

THE

# Grey Wolf

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# Commander's Column

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



Grey Wolf!

As our deployment draws to a close, I want to send my heartfelt thanks to the Soldiers of the Greywolf Brigade.

Words cannot describe the pride I feel when I think of each of you and what you have accomplished. From the Soldiers outside the wire to the behind-the-scenes Soldiers, you have been the key to our successes here in Diyala; and it has not only been an honor to lead you in combat, but it has been an honor to serve with you.

Our deployment has been challenging to say the least, yet you never gave up. You have continued to show perseverance and dedication to the mission, maintaining discipline in your actions and remaining devoted to secure the population. Your actions inspire me daily; and as I have said before,

I am a firm believer that we have the best fighting men and women in our ranks.

Because of your hard work and dedication to the mission, the Brigade has conducted over 210 named deliberate operations; 20 of those being brigade-level operations. Our Troopers have also conducted over 24,700 patrols; discovered over 340 weapons caches, to include one cache containing over 150 EFPs, and constructed and occupied 12 patrol bases, all in conjunction with our Iraqi counterparts. These operations are focused on keeping the people of Diyala safe by bringing to justice those who exist only to hurt innocent people, and by establishing an environment that supports economic growth and better services.

I am in awe of how much you have accomplished since our arrival – how much you have impacted a society that knew nothing but fear and violence for years. It is inspiring to see the floods of people traveling through the streets to go to the markets; and I hope you know they are able to walk

freely because of you. You have lived in austere environments and have dealt with situations no man or woman should ever have to deal with. In my eyes, each of you are and will forever be heroes.

In closing, I'd like to honor our fallen comrades – those who paid the ultimate sacrifice to ensure a better life for the citizens of Iraq and secure our homeland. They, as well as their families, will remain in our hearts forever. Each of them has left a permanent mark on the Greywolf Brigade – a mark that has become a part of our history. These are the Soldiers we need to learn about – the patriots who stood up and took their place in our military history. The courage of these heroes, and hundreds of thousands of others who have paved the way for us, is something we, as American Soldiers, need to learn and be proud of.

May God continue to bless you, your families, our Armed Services and our nation.

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## 'Hooah' Corner

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



HOOAH!

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the members of the 3rd Greywolf Brigade Combat Team. As we come to the end of our deployment to the Diyala

province, for Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08, I can't help but look back on this past 15 months with pride and admiration.

The situation that you leave here in Diyala is 180 degrees from the situation you found when you took responsibility for your sector. Through your hard work, dedication and "can do" attitude you have persevered through to mission accomplishment. The efforts that you have put forth are

awe inspiring and motivate me. As I have watched this formation go about its mission, I can't help but to admire what you have accomplished. I am proud, and you should be also. You have done what many people said was impossible. Your efforts have contributed immeasurably to the security of Diyala and the whole of Iraq.

A safe, secure and stable Iraq contributes significantly to the stability of the Middle East. And if you don't think that's important to the stability of the world, you're wrong. Your efforts have meant the world to the people of Diyala, and in doing so; you have contributed immeasurably to the security of the American people.

That being said, I challenge you to operate in such a fashion so as to be safe until the very end. Attention to detail, discipline and standards enforcement will ensure we conduct redeployment operations as safely as possible. This is a very dangerous part of the deployment. As Yogi Berra said; "It ain't over, till its over." The fat lady is warming up, but she ain't sung yet. It is my sincere wish that all of us redeploy safely to our families. And when you get back, continue to focus on safety as a force protection measure.

I have told the story many times – the 3rd Brigade lost a trooper on his three-day pass after OIF 2, and another on his 30 day leave. These are tragic occurrences, especially after a combat de-



Photo by Sgt. Serena Hayden, 3BCT Public Affairs  
**Old Baqouba in Oct. 2007 now flourishes with people in the markets.**

ployment. To make it through all this and die in a preventable accident at home afterward is truly tragic. Continue to practice safety awareness; seatbelts, speed limits, motorcycle helmets, designated drivers, etc. These standards are in place for a reason. Continue the discipline that you are known for, and come back after leave safe.

Before you step out on leave, I would ask you to think about what you'll say when someone asks you; 'What did you do? How do you feel? What did you accomplish?' We owe it to our fallen comrades – those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for the security of the American people, to convey the answers to those questions with dignity and respect.

Live the Legend,  
Greywolf 9



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Stacy L. Pearsall  
**Old Baqouba in Jan. 2007 is virtually a ghost town due violence, fear.**

# 'Grey Wolf' Soldiers Receive Their Spurs

By Spc. Ryan Stroud  
3rd BCT Public Affairs

Soldiers from both the 215th Brigade Support Battalion and 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd "Grey Wolf" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, celebrated the close end of their deployment in support Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08, with the honorary spur ceremony, an old Cavalry tradition, Nov. 2 and 3.

The Soldiers piled into Salie Gym on Forward Operating Base Warhorse, outside Baqouba, Iraq, for the ceremony where they received their gold combat spurs, spur certificates and end-of-tour awards.

"Every Cavalry unit offers its Soldiers the opportunity to earn their spurs," Lt. Col. Ronald Kirklin, commander of 215th BSB, said to his Soldiers during the ceremony. "They can be awarded to Soldiers serving in a combat zone or in peacetime to Soldiers who participate in a 'Spur Ride.'

"Many of you have already earned your gold spurs from combat before, and now the rest of you have joined the distinct group today," he said.

"Throughout history, Cavalry units have readily been identified by their Stet-



Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs

**Col. David Sutherland, brigade commander shakes the hand of a Soldier in 3rd BSTB, 3rd BCT, during the spur ceremony.**



Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs

**A Soldier receives her combat spurs during the 215th BSB spur ceremony, Nov. 2. Gold spurs, a 1st Cavalry tradition, are awarded to Cavalry Soldiers who have completed a tour of duty in combat.**

son and spurs," Kirklin continued. "They have become a reminder of the Cavalry's glorious past and tend to set apart the Cavalry trooper from his more traditional brother.

"The spurs evolved into a source of distinction, to recognize the best of the Cavalry, and you ride among the best," he said. "I've had other units here come and ask me who they could get the spurs. I told them, it's not that easy, you have to earn them. You earned them today and over the past 14 months."

"The right to wear the spurs is a privilege," added Col. David Sutherland, commander of 3rd BCT. "Tradition, honor, courage on the battlefield is what gives us our spurs.

"You all have earned you spurs, you all understand the saying, 'No task to tough,'" he continued. "Hundreds of thousands of people in Iraq owe their lives to the Soldiers standing in front of me."

As the Soldiers accepted their awards, Sutherland made his way through the ranks of Soldiers, personally thanking each and every one of them for their service.

"For the rest of your lives, when others talk to you about your experiences in the war, you can tell them stories of the truth of your honor and your privilege to

serve with the people surrounding you," said Sutherland to the elated crowd. "That instant family, that family you earned your spurs with, that family who you felt the sting of battle. You enabled, you allowed, you encouraged and you produced.

"This province has gone from the most dangerous province in the world, according to CNN in February, to the most changed, most secure province in Iraq, because of your ability to support, to execute and to coordinate – those things throughout history that American Soldiers have always done, what U.S. Cavalrymen have done," he said.

"What a privilege, what an honor to have served with you Soldiers," Sutherland concluded.

As the award ceremony came to an end, Kirklin left the Soldier with a few last thoughts and thanks.

"Many of you... will leave here with gold spurs, walking a lot taller, your shoulders square, and bragging about how you earned them," he said. "You are now a part of an extended family and it is a privilege to have served with you. You represent the best of the best and embody all that have been, is and will be great in the future of the United States Cavalry."

"I am proud to serve and ride by you side," Kirklin concluded.

# 'Chargers' honored for service in Diyala

By Sgt. Serena Hayden  
3rd BCT Public Affairs

Gathered in formation at a combat outpost in Baqouba, Iraq, Soldiers from "Bone" Company, 1-12 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, stood tall, reflecting on their deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08.

This outpost has been their home – a home without the amenities of a Forward Operating Base, a home where success and accomplishment flourished. And on this Wednesday, they

gathered to receive awards for those accomplishments – a small token of appreciation for all they achieved.

For many Soldiers in the company, it was their first time together in a while as each platoon has had a different mission all year.

"This is the first time we've had to reflect on our experiences from this past year as a company," said Capt. Mark Austin, Company B commander. "A lot of the guys have been able to celebrate the past year – not only the guys we've lost and the guys who went

home early, but all we've accomplished."

The Soldiers of Bone Company have had a challenging mission in Diyala province, focusing largely on the provincial capital of Baqouba – a city that CNN's Arwa Damon dubbed "the most dangerous city in Iraq," in February.

Today, because of the hard work of the 1-12 "Charger" Battalion as they partnered with Soldiers from the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, the city is alive and thriving. What used to be a ghost town filled with small-arms fire, complex attacks and improvised explosive devices is now filled with families going to and from work, children going to school and markets lining the streets.

"Forever, the 1.6 million people of Diyala and Baqouba will appreciate the actions of Bone and Charger," said Col. David W. Sutherland, commander of the "Greywolf" Brigade Combat Team. "When you ask yourself what you accomplished, look around at the city and realize you are somebody."

"And if you don't think you made a difference, you come see me and I will lay out a whole lot more," he said. "I am proud of each of you and your accomplishments."

As the ceremony continued, each Soldier received their end of tour awards, while others were also presented awards for valorous acts, purple hearts, combat infantryman badges and combat medical badges for their efforts in Baqouba.

"The Soldiers in my company are an inspiration to me," Austin said. "To see them all together, look them in the eyes individually and just say 'thank you,' meant a lot."

"There is greatness in this formation," Sutherland said. "And that greatness is achieved by the non-commissioned officers who run this Brigade, the officers who ensure the procedures are in place, and the Soldiers who are the means to support and improve a population."

"When the next unit comes in and asks what they need to bring," Sutherland said, "I'm going to tell them, 'It has already been brought.'"



Photo by Sgt. Serena Hayden, 3BCT Public Affairs

Following the end of tour award ceremony for the Soldiers of "Bone" Co., 1-12 CAB, Oct. 24, Col. David W. Sutherland, speaks to the Soldiers about all they accomplished during their deployment in Baqouba, Iraq.

## Useful Iraqi Phrases

Good bye  
maa el-sa-la-ma

## On the cover ...



Pfc. Stephen Russell, "Bone" Co., 1-12 CAB, listens intently as the brigade commander talks to him about the importance of his Purple Heart and his role in the brigade's overall fight.

Photo Sgt. Serena Hayden, 3rd BCT Public Affairs

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## Chaplain's Corner

Thanksgiving is traditionally a time that we offer thanks to God for all the blessings which He has provided for us throughout the year. It is also a time when we join together to celebrate with an abundance of food, good cheer, and the beginning of the holiday shopping season.

This year, for most of our Greywolf families, Thanksgiving will be a time of great expectation. Soldiers, families, and friends anticipate a time of reunion with one another after more than a year of separation. Let each of us offer thanks for the many blessings that God has provided for us this year.

First, we can be thankful for our faith. For most of us, faith is something that was introduced to us through our families of origin. As we grow from children into adults, we enjoy the opportunity to choose our own faith. With this opportunity comes the great responsibility to share that faith with our children so that the cycle may continue. Each of us can be thankful that we are able to practice our faith and worship within the requirements and conditions of our conscience.

Second, we can be thankful for the United States of America. No other nation in the world enjoys the personal freedoms that we enjoy. The freedoms that God provides are the result of the blood, sweat, and tears of American service members, who have endured great sacrifice since the inception of our great nation and continue with our Soldiers serving throughout the world.

In addition, we can be thankful for our government. While many lesser governments are unable to provide essential services and protection for their citizens, we the people of the United States are blessed above all other nations. Also, the physical beauty of the United States is second to no other. The natural beauty of Niagara Falls, The Grand Canyon, Yosemite National Park, and The Great Smokey Mountains, only to name a few, are found nowhere else in the world. We can be truly thankful for the natural beauty of our Country, which is unsurpassed.

Third, we can be thankful for our family and friends. The greatest gift that we have received from the hand of God is found in the relationships of our family and friends. As our Troopers prepare for redeployment, let us be especially grateful for those individuals who love and support us throughout our entire lifetime. This Thanksgiving, as we anticipate the reunion of Greywolf family and friends, let us remember this most overlooked gift of God.

In conclusion, though we wait in anticipation, we have so much for which we can be thankful. May God's richest blessings be with you and your families as we all look forward to the hastening return of our Troopers.

**Chaplain (Maj.) Robert Wichman**  
3BCT, 1CD Chaplain

## Soldier on the FOB

**"What was you or your units greatest accomplishment this deployment?"**



**Spc. Eric Birchfield**  
E Co., 1-12 CAB

"Conducting successful route clearances; helping save other's lives."

**Spc. Don Flournoy**  
E FSE, 1-12 CAB

"My best accomplishment was running the [containerized kitchen trailers] on all the [combat outposts], cooking for all the different companies of 1-12."

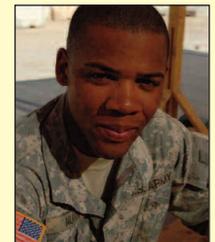


**Pvt. Stuart Middleton**  
E FSE, 1-12 CAB

"My best accomplishment was working on and helping paint the mural in the [FOB Warhorse] Square."

**Sgt. Eric Nunn**  
A Co., 1-12 CAB

"One of my Soldiers received a Bronze Star for saving my life. A story was written about him and everyone now knows about him. I'm proud to be alive and proud that he was recognized for it."



**Sgt. Josh Stover**  
A Co., 1-12 CAB

"My unit's greatest accomplishment would be Arrowhead Ripper. Going through houses and helping conduct the mission, we really helped make a difference."



By Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs

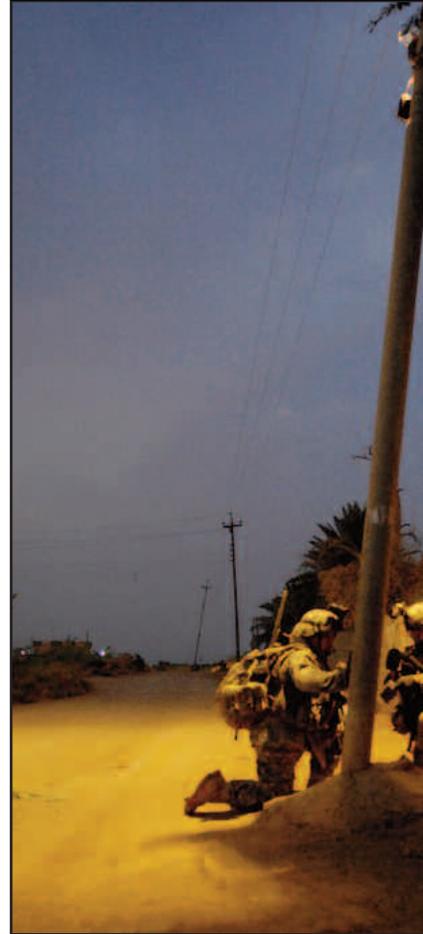
# GREY WOLF



*Photo by Sgt. Serena Hayden, 3BCT Public Affairs*

Above, Soldiers from 1-12 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, patrol the Old Baqouba market in Baqouba, Iraq, Oct. 21. Prior to Operations Arrowhead Ripper and Lighting Hammer, the city was virtually shut down due to widespread fear of extremist organizations.

At right, Soldiers of Company A, 1-12 Combined Arms Battalion, discuss operations under a street light in Baqubah, Iraq.



*USAF Photo by Staff Sgt. Shawn*



*Photo by 1st Lt. Richard Ybarra, 115th MPAD*

Above, females from the 215th Brigade Support Battalion, provide security for a Combined Medical Engagement by searching all female attendees.

At right, an Armored Bridge Loading Vehicle from 1-12 CAB, removes its bridge from a canal in the village of Chebernot in order to repair the permanent bridge span underneath, Diyala province, Iraq, Oct. 23.



*Photo by 1*

# F IN ACTION



Weismiller, Joint Combat Camera



st Lt. Richard Ybarra, 115th MPAD



USAF Photo by Staff Sgt. Shawn Weismiller, Joint Combat Camera

“Grey Wolf” Soldiers provide security during a routine patrol in Mufrek, a neighborhood within Baqouba, Iraq.



# TF 1-12 CHARGER



*Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs*

A Soldier with "Blue Platoon," Co. D, vigilantly stands guard, protecting his platoon leader while he talks with the local Iraqi Army and Police about the attacks in Khalis, Iraq, the previous night, March 30.



*Photo by Pfc. Ben Fox, 3BCT Public Affairs*

Pfc. Matthew Taylor, moves with his platoon to an Iraqi Police station in Judidah, Iraq.



*Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs*

Above, Sgt. Justin Mayes, Company D, pulls guard around a street corner in Khalis, Iraq, watching out for any possible danger while his platoon patrols the surrounding area, March 30.



*USAF Photo by Staff Sgt. Stacy L. Pearsall*

Members of Company C, and the Iraqi army, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 5th Division, conduct a cordon and search in Kahn Bani Sa'ad, Iraq.

At right, 2nd Lt. Scott Siggins of Delta Company, 1st Cavalry Division, 12th Infantry Regiment, leads a foot patrol in the village of Kahlis, Iraq, Jan. 25.



*USAF Photo by Staff Sgt. Stacy L. Pearsall*



# TF 6-9 SABER



*Photo by Sgt. Armando Monroig, 5th MPAD*  
A Soldier from the 6-9 ARS, helps an Iraqi soldier prepare his weapon for a joint patrol through the town of Muqdadiyah, Iraq, Nov. 18.



*Photo by Sgt. Armando Monroig, 5th MPAD*  
A Bradley fighting vehicle smashes through a wall Nov. 19 in Muqdadiyah, Iraq, as part of a massive operation involving Iraqi Security Forces and Soldiers from the 6-9 ARS. The wall was used by insurgents as a place to hide vehicle borne improvised explosive devices and as a hiding place for AIF who lobbed grenades to oncoming vehicles.



*USAF Photo by Staff Sgt. Stacy L. Pearsall*  
Soldiers from A Company, unload a truck full of food and water at Patrol Base K-Wall in Shakarat, Iraq, on Mar. 22.



*Photo by Sgt. Serena Hayden, 3BCT Public Affairs*  
Above, children and local citizens pose while 1st Lt. Anthony Von Plinsky, Troop C, discusses the results of their clearing operations in Abu Tina, Iraq, a village in the Diyala River Valley, Aug. 17.



*Photo by Sgt. Armando Monroig, 5th MPAD*

At right, a Bradley Fighting Vehicle from 6-9 ARS, patrols the hills surrounding Hamrin Lake Feb. 17. The cavalry troopers conducted the joint reconnaissance patrol with soldiers from 3rd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division to locate insurgents who may be hiding in the hills.



# 3RD BSTB GLADIATOR



*Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs*

Above, Soldiers from the Gladiator battalion conduct a reflexive-fire competition as part of the 3rd BSTB Soldier and NCO of the Year competition.



*Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs*

Soldiers celebrate their promotion in NCO Induction Ceremony, line up to be congratulated on their recent accomplishments by the leaders of the Gladiator Battalion, July 21.



*Photo by Pfc. Ben Fox, 3BCT Public Affairs*

At right, Gladiator Soldiers instruct Iraqi army soldiers how to properly maneuver to a fighting position at the Greywolf Leadership Academy, Feb. 19.



# 215 BSB BLACKSMITH



*Photo by Pfc. Ben Fox, 3BCT Public Affairs*

In between missions, Spc. Juan Perez checks his M4 – Carbine to ensure it is ready for his next mission, April 26.



*USAF Photo by Staff Sgt. Stacy L. Pearsall*

Above, a translator listens closely as Sgt. Darrell Crews, C Med. Co., helps an IA soldier practice inserting an IV needle during a combat life saver course at FOB Warhorse.



*Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs*

At left, "Load Master" Staff Sgt. John Mast, checks a canister while conducting a Quality Assurance, Quality Control check on a vehicle ready to move out on a mission at the Combat Logistics Patrol Point.

# PHOTOS FROM THE FOB



Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs



Photo by Pfc. Ben Fox, 3BC, Public Affairs

Above, Command Sgt. Maj. Felt, brigade command sergeant major poses with his troops dressed as Uncle Sam to wish them a happy Independence Day on Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq, July 4.

At left, Country singer, Gina Whitney, sings "Redneck Woman" with Spc. Andrea Guara, HHC, 3rd BSTB, during Whitney's performance with her band, the Bootleggers, at Forward Operating Base Warhorse.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs  
'Grey Wolf' Soldiers run on the rough roads of FOB Warhorse for the Austin Marathon and Half Marathon, Feb. 18.



Photo by Sgt. Serena Hayden, 3BCT Public Affairs

Above, Soldiers enjoy the performance by the Custom Made Band in the Wood Memorial Dining Facility at FOB Warhorse, Baqubah, Iraq, Dec. 19.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs  
Members of the Full Gospel Choir Team sing during a prayer breakfast for Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 23.

At right, Torrie Wilson meets with a group of Soldiers during the World Wrestling Entertainment's meet-and-greet at FOB Warhorse, Dec. 7.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud

# 'Grey Wolf' Soldiers Prepare to Head Home

By Spc. Ryan Stroud  
3rd BCT Public Affairs

It was a mild fall season in October 2006 when the Soldiers of the 3rd "Grey Wolf" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, packed their gear, kissed their families goodbye and headed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08.

Thirteen months later and counting, these brave Soldiers are once again packing their gear and getting ready to deploy once more, this time back to their families in the United States.

Now in the phase of packing their shipment containers, two Soldiers from 1-12 Combined Arms Battalion, are taking the time to reflect on their experiences in Iraq and what they have to look forward to back home.

"We were a major part in the effort out here to provide a safer and securer life to the people of Diyala," said Cpl. Norton Ronald, Company D, 1-12 CAB, and a native of Buffalo, N.Y.

"We were a part of Arrowhead Ripper, Dover Clearance, which was a big part of keep-

ing [an important route] from improvised explosive devices. We cleared Buhriz of all al-Quida and set up an outpost keeping the whole area clear and helping take care of the people out there," he said.

"Things have changed out here and that's great," Ronald said.

According to a CNN broadcast in February, Baqouba was dubbed the most dangerous city in Iraq. Now, many months and countless hours of effort later, CNN has commented that Diyala has made a drastic change and is now on its way to one of the safest provinces in Iraq.

"It feels great!" said an elated Spc. Adamm Creel, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, attached to Co. D, and a native of Portland, Ore..

"Before, when you would go into the cities, you'd get shot at," he said. "Now when we go back, people are happy to see us, kids are out playing, and it's becoming trash free. The people are starting to take care of their city. The cities are looking really nice."

"It feels good knowing that when we first got here, the

streets were bare, no people ever came out, and now you can go down the streets and see all the kids out playing soccer and all the people going to the market," added Ronald. "It's 'normal' living here now."

And these two Soldiers know what they're talking about. They saw the mean streets of Baqouba back in the early part of their deployment, and they were there for all the changes.

"I went on missions all the time," said Creel. "I've done a little bit of everything out here – gunned, dismount, drove. I even helped load tanks. I've seen everything you could imagine seeing."

"I helped take the commander, the [executive officer] and first sergeants out to all their meetings at the outpost," added Ronald. "We also supplied rations, food, water and all other supplies they needed to the surrounding areas. Going back and forth, seeing the changes, it's really amazing and we were a part of that."

Now these Soldiers have completed their mission, they now look forward to going home and spending some well-deserved family time with those who know them best.

"I definitely plan on spending lots of time with my family," laughed Ronald. "I have two kids, a daughter that's six and a son that's three; and I haven't been a part of their lives in the past year, so it's time for some quality family time."

"Once I get home, I'm picking up my new car – a '97 Mustang," Creel said. "Then I plan to fly back home and see my family. Hopefully I will get to see my brother who's in Afghanistan right now. He's supposed to be getting home around the same time frame as me, so hopefully we'll get to

see each other."

Though many things have changed out here in Iraq for these Soldiers and they're ready to head home, they say there are a few things they will miss about being out here.

"One thing I will miss is being close with all the Soldiers out here," said Ronald. "With the living conditions, you're always around and get to know people really well, making good friends. I know the friendships will pull apart a little bit once we're at home with not living together. But that's okay because we will have our families again."

"One thing I will miss out here is the lack of 'home' stress," added Creel. "There's not many things to worry about out here that you would worry about back at home. You just have to focus on your team and yourself, getting the mission accomplished. You know, it's nice knowing you don't have to worry about your car breaking down over here."

All jokes aside, both Soldiers said they are satisfied with their deployment to Iraq and very happy it's almost over.

"I feel our time out here was alright," Creel said. "You know, you don't want to be away from family and friends, but we accomplished our mission out here and that alone feels good. Not all was bad out here, I did meet and get to hang out with some good people and work with many different groups of people. But I'm happy to be going home. I'm looking forward to being done."

"A lot of good things happened in the year plus we were out here," added Ronald. "It's really nice to see a difference was made."



Cpl. Norton Ronald, Company D, 1-12 Combined Arms Battalion, and two other Soldiers from 1-12 CAB help load a shipping container with supplies as they prepare for their redeployment from Baqouba, Iraq, Nov. 4.

# MND-N Continues to Rebuild Northern Iraq

## MND-N Public Affairs

Multinational Division-North continues efforts to rebuild the infrastructure and improve the quality of life for the people of Northern Iraq.

Since assuming responsibility of northern Iraq in Sept. 2006, Task Force Lightning reconstruction has reported beginning 1,433 projects valued at \$101.4 million and completed 1,119 projects valued at \$37.4 million. The projects include supporting over 100 humanitarian assistance projects costing \$4.1 million and reconstruction of major crimes courts.

In Diyala, completed projects included a water filtration system in Buhriz and a library in Muqdadiyah.

For the Nineveh province, the division renovated a business center, purchased water trucks in Ba'aj, and completed several other projects. In the



Photo by Sgt. Serena Hayden, 3BCT Public Affairs

**Two women cut wire to assist in the assembly of transformers at a Diyala Electrical Industries factory which is located in Baqouba, Iraq, Oct. 22.**

works, Task Force Lightning is improving the consistency of fuel distribution throughout the province by assisting with the Ministry of Oils allocations.

For Mosul, MND-N is helping plan for Mosul Dam contingencies and continues to support reconstruction of the Mosul Major Crimes Court.

Salah ah Din projects include major crimes court construction as well as rebuilding the provincial television station.

In addition to helping rebuild Northern Iraq, the projects also provided 197 grants to small businesses throughout the area.

Diyala Electric Industries, a Ministry of Industry and Minerals state-owned enterprise and the only manufacturer of high power line electrical transformers in Iraq, is increasingly operational with hundreds of employees after operating at limited capacity due to the security situation since 2003.

According to the U.S. Department of Defense's Task Force – Business Stability Operations, which visited the factory in August, "DEI is arguably the most strategically important factory in all of Iraq," and anticipates reaching peak or near-peak production levels within the next 24 months.

The factory is located on the western side of Baqouba, Iraq, and has the ability to manufacture electrical power transformers, distribution transformers, electric me-



Photo by Sgt. Serena Hayden, 3BCT Public Affairs

**Local citizens work in the High Power Distribution Transformer Assembly Area at DEI.**

ters, clothing irons, ceiling fans, spark plugs and additional electronic items; and primarily services the Ministries of Electricity and Oil.

The company, which reported running only seven commuter buses for employees in Baqouba, Aug. 29, now has 25 commuter busses operating in Baqouba and its surrounding villages, employing approximately 800 citizens.

Projects are underway to allow DEI to reach its maximum potential.

**View All Issues of the Grey Wolf Howl at:**  
<http://pao.hood.army.mil/1stcavdiv/units/3bct/index.htm>

In Memory Of...

<p>SPC Vincent Madero 2-82 FA 3BCT, 1CD</p>	<p>CPL Adam Chitjian 3-8 CAB 3BCT, 1CD</p>	<p>SPC Jermaine Franklin 1-32 CAV 4BCT, 2ID</p>
<p>SPC Christopher Kruse 2-23 IN 4BCT, 2ID</p>	<p>SPC Peter Schmidt 2-23 IN 4BCT, 2ID</p>	

# Doctor Designs Mural 'Laughing' at Death

By Spc. Ryan Stroud  
3rd BCT Public Affairs

While deployed to Iraq many Soldiers look for ways to stay creatively occupied during their spare time between missions and work. Many Soldiers write and record music while others write poems or stories.

One doctor with the 215th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, has taken the opportunity to leave his and his unit's mark on Iraq during their deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08 by constructing a mural on their medical center's wall, letting those who visit the station know the heroes who have been here to help.

Maj. Paul Alban, 215th BSB's surgeon and Teal Medical Clinic officer in charge, is finishing up a medical mural inspired by a caduceus as his way of leaving his mark on Iraq. The doctor/artist says though this is not his first mural, it is one of his most prized pieces of art.

"This wall means a lot to me," he said. "It will be something I remember and look back upon for a long time."

Alban got his start in art at an early age. Taking after his father, Alban began with simple drawings and discovered a love for drawing.

"Since I was in middle school, I've been drawing," Alban said. "I never had [an art class] but I was always being asked to draw on book covers and things like that.

"My dad was always a doodler," he continued. "Everything he ever had to write on always had little doodles on the sides of the paper. I think that's how I got started. Also, one of my sisters was also very good at

drawing, so I probably was trying to compete and become better."

Years later, Alban completed his first walls, a gift for a friend which prepared him for his mural at the TMC.

"I've done a couple of other walls," he explained. "I did a six and a half foot wolverine, which was pretty cool looking, and a mural for my niece, which was teddy bears and blocks. That was cool because it was my first time painting. I had never painted before but liked the challenge."

Alban has also designed a few tattoos for his close friends. Although Alban currently has no tattoos, he has considered getting one and feels it's an honor to have his work on other people's body.

"It was pretty cool to see that somebody has my work on their body," he said. "That's a nice feeling to know they liked it that much.

"I did one for a Soldier I had met before she had deployed," he continued. "She ended up [dying] with a month left before her deployment was to end, but its neat knowing that I was able to leave her with something that she really liked, so much that she had it tattooed before she deployed."

After others were intrigued by work Alban created on the back of medical scrubs, he was provided the opportunity to leave his team's mark as they come close to the end of deployment. Alban said he jumped at the chance and began to craft his masterpiece.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs

**While penciling in his final sketches for his mural, Maj. Paul Alban, battalion surgeon and Teal Medical Clinic officer in charge for 215th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, finalizes his work-in-progress, his medical mural inspired by a caduceus.**

"First I had done drawings on the backs of the scrub tops we used to wear," he said. "After seeing a couple of different shirts I had finished, they told me to have at it and do what I want with the wall."

Alban got to work on his caduceus, using charcoal and hairspray to sculpt the gothic tribute to his TMC.

"The wall can mean anything to anybody; but to me, if you take a step back from the wall you will see the medical caduceus in there," he said. "It is a little bit different. We don't have the angelic wings and the snakes going around a staff, we have snakes going around a sword that's piercing a skull that has bat-like wings.

"Snakes have always been in medicine as a healing figure, they are not meant to be evil," he continued. "The snakes are making their way through the skull, kind of laughing at death.

The wings are to give it the more gothic theme with the skull, but they do represent the

wings on the caduceus.

"It's not quite done yet," Alban said. "There's an EKG [electrocardiogram] strip that will be easy to understand for medical people. You will see a deadly EKG that will flat line a little bit and then it will return to normal. It's like us here – we treat the sick and help them get better."

As Alban continues to work on his wall, he hopes others will enjoy looking at it. Though he is proud of what he has created, he hopes it will be covered soon; a sign of the US forces exiting Iraq.

"I'm glad they let me do it," said Alban. "Hopefully, it won't stay up for too long, because we will all be out of here eventually, but the whole experience was neat."

Until his return home, Alban said he will continue to treat the sick and keep his artistic aspirations up by designing more tattoos for Soldiers.

# 'Grey Wolf' Soldiers Enjoy Fear-Filled Halloween

By Spc. Ryan Stroud  
3rd BCT Public Affairs

Halloween is a special time of year when for one night, you can scare the living daylights out of your friends and family members without getting in trouble for it. But what are you to do if you're a deployed Soldier in the 3rd "Grey Wolf" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, stationed at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08? You party, of course!

And that's exactly what these Grey Wolf Soldiers did, starting with the "Fear Factor Baqouba" competition and topping off the night with a concert from Madison Avenue, a melodic emo band stationed here on FOB Warhorse.

Soldiers paraded Warhorse in different costumes ranging from Spartans to Batman, all in hopes of raising morale and letting loose for one night of extreme fun.

The Fear Factor Baqouba competition was at the Wood Dining Facility, showcasing daring feats of gross excitement. Soldiers participating were asked to carry cold peas in their mouth to be spit into a water bottle, while others ate insects ranging from spiders to scorpions, all in the name of fun.

"We're doing Fear Factor, trying to push the limits of the

Soldiers to see how [crazy] they can be and how far they can go, but also be safe, making sure nobody gets hurt in the process," said Sgt. Ramon Arredondo, 215th Brigade Support Battalion, and a native of San Antonio.

"We had to eat spiders and other [bugs]," Spc. Robin Bridges, 18th Postal Company, attached to 3rd BCT, and a native of Cordova, Ala., added.

"We also had to tote peas back-and-forth, that was our physical activity," she continued. "The other events were really focusing on the mental aspect of the competition."

Arredondo and Bridges both competed against each other during the pea competition. Arredondo, dressed as "Batman," jokingly taunting Bridges the entire time. With a tie from the race, both Batman and Bridges had to drink and entire bottle of a mystery liquid to see who the winner would be. In the end, Bridges topped Batman to take the victory.

"I think the drink was a mixture of pickle juice, apple juice and salt," said a laughing Bridges. "It was really disgusting! But, it felt good to beat Batman. He kept talking smack to me, saying I wasn't going to win because I was a female, and I beat him! But it was all in good fun. I had a blast competing."

Though Arredondo lost in

the first round of the competition, he didn't seem to mind as long as he got some laughs out of the experience.

"I'm the type of person who will dress up to make people laugh," Arredondo said. "I try to bring morale to this place. If I can make one person laugh, than I've done my job; and if I have to dress up like Batman, Robin, Tinkerbell, whoever, so be it. Anything I can do to bring up the morale of the Soldiers."

And Arredondo succeeded in his mission to bring happiness. He and his partner, "Robin," also known as Pfc. Michael Knight, B FMC, 215th BSB, and a native of Lewiston, Maine, both felt morale was high though the competition.

"This whole event did boost the morale," said Knight. "[The guys running the event] said they're going to send a tape in to the real Fear Factor because Fear Factor is showing an appreciation of deployed Soldiers, which is cool."

Knight also added dressing up and goofing for one night was just the ticket he needed right now while preparing to head home.

"Dressing up has made me a little bit happier, makes me look forward to going home [and partaking in events like these in the States,]" he said.

After the festivities in the dining facility winded down, Soldiers then flocked to the Salie Gym to hear Madison Avenue rock the stage with their passionate blend of acoustic rock with thundering backing drums and percussion.

"We're gathering up all the Soldiers on the FOB to listen to some good music and get out of that atmosphere of being away from home," said lead singer and guitarist, Pfc. Samuel "Gonzo" Gonzalez Jr., of the 571st Military Police Company, attached to 3rd BCT.

"Some of these [Soldiers] have just arrived here, some have been here for a year, like us, so we want to escape for a

bit and feel free," he added. "Through music, we can really express ourselves and be free."

"We just want to have a good time and it's Halloween, so everyone's parting tonight," Gonzo said.

"I hope this is a stress reliever for the Soldiers," added keyboardist, Spc. Kyle "Lusy" Lussier, also of 571st MPs.

"There is so much stress out here – just a night to have fun and not think about where we are, to dress up in civilian clothes [or costumes], just having a good time in general," he continued. "As long as the Soldiers are good and relaxed, that's all that matters to us."

Madison Avenue's electric presence had the crowd of Soldiers dancing the night away, letting go of old demons and partying like there was no tomorrow. For the boys of "Mad Ave", this was just what the doctor ordered.

"This experience, it's wonderful," said lead guitarist, Spc. Brandon Couch, 571st MPs. "It really is because you're over here fighting a war, and we get to use our gift. To see everyone here jamming out to what we love to do, it's touching."

"Morale is very important to me," added Gonzo. "Without our morale, without us feeling some type of feeling here, we can't do our jobs. Doing this kind of stuff really brings up the morale and makes us feel like we're doing something good here."

As the night drew to a close, a feeling was in the air. A relaxed glow shown on the faces of the Soldiers, proof that morale was raised and the Soldiers stationed at FOB Warhorse were relieved, tired, yet refreshed.

"Events like these make me enjoy being here a little more instead of being so down all the time," said Bridges about the night's events. "I really do think this helps the Soldiers a lot."



Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3BCT Public Affairs

**Two Soldiers try desperately to pour cold peas into a water bottle without the use of their hands during the Fear Factor Baqouba competition at Wood Dining Facility, Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Oct. 31.**

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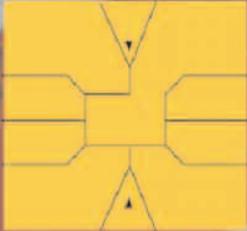
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## Photos From the FOB...



Far left, the sun sets on Forward Operating Base Warhorse.

Left, footprints fill the sands of FOB Warhorse.