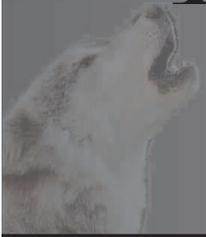


THE
Grey Wolf
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VOLUME I, ISSUE II

SEPTEMBER 15, 2007



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Commander's Column

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



Grey Wolf!

We are half way through with the eleventh month of our deployment, while we have less than 80 days to go, we still a lot left to accomplish. Anyone who had been to Baqubah prior to the month of May and has seen Baqubah now can attest to the significant changes taking place in the city. Baqubah was a city where the locals would not venture out on the streets or go to the market due to the fear of being attacked, killed or kidnapped. That fear no longer exists. People are swarming the streets, markets are thriving, and the people are safer. Those changes are because of the hard work and dedication of our Greywolf Soldiers and the 3rd SBCT, 2nd Inf. Div. I am honored to have served with our Arrowhead brothers and sisters, and continue to be in

awe at your continuous focus on our mission and the safety of the Iraqi people. I am proud for all you have done and will continue to do, and will never forget your service and sacrifice.

Starting this month, and for the second time in our deployment, our host nation, along with all other Muslim countries will begin celebrating the month of Ramadan. The third pillar of Islam, which is fasting, is practiced during this month. It is considered the most venerated, blessed and spiritually-beneficial month of the Islamic year. Prayers, fasting, charity, and self-accountability are especially stressed during this time; religious observances associated with Ramadan are kept throughout the month. The most significant night during the month of Ramadan is the Night of Power, in which Muslims commemorate the gift of the Quran from Allah to the Prophet Muhammad in 610 AD. This night is also known as the Night of Glory. Muslims will spend the night asking for forgiveness of their sins and reciting the Quran.

As professional Soldiers, I expect you

to support the Iraqi people's right to celebrate their national identity and enrich their heritage during this holy month. It is critical for our Soldiers to be culturally sensitive. We have taken great strides to secure Diyala. Our successes are seen on a daily basis. The Iraqis feel secure and are now cooperating and becoming part of the solution in Diyala; and we cannot allow an error of judgment or our lack of knowledge to push us back to where we were six months ago.

I would like to conclude this message by expressing the gratitude I feel for the unwavering support we continue to receive from our families. As each of you know, this has been a difficult deployment, but our families have shown they are the foundation of our lives and those families they support back home. Their love and support has become our strength during our most difficult times, and I can never thank them enough for that. May God continue blessing our families, our Soldiers, our Armed Forces, and our nation.

Greywolf 6



Chaplain's Corner Redeployment Blues

Chaplain (Capt.) Eric Bay, 1-12 CAB

You may be asking yourself what the deal is with the title. After all, redeployment is a topic that brings smiles to faces and lifts the hearts and spirits of our troops. But the fact is that many things have happened that have changed both us over here, and family and loved ones back home. There have been marriages and divorces, births and deaths, jobs and unemployment, and role changes that forever alter the core of who we are.

Everyone here is anticipating the return home as much as many of our loved ones are, but many have unrealistic expectations of what awaits them. The Soldiers have entered a time warp of sorts and expect there to be little to no change when they return; but the reality is that families have continued to live, learn and change, continuously shaped by the things they have experienced.

We, too, have changed.

Most of the time we don't even realize it, but it will become more and more evident after the honeymoon period of our return is nearing the three-month mark. Sure, we have training all lined up that every Soldier must go through. Sure there are programs for the families to attend to help them through the transition. But anyone who has been through this experience before can tell you, it's compulsory, so all will go but few will listen and glean something of worth.

It is kind of like when a man is driving a car. Although he is implored to stop and ask for directions, he does not. The reason is because he never really believes that he is lost. When he believes it, he will stop and ask but not until. The principal is sometimes you have to get someone lost before they can be found, or convince them that they're sick before they will go to a hospital.

So, what has all this to do with the price of tea and China? Well, as a Chaplain, I love my Soldiers – all of them, from my Commander to the lowest-ranking private. We have shared some real tough times here and gone through some serious issues, circumstances and situations. I have seen some people come to faith in a life-changing way. Yet, others continue in hard heartedness and continue to take advantage of grace. It is painful, but equally painful is this very issue.

There will be help available to Soldiers and families but in their arrogance or ignorance, they will not see that they need it. I have heard testimonies from some Soldiers who have gone through this redeployment process before say that they wish they would have listened because in retrospect, they could have avoided some serious and sometimes irreversible errors that in some

cases cost them their marriages.

So in essence, my redeployment blues stem from the fact that there will be a multitude of avoidable situations and problems that could be mitigated or avoided altogether if Soldiers and families would take advantage of the help that is available to assist in the redeployment transition; not just with their attendance but with a searching, teachable, and humble spirit.

Don't get me wrong, I can't wait to be with my family and loved ones again but I anguish over the tide of problems that Soldiers will face that could have been avoided, because for me, the most painful thing I experience in the Army is to see a Soldier in pain in any form. So my anxious and earnest prayer is that I may reach them through their stupor so that they may rejoin family and friends, and get the most out of the experience.

'Hooah' Corner



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

Murder. Suicide. Accidental death. Negligent homicide. Sounds like life on a soap opera. It's not. It's life in Greywolf.

We have an individual in pretrial confinement for alleged murder; a Soldier has died after committing suicide; we've had another attempt the same; we've had a Soldier killed due to an accident arising from unsafe ammunition handling procedures; another died because of unsafe weapons handling techniques.

In a "community" of 4,000 people, these and other life issues occur. They occur in greater numbers and frequency when the "community" strays from values and discipline. The U.S. Army Values are a guidepost for our behavior. Our strict adherence to discipline is an extension of those values.

I struggle with these situations because each one of them was preventable. I struggle because as a person, I care about the people around me. I struggle as a leader because each one of these situations robs us of our most important resource – people.

From a strictly military perspective, that alone is cause to work to prevent these situations. Each time a Soldier dies, every time a Soldier is absent from his or her place of duty, the mission gets harder. Someone else bears the burden. Someone else puts out 110 percent just to make up the difference.

This strains the team. It affects our ability to accomplish all that we can. We are less effective. As a person, it is cause to work to prevent these situations because of our love for our brothers and sisters. I struggle with the pain and hardship placed on a family because of these situations. It is unnecessary. It is preventable.

These situations are compounded in organizations where Army Values are not upheld. Where Army Values fall by the wayside, the conditions are set for problems – for failure; for tragedy. One must have the personal moral courage to do the right thing and correct others who fall short. It takes integrity to follow the rules, and it is the honorable thing to do.

One must be selfless in their pursuit of excellence. This is our duty as American servicemen and women to perform in accordance to the standard. Our loyalty, which we pledge as part of our oath of enlistment, drives us to live the Army Values. Out of respect for ourselves and the others

with whom we serve, we must do the right thing. Organizations that take these concepts for granted are not reaching their full potential.

Discipline is the cornerstone on which good military units are built. "When you overlook the small things, the big things soon follow." That's a quote from a Greywolf9 "ancient," CSM (retired) Sellards, the Greywolf Brigade CSM during Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

When a leader starts to overlook the small discipline standards on which we built the foundation of our unit discipline, the effect is like a cancer. It gradually



broadens in its scope and effect. The ripple effect soon attacks larger disciplinary issues. Safety is soon affected; morale is affected. Before you know it, the unit is a shell of its former self. Just because we've been there and done that, it is no reason to change our standards. We must stay honed to a fine edge until the end. This is the best way to fight complacency. It is the best way to save lives. It is the best way to accomplish the mission. It is the best way to be remembered.

I received an e-mail the other day telling the story of an American's welcome in Western Europe a few years ago. He was welcomed with open arms because he was an American. An old French farmer remembered the way he was treated by American Soldiers during the Second World War treated he and his family. The old man re-

joiced at meeting an American – the first he had met since the D-Day invasion!!!! He broke out a bottle of champagne and celebrated the return of Americans. This is the way the American GI is remembered across the globe.

The story went on to describe a statue in Eastern Europe. The statue is of a soldier from a different army – one who "liberated" the local village. The statue has a name. It also has a nickname, "The Unknown Rapist." There are statues all over Eastern Europe just like it. They all have the same nickname.

I am glad it's not a statue of an American Soldier. I am glad that my Army's heritage is not of rape and plunder. The American GI is known the world over for his or her spirit and demeanor; and it is the way I want you to be remembered here in Iraq.

Our discipline and our values are what make our Army. You have worked very hard, and have reaped the benefits of your labor. Baqubah is a much better place than when you got here. The Diyala province is a much better place than when you got here. Iraq is a much better place than when you got here.

Your efforts have not been in vain. You have provided security for the Iraqi people. You have provided essential services for the Iraqi people. In doing so, you have moved Iraq closer to self-sufficiency. You have bought time for the government while it stands up the security forces necessary to accomplish the mission. You have helped establish a government that operates for the good of the people. In doing so, you have contributed to the future of this region.

The security and stability of the Middle East region is crucial to the security and stability of the world. Imagine what the future holds for this region based on your accomplishments. Imagine a Middle East with open borders, common currency and a regional parliament founded on democratic principles. Sixty years ago, no one would have thought that possible in Europe, yet the efforts of the American GI made it possible there. Your efforts make it possible here.

I am in awe everyday at the work you do and the manner in which you do it. Maintain your discipline, maintain your values. Hold your head high when you leave, knowing that you have done an honorable thing.

**Live the Legend,
Greywolf 9**

Soldiers Awarded for Courage During Enemy Attack

Story by Sgt. Joshua R. Ford
3-82 BCT Public Affairs

BALAD, Iraq—Three Soldiers with Company A, 3-8 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, recently received valor awards for their actions Feb. 15, when their patrols were attacked by multiple roadside bombs on two different occasions.

The Bronze Star medal for valor was awarded to Spc. Gabriel Stone, infantryman,

Company A, 3rd Combined Arms Battalion, June 29, 2007, for saving the lives of seven of his comrades during combat operations. The Army Commendation medal for valor was awarded to Sgt. Martin Olivarez and Sgt. Nicholas Ruggiero, both infantrymen with Company A, 3rd Combined Arms Battalion, Aug. 18, 2007, for pulling wounded Soldiers from a Bradley fighting vehicle after it was attacked with a roadside bomb.

Stone, native to Gallop,

N.M., and his comrades were on a mission when their Bradley fighting vehicle was struck by multiple roadside bombs. Immediately afterward Stone lowered the vehicles exit ramp to try and evacuate the men trapped inside.

As soon as the ramp was lowered flames began to blaze into the troop carrier forcing Stone to put the ramp up.

Knowing that lowering the ramp would be the only way his comrades would escape, he lowered it again and his comrades ran through the flames to a secure location.

“Private Stone could have exited the vehicle immediately after the first attempt at lowering that door to save himself as part of the battle drill. But he kept his cool and despite seeing his vehicle burn around him he stayed to ensure his buddies could get out,” said Lt. Col. Kevin Dunlop, commander, 3-8 Combined Arms Battalion. “Because of his quick thinking every one of those Soldiers received comparably minor injuries from which most have

already fully recovered. If he had not done what he did, we would have lost seven Soldiers that night.”

In another incident the same day Olivarez and Ruggiero were on a mission with their platoon when a roadside bomb struck a Bradley fighting vehicle in their platoon.

Olivarez, hailing from Sacramento, Calif., and Ruggiero, native to Naugatuck, Conn., ordered their men to secure the site immediately.

Ruggiero climbed on top of the vehicle to pull out the unconscious gunner while Olivarez forced the troop door open to get the wounded Soldiers out of the back of the vehicle.

“After a full week of operations, and a day of nearly continuous contact, these two junior leaders calmly took charge and looked to their comrades without regard for their own safety, and as a result, every one of those Soldiers they pulled from that vehicle is going to be alright,” said Dunlop.



Photo courtesy of 3-8 CAB

Spc. Gabriel Stone, infantryman, Co. A, 3-8 CAB, received the Bronze Star medal for valor June 29 for his courageous actions Feb. 15 when his vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb.

Useful Iraqi Phrases

Answer the questions.

ja-wib aal-‘as-‘ilah

On the cover ...



Local children from Sheik Mazen Village, an area within the Diyala River Valley, follow Coalition Forces from the 3rd BCT, 1st Cav. Div., as they return to their vehicles after clearing operations in support of Operation Lightning Hammer.

Photo by Sgt. Serena Hayden, 3BCT Public Affairs

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The Grey Wolf Howl is published in the interest of the Soldiers, families and friends of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. Contents of *The Grey Wolf Howl* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 1st Cavalry Division. All editorial content of *The Grey Wolf Howl* is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs Office.

Lightning Hammer Disrupts al-Qaida in Diyala

By Sgt. Serena Hayden
3rd BCT Public Affairs

Operation Lightning Hammer concluded Aug. 22 after a 12-day, large-scale operation to disrupt al-Qaida and other terrorist elements in the Diyala River Valley, a complex area of villages and palm groves in Iraq's Diyala province.

The operation, which involved approximately 16,000 Iraqi and Coalition Forces clearing approximately 50 villages, was a key element in Multinational Corps-Iraq's overall operation, Phantom Strike; and resulted in 26 al-Qaida members killed, 37 suspected terrorists detained and the discovery of 10 weapons caches.

"The strength and determination of the fighting men and women from the Iraqi and Coalition Forces showed great results during Lightning Hammer," said Col. David W. Sutherland, commander of Coalition Forces in Diyala province. "We have continued to diminish their supplies and disable al-Qaida's abilities to disrupt the population."

Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, partnered with members of the 5th Iraqi Army Division, initiated the operation with a late-night air assault into targeted locations Aug. 13, and conducted an additional three air-assaults during the course of the operation.

Residents of most villages welcomed the security forces, providing tips and intelligence about recent activities in their towns; and were interested in joining the Iraqi Security Forces. Following clearing operations, the Iraqi army provided medical assistance and humanitarian aid to the local citizens, many of whom said their villages were recently influenced by al-Qaida.

More importantly, more than 80 tribal leaders and representatives, some of whom had not spoken in over a year, met Aug. 19 to discuss their grievances and swore on the Quran to unite in their fight against terrorists and become one tribe of Diyala.

"As I conducted my battlefield circulation and talked with many of the citizens, they repeatedly thanked our Soldiers, but more



Photo by Sgt. Serena Hayden, 3BCT Public Affairs

Spc. Justin Redmond, a dismount with Troop C, 6-9 Armored Reconnaissance Squadron, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, provides security during clearing operations in support of Operation Lightning Hammer in Abu Tina, Iraq, an area in the Diyala River Valley, Aug. 17.

importantly, their security forces, for liberating their towns from the terrorists – specifically al-Qaida," Sutherland said.

"Because their villages have been cleared, the local and central governments will now be able to provide those essential services al-Qaida destroyed; and the people feel a sense of security they have not known for some time."

Throughout the operation, the Task Force Lightning Soldiers also discovered 22 improvised explosive devices, 11 of which were discovered based on tips from a police chief in the river valley; and reduced three house-borne IEDs and six vehicle-borne IEDs, all of which could have been used to harm a large portion of the population or security forces.

Additionally, an al-Qaida company command post was discovered in the village of Shadia, and an al-Qaida medical clinic was located in Qaryat Sunayjiyah.

The command post, which was surrounded by fighting positions, contained bed space for 20 individuals, supply requests, records of munitions, a list of families supporting the element, a list of al-Qaida members detained by Coalition Forces and other terrorist propaganda.

"Although we didn't find many of the terrorists, the operation proved to be a great success because we disrupted al-Qaida, causing them to run," Sutherland continued. "Their fear of facing our forces proves that the terrorists know there is no safe haven for them in Diyala.

"And though this specific operation is over, our fight is not over," he continued.

"We will continue to aggressively target al-Qaida, and ultimately, they will be brought to justice," he added.

The results of Lightning Hammer cleared the Diyala River Valley of al-Qaida and allowed Iraqi and Coalition Forces to maintain a permanent presence in Mukeisha, a village in the heart of the river valley area.



Photo by Sgt. Serena Hayden, 3BCT Public Affairs

Iraqi Army soldiers with 3rd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division, conducts clearing operations in Abu Sayda, Iraq, Aug. 13, in preparation for Operation Lightning Hammer, a joint operation targeting al-Qaida elements throughout the Diyala River Valley.

GREY WOLF



Photo by Sgt. Serena Hayden, 3BCT Public Affairs

Above, while conducting a foot patrol in support of Operation Lightning Hammer in Mukeisha, Iraq, Sgt. Nic Root, a Soldier from Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, attached to 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, holds the door open for a local woman returning from the canal

Bradley Fighting Vehicles and Humvees from 6-9 Armored Reconnaissance Squadron, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, begin clearing Abu Sayda, Iraq,



USAF Photo by Staff Sgt. Dennis J. Henry Jr., 1st Com



Photo by Sgt. Serena Hayden, 3BCT Public Affairs

Above, Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 38th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, 3-1 Cav., conduct a house clearing in support of Operation Rock Hammer, Sep

At right, firing teams from the 82nd Airborne Division, 82nd Field Artillery Division fire a Self-Propelled Howitzer into the Diyala River in support of Operation Lightning Hammer, which was launched late into the night of Sep 13.

F IN ACTION



At right, Spc. Ricardo G. Romero of Co. C., 1-12 CAB, crosses a canal while searching palm groves for weapons caches during combat operations Aug. 28, 2007 near Baqubah, Iraq.

Below, children and local citizens pose while 1st Lt. Anthony Von Plinsky, Troop C, 6-9 Armored Reconnaissance Squadron, discusses the results of their clearing operations in support of Operation Lightning Hammer in Abu Tina, Iraq.



Photo by Sgt. Serena Hayden, 3BCT Public Affairs

USAF Photo by Staff Sgt. Shawn Weismiller, 1st Combat Camera Squadron

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Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs

'Grey Wolf' Soldiers Compete in Squat Competition

By Spc. Ryan Stroud
3rd BCT Public Affairs

Soldiers stationed at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, outside of Baqouba, were given the chance to flex their muscles and show their stuff during a squat competition at Salie Gym, Aug. 18.

The competition gives the Soldiers, who are stationed at FOB Warhorse in support of operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08, a chance to train for a competitive event and build their morale while stationed abroad for over a year.

"This is a typical squat competition," said Sgt. Genaro Gutierrez, A Company, attached to C Co., 1-12 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team. "It's pretty much a chance for [Soldiers] to come together and show of their strength."

And that's just what they did.

As many Soldiers and civilians entered the gym to watch the competition, a small group stretched and loosened up to attempt squatting weights well over 400 lbs.

"The weight being lifted is really getting up there," said Gutierrez, a native of Bonham, Texas. "It really works your legs a lot. I don't work my legs as much but I figured I love competition and thought it would be a good idea to compete."

Gutierrez also said these competitions are a great chance for Soldiers to build morale and brag about their strength.

"Honestly, this does build morale, especially when you get a crowd like we did tonight. This was amazing," he said. "It's nice to get support from the Soldiers watching you."

"It also boosts your morale because you're getting the chance to compete with

everyone on the FOB from different units," he continued. "It proves who the best of the best is."

"This is a great morale booster for the Soldiers," said Sgt. Victoria Parker, 571st Military Police Company, attached to 3rd BCT. "This gives the Soldiers something to do and train for."

"I think these events are very important for the Soldiers because it gives them something to keep training for and working towards," said the Reno, Nev. native. "Working towards something makes the time go by out here."

The crowd cheered and clapped for each Soldier lifting, showing appreciation for the feat of strength they were witnessing. As the competition winded down, the

competitors congratulated each other on their lifts, bragging about how well they did and for the other Soldiers to be ready for the next competition coming up.

"Everyone who competed tonight does get some bragging rights because they were out here giving their all while others might have too scared to compete," Gutierrez said. "This is a hard event that takes a lot out of you, but it shows everyone who the best lifters [out here] are."

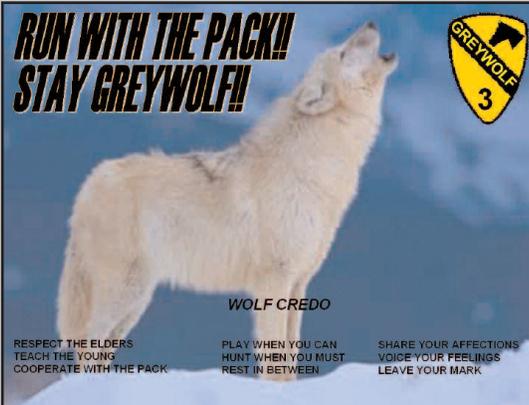
Gutierrez and Parker will begin training for their next event, the Iron Man Challenge, further bettering themselves to go further and achieve more.

"A lot of people enjoy working out and this is their chance to show what they can do," said Gutierrez.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs

Sgt. Genaro Gutierrez, A Company, attached to C Co., 1-12 Combined Arms Battalion, attempts to lift the weight of 375 pounds during the squat competition at Salie Gym, Forward Operating Base Warhorse.



'Grey Wolf' Retention Team

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

215th BSB

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

2nd-82nd FA

Master Sgt. Jeffrey Helmes
Staff Sgt. Luis Carter
Staff Sgt. Jason Folmar
Staff Sgt. Alegray Hamer
Staff Sgt. Annamarie Conklin
Staff Sgt. Margaret Smothers
Staff Sgt. Don Jewell
Staff Sgt. Richard Erickson
Staff Sgt. Keston Dyer
Staff Sgt. Daniel Beltran

3rd BCT Celebrates Women's Equality with 5K Run

By Spc. Ryan Stroud
3rd BCT Public Affairs

Over eighty years have passed since Congress passed the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote, and many Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, outside of Baqouba, Iraq, celebrated the anniversary of this amendment with a group run, Aug. 26.

"Today, we all gathered to run the Women's Equality 5K," said Staff Sgt. Kristen Vulich, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and a native of Esterville, Iowa.

"This was a good opportunity to show our support for the things that we believe in," she said.

Before the sun had risen at FOB Warhorse, the Soldiers participating in the run were up and stretching as Staff Sgt. Maj. Caterina Veronesi, 3-58 Civil Affairs Brigade, attached to 3rd BCT, began to speak to the Soldiers about the importance of the 19th amendment and the run.

"We are here to celebrate the auspicious occasion of commemorating women's right to vote and the 19th Amendment, which gave them that right," said Veronesi. "This means to me that I actually count, my voice counts in the decisions that are made that effect us as citizens of the United States."

Veronesi said she really wanted to shed extra light on the subject so the Soldiers could see how important this event really is.

"We continue to be a minority, not that being a minority is a bad thing, but it's so we enjoy that achievement that much more," she said. "Serving in the military, it's one more thing in our back pocket that we need to be proud of and need to be mindful of with our status as women, especially as women in the military."

Also for Veronesi, speaking to the Soldiers in Iraq held an importance to her.

"I feel very honored to speak with the Soldiers," she said. "It really is an honor to speak to my fellow Soldiers here, especially in a combat environment like FOB Warhorse."

"I was delighted to speak on such an important topic," Veronesi said. "There is an importance to keep educating Soldiers on these special events and holidays."

"I could see in the faces of the Soldiers today that they were enlightened and learned something today," she said. "I think they learned another sense of value and personal pride."

"It was a good event," said Vulich. "Everyone tried to help each other through the run and push each other to go further and give it their all and I think we all learned something new and important here."

But for Veronesi, she was also pleased to see the

high turnout of male Soldiers in a female-celebrated event.

"I was delighted to see the turnout in the male Soldiers today because it does show their support and standing beside their female counterparts, which is the military today," said Veronesi.

"Back when I came [into the Army], we were segregated, the training was segregated," she continued. "Today, male Soldiers are the battle buddies to their female counterparts – in fighting positions, out there in the battle field, running and [physical training]."

"These males look to these women, not just as women, but to what they are, and that's a warrior and a Soldier – that's what this run is really all about," she concluded.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs

Greywolf Soldiers talk about their run after completing the Women's Equality 5K Run celebrating the passing of the 19th Amendment over 80 years ago. The run was at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, outside Baqouba, Iraq, Aug. 26.

In Memory Of...

CPL William Warford
F FSC, 215th BSB
3BCT, 1CD

SSG Joan Duran
C Trp. 5-73 RSTA
3BCT, 1CD

PFC Dane Balcon
HHC, 3-8 CAB
3BCT, 1CD

SFC David Allen Cooper Jr.
B Co., 2-23 INF
4SBCT-2ID

From attorney, to enlisted, to officer...

Judge Takes Journey Through Ranks To Find Niche

By Spc. Ryan Stroud
3rd BCT Public Affairs

He was a successful attorney in his home state of New Jersey, holding a partnership that had him working 16-hour days during his busy work week. But at the age of 30, the attorney felt he was missing something.

A supporter of the war in Iraq, the flourishing attorney decided to do the unthinkable – quit his practice to join the U.S. Army as a cavalry scout.

Today, and now at the age of 33, this former cavalry scout has once again jumped back into the whirling world of law, this time as the Legal Systems Judge Advocate and Operations Judge Advocate in support of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, who is stationed in Baqouba, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08.

But the change hasn't been easy for Capt. Paul Curry, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 25th Infantry Division. Just over nine months ago, he was a specialist, one rank below the non-commissioned officer, preparing for deployment to Iraq. He now is a part of the proud group of officers who run the "Grey Wolf" Brigade.

"I supported the war since its onset," Curry said. "I felt that a lot of people in my neighborhood in New Jersey didn't feel the same. I supported it and felt it was my responsibility to serve.

"I enlisted as a 19D, cavalry scout, and

was reassigned into the training room, a job I didn't really enjoy," said Curry while discussing his reasons for becoming an officer.

"My colonel and sergeant major presented me with the opportunity, since I was already an attorney, to put in an application for [Judge Advocate General]," he continued. "Three months later, I was picked up for JAG and in October, I left for commissioning."

From an outsider's perspective, Curry progressed through his new rank quickly.

"I was given first lieutenant rank, but I progressed no faster than anyone else in my class," Curry stated. "[We all] got our rank within three or four days in July."

Curry said he was often asked why he wasn't an officer when, in his previous job, he was an attorney. For Curry, he needed to take some time to look deep inside to find the right decision for his future. Once deciding, he said it took a while to get used to.

"People told me it would be better to be an officer... but I have found that you have just as many bosses, senior as an officer, just as you do enlisted," he said. "But it feels like you're changing teams, [though] your basic military bearing stays the same. The biggest difficulty I've had is convincing myself up here," as he points to his head.

"When you've spent your entire military career as a junior enlisted, and I see a group of junior enlisted together, I expect

that I should be there with them," he said. "I have to remind myself, that's not who I'm with anymore. That's the biggest hurdle.

"For the first couple of weeks after I had pinned on my rank, I would see a first sergeant, sergeant first class, walk by and snap a salute," Curry joked, "and I would quickly go into panic mode to find out who they were saluting and ready my explanation for why I hadn't.

"[Others saluting me] caught me off-guard for a while," he continued. "It was a good feeling but also an embarrassing feeling. I wasn't used to it; it took some time to get comfortable with."

While he's since overcome his shyness towards salutes being directed to him, Curry says he enjoyed his time as an enlisted Soldier but now looks forward to his future as a leader.

"Definitely one of the best decisions I've ever made," he said about joining the Army and becoming an officer. "This is certainly more fulfilling. When I was in my practice, I didn't identify myself with my job. Out here, you really live your job a lot more and I simply find that fulfilling.

"I was working 16-hour days at home and struggled to find time to go to the gym," Curry said with a smile. "[After joining the Army], I was paid to workout all day. It was a great time.

"But if had to choose whether to stay an officer or be enlisted, I would stay an officer because I hadn't completed the job yet," he said.

"When I left being a 19D, I feel that I was a very good shot and a good scout," continued Curry. "I don't feel as accomplished yet at this job. I still have more to accomplish and I won't be finished until I feel I have done that."

Curry does have advice to those who are thinking about "switching sides" from enlisted to officer.

"Find out internally what you want to do with the Army," he said. "The Army gives you so many opportunities... whether it is to stay enlisted or become an officer, check into the different [Military Occupation Specialties] or different posts.

"But if someone is unhappy being enlisted, becoming an officer is not always the answer," Curry warns. "You shouldn't make your decision [to become an officer] on money or on perceived respect. Find out what you really want to do, and do it."

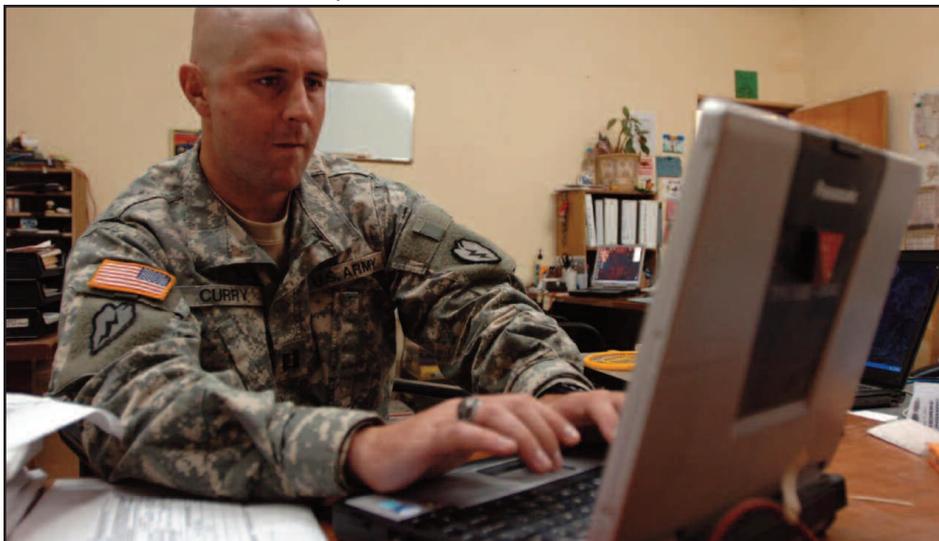


Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs

Capt. Paul Curry, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 25th Infantry Division, attached to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, is stationed in Baqouba, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08. Curry chose to leave his job as an attorney, join the Army as a cavalry scout and then become a member of the Judge Advocate General before deploying.

Paratroopers Push Through The Pain

By Pfc. Ben Fox
3rd BCT Public Affairs

A CH-47 Chinook helicopter touched down in a small clearing outside Had Maksar, a village in the Diyala River Valley, Iraq.

Immediately, the ramp lowered and a group of Iraqi and U.S. Soldiers streamed out of the chopper to prepare for their mission.

The Soldiers were about to endure two days of Operation Hoplite, where they would clear houses and palm groves in and around Had Maksar – all while fighting temperatures in the 120s.

“There is a lot that goes through your mind,” said Staff Sgt. Adam Jeter, Company A, 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, attached to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08. “You’re not sure what you’re getting into.

“As soon as the wheels hit the ground, your immediate thought is if you are going to make contact or not when you hit the (landing zone),” said Jeter.

“You don’t really know what to expect,” said Spc. Mario Mendoza, also with Co. A, 5-73 Cav.

“When you hit the LZ you could take contact immediately, but that’s why you pull secu-

urity,” said Mendoza.

After the Chinook took off, the Soldiers left the field and began clearing houses. Each of the men knew the harsh conditions of fatigue – referred to by many Soldiers as “the suck,” – they were going to face in the near future.

“The suck starts to hit after about two or three hours of clearing, even though we started at roughly two o’clock in the morning,” said Jeter. “It doesn’t take long because you’re wearing (individual body armor), in other words, 40 to 50 pounds.

“Since we did an air assault mission, all the gear that you’re taking with you is on your back,” he said. “So you’re looking at carrying 110 or 120 pounds on your back.

“It doesn’t take long for that to set in,” said Jeter. “It gets rough.

“I mean it’s only a couple of hours until your body is wanting to give out on you,” he said.

“For this particular mission it just started to suck when it started getting hotter,” said Mendoza. “Your gear starts to weigh down and your water is all hot.

“You just want to get done with it,” he said.

With the harsh conditions, the Soldiers have to find ways to continue on and keep focus.

“It’s up in the head,” said Mendoza. “You just have to keep going.

“Sometimes I think of worse situations we’ve been in,” he said. “Some of the time you just don’t think about it and just continue on with what you are doing.”

“The way that I have always gotten through and... maintain my focus is, first of all, my immediate situation – me and my men,” said Jeter.

“My goal from day one was to make sure myself and my



Photo by Pfc. Ben Fox, 3BCT Public Affairs

Carrying an M249 squad automatic weapon, Spc. Mario Mendoza, Company A, 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, clears palm groves near Had Maksar, Iraq, during Operation Hoplite.

men made it home alive,” he said. “I can pretty much deal with anything as long as I make sure that my guys get home alive.

“Secondly, my family,” continued Jeter. “I have a wife and three kids, and I want to make it home to them.

“Dealing with that short bit of pain is worth it to make sure I have my focus and stamina to make it through,” he said.

After all of their assigned houses had been cleared, the Soldiers found a house to stay in that night. The next morning, they had to complete the last stage of the mission, which was to clear the palm groves.

“We call the palm groves Vietnam,” said Mendoza. “The humidity is just (ridiculous) there.”

Getting up in the morning and knowing that they are going to go through possibly worse conditions than the day before did not faze Jeter.

“It almost becomes kind of comedic,” said Jeter.

“You get up and you know it’s going to suck,” he said. “You know you are getting ready to go through hell, and you know your backs going to hurt... you’re going to get dehydrated and feel light headed.

“The palm groves are going to be humid, and you’re going to be bent over trying to walk down under the (vineyards),” said Jeter.

“You get to the point where you know it’s going to happen one way or the other, so you may as well laugh about it,” he said.

Mendoza said it could have been worse.

“We did it when it was still relatively cool out, so it wasn’t that bad,” he said.

“When it gets hotter in the day, it’s not dry anymore -- it’s humid,” said Mendoza, “which makes it that much worse.

“The vineyards are the worst because they are so low,” he said. “It sucks to be bent over walking around in the IBA.

“The only thing that was going through my head was ‘Last day of this (stuff),’” said Mendoza.

Jeter said that each mission gives him something to reflect on for future operations.

“It does get easier each time, because each time you can fine tune what you didn’t do perfect the last time,” he said. “With each mission comes that additional refinement that makes you that much better for the next one.”



Photo by Pfc. Ben Fox, 3BCT Public Affairs

As the Iraqi Army clears the house, Spc. Mario Mendoza labels the gate to a compound during Operation Hoplite in Had Maksar, Iraq.

EAGLE CASH CARD



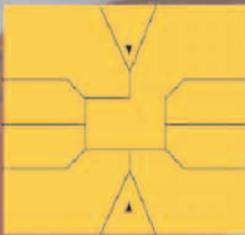
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Photos From the FOB...



Photo by Sgt. Serena Hayden, 3BCT Public Affairs

Adm. William J. Fallon, commander of U.S. Central Command, presents a coin of excellence to Spc. Dustin Morrissey, a Soldier with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, following a tour of Baqouba, Iraq. One Soldier from each battalion was recognized.

Got Photos?

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