix what is below the standard."

"That is life as a drill sergeant, that's also life as a first sergeant," he said.

While in Iraq, Hall said he has made a direct effort to mentor everyone of his Soldiers and to apply another huge lesson he learned from being a drill sergeant, leading from the front.

"One of my many goals is mentoring," Hall said. "I mentor at all levels. Some leaders will tell you that mentorship should only be at a certain level. I disagree with that, I think mentorship goes all the way down. You never forget where you came from and I think as long as I can relate to a private, I can be an effective leader."

"I also believe in leading from the front," he continued. "If I set a standard to be physically fit, then I first must achieve that standard."

"It is okay for a leader to hold themselves to a higher standard, but they must hold their Soldiers to a realistic standard," he said. "If you expect a standard from your Soldier, you must first show them that standard and then live by it. You never ask your Soldiers to do anything that you would not do or are not willing to do."

"If you are asking your Soldiers to improve on their weaknesses, then you should be improving on your's as well," said Hall. "Everyone has weaknesses, and I'm no different than those Soldiers."

"I'm always striving to better myself and that's what I'm instilling into any Soldier, not just my Soldiers," he continued. "If I'm expecting you to do something, the way I will show you is by doing it first, or with you. And if you see me doing it and the way I'm doing it, then you will know how I want you to do it."

Hall said he believes everyone should always try to better themselves and help those around them, as well. He also encourages all non-commissioned officers to take the chance at leading Soldiers or mentoring them.

"Leading Soldiers is one of the most wonderful and rewarding experiences an NCO will ever have," he said. "You won't know how much you will miss it until you no longer have any Soldiers. Yes, there are challenges, but without those challenges, you wouldn't improve as a person, as a Soldier."

Hall also hopes that any Soldier that comes into his life leaves with something special – the power to be a good leader, he said.

"I want them to take away the impression of an overall outstanding and dynamic, total leader," he said. "The leader that is good in all areas, not good in some and weak in others, but strives to be good in all areas."

"That's what I ask of all my Soldiers -- be a total Soldier," said Hall. "I don't expect you to be an expert in anything; I just want you to be good at everything."

"Strengthen your weaknesses and continue to drive on," he said.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs
First Sgt. Harold Hall, first sergeant for Co, B, 3rd BSTB, shows his Soldiers how he used to conduct uniform inspections as a drill sergeant.

Welding Course Bonds Iraqi, U.S. Troops

Training helps develop teamwork and improve safety

By Sgt. Armando Monroig
5th MPAD

U.S. troops in Baqouba, Iraq, help train Iraqi soldiers everyday, with one example of this being a new welding course held at Forward Operating Base Warhorse. The course not only teaches the basics of welding, but also helps forge a strong bond between Iraqi and U.S. troops.

Soldiers from 215th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, out of Fort Hood, Texas, are teaching Iraqi soldiers how to properly weld so they can better maintain and improve the armor on their vehicles, helping

to keep Iraqi soldiers safer. The training also allows Iraqi and U.S. troops to get to know each other better.

"Welding is a process, and the way they were doing it is, you have two pieces of metal and then you weld it. Well, it's not that simple," said Spc. Aaron Cash, a shop foreman in the service-and-recovery section of Company B, 215th BSB.

"You have to prep the metal, then clean it off. You might have a ten-minute welding job that may take two hours. We had to teach them that because the better the welds are, the better it will stay together."

And the stronger their vehicle armor will be, said Cash.

Cash and others in his unit instruct five soldiers from 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division. They have created a six-week course that includes familiarization with different types of metals and hands-on welding instruction.

The day began with a classroom presentation on the properties of metals. Later in the day, the Iraqi soldiers applied that knowledge during a practical exercise.

This is the first group of Iraqi soldiers to attend this class. All five are infantry soldiers who were selected to be vehicle maintenance personnel. They have been through two classes so far. The

classes are four hours a day, once a week.

The Iraqi soldiers began operating their own shop three months ago near Khalis. They have improved the armor of three vehicles at FOB Warhorse and several more at their shop.

Iraqi Cpl. Fathel, one of the students, said the training they received from coalition forces is a step in the right direction to helping rebuild their country.

"With the help of the coalition and (transition teams), we opened our own maintenance shop," said Fathel. "We applied what we learned here. We learned to up-armor vehicles here. The coalition has been doing a great job with us."

Chief Warrant Officer Joshua Welton, trades technician, with Company B, 215th BSB, said working with the Iraqi soldiers has helped create a bond, both personally and professionally, between the Iraqi trainees and the soldiers that train them.

"They're enthusiastic about us helping train them," said Welton. "I now have a better understanding of them and their culture."

He said it has also helped form a bond among the trainees themselves.

"Some of them are Sunni and some are Shia – and they work together."

Cash said helping training Iraqis to weld is just a small part of the puzzle that will eventually help them be self-sufficient.

"Even welding, as long as they can do it on their own, then they don't need us," said Cash. "The more they can do things themselves and not rely on us, the more Soldiers that are going to be back in the U.S. and the more Iraqi soldiers are going to be fighting for their own country. That's very important. I think these are just stepping stones."



Photo by Sgt. Armando Monroig, 5th MPAD

An Iraqi soldier from 1-2-5 Iraqi Army Division, cleans a piece of metal with a grinder during welding training at Forward Operating Base Warhorse near Baqouba, Iraq. Soldiers from the 215th Brigade Support Battalion, put together the six-week course to help Iraqi soldiers maintain and improve their vehicle armor.

Diyala Support Committee meets in Baqouba

Multi-National Division North

The newly formed Diyala Support Committee met with members of the Diyala provincial government, Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces, and local sheiks, including Sheik Ahmed Al-Tamimi, during their first visit to the province, June 5.

The DSC is formed by Iraqi Parliament members who have expressed concern about the current situation in the province and are committed to bringing the challenges and set-

backs faced by the provincial government to the attention of the central government, while lobbying for additional support for Diyala.

During the visit, the DSC members received an operational update of the Diyala Operations Center by its chief, Maj. Gen. Ghanim Saleh Husayn, and Lt. Gen. Ali Gheidan Al Otbi, Iraqi Ground Forces commander. Also in attendance were Governor Ra'ad Rasheed Al-Tamimi; Maj. Gen. Ghanem Al Qureshy, Provincial Director

of Police; Brig. Gen. Mick Bednarek, Task Force Lightning's deputy commanding general for operations; Brig. Gen. James M. McDonald, Multinational Forces-Iraq effects coordinator, and other members of the provincial government and security forces.

"Today's meeting was a significant first step in integrating the non-military resources of the national government into security operations in Diyala," said Lt. Col. James D. George Jr., acting commander for 3rd

Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. "The presence of the DSC, on the ground, here in Diyala, will provide vital first-hand awareness of the conditions and needs of the province."

The DSC will receive updates from the provincial government and ISF to monitor progress in security and the provision of essential services. This awareness will enable the committee to leverage the resources of the central government in support of Diyala.

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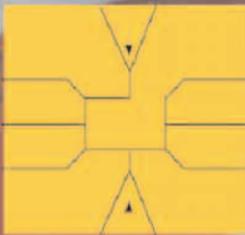
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Photos From the FOB...



Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Felt, command sergeant major of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, visits his troops dressed as Uncle Sam to wish them a happy Independence Day on Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq, July 4. While visiting Soldiers, Felt distributed cards from various schools throughout the United States.

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