



The Long Knife

A MAGAZINE BY AND FOR THE 4TH BCT, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION



Night Raiders

Special Edition

August 2007

Inside this issue



Moreno Valley, Calif., native, Sgt. Paul "Doc" Loos, squadron senior line medic, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, pulls security during an operation south of Tal 'Afar, Iraq, July 14.

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COVER PHOTO: *Blackfoot 6 gunner, Spc. Lonnie Sykes, B Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, does pre-operation checks on his vehicle and weapon south of Tal 'Afar, Iraq, July 13. Sykes, along with the rest of B Troop, has been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since August 2006. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Bradley J. Clark)*

BACK COVER PHOTO: *Army Sgt. Jose Rosa, cavalry scout and vehicle commander, pulls security during a mission just south of Tal 'Afar, Iraq, July 13. Rosa, a native of Puerto Rico, is assigned to B Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment on Forward Operating Base Sykes. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Bradley J. Clark)*

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A message from Long Knife 6



I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the leadership and Soldiers of the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment for the outstanding job they did while operating as the “western arm” of the Long Knife Brigade Combat Team here in the Ninevah province of northern Iraq.

Each and every day they took the fight to the enemy in their area of operations, which included all areas west of Mosul, including Tal’Afar and the border crossing in Rabbiyah, and truly made the area safer and more secure for the Iraqi citizens who call that area “home.”

They collectively worked with the Iraqi security forces, as well as the Iraqi people, to eliminate the anti-Iraqi forces who attempted to derail the efforts of the Ninevah provincial government in providing essential services and security to its people.

They balanced their capabilities

as well-trained warfighters when needed, with the compassion and technical expertise to provide timely relief and support during periods of crisis; as was the case in the horrific bombings perpetrated against the people of Tal’Afar by Al-Qaeda in Iraq on March 27.

Their presence in western Ninevah, Tal’Afar in particular, contributed to the economic growth that city is experiencing as well as the heightened sense of security its residents are now enjoying.

I wish them continued success in their follow-on missions, as well as a safe and expeditious journey back to their home in Hawaii. Your time here was noticed by all and you truly made a difference; and made our job here in Ninevah province a little bit easier. 🇺🇸

A message from Long Knife 9



I would like to say that I appreciate the hard work and efforts of the Soldiers and leaders of the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment in the western sector of the Ninevah province.

They quickly integrated with us and became an invaluable member of the Long Knife team.

The Soldiers are to be commended for the versatility they showed in day-to-day operations—from border security, to port of entry operations, to dealing with the people and city of Tal ‘Afar.

We will miss each and every one of them and we wish them Godspeed on their follow-on mission and for a safe return to their home station. 🇺🇸



A farewell from Night Raider 6 and Night Raider 9

Team Ninevah,



As the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment prepares to move to its next mission, we'd like to take a moment on behalf of the Night Raiders in western Ninevah to thank everyone on Team Ninevah and the Long Knife Brigade Combat Team for all the support they have given us over the past year. From the BCT headquarters, to our fellow battalions and squadrons, the Provincial Reconstruction Team, Special Operations Forces, training teams, enablers, and other agencies, everyone has done a magnificent job working with the 3-4 Cavalry. Together, we have done our best to defeat the insurgency in western Ninevah and Tal 'Afar and allow security and stability to prosper.

We tell our leaders and Soldiers that: We are the Economy of Force effort for the entire Iraq war, and as such, it is expected that we will accomplish more with less. With that in mind, we have embraced our mission out west, and our efforts could not have been successful without the support of everyone that has made up or supported Team Western Ninevah. I strongly believe that we have been successful in our mission in no small part due to our focus beyond the security line of effort.

We have made tremendous strides in the areas of governance, transition, reconstruction, economics, and basic services in the past year. Once the Iraqis have autonomy in these lines of effort and no longer rely on us to "bridge the gap" for them at the local level, the conditions for long-term security will be set, and Coalition Forces will be able to withdraw from western Ninevah, confident that the Iraqis can secure this region, govern effectively and provide for the people. We are almost there.

We also want to take this opportunity to thank all of the Iraqi leaders who have helped the Night Raiders achieve so much out west. We have truly been blessed with civilian and military patriots who are Iraqis first and leave their ethnic and sectarian leanings at the door every time.

Lastly, we want to thank all of the Soldiers of the 3-4 Cavalry for their perseverance over this past year in Iraq. As with all of you, they continue to demonstrate every day the dedication, heart and capability of the American Soldier—traits that make the United States of America the envy of the world.

Best of luck as you continue mission in Ninevah province. 



Gump-alike trains for marathon while stationed in Iraq

STORY BY CAPT. KENNETH HUTNICK
H Company, 121 Infantry (Airborne)

On a hot, breezy summer morning, one particular paratrooper from H Company, 121 Infantry (Airborne) (Long Range Surveillance) decided to venture out on a little run.

This little run turned into a monumental undertaking, amassing 50 miles in just over 7 hours time.

“I started out with the intention of seeing how my training was going for a local marathon back home in Tampa, Fla., and I felt so good I thought, ‘Why stop at 26 miles?’” said 2nd Lt. Gregory Revels.

Revels’ company, a National Guard unit based out of Fort Gillem, Ga., makes up about 90 percent of Task Force Spectre, one of Multi-National Corps-Iraq’s task forces.

His unit deployed to Iraq in Aug. 2006 and is currently attached to the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, on Forward Operating Base Sykes, where he does his running.

Revels has been spending quite a bit of time on the outskirts of FOB Sykes as of late to prepare for the upcoming road race, The Hops Marathon by Tampa Bay, upon returning back to his central Florida home.

He has been a runner since he can remember and regards it as his passion—but running 50 miles in one arduous attempt—that, he said, was insanity.

When asked why 50 miles, he just smiled and answered, “It seemed like a nice round number.”

He has recently been inspired by such Ultra Marathon legends as Dean “Karno” Karnazes, dubbed The Ultra Marathon Man, who has been noted for running distances up to 226.2 miles nonstop.

“If he can run those distances, 50 should be a walk in the park,” Revels added.

His long-term goal is to qualify for a competition gaining in popularity, called the Western States Endurance Run—a 100-mile race that meanders through unforgiving mountainous terrain from California’s Sierra Nevada and finishes in Auburn, Calif.

After completing his long run, Revels offered one more parting remark, reminiscent of the Tom Hanks character in “Forrest Gump,” “I’m tired; I think I’m gonna go home now.” 🇺🇸



(U.S. Army photo courtesy of 3-4 Cavalry)

Paratrooper, 2nd Lt. Gregory Revels, H Company, 121 Infantry (Airborne) (Long Range Surveillance), runs around Forward Operating Base Sykes in preparation for an upcoming marathon, The Hops Marathon by Tampa Bay. He is scheduled to redeploy back to his unit’s home station in Fort Gillem, Ga., Aug. 2007.



(Photo illustration by Staff Sgt. Paula Taylor)

Squadron senior line medic, Sgt. Paul “Doc” Loos, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, helps bandage an Iraqi villager south of Tal ‘Afar, Iraq, July 14. Loos has been in the U.S. Army for four years and is on his second tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Blackfoot 6 vehicle runs on high morale

STORY AND PHOTOS BY PFC. BRADLEY J. CLARK

4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE MAREZ, Iraq— It’s about 8 feet tall, 15 feet long, 7 feet wide, weighs over 10,000 pounds, and when people see its family members on the battlefield, normally they would be scared.

Unlike its relatives, this humvee transports a unique group of Soldiers who have an ability to make even the worst of situations into something that could bring

smiles to the faces of everyone around.

It’s not hard for the occupants of Blackfoot 6, Blackfoot Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment’s commander vehicle, to turn every experience outside the wire into an enjoyable one.

“Our truck has the highest morale out of any other,” said Sgt. Paul “Doc” Loos, squadron senior line medic.

One of the reasons the occupants of the commander’s humvee have the highest morale is because of Loos.

“Just being around Doc calms you down,” said Sgt. Elliot Edmunds, cavalry scout and driver for Blackfoot 6. “You can’t faze doc, he will *(SEE TEAM, Page 24)*

Building becomes shining light for people of Tal 'Afar

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. ARMANDO MONROIG
5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



Iraqi spectators, Coalition Forces and Tal 'Afar city officials gathered for the ribbon-cutting ceremony held Dec. 20 for the grand opening of a new building, which was built in the city's government center.

TAL 'AFAR, Iraq—City leaders in Tal 'Afar received more than additional office space with the grand opening of a new building at the city's government center, Dec. 20.

"This building is a symbol for the people of Tal 'Afar," said Mayor Najim Abdullah Abid Al-Jibouri. "With this building, the people of Tal 'Afar show their insistence on building their city in spite of the hard situation in Iraq and Tal 'Afar."

The recently constructed building will house the mayor's office, along with those of other city officials.

More importantly, the building has already become a symbol of the continuing progress being made by the citizens of Tal 'Afar to be self-reliant, and the dedication of their leaders to keep moving forward, said Lt. Col. Malcolm Frost, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment commander.

"It demonstrates the Iraqi security forces are taking the lead," said Frost, whose unit, part of the 25th Infantry Division, provides military support to the Iraq security forces operating in Tal 'Afar. "This becomes the shining light for the seat of governance here."

Frost said the new building is "a visible marker for the transition" of Tal 'Afar's government to a body which continues to grow less dependent on U.S. influence. To that end, members of the 3-4 Cav. have been supporting Iraqi leaders in the western Ninevah province for the past five months.

"It makes the Iraqis feel good," said Frost. "It makes them proud that they are moving forward, (SEE BUILD, Page 11)



Soldiers assigned to A Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, working in conjunction with soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 3rd Iraqi Army Brigade and the port of entry training team, help secure the Iraqi-Syrian border in Rabbiyah, Iraq.

3-4 Cavalry helps secure Iraqi border

STORY AND PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. PAULA TAYLOR

4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

RABBIYAH, Iraq—Several Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 4th Cavalry Regiment, based out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, attached to the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division from Fort Bliss, Texas, have been working with more than 500 Iraqi Army troops to secure the country's border.

In a meeting Jan. 4 with the 4th BCT commander, Col. Stephen Twitty, the 3-4 Cav. explained their confidence in the 1st Battalion, 3rd Iraqi Army Brigade's ability to man the border checkpoint outside Combat Outpost Heider.

"We have been training the Iraqis to neutralize the

anti-Iraqi forces in order to transition the security lead to the IA," said Capt. Paul Curry, commander, A Troop, 3-4 Cavalry. "We are confident that they will be able to maintain the necessary level of security to keep the AIF from crossing that border."

Since taking over the area surrounding COP Heider nine months ago, Curry said his unit has been able to double the amount of Iraqi checkpoints and lessen the violence in the city of Rabbiyah.

"The increase in checkpoints has provided greater presence in the (area), which in turn reduces the freedom of maneuver for AIF," he said. "Additionally, the increased Iraqi security forces' unilateral operations have helped restore confidence in the local populace and has provided more (human intelligence) and refined AIF information." 🇮🇶

Night Raiders teach CLS to Iraqi counterparts

STORY BY STAFF SGT. PAULA TAYLOR
4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

COMBAT OUTPOST NIMUR, Iraq—Troops from 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, attached to the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, spent four days training Iraqi security forces in first aid, and provided them with some advanced medical techniques at

Combat Outpost Nimur, beginning Dec. 26.

The class consisted of 28 Iraqi Army soldiers, four Sinjar area Iraqi policemen and five Iraqi border policemen.

One of the instructors of the course was Sgt. Richard Kyle, combat medic, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3-4 Cavalry, a unit based out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. “We were

teaching them the Combat Lifesaver course,” he explained. “This was an initial introduction to first aid for them. Most of them have never experienced any of this, so they were pretty excited to learn.”

Kyle said they organized the course so that basic instruction would be given in the morning and that they would break into smaller groups for hands-on, practical exercises in the (SEE CLS, Page 10)



(U.S. Army photo courtesy of 3-4 Cavalry)

A Headquarters and Headquarters Troop combat medic, Sgt. Richard Kyle, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, helps Iraqi Army soldiers properly insert a J-Tube during Combat Lifesaver training at Combat Outpost Nimur Dec. 29.

(CLS, cont'd from Page 9)

afternoons.

“After each block of instruction, I had my group pair up, then they were given scenarios and tasks they had to practice on each other. I walked them through exercises, like splinting a fracture, and let them try it on each other. When they did it correctly, they would switch roles and do it again. If they didn’t do it correctly, I would make sure they understood what they did wrong, then they would get to do it again.”

Some of the classes taught were: treating abdominal, head and chest injuries; splinting fractures; applying pressure dressings and tourniquets; how to stop a patient’s bleeding; treating for shock; and airway management, he said.

For the airway management class, Kyle said they first taught

the group how to check for a pulse. “Some of the students had never known how to check for a pulse,” said Kyle. “They were all anxious to learn.”

Once they learned about checking for a pulse and were taught the head-tilt, chin-lift method of opening an airway to restore breathing, Kyle said the students were shown how to insert a J-tube into an unconscious patient. The J-tube can be inserted into a trauma victim and left temporarily unattended so care can be given to a more critical patient, Kyle said, which is one of the reasons why it is important to learn. “American Soldiers normally don’t want to practice with the J-tube because it is inserted into the throat to keep the airway open which causes a gag reflex,” said Kyle. “Some of the Iraqi students wanted to try it. It’s not dangerous, just uncomfortable,

so we let them practice on each other.”

At the end of the course, each student was issued a certificate of completion, written in both English and Arabic, and signed by the squadron commander.

Kyle said teaching this course was something the B Troop commander, Capt. Samuel Benson, wanted to do for the Iraqi security forces. “He wanted to set something up,” said Kyle. “It was a collaborative effort with the (military training team) to put this together.”

The 3-4 Cav. medics will next be in the process of training the ISF medics to teach this course. Kyle said his unit plans to teach this course again around Jan. 22 with the Iraqis in the lead. “We will help them teach the course, but mostly it will be them. The goal is for them to one day be able to teach CLS on their own.”

Another Coalition Forces Soldier, who assisted in the class, said he knows the training the ISF received was invaluable.

“The Iraqi forces were eager and willing to learn,” said Spc. Lucas Oppelt, combat medic and South Bend, Ind., native. “With the integration of combat life-saving skills into their training, they will be confident in each other’s abilities to save lives on the front line.”

Kyle agreed with Oppelt and said he enjoyed spending time with the Iraqis. “I had a really good time teaching them. They asked a lot of questions, were attentive and excited to be learning something new. With these new life-saving skills that the Iraqi Army soldiers are starting to acquire, they will be better suited to help save their fellow soldiers in combat. I’m glad to have been a part of that.” 



(U.S. Army photo courtesy of 3-4 Cavalry)

Iraqi Army soldiers learn from members of the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, how to properly insert an IV during Combat Lifesaver training at Combat Outpost Nimur, Iraq.

Trooper feels Army is right thing to do

COMPILED BY STAFF SGT. PAULA TAYLOR

4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SYKES, Iraq—For one D Company, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment troop, being able to live the life of an Army Soldier is an honor.

Specialist Thomas Lawhorn Jr., petroleum supply specialist, Distribution Platoon, began his career in the Army in 2006 after serving in the Air Force as a special police officer.

Lawhorn said he chose to join the Army because he wanted a job that would be both demanding and rewarding.

Whether the mission he's going on takes him to Sinjar mountain or Combat Outpost Heider, his friends say he can be seen with a smile on his face exclaiming, "Get pumped for the mission!"

His platoon sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Thip Siyajuck said, "He is one of the most motivated and dependable Soldiers in the platoon. He constantly brings a breath of fresh air when called upon."

Lawhorn also said he is proud to serve and hopes his family understands the time spent apart is for a greater cause.

"I want to make my dad proud," he said, knowing serving his country and trying to make Iraq a better place for all Iraqis to live is the right thing to do.

As he passes kids waving on the side of the road during combat logistic patrols he says, "I think of my wife and two sons and I know why I am here."

That sentiment, added Lawhorn, makes him look forward to being able to go home, but always weighs heavily on his mind.

"It is an honor being in the

military and Army," he said. "I know the Soldiers from the past, present and future are watching, so we have to follow the Army Values and do what's right." 



(U.S. Army photo courtesy of 3-4 Cavalry)

Petroleum supply specialist, Spc. Thomas Lawhorn, D Company, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, exits his vehicle during a snowstorm on top of Sinjar mountain.

(BUILD, cont'd from Page 7)

can do things on their own, and are in charge of their future."

Maj. Gen. Benjamin Mixon, the commander of the 25th Inf. Div., headquartered in Tikrit, attended the grand opening and commended the city's leaders on their unity.

"This is what Iraq needs – Iraqis coming together," said Mixon during a press conference held inside the new government building.

"The Coalition will stand with you," he said. "It is up to Iraqis to take control of Iraq. I know this great country and people can do that." 



A Soldier from 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division hands a flag to a young Iraqi after a grand opening celebration held for new government offices opened at the government center in Tal 'Afar, Iraq, Dec. 20.

Spirit of giving felt year around by children in Tal ‘Afar

STORY BY SGT. ARMANDO MONROIG

5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

TAL ‘AFAR, Iraq—While Soldiers from the 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment continue to help improve the stability and quality of life for people living in Northwestern Iraq, their relatives and friends have taken up the cause as well.

Through a voluntary program called Operation Horsemen Help, they’ve been able to bring the spirit of giving to the children living in Tal ‘Afar year around.

“I loved sending the school supplies because I knew it would bring the children of Iraq, for a brief moment, some joy,” said Brenda Varga, a food service cashier at Plover-Whiting Elementary School in Stevens Point, Wis. “It makes

me feel like I’m making a small contribution to someone’s happiness, even if it isn’t much.”

Operation Horsemen Help was organized by the members of the 1-17 Cav., an aviation unit located at Forward Operating Base Sykes, just outside of Tal ‘Afar. Soldiers of the regiment, nicknamed “Horsemen,” belong to the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, from Fort Bragg, N.C.

The program is made possible by working through the unit’s family readiness group, an organization of Family members, Soldiers and civilian employees who provide mutual support during unit deployments.

The FRG was able to solicit for donations far from the unit’s home station.

“I think it is awesome people

in the states are thinking about the children,” said Varga. “They are really nice people who just want to do their part. Since they can’t come over there and serve in the war then they do their part in other ways.”

About once a week, the unit receives about 10 boxes of donations, which include pens, pencils, notebooks, crayons, paper, staplers and rulers. Children also receive clothes, blankets, toys and candy.

Once the donations arrive, they’re handed out by members of the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, a unit also located at FOB Sykes which is responsible for patrolling the streets of Tal ‘Afar.

Captain Catherine Crocker, the personnel officer for the 1-17 Cav., said she appreciates the efforts of people who are trying to help out.

“I think it’s great. I think that’s the way we’re going to win this war – through the children and changing the way they see us at an early age,” said Crocker.

The aviation regiment commander, Lt. Col. Michael Pyott, said that although donators send a steady supply of gifts to the troops, they were also aware that many Iraqi children were without shoes, warm clothes, toys or school supplies.

“It’s really been amazing to see the outpouring of support,” said Pyott. “It’s heartwarming to see that folks back home want to do their part to help the people of Iraq.”

The donated items do make a difference, said 1st Lt. Matthew Davis, a civil military operations officer from Joliet, Ill., assigned to the 3-4 Cavalry. (*SEE SPIRIT, Page 25*)



(U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Matthew Davis)

The commander of the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, Lt. Col. Malcolm Frost, hands out school supplies to children during a recent visit to Tal ‘Afar, Iraq. The supplies were donated by families and friends of Soldiers back in the United States and given to his unit in Iraq for distribution to the local people.

Soldiers deliver school supplies

Apache Troop Brings Smiles to Iraqi Children

STORY BY 2ND LT. SEAN BOWEN

3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment

CHERI, Iraq—The Soldiers of A Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment left their combat outpost early one morning to deliver school supplies and fun to Iraqi children in nearby villages.

As the patrol entered the village of Cheri, dozens of Iraqi children, some as young as 4 years old, chased after the vehicles and waved to the troopers. Once the patrol stopped, Capt. Greg Lee, commander, A Troop, quickly dismounted his vehicle and walked with Capt. Paul Grimm, team leader, 403rd Civil Affairs Battalion and Coral Springs, Fla., native, to meet with the village muktars.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi children encircled the lead vehicle in anticipation of what surprises the Americans might have brought with them.

The group of children then turned into a giggling melee as more children raced from across the village to catch candy being thrown out by Cpl. Bobby Joe Fron, a gunner from Ranger, Texas.

Fron said he enjoys seeing the children scramble over each other, eager to get at the candy. “I believe that every child here deserves a chance to smile,” said Fron.

According to Fron, they hand out all sorts of items on missions like these, such as stuffed animals, candy, soccer balls, school supplies, and other small toys. When asked why missions like these are so important, Fron replied without hesitation, “These missions let the Iraqis know we are their friends and not their enemy.”

While Lee and Grimm had tea and discussed business with the village muktars, Pfc. Brandon Nelson, a humvee driver from Gilbert, Ariz., tossed a football with an Iraqi teenager. One particularly good throw sent the ball flying into the dirt far away, only to be tackled and piled on by many

other Iraqi children. Nelson said he enjoys lending a hand by bringing fun to the local children.

“Coming from a place where people don’t have much, it’s nice to help out,” he said.

Shortly after the meeting with the muktars was over, Lee and Grimm handed out stuffed animals and school supplies to each of the children, whose faces lit up with instant excitement on receiving the smallest Beanie Baby, or even a pen.

Once all the items had been distributed, Lee ordered the patrol to prepare to move out to the next village. As they began to leave the town, dozens of children lined the road to wave goodbye to the troopers as they passed. After the town faded from view, Nelson remarked, “These are my favorite missions because they really make me feel good about what we are doing here.”



(U.S. Army photo courtesy of 3-4 Cavalry)

(Above): An Iraqi boy shows off his new teddy bear after a visit from members of A Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment to the village of Cheri, Iraq. The Soldiers visited the village to deliver toys and school supplies to the local children.

(Background): A local boy from Cheri, Iraq, gives a thumbs-up of approval to Coalition Forces assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment during their visit to the boy’s village.

(U.S. Army photo courtesy of 3-4 Cavalry)

Blackfoot Troop builds good

STORY AND PHOTOS BY PFC. BRADLEY J. CLARK

4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE MAREZ, Iraq— Troops from Multi-National Division-North conducted a series of cordon and knock engagements July 12 through July 14 with the help of Iraqi security forces in the area between Bi’aj and Tal ‘Afar.

Soldiers from the Blackfoot Troop of 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment went into five villages over the three-day operation to interact with the locals and introduce the ISF to the townspeople.

“We do these missions to check on the locals,” said Sgt. Matthew Kravulski, intelligence liaison for Blackfoot Troop. “We get the town demographics, what the religious make up is, and what kind of support they need from the ISF.”

The troops brought along members from the Iraqi Army and the Iraqi Police for many reasons that are intended to ultimately benefit the local people in the area.

“People don’t really hear about us and this area,” said Spc. Lonnie Sykes, a cavalry scout from Las Vegas. “This is a really big area and when it’s just us trying to help everyone, that’s when problems arise and things don’t get accomplished.”

Another cavalry scout, Sgt. Elliot Edmunds, agreed with Sykes about the difficulty and added, “We can’t support the entire area.”

These Soldiers have seen problems arise in the past when areas get neglected by ISF, but now they can start to see the solution working.

“The Iraqi people don’t yet have complete confidence in areas like their security and healthcare,” said Sgt. Paul Loos, squadron senior line medic. “But those areas are moving towards improvement. The IP are trying and our presence has changed the IA. They are doing a lot more now, so when we go out, we find less and less.”

With the Iraqi security forces advancing in their training, they will soon be able to step up to the challenge and be the glue that helps keep Iraq together.

“We have seen less crime and better living conditions in cities like Sinjar, Tal ‘Afar, and Bi’aj,” said Sykes.

Kravulski agreed with Sykes but added, “There have been a lot of improvements, but there are still many things that need improvement; like better security, so when we do fix up places, they stay in good condition instead of being destroyed days later.”

The results of the three-day operation showed evidence that the level of security has improved. Of the five towns involved in the operation, there were only two people detained for questioning. Those two were only detained because of a search revealing an excess number of weapons found in their possession.

“We do these village engagements pretty often,” said Loos. “And this one wasn’t bad at all. We can see the civilians are helping out a lot.”

Edmunds agreed with his fellow sergeant and added that if they don’t find a lot of insurgents or weapons, it means the Iraqis are doing their part to keep their communities safe.

The operation gave Coalition Forces an opportunity to see that the ISF can establish good working relationships with the occupants of different villages and tribes. It also gave them a chance to see the Iraqis’ abilities to identify things the villagers need for a better quality of life. 



Good relationships with locals



Cavalry scout, Sgt. Elliot Edmunds, a Woodlands, Texas, native, assigned to B Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, greets local townspeople during a visit to their village. Edmunds' unit went there with the Iraqi Police in order to establish a relationship with the mukhtar and other village leaders.



Photos

(Above): Troops assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment establish perimeter security while the Blackfoot Troop commander, Capt. Christopher Almaguer visits with local townspeople.

(Left): An Iraqi police officer talks to locals during a visit to the man's town. The Iraqi Police were there with members of 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment to find out what they could do to help the village.

(Right): Senior enlisted Soldier for Blackfoot Troop, 1st Sgt. James Taylor, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, waits for word of his next mission.



Military wife goes extra distance

STORY AND PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. SAMANTHA STRYKER

5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SYKES, Iraq— Many women will do just about anything for their family. Soldiers will do just about anything to make the mission a success. For Soldiers who are wives, commitment is more than a wedding vow; it is a pledge to see a promise through, no matter where it takes them.

Army Spc. Elaine Angelica Sandoval never dreamed she would be celebrating her first wedding anniversary in a crowded dining facility in northern Iraq. But the 20-year-old Brawley, Calif., native and former cheerleader enjoyed every moment because sitting across from her was husband, Spc. Adam Sandoval.

The automated logistical specialist and her husband are spending the next year living and working at Forward Operating Base Sykes just south of the city of Tal ‘Afar. Both are assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Before they were married, Adam was already serving in the military as a cavalry scout. In 2003 to 2004, he was serving in Iraq and was involved in the heavy fighting in both Najaf and Fallujah.

During this time, the young couple tried to stay in touch, but Adam could not call home very often.

“I was really scared and did not understand the Army before. He would call at different times and so I thought he was lying about what he was doing,” she said.

Before his tour in Iraq was over, Elaine made the decision to join the military. She broke the news to Adam over the phone.

“I enlisted in November 2004, right out of high school. When I told him, he did not like it,” she said.

After the shock of the news wore off, Adam did what any Soldier does for his buddy; he gave her advice and shared his knowledge and experience.

“He told me what it was like for him in the military. So I thought being with him I knew what the military was like,” she said.

Like so many family members who believe they are serving vicariously through their military spouse,



Specialist Adam Sandoval kisses his wife, Spc. Elaine Sandoval outside his room at Forward Operating Base Sykes, Iraq. The Sandovals are deployed to Iraq with the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Elaine assumed she was prepared for her service commitment.

“But I realized I did not know what the military was really like, not like I do now that I am in the Army,” she said.

Elaine talked about the long hours and the hectic schedules and the rules and regulations that to her, did not make much sense, but as a Soldier, she had to follow. She said that even making time to spend with Adam was challenging.

After she graduated from training, the young couple was able to get stationed in Hawaii after Adam reenlisted for his fiancé’s first duty assignment. They later married on the beach in Oct. 2005. Today the only sand the dual military couple walks along side-by-side is the sand of Iraq’s Ninevah province.

(Continued on next page)



(U.S. Army photo courtesy of 3-4 Cavalry)

Army Sgt. Kevin Hanuszcak, chemical operations specialist, A Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, re-enlists at the Iraqi-Syrian border in Rabbiyah, Iraq.

Elaine believes serving alongside her husband has strengthened their marriage.

“Now that I am in the Army and serving in Iraq, I understand a lot more of what he was and is going through with his career and during this and his last deployments.”

During this deployment, Adam is the squadron commander’s driver. That job, among other duties inherent to the position, requires that he drive off the safety of the base almost everyday at a moment’s notice. Those types of missions have her worried about

her husband’s well-being.

“I have not gotten used to it, but I don’t think about him out there, otherwise I will drive myself crazy,” she said. “I do a better job out here because I know that I will see him if he is not out on a mission.

Even though the newlyweds can spend their meals together, unit policy dictates they will not share their nights together. Under their commander’s policy, Soldiers of the opposite sex will not live together, married or not.

“We both enlisted, why can’t

we live together? Why make life harder? We chose to be in the same unit so that when our turn came to deploy we could do it together,” she said.

At that moment Sandoval seemed to consider her last remark.

“We are blessed to be together. A lot of other couples are out here and are apart,” she said.

As for their future, Elaine said that for now they are concentrating on their financial future and planning for a family. 

Mortarmen shine light on border security operations

STORY BY 2ND LT. SEAN BOWEN

3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment

RABBIYAH, Iraq—The mortar section of A Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment participated in a weeklong border security operation, which took place along the Iraqi-Syrian border.

The purpose of the operation was to interdict insurgents and smugglers who were attempting to cross the border at night.

The mortarmen's mission was two-fold, said Spc. Manuel Solis of La Joya, Texas.

"Our main mission that night was illumination," he said. "We also provided fire support in the form of high-explosive rounds."

Solis, 19, is a gunner on the mortar tube and explained that illumination is vital to the success of the border security missions, especially during periods of low lunar illumination because it's the mortarmen that fire the rounds over an area to help the Iraqi border police see illegal border crossings.

Assistant gunner, Spc. Rick Cooley Jr., 23, of Carson City, Nev., agreed with Solis' belief in their importance during these types of operations and attributes their success to their ability to remain mobile during combat operations, unlike aerial assets that are limited by fuel consumption issues. 



(U.S. Army photo courtesy of 3-4 Cavalry)



(U.S. Army photo courtesy of 3-4 Cavalry)

Photos

(Top): Indirect fire infantryman, Spc. Manuel Solis, A Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, adjusts the mortar's aim before firing a round.

(Center): Solis does a final check on the mortar before operations begin near the Iraqi-Syrian border.

(Left): Soldiers from A Troop, 3-4 Cav. take cover while an illumination mortar round is fired to light up the night sky during an operation near the Iraqi-Syrian border.



(U.S. Army photo courtesy of 3-4 Cavalry)

IA tests new equipment, searches for caches

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
STAFF SGT. PAULA TAYLOR

4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

MUHALLABIYAH, Iraq— Several soldiers assigned to the 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division, took the lead once again and conducted their own mission.

The purpose of the mission was to search the village for anything suspicious, like caches or explosives, because barrels of homemade explosives had been found there before by previous patrols.

During the mission, the Iraqi Army got a chance to test and practice with new equipment.

“We know the bad guys use [different locations] to hide their bombs and their weapons, but with the new equipment, they can’t do that anymore,” said Capt. Ra’ad, intelligence officer, 1/1, 3 IA Division. “Now we can discover their caches anywhere.”

Although no significant caches were found in the village, Ra’ad considered the mission a success and was proud of his men’s ability to adapt to the challenges they face daily.

“I’ll tell you, our soldiers are good soldiers; they are great soldiers. With just a little more practice using their new equipment, they will be perfect at using it. We are winning the war against the bad guys. We will continue doing that,” he said.

Coalition Forces agreed with Ra’ad and praised (*SEE IA, Page 21*)



An Iraqi Army soldier uses a new device to search for buried weapons caches during a mission in Muhallabiyah, March 5. The soldier, along with the rest of his unit, the 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division, was there to conduct a search of the area for hidden caches and explosives, which had been found there during past visits.



Soldiers of 1st Platoon, A Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment and the Iraqi Police stage their vehicles before beginning their patrol through the streets of Al Mumi.

CF team up with Iraqi Police, patrol city streets

STORY AND PHOTOS BY 2ND LT. SEAN BOWEN
3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment

AL MUMI, Iraq—Soldiers of 1st Platoon, A Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, met with Al Mumi Iraqi Police to execute combined patrols in the area. The Iraqi Police immediately took the lead in order to show local residents that they were willing and able to protect them.

Members of 1st Platoon conducted the combined patrol with several trucks from the Iraqi Police station in Al Mumi. Periodic patrols through towns like Al Mumi bolster confidence in the local security forces and allow unit commanders

to assess the needs of the Iraqi people and the abilities of the Iraqi security forces.

A Mount Vernon, Ill., native, Sgt. 1st Class Russel Williams, platoon sergeant, said combined patrols with the IP are important because the patrols improve cohesion between Coalition Forces and the ISF.

“These patrols build trust between us, the Iraqi Police and the local civilian population,” said Williams, who believes that trust between the IP and local populace is the key to maintaining the local security. “When the people trust the Iraqi Police, they are more likely to provide helpful information,” he said.

Additionally, combined patrols

with the IP help to combat the perception that the ISF are not doing enough to pull their own weight in the fight against the insurgency.

According to Chicago Heights, Ill., native, Spc. Steven Griffith, a gunner on the platoon sergeant’s vehicle, doing combined patrols with the IP is constructive for both Iraqi and Coalition Soldiers. Combined patrols expose the IP to new methods of conducting operations and build trust between Soldiers and the ISF. Griffith also believes that when IP and Coalition Forces patrol together, it sends a signal of strength to the insurgents.

“I believe it shows a turning point to the civilians,” said Griffith. “It also shows that the Iraqi Police and

Coalition Soldiers are both here to help them.”

He also believes that combined patrols are a good chance for Soldiers to interact with the Iraqi populace in a positive manner. The patrol lasted several hours and many of the residents of Al Mumi came out of their homes to wave at the IP and 1st Platoon troopers.

“It’s good to show the civilians that we are here to help them,” said Griffith, “I think the patrols are good for everyone.” 🇮🇶



The 1st Platoon’s Arabic interpreter radios the Iraqi Police to get ready to begin a patrol through the streets of Al Mumi.

(IA, cont’d from Page 19)

the IA for their bravery and tenacity.

“I’ve seen them in action,” said Pfc. Cary Hawkins, C Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment and Deerfield, Mass. native. “They are self-reliant. There’s been a couple of times I’ve been out on a street corner pulling security and I looked to my left and saw my squad leader, then looked to my right and saw one of those guys. It’s a good feeling. I enjoy having them around. They’re good at their job and they’re competent.”

Hawkins, who said he has been in country with his unit for about eight

months, said he has had several opportunities to work with the IA soldiers and has enjoyed his experiences.

“They’ve got good camaraderie with each other. They’re willing to die for each other, just like American Soldiers. Every time I walk up to a group of them, we joke around and have a good time together. They’re really great guys. I treat them like they’re my buddies and they treat me the same. I don’t think they get nearly enough credit.”

While the town was being searched, Coalition Forces waited just outside the city limits.

“Our element was

there in case anything got out of control for them,” explained Sgt. William Schmidt, infantryman, C Troop, 3-4 Cav. and a Clara City, Minn., native. “If they came under fire or there was anything they couldn’t handle, we

could have come in and assisted. They’re pretty competent. You can see them progressing—pretty well, too. They, as much as anyone, want a free country and they know the price they’ll have to pay for it.” 🇮🇶



1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division soldiers walk through a field in the town of Muhallabiyah March 5. The purpose of their visit to the area was to search the fields and orchards for buried weapons caches.

Terrorists detonate VBIED

Innocent Iraqi civilians killed

STORY BY SGT. 1ST CLASS BRIAN SIPP

4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs



(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Brogan)

Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 4th Cavalry Regiment walk with residents of Tal 'Afar, Iraq, and survey the site of a massive truck bomb explosion. The bomb detonated in a busy market area in the city on March 27.



(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Brogan)

Residents of the city of Tal 'Afar, Iraq, gather in the late afternoon at the site of a massive truck bomb explosion that took place March 27 in a busy market area. More than 80 people were killed and nearly 200 injured in the blast. Many of the injured were transported to hospitals throughout the area for emergency treatment.



(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Brogan)

An Iraqi man sits in front of his demolished home March 29 following a massive truck bomb that exploded in a market area of the city of Tal 'Afar, Iraq, March 27.

TAL'AFAR, Iraq—Anti-Iraqi insurgents detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device in a busy marketplace in the Al Moalameen neighborhood March 27, killing over 80 Iraqi civilians and injuring nearly 200 more.

Iraqi security forces responded immediately to the scene and began setting up triage and facilitating evacuation of the wounded civilians caught in the blast area. Soldiers from the 3rd Iraqi Army Division immediately dispatched medical assets from their headquarters in Al Kisik to aid the wounded.

“This is another example of what the terrorists have to offer the Iraqi people, nothing but violence and killing,” said Maj. Rodger Lemons, executive officer of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

A second VBIED was discovered by Iraqi Police who attempted to clear the area, causing the vehicle to explode prematurely. That blast killed three Iraqi civilians and wounded three others.

Wounded civilians were evacuated to the Tal' Afar Hospital, with care being offered by surrounding community medical clinics and medical practitioners.

“The Iraqi Police and Army have come together with the Iraqi people in a true showing of solidarity against the terrorists in the aftermath of this horrific bombing,” said Lemons. “Every Iraqi in the area has offered everything they have to help those injured here, regardless of affiliation or differences. No effort is being spared and Coalition Forces are assisting where needed.” 

Bombing victims flown to Coalition hospital in Mosul

STORY BY STAFF SGT. PAULA TAYLOR

4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs
and

MAJ. JUANITA CHANG

5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Two U.S. Army Chinooks hovered over the Diamondback Airfield on Forward Operating Base Marez in the dark of night. The wind from their rotors kicked up dust and slung debris across the ground as medical personnel waited on the landing pad to receive their patients.

“Our hearts sank when we saw the children,” said Maj. Lillian Cardona, nurse manager who is assigned to the 28th Combat Support Hospital, just outside Mosul, Iraq.

The children, along with several Iraqi adults, were flown to the CSH after being caught in a devastating blast that ripped through a market in the Al Moalameen neighborhood of Tal ‘Afar March 27.

There were approximately 80 Iraqis killed in the vehicle-borne improvised explosive device explosion, and 191 were injured. As a result, 17 victims were evacuated via U.S. military helicopters to the Coalition hospital located in Mosul.

“I was most impressed by the number of responders who showed up quickly and were immediately integrated into the team,” said Lt. Col. Andrew Lankowicz, deputy commander for administration, 28th Combat Support Hospital. “Everyone pitched in and did their

part,” he said, referring to the medics, firemen, doctors, chaplains, and prospective blood donors. “We had translators coming out of the woodwork, making it a lot easier to communicate in a hurry,” he added.

An Iraqi man who was walking his son around the intermediate care ward said he was forever grateful to Coalition Forces for caring for his son.

The man, who preferred not to give his name, said he knew that Coalition Forces would take good care of him and his family. While at the hospital with his son, he called his wife and was told his other two children caught in the bombing were still missing.

“I don’t know why the terrorists do this,” the Shia man said. “Look at my son and that old woman over there. They are innocent victims of this. I do not understand,” he said.

Physician’s assistant, Capt. Keary Johnston, 27th Brigade Support Battalion, agreed with the distraught man. “I just remember thinking to myself, ‘Do the people who set off these bombs realize the destruction they cause?’ If they could see the burns on these children’s faces and the tubes down their throats, would it make a difference to them? This may not be personal for the bomber, but it’s personal to us; it’s personal to these children who will grow up with only one leg because of incidents like this.”

Captain Dina Parekh, 27th BSB surgeon and pediatrician, shared Johnston’s frustration. “We cannot fathom the scope of problems that will exist after the medical issues have been addressed. For the victims, it’s just the beginning. When they leave here, they will have to go home and find their families and some may have to have their houses rebuilt. It’s very sad. We do what we can, when we can. We’re just glad we could be there to help.”



(U.S. Army photo by Maj. Juanita Chang)

A U.S. Soldier feeds a victim of the Tal ‘Afar truck bombing at the 28th Combat Support Hospital on Forward Operating Base Marez. The boy was flown to the CSH for treatment.

(TEAM, cont'd from Page 6)

deal with any situation and move on.”

While Loos plays his part in the vehicle, Edmunds takes the lead when it comes to the morale boosting.

“He hits that line of being professional and joking around, but he never crosses it,” said Loos. “Everybody loves him. No matter where we go, people just come to him because he has this ability to make everyone happy.”

Just because two people in the humvee are fun doesn't mean it will always be fun, sometimes a third person is needed to step it up. That third Soldier is Spc. Lonnie Sykes, cavalry scout and gunner for the commander's vehicle.

“If I'm feeling down and Doc is feeling down, then Sykes is right there to pick us back up,” said Edmunds. “We're in this together.”

Loos also believes that the mind state of the team

has a lot to do with their commander, Capt. Christopher Almaguer, commander Blackfoot Troop.

“A big reason why things are so good is because the CO has a great relationship with [Edmunds and Sykes],” said Loos.

Almaguer agreed with Loos and added, “We have fun. We have everyday conversations about life, sports, music, movies and pop culture.”

The commander went on to add that because of the great relationship he shares with his troops, they know when they have to take over the situation.

“My guys bring a physical and mental toughness and fearless leadership to the vehicle,” said Almaguer. “If I'm tired or down, they pick up the slack, stay on the radio, and steer the unit.”

An example of the team's ability to brighten days would be when one of their convoys came to a four-hour stop because of a vehicle malfunction. The Soldiers went from Soldier to Soldier *(Continued on next page)*



Cavalry scout, Spc. Lonnie Sykes, Blackfoot Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, pulls security during an operation south of Tal 'Afar, Iraq, July 13. The Las Vegas, native, who has been in the U.S. Army for over two years, believes this deployment was a great learning experience for him and his fellow Soldiers.



offering cold drinks and a few jokes to lighten the mood.

“You have to make the best of a bad situation,” said Edmunds. “Sometimes you have to laugh to keep from crying. Then I always remember, the more it sucks now, the funnier it’s going to be when we look back on it.”

The Soldiers in Blackfoot 6 have three more months left of brightening days for fellow troops before they head back to Hawaii and begin to look back and laugh at those moments during their tour in Iraq. 🇺🇸

Cavalry scout, Sgt. Elliot Edmunds, Blackfoot Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, replaces the bolt after cleaning his M-4 rifle before a mission in Tal ‘Afar, July 12.

(SPIRIT, cont’d from Page 12)

“The donations help if you don’t have enough fuel to heat your home,” said Davis. “If you have a high unemployment rate and there is not enough income being generated by the family, then you can’t afford these items.”

The donations not only provide a way of helping the children in Tal

‘Afar, they also work as a catalyst for the Iraqi Police to strengthen its relationship with the community.

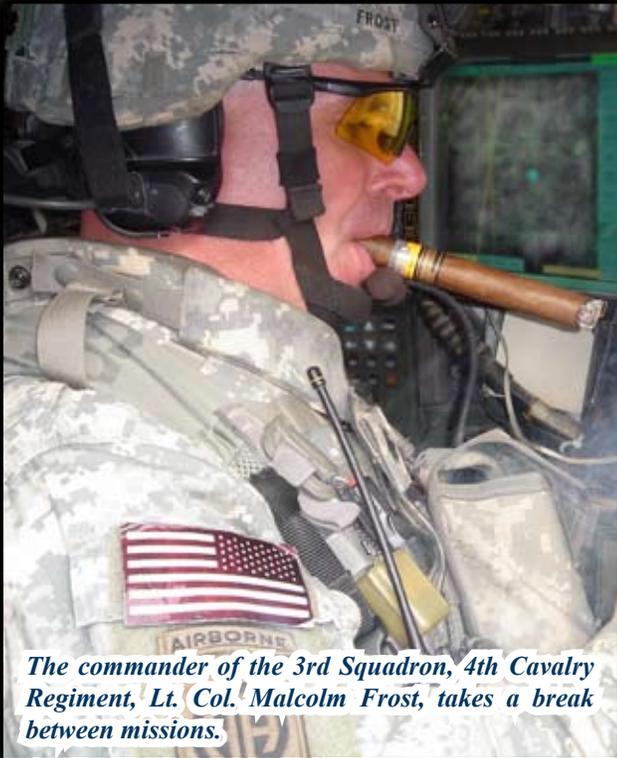
“While it’s nice to have the locals look favorably upon U.S. Soldiers, in the long term they really need to be able to look to their own Iraqi security forces and know that these are people who they can trust,” said Davis.

With the police’s participation,

the Iraqi people are more likely to sympathize with the local authorities, said Davis.

Varga’s motivation comes from another source.

“I loved sending something that the children could use, something that I knew would make a difference in their lives. I want to show them the Americans love them and will try to make their lives better.” 🇺🇸



The commander of the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, Lt. Col. Malcolm Frost, takes a break between missions.



Soldiers of Headquarters Platoon, A Troop.



A Soldier assigned to D Troop refeuls at Combat Outpost Heider



Sgt. 1st Class Russel Williams, cavalry scout, COP Heider, Rabbayah, Iraq.



Soldiers of 3rd Platoon, A Troop.



Sgt. Kirkland Chandler and Sgt. Kevin Hanuscak.



Headquarters and Headquarters Troop holds formation.

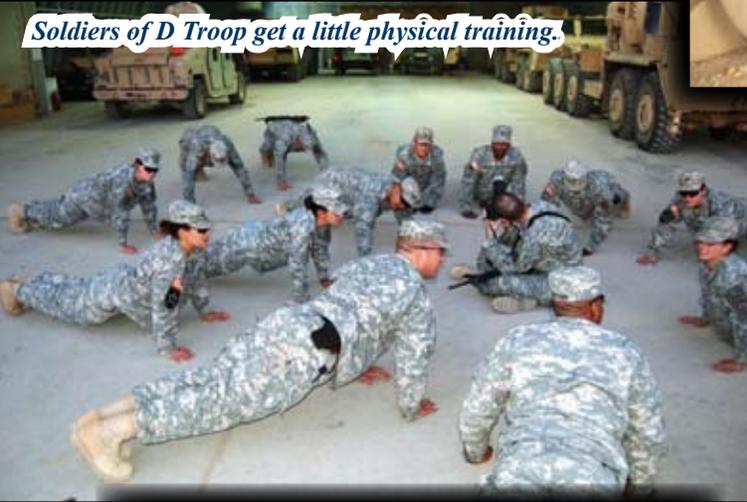
A Troop Soldiers get ready to roll out at Combat Outpost Heider,



Pfc. Casey Atkinson stands guard.



Soldiers of D Troop get a little physical training.



Spc. John Anthony and Pfc Justin Snell, 3rd Platoon, A Troop.



D Troop outside their work bay.



Spc. Christopher Rowin prepares his M-240B for mission.



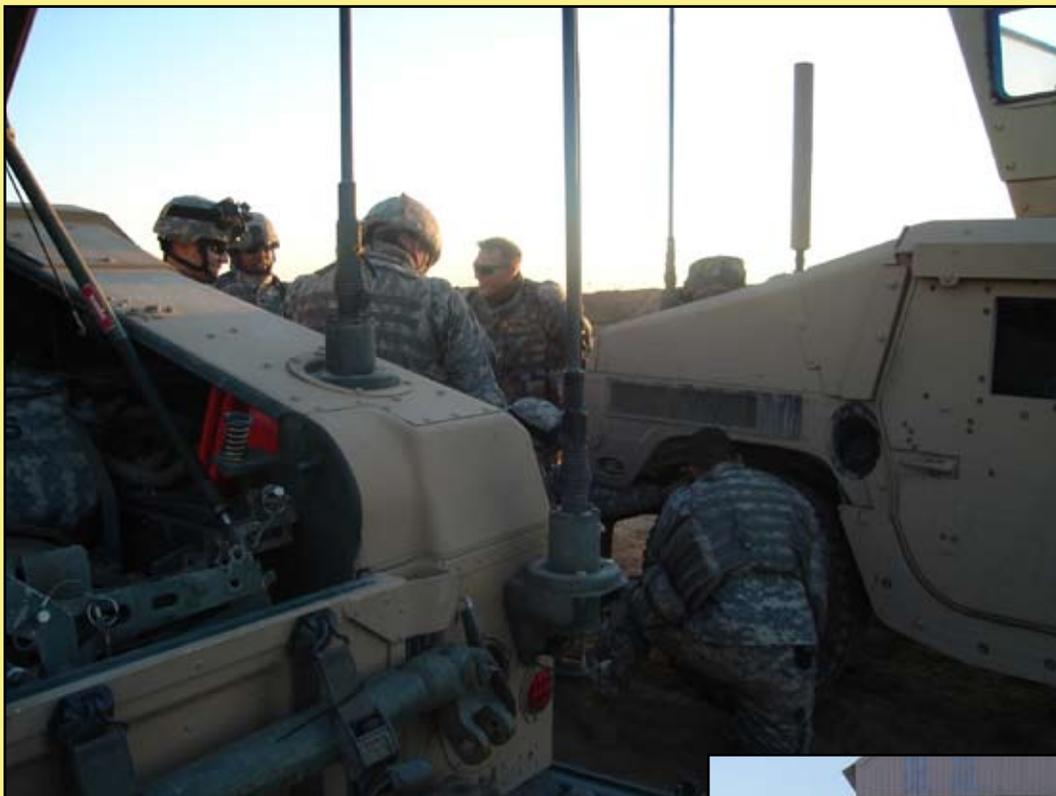
A Troop Soldiers pulling security in Rabbayah, Iraq, along the Iraqi-Syrian border.



Spc. Adam McIntyre moves ammo.



HEADHUNTER NEWS



(U.S. Army photo courtesy of the 1-9 Cav)

Staff Sgt. Michael Scott, cavalry scout, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment changes the tire on a humvee.



(U.S. Army photo courtesy of the 1-9 Cav)

Soldiers of D Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment prepare for a change of command.



(U.S. Army photo courtesy of the 1-9 Cav)

Troopers of the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment fire their weapons at the range on Forward Operating Base Marez, Iraq.

GARRYOWEN NEWS



*(U.S. Army photo courtesy of the 2-7 Cav)
A 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment Soldier pulls security in Mosul.*



*(U.S. Army photo courtesy of the 2-7 Cav)
Tanks assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment are lined up for mission.*



*(U.S. Army photo courtesy of the 2-7 Cav)
An armor crewman, Spc. Wendell Locke, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, mans the gunner's hatch atop his humvee.*



*(U.S. Army photo courtesy of the 2-7 Cav)
2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment vehicles are always ready to roll out on mission.*

BLACK DRAGON NEWS



STORY BY MAJ. KENNETH PRIMUS

431st Civil Affairs Battalion

AS SHURA, Iraq— Although it was the middle of summer recess, the school yard was full of students all eagerly waiting for the grownups to quit talking so they could receive the school supplies, beanie babies, and other treats the local mayor and police chief were preparing to hand out during the grand opening of Etweaba Primary School, July 3.

It normally takes something special to draw a crowd of people out in the summer heat, and today certainly qualified.

The school recently underwent a \$10,000 remodeling, thanks in large part to the efforts of the As Shura mayor, Kahlef Sayir Mohammed, and the sub-district council chairman, Khalef Hameed Mohamad. Their efforts have resulted in over \$70,000 in improvements to roads and schools throughout the sub-district in the past month.

“It’s the job of government to provide for the people,” said Mayor Khalef. “We hear from the local leaders, the mukhtars and the sheiks at monthly town hall meetings. The information we receive there sets the agenda for our progress.”

The work at the school included new doors, desks, window panes and ceiling fans. There is also a new water tank and upgraded bathrooms, topped off with a fresh coat of paint, featuring patriotic slogans and verses from the Koran.



(U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Larry Slough)

The local As Shura district mayor, Kahlef Sayir Mohammed, hands out school supplies to the students during a ribbon-cutting ceremony that celebrated the re-opening of the school after several renovations had recently been completed.

The contractor, Ali Khalaf Ahmad, took pride in his work and enjoyed seeing the happy faces of the appreciative students.

“I live here,” he said. “This is my village and I’m pleased I could do this for my village. I wanted to make sure I did a good job for the children.”

Also in attendance were guests from the U.S. Army’s 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, stationed at Forward Operating Base Q-West, just south of As Shura. The contingent of 15 Soldiers was led by Maj. Lance Varney, 5-82 FA battalion executive officer.

“Being able to attend events like this makes it all worthwhile,” said Varney. “It’s our honor to be able to share in these celebrations.” 



(U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Larry Slough)

As Shura district mayor, Kahlef Sayir Mohammed (center), cuts the ribbon at Etweaba Primary School’s grand re-opening ceremony.

ROUGH RIDER NEWS



STORY AND PHOTO BY 2ND LT. KENDRA UROSEVICH

27th Brigade Support Battalion

FORWARD OPERATING BASE MAREZ, Iraq—The day C Company, 27th Brigade Support Battalion medics have anxiously anticipated finally arrived, as these “Cobras” began giving the mandatory Anthrax vaccination to Soldiers in their Rough Rider Battalion, and the Special Troops Battalion, along with a few additional units.

In the weeks leading up to “Anthrax D-Day,” the medics said they had been working diligently to ensure they were ready for the influx of troops that soon would be flooding their clinic.

The Cobras, who dubbed the event Operation Pin Cushion, have been busy coordinating Anthrax distribution and vaccination for over 4,000 troops, including those stationed at Forward Operating Base Sykes.

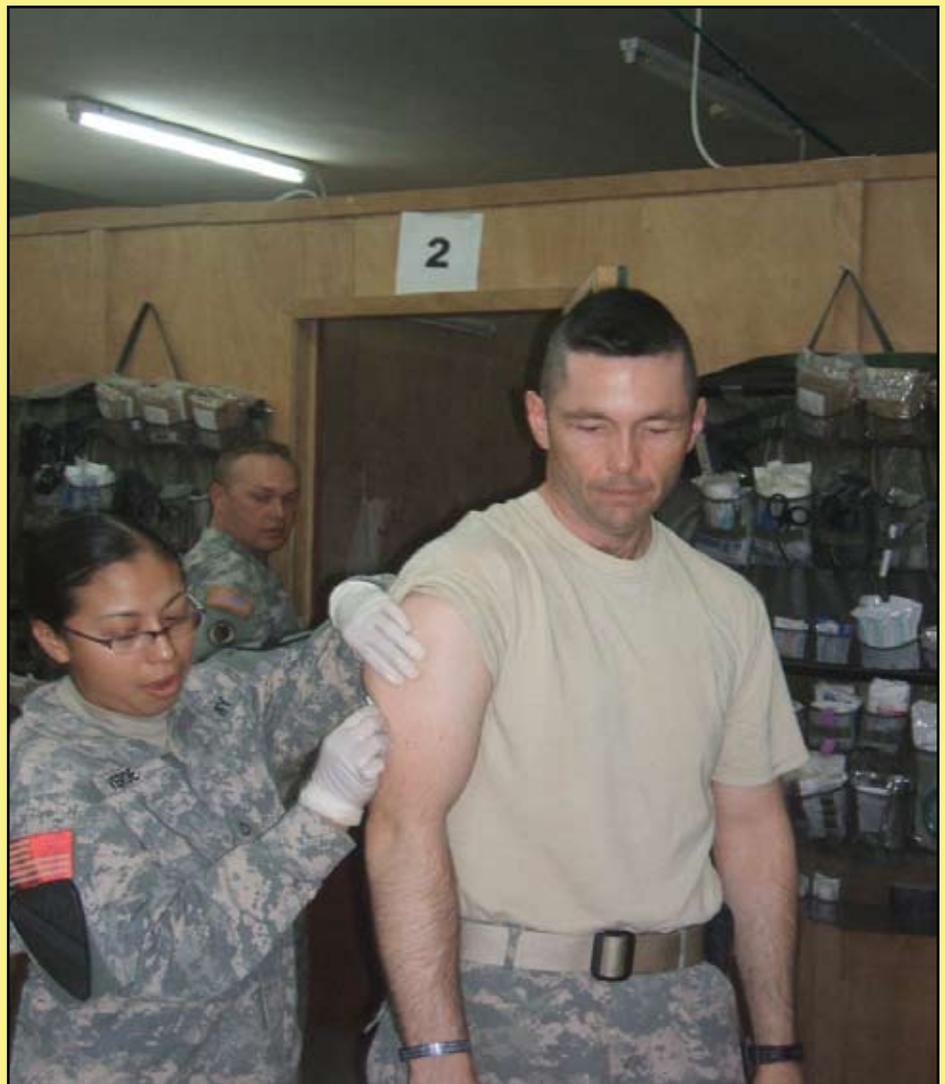
Lists of additional medical supplies, countless additional training sessions, and coordination for distribution have been only a few of the projects that have led up to “D-Day.”

Staff Sgt. Jonathon Bellotte, combat medic, mused after his sixth shot, “It truly doesn’t hurt that bad when you first receive the shot; its a few seconds afterward when you feel the burn!”

To date, the medics have issued over 500 vaccinations with many more to come. Most describe the shot like any other, however most do experience some slight burning after the injection. Soreness, redness, and a

bump at the site of injection are a few of the symptoms to expect, although each shot affects each person differently.

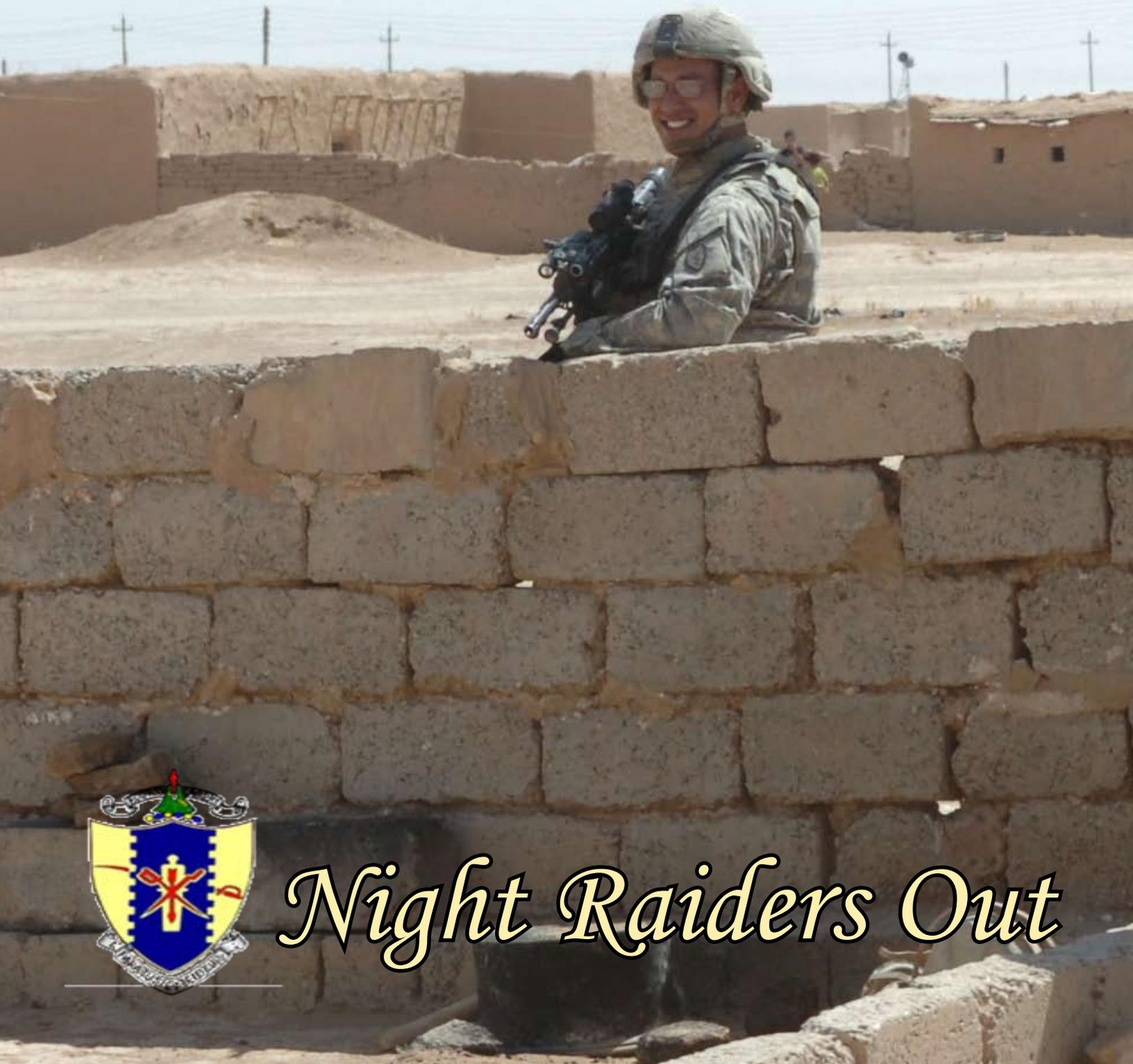
The medics explained that Soldiers who have never received the vaccination before, need to get another shot two weeks after the initial, and another one two weeks after that. The total number of shots needed to have finished the series is six. Those who have already received all of them, just need a booster once a year thereafter. 



Combat medic, Pfc. Mayra Verde, C Company, 27th Brigade Support Battalion, gives Staff Sgt. Jonathon Bellotte, who is also a medic in her unit, his sixth Anthrax vaccination shot, which completes his series.

On behalf of The Long Knife Brigade...

Thank you, Night Raiders



Night Raiders Out