

THE MOUNTED RIFLEMAN

3d ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT

February 2008



***3d ACR deploys to
Iraq for OIF 07-09***

THE MOUNTED RIFLEMAN



**Published by the
3d Armored
Cavalry Regiment**

72ND REGIMENTAL COMMANDER
Col. Michael A. Bills

**XVII REGIMENTAL COMMAND
SERGEANT MAJOR**
Command Sgt. Maj. William J. Burns

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
Maj. Gary Dangerfield

PUBLIC AFFAIRS NCOIC/EDITOR
Master Sgt. Tim Volkert

The Mounted Rifleman is the official publication for the Troopers, Noncommissioned Officers, Officers, family members and friends of the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment. Views expressed herein are those of the authors.

The Mounted Rifleman is the primary Command Information tool of the Regimental command leadership. Its mission is to foster esprit de corps, enhance morale and keep troopers informed throughout the Regiment.

ABOUT THIS

ISSUE

After a little more than one year of building the force, receiving and training on new equipment and training for combat, we are now in Iraq and are implementing all of the skills we have worked so diligently to perfect.

It didn't take long for the Regiment to move in and start conducting business.

As we assumed the battle space, it was obvious to everyone that the Brave Rifles were ready to hit the ground running, and while the time with our predecessors was needed, we were anxiously waiting to take charge of Ninevah Province and take it to the enemy.

While there have already been many successes in the area, we have also said goodbye to some of our Troopers and leaders. While we mourn their loss, we must also ensure that we honor their memory by taking the fight to the enemy and relentlessly pursuing them so they cannot cause further harm to the Coalition Forces, the ISF or the people of Iraq.

While the enemy here continues to prove itself to be adaptive, the ISF are going stronger each week and in time, Iraq will rid itself of the terrorists and continue to move toward becoming a free, prosperous nation.

This issue of the magazine will highlight some of the missions our Soldiers have accomplished while here in Iraq so far as well as messages from the unit leaders and others.

While I cannot possibly cover everything that goes on here in the Regiment, this magazine will hopefully provide you a good picture of what the Brave Rifles are doing during OIF 07-09.

If you have any suggestions or would like to submit articles or photographs to the Mounted Rifleman, e-mail timothy.volkert@us.army.mil or call the Regimental Public Affairs Office at VOIP 573-2097 or DSN 849-5270.

- The Editor



3d Armored Cavalry Regiment



Cover photo by Spc. Kieran Cuddihy

Left/Cover: Troopers from Heavy Company provide security during a patrol in Mosul, Iraq, Jan. 13. Heavy Company, 2nd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, is attached to 3rd Squadron at Forward Operating Base Marez, Iraq during this tour.

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A message from the 72nd Colonel of the Regiment

Greetings from Mosul, Iraq. I am very proud of our Regiment for a very successful deployment from Fort Hood to Iraq.

In the short time following our arrival, the Troopers of the Regiment have already made a difference with the security of Ninewa Province, Dihayla Province and rotary-wing air support for the Multi-National Division-Baghdad area of operations.

In combined operations with the Iraqi army, police, and border forces, we have conducted more than 3,500 patrols, found countless weapons caches, captured or killed more than 300 terrorists, cleared more than 3,000 kilometers of roads of countless deadly Improvised Explosive Devices, and we continue to secure neighborhoods where the enemy has been pushed out by our combined efforts.

The Regiment continues to build upon our relationships established with local tribal leaders, elected officials, and the people of Ninewa Province who desperately want their lives back to normal without the fear of terrorist attacks.

We are accomplishing this by operating side by side with our Iraqi Security Force partners who are beginning to take the lead in providing a much more secure environment for the people of the province. As our combined forces re-establish freedom in neighborhoods that have been under the control of the terrorists for years, we push the Government of Iraq to fund rebuilding efforts.

The people enthusiastically welcome and thank our Troopers daily for being there providing security with “their” security forces.

The Regimental Command Sergeant Major and I have conducted Battlefield Circulation Patrols to assess and visit our Troopers who are living in Forward Operating Bases (FOBs), Combat Outposts (COPs), and Radio Retransmission Sites. We continue to be amazed at the high morale we see with every troop, company and battery.

Our Troopers are doing well as they take on many diverse missions in their respective areas. They are securing the city of Mosul and Ninewa Province,

monitoring the Syrian border along with the Iraq-Syria port of entry, enemy clearing operations in Dihayla, providing air coverage over Baghdad and logistical support of a Regimental footprint the size of the state of Maryland.

The majority of the Regiment will continue to operate under Maj.Gen. Mark Hertling, commanding general, 1st Armored Division, and Command Sgt. Maj. Roger Blackwood, while Longknife will continue under the 12th Aviation Brigade in Taji supporting Multi-National Division-Baghdad. We are fortunate to have the addition of the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry (Fighting Eagles), 4th Infantry Division, from Fort Carson, Colo., and 4th Squadron, 6th Cavalry, from Fort Lewis, Wash., to the Regimental team. They are lead Lt. Col. Chris Johnson and Command



Col. Michael Bills

Sgt. Maj. Jerome Thanheiser (1-8 IN) and Lt. Col. T.J. Jamison and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Clowser (4-6 CAV).

Families should be proud as your Troopers have displayed extraordinary valor, discipline, toughness and treated the Iraqi people with dignity and respect.

We are also very proud of our rear detachment and how they have handled the families of our fallen and wounded Troopers along with those wounded in action and returned to the states.

I would like to express my sincere condolences to the families, friends, and comrades of our fallen Troopers who devoted their lives to defending this great country by fighting for the freedoms that we and our nation cherish daily. They have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Spc. Ndrurui, Sgt. 1st Class Lowery, 1st Lt. Ray, Capt. Inman, Sgt. Portell, Pfc. Lloyd, Staff Sgt. Whiting, Staff Sgt. Jeffries, Sgt. Craig, Spc. Marshall, Pfc. Meyer, and Pvt. Young.

It is an honor to serve daily alongside our tremendous leaders and Troopers of this great Regiment as we continue this mission.

Brave Rifles!
Michael A. Bills
72nd Colonel of the Regiment

A message from the XVII CSM of the Regiment

Since we took over operations in the Ninevah province Dec. 11, our optempo has been high and you have all been putting forth great effort to as we took charge of this battle space.

I have watched you all go about your business as professional Soldiers, ensuring that all Soldiers are performing their tasks to standard, following the SOPs, and adjusting to new TTPs. The NCOs have been leading from the front and the Soldiers have been performing well under very tough conditions.

We have settled into our respective bases and outposts. While it is important to feel comfortable in our environment, complacency is a danger to us all. We must all continue to be diligent in how we prepare for our missions. We did this to standard at the NTC because we stuck to the basics (proper TLPs, Patrol briefs, AARs). Iraq is not the place to start looking for shortcuts.

Soldiers watch out for your battle buddies and make sure everyone is taking the time to prepare for all missions properly and to standard. NCOs, you must continue to take the lead. Your Soldiers depend on you now more than ever to show them the way. Don't accept substandard performance and

make sure Soldiers are paying attention to the detail. Checking your weapons, equipment and vehicles before rolling out of the wire is not a check-the-block task. Executing this correctly may save your life (the proper wear of body armor already has!). Take the time to thoroughly inspect your Soldiers, while simultaneously teaching them how to do it correctly. Remember, there is a science/art to warfare. We are also teaching the next generation of leaders how to fight and care for Soldiers in combat.

We have trained hard and are prepared for the fight at hand. The missions that you are accomplishing are exactly what we have spent the past year preparing for. I've seen you on the battlefield and know how hard you are working every day ... I'm extremely proud of you all. Be proud of what you are doing here. **YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!** We will be successful and we will defeat this insurgency. However, this will require us to remain diligent and maintain situational awareness at all times. Do not lose focus or let your guard down. Your life and your buddy's life depend on it.

Brave Rifles!
RCSM



Command Sgt. Maj. William Burns, XVII Regimental Command Sergeant Major, speaks with Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston (left) and Command Sgt. Maj. Roger Blackwood (right), 1st Armored Division command sergeant major, during their recent visit to the 3d ACR area of operations.



Spc. Bradley J. Clark

Col. Michael Bills, commander, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, pulls the case off of the Regimental colors as Command Sgt. Maj. William Burns, 3d ACR command sergeant major, holds the colors steady during the Transfer of Authority ceremony at Forward Operating Base Marez, Dec. 11. The 3d ACR took over the Ninevah Province area of operations from the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

3d ACR takes reigns in northern Iraq

Master Sgt. Tim Volkert
3d ACR Public Affairs

MOSUL, Iraq – As Col. Michael Bills and Command Sgt. Maj. William Burns uncased the Regimental colors Tuesday, they were also part of an ironic piece of Army history.

The Transfer of Authority ceremony between the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment and the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, marked a handoff of power from the newest brigade in the Army to the oldest regiment in the service, said Maj. Gen. Mark Hertling, commander of the 1st Armored Division, Task Force Iron, and Multi-National Division – North, as he spoke to those in attendance.

The 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, which has been serving

the nation since 1846, officially took over operations in northern Iraq Dec. 11, during a Transfer of Authority ceremony at Forward Operating Base Marez.

After a successful 14 months of duty, the 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div., which formed Oct. 18, 2005, cased its colors and stepped aside to make way for the Brave Rifles.

“The success over the past 14 months is a direct reflection of their partnership with not only the Iraqi security forces, but with the provincial governor and local leaders as well,” said Col. Michael Bills, 3d ACR commander. “Their courage, professionalism and unwavering dedication to partnering with Iraqi security forces and providing security for the province has been exceptional.”

The ceremony’s casing and

uncasing symbolically made the transfer official as the 4th BCT commander and command sergeant major packed their colors and the 3d ACR leadership unfurled their colors from the case, marking the unit’s presence in the area.

While the 3d ACR looks ahead to the challenges of building upon the success of the 4th BCT, the Long Knife leaders were proud of the efforts of their Soldiers and what they and the ISF accomplished.

The 4th BCT was the lone U.S. brigade covering the entire Ninevah province and helping to secure the second largest city in Iraq with only a battalion-sized element.

“For the Coalition Forces in Ninevah, success cannot be achieved without a total team

“The 3d ACR is a *disciplined* and extremely competent organization.”

-- Maj. Gen. Mark Hertling

effort, and the Soldiers of the Long Knife Brigade have been blessed with great team players across the board,” said Col. Stephen Twitty, commander, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

While the province is moving in the right direction, Bills and the 3d ACR Troopers know that the ISF and the Coalition Forces have to take the successes of the 4th BCT and seize the opportunity to continue to work toward a self-reliant Iraqi government and population.

“There is still much work to be done, but through our continued partnership with the Iraqi security forces, provincial leadership, and

the citizens of the Ninevah Province, we look forward to the future,” Bills said.

Hertling told the audience the Ninevah Province should expect to see continued improvements as the Troopers of the 3d ACR begin their operations and partnership with the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police.

“The 3d ACR is a disciplined and extremely competent organization,” he said. “The people in Ninevah will see a person (in Col. Bills) who will pursue the enemy and help Iraq move forward.”



Col. Michael Bills, 3d ACR commander, speaks to the audience after uncasing. The ceremony marked the 3d ACR's third deployment in support Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Lorie Jewell

Top, Col. Michael Bills, commander, 3d ACR (left), and Command Sgt. Maj. William Burns, 3d ACR command sergeant major, stand at attention after they uncased the Regimental colors.

Above, senior military leaders and Iraqi military and civic leaders attended the TOA ceremony. The 3d ACR took over the area from the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

REMINGTON

Headquarters Troop, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment



Capt. Justin Jocuns
Remington Troop Commander

While it is a fact that all Headquarters and Headquarters Troops are filled with noncombat-arms Troopers, it is a common misconception that an HHT is filled with Troopers with “soft” Military Occupational Specialties who don’t practice or understand common Soldier tasks. Remington Troopers dispel this rumor on a daily basis.

Upon arrival in Kuwait, Remington Troopers have been receiving classes on properly implementing all weapons in the RHHT arms room, and some that are not.

In November, in conjunction with Longknife Squadron and Company B, 63rd Signal Battalion, RHHT conducted a weapons range allowing nearly all of the Troopers to fire the M4, M249 Squad Automatic Weapon

and M2 machine gun. At the same range, Soldiers also participated in cross training, firing the M240B machine gun and Mk19 grenade launcher. During that training, the range safeties also introduced casualties to create leadership problem-solving scenarios for machine gun crews.

The troop also worked with a British Infantry Regiment on a neighboring range. The Brits conducted a PMI on their A2 assault rifle and allowed several Troopers to fire their weapons as a gesture of friendship between our two nations. This enabled the Soldiers to increase their knowledge and abilities to fight with any weapon found on the modern battlefield.

Since arriving at Forward Operating Base Marez, the troop has conducted six small arms ranges. These ranges were not “watered-down, confirm zero” ranges. The troop also built

dismount target holders and mock-up vehicle targets previously absent on the range.

RHHT used their range upgrades to conduct vehicle mounted M2 ranges. In addition, in an attempt to better replicate battlefield conditions, the troop conducted day and night, combined M4 and crew served ranges.

To further increase the Troopers’ proficiency and flexibility, the troop coordinated a foreign weapons PMI and familiarization range with the Falcon Reconnaissance Group, making our Troopers lethal with organic and enemy weapons systems.

Recently, Soldiers from the maintenance, Regimental surgeon, and headquarters sections in the troop formed one of the three Quick Reaction Forces for FOB Marez.

The QRF was formed from a platoon minus of humvees, recovery and casualty evacuation assets. After going through the Troop Leading Procedures, the troop’s QRF is ready to defend the TOC and the area surrounding it.

Small but ferocious, the RHHT QRF, which is made up of several different noncombat MOS’, stands ready to answer any call. And so are all of the Remington Troopers.

Poised with the confidence and dash, we are ready for any mission. No matter what our personnel records may say; we are all cavalrymen.



Courtesy of Remington Troop

Remington Troopers get their vehicles online and prepare to fire their weapons at the range at FOB Marez.

**Brave Rifles!
Remington 6**

TIGER

1st Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment



Lt. Col. Thomas Dorame Tiger Squadron Commander

First, I want to let everyone know how proud I am of all the work we have accomplished during our successful deployment to Iraq and execution of combat operations.

I am truly impressed with the great skill and leadership that continues to be exercised across Tiger Squadron to achieve complex (and at times daunting) tasks.

As we begin operations in Iraq for 2008, Tiger Squadron finds itself charging into the far reaches of the Ninevah Province.

We are conducting operations into the strategic area known as the Zaab Triangle, and have now moved to the west conducting security and reconnaissance missions to the Iraqi and Syrian border.

In the cities, towns, and small villages up and down the Tigris River, Tiger Soldiers have fearlessly patrolled the streets, engaged local sheiks and political leaders, and conducted joint patrols with their counterparts in the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police.

Communities with names like Sharqat, Qayyarah, Ashura, and Aittha are benefitting from greater safety and security provided by Iraqi Security Forces and the Troopers of this squadron. Many engagements have taken place to bolster the security of the region and lay the foundation for future economic development.

Tiger has also focused on providing a real impact for the

Iraqi people in our area. We have established the Tigris River Valley economic forum, which will bring together agricultural experts and entrepreneurs from across the area.

They will meet with members from the Provisional Reconstruction Team and Tiger Squadron to lay the framework for the way forward, bolstering the economy of the region and the people's faith in their communities and leaders.

As we expand our area of operations to the west, Tiger is prepared for another tremendously important mission supporting the Regiment. Tiger will return to its

old stomping grounds near the Syrian Border, to stem the tide of foreign fighters streaming in from Syria in support of Al Qaeda in Iraq.

As we move through February toward March, Tiger is fully prepared to continue to provide training to Iraqi Security Forces, to support our brethren in the Regiment, and to continue to serve on the forward edge of freedom, bringing peace and prosperity to the people of Iraq and the Ninevah Province.

Teeth of the Regiment!
Tiger 6

Starting off with a bang!



Spc. Eric A. Rutherford

A large explosion of confiscated mortar rounds, grenades, guns and other explosive devices set up by Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians, rock Forward Operating Base Q-West, Iraq, Dec. 31. The controlled blast, which contained more than 1,500 pounds of explosives, was set off at midnight as a way to ring in the New Year from Iraq.

SABRE

2nd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment



Lt. Col. Paul Calvert

Sabre Squadron Commander

For nearly 162 years the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen has honorably served our nation during numerous conflicts and campaigns.

On Dec. 11, 2007 at Forward Operating Base Caldwell in the Diyala Province of Iraq, Sabre Squadron uncased our Squadron Colors for the third time in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Our Colors represent the Troopers, both past and present, the fighting spirit of our formation, and symbolize the forward movement toward mission accomplishment.

Attached to the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division (Raider Brigade) since our arrival in Iraq, Sabre Squadron conducts reconnaissance and area security operations in Area of Operation Sabre to defeat insurgent activity and enable the development of self-reliant Iraqi Security Forces and civil institutions.

For operational reasons, we had to detach Eagle Troop, Heavy Company and a platoon from Lion Battery to facilitate operations in support of Thunder and Tiger Squadrons in the Ninevah Province. Standards and discipline have never been more important as we conduct operations with less than 50 percent of our combat power in an area of operation that is more than 13,000 square kilometers in size.

Across our formation, disciplined Troopers adhering to established standards are truly enabling mission accomplishment. The command sergeant major and I see it every day. We witness it in maintenance operations; mission planning, preparation and execution; weapons cleaning; appearance and wear of uniforms; safety; attitudes; and Troopers taking care of Troopers. It provides the command with flexibility and has garnered the squadron the respect of the ISF we are partnered with as well as the respect of the Iraqi citizens.

Less than one month after assuming responsibility for our area of operation, the Raider Brigade ordered the squadron into the Diyala River Valley to support Operation Raider Harvest. The purpose of this operation is to kill or capture enemy insurgent forces in an area know as the Bread Basket and deny them a safe haven from which to conduct operations. We are

two weeks into this operation (as of Jan. 20) and the squadron as well as the brigade has seen tremendous success.

Our Troopers have spent countless hours conducting reconnaissance and security patrols to separate the insurgent from his base of support and erode his resources. Long hours coupled with the environmental challenges of winter in Iraq (it snowed on us for about half a day and rained for several days) while living amongst the population has been a challenge, but the discipline and adherence to standards are enabling mission accomplishment.

We have gained a great deal of trust from the local citizens that came slowly due to the harsh treatment and intimidation tactics against them by the insurgency. Our Troopers are seeing the fruits of their labor each day and have a tremendous amount of pride in what they have accomplished thus far.

The command sergeant major and I are proud of our Troopers. They voluntarily serve our nation with pride and a deep sense of honor. Their sacrifice and that of their families is not lost on us and we are blessed to serve amongst the ranks of disciplined Troopers who adhere to the basic principles and standards that have made our Regiment so great since 1846.

Sabre Ready!

Sabre 6



Courtesy of Sabre Squadron

Pfc. Hiram Elizondo and Pvt. Steven McKinney from HHT,, Sabre Squadron, 3d ACR, patrol the town of Mansuriyatt, Iraq, Jan. 21.

THUNDER

3rd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment



Lt. Col. Keith Barclay
Thunder Squadron
Commander

We officially took control of the northern Ninevah Province Dec. 3, 2007, from the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment and 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, from Fort Bliss, Texas.

Included in this territory are the major Iraqi cities of Mosul and Tal Afar, with a combined estimated population of more than 2.5 million people. However, our operations within the city began in force Nov. 28, before our actual transfer of authority ceremony.

We had our first successful operation Nov. 23, with the detainment of a commander of a battalion sized insurgent cell.

Howitzer Battery (Regulator) conducted a hasty raid based on intelligence gathered by the outgoing 2-7 CAV. Quickly responding to the scene, Regulator Battery's 1st Platoon searched two target houses, finding materials used to make Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and detained four military-aged males, to include one who would later be identified as the original target.

This operation proved that we were ready to take the area of operations from 2-7 CAV and we would bring a new, aggressive approach to the city in an effort to clean out the insurgents and secure the populace.

On Dec. 1, Lightning Troop conducted the first of many "Reaper" operations the

squadron would plan and execute throughout December.

Dictated by the 1st Armored Division, the "Reaper" naming convention would be seen on operations from each troop and the squadron.

Ironhawk Troop conducted Operations Ironhawk Reaper I



Spc. Kieran Cuddihy

A Soldier from Thunder Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, gives a child a piece of candy in Mosul during a patrol.

through Ironhawk Reaper VII; Killer had their Reapers I through XIII; Lightning, I through VII; Heavy, I through IV; Regulator, I and II; Sapper, I and II; and Havoc, I and II. Additionally, we conducted Operations Thunder Reaper I through VII.

The Dec. 3 TOA officially gave us control of the area, even though we had truly been operating throughout the area for a week

prior to the event. Conducted in the squadron conference room, the Transition of Authority was marked by the casing of the 2-7 CAV Battalion Colors and the uncasing of the Thunder Sqdrn. colors.

As we settled into our new home, the Troopers successes continued to surprise. Several high value individuals were detained, numerous weapons caches found, and a strong bond between the local Iraqi citizens and all of our Troopers was quickly formed.

We also developed a sense of comradeship with the Iraqi Security Forces in the area. This level of friendship and a professional understanding resulted in an emboldened Iraqi Police and a confident Iraqi Army.

Soon after TOA, both units began conducting operations with U.S. involvement almost totally in a supporting role - a huge step forward for us and American involvement in the Ninevah Province.

On December we conducted the first Thunder Reaper in the series. These operations focused on a deliberate IED clearance of named routes, clean-up of all the trash piled in the streets and finally, repair of all of the potholes. The three "Reaper" projects were completed by the 43rd Combat Engineer Company (Sapper).

Concurrently, ground cavalry platoons provided security through screen lines on either side of the route and the 552nd Military Police Company conducted traffic

See "Thunder," Page 12.

“Thunder” From Page 11 —

control points on either end of the route. Operation Thunder Reaper I resulted in 23 Significant Activates (SIGACTS), however, the subsequent iterations of the operation did not see the same level of insurgent activity.

The local citizens quickly realized that we were improving their city and securing the areas. While the number of SIGACTs decreased in each of the subsequent Thunder Reaper operations, the benefits for the local Iraqi citizens continued to grow.

The commercial and economical increases, as well as the overall increased sense of security continued to be beneficial long after the operations.

In Thunder AO West, Maddog Company and Eagle Troop established operations out of Forward Operating Base (FOB) Sykes and Combat Outpost (COP) Heider. Maddog conducted meetings with all of the civil leadership of the cities and towns in the west, including Tal Afar, Sinjar, Muhallabiyah, Bi’aj and Bulaj.

Eagle Troop took responsibility of Rabiayah, the main border crossing from Syria into Iraq and immediately increased its security level.

The month of December was not all successes, however. We lost three of our own during the month.

Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan Lowery was killed in action during a raid Dec. 14. Capt. Rowdy Inman and Sgt. Benjamin Portell were killed in action while providing security during a mission Dec. 26.

These Troopers will be dearly missed by every member of the squadron and the thoughts and prayers of everyone are with the families of these three heroes.

We continued to conduct successful operations in January 2008. With the “Reaper” series changing its name to “Harvest,” the number of operations we completed continued to grow. Thunder Harvest operations were soon occurring all over the city as we continued to repair the roads.

Another project started in December soon became one of our major focal points. We started working with the leadership of the Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army to lay out a new plan within Mosul. As we moved through January, the Iraqi Security Forces began moving into new COPs throughout the city, highlighted by the newly constructed COP Inman and COP Rabiya, which is Arabic for “Spring.”

These COPs provided a new location for the Iraqi Security Forces to project themselves



Spc. Eric A. Rutherford

Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Squadron, 3d ACR, move track from a M88 A2 Hercules recovery vehicle.

into the city and secure the Iraqi populace to a degree never before seen in these areas.

Another highlight for us came Jan. 9 when the first artillery rounds were fired by the Howitzer Battery.

The Regulators began firing artillery rounds in support of the ground cavalry troops and tank and engineer companies throughout the Thunder Squadron Area of Operations. These fires marked the first artillery support seen in the northern Ninevah area of operations in more than three years.

During the month of January, we also welcomed the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry from the 4th Infantry Division, stationed at Fort Carson, Colo. These Soldiers quickly established themselves with the city of Mosul and allowed for a more focused effort in re-establishing the security of the city.

November, December, and January was a highly-successful time period for us and the citizens of this area of Iraq.

We quickly began conducting operations throughout Mosul, Tal Afar, Muhallabiyah and Rabiayah, and the insurgency was knocked back onto its heels.

Without the support of all the fine Troopers within the squadron, both at FOB Marez and FOB Sykes, none of this would be possible.

My sincerest appreciation goes out to all of the Soldiers for their hard work throughout these first three months of the deployment, as well as to the families back home that are supporting us in everything we do.

We will look to continue the momentum you have established through February and beyond.

Thunder 6

LONGKNIFE

4th Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment



Lt. Col. Todd Royar
Longknife Squadron Commander

Despite being physically separated from the remainder of the Regiment, Longknife Squadron is doing its part to carry on the legacy and high standards associated with the Brave Rifles.

Due to the unique organization and capabilities of the squadron, the decision was made just prior to the deployment for Longknife to effectively replace more than three battalions' worth of aviation assets in Multi-National Division-Baghdad. As a result of that decision, the squadron now makes up more than 60 percent of all aviation support as part of Task Force XII to MND-B.

Command
Sgt. Maj.
Lindsey and I cannot be more impressed with the performance and dedication of the Troopers in the squadron and their ability to accomplish the mission.

Each of the troops, and the Troopers within them, are doing an amazing job and it is the emphasis on the air-ground relationship that makes Longknife successful. Every air crew from the UAS platoons operating in Mosul to the Apache and Black Hawk crews operating in Baghdad understand the importance of ensuring we do everything we can to ensure the Soldiers on the ground are successful. So while we would prefer to solely provide support to the Regiment, our current mission of supporting seven ground Brigade Combat Teams in Baghdad is still vitally important.

Of course the backbone of the squadron is quality maintenance and support. Without the dedicated support from both the ground and air teams, the squadron cannot perform its mission.

Since our arrival, the Forward Arming and Refueling Point (FARP) has safely pumped more than 500,000 gallons of fuel. This includes fuel for our aircraft, as well as aircraft from other units and

coalition nations, including the Iraqi Air Force.

The maintenance personnel in each of the line troops as well as Tomahawk (AVUM) and Air Raider (AVIM) are enabling the squadron to fly at a rate that is five times higher than what we do back at Fort Hood. More importantly is that these Troopers are enabling the squadron to fly safely at that pace.

The end result of everyone's dedication is that as a squadron, we are successful. Whether it is Stetson Troop conducting air assaults under the operational control of 3-158 Aviation Battalion, 4th and 5th Shadow platoons finding IED emplacements under control of the Regiment or the Longbows providing dedicated Air Weapons Teams to units in Baghdad, all are doing their part and maintaining the

reputation of the Regiment in the process.

While it is the Troopers who are deployed, we are very cognizant of the sacrifices made

“Without the *dedicated* support from both the ground and air *teams*, the squadron cannot perform its mission.”

-- Lt. Col. Todd Royar

by the families. Without a doubt, 15 months is a long time, but the willingness of our spouses, children and friends to carry on without those of us deployed is equally valued.

We sincerely appreciate the efforts of everyone, especially those who volunteer their time and effort to help others. Longknife has some incredible volunteers. So it is without surprise to us that during the past three months, Longknife volunteers have been recognized as either the volunteer of the month or volunteer of merit for Fort Hood.

Congratulations go to Norma Hernandez (October volunteer of the month), Megan Goode (November volunteer of the month) and Katha Crawford (December volunteer of merit).

Finally, our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of the Troopers who have fallen since our arrival. We grieve as brothers and sisters for our fallen comrades and dedicate our service to their memory.

Longknife 6

MULESKINNER

Support Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment



Lt. Col. Steven Cook
Muleskinner Squadron
Commander

About 70 days ago, leaving Fort Hood back in early November, we have traveled through Kuwait and made the move up to Forward Operating Base Marez in northern Iraq.

We flew more than 6,300 miles from Fort Hood to Kuwait, with a couple of short stops for fuel along the way.

While in Kuwait, we spent two weeks unloading the Regiment's equipment from the two ships that left Texas back in October.

We also conducted training while in Kuwait, learning to drive the up-armored humvees,

which will keep our Troopers safe while driving the roads of Iraq. Additionally we conducted training on convoy security operations, medical trauma training and base security operations, all of which are designed to reinforce training already conducted at Fort Hood and NTC.

We also trained on Tactics Techniques and Procedures (TTPs) used in Iraq to counter threats by the enemy. At the completion of our time in Kuwait, our Troopers flew to our FOB in Iraq. Of course that flight was not as comfortable as flying in a commercial aircraft, but it sure beats driving from Kuwait to Iraq. And no, there were no meals or movies on those

flights.

Once in Iraq, the troops were busy transitioning with the outgoing unit. Tasks included signing for the units' property, getting settled into our new billets and administrative buildings, learning the routes and slowly taking over responsibility for doing the missions our predecessor accomplished.

We had our Transition of Authority ceremony Dec 7. This means we are officially in charge of the mission, and the unit we replaced completed their tour of duty and headed back to the United States.

We have been running missions and all are doing well. Not only are we providing logistics support to the Regiment, but we are also helping train Iraqi army soldiers on maintenance, medical, food service and transportation tasks.

This training will further help the Iraqi army become self-sufficient and not rely on Coalition Forces for logistics support. Our Troopers are doing well and adjusting to the varying missions we must perform in order to keep them safe and keep the Regiment moving.

I want to extend my appreciation for the continual support by your loved ones. I thank you for your contribution and sacrifices that you make every day in supporting your Trooper and their role in the Global War on Terrorism.

Brave Rifles!
Muleskinner 6



Spc. Eric A. Rutherford

Soldiers from Packhorse Troop, Regimental Support Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, relax after a convoy to Al Kisak, Iraq, Dec. 23. The convoy delivered Christmas food rations to the American Soldiers stationed on the Iraqi Army training compound. See Page 18 for the complete story.

1-8 Infantry Bn.

3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division



Lt. Col. Christopher Johnson
1-8 Commander

Fighting Eagles – After a challenging movement into northern Iraq, we finally have established some roots and are in the fight.

I am proud of the fact that despite our challenging Relief in Place (swapping equipment with one unit and assuming operations from another), the junior leaders have demonstrated an ability to ensure that Soldiers are prepared for any mission. You quickly adapted to our new mission and performed magnificently during our move north.

I am equally proud of the offensive spirit that you have demonstrated, taking the fight to the enemy aggressively and with purpose. You continue to seek and engage the enemy. It is impressive to watch.

Also impressive is the noticeable discipline indicators such as uniform wear, IED discoveries, vehicle preparation and patrol debriefs. I asked the leaders to focus on our TLPs and it is paying off.

Our protective gear works, as many of you have seen, and we

need to maintain our uniform standards.

One area I ask the leaders to focus on is weapons handling and weapons clearance.

The battalion has had four negligent discharges in the last month ... that is four too many.

I would ask the leaders take a hard look at our weapons handling procedures and make sure our Soldiers are doing things right.

“ I have received many reports from the local populace that they notice a difference in our Soldiers – that is something to be *proud* of. ”

-- Lt. Col. Christopher Johnson

Specifically, focus on ensuring proper headspace and timing as well as crew served weapons clearing procedures. We must get this right every time.

This next month will continue to challenge us as we work to deny safe havens and clear areas where AQI/ISI has sought sanctuary. I know that each of you is up to the challenge.

I see it on your faces as you are out on patrol, maintaining our equipment, providing logistics

support, or working in our command posts. Maintain your vigilance and continue to prepare yourself.

Remember to stay focused on our day Job/night Job. I would ask each of you to assist your Iraqi counterpart and strive to improve their performance each day.

Our goal is to integrate the ISF into every mission possible. Also, continue to get out with the population.

I have received many reports from the local populace that they notice a difference in our Soldiers – that is something to be proud of.

Your actions on patrol send a powerful message to the Iraqi people and we need their support. As for the night job, keep fighting

for intelligence.

This is a critical time for the people of Mosul and we need to stay focused on the mission.

The Rear Detachment and FRG are providing outstanding support to our families so you can be confident that your Families are being well supported.

I ask each of you to do the best you can every day. It will make a difference.

Fighting Eagles, “Strike Fear”!

Safety is everyone's responsibility

4-6 Air Cav Sqdrn.

4th Squadron, 6th United States Cavalry



TUAS help 3d ACR shape battlefield

Spc. William E. Wolcott,
4th Sqdrn., 6th U.S. Cavalry

The skies over Mosul, Iraq, and Ninevah Province now have eyes thanks to the Shadows platoons from the 66th Military Intelligence Company, 3rd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment.

The Shadow Soldiers are attached to the 4th Squadron, 6th United States Cavalry from Fort Lewis, Washington, the aviation unit supporting the 3d ACR. They assumed the Tactical Unmanned Aircraft System mission at Logistical Support Area Diamondback at Mosul Dec. 7.

As soon as the unit arrived, they put the TUAS in the air to deter and destroy the enemy in northern

Iraq. One of the common techniques used with the TUAS is the sensor-to-shooter method that involves constant surveillance by the TUAS while it directs air and ground assets to destroy or interdict the enemy. This process has been very successful in reducing and deterring hostile forces operating in and around the city of Mosul.

The Shadow uses an advanced optical camera which transmits near real time video to tactical operation centers in Iraq.

The TUAS program was originally developed under the direction of the US Army's Military Intelligence branch before becoming a component of the U.S. Army Aviation War fighting Center at Fort Rucker, Ala., April 2006.

Fire from above



Courtesy of 4-6 Air Cav Sqdrn.

An OH-58D(R) fires a Hellfire missile during recent combat operations in northern Iraq.

Grim Troopers deliver kerosene to Diyala citizens during Operation Phantom Phoenix

Spc. John Crosby
115th MPAD

MANSURIYAH, Iraq – After going without kerosene for several months, the Diyala Provincial Government organized a fuel drop to the citizens of Mansuriyah Jan. 17.

Located just outside of Muqdadiyah, hundreds of the town’s citizens lined up to receive 20 liters of kerosene per person from Grim Troop, 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, attached to 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

The event is one of several missions Sabre Sqdrn. has conducted in the area since the beginning of Operation Raider Harvest, a brigade-level operation in support of Operation Phantom Phoenix. Operation Phantom Phoenix is an Iraqi-wide effort to rid Iraq of al Qaeda and provide Iraqis aid and services.

“Coalition Forces, Iraqi Security Forces and Muqdadiyah Iraqi Police all helped achieve our goals in taking back the Bread Basket,” said Muqdadiyah Mayor Najem Abdulah Ahmed through an interpreter. “After clearing the area controlled by terrorists, we provide services, food and kerosene for villages that have been isolated. Mansuriyah is one of these villages. They have been selected by the Diyala Provincial Government and Coalition Forces to

receive these services and kerosene.”

Other such services include food drops, medical missions and the rebuilding of schools.

“We will be renovating a boys’ school and girls’ school starting tomorrow hopefully,” said Capt. Jonathon Norquist, a civil affairs officer for Sabre Sqdrn. “We did a walk-through yesterday and we’re discussing price quotes with a local contractor today. We have been creating projects on the fly. Soon we will provide 400 people here with jobs clearing the canals of vegetation to improve water flow through the area. We want to improve our relations with the Iraqis here and build trust.”

Men, women and children of all ages showed up for the fuel drop, most to collect their rations, others to observe the Coalition Forces in their neighborhood.

“The security situation was very bad, the drivers were scared to bring kerosene to us,” said Mansuriyah citizen Habas Majeed Ahmed. “This help is very important because in the raining season we cannot live without kerosene. The security situation has gotten a lot better. Some of the citizens are scared of the Coalition Forces, because al Qaeda tells them U.S. Army Soldiers are killers and their helicopters destroy our houses. But when they see the truth, when they see the reality, they will be very, very friendly with Coalition Forces.”



A Soldier from Grim Troop, 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, watches over hundreds of Iraqis in line for kerosene rations in Mansuriyah, Iraq, Jan. 17. Due to fuel shortages in Mansuriyah, the Diyala Provincial Government and Coalition Forces made arrangements for people to receive the much needed kerosene as part of Operation Phantom Phoenix.

Spc. John Crosby

Muleskinners deliver holiday cheer

By Spc. Eric A. Rutherford
115th MPAD

MOSUL, Iraq – While people back in America were rushing around to finish up last-minute shopping, Soldiers from 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment worked diligently to prepare for a logistical convoy in the freezing morning air several hours before the sun came up.

Soldiers from Packhorse Troop, Regimental Support Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, checked their weapons systems and radios, ensuring they were set to roll out of the gate to make the almost three-hour convoy to Al Kisak, where they delivered fuel, drinking water, and rations. The most significant part of the delivery was the Christmas dinner fixings for the American troops stationed at the Iraqi Army training center.

Throughout northern Iraq, many of the smaller bases have few of the comforts of home. The S&T platoon provides the lifeline for these places, providing everything from fuel to hygiene supplies. The Soldiers at Al

Kisak look forward to the supply convoys bringing food, sometimes going for two weeks in between deliveries.

“Al Kisak doesn’t have as much as a forward operating base does, so we have to deliver the food out to them,” said 1st Lt. Angela Somnuk, S&T platoon leader.

Somnuk, of Miami, said this delivery had four pallets of items specifically for the Christmas

meals, along with the normal delivery of fuel, food and water.

The 11 vehicle convoy of palletized load system trucks and gun-truck escorts arrived to find Soldiers waiting to unload the goods. Soldiers on the unloading detail weren’t just from the dining facility staff.

Sgt. Travis Mendenhall, a mechanic who trains the Iraqi Army soldiers on vehicle maintenance came out to help with the delivery.

“We only get ten days rations at a time here,” said Mendenhall, of Fort Hood. “Out here, you have to work for everything you have. Everyone comes out and helps, no matter where you work here.”

Soldiers from Packhorse made the Christmas delivery then settled in for the night on the Spartan IA compound. Just as they had the previous morning, the Soldiers were up before the sun, preparing to move back home in the below-freezing temperatures. Soldiers at Al Kisak may not have many of the comforts of home this holiday season, but because Packhorse is on the road with supplies, they can at least enjoy a little taste of home in the form of a Christmas dinner.



Spc. Eric A. Rutherford

3d Armored Cavalry Regiment Soldiers unload boxes of supplies for Christmas dinner at Al Kisak, Iraq, Dec. 23. Vehicles from Packhorse Troop, Regimental Support Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, also delivered pallets of food, water and a tanker of fuel to the American Soldiers stationed at the Iraqi Army training compound.

Army's top enlisted Soldier visits FOB Marez

Spc. Reinalyn Twellman
66th MI Co.

“He’s on his way, he’s on his way.”

As the word went out, the Soldiers moved into position to greet the senior enlisted Soldier in the Army.

Moments later, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston walked into the room Dec. 17, at the dining facility at Forward Operating Base Marez, Iraq, smiling and offering hand shakes and “hooahs” to those in the room.

When a soldier replied, “Ai-ee-yah!” he laughed and said, “I gotta get used to that one. Ai-ee-yah. I was over at Sykes and that’s all everyone kept saying to me, ‘Ai-ee-yah.’ I don’t know what that means!”

After the greetings were complete, Preston talked with Soldiers and offered to answer their questions.

One of the first questions was about the new Army Combat Uniform.

“This uniform was designed by soldiers, for Soldiers,” he said, “The zippers and Velcro

came about because a Soldier complained that the buttons dug into his skin when he wore his BDUs (Battle Dress Uniform) underneath body armor. What you Soldiers have to say is really important, and change really does come about based on your suggestions,” Preston said.

He also fielded questions about how the war has changed and what he believes will happen next.

As a token of his gratitude

to the Soldiers for their service, Preston ended his visit by handing out coins to those in attendance.

Even though it was a brief visit, the Soldiers seemed to enjoy the opportunity to speak with him and listen to the information he passed on to them.

“Just listening to what he had to say with his level of knowledge and experience was amazing,” said Spc. Joy Kurtzweil of the 241st SOC.



Courtesy of 66th MI Company

Spc. Reinalyn Twellman from the 66th Military Intelligence Company, 3rd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, gets her photo taken with Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston, Dec. 17 at the dining facility at Forward Operating Base Marez, Iraq.

At the Ready

An M1A2 SEP V2 Abrams Tank from Grim Troop, 2nd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, awaits orders to move to its objective in support of Operation Raider Harvest near Mansuriyah al Jabal, Iraq, Jan. 9. Grim Troop and 2nd Sqdrn., 3d ACR, are attached to 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division in Diyala province during the 3d ACR's rotation to Iraq for OIF 07-09.



Spc. John Crosby

Pilot returns to service from retirement

1st Lt. Joseph H. Johnson III
Longknife Squadron

When most service members hit 20 years, they start thinking about retirement and then leave the service to begin their post military careers.

For three pilots in the 4th Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, that was not the case as the Army offered a program to allow warrant officers the opportunity to rejoin the force and once again serve their country.

The men, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jeffrey Harford, Chief Warrant Officer 3 John Ivey, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Bret Swynenberg put back on their uniforms and answered the nation's call to war.

Harford an AH-64D, Apache Longbow Attack Pilot with Longknife Squadron's Nomad Troop, first enlisted into the U.S. Army in 1970 and he later commissioned as a warrant officer in 1978 as a Cobra Pilot. In 1985, the Army started fielding the AH-64 Apache.

Harford knew that this would be the airframe of the future and quickly got on board. Later Harford was selected to conduct



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jeffrey Harford

experimental testing on the Longbow Apache, becoming one of the Army's first Longbow instructor pilots in 1994.

Harford and his wife, Janet, made the decision to retire in 1996 to settle down and raise a family. Settling down for Harford did not mean staying away from aviation. He worked as a civilian contractor for Fort Hood's 21st Air Cavalry Brigade as a Longbow crew trainer instructor operator, logging more than 3,000 hours and training pilots for the Unit Fielding Training Program.

Harford was selected to take the first Longbow Crew Trainer to

Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-06 in 2005.

While his life as a civilian was going well, Harford and his wife made the decision to return to active service in early 2007. He said he wanted to train warrant officer and Soldiers in a different capacity than as a civilian again, and that he wanted to do that with the 3d ACR.

"My goal is to mentor junior warrants and Soldiers; sharing every bit of knowledge I have to offer Harford said. "It is an honor and a privilege to serve with such a distinguished unit and the Troopers who really make a difference in today's Army."

To date, Harford has currently flown more than 4,800 accident free hours. He looks forward to reaching his goal of 5,000 accident free hours by March 5. This goal will achieve a great milestone for an Army Aviator, especially since it also marking his thirtieth year of service in the Army.

(Editor's Note: This is part one of a three part feature on the pilots. Chief Warrant Officer 3 John Ivey and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Bret Swynenberg will be covered in later articles.)

Uncasing the Colors

Lt. Col. Todd Royar, commander, 4th Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, uncases his unit's colors during the uncasing ceremony Dec. 11 at Camp Taji, Iraq. Longknife Squadron is supporting the 4th Infantry Division at Camp Taji.



Courtesy of Longknife Squadron

From tanks to trucks

Tankers adapt to humvee patrols

By Spc. Eric A. Rutherford
115th MPAD

AL JURN, Iraq – With their 72-ton M1A2 Abrams Main Battle Tanks parked in the motor pool, Soldiers loaded their gear into wheeled trucks less than half the size of the behemoth tracked vehicles.

Tankers of Punisher Platoon, Dragon Company, 1st Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, switched from their traditional jobs of manning the tanks as the squadron's heavy element to driving patrols mounted in up-armored Humvees.

"It's kind of like going from a Corvette to a Volkswagen," said Sgt. 1st Class J.C. Jensen, Punisher platoon sergeant, about making the switch. "The tank has fifteen-hundred horsepower, it will go anywhere I point it, and the firepower and the optics are just incredible."

Jensen, of Pryor, Okla., and an Army tanker for more than 15 years, said while driving around in humvees is not something they are used to, he and his men are making it work.

The Punishers hit the road, on tires, not tracks, and headed for a small village known as

Al Jurn. Their mission there was to investigate some suspicious activity and try to make contact with the local sheik who has not been in the area during recent patrols.

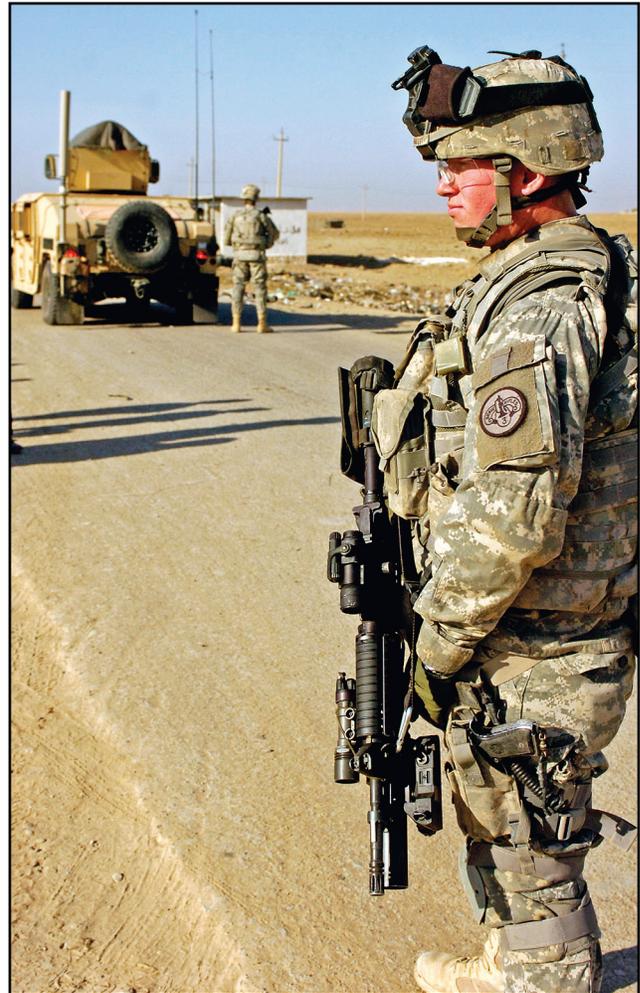
"We have been there several times as a platoon to assess what they might need for help," said 1st Lt. Andrew Eagan, Punisher platoon leader. "They also have a Sheik who controls a large part of the area of operation, and we haven't been able to meet with him. We heard he was in the area, so we are going to try to meet with him."

Eagan, of Carville, Tenn., said he has had good experiences so far in the town, eating lamb, and drinking chai tea with the local villagers.

Today's mission was different in that after the "soft-knock" on the local sheik's house, who was still not home, the unit transitioned into providing security for a psychological operations team who needed to pass out handbills in the area.

Eagan said the Punishers have built relationships in the town, so transitioning from searching buildings for bad guys to providing security wasn't a problem.

As the PSYOP team passed out handbills with "wanted" pictures



Photos by Spc. Eric A. Rutherford

Pfc. Nicholas Metty pulls security during a patrol in Al Jurn, Iraq, Dec. 28. Metty, of Sturgis, Mich., is a tank loader for Dragon Company, 1st Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment. Soldiers from Dragon Co., were conducting a patrol in the area and passing out informational flyers and posters.

on them, the men of Punisher provided security. The men were swarmed by children speaking broken English asking for pens and books.

After the handbills were all passed out and the villagers had a chance to wave and say goodbye, the Punishers mounted back up into

their humvees and returned to base. No shots were fired and the entire platoon made it back safely.

When it comes to moving in humvees, Eagan said they got as much training on them as they could, but it is still a transition. They

See "Tanks," Page 22.

“Tanks,” from Page 21

faced such challenges as deciding where to load things into the trucks and what to keep in the tanks. The Punishers also overcame situating the men in the truck based on their traditional positions in the tank.

“We are a month in, we like operating out of them [humvees], and we are getting into the flow of operating out of them,” said Eagan. “It isn’t as good as a tank. I wish we were on the tanks, but it is getting the job done.”



1st Lt. Andrew Eagan checks his platoon’s equipment prior to a patrol into Al Jurn, Iraq Dec. 28. Eagan, of Carville, Tenn., is the Punisher Platoon leader of Dragon Co., 1st Sqdrn., 3d ACR. The tankers swapped their tanks for a humvees for their mission in Iraq.



King Battery, 1st Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment Soldiers (from rear to front) Pfc. Geo Young of Vancouver, Wash., Pfc. Ian Mcgrain of Baltimore, Cpl. Christopher Rice, Yorba Linda, Calif., Spc. Benjamin Marshall of South Portland, Maine, and Pfc. Robert Zappa of Star City, Ark., fuse rounds to be fired. Fusing the rounds allows the 155 mm artillery shell to detonate at the appropriate time when it hits its target.

Steel on Target

King Battery, 1st Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, has been throwing more steel downrange than any other artillery unit in Iraq. Their work has successfully denied the enemy access to terrain that is used to smuggle IEDs and other weapons, which, in turn, is helping to stabilize the region and provide secure travel along the roadways in the Diyala Province.

During OIF III, King Battery fired only 1,200 rounds. This time is a different story. In a little over seven weeks, King Battery has delivered 2,200 rounds in support of ongoing missions. To put that in perspective, the unit they replaced fired less than 6,000 rounds in 15 months. King Battery will surpass that number in four months. As well, the big guns on FOB Normandy successfully delivered the Regiment’s first Excalibur round. They struck their target within one meter of the desired location – a direct hit. (Photo and story courtesy of Tiger Squadron)

Engineers open road for Mosul residents

Spc. Eric A. Rutherford
115th MPAD

MOSUL, Iraq – As the sun rose over an area where Soldiers were expecting gunfire and bombs, they were met by locals, who curiously watched as armored earth movers shoved garbage and barriers off the road to make civilian travel easier.

Soldiers of the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment's 43rd Combat Engineer Company, worked to clear one of the many impassible roads in Mosul as part of Operation Thunder Reaper IV.

The 17-hour mission incorporated construction assets from the 43rd CEC, as well as several other elements from the Regiment's Thunder Squadron.

Soldiers set out to open a section of Route Tampa, one of the city's main roads that have been closed to traffic.

"When we got here, a lot of these routes were blocked," said Sgt. 1st Class

Rodney Larue, the Assault and Obstacle platoon sergeant with the 43rd. "Now our mission is to go in and make a lot of them open again for regular traffic."

Larue, of Coppers Cove, Texas, said route clearance will be a major role for the 43rd, which recently arrived in the battle space. The mission, which started at sunrise and ran well into the night, opened more of the route than was expected, said Larue.

The operation consisted of several phases. The first was route reconnaissance searching for roadside bombs and other hazards. After the route clearance phase, Bradley Fighting Vehicles and M1A2 Abrams

tanks provided over-watch and security in the area so the engineers could work with relative safety to clear the roads. During the operation, there were no casualties, and no notable enemy contact.

"We expected it to be quiet because there were so many moving pieces," said Larue. "We had units to the north, south, west and east. We had units patrolling and we knew it was going to be quiet



Photos by Spc. Eric A. Rutherford

Three Armored Combat Excavators clear debris and obstacles from a four-lane highway while a Bradley Fighting Vehicle provides security in Mosul, Iraq, Dec. 13. Soldiers from the 43rd Combat Engineer Company, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment worked for more than 17-hours to clear more than a kilometer of the route that had been closed to civilian traffic.

today. It is normally a really busy area."

The next phase of the operation was to use Armored Combat Excavators to clear trash and other debris and obstacles from the road. The engineers then placed concrete barriers to better control traffic on the four-lane highway.

"Today we set out to do a large scale route improvement in our sector," said Sgt. Daniel Preston, a gun system operator with the A&O platoon, 43rd CEC. "We used our dig assets to improve what was a trash filled, dirt filled, improvised explosive device magnet into a four-lane highway with serpentines."

See "Route," Page 24.

3d ACR, ISF leaders meet to discuss issues at Western Ninevah Security Conference

By Master Sgt. Tim Volkert
3d ACR Public Affairs

MOSUL, Iraq – The colors of freedom and security blended together Dec. 13 in a small room at Al Kisak.

The uniforms of the various Iraqi Security Force units and personnel were varied in color, but all the men in those uniforms sat at the long, wooden table, speaking with one voice about security and stability in their communities.

Although the issues and concerns they presented to Col. Michael Bills, commander of the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment were different, the overall message they had was unified – teamwork between the ISF and Coalition Forces is the key to clearing the province of terrorists and providing their citizens a safe place to live and work.

About a dozen representatives from the Iraqi army, police, and political offices met at the Western Ninevah Security Conference at the 3rd Iraqi Army Division headquarters, to discuss the current situation and what was needed to continue to improve life in the region.

Brigadier Gen. Sami Homeidi Mohmood, deputy

commander of the 3rd Iraqi Army Division led the conference and told the participants that cooperation was the only way to defeat the enemy.

“If we don’t cooperate and coordinate with Coalition Forces, we cannot reach our goal,” he said. “We need to work together, all as one, to stop the terrorists.”

As Bills listened to each issue, he and his staff offered advice and the continued support of the Coalition Forces.

“What’s important is that this is a team effort,” he said.

While the leaders brought up issues and areas where they needed assistance, they also spoke of the many achievements they were making in their respective communities including discovering weapons caches, detaining terrorists, and promoting more citizen cooperation in the reporting of illegal activities.

Bills lauded their efforts and encouraged them to use these meetings as a springboard to continue to work toward making their areas safe for the residents.

“Out of discussions we have to have results as well,” he said.

“Route,” from Page 23

Larue and Preston provided command and control of the operation from their Buffalo mine resistant ambush protected vehicle (MRAP), using video cameras and a hydraulic arm to search areas for potential explosive threats to.

The buffalo crew exposed an IED in a crowded intersection, which an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team destroyed.

After the road was cleared of obstacles, the ACE vehicles moved into the route sanitation phase. This was accomplished by using the ACE vehicles to clear rubble from buildings and large piles of dirt on the roadsides that were used to hide bombs.

At the end of the mission, the Thunder Squadron Soldiers returned to their base down more than a kilometer of the newly cleaned stretch of four-lane highway.

“My guys did a kick-butt job today,” said Larue. Morale was good and high. “Even though we are

putting in these 18-hour plus days, I just can’t ask any more of my guys.”



Two ACEs clear debris and obstacles from a four-lane highway while an M1A2 Abrams tank provides security. The 43rd Combat Engineer Company helped open a long-closed portion of the road to civilian traffic.

Meeting the New Neighbors

Apache Troop conducts presence patrol in Qayyarah

Spc. Eric A. Rutherford
115th Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment

QAYYARAH, Iraq – In an area roughly the size of Georgia, with varying landscape from desert to mountains, Iraq’s Ninevah Province is becoming acquainted with 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment.

One such area is Qayyarah, which is one of 50 villages and towns that Apache Troop, 1st Squadron, has been working in the area for nearly a month.

Apache took to the streets Dec. 30, for their first dismounted patrol intended to let the Iraqi people in the Qayyarah marketplace meet and greet the Soldiers and to voice their security and infrastructure concerns.

“It was the first time we have been down there and done a dismounted patrol,” said Capt. Steve Wojdakowski, Apache Troop commander and mission leader. “We wanted to let the people know that we are here and what we are about.”

Wojdakowski, of Gunnison, Colo., said his men have already visited a lot of the villages in the area to assess what the needs of the Iraqi people are.

The patrol was a coordinated effort between the Soldiers and the Qayyarah Iraqi Police, who helped to provide security as the Soldiers walked through the bustling market and met vendors and shoppers.

Wojdakowski said that it is good for the Iraqi people to see the Coalition Forces working alongside the IP, because it lets the people know the CF is here to



Photos by Spc. Eric A. Rutherford

Staff Sgt. Scott Anderson leads a security team during a meet and greet presence patrol in the market in Qayyarah, Iraq, Dec. 30. Anderson, of Copperas Cove, Texas, is the fire support non-commissioned officer in charge for Apache Troop, 1st Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment.

protect and help them.

While Soldiers walked past the fresh produce and butcher shops, Staff Sgt. Scott Anderson was leading the security detail in the streets.

“Everything went good with the commander,” said Anderson, Fire Support non-commissioned officer in charge for Apache. “People seemed happy we were there.”

The IP and Soldiers providing security moved together to make sure there was a clear path of movement for Wojdakowski and his men both in the market place, and on the street.

Anderson, of Copperas Cove, Texas, said his security detail did a great job being on the ground in the marketplace for the first time.

With security in place, Apache Soldiers walked through the entire market, making sure every Iraqi there had an opportunity to talk to them to voice concerns or just say hello.

Wojdakowski said he and his

men will be back on the ground there again to build a stronger relationship with the people of the area.



A 3d ACR Soldier watches the crowd during a meet and greet presence patrol in a Qayyarah market Dec. 30.

Redlegs detain HVT while under fire

1st Lt. Richard Ybarra
115th MPAD

MOSUL, Iraq – As the short column of Humvees works its way slowly down the narrow back streets of Mosul’s Tamooz neighborhood, the unmistakable hiss of a rocket propelled grenade is followed closely by an explosion, interrupting the low rumble of the armored vehicles’ engines.

A round of positive status reports indicate that no one has been hit. A series of bursts from a .50 caliber machine gun from the rear vehicle convinces the al-Qaida grenadier that a second round is probably not a wise course of action.

The radio crackles. It is Sgt. Pedro Santiago of Yauco, Puerto Rico. “There was a guy in a brown suit. He just walked across the street, went around the corner and came right back out and fired an RPG!”

This day’s mission finds the Troopers from Howitzer Battery, 3rd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, searching for a known al-Qaida bomb-maker and improvised explosive device cell leader. Soldiers from Howitzer Battery are all field artillerymen by training.

In practice however, the Redleg Soldiers act as traditional Cavalry Troopers, engaging the enemy from their up-armored humvees or dismounted as the situation dictates.

“The Soldiers were excited about the change, they wanted to get their boots on the ground and seek and destroy the enemy,” said 1st Lt. Valton King of Columbia, S.C., a Howitzer Battery platoon leader. “They trained for urban operations extensively, at Fort Hood, the National Training Center and several other facilities. Trained diligently.”

This mission, on Jan. 7, to find a known bomb-maker forced 3rd platoon into the narrow alleyways of the sprawling city of 2.5 million, leaving them vulnerable to a variety of attacks.

After several hours of searching, the bomber is spotted leaving the market area of Tamooz with a companion. It is also reported that he may have guards nearby that will fight to keep the bomb-maker out of coalition hands.

The file of humvees spots the bomber at a distance and closes with the targets rapidly.

King shouts to the gunner on his humvee, “Make sure their hands are up!”

King then orders the dismount team into action. “Dismount! Move! Take them down!”

Staff Sgt. Harry Halfalla of Daly City, Calif., is the first into action. He quickly closes with the target, changing his stride from sprint to a close-stepped shuffle as the distance narrows. He shouts at the al-Qaida operative while motioning with one hand, leveling his M4 with the other, “Get your hands up. Keep your hands up!”

The IED cell leader and a suspected accomplice are both captured without resisting. The bomber has the telltale signs of a terrorist who learned his trade the hard way; missing fingers and scarred remnants of other digits.

The bomber’s guards may have been napping long enough to allow him to be captured but are not resigned to let him leave Tamooz with coalition forces.

Perhaps aware of previously-captured AQI members who have been vital sources of information for the coalition, the bomb-maker’s former guards



Photos by 1st Lt. Richard Ybarra

Staff Sgt. Harry Halfalla of Daly City, Calif., advances on a known IED maker in Mosul, while Pfc. Travis Bakewell of Dixon, Calif., provides cover. Both Soldiers are assigned to Howitzer Battery, 3rd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Sgt. Richard Augufa of American Samoa, assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, and 1st Lt. Valton King of Columbia, S.C., assigned to Howitzer Battery, 3rd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, pull security while Staff Sgt. Harry Hafalla cuffs the detainees.



make an attempt to disrupt the detention via rocket propelled grenades.

The initial rocket skips past a Humvee that provides flanking cover for the dismounted troopers and heads toward the center of the cordon. The RPG, enveloped in an orange streak of light, punctuates the end of its movement with a five-meter ball of fire, landing 100 meters short of its intended target; the cavalry dismounts and their detained bomber.

The cannoneers place the detainees behind the Humvees for cover, opposite the direction of incoming fire and continue to search for weapons at a quickened pace but still in a deliberate manner. To load an AQI operative inside a vehicle without a thorough search for weapons, primarily explosives, is considered an unacceptable risk.

“We have encountered people who have had suicide vests or other weapons,” said King.

“Just the possibility they may have them is more than enough reason to conduct a thorough search. We have to defuse that situation, to make sure they have no means to engage us while we have them detained.”

As the last zip cuff is applied, another RPG moves through the cordon. It announces its arrival with the trademark hiss, which is interrupted almost as quickly as it started by a crashing explosion marking the end of the rocket’s flight path. Missing the dismounts and detainees by less than five meters overhead, the rocket strikes the second-story of a structure 20 meters to the rear of the small group.

Fragments of concrete followed by a coating of dust fall upon friend and foe alike in the target area. It seems a redundant reminder that it is time to move the detainees to a more secure site, as if the flash, heat and noise from the explosion had not been a sufficient prompt.

The detainees are quickly loaded into the vehicles and moved to Forward Operating Base

Marez without incident. The bomber was positively identified at the FOB and detained for questioning pending charges.

The Brave Rifles could not positively identify the source of the RPG fire and subsequently did not return fire during the engagement. If nothing, a tribute to the courage, discipline and cool steadfastness while under fire of all the Soldiers engaged, both mounted and dismounted. Additionally, their effort to safeguard the detainees speaks volume of their professionalism. None of the Soldiers or detained persons were injured during the attack.

“The Soldiers performed excellently. We had a little issue with the outer cordon at the beginning, but they adjusted under fire. They were scanning the rooftops, got more RPG fire, they couldn’t identify the shooter and held their fire,” said King. “Which is what we want. We don’t indiscriminately shoot up a neighborhood. We are not al-Qaida. We want to keep a positive image of Coalition Forces. We are here to stabilize the city.”

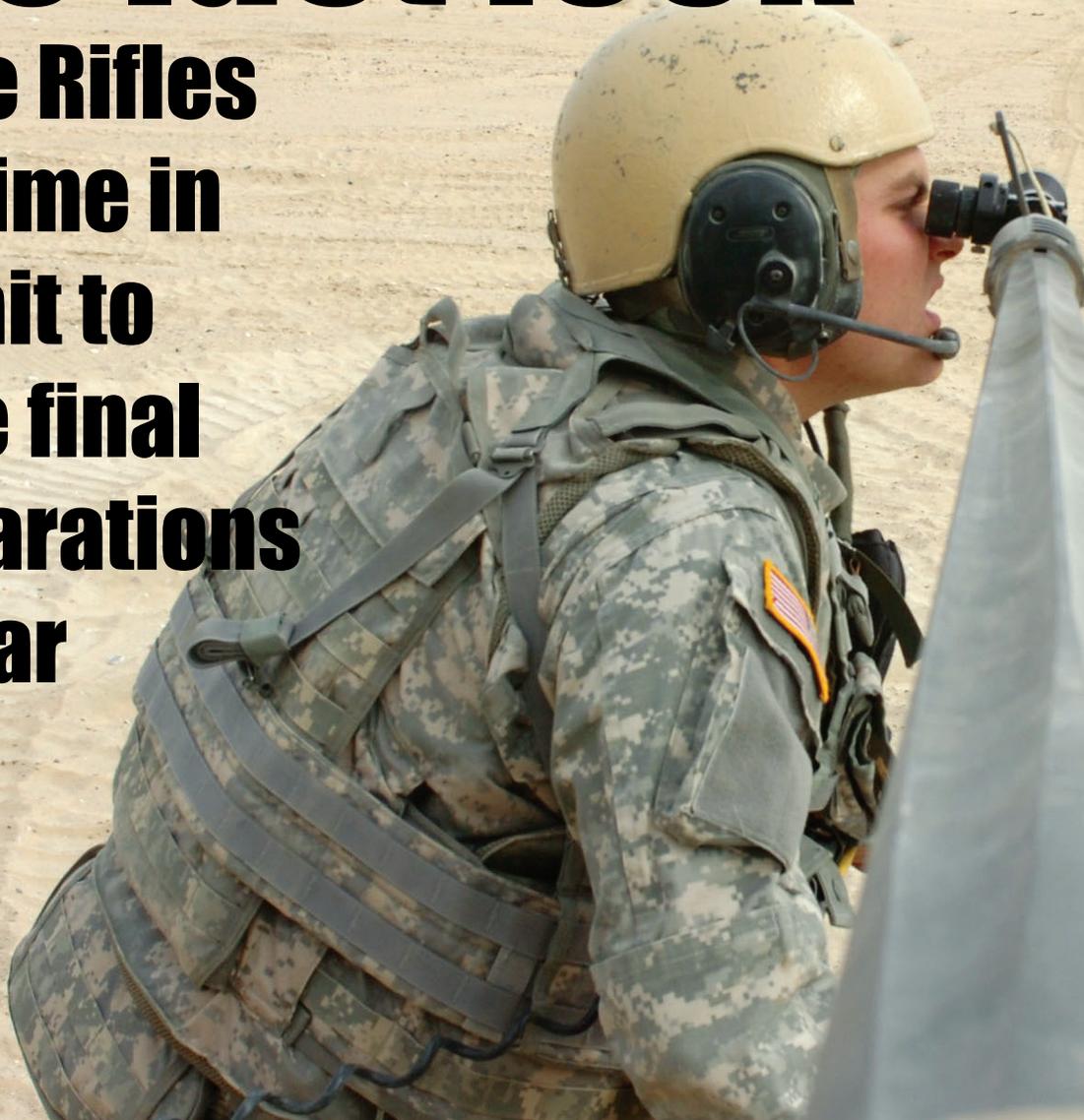
“The apprehension today was a great victory for the citizens of Mosul and should positively impact their security, as AQI’s work is clearly intended to terrorize the populace,” said Maj. Thomas Feltey, executive officer of 3rd Sqdrn., 3rd ACR. “The efforts of these Soldiers to safeguard the detainees while under fire from AQI was nothing short of heroic.”

As for the Redleg Cav. Troopers, their missions will continue.

“In Iraq, as an artilleryman, you know that you are not going to get the standard artillery mission,” said King. “So we prepared for that when we got the call to serve as Cav. Troopers. It was an easy transition for us. These Soldiers are committed to doing whatever is required to make every mission a success.”

One last look

**Brave Rifles
use time in
Kuwait to
make final
preparations
for war**



Master Sgt. Tim Volkert
3d ACR Public Affairs Office

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Before the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment heads into Iraq to support Operation Iraqi Freedom, they are spending about two weeks at Camp Buehring, Kuwait to finalize their training and roll into combat.

The purpose of deploying to Kuwait first is to allow the regiment to organize its combat power in theater and to provide additional required and opportunity training for the Soldiers before they head into Iraq to conduct their missions.

The training is nonstop and includes classes on improvised explosive device awareness and counter IED equipment operation, counterinsurgency, medical training, humvee rollover training, primary marksmanship instruction, rules of engagement and continued refresher training on their basic Soldier skills.

While most of the topics covered have been provided to the Soldiers at home station, the classes here are giving them the latest information coming out of theater, which the Troopers say will help their situational awareness as they perform their missions. The Soldiers are getting a better assessment of



Master Sgt. Tim Volkert

Left, Spc. Bradley Phillips, a Bradley driver, with Grim Troop, 2nd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, verifies the bore sight for his vehicle's main gun in November at a range near Camp Buehring, Kuwait. The Regiment's Bradley and Tank crews verified the accuracy of the weapons and their ability to engage targets one final time before heading to Iraq. The Regiment's Soldiers also spent their time there checking their equipment and getting additional training before heading into Iraq for the 15-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Below, Sgt. Sean Leytham, from Duncombe, Iowa, prepares ammunition for Soldiers from Grim Troop, 2nd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, at the range complex.



Master Sgt. Tim Volkert

what's out there, plus the confidence of knowing what's out there," said 1st Sgt. Patrick Van Hecke, first sergeant for Eagle Troop, 2nd Squadron.

Private 1st Class Esteban Polito, a scout, with Fox Troop, 2nd Squadron, said "It's better that we got a chance to get (in theater) and get prepared. I think it makes us mentally ready."

Troopers also went to the rifle ranges and fired their personal weapons to ensure their accuracy, and tankers, Bradley crews and howitzer teams headed out to the training areas to put a few more rounds

See "Kuwait," Page 30.

down range and ensure their vehicles are ready for the fight.

“As many times as they can squeeze bullets off the better off they are,” Van Hecke said. “That way they’re confident in the weapon system they are using.”

While most Soldiers just want to get started on their missions, this training will enable them to move into their areas of operation with a little more confidence.

“The training gives everyone more confidence and focus,” said Staff Sgt. Michael Briggs, squad leader for the convoy security detachment, S&T Troop, Regimental Support Squadron. “It makes them more confident about their skills. The more they learn the better prepared they’ll be.”

“All the instructors we’ve had have been awesome,” said Spc. Jesse Price, a medic with Fox Troop, 2nd Squadron. “We’ve all definitely gotten something out of it.”

As the training winds down and duffle bags are again stuffed with gear and personal items, the 3d ACR Soldiers will load onto the planes and head toward their areas of operation with the additional knowledge and training, ensuring that the Brave Rifles are ready for war.

“I think we have trained our guys to the best of our ability,” Briggs said.

“They’re prepared,” Van Hecke said. “They know what’s going on.”



Master Sgt. Tim Volkert



Spc. Matthew Boyd

Top, Soldiers from Howitzer Battery, 3rd Squadron, take a break while working at the Regiment’s motor pool at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. The Soldiers were preparing their vehicles for movement to the range to calibrate their weapons.

Above, Bradley crews from Eagle Troop, 2nd Squadron, receive a safety brief before moving onto the range.

Left, Pfc. Chris Steward, a mechanic with Maddog Company, 3rd Squadron, conducts maintenance on a tank at the motor pool.



Master Sgt. Tim Volkert

Troopers take part in casualty exercise

Sgt. Brandon Little

Task Force XII Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - It was a day off for Spc. Lisett Chaparro, and she decide to ride her bike to the post office to mail some souvenirs home to her Family.

For Chaparro, and most of the people here, Jan. 9 was just like any other ... at least until the alarm sounded.

"It was extremely loud and everybody could hear it," said Chaparro, a combat medic in Headquarters, Headquarters Troop, 4th Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment from Los Angeles. "I grabbed my bike and rode all the way (to the clinic); I had two minutes to get on all my gear."

After she put on her protective gear, and everyone went to their posts, the Task Force XII Aviation Medicine Clinic was ready to carry out its mission of receiving and treating injured personnel during the simulated massive casualty exercise.

During this exercise, attacks on the base produced several simulated casualties who needed to be treated, said Capt. Joe Dominguez, a physician's assistant in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Task Force XII.

"We were subsequently told over the radio what types of injuries we had and we sent out medical help," said Dominguez, a native of Amarillo, Texas. "The ambulances went out and sorted the patients according to their urgency for medical care; they also performed some life

sustaining procedures."

While the Soldiers in the ambulances were picking up patients, several Soldiers were assigned the task of guarding the medical facility.

"Our job is to guard the clinic and control the flow of personnel inside," said Spc. Trinidad Arzate, a medic in HHT 4th Sqdrn., 3d ACR, and native of Yuma, Ariz. "Limiting the number of personnel inside reduces chaos, and helps the medics concentrate on their job."

After they were taken off the ambulance, they were taken to their respective areas, where they received the best medical treatment available, said Spc. Micah Barley, a medic in 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment.

"Everyone seemed to be willing to pitch in and do the job that needed to be done," said Barley, a native of Marion, Ind. "We were

ready to do whatever was needed to treat those patients and make sure they received the best care possible."

Working together, like this, during an unexpected emergency helps prepare Soldiers to handle the real thing, said Chaparro.

"It could happen in the middle of the night or on your day off," she said. "We always have to be prepared to come in, no matter what time it is, to do what we are trained to do ... and that's save lives."

Even though the events and the injuries were simulated, the knowledge and experience gained by the Soldiers were real.

"It was good training for new medics who have not seen any casualties," said Dominguez. "It was good for those of us who've been there before to get reacquainted with the types of events that could possibly happen."



Sgt. Brandon Little

Spc. Lisett Chaparro, a combat medic for Headquarters and headquarters Troop, 4th Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment,, checks the heartbeat of a patient during a mass casualty exercise at Camp Taji, Iraq.

Faith, hope and trust are key to victory

Chaplain (Maj.) Larry Holland
Regimental Chaplain

Greetings and blessings to all 3d ACR family and friends.

Wherever you may be, from the front lines here in the Ninevah Province to the home front, I pray this finds you safe and well.

As we enter the fourth month of our deployment we have celebrated many gains, yet we have suffered some tragic losses. But, there remains the faith and confidence that our purpose is steadfastly righteous and our victory ultimately assured.

As the mission continues both here and back home, I would like to pose a question for us all to consider; "Where is your faith and confidence?"

It was during dark and stormy times that Jesus said to his frightened disciples, "take courage, don't be afraid," Matthew 14:27, and asked, "Where is your faith?" Mark 8:25.

It was a dark day just over six years ago that a turn of events so horrific occurred that we still don't know what to call it. We have simply labeled it September 11. Perhaps at no other time in our nation's history has a single morning had such far-reaching effects.

All across the world the War on Terrorism began and many asked, "What will become of us; where do we turn?"

I believe that there is an answer: Only God knows what will become of us and it is to God that we must turn in faith for the courage and confidence to carry

on. It is by such faith that we have embarked upon and will complete our mission at hand.

We all encounter dark times in our life when we feel like we are alone in the midst of stormy waters. But, we do not have to go through life afraid.

II Timothy 1:7 tells us that "God did not give us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, of love, and of self-discipline."

"Faith is stronger than fear, much stronger."

-- CH (Maj.) Larry Holland

Faith cancels out fear. Faith is stronger than fear, much stronger. When fear comes, counter it with an affirmation of faith: Fear no evil, for God is with you.

Love also overcomes fear and promotes trust, confidence and dependence on God. Live with the thought of being in God's care – of Him loving you – and you will develop a sound mind where no shadowy fear can lurk. You will open wide the gate to confident living.

Remember that you are never defeated, never beaten down as long as you have hope and trust.

Keep this thought in mind always as you face difficulties, sorrow, sickness and trouble. We live on a trust basis every day.

We trust the pilot of a plane,

the driver of a bus, the cook who prepares our food. We put our lives completely in the hands of these people, and usually, we don't even know them.

How much more should we depend on God who deserves our complete trust?

No matter how dark it gets, how lonely or dejected you feel, remember that you are not alone. Not only is God with you, but there are others that God places in your life that you can trust with faith and confidence.

There are family, friends, fellow members of your chapel or church, Family Readiness Group members, and leaders throughout the Regiment that you can and should depend on.

As these people provide help and encouragement to you when you need it, I hope and pray that it will instill the faith and confidence in you to help others.

Get involved with the FRG, the chapel, and unit activities that reach out to help all of us through the times ahead, and we will endure together.

Here is a final word in memory and honor of our fallen comrades. They had all hoped to go home some day and see their parents, their sweethearts, or their wives and children.

Instead they have sacrificed all that. But, their sacrifice is a testimony of faith and confidence that we will build here and around the world a state of affairs where people can live in freedom, peace and harmony.

That is our faithful hope. That is our confident resolve.

God bless you all and keep you always.

FRGs are supporting your families

Happy New Year from Fort Hood! Our families have been busy back here.

Our hard working FRGs had a lot of activities going on at the close of the year. Although many families left the Fort Hood area during the holiday period, FRGs managed to hold several meetings, parties and other events before they left.

November was a transition time as families adjusted to having their Soldiers deploy and began to meet each other and the Rear Detachment leadership. Most FRGs held their regular monthly meetings in November and planned events for the holidays.

December brought about holiday plans and FRG assembly lines. Several FRGs met to assemble "holiday goodie bags," sign cards and make banners to send over to Soldiers. Some even managed to find a little time to celebrate with holiday parties.

Our Families must have been really good this year because Santa even managed to make the rounds and hit all of the FRG parties.

The Rear Detachment also held the first of many Regimental Town Hall meetings in December. The RCO and RCSM shared a little holiday cheer with our families

through a video greeting at the start of the meeting.

The Rear Detachment shared information on the different FOBs and gave updates from all the squadrons letting families know about the vital role our Soldiers are playing. The best was saved for last when squadrons shared pictures of our Troopers at work in Iraq.

As we kick off the New Year, FRGs are planning new events. Many FRGs are making Valentines to send over during February.

Our January Town Hall was the first to include a live video feed with the RCO and RCSM update from Iraq. They also answered family members' questions and addressed concerns.

Our AKO '3d ACR FRG' Web

site has been up and running. The Web site is a good tool to keep families informed.

The Rear Detachment and FRSA's update the Web site with upcoming events and info, photos, and news articles. An AKO account is needed to access the Web site. Anyone who is sponsored by a Soldier can get an AKO account. Soldiers can still sponsor their family members while deployed.

The Web site address is:
<https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/473246>

At long last we have a full staff of FRSA's and every squadron has a representative. The two most recent additions are Jolie May for Thunder and Charissa Reynolds for Muleskinner.



Courtesy of RHHT FRG

Children from Remington Troop, 3d ACR, gather for festivities during the troop's Christmas Party in December.

Family Readiness Group Advisors

3d ACR and Remington Troop FRSA - Dana Allison dana.allison@conus.army.mil

1/3 "Tiger" Squadron FRSA - Janeth Lopez janeth.lopez@conus.army.mil

2/3 "Sabre" Squadron FRSA - Kim Garlington kim.garlington@conus.army.mil

3/3 "Thunder" Squadron FRSA - Jolie May jolie.may@conus.army.mil

4/3 "Longknife" Squadron FRSA - Sheila Langenberg sheila.langenberg@conus.army.mil

RSS "Muleskinner" Squadron FRSA - Charissa Reynolds charissa.reynolds@conus.army.mil

3d ACR Retention

*Staying in is a tough decision to make
Some of us do it, we have what it takes
The pros and cons of getting out
Often cloud our minds and give us doubt
So we do it and say, "One more time"
I'll continue to help stop the world's crimes
The sacrifice we make is often tough
We deal with it no matter how rough
So I will now raise my right hand and swear in
Let's do it "One more time" and probably again
This is all I know this job of mine
So I sign my signature on the line
Another lengthy term for me to meet
Another tour and another feat
As we say in basic, "six more years and I'll be through"
As for going home, that probably isn't true
I will more than likely re-enlist again
Haven't you figured out the trend
I'm a lifer until death or retirement does us part
That's how much love I have in my heart*

*Written by
The Medic Poet*

By Master Sgt. Robert Sluss
NCOIC, 3d ACR Retention Office

Congratulations to the 140 Soldiers who chose to re-enlist and continue their service to our great nation since the start of this fiscal year.

As we stand on the frontline of freedom, your decision to remain in service is truly remarkable and continues to show the character of America.

Currently, we are able to re-enlist Soldiers for the needs of the Army, Current Station Stabilization and

limited Army training based on available training dates.

Soldiers can also receive a Selective Re-enlistment Bonus if they qualify.

Within the next four to five months, Soldiers will be able to re-enlist for assignments both within the continental United States as well as overseas assignments.

Thank you for what you do every day and the sacrifices you and your families are making in this endeavor.

STAY CAV, STAY ARMY!

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN



SPC Christine Ndrurui
AVIM Troop, 4/3 ACR
Nov. 6, 2007



SFC Jonathan Lowery
Howitzer Battery,
3/3 ACR
Dec. 14, 2007



1LT Jeremy Ray
King Battery, 1/3 ACR
Dec. 20, 2007



CPT Rowdy Inman
Ironhawk Troop,
3/3 ACR
Dec. 26, 2007



SGT Benjamin Portell
Howitzer Btry., 3/3 ACR
Dec. 26, 2007



PFC Keith Lloyd
Roughrider Troop,
1/3 ACR
Jan. 12, 2008



SSG Justin Whiting
5th SFG (Airborne)
Jan. 19, 2008



SSG Gary Jeffries
Co. B, 1-8 INF
Jan. 28, 2008



SGT James Craig
Co. B, 1-8 INF
Jan. 28, 2008



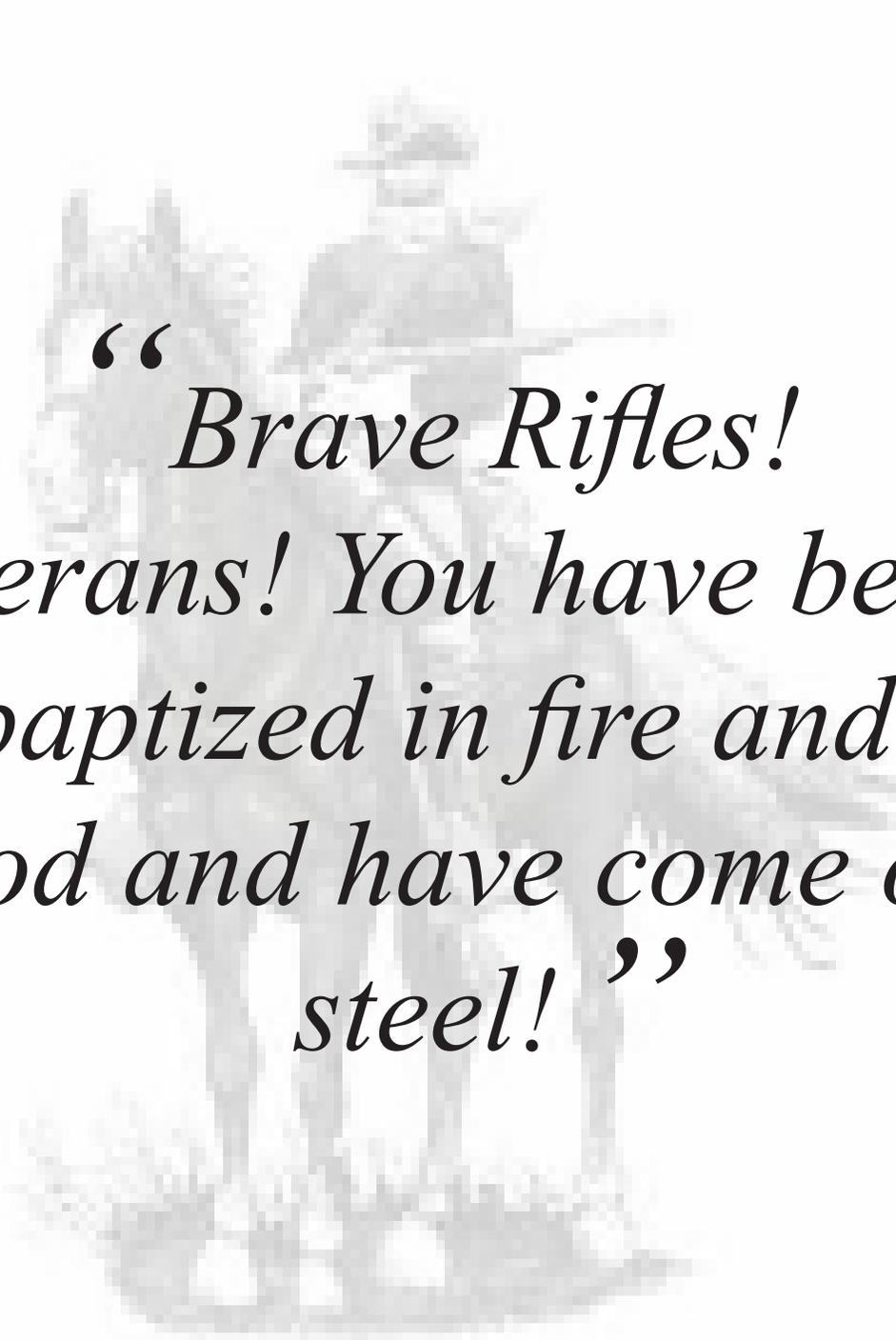
CPL Evan Marshall
Co. B, 1-8 INF
Jan. 28, 2008



SPC Brandon Meyer
Co. B, 1-8 INF
Jan. 28, 2008



PFC Joshua Young
Co. B, 1-8 INF
Jan. 28, 2008



*“ Brave Rifles!
Veterans! You have been
baptized in fire and
blood and have come out
steel! ”*