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MAINTAIN MORALE
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Col. Jon S. Lehr

Raider 6

itself in many different ways. Some of which could easily be confused as suspicious behavior that might, under other conditions, warrant an aggressive or even lethal response from us.

For example, the Qur'an requires all healthy, adult Muslims to fast from sunrise to sunset – no food or water. There are exceptions for those traveling or working under harsh conditions. After dark, Muslim families celebrate with a large meal. It is customary for families and friends to share this meal. This may result in an increase in pedestrian and vehicular traffic between many different homes.

Another example is the nightly reading of the Qur'an. Ramadan requires every Muslim to read the entire Qur'an during the 30-day holiday. For Sunnis, this means nightly, special prayers or "tarawih" at their local mosque. For Shia, this means performing the regular night prayers or "tahajjud" at home or perhaps at the home of a family member or neighbor. Again, we may see increased pedestrian and vehicular traffic after dark as Iraqis travel to a local mosque or other gathering place and back home.

Having said all this, no Soldier or leader will be denied the right to self-defense. Our enemy knows

we conduct ourselves honorably and respect the cultural practices of the Iraqis. He may attempt to use this to his advantage. In the face of hostile intent or action, I fully support the proper escalation of force by my Soldiers and leaders. I would simply ask that you consider these activities associated with the observation of Ramadan when determining if an activity is hostile.

As a sign of respect and when conditions permit, Soldiers should refrain from eating, drinking or smoking when interacting with Iraqis during Ramadan.

We continue to make a difference here with both our lethal and non-lethal operations. I could not be prouder of the hard work and sacrifice I see everyday. Continue to stay focused, take care of your buddy, and never miss an opportunity to kill the enemy!

Each of you are in my prayers. Both I and CSM Troxell look forward to seeing you on the battlefield.

To the Objective! Raider 6

For RAMADAN info, See page 18

Raiders,

The month of September is a special one for our Iraqi partners and the Iraqi citizens in our AO. This is the month all Muslims observe Ramadan. It was during Ramadan that the Archangel Gabriel visited the prophet Muhammed and gave him the words and verses of the Qur'an. This year Ramadan will begin on Sept. 13 and end on or about Oct. 13.

There are two reasons why every Soldier and leader must understand the importance of Ramadan.

First, we are guests in this country and we must respect the cultural and religious practices of our hosts.

Second, and as important, the celebration of Ramadan will manifest

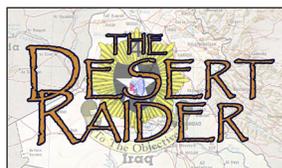
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On the Cover:
Soldiers from Company B, 2-23 Inf. Regt. rush through a house during a mission in Baghdad Aug. 9. Co. B, 2-23 Soldiers operate out of Combat Outpost Amanche.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Antonietta Rico



Command Sgt. Maj. John W. Troxell

Raider 7

Greetings fellow Dragoon Raiders!

We are now a third of the way complete with our deployment and things in AO Raider are going well. Because of all the hard work by all the warriors in the Brigade, attacks have dropped significantly across our battle space, and we clearly have a good hold on our area. However, remember one of my big five is “never underestimate the enemy’s ability to adapt to what we are doing to them.” The enemy is resilient and possesses the ability to still strike at us when we least expect it with catastrophic results.

My topic for this month is one word and that word is commitment. Whatever we do in life we must be committed to being the best we can be and providing the best for our families.

Today marks 25 years since I joined the military, and as I reflect on the past quarter of a century, I am reminded of when my first term of enlistment was about over and the retention NCO was beating my door down on when (not whether) I was going to reenlist.

I was a young sergeant at the time and was stationed in Germany. I was just like a lot of our Soldiers in the Brigade now who are in that retention window. I was tired of going to work before sun up and getting off well after sundown. I was tired of taking orders from superiors who I perceived at the time as nothing more than uptight loudmouths. I was tired of being away from my family. Being in Germany I was even sick of watching my favorite pastime, football, at midnight instead of the early afternoon in the states.

I finally came home one day and told my wife Sandra that we were going to get out of the Army.

She gave me this cross look and said, “What will we do?”

I said to her, “I don’t know, I can go to school or get a job back home.”

She again gave me that cross look and said, “You don’t have the patience to go to school and the only skill you have is being a Soldier so why would you mess that up?”

I kind of shrugged her off because I wasn’t about to wait up until after midnight to watch another NFL game! But for the next three days she was extremely emotional because she knew we were getting out of the Army for all the wrong reasons and finally the light came on for me that for all the reasons I stated above for getting out of the Army, I wasn’t even considering how I was going to provide for my family.

I decided to stay in the Army and make a commitment to serving. I figured the best way to provide for my family was to be the best Soldier I could be so as to move up the ranks quickly. I had, essentially, made a commitment to both the Army and my family. Now after 25 years of service and 24 years of marriage with three sons, I have no regrets.

My point is that whether you decide to stay in the Army or get out you have to have a plan and make a commitment to that plan. I will tell you that I have counseled many Soldiers on their future either as a Soldier or a civilian, and I have run into too many who got out without a plan (like I was about to until my wife talked sense into me) only to come back in the Army sometimes only months later and at a lesser rank than when they got out.

As Soldiers on a combat deployment, we have to remain committed to our mission, to our fellow Soldiers, to our families back home and to ourselves. There are many temptations to do a variety of bad things over here but we as Soldiers have to resist those temptations and stay committed. The



course of this deployment, our future, and our lives can be difficult, and we certainly have plenty of professionals who can assist us in making the right decisions, but we must stay committed.

I thank each and every one of you for the sacrifice you and your families make everyday, and the brigade commander and I are proud of each and every one of you. Keep our fallen Raiders and their families in your prayers. Raider 6 and I will see you out on the battlefield.

**To the Objective!
Raider 7**



Life comes fast in Baghdad outpost



Soldiers from Company B, 2-23 Inf. Regt. walk the streets of Baghdad during a mission Aug. 9. Soldiers of Co. B, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, from Fort Lewis, Wash., operate out of Combat Outpost Amanche in Baghdad.

Company B, 2-23 Inf. Regt take the war to the streets of the Iraqi capital

*Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Antonietta Rico
5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

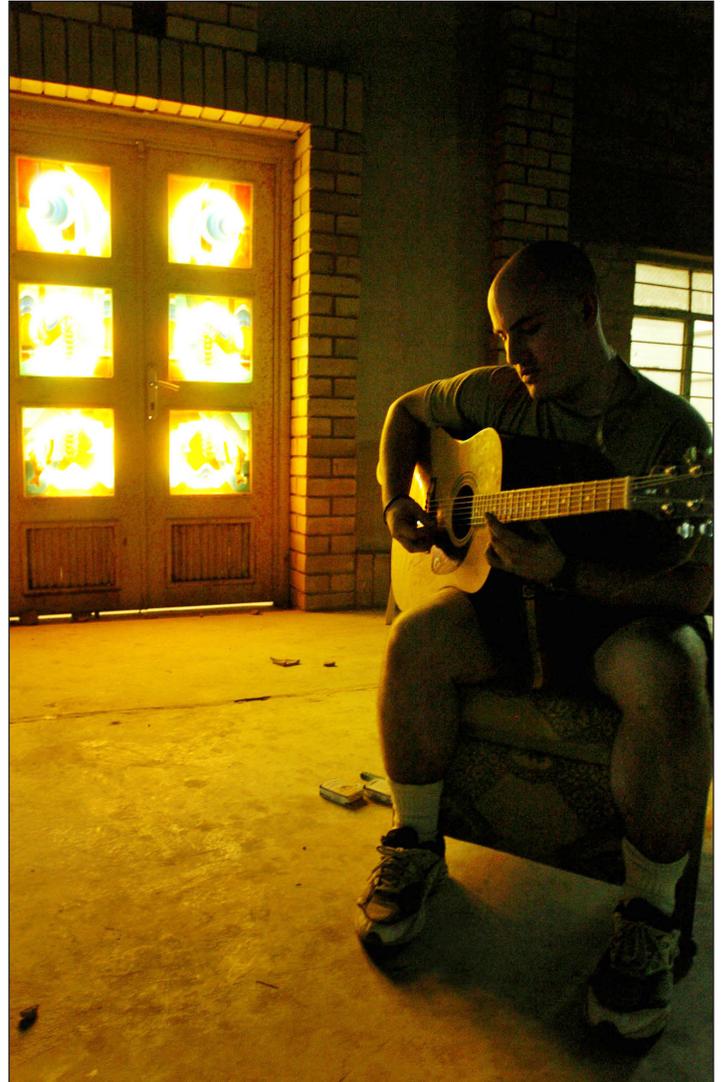
BAGHDAD, Iraq— Life at Combat Outpost Amanche is fast. In a 24-hour period, a flurry of contrasting images meld to paint a portrait of the life of Soldiers of Company B, 2-23 Inf. Regt. fighting the war in the Iraqi capital.

A Soldier plays a guitar in a darkened courtyard; behind him light shines through a stained-glass door, illuminating half of his face.

The muscles strain in the arms of another Soldier, sweat soaking his T-shirt as he works out; one, two, three..., doing pull-ups in the night under fluorescent lights.

More Soldiers gather around the guitar player, strains of “Stairway to Heaven” drift in the courtyard of COP Amanche.

One of the guys listening to the guitar looks at his watch; he has to go. Within half an hour the Soldier is out with the rest of his platoon, walking the streets of Baghdad. Some of the Soldiers in the platoon rush in short bursts through the streets. In the dark, one squad of Soldiers climbs the stairs in a house and post themselves on a rooftop to overwatch another squad searching for an insurgent safe house. The



A Soldier with Company B, 2-23 Inf. Regt, takes some time to practice his guitar playing Aug. 8 at Combat Outpost Amanche in Baghdad.

Soldiers on the rooftop communicate in whispers. Shots ring out, then silence. A gate has been breached and the other squad enters a house. They don't find the guy they are looking for, and the platoon pays the family for breaching their gate.

Then it's a march back to the COP again.

Soldiers enter the building, their home, soaked to the skin in sweat, the Iraqi heat relentless even in the middle of the night. Some head to get a quick nap, others sit back at the courtyard and smoke a cigarette.

About five hours after the midnight raid is over, a Soldier wanders into the courtyard, talks to other Soldiers sitting around taking a break. He is still in the same uniform from the night mission a few hours prior. He said he did not even



Cpl. James Mueller and Staff Sgt. Alexander Johnson prepare for a mission from the back of Stryker vehicle Aug. 9 at Combat Outpost Amanche in Baghdad.

change, knowing his platoon would be on call in a few hours, and he would have to be back in his clothes and ready within 15 minutes to head out the door.

Sleeping in his sweat-soaked pants, however, was not pleasant, he said.

Another group of Soldiers sit around in white plastic chairs, talking and taking a few bites from pre-packaged apple muffins.

About an hour later, the same platoon is back out on mission.

Soldiers rush through a gate in the streets of Baghdad, running into a house where, possibly, insurgents hide. The house is abandoned so they move to the next house. And the next house, where broken furniture and the stench of a dog carcass greets them. Sweat pours down their faces, their uniforms soaked, again.

Back in their Strykers, the Soldiers wait in a street, pulling security from the hatches, ready to back-up other fellow Soldiers conducting another raid. An hour or so later, the Soldiers drive to a nearby Forward Operating Base, where they have time to get a hot plate to go from the dining facility. They eat the food by their Stryker vehicles, as a slight wind kicks up a small dust storm. One Soldier, eating a triple-cheeseburger, is about to relish another bite when

he drops it. A string of curses ensues, as the other Soldiers laugh. One Soldier holds a water gun, soaking the unsuspecting.

Then it's back on the Strykers to move to COP Amanche.

Right after they arrive at the COP, a family shows up at the gate seeking medical treatment. The family has shrapnel wounds from a mortar. Soldiers suspect the mortar was launched by insurgents. The Soldiers welcome the local family into the COP, and a medic treats them.

And so it goes for the Soldiers of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment. The Soldiers with the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division have been occupying COP Amanche, also known as COP Blackfoot, since mid-May.

Since the beginning, life at COP Amanche has been 'go-go-go.'

"It's fast," said Staff Sgt. Joey Bowman, platoon sergeant for 1st Platoon, Co. B. "It's been non-stop go, mission, after mission, after mission."

The Soldier's time at the COP is full of rewards and frustrations, said 1st Sgt. John Wear.

See **OUTPOST**, Page 17



Husseiniyah showing signs of improvement



Dozens of Iraqis clean the streets of Husseiniyah as part of an American- and Iraqi-funded project to clean trash around the city Aug. 18. Five hundred men a day are paid to clean the city's roads, curbs and canals, creating a regained sense of pride in the city and promoting better health.

Civil service projects benefit Soldiers and civilians

*Story and photos by Spc. John Crosby
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

HUSSEINIYAH, Iraq – A noticeable change has taken place on the streets of Husseiniyah that benefits Soldiers and civilians. Civil service impact projects are changing the city's appearance, smell and attitude.

Formerly an extremely hostile area, Husseiniyah is an ever-changing front, where now Soldiers make public meetings with Iraqi leaders in the street.

The violence in and around Husseiniyah made world news earlier this summer. What was once a relatively safe and secure area of operations turned into a hotbed after the bombing

of the Golden Dome mosque, a Shiite shrine, in Samarra June 13.

Violence ensued in Husseiniyah shortly after, and Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division suffered casualties from roadside bombs, rocket propelled grenades and small arms fire.

Almost over night, berms arose all around the city, blocking coalition forces from entering on most of the major roads.

Attacks on coalition forces increased 300 percent in one month's time after the bombings in Samarra, according to 2-12 FA.

Negotiations between leaders from 2-12 FA, city officials and tribal sheiks proved fruitless, and more casualties were suffered on the roads just outside Husseiniyah.

On July 19, a Soldier was killed when a convoy was hit by a roadside bomb just outside Husseiniyah.

Later that night, 2-12 FA began Operation Viking Casbah, surrounding Husseiniyah and blocking off all major roads. Only emergency vehicles were allowed to pass.



Capt. James Sink talks with Majeed Muhan Alshwely, a member of the Kadhae Al Istklah city council, who is in charge of reconstruction in Husseiniyah, Iraq. Sink commands Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment.

“We needed to get back into the town,” said Maj. Harry Wakefield. “Coalition Forces and Iraqi government officials were faced with this problem. Our solution of fighting the insurgents back was to block off the city altogether.”

Sectarian officials and tribal leaders including Minister Ahmed Chalabi, the former deputy prime minister of Iraq, talked with city leaders, Wakefield said.

On July 24, coalition forces and Iraqi government officials reached an agreement called “The Settlement of Husseinayah.” The berms were removed and the people promised not to attack coalition and Iraqi security forces in the city.

“One of our selling points to getting back into the town was essential services and security for the Iraqi people,” Wakefield said

Peace was restored, and civil service projects needed to be emplaced.

One such project has shown noticeable success.

In an effort to clean Husseinayah’s streets, coalition forces and the Iraqi government have developed an impact project to pay 500 Iraqis \$10 a day to cleanup trash around the city.

“Living conditions were despicable,” said Pfc. Mathew Charles of Battery A, 2-12 FA. “Food, trash and sewage built up into ditches in the middle of the road. It smelled terrible. Kids would play in it and dogs would drink and lay in it.”

With the implementation of the trash pickup program, there has been noticeable improvement throughout the town.

“The canals are definitely looking a lot better now. You don’t see anymore kids swimming through the trash and sewage, and it smells a lot better,” Charles said.

“It’s like a night and day difference,” said Capt. James Sink, Co. A, 2-12 FA commander. “It’s a success to see these guys out there working,



Capt. James Sink, commander of Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment, talks with several Iraqi elders outside a restaurant in Husseinayah. 2-12 FA is assigned to 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

making an honest living. You could see improvement after the first day.”

The program provides jobs to put food on people’s tables who might not have any other means of doing so otherwise, Sink said. “A man that might be drawn to insurgent activity can now perform an honest days’ work, eat a family dinner and play with his kids.”

Iraq provides payment to 300 employees and coalition forces pay the other 200. Work is available on a first-come first-served basis to the first 500 workers.

“Capt. Sink has gone full bore trying to improve life in Husseinayah by meeting with town officials and creating solutions,” Wakefield said.

Majeed Muhan Alshwely, city council member in charge of reconstruction, said through an interpreter that, “this project provides those with no work with duties to make the city a better place to live.”

Ayman Adnan Abud, a 22 year old who lives in Husseinayah, said through an interpreter, “I am very grateful for this. I hope the projects continue and I am proud that we are helping in cleaning the city.

“Hopefully they continue to create projects that serve the people here so they feel safer and happier, Abud continued. “The people of Husseinayah have a duty to help their families bear a better standard of life.”

Last year the city was closed for 20 days and 272 houses were lost to flooding during the rainy season due to the fact that the canals were packed with garbage, according to Alshwely.

The cleanup helps ready the canals for winter rains.

“The city looks great and people are happy,” said Capt. Brian Todd, projects manager for 2-12 FA. “There has been a dramatic reduction in IEDs. This was one of the easiest and most effective ways to get the local nationals employed. The reason we chose this impact project was to show the locals that they can confide in their government for help.

“We have quite a few projects in the works,” Todd continued. “Refurbishment of the (city council) building, open trench systems to reduce the amount of water building up in the city, and school and electrical projects.”

Most Dangerous Job

38th Engineers clear routes of IEDs for Stryker Brigade

By Staff Sgt. Russell Bassett

115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

TAJI, Iraq – Improvised explosive devices are the enemy’s deadliest weapon in Iraq, accounting for a large percentage of all coalition fatalities.

The weighty task of clearing IEDs from all the routes in the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division’s area of operations falls on the shoulders of the 38th Engineer Company.

On a daily basis, the engineer Soldiers are out on the roads working to ensure they are safe for the rest of the brigade to travel on.

“My whole company and I take it very personally every time the brigade loses a Soldier to an IED,” said Capt. Adam Harless, commander of the 38th Eng. Co. “A lot of my guys would like to be on the roads 24-7, because it seems like the times a unit gets hit is when we haven’t been on that road.”

Harless is a testament to the dangerous nature of the 38th Engineers’ work.

In late August, the commander traveled back to the United States to receive further treatment of a leg injury obtained when an IED went off near him.

“The blast got me pretty good,” Harless said, referring to the Aug. 7 incident. “I felt like I got blown up, but I felt okay. I was able to walk. It was the adrenaline I guess.”

The full extent of his injuries were not known at press time, but the commander said he had a bad concussion and he injured his knee.

“I just want to get it fixed and then



Photo by Staff Sgt. Russell Bassett

A Soldier from the 38th Engineer Company, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, from Fort Lewis, Wash., prepares to drive the RG-31 multi-purpose mine protection vehicle during a route clearing mission near Taji, Iraq, Aug. 13. The RG-31 is one of four specialized vehicles the unit utilizes to clear roads of improvised explosive devices in the brigade’s area of operations.

come back,” the Chester, Va., resident said adjusting the knee brace that barely conceals the bruising on his leg. “Me and my guys will never quit.”

Harless’ attitude is typical of his engineer Soldiers. They seem to understand the importance of their work, and despite its dangerous nature, morale remains high.

“We are able to keep our morale up,” said Sgt. 1st Class Wade Lawson, platoon sergeant with the 38th Engineers’ 2nd Platoon. “The most rewarding part of the job is knowing that Soldiers in the brigade are able to travel up and down these routes safely. I have a lot of guys that don’t really know me, but they know that I am part of the route

clearing team, and they have come up and thanked me for keeping the roads safe.”

While the engineers don’t always find an IED on their patrols, many times they do. Lawson, a resident of Pittsburgh, Pa., told the story of finding four IEDs in one day, all of which were spaced 100 meters apart from each other.

“It’s a good feeling knowing that we have saved some Soldiers lives,” he said.

Brigade commander Col. Jon Lehr said the 38th Engineers are the Stryker brigade’s “unsung heroes.”

“Those guys go out there everyday and put their lives on the line clearing



Photo by Spc. John Crosby

Soldiers from the 38th Engineer Company, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division perform route clearing operations, a common task, north of Baghdad Aug. 13. Strykers provide security for other route clearing vehicles during the dangerous mission of clearing roads of improvised explosive devices.



Photo by Spc. John Crosby

A Stryker vehicle from the 38th Engineer Company stops along a road near Taji, Iraq, during a route clearing mission Aug. 13.

routes, and I will tell you they are having an impact,” said Lehr, a resident of Dover, Pa. “If it wasn’t for them, we would have a lot more successful enemy attacks against us. I am amazed

everyday with their bravery. I wish I had nine 38th Engineer Companies.”

In order to do their mission, the 38th uses a wide variety of specialized vehicles. These vehicles include:

the RG-31 and Cougar reconnaissance vehicles, the Husky rolling mine detector, and the Buffalo route clearance vehicle.

The engineers travel slowly along the routes, stopping to check out any suspicious object.

“We spend a lot of hours in the truck,” said Sgt. Joshua Brown, 2nd Platoon team leader. “Sometimes it’s five or six hours, but some have lasted 19 hours. We’ve taken a few hits, but by the grace of God no one has been killed.”

Brown, of Cincinnati, Ohio, said the toughest part of the job is knowing that “we go out and hunt for the most dangerous thing in country.

“We are a small piece of the big picture, but we are a key element. It’s good knowing that other elements in the task force can get down their routes safely and accomplish their mission.”



Sometimes winning a war...

Stryker brigade leaders meet with Iraqi Police chiefs

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Russell Bassett
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

TAJI, Iraq – Key leaders of the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division met with Iraqi Police chiefs from throughout the brigade’s area of operations Aug. 23 at Camp Taji, Iraq.

The purpose of the meeting, as outlined by Col. Jon Lehr, 4-2 SBCT commander, was to facilitate cooperation between Iraqi Police and coalition forces in order to enhance peace and security in the region.

“Improvised explosive devices ... are a major threat,” Lehr said to the approximately 15 Iraqi Police chiefs and 25 4-2 SBCT Soldiers who attended the luncheon. “If we have cooperation, we can deny this opportunity for the enemy. Together we can achieve security.”

Lehr also encouraged the police chiefs to look beyond sectarian loyalties when upholding the law.

“In no circumstances should Iraqi Police or Iraqi Army condone or participate in sectarian violence,” he said.

Col. Ali Husayn Nema, Al Zahour district police chief, stressed cooperation to overcome sectarian violence.

“This is a very sensitive issue we have to deal with,” Nema said through a translator. “We have meetings with religious leaders, tribal leaders and other citizens. If we work jointly, hand to hand, we can bring reconciliation between the sects.”

The meeting was one of many held between 4-2 SBCT leadership and Iraqi leaders in order to promote peace and stability in the region.



Lt. Col. John Drago, commander, 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment, converses with Al Zahour District Patrol Police Commander Col. Salman Abd Husayn during a meeting Aug. 23 at Camp Taji, Iraq.

Col. Jon Lehr, commander, 4-2 SBCT, shakes hands with Al Zahour District Police Chief Col. Ali Husayn Nema during a luncheon Aug. 23 at Camp Taji, Iraq. The 4-2 SBCT leadership sat down with police chiefs from throughout the brigade’s area of operation to coordinate cooperation between coalition forces and Iraqi Police.



The leadership of 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division meets with Iraqi Police chiefs to facilitate cooperation between Iraqi Police and coalition forces in order to ensure security for U.S. Soldiers and Iraqi citizens.

...Means making a friend

Stryker brigade convenes with tribal leaders, IA and IP to promote peace and security

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Russell Bassett
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

RASHIDIYA, Iraq – Leaders from the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division met with leaders of the Iraqi Police, Iraqi Army and local tribal leaders at a gathering to promote peace and stability in the brigade’s area of operations Aug. 24. The meeting, which included an elaborate meal of both American and Iraqi food, was held at Sheik Mohan Sajer Fahd Al-Fayahd’s home in Rashidiya, Iraq.

“This meeting really means a lot to me,” Al-Fayahd said through a translator. “We are here to promote friendship and brotherhood. I hope in the future that Iraq is secure enough to where you guys can come and visit me as a civilian. I want to show people that if we work together, we can improve the security situation.”

Lt. Col. John Drago, commander, 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment, was one of approximately 40 Soldiers who attended the luncheon. Drago praised Al-Fayahd’s stand against sectarian violence.

“He’s a well respected guy with a lot of influence, and he is doing everything in his power to help coalition forces and Iraqi security forces establish security in the area,” Drago said of Al-Fayahd. “He is Shia, but he is an Iraqi first. What’s important is that we all work together, and in my personal opinion he is very supportive of that end state.”

Along with Al-Fayahd, approximately 20 other local tribal leaders attended the event, including Sheik Ali Faysal Fahd, Rashidiya city administrator.

“This meeting is to make our relationship strong,” Fahd said through a translator. “The most important thing is to work together and deny the terrorists. We want a long term relationship with the United States. It’s good for us. It’s good for Iraq.”

Also in attendance were 20 Iraqi Army and 20 Iraqi Police leaders.

“It’s encouraging to see these groups working together,” Drago said. “In this area, we have a good relationship with our Iraqi security partners and tribal leaders. Although there are still problems, this group works together to solve them collectively.”



Col. Jon Lehr, commander of the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, from Fort Lewis, Wash., converses with Sheik Mohan Sajer Fahd Al-Fayahd, influential leader of the Istaklal Qada region of Iraq, during an Aug. 24 luncheon to promote peace and security in the region.



Command Sgt. Major John Troxell (right foreground), the top non-commissioned officer of 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, and other 4-2 SBCT Soldiers, enjoy a barbecue with Iraqi tribal leaders, Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army members Aug. 24 in Rashidiya, Iraq.



Leaders from the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division converse with local tribal leaders during a meeting to promote peace and security in the brigade’s area of operations.

Keeping routes safe with the 38th Engineers

*Submitted by Spc. Danial Amerson
3rd Platoon, 38th Engineers*

The sound of the explosion rips through the air as a plume of smoke rises from the ground. Normally the sound of an improvised explosive device would make even the hardest man shake, but for the men of 38th Engineer Company, this is the reason they woke up. It was the Engineers who aided in blowing up this IED, the number one killer of Soldiers.

The Soldiers of the 38th Engineer Company have been meticulously clearing the routes in the Raider area of operations. The odd looking, but effective Buffalos and Huskeys, aided by the Engineer Squad Vehicle (ESV) have proven to be a formidable match to the insurgency whose efforts try to stagnate operations and destroy the Coalition Forces.

As the tempo of missions rises slowly to a crescendo so does the brigade's need for a clear and expedient mode of travel. Sappers are always up to the challenge, as their motto, "ESSAYONS!" or "Let us try!" with the emphasis on "us," demonstrates.

The 38th Engineer Company is comprised of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Mobility Support, and Headquarters Platoons. These platoons keep alternating hours and work extended hours to ensure they have consistent coverage over multiple area of operations, making them a valuable brigade asset.

More than 105 deadly roadside bombs have been found and cleared off the roads during the four months of missions. Additionally there have been over 4,400km of routes kept safe and passable by the company as a whole, while simultaneously completing Sapper related tasks.

Bridge and culvert reconnaissance, building/structure demolition and infantry missions with mine detection techniques and equipment are just some of the Sapper missions the 38th Engineer Company execute.

Engineers also play other roles, as they search and destroy suspected trigger houses, conduct TCPs, and recover enemy weapons caches. The engineers were the first company in the brigade to retrieve an operational, intact mortar tube. The Sapper's missions are conducted with respect to maintain good relationships and to gain the trust of the Iraqi populace.

Over the past three months, 38th's 1st Platoon has taken on the frequently daunting task of protecting the roads that surround Camp Warhorse. Led by 1st Lt. Clark and Sgt. 1st Class Critchfield, 1st Platoon often operates within the brigade's most dangerous routes.

Boasting a record of no Soldiers lost, and fulfilling their duty while facing an ever present foe, 1st Platoon often sets the standard for Engineers and the Army alike. The 38th Engineers consider the men of 1st Platoon, an example of the spirit that encompasses all the men who call themselves, "Sappers."

The 2nd Platoon element of the 38th, led by Cpt. Queen and Sgt. 1st Class Lawson, have spearheaded many integral operations and paved the way for the Brigade's success on numerous occasions. There are many memorable moments, but the most memorable to them was the elimination of an abandoned IA checkpoint on a notoriously dangerous route.

Third Platoon plays an equal role in maintaining the routes in the Raider AO. The Engineer Company's 3rd Platoon is led by 1st Lt. Crabtree and Sgt. 1st Class MacAvoy. The men of 3rd Platoon are no stranger to action outside of the wire. They have successfully removed a number of IEDs from the routes Coalition Forces travel daily. 3rd Platoon is responsible for the

capture of operational RPGs and live mortars -- weapons that will never be lifted against Coalition Forces again. Aside from clearing routes, the Sappers of 3rd Platoon have supported infantry strikes on local factories, by searching for landmines and UXOs.

The Mobility Support Platoon (MSP) is the key asset in this Company's operations, led by 1st Lt. MacLennan and Sgt. 1st Class Singh, they are the key to route clearance mission success. The MSP is the backbone of the Company. The entire platoon is spread thin and is never in the same place at the same time. The vehicle operators of the Huskys and Buffalos are formed into squads and are attached to each line platoon during every operation. Most of the IEDs found by 38th Engineers are a direct result of this platoon's motivation and dedication.

With the aid of the Headquarters Platoon headed up by Sgt. 1st Class Saylor and 1st Lt. Riesel the 38th Engineer Company runs smoothly.

The men of this Platoon are not only skilled in their specific MOSs, such as commo, CBRN, supply and medical, they are also a prolific asset to our company bridging the gap between logistical and tactical operations. Any task is well suited for these men and none of them hesitate behind a gun or to dismount and chase down a triggerman.

Given the raw motivation and talent of 38th Soldiers, it is not a surprise that the Engineers of the 38th have become well known throughout the Brigade. Everyone who travels outside the wire in the Raider AO has felt the ripples of the Engineer's diligence.

"The men of the 38th Engineer Company are quiet professionals, doing their job without fanfare and never asking for recognition," said Capt Adam Harless, 38th commander. "I want people to acknowledge their hard work, we have the hardest working Soldiers, NCOs and officers on the company level and I will argue that with anybody."



NuEmpire Entertainment provides combat muscle

Submitted by NuEmpire Entertainment

As NuEmpire opened up for Paul Wall, the crowd beyond the stage witnessed the beginning of a movement ... starting with Combat Muscle. Simply put, just because you're in Iraq it doesn't mean that you have to give up everything that makes you happy.

NuEmpire Entertainment was started by young people with a vision -- Soldiers with a passion for music. Between missions and trying to keep in touch with their families, these handful of Soldiers have found a way to keep their morale high by expressing themselves to the world.

The Soldiers' leadership has been very supportive of the group since the beginning, giving them a home in the brigade to record.

Authentik (Sgt. Jones, 38th Eng. Co.), C-Money (Sgt. Brown, 45th MI Co.), Sickshoota (Pvt. Rogers, 202nd BSB), Mac (Staff Sgt. Macallister, 45th MI Co.), How (Spc. Duenas, 45th MI Co.), Tru Ryda (Pvt. Rumbaugh, 202nd BSB) and Virsatile (Sgt. Bennett, 38th Eng. Co.), all Soldiers from 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division are getting a lot of love from their fellow Soldiers and more, since their music came into conception.

If you believe in destiny, then you should know that you're witnessing the start of something destined to be great. Their drive and determination will set them apart from other artists in this industry -- a promise that they plan to keep.

If the military didn't instill a good work ethic in every member of NuEmpire Entertainment, it perfected the ones they already had. Some things

are just meant to be, and as the people look up at the stage in awe, you can tell, this is one of those things. Now with a high demand around Camp Taji, NuEmpire Entertainment is currently working on their upcoming CD (which will be sold on Cdbaby.com). They're also generating a more-than-noticeable buzz around the camp with their mix-tape sessions (a collection of their songs over mainstream beats).

This is the story of Soldiers telling the true stories of Soldiers in the United States military, while also taking into consideration that they had lives before the Army. With instrumentals blaring through the speakers in their homemade studio, they all grab notebooks and bring their own feelings from within to put a new spin on an ever-changing genre of music.

As a team, they know that their combined pains and positives, downfalls and willingness to strive forward, all equals combat muscle -- dealing with the pain of combat and everyday struggles and putting it towards something positive.



Submitted photo

NuEmpire Entertainment, comprised of Soldiers from 4-2 SBCT, perform before a Paul Wall concert in August on Camp Taji.

Securing Al Intasar

Submitted by 2-12 Field Artillery

On July 31, Iraqi and coalition forces increased security for a reconciliation success story in Al Intasar, a small town to the north of Baghdad. As Iraqi and coalition forces shared refreshments and took pictures with each



Submitted photo

Sgt. 1st Class Veeron Wilson and Capt. Brian Todd hand over payment for the construction of two Iraqi guard posts to Iraqi contractor Adel Suttam Gaward.

other, Adel Suttam Gaward, the Iraqi contractor in charge of the project, was handed payment for completion of the guard post project.

These posts were a result of hard work and dedication by the Iraqi government working side-by-side with coalition forces to improve the security of Al Intasar, a community of Shia and Sunni families living together as an example of what Iraq can achieve in the future.

The village of Al Intasar has not had proper security since an attack that caused most of the village to flee in August 2006.

The people of Al Intasar bravely returned to their homes, making this an example of cooperation worthy of increased protection. This village is one of the few in Iraq that has a mixed population of Sunnis and Shia living peacefully together.

Coalition project manager, Capt. Brian Todd of 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery, who facilitated the event said, "I'm happy to assist the local government in answering the wants and needs of the community. I hope this project perpetuates an attitude of unity among all Iraqis."

Though Al Intasar is a small step in the goal of securing Iraq, it is a step in the right direction. The people of Al Intasar not only set an example for the rest of Iraq to follow, but prove that the war in Iraq and the unity of religious differences can be a success.





Photo by Spc. John Crosby

Staff Sgt. Joe Naylor (left) of Lecanto Fla., an infantryman with 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, and Sgt. Jason Sims, a generator mechanic with 202d Brigade Support Battalion demonstrate a card trick at Camp Taji, Iraq. Naylor and Sims, who are deployed with the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, from Fort Lewis, Wash., have been recognized for improving morale throughout the unit by helping Soldier's take their minds off the harsh realities of combat.

Stryker Brigade Soldiers use magic to lift spirits in Iraq

By Spc. John Crosby
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

With the heat, constant threat of violence and distance from loved ones, Soldiers deployed to Iraq have many pressures that can lower morale. Something as simple as a laugh, letter from home, movie or even a show can be just the thing a Soldier needs to get their mind off the daily stressors of deployed life.

The talents of two Soldiers with the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, here in Iraq have done just that – eliminated, if only for a few minutes, any stress or worry a Soldier might have.

Staff Sgt. Joe Naylor from Citrus County, Fla., a member of 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, and Sgt. Jason Sims from Wenatchee, Wash., a member of 202nd Brigade

Support Battalion, have developed a magic act that has gotten a lot of recognition.

Together they perform magic shows for different units throughout the brigade.

“Their show is 75 minutes that put you in a place of what I call complete happiness,” said Command Sgt. Maj. John Troxell, the brigade’s top noncommissioned officer. “Everyone laughs and asks, ‘How did they do that?’ It’s 75 minutes of peaceful bliss.”

“We normally do shows for the units ... as they rotate platoons in and outside of the wire so when they get back, they can relax and have some laughs,” Naylor said.

“I saw their first act a couple months ago,” said Staff Sgt. Matthew Rink, the brigade’s retention non-commissioned officer. “I saw Sergeant Naylor do some tricks and that’s how I heard about Sergeant Sims. I was waiting for them to put on their first show but they kept putting it off. When I finally saw their first show, it was amazing. I am their biggest fan. I’ve been there for all of their shows except one because I was on the phone with my kids.”

“I remember one show where they had a man draw a picture of a lizard,” Rink continued. “They put the picture in a box. Then they opened the box, and a live one came out. There was this female that was so scared she got out of her seat and ran away. That’s how you know they’re good. Just a little bit of magic can affect someone on a scale like that. It’s amazing. I look forward to their next show.”

Sims has been doing magic for almost 20 years.

“It’s basically how I made it through high school and college. I would do card tricks at parties,” he said.

Naylor, Sims protégé, has been practicing magic for about a year.

Naylor met Sims during a brigade field training exercise when Sims was performing magic. Naylor really didn’t know how to do magic at the time.

Sims performed a few card tricks and soon an entire platoon had gathered around to watch. After the show, Naylor approached Sims wanting to learn magic. Sims told him that if he could demonstrate a “Charlie A”, then he would teach him magic.

A “Charlie A” is a single-handed cut of a deck of cards.

Ten minutes later, Naylor had learned the cut.

Sims said magic isn’t just learning hand moves. It’s learning the whole concept of how to perform, execute a trick and make it work. It takes a lifetime of learning.

“Magic has been around forever, and it’s part of our history,” Sims said. “To be a part of something like that, the mysterious side of life, is fun because there’s no greater feeling than making someone question their reality.”

“I remember watching Lance Burton and David Copperfield and being totally amazed,” he continued. “I



Photo by Spc. Stephani Nelson

Staff Sgt. Joe Naylor, of Lecanto Fla., performs a card trick June 20 at Camp Taji, Iraq, for members of the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

remember Lance Burton taught a card trick on one of his shows and I picked it up. I showed my mom. It was a real simple card trick. I was only about nine or 10 years old, so for me to be able to reproduce that effect and make my mom go ‘Whoa’... I was hooked.”

Their first show was June 1 in Tarmiyah, where the troops had no air conditioning, plumbing or hot chow, and only hot bottles of water to drink. The magic show was one of the only morale builders.

“The troops loved it and were on their feet laughing and having a good time,” Troxell

said.

“I love doing shows when everyone is having a good time and we’re getting some laughs,” Sims said. “It’s hard over here, so to bring peoples’ spirits up, make them smile and just forget where we’re at ... it makes it all totally worth it.”

Naylor remembers watching David Copperfield and Harry Houdini. He was always interested in magic but it was never available to him.

“The magic community is pretty closed off and secretive,” Naylor said. “When I met Sims, he really inspired

me. I went to his work pretty much every day. I had to learn it.”

Sims said he is enjoying having a protégé, because it forces him to try and progress.

“It’s not crazy like the (movie) ‘Prestige’ or anything but we have a healthy competition going,” Sims

“Those guys out there on the line deal with the possibility of death everyday. For an hour we can put their minds in a place where they don’t have to think about that.”

Staff Sgt. Brian Naylor
infantryman, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment

said.

Naylor often walks around to the command posts where Soldiers are struggling to stay awake. He shows them a few card tricks and leaves them scratching their heads.

See **MAGIC**, Page 16



MAGIC, From Page 15

“To me it’s almost a service,” Naylor said. “I love it and enjoy it. I do it for the reactions, for the rapport that you build in less than five minutes.”

“Since we have been here, the last five months things have really picked up,” Sims said. “We did a few things in Kuwait, and that kind of got things rolling. People began approaching me like, ‘Hey, you’re the sergeant that does card tricks,’ or the occasional, ‘Hey, you’re the magic man!’”

“If one more person comes to us and asks us to make them disappear, we’re going to make them do push ups, and if they out rank us, we’re going to have to figure out something clever to say because we’re magicians not miracle makers,” Sims said laughing.

Troxell said he is looking forward to seeing Naylor and Sims’ new tricks at upcoming shows.

“They’re some extremely talented young guys. When times are bad they can really lift morale,” the command sergeant major said.

Naylor, whose job is to train the Iraqi Army on infantry tactics, said entertaining the troops is an honor and can be very humbling.

“Those guys out there on the line deal with the possibility of death everyday,” he said. “For an hour we can put their minds in a place where they don’t have to think about

that. For the next hour they can watch me swallow needles or disappear this card or whatever it is we have for them. That’s what their mind is focused on in the moment.”

Sims, a generator mechanic, said there is a lot that makes it hard on the troops, and he understands their struggle.

“To be able to pull away from that a bit and have them thinking about, ‘How did he do that trick?’ instead of going out on that next mission where they possibly could not come back, it’s humbling and at the same time therapeutic too, because you can get a good laugh out of someone, build rapport and get that good team feeling back up.”

Sims and Naylor are looking to take their act into the future.

“I can definitely see magic being a major part of the rest of my life,” Naylor said. “Being an illusionist, being somebody who creates that moment, is definitely something I love.”

“I just plan on seeing where it takes me,” Sims said. “I don’t have any expectations, but I do know that I fully intend to keep performing and keep wowing people. I want to keep amazing people and amazing myself. It’s all about that moment where your reality bends and the impossible is possible and everything you thought you saw was what you actually didn’t see.”

For more information on the magicians, e-mail itsapyrateslifeforme@yahoo.com

SOUNDOFF! ————— Who is your hero? —————



“My dad because I look up to him. We stay in touch almost every day. He is always there for me to talk to.”

Sgt. Robert Cutler
Combat Engineer
38th Engineer Co.



“Socrates because he knew what true knowledge was. To know that you know what you know and to not know what you do not know, that is true knowledge.”

1st Lt. Katti Yeakey
Military Intelligence Officer
45th MI Company



“My mom because who else could raise two trouble-making kids?”

Spc. Terrelle Harris
Commo Specialist
HHC, 4-2 SBCT



“Toby Keith, because he supports the troops 110 percent. He went to Kosovo and he has been here. Since 9/11 he has come overseas to support the troops no holds barred.”

Staff Sgt. Justin Martinez
Infantryman
Co. C, 4-9 Inf. Regt.



Soldiers from Company B, 2-23 Inf. Regt. rush into a house during a mission in Baghdad Aug. 9.

OUTPOST, From Page 5

He said he is struck by the quality of the Soldiers of Company B.

“Their drive, their focus, their flexibility,” Wear said, “You take the standard qualities that a Soldier has and our guys have it in spades.”

He knows his Soldiers will be without their families for 15 months, but the sacrifice they make does not impact their mission.

“They are always ready to execute,” he said.

Sometimes people in the neighborhood give Soldiers feedback on how they have made a difference in their lives. Sometimes they give the Soldiers a simple, “Thank You.”

“You see pride running through the Soldiers when that happens,” Bowman said, “and they actually feel good about themselves and they know what they are sacrificing is worth what they are doing at that time.”

The sacrifices the Soldiers make are written in their drawn faces.

Two Soldiers talk in the courtyard. One of them, age 22, speaks intensely with another Soldier, lines furrow his forehead. Both Soldiers look thin; their appearance belying the latent physical

“I have lost a Soldier since I have been here. I have lost all my squad leaders to major wounds and I’ve only been here four months, and I still think it’s successful. We are getting out there, we are helping the people, we are changing the area for a better lifestyle.”

Staff Sgt. Joey Bowman
platoon sergeant, 1st Platoon, Co. B, 2-23 Inf. Regt.

strength they possess, ready to spring forth in the next mission on the Iraqi streets.

Perhaps because of the fast operational pace, and the Soldier’s sacrifice, the sector of Co. B has seen significant change.

“We’ve made huge progress in just

the few months that we’ve been here,” Bowman said.

In their time in the southeastern Baghdad neighborhood of East Rashid, Bowman said his Soldiers have been successful.

“I have lost a Soldier since I have been here. I have lost all my squad leaders to major wounds and I’ve only been here four months, and I still think it’s successful,” Bowman said. “We are getting out there, we are helping the people, we are changing the area for a better lifestyle.”

When Company B first arrived at COP Amanche, Bowman estimates that about 80 percent of the homes in the neighborhood were abandoned.

His Soldiers would see only a few hundred people in an area that at one point they were told held an estimated population of 150,000.

“Now you go out in the area and you’ve got open markets, all the places around the COP are finally occupied, families are moving back in,” said Bowman.

People also trust the Soldiers, and turn to them for help with their problems, especially when they need medical aid.

“A lot of times they come up to the front gate and we’ll treat them,” Bowman said. “It makes you feel good inside, to know that not only you are doing the hard stuff but the local populace trusts you enough to treat their family.”

“The sacrifices I make personally—with my kids and with my family—I feel its right, and I’d do it again,” he added.

Wear said he thinks most of his Soldiers feel the same.

“I think deep down inside they do understand the kind of impact they make,” Wear said. “We are here; we are taking it to the bad guys everyday.”





“Ramadan is the month during which the Quran was revealed, providing guidance for the people, clear teachings, and the statute book. Those of you who witness this month shall fast therein. Those who are ill or traveling may substitute the same number of other days. Allah wishes for you convenience, not hardship, that you may fulfill your obligations, and to glorify Allah for guiding you, and to express your appreciation.” [Qur’an 2:185]



Ramadan Background

- From an Arabic word meaning. “intense heat” or “sun-scorched ground.”
- Ninth Month of the Islamic Calendar
- Most venerated, blessed and spiritually beneficial month of the Muslim year.
- During Ramadan, the Prophet Muhammad was visited by the Angel Gabriel and given the words and verses of the Qur’an (AD 610).
- The Qur’an makes the observance of Ramadan obligatory for all Muslim Adults.

Days of Ramadan

- Beginning of Ramadan: The first Crescent Moon after the New Moon (invisible to the earth) o/a Sept. 13.
- The start date is determined locally through a combination of astrological and eye witness validation methods.
- Three Parts “Ashra” (meaning 10) of Ramadan: Sept. 13-22 – Rahmat (Mercy of God); Sept 23-Oct 2 – Maghfirat (Forgiveness of God); Oct. 3-12 – Nijat (Going to heaven).
- On or about Oct. 8: Laylat Al-Qadr (the Night of Power).
- The End of Ramadan: Eid Al-Fitr, the first day of the month of Shawwal, o/a Oct. 13, 2007.

Practices During Ramadan



- **Fasting** (Fourth Pillar of Islam): All adult Muslims (12 years old and above), each day from the first light of dawn to sunset, no food, water or sexual activity (permissible prior to dawn and after sunset). Purpose: to exact a deeper personal worship and closeness to Allah, practice self-discipline, sacrifice and sympathy towards those less fortunate. Exceptions for pregnancy, nursing, sickness, elderly, traveling and those working under harsh conditions.
- **Complete Reading (khatm) of the Qur'an:** Sunni Muslims may attend "special prayers" (tarawih) at the Mosque each night. One-thirtieth (juz) of the Qur'an is recited so that by the end of Ramadan the Qur'an is completed. Shia Muslims do not perform tarawih, but perform the regular "night prayers" (tahajjud) at home,

while also attempting to read the entire Qur'an during Ramadan.

- **Eid Al-Fitr:** First day of the Islamic month of Shawwal: Oct. 13, 2007, marks the end of Ramadan and the Breaking of the Fast. Eid Al Fitr is a day of joyful celebration in the achievement of enhanced piety. Muslims dress in holiday best clothes and pay the Zakat al Fitr (monthly alms). They attend special prayers at the mosque or open area followed by a sermon and elaborate food at banquet-like gatherings.

Considerations

- Know: After sundown, Muslim families celebrate with a large meal. It is customary for families and friends to share this meal. There will be increased visitation at local shrines and mosques
- Do not eat, drink or

smoke while interacting with Muslims. Do not use profane words or lewd gestures. Lying and profanity are strictly forbidden for Muslims during Ramadan.

- A strong history of military success lead some to conclude that Allah will bless their military endeavors during Ramadan.



Soldier Snapshots

To submit your own Soldier Snap Shots e-mail The Desert Raider at russell.bassett@iraq.centcom.mil Include full name of the photographer, rank and contact information, as well as a description of the photo, to include full names of the people in it, and the date it was taken.



Top: Staff Sgt. Alexander Kolski (left), squad leader, and Spc. Washington Corraera, combat engineer, of 2nd Platoon, 38th Engineer Company, place a crating charge in a known trigger house near Husseinayah Aug. 25.

Bottom Right: A 38th Engineer runs wire from the charge.

Bottom Left: 38th Engineer Soldiers pull security as the known trigger house is destroyed.

Center and top left: Good-bye trigger house.

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Wade Lawson





On patrol with 1-38 Inf.

Top: 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment scouts patrol a canal in West Baqubah.

Right: 1-38th Inf. scouts clear a grain facility in Baqubah.

Insert: A weapons cache found by 1-38th Inf. in Baghdad.

VIEWPOINT

The Gripe: Lose your butt in less than a second!!

*By Pfc. Matthew Mikolas
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

I enjoy a good smoke just like most Soldiers out here. When I'm having a long rough day, it's a great feeling to just go outside and burn one.

So I'll be outside, hanging out with my soldierly brethren, literally joking and smoking.

When I'm done, I field strip my butt and toss it in the butt can. Then, as I stand up, I notice everyone else doing the same thing ... kind of.

Apparently, after learning dead reckoning, first aid, and basic marksmanship skills, everyone learned how to shoot objects into receptacles from the same school Shaq learned to shoot a free throw. (Which was LSU by the way. You should stick to football, Tigers.)

So instead of bending down and dropping their butts into the can, they just leave a ring of expended tobacco rounds, just knowing that some lowly PFC is going to get tasked out on the detail to clean it up. And I've been that PFC. I don't want to be that PFC.



So I have to work that much harder at not earning that detail with subpar performance, which seriously cuts into my chill time. Now, you can clearly see why this should be an issue for everybody. But seriously, if you miss, it's not that hard to bend down and throw it in. It's really not. Call it extra PT if you want to. Whatever gets you through, so I can relax! Good. Maybe now, I'll finally have time to go practice my free-throw shot.

“RELIGIOUS SUPPORT TEAM (RST) SCHEDULE OF EVENTS”

RELIGIOUS SERVICES AND BIBLE STUDIES

DAILY: 0530, DAILY DEVOTIONAL, Contact CH (CPT) COBBAN of hhb, 2-12 FA if interested
 MONDAY: 2000, WOMEN OF THE BIBLE, stryker village chapel
 TUES: No services or bible studies scheduled
 WEDS: 1930, II CORINTHIANS BIBLE STUDY, Stryker Village Chapel
 THURS: No services or bible studies scheduled
 FRIDAY: 1200, CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED BIBLE STUDY, Stryker Village Chapel
 1900, JEWISH SERVICES, Tigris River Chapel
 2000, MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP BIBLE STUDY, Stryker Village Chapel
 SAT: 1000, CATHOLIC MASS, Warrior Chapel
 1800, CATHOLIC MASS, Tigris River Chapel
 SUNDAY: 0815, LDS SERVICE, Stryker Village Chapel
 0930, CATHOLIC MASS, Stryker Village Chapel
 1000, GOSPEL SERVICE, Religious Ministry Center by the DFAC
 1030, CATHOLIC CONFESSION, Brigade Chaplain's Office
 1100, PROTESTANT SERVICE, Stryker Village Chapel
 1930, PRAISE SERVICE, Stryker Village Chapel

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

MONTHLY: 0700 & 1300, 1ST & 3RD MONDAY, REUNION BRIEF, STRYKER CHAPEL
 SAT: 2000, OPEN MIC NIGHT, STRYKER VILLAGE CHAPEL

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION? CONTACT SGT DECKER, BDE CHAPLAIN ASSISTANT NCOIC.

SIPR: BENJAMIN.C.DECKER@4BCT2ID.ARMY.SMIL.MIL

NIPR: BENJAMIN.DECKER@IRAQ.CENTCOM.MIL Dsn: 318-856-4143

DownTIME

Sudoku! Sudoku! Sudoku!

Easy Sudoku

	9	5			4	3		7
	3			7			8	5
8								2
			7				3	9
	7		8		1		4	
4	2				5			
1								4
3	6			9			5	
7		4	6			8	9	

by Chris Okasaki, Department of EE&CS, USMA

Rules: Fill in the empty cells with the digits 1-9 so that no digit appears twice in the same row, column, or 3-by-3 box.

Medium Sudoku

2		9						7
			6	1		5		
		1	3					
1		5			3			
		3	2		1	9		
			9			8		1
					7	2		
		4		9	5			
	5					3		8

by Chris Okasaki, Department of EE&CS, USMA

Rules: Fill in the empty cells with the digits 1-9 so that no digit appears twice in the same row, column, or 3-by-3 box.



MEDICAL ALERT



HEADQUARTERS
MULTI-NATIONAL CORPS IRAQ
BAGHDAD, IRAQ
APO AE 09342

FICI-MD

08 AUG 07

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Recent Heat Injuries and Command Emphasis on Heat Injury Prevention

1. Recently, one Soldier died due to heat stroke and over a dozen service members have been hospitalized due to heat-related injuries. Potential contributing factors that lead to these recent heat injuries include the lack of proper hydration, good diet habits, air-conditioning in combat vehicles, and adequate rest.

2. Hot weather will continue until the middle of September. Commanders and other leaders need to be aware of the potential contributing factors that lead to heat injuries, conduct risk assessments, and take appropriate preventive measures to mitigate future heat injury occurrences.

3. Service Members and other personnel must be aware of the Heat Injury Prevention Plan.

4. Recommendations:
- Drink plenty of water; do not wait until you become thirsty; daily intake should not exceed 12 quarts; hourly intake should not exceed 1 1/2 quarts.
 - Replenish electrolytes with liquids like Powerade or Gatorade.
 - Eat well-balanced meals; high-fiber foods like granola bars, whole grain, fruits, and vegetables. Even if you are not hungry, eat some foods like crackers, fig newtons, instant noodles, or canned fruits.
 - Monitor the WBGT Index and enforce work/rest cycles whenever possible.
 - Know the signs and symptoms of heat injuries; use the buddy system.
 - Avoid taking dietary supplements and drinking excessive amounts of caffeine.

5. PREVENTION IS THE KEY.

6. Points of contact for this alert are MAJ Sueann Ramsey, Chief, Preventive Medicine, at 822-7972; email: sueann.ramsey@iraq.centcom.mil or LCDR Bret Moscon, MNC-I Surgeon Force Health Protection Officer, at 822-7973; email: bret.moscon@iraq.centcom.mil.

ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION AND POST ON BULLETIN BOARDS

RAYMOND T. ODIERNO
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:
IAW MNC-I (SJS) Form 1853: A UNCLASSIFIED MEDICAL ALERT 07-04

MEDICAL ALERT

MEDICAL ALERT

MEDICAL ALERT

Hard Sudoku

Rules: Fill in the empty cells with the digits 1-9 so that no digit appears twice in the same row, column, or 3-by-3 box.

			5			7	8	
			4	1			2	3
	1							
	3	1	2	4				
				5				
				6	1	2	4	
							3	
1	2			3	4			
	6	9			7			

by Chris Okasaki, Department of EE&CS, USMA

Sudoku Answers

6	8	2	1	9	4	5	7	3
1	5	7	8	6	4	2	3	9
2	4	9	7	5	3	6	8	1
7	8	1	5	3	6	9	2	4
9	4	7	2	8	1	3	5	6
3	6	3	2	7	8	4	1	5
5	1	6	9	6	7	3	8	2
8	9	5	1	3	7	2	6	8
2	9	5	1	8	4	3	6	7

Solution to Easy Sudoku

6	5	2	7	1	3	8	4	9
9	1	7	5	6	8	4	2	3
5	6	2	2	3	4	9	1	8
4	2	1	5	3	6	9	7	8
8	4	7	8	1	2	3	5	6
7	3	1	2	9	6	5	8	4
3	4	1	3	7	2	6	8	9
5	4	1	3	7	2	6	8	9
2	9	5	1	8	4	3	6	7

Solution to Medium Sudoku

3	6	9	8	1	6	9	8	1
2	9	8	4	3	6	6	5	1
6	3	1	5	7	9	7	4	5
6	3	7	4	2	8	8	7	3
4	7	3	1	9	3	1	2	4
9	5	7	6	8	4	2	4	6
5	1	3	2	4	7	8	8	9
8	1	3	2	4	7	8	8	9
2	4	6	5	9	3	7	8	1

Solution to Hard Sudoku

INTERESTED IN BECOMING AN ARMY PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST?



PHOTOJOURNALIST (46Q) OR BROADCASTER (46R)



A picture released by the US army shows soldiers securing a road as residents walk by during a patrol in the Taji area (© AFP/US Army - Antonietta Rico)

- PA SPECIALISTS SERVE IN BCTs AND DIV & CORPS HQ AS WELL AS JOINT ASSIGNMENTS WORLDWIDE IN THE RANK OF PFC TO MSG
- STRYKER BRIGADES ARE NOW AUTHORIZED PUBLIC AFFAIRS SOLDIERS IN THE RANK OF PFC TO SSG
- STOP BY THE 4-2 SBCT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE (BDE TOC, BLDG 1250, CAMP TAJI) FOR MORE INFO AND TO SCHEDULE A VOICE AUDITION FOR 46R



YAHOO! Noticias ESPAÑA



En esta foto difundida por el ejército de EE.UU., soldados de la brigada Stryker recién llegada a Irak, registran el terreno del área de Taji, cerca de Bagdad por un grupo de insurgentes el martes 15 de mayo del 2007. Fuerzas estadounidenses mataron a seis milicianos en un enfrentamiento armado en Irak. (Foto AP/SSgt. Antonietta Rico, Ejército EE.UU.)



FALLEN RAIDERS

IN LOVING MEMORY...



Pfc. Anthony J. Sausto
 May 10, 2007
 Co. A, 1-38 IN

Pfc. Junior Cedeno Sanchez
 May 28, 2007
 Co. B, 1-38 IN

Cpl. Victor A. Garcia
 July 1, 2007
 Co. B, 1-38 IN

Pfc. Aaron D. Gautier
 May 17, 2007
 Co. B, 2-23 IN

Staff Sgt. Thomas M. McFall
 May 28, 2007
 Co. B, 1-38 IN

Cpl. Brandon M. Craig
 July 19, 2007
 HHC, 4-2 SBCT

Cpl. Jonathan V. Hamm
 May 17, 2007
 Co. B, 2-23 IN

Spc. William Crouch
 June 2, 2007
 A Trp., 2-1 CAV

Spc. Rhett A. Butler
 July 20, 2007
 Trp. B, 2-1 CAV

Staff Sgt. Kristopher A. Higdon
 May 22, 2007
 Co. B, 4-9 IN

Sgt. Cory M. Endlich
 June 9, 2007
 Trp. B, 2-1 CAV

Pfc. Shawn D. Hensel
 Aug. 14, 2007
 Co. B, 2-23 IN

Pvt. Robert A. Worthington
 May 22, 2007
 Co. B, 4-9 IN

Spc. Zachary A. Grass
 June 16, 2007
 Btry. C, 2-12 FA

Pfc. Willard M. Powell
 Aug. 16, 2007
 Co. C, 4-9 IN

Staff Sgt. David C. Kuehl
 May 22, 2007
 Co. C, 4-9 IN

Sgt. Danny R. Soto
 June 16, 2007
 Btry. C, 2-12 FA

Sfc. David E. Scheibner
 Aug. 29, 2007
 Btry C, 2-12 FA

Spc. Mathew Philip LaForest
 May 25, 2007
 Co. C, 4-9 IN

Sgt. Joel A. Dahl
 June 23, 2007
 HHC, 2-23 IN

Sfc. David A. Cooper Jr.
 Sept. 5, 2007
 Co. B, 2-23 IN