

THE MOUNTED RIFLEMAN

3d ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT

June 2008



*Keeping flight
in the fight*

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

GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATOR/DESIGN
Spc. Matthew Boyd

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

As this issue of The Mounted Rifleman is distributed, we will be moving past the half-way point of our tour.

Within each issue I have tried to include as many different units as possible, however, there is not enough room to get everybody in the magazine.

I will continue to try and maximize coverage of all units and get as many different Troopers in the magazine as possible.

To see all of the released photos and articles of Soldiers during this deployment, log onto the 3d ACR Web site at www.hood.army.mil/3d_acr/ The Web site is updated as soon as the information is available for publication.

New to the Mounted Rifleman in this issue is the addition of a column from the 94th Engineer Battalion out of Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. The 94th has been taking on the mission of COP construction and improvement and route clearance and are a vital part of the Brave Rifles team.

The regiment continues to be successful during this tour and from the types of stories included in this magazine, you will see that the situation is improving here every day. This issue of the magazine also includes several stories to highlight some of the support Troopers and show the great job they are doing to keep the regiment ready for action and always moving forward.

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



Left/Cover: Columbia, S.C. native, Pfc. Jemario Laurie (top) reaches for a tool to help reassemble an AH-64 Apache Longbow attack helicopter. Laurie is an aviation maintainer assigned to Task Force XII's Tomahawk Troop, 4th Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment. He and his fellow maintainers were very busy in the early weeks of April as more frequent attack helicopter missions in Multi-National Division-Baghdad led to more maintenance needs. (See story on Page 21)

Cover photo by Sgt. Brandon Little

FEATURES

4 72nd Colonel of the Regiment

Col. Michael A. Bills

5 XVII Command Sgt. Maj. of the Regiment

Command Sgt. Maj. William J. Burns

8 Remington Troop

RHHT welcomes new leadership team; commander, first sergeant move on to new assignments

9 Tiger Squadron

Soldiers continue to exceed standards, add to legacy of the Brave Rifles

10 Sabre Squadron

Sabre Squadron Troopers continue to show flexibility, adaptability

11 Thunder Squadron

Thunder Soldiers continue to work hard, watch the ISF, security situation continue to improve in AO

13 Longknife Squadron

Longknife Troopers continue to show flexibility, adapt to changes, and succeed.

14 Muleskinner Squadron

Muleskinner's missions continue to have a positive impact on success of the regiment and the lives of the Iraqi people

15 1-8 Infantry Battalion

Efforts of Fighting Eagles continue to make Mosul a safer place for the city's residents.

16 4-6 Air Cavalry

4-6 helps Iraqi air force take flight in Mosul

17 94th Engineer Battalion

Engineers provide aid to fellow Soldiers in the fight

A message from the 72nd Colonel of the Regiment

Troopers of the Regiment,
First, I want to tell all of you how proud I am of all the Regiment continues to do and what you have accomplished since Dec. 11, 2007, as you have touched and affected several provinces, both through lethal and non-lethal means, across Iraq.

Each troop, company and battery has made tremendous inroads with the Iraqi Security Forces as we work toward partnering and continuing to push the ISF to the forefront as the lead in security operations. Since Iraqi Security Forces executed Operations “Lions Roar” and “Mother of Two Springs,” May 10, attack levels have dropped from 116 per week to around 60. We have seen a transition of very positive trends in Mosul and the entirety of Ninewah Province with more Iraqis, specifically families, moving about the city. With commerce improving and markets opening across the city of Mosul, the people are enjoying the change.

I say trends are changing and attacks are down in Ninewah with cautious optimism. The fight against the insurgents will continue more so in spectacular attacks so the insurgents can continue their campaign of violence and remain a talking point in media outlets world wide.

We have the momentum but also must continue to go after those insurgents who try to intimidate the ISF and Iraqi people as we transition to more non-lethal aspects of this fight. As we attempt to bring a sense of normalcy back to the people of the province. It is imperative that we remain **VIGILANT** at all times and not allow ourselves to become **COMPLACENT** by letting our guard down and allowing the insurgents the opportunity to have success in Ninewah, Diayla, and Baghdad. **LEADERS** must ensure that our Troopers continue with critical PCC/PCI, force protection measures and risk assessment for patrols, CLPS, ECP and FOB/COP operations and combat operations

where ever we are serving in Iraq. **Leader and Soldier DISCIPLINE** is the key to our success. As replacements and or Troopers return from EML, Leaders must have a structured program to integrate and or re-integrate Troopers into their formations before conducting combat operations off the FOB.

As we transition to more non-lethal aspects of the fight, I see more improvements coming to each of the provinces as more Iraqi Army and Police are recruited and trained, providing the necessary security for projects desperately needed to get



Col. Michael Bills, 3d ACR commander (center), speaks with Capt. William Bowers, commander, Lightning Troop, 3rd Squadron, 3d ACR, during a recent visit to COP Hotel in Mosul, Iraq.

services re-established for the Iraqi people. The money provided by the Iraqi Central Government will jump start services which include water, electricity and sewage followed by trash and rubble clean-up and the re-establishment of the war torn neighborhoods neglected for several years. The potential I-CERP/CERP projects for market access point improvement, road repair, bridge repair, and job training are examples of the many projects on the list that

will make the city and province a better place to live for the Iraqi people.

We are at the half way point in our deployment. You need to remain **FOCUSED, DISCIPLINED** and **ALERT** as we continue this fight against terrorism. We still have a lot of work to do in transitioning our Iraqi partners to the lead and with projects to improve the living conditions for the Iraqi people in the cities, villages and provinces across Iraq.

I continue to be impressed by the morale and hard work as I traverse each battle space and visit our **GREAT** Leaders and Troopers who are serving the Regiment across Iraq. Keep up with the great work you are doing and more importantly, take care of each other!

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

A message from the XVII CSM of the Regiment

Operation Rifles Harvest is a major milestone as it pertains to bringing security to Ninewah Province.

During the operation, we have cut off the enemy's freedom of maneuver throughout the city/province. We've killed or captured any insurgent attempting to stop the progress.

The Iraqi Security Forces also began their first major operation in Mosul, "Operation Lion's Roar," in early May.

I believe this is a defining moment. During this operation, the ISF has shown the insurgents they are in charge and ready to provide safety and security for the citizens of Iraq.

As members of the best military in the world, it is easy to become frustrated with our Iraqi brothers at times when we feel they are not conducting business like we would or at the pace we would like. We need to remember that the Iraqi Security Forces are only a couple of years old.

It takes our Army about a year to take in an initial recruit and train him to be a fully functioning Soldier. Then, with seasoned leadership, it takes another year to build the team and be prepared to go to war.

The ISF has the leadership, however, not only are they training new recruits and police to fill the ranks, they are simultaneously rebuilding their entire support system so they can adequately equip and sustain their forces. That just does not happen in a year or two. They are doing great work and we are all seeing the improvements they are making every day. The people of Ninewah are also witnessing it and gaining confidence in them as well.

By the time Operation Lion's Roar is complete, I believe this city/ province will be a safer place

for the residents and that the ISF will have gained immeasurable confidence in their abilities. As their abilities grow, so will their confidence, which in turn, allow us to continue to step back and watch them to take control of their own destiny.

The 3d ACR and attached units have helped create the opportunity for the Iraqi Security Forces to begin this operation and rid the city of insurgents who are trying to undermine the government of Iraq and keep the Iraqi people living in fear.

It is our job to assist the ISF as needed. They are in the lead, but we are more than ready to step into the fight if asked/required. Rest assured that our Soldiers remain sharp and focused and are ever vigilant.

Our NCOs are committed to keeping the team prepared for any situation and our Troopers have been diligent in their duties and in keeping themselves and their equipment in shape.

Every Trooper knows Brave Rifles Standard One, "Always be ready for a fight," and we are! When it

is time to fight, I know our Troopers will continue to act swiftly and decisively to overwhelm the enemy. Violence of action wins the day.

Stay focused on your mission and continue to watch out for your battle buddy. We have been on top of our game to date and I want our success to continue.

We have set the stage for the ISF to take over and protect their countrymen. They are getting better and gaining confidence with every mission they go on and every fight they win. It is our job to ensure their continued success and we will not fail.

Brave Rifles!
The XVIIth



Spc. Matthew Boyd

Command Sgt. Maj. William Burns, 17th CSM of the Regiment, surveys a bridge repair project in April.

REMINGTON

Headquarters Troop, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment



For nearly two years the Remington family has labored together.

Some members of the family briefly passed through on their way in or out of the regiment. Others have been in RHHT since the “lean” days at Fort Hood, when everyone was performing two or three jobs, normally performing duties associated with greater rank.

Some members of RHHT, like Sgt. Christopher Lipe, were “veterans” in fact, having recently redeployed with 3d ACR from OIF III. Many of such Troopers knowingly signed on for another deployment as the regiment entered into its life cycle. Others, such as Pfc. Steven Hawes, were new to 3d ACR but were quickly pulled into the fold of the last heavy armored cavalry regiment.

Through new equipment

training, two communications exercises, a National Training Center rotation, a deployment to Iraq, range after range, and countless days packing and unpacking containers, the Troopers and noncommissioned offices of Remington Troop have always been there to do their jobs for the regiment. Most days were positive and the Troop would go home with a smile and a sense of accomplishment. Some days were long and ended with a bitter taste after learning hard lessons and experiencing new growing pains.

Good or bad, the troop was always back for more the next day, ready for PT and the occasional morning of combatives training.

On May 31, Remington Troop conducted its change of command ceremony between Maj. Justin C. Jocuns and Capt. William S. Nance.

The Troop was formed and looked as professional and disciplined as ever. Maj. Jocuns briefly discussed the troop’s accomplishments during the past 21 months and gave thanks for the support he received while he was in command. He was followed by Capt. Nance who gave a quick thanks to Col. Bills and authoritatively took charge of his new formation.

The previous RHHT command team of Maj. Jocuns and 1st Sgt. Wright brought the troop from Fort Hood, through Kuwait to its current home in Mosul, Iraq. This team’s greatest achievement has been successfully pushing, pulling, and dragging all of the individual sections through the deployment to Forward Operating Base Marez; together as one troop. From the simple tasks of completing Soldier readiness packets to inspecting load plans and packing containers, it takes everyone doing their unique part for the whole troop to be successful.

The new team consists of Capt. Nance and 1st. Sgt. Lee Brown. Both men have past experience as commander and first sergeant respectively, and have accepted their new responsibilities with eager confidence. As they prepare for the road ahead, they are considering how to keep the entire troop focused on it’s wartime mission, then how to get back to Fort Hood safely.

This is a daunting task for anyone and the most qualified men have been selected for the job.

Brave Rifles!



Spc. Matthew Boyd

Center right, Col. Michael Bills, commander, 3d ACR, takes the guidon from Maj. Justin Jocuns during the RHHT change of command ceremony May 31 at FOB Marez, Iraq. Bills passed the guidon to the troop’s new commander, Capt. William Nance (far right).

TIGER

1st Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment



Lt. Col. Thomas Dorame
Tiger Squadron Commander

Tiger Squadron continues to exceed every standard and expectation. I am extremely proud of every Soldier and what we have been able to accomplish on our mission thus far.

The month of May gave us the opportunity to thank both the women in our lives for all their hard work and sacrifices they make, as well as celebrate the 162nd birthday of the regiment.

The regiment's birthday enabled us to look back at the storied history of the regiment while currently writing its next chapter in the Ninewah Province of Iraq.

All that Tiger Squadron is currently doing; from securing the people of northern Iraq, encouraging former enemies to reconcile with Coalition Forces and the government of Iraq, to humanitarian projects that have dramatically increased the people's quality of living; the actions of our Troopers will be remembered long after Tiger Squadron has returned to their loved ones back home.

Our actions today will be forever remembered as part of this regiment's great legacy.

Along with the illustrious history of the regiment comes the tremendous sacrifices those who came before us have made.

Memorial Day on May 26 gave us the opportunity to remember and honor those who have paid the ultimate price in defending



Courtesy Photo

A Soldier from Apache Troop, 1st Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, moves into a cave to inspect it and ensure that it does not contain any weapons caches.

the freedom and justice we have grown so accustomed to in this great country of ours.

These true American heroes have shaped the future of our

memories, we will always remain Tiger Strong.

Teeth of the Regiment!
Tiger 6

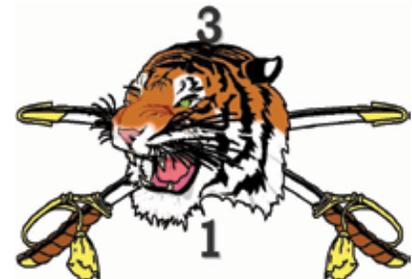
" ... the *actions* of our Troopers will be *remembered* long after Tiger Squadron has returned to their loved ones back home. "

**-- Lt. Col. Thomas Dorame
commander, 1st Squadron**

nation and their actions shall never be forgotten.

I ask all of you to remember our fallen comrades from Tiger Squadron and their dedication to their families, fellow Soldiers, and the nation.

Through their effort and lasting



SABRE

2nd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment



Lt. Col. Paul Calvert

Sabre Squadron Commander

Flexible, adaptive Troopers working together as a team are critical components to accomplishing the mission. I have never seen better than what the command sergeant major and I have had the honor to witness over the last month and a half.

On May 1, the eve of Operation Sabre Tempest, Lion Battery was departing FOB Caldwell in the Diyala Province headed for a PAA to provide supporting indirect fires. Simultaneously, Grim Troop and their partnered Iraqi army battalion were on FOB Caldwell's HLZ conducting final rehearsals, air mission briefs and cold load training. Fox Troop and their partnered IA Bn. were conducting final PCC/PCIs in preparation for their ground assault. Rattler Troop was preparing Class I, III, IV and V packages to sustain operations while also manning the squadron's quick reaction force. About nine miles away in the city of Balad Ruz, a suicide bomber walked into a crowded area and blew herself up.

As Iraqi first responders reacted to the attack, a second suicide bomber walked in and blew himself up. The dead totaled 35 with as many as 65 wounded. Calls for help from the Balad Ruz JCC started coming into FOB Caldwell. The quick reaction force from Rattler Troop, made up of members from its support platoon and cooks joined the IPs to bring order to a chaotic situation.

Within 20 minutes of the attacks, wounded began arriving at the Kirkush Military Training Base which encompasses FOB Caldwell. Their small clinic was overwhelmed by the mass casualties. Rattler Troop quickly moved our field surgeon, PA, and every available medic to assist and quickly realized that a majority of the casualties would have to be moved to Balad. Air medevac helicopters were called in by the TOC and mechanics from Rattler organized and loaded patients onto the aircraft.

In the early morning hours of May 2, only a few hours after the last medevac helicopter departed, the squadron began Operation Sabre Tempest with the largest (375 men) combined air assault conducted in Theater.

For more than a month now, Sabre Tempest has continued and our Troopers have demonstrated flexibility, adaptability and team work. We have

had tremendous success with the clear operations in an extremely difficult piece of terrain laden with a complex canal network with roads filled with IEDs and supported by numerous caches. The majority of our operations have been dismounted while living in the villages amongst the people and operating from platoon-sized patrol bases. The Troopers have detained more than 40 insurgents and encountered more than 50 IEDs, an HBIED, and cleared numerous caches. We have transitioned into the most difficult aspect of our mission, the Hold/Build Phase.

More than 200 Sons of Iraq have been stood up, IP check points established and civil military assessments are being conducted in every village. Our Troopers and the ISF have gained the trust and confidence of the local nationals.

On May 19, our regiment celebrated 162 years of continuous service to our nation. Over those 162 years, the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen has consistently accomplished its mission because it had the flexibility to adjust in ever-changing environments. The Troopers of Sabre Squadron are living up to these traits that have characterized the legacy of our regiment.

I am amazed every day as I watch our Troopers fulfill their duties and responsibilities. They conduct air assaults as easy as they conduct ground infiltrations. They conduct raids, reconnaissance and security operations, engagements with the local populace, and provide humanitarian relief. They live in harsh conditions for long periods of time without complaint. They take care of each other and work to make the team successful. They are flexible, adaptable, and a team, and it is an honor to serve amongst their ranks.

There is much to be done in AO Sabre. Our battle space remains large and we lack the combat power to attack our problem sets simultaneously, but rest assured, the men that make up our formation are flexible, adaptable, and a team that will continue to take the fight to the enemy with our Iraqi partners. We will separate the insurgent from his base of support – the population – and erode the insurgents' resources until we get a change of mission.

Happy Birthday to our regiment!

Brave Rifles!

Sabre 6

THUNDER

3rd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment



Lt. Col. Keith Barclay
Thunder Squadron
Commander

Friends, families, and members of the Thunder Team, another month has passed as we here in Iraq mark the passing of time with pride and excitement, knowing that we are one step closer to completing our mission and returning home to those we love and miss.

The command sergeant major and I find it remarkable to step back and look at the tremendous progress that your Troopers have made in the past seven months.

One can easily see the changes for the positive in our portion of Ninewah Province.

They are seen in bustling markets full of citizens purchasing goods and wares for their families. They are seen on the streets and neighborhoods once habitually threatened by terrorists now regularly patrolled by police and the Iraqi army.

Most noticeably, these positive changes are seen in the faces of the Iraqi people that I have the pleasure of seeing on a daily basis.

The squadron was very pleased this month to witness firsthand our Iraqi partners execute by far their most ambitious mission in the city of Mosul and Ninewah Province since our rotation.

Iraqi army and police units from Baghdad joined with their Iraqi security partners in Mosul and executed an extensive clearing operation focused on removing terrorists and their weapons

caches from the city and the small villages in the Al Jeezera desert.

All eyes were on this one, as the Multi National Division-North Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Mark Hertling, and the Prime Minister of Iraq, Nouri Al Malilki, spent time in the city overseeing the operation's progress.

This operation, known as Lion's Roar, was a great step forward for the Iraqi Security Forces' proving that they are getting that much closer to assuming the role of a strong, determined force in the defense of the Iraqi government.

Tragically, we lost two more beloved members of our squadron family.

On the 30th of April, Staff Sergeant Chad Caldwell of Killer Troop was killed in action. On the 6th of May, Specialist Alex Gonzalez of 43rd Combat Engineer Company was killed in action.

The untimely death of these two heroes hit the squadron hard; they were both invaluable members to the team. The void left by their loss will never be completely filled, and the sacrifices they made for their fellow Soldiers and for their nation will never be forgotten.

The command sergeant major and I ask that all of you back home keep the Caldwell and Gonzalez families in your thoughts and prayers.

On May 19, the regiment celebrated its 162nd birthday. In remembrance of this special day, the squadron conducted an organization day in which units

in Thunder Squadron competed against each other in events such as volleyball, basketball, pool, and running. It was truly an amazing day. Morale was high as almost half the squadron enjoyed a well deserved day off while competing in sporting events and unit level barbecues.

On June 6, the squadron conducted its second organization day in the same fashion to benefit the other half of the squadron that was out keeping the city safe.

We would also like to congratulate the Thunder Ladies for participating in the regiment's rear detachment Spur Ride.

After an arduous test that demonstrated their cunning, dash, and esprit de corps, a select group of ladies clad in ACUs and pink shirts earned their cavalry spurs. Job well done ladies and special thanks goes out to the regimental and squadron read detachments that made this possible.

In closing, we would like to echo our last letter by saying how proud we are of the Troopers of Thunder Squadron. The remarkable jobs that they do every day continue to amaze and humble us.

Thank you all again for the unwavering and continued support that you give your Trooper. The jobs and the missions they execute are difficult and demanding, but they continue to perform the very best they can knowing that you stand behind them with support from home.

THUNDER!
Thunder 6

LONGKNIFE

4th Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment



Lt. Col. Todd Royar

Longknife Squadron Commander

Adapting to changes and still accomplishing the mission is what cavalry units do best. As most of us would attest, in today's Army there certainly is no shortage of changing circumstances.

So out of all the aviation units currently in OIF, I am confident that the Troopers in Longknife are better prepared to roll with the punches than any other formation.

Prior to deploying, the squadron did not plan on being separated from the regiment. That change was made just prior to departing and not only resulted in the unit operating within a different multi-national division, but also how the unit operated.

The squadron had to redefine how it was going to do business. Instead of providing support solely to the regiment, the squadron ended up supporting an entire division with seven brigade combat teams. Additionally, the squadron provided maintenance support to the whole aviation brigade task force.

Similar to the other squadrons, Longknife also has had task organization changes since arriving. Stetson Troop is OPCON to an assault helicopter battalion and the squadron has received additional AH-64 teams from two other units for the fight within Multi-National Division-Baghdad.

Despite the changes in task organization, the squadron has performed remarkably well. To date, the Troopers of the squadron have performed remarkably well. Just as one measure, the squadron has racked up almost 40 percent of the total BDA within MND-B by itself.

The squadron has safely pumped more than 2.2 million gallons of fuel into ever type of aircraft from UH-60s and AH-64s to Marine MV-22 Ospreys to Iraqi army MI-17 Hips. The maintainers of the unit supported a high OPTEMPO for all aircraft, including the highest number of AH-64 hours flown by any unit within a single month, while

still exceeding DA FMC rates by 10-15 percent.

It now looks like the squadron will change its mission again and move from Multi-National Division-Baghdad to Multi-National Division-Center. We had hoped to rejoin the regiment in Multi-National Division North, but it appears that the squadron will move from Taji to Baghdad International Airport instead.

The reason for that is the squadron is not only unique in its capability, but is deemed capable of handling the mission. If the move does occur, the squadron will work for three different brigade level headquarters before coming back to the regiment upon redeployment. Changes never cease.

The squadron also continually evolves as the troop level leadership changes. Outlaw, Renegade and Stetson Troop have already had changes of command in theater and the majority, if not all of the remainder of the troops, will change out prior to redeployment as well.

As a cavalry organization, we accept the challenges that changing situations bring. There is no better organization that can handle it. So whether Longknife supports the regiment or any other unit, the Troopers in the formation are here to support the rifleman on the ground.

Longknife 6



Courtesy Photo

An AH-64 Apache from Longknife Squadron, 3d ACR, takes flight over Camp Taji, Iraq.

MULESKINNER

Support Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment



Lt. Col. Steven Cook
Muleskinner Squadron
Commander

Spring has sprung and we have quickly transitioned to summer.

We have had several milestones since our arrival here back in November: officially assuming missions with our RIP/TOA on Dec. 7, 2007; passing the first 100 days with no major incidents or loss; the regiment's 162nd birthday; and we are now at our halfway mark.

Our Troopers continue to perform their duties without hesitation and demonstrate their adaptability by quickly executing nontraditional duties. Not to mention partnering with our Iraqi army counterparts; all with the same goal of ensuring the regiment can accomplish the mission here in Iraq.

As temperatures increase, we must remain vigilant to ensure all of our Troopers remain healthy and able to execute missions when called upon.

Not only is the temperature rising here for us, but also for the insurgents.

The regiment, in conjunction with the Iraqi Security Forces, has been putting some serious heat on the insurgents here in Ninewah Province. The Muleskinners have been there to help set the conditions for the increased efforts.

Packhorse has transported several hundred tons of force protection material, such as

concrete barriers (T-walls), lumber and Hesco Baskets to help build Combat Outposts (COPs) and Traffic Control Points (TCPs).

They also helped backhaul several thousand tons of scrap metal and vehicles off some these COPs to provide more room to facilitate both Iraqi and U.S. forces. They also continue to push the fuel, food, water, ice, and ammunition, and move what needs to be moved to keep the regiment going.

Blacksmith has been there as well, providing continuous maintenance support to keep the regiment rolling and cool. Increased temperatures means increased use of air conditioning in our vehicles and Blacksmith has worked tirelessly to ensure all the a/c systems are up to the task.

Additionally they have made strides in improving the Iraqi army's ability to fix their own vehicles, as evidenced in recent operations where the Iraqi army was able to maintain momentum

because of their ability to keep trucks and soldiers on the road and in the fight.

Scalpel Troop is keeping our Troopers in the fight not only here at Marez, but also at Sykes and Q-West.

The Chemdawgs continue to set the standard in detainee operations and helping ensure that the bad guys remain behind bars.

The impact our Troopers make on a daily basis might seem small and insignificant, but in the grand scheme of things, our part is making a difference not only in the daily life of our Troopers, but also in the daily life of the Iraqis, both directly and indirectly.

Continue the great work, remain vigilant, and keep your buddy safe. We all will continue to make a difference and make our families and nation proud of our service.

Brave Rifles!

Muleskinners!
Muleskinner 6



Courtesy Photo

Lt. Col. Steven Cook, commander, RSS, 3d ACR (left), discusses the flow of repair parts with the 3d MTR maintenance officer.

1-8 Infantry Bn.

3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division



Lt. Col. Christopher Johnson
1-8 INF Commander

The Fighting Eagles, along with the Iraqi Security Forces, have worked together to increase security in Eastern Mosul.

This is a huge accomplishment that has not only discouraged the frequency of terrorist activities, but will also allow the local Iraqi population to move around their communities safely.

This increase in security will have a great impact on neighborhoods and communities. Greater security will allow more businesses to spark the economy and greatly assist in improving the overall quality of life for the residents.

The support of the citizens of Mosul improves as security improves. This support will inevitably lead to the ruin of the insurgency. With the insurgents removed, stability will persevere.

The construction of new ISF checkpoints, strong points, Iraqi police stations and continuous improvements to our Combat Outposts have made a positive impact on operations in eastern Mosul. These efforts, as well as continuous joint raids and clearance operations, have collectively contributed to maintaining security in Mosul by inhibiting the insurgents' freedom of movement.

We must maintain the momentum gained from our initial operations in eastern Mosul. We will continue to place pressure on the networks to maintain security



Capt. Richard Ybarra

Sgt. Eric Lee of Orange, Calif., assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, is offered a snack by a resident of the al-wadah neighborhood in Mosul, Iraq, in April.

in east Mosul. Simultaneously, we intend to begin focusing on non-lethal efforts that will provide the Iraqi population a better way of life (e.g. education, improved roads, public transportation, medical, and emergency aid). We will spark the local economy by assisting small business start-ups that provide goods and services to the people.

An important way each of you can help us in our non-lethal efforts is to conduct operations with honor.

Some insurgents are tired and want to seek political solutions. We must convince the reconcilable insurgents to stop fighting, while at the same time be prepared to kill the enemy that is irreconcilable.

The best way to reach out to the reconcilable individuals is understanding their culture (conscious competence), developing trust and confidence,

and demonstrating humanity. Your daily actions and words make the difference. Our non-lethal operations will encourage Iraqi reconciliation, which is critical to the future peace and stability of Iraq.

The energy and efforts that the Fighting Eagles and ISF are awesome; in just six months your work has made a significant difference. Each day our actions and operations make Mosul a safer place to work and live. It will take some time, patience and vigilance on our part to allow the local population to adjust to their new found liberties, but we must encourage them in this endeavor.

The fear and intimidation endured by the citizens of Mosul will subside thanks to your efforts and those of our Iraqi partners. In the end, healing yields productivity.

Fighting Eagles, Strike Fear!

4-6 Air Cav Sqdrn.



4th Squadron, 6th United States Cavalry

Iraqi air force now flying high over Mosul

Lt. Col. T.J. Jamison
4-6 Air Cav Commander

On May 11, Task Force Redcatcher was thrilled to welcome the Iraqi air force to Mosul Army Airfield.

Planning at the airfield began immediately to accommodate Lt. Col. Emad and Maj. Mohammed's team including eight pilots, eight gunners, seven maintainers, and their four Huey helicopters.

A coordinated effort between all the airfield users facilitated the seamless reception and successful integration of this new unit to include both logistics support on the ground and flight operations in the airspace.

Eager to start flying, Mohammed said during the safety and operations in-brief, "It's an important mission that we show



Sgt. 1st Class Mark Flores

Iraqi air force, USAF advisors, and TF Redcatcher pilots pose for a photograph following a Safety and Operations In-brief May 11.

our brothers here in Mosul what we can do and we are doing it. They need to see it!"

Only one day after their arrival, the flight crews were already conducting familiarization flights over the city and preparing for their first mission, a joint VIP battlefield circulation to allow Iraqi and Coalition Force leaders, Maj. Gen. Mark Hertling, commander, MND-N, and Lt. Gen. Riyadh, Ninewah Operations Center commander, the opportunity to visit with IA soldiers stationed in and around Mosul.

Missions continue daily, and every time the helicopters take off, the new Iraqi flag painted on the bottom of their aircraft is a reminder of the progress that's been made, and, as for what the future holds, it's clear in Mosul that the sky's the limit!



Sgt. 1st Class Mark Flores

Maj. Mohammed (left) and Lt. Col. T.J. Jamison, commander, 4-6 Air Cavalry Squadron, shake hands and pose for a photograph after the Safety and Operations In-brief May 11.

94th Engineer Bn.

18th Engineer Brigade



Capt. Bert Uyenco
94th Eng. Bn.

It's been nonstop movement for the 94th Engineer Battalion since they relocated to Mosul to join the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment,

The 77th Engineer Company (Vertical), 103rd Engineer Company (Horizontal), and 232nd Engineer Company (Horizontal) have had their hands full as they continue to construct Combat Outposts, upgrade force protection in and around the city, and provide essential route clearance assets to the regiment.

These COPs have been essential to the fight in Mosul. The 94th Eng. Bn. has completed more than 50 construction projects in and around Mosul.

Now, more COPs and traffic control points dot the city of Mosul. Some outposts are many acres in size while some are the size of a baseball diamond.

No matter what the size, they are all carefully placed and have significantly increased security in the neighborhoods they are in. Furthermore, the 94th has been essential in not only building some of these outposts, but upgrading them to increase the

standard of living. Sometimes, this standard means burn-out latrines and wooden shelters with electricity, but nevertheless all forces greet the 94th Engineers with open arms because these improvements directly

“First we’re going to make Mosul *safe*. Then we’re going to make it *better*.”

*-- Lt. Col. Luke Leonard
commander, 94th Eng. Bn.*

affect the U.S. and Iraqi Soldiers on the ground.

The battalion has expanded its scope of work and presence on the battlefield with the addition of the 59th Engineer Company (MAC). The 59th has already done a stellar job in Mosul, conducting more than 4,300 miles of route clearance work since their arrival. Mosul may still be a dangerous place, but the unit's leadership remains positive.

“First we’re going to make Mosul safe. Then, we’re going to make it better,” said Lt. Col. Luke Leonard, commander, 94th Eng. Bn.

Such is the way ahead for this conflict. The 94th is committed to carrying out the construction work that the regiment needs. The addition of route clearance assets to the regiment has been a huge plus for the Soldiers on the ground and the Iraqi people.

It's plain to see that the 94th Engineers have made an impact in Mosul and they're here to stay.



Courtesy Photo

Soldiers from the 77th Engineer Company (Vertical), 94th Engineer Battalion, work on a construction project inside one of the Combat Outposts in Mosul, Iraq.

Dog lovers send goodies to military canines

Master Sgt. Tim Volkert
3d ACR Public Affairs Office

MOSUL, Iraq – Mail call around Forward Operating Base Marez in Iraq has been going to the dogs recently.

A group of dog lovers from the Gem City Dog Club in Dayton, Ohio have been conducting fund raisers and purchasing dog toys, cooling vests and variety of other amenities for military working dogs serving in Iraq.

Starline Nunley of Springfield, Ohio, told her son she wanted send care packages for him and the Soldiers he works with to help them deal with the heat of summer and life away from home. Her son, Maj. Parker Frawley, the planning officer for the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, could not think of anything he or the Soldiers he works with really needed. After talking with his mom, the conversation turned to dogs and the idea was born to help the working dogs serving in Iraq.

Frawley said his mom's dog club loved the idea to support the working dogs and immediately began raising money to buy all the working dogs at FOB Marez cooling vests and other items to help them



Master Sgt. Tim Volkert

Maj. Parker Frawley's mom, Starline Nunley, and members of the Gem City dog Club in Dayton, Ohio, have been fundraising to purchase cooling vests and other items for all of the working dogs in Iraq. Frawley is the 3d ACR planning officer.

cope with the severe heat they will face.

"I can't physically protect my son and all the other sons and daughters in Iraq," Nunley said. "These dedicated dogs do this service selflessly and with great courage. Whatever we can do to help them do their job easier is helping to protect our sons and daughters."

Shortly after that

conversation, Frawley began receiving mail for the likes of Sgt. 1st Class Budge, Sgt. 1st Class Lucky and Staff Sgt. Bronco.

While receiving mail for dogs might seem unusual, Frawley said these dogs help save the lives of Soldiers, so picking up some mail and delivering it to them is a labor of love.

"I've had pets my entire life," he said. "I don't mind (delivering the packages) at all. These dogs do things that save lives every day. This is for the Soldiers as well."

While Nunley's initial goal was to provide the cooling vests for the working dogs at Marez, the support she received from the community enabled her to quickly expand her goals.

"My initial goal was to provide cooling vests for these MWDs at Mosul," she said. "This was expanded to purchase doggles and Mutt Luks for the MWDs to protect their eyes from the blowing sand and their feet from the hot sand and asphalt that sticks to their feet and burns them. The outpouring of support for this project is very heart warming."

"It's taken off more than I think she anticipated," Frawley said.

Since she began working on the project, about two months ago, he said his mom and the dog club has been able to send enough items for all of the working dogs at FOB Marez and the other surrounding bases in the 3d ACR area of operations. They have provided 15 cooling vests and 30 cooling packs, 15 sets of Mutt Luks (protective paw wear), 15 doggles (eye protection), and numerous chew toys and other items such as collapsible water dishes.

The Soldiers who work with the dogs said they are very appreciative of the care that families back home have shown for the animals.

"I thought it was awesome that people would take time for (the working dogs)," said Sgt. Daniel Fulton of the 148th Military Police Detachment out of Fort Carson, Colo.

"We hardly ever get anything for the dogs," said Staff Sgt. Aaron Kimes, with the 67th Engineer Canine Detachment out of Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. "They're awesome. It's a morale thing for the dogs. You can't find stuff for the dogs out here."

While the packages coming to Frawley may be going to dogs, it is the Soldiers who are benefiting from them. So, in the end, his mom is still doing what she wanted, helping her son and other Soldiers stay safe in Iraq.

KING OF BATTLE



Courtesy photo

Soldiers of King Battery, 1st Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, fire an artillery round from an M109A6 Paladin Self Propelled Howitzer at Forward Operating Base Warhorse in Diyala Province, Iraq. King Battery, on the sixth month of a 15-month deployment, has fired more than 5,300 rounds, surpassing the record of 5,200 rounds fired from an artillery battery in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Every round King Battery fires will increase their record.

King Battery decimates OIF artillery record

Staff Sgt. Russell Bassett
4-2 SBCT PAO

BAQOUBA, Iraq – Boom ...
Boom ... Boom.

The earth-shaking sound of artillery fire is nothing new to residents of Diyala Province. It's practically a daily occurrence, with rounds fired at all hours of the day and night.

Whether or not those loud booms are comforting or scary depends on who hears them. For the enemies of peace and security, those sounds and the resultant explosions means they are about to have a bad day, but to Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces, along with civilians working for a stable

Iraqi, the sounds of King Battery firing their M109A6 Paladin Self Propelled Howitzers are sweet music.

King Battery, 1st Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment arrived in country in November and immediately began providing artillery support to the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, the Coalition unit responsible for Diyala Province before redeploying in May.

In the battery's first six months, they have already fired more than 5,300 rounds, decimating the record of most rounds fired by a battery in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The record of

5,200 was set by a battery that was in country for more than a year.

“We fire an average of thirty rounds a day, close to one thousand rounds a month,” said King Battery Commander, Capt. John Fritz. “Pretty much every mission artillery does – terrain denial, troops in contact, counter fire, and illumination and smoke for Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces – we do here in Diyala. We help shape the battlefield, deny escape routes to the enemy, and show we can get on top of the enemy in a hurry.”

The unit’s top NCO at the time, 1st Sgt. Theodore Durand, noted that all the firing his battery has done has helped his Soldiers improve their skills.

“For armored cavalry artillerymen, we don’t often get to practice our prime artillery craft,” he said. “Here in Diyala we are contributing to the big fight and are working side by side with Soldiers of an infantry division. This has been a lethally effective reunion – a reunion of the King and Queen of Battle.”

The unit already has 30 confirmed enemy kills under its belt; but as important as enemy kills are, King Battery provides much more than that.

“We often use terrain denial fires in the brigade to shape the spheres of influence and shape the way the brigade deals with the local communities,” explained Maj. Jody Miller, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division executive officer. “For example, FOB Warhorse was recently attacked by an AQI element that was shooting rockets at the FOB. They were not from the local community; however, they were given approval from the community to fire those rockets as well as cache their weapons and equipment. After we



Staff Sgt. Russell Bassett

Cpl. Scott Marvick of Dallas, Texas, a gunner with King Battery, 1st Sqdrn., 3d ACR, loads an artillery round into a Paladin on FOB Warhorse in April.

shot three nights of terrain denial fires of upwards of 100 rounds fired each night in vicinity of the rocket firing point of origin, all the villagers came forward and said ‘enough’ and said ‘we don’t support these guys,’ and they actually turned over the AQI and their caches.”

While lifting 100-pound rounds into the howitzers during 24-hour shifts is exhausting work, the artillerymen are happy they get to do their job as much as they do.

“I haven’t shot this many rounds ever in my 13 years in the military,” said Staff Sgt. William Proctor, a King Battery section chief. “Being able to shoot this many rounds in Iraq in combat is what we came in the Army to do.”

“We are making history every time we fire,” said Staff Sgt. Thomas Robinson, fire direction center chief. “We fire more rounds on a daily basis than any other artillery battery that has been here.”

The Soldiers of the battery are very competitive. Like a sports team that thrives on competition, not only against other teams but also against each, the Soldiers constantly push each other to excel.

“As a section chief, you train your guys to have a high rate of fire to compete against the other sections,” Proctor said. “When we have two guns up, we compete

to see who shot the most rounds ... and who got the gun laid the fastest. My section set a goal to shoot at least 1,200 rounds during the deployment, and we have already surpassed that. We’ve fired 1,300 at five months. That gives us bragging rights over the entire artillery community.”

And while the Soldiers of King Battery are proud of their individual, section and battery accomplishments, they are even more proud of the positive effects those accomplishments have had on the battlefield.

“A lot of it is about how many kills we get and how many rounds we’ve fired – that’s bragging rights, but for me its more about how many American lives we saved by destroying weapons caches or terrain denial taking out enemy positions,” said Cpl. Christopher Rice, artillery gunner.

The enemy’s former favorite weapon of choice, the IED, has been rendered almost completely ineffective in Diyala Province, and much of that success is directly due to the Soldiers of King Battery and their loud, earth-shaking booms.

“They have been exceptionally effective,” Miller concluded. “It’s a fair statement to say that the brigade would not have done as well as it has without the fires and effects of King Battery. They have done an outstanding job.”

Bandit Troopers nab financier during raid

Spc. Eric A. Rutherford
115th MPAD

AL HICHEL, Iraq – In the dark motor pool, Soldiers passed the time waiting for the order to move out by checking their gear, rehearsing tactics, joking around with each other or reading a book. Hours ticked by as they waited for the word to go or to stand down.

Late in the evening the word came in, and Soldiers from scout platoon, Bandit Troop, 1st Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, mounted into their vehicles and sped out the gate to their target – a suspected terrorist financier passing through their area of operations.

“This guy was just passing through,” said Capt. Jeffrey Johnson, Bandit Troop commander. “For our area of operations, this is something we get a lot of. We try to discourage them from resting in the safe havens here.”

The suspect was a high value target of another unit, that passed the intelligence off to Bandit. Once Bandit could confirm the target’s location, they decided to move, said Johnson, of Iowa City, Iowa.

With FA-18 Hornet jets, AH-64 Apaches and OH-58 Kiowa helicopters orbiting overhead, Bandit cordoned the house and moved in on foot.

“Once we got two trucks in place, we dismounted and hit the wall,” said Sgt. Adam Lofton, the entry team leader and scout with Bandit. “We noticed movement in the house so we had to move fast. We moved straight into the house and detained the four guys in the first room.”

After detaining the suspects, another team of dismounts from Bandit moved into the house to assist with searching the house and vehicles outside. Among the items found were seven AK-47 assault rifle magazines, ammunition and two pistols. One pistol was within arm’s reach of one of the suspects in the house. The other pistol, a .357 Magnum revolver was

in the glove box of the target suspect’s pickup, which is illegal in Iraq.

“They were so fast and so forceful in their movement, that even though the bad guys had weapons, they had no choice but to immediately get on the floor,” said Johnson about the execution of the raid by his scouts.

“We are getting higher value targets when we roll out these days,” said Lofton, of Lubbock, Texas. “It is a lot better to be able to hit them from the top, right where the money is.”

The ability to capture the higher value targets comes from a lot of work by Bandit in their area.

“We are fighting a network of terrorists in this area,” said Johnson. “We have a network of intelligence, developing relationships with local people. We spend months working with these people so one night we can get that phone call telling us that there is a bad guy moving through the area.”

During the raid, no shots were fired and Bandit took no casualties while detaining the suspects.

“It was an absolutely phenomenal performance from blue platoon,” said Johnson. “This is the life of a platoon in Iraq these days. They had been on missions all day. They came back, had a couple hours and were getting ready to relax when I called up the platoons to spin them up to go get this guy. It was a validation of all the systems we have in place for this kind of thing. It was an unusually good mission.”



Spc. Eric A. Rutherford

Soldiers with Bandit Troop, 1st Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, study a map prior to conducting a raid in Al Hichel, Iraq. Bandit got last minute intelligence on a terrorist financier in their area of operations and quickly detained the suspect.

Packhorse Troopers carry lifeline of 3d ACR Soldiers on their backs

1st Lt. Angela Somnuk
S&T Troop, 3d ACR

When Soldiers of the Supply and Transportation Troop of the Regimental Support Squadron go to work, they carry the lifeline of the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment on their backs.

The S&T Troop, or “Packhorse” Troop, is the unit responsible for making sure the Soldiers working at the Combat Outposts and outlying bases in Ninewah Province have the supplies they need to operate and survive.

To the average person, talking about supplies and food and water may seem crazy as there is always a grocery store or shopping center down the road, however, for Soldiers in a COP in the middle of Mosul, there are no stores. They rely on the Packhorse Soldiers to keep them in the fight with all types of supplies to include food, fuel and ammunition.

To accomplish that critical task, the S&T Troop has logged more than 18,600 miles on Iraqi roads and has conducted more than 160 Combat Logistic Patrols. They have also supplied more than 700,000 gallons of fuel and 710 tons of ammunition to units through their management of the Ammunition Holding Area and the fueling station on Forward Operating Base Marez.

In addition to the lifeline support of the regiment, the S&T Troopers have also conducted

more than 60 “Mule missions” that have provided supplies and equipment to the engineers and other Soldiers as they build new COPs and traffic control points throughout the city.

As the Soldiers of the 3d ACR and attached units continue to move throughout the city and province, they will not need to stop and wait for the supplies they need to keep moving ahead, the Packhorse Soldiers will be right behind them with everything they need to succeed.



1st Lt. Angela Somnuk

Packhorse Troopers download cargo at a Combat Outpost in Mosul using a Palletized Loading System.

Happy 162nd Birthday



Col. Michael Bills, 72nd Regimental Commander, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment (left), and Command Sgt. Maj. William Burns, 17th Command Sergeant Major, cut the birthday cake celebrating the 3d ACR's 162nd birthday May 19. The Regiment of Mounted Riflemen was constituted May 19, 1846. The Regiment celebrated its birthday with a toast and cake cutting ceremony while deployed at Forward Operating Base Marez, Iraq.

Tanks toughen up

Armor upgrades increase protection for Soldiers

Spc. Eric A. Rutherford
115th MPAD

MOSUL, Iraq – The M1A2 Abrams Main Battle Tank is one of the most powerful weapons in the U.S. inventory, but it was designed to fight Cold War battles, face to face with other tanks.

The fight in Iraq is anything but face to face, often times against an enemy that has vacated the area of an attack hours or days before their road-side bomb detonates.

It is this unseen enemy that has caused a demand for even more armor and support systems even on one of America's most powerful ground weapons.

This armor comes in the form

of the Tank Urban Survival Kit. The TUSK is an upgraded armor package being retrofitted on all 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment and 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment tanks in Ninewah Province.

The TUSK refits existing armor packages with upgrades such as an improved mine floor, driver's safety seat, ballistic shields for the commander and gunner, reactive armor tiles on the side skirts and adds another .50 caliber machine gun used as a counter sniper, anti-materiel weapon.

One tank crew with Lightning Troop, 3rd Squadron, 3d ACR, gained confidence in their TUSK armor March 30, when their

tank was hit by an Improvised Explosive Device in the city. It was their first mission after being outfitted with the upgraded armor.

"We were investigating another IED that went off, when we felt a bump and it went off," said Sgt. Jacob Hughes, a gunner for Lightning Troop, 3rd Squadron, 3d ACR. "The armor really deflects blasts. I have been hit twice now in tanks with the TUSK and had no casualties. It is pretty good at protecting the crew."

The IED that hit the tank activated several of the reactive armor panels and the crew sustained no casualties, said Hughes.

"If they (reactive panels) weren't on there, and the protective glass on the .50 cal shield wasn't there, it might have gone in the hatch and hit me in the face, but because of that, we were good," said Sgt. Kevin Dawson, the tank commander with Lightning Troop, who was in the partially open hatch on the side of the blast.

Dawson and his crew are still operating in Mosul in their tank, and while they say the new armor may pose some small inconveniences when performing maintenance, the small sacrifices are nothing compared to the protection and effectiveness of the new armor kit.

A team of workers from General Dynamics Land Systems is refitting the tanks in Mosul, said James O'Neal, site leader of the Mosul TUSK Team. "The main point here is the kit is saving lives. It is working, and it is effective."



Spc. Eric A. Rutherford

Soldiers with Lightning Troop, 3rd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, drive their tank out of a motor pool after having the Tank Urban Survival Kit upgrade installed at Forward Operating Base Mare in Mosul, Iraq. The TUSK adds reactive armor panels, upgraded driver's seat, an improved mine floor and blast shield kits for the gunner and commander.

Mechanics keep Longknife birds sky high

By Sgt. 1st Class Chris Seaton
Task Force XII PAO, MND-B

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - It's a domino effect of sorts. A sudden spike in violence in Basra and Baghdad meant more Soldiers on the ground quickly found themselves involved in kinetic operations.

Kinetic operations on the ground meant more AH-64 attack helicopter pilots in the air. For a two week period, the pilots of Task Force XII found themselves engaging enemy fighters with precision lethal force, and pushing their aircraft to the limits in the process.

"It's what we all expected coming to Iraq," said brigade executive officer, Lt. Col. Charles Bowery, an Apache pilot who, like many other pilots, was pressed into flying more hours to sustain the increase in tempo. "I think the greatest strain (with the increased number of aircraft flying) is on the maintenance side of the house."

The maintainers, working quietly in the shadows of a highly publicized flurry of activity, say they definitely feel the effects. And while the violence in the streets has quelled considerably, the effects of increased flight hours still linger in the aircraft hangars.

"We work two twelve-hour shifts," said Columbia, S.C. native, Pfc. Jemario Laurie, an aircraft maintainer working with Tomahawk Troop, 4th Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment. "Usually, either in the morning or at night, the shifts kind of merge while we get caught up."

Most of the increased maintenance is routine for the aircraft. All helicopters have scheduled maintenance, but as the hours increase, so does the frequency of the schedule.

But like any vehicle, the more you fly a helicopter, the more likely it is that a part is going to need replacement.

"It's a different kind of maintenance," said Staff Sgt. Christopher Gunderson, a maintenance supervisor from Pasco, Wash. "These guys are used to preventive maintenance. It's changed some to actually fixing stuff."

Gunderson, also part of Longknife's Tomahawk Troop, is on his third deployment to Iraq. He says he's used to the aircraft he's worked on seeing more action. The challenge for him has been getting the newer Soldiers ready during the relative calm in the months leading up to this spike of activity.

"The busier you get, the less time you have to talk

to them about the importance of the work they do and the impact of what's happening," he said. "That's when we hope that what we've said before actually sank in."

The maintainers do take the time to look at the big picture. Every week, the troop commander and first sergeant brief the Soldiers to ensure they all know exactly where these aircraft have been and what they've been doing. A quick glance at a dry-erase board in the hangar lets any member of the ground crews know how many missions their aircraft have flown and how many enemies were destroyed as a result.

"I'm very proud to have a part in the impact of these Apaches," said Laurie. "I'm still relatively new to the unit, so knowing that what I do is so important means a lot."

The dominos haven't stopped falling yet. For the time being, the tempo remains high as air weapons teams continue to patrol the skies over Baghdad.

The pilots insist that it's exactly what they expected. The maintainers say they're just as ready.



Sgt. Brandon Little

Spc. Tom Belew, an AH-64D Apache Longbow maintainer in 4th Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, conducts critical nighttime maintenance on an Apache. Belew, a native of Beeville, Texas, must work with other maintainers to have this same aircraft ready to launch in only a few hours.

BRAVE



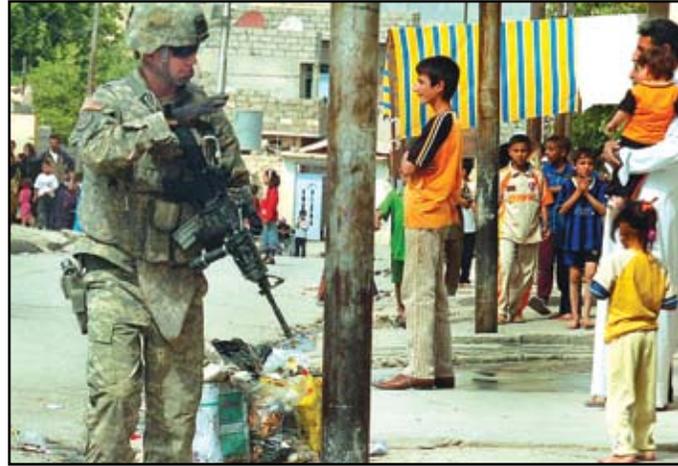
1st Lt. Danyelle Kimp

Pfc. Andre Torres, a carpentry and masonry specialist assigned to the 77th Engineer Company, 94th Engineer Battalion, puts the finishing touches on a Southwest Asia hut at a Combat Outpost in Mosul, Iraq, in April. The 94th Engineers are stationed out of Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.



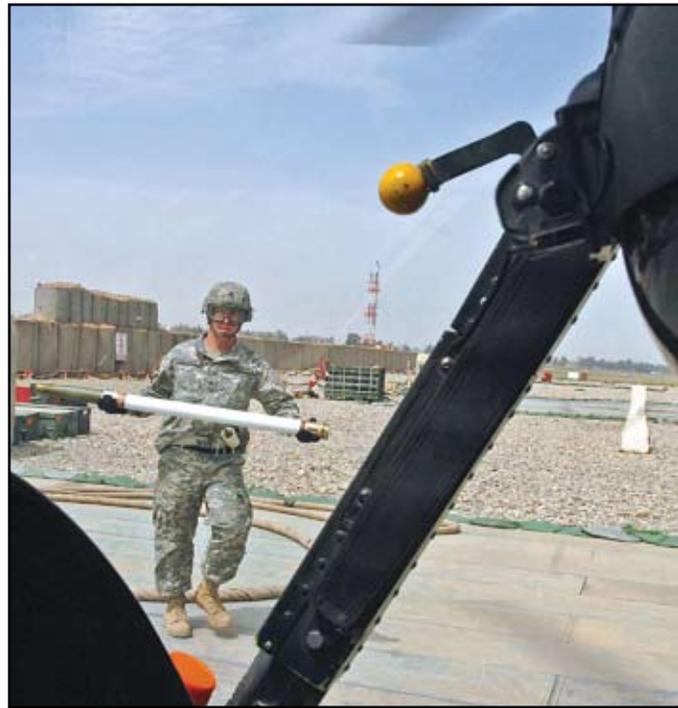
Courtesy Photo

RIFLE



Capt

Pfc. Jared Bottorff of Lightning Troop, 3rd Squadron, Cavalry Regiment, takes time to greet residents in a neighborhood during a presence patrol in Mosul, Iraq.



Capt

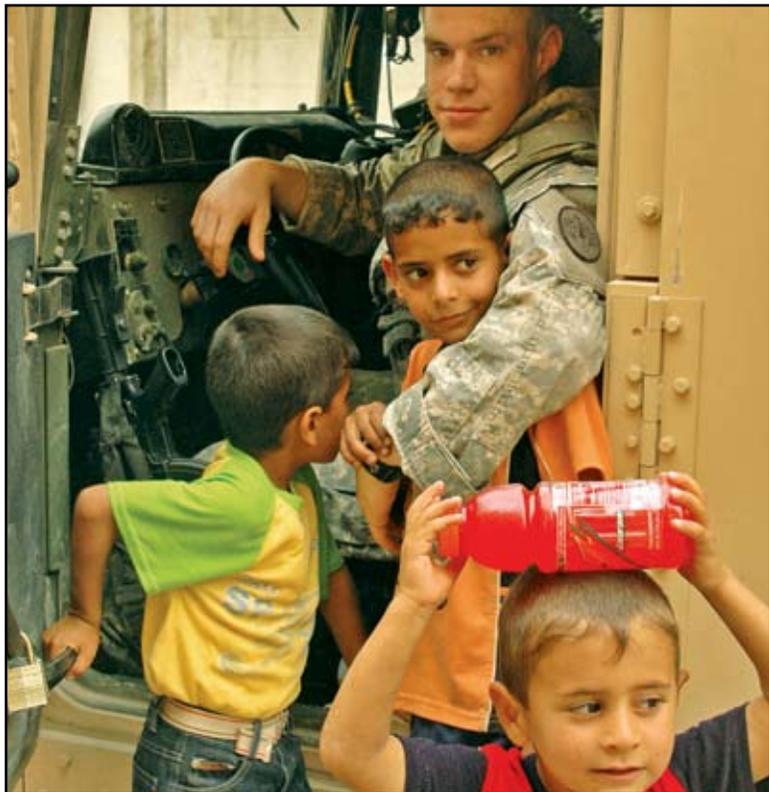
Above, Sgt. William Grigsby of E Troop, 4th Squadron, Cavalry Regiment, reloads a Kiowa with a 17-pound rocket launcher at a Forward Arming and Refueling Point in Logistical Support Area Diamondback.

Left, Soldiers provide security for each other as they patrol the streets of a known terrorist hot spot in Mosul, Iraq, during a combat patrol April 12. The Soldiers are in Company D, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, from Fort Carson, Colo.

ES IN ACTION



Richard Ybarra
3d Armored
the al-Zeira
April 10.



Spc. John Crosby

Spc. Robert Hubbard poses for a picture with Iraqi children outside an Iraqi police station in West Mosul, Iraq, in April. Hubbard is with Killer Troop, 3rd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment.



Courtesy Photo

Sgt. Micah Wirhol, Medical Troop, Regimental Support Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, secures a patient on a stretcher during medical evacuation training at Forward Operating Base Marez, Iraq, May 7.

Below, a Soldier from HHT, 3rd Sqdrn., 3d ACR, prepares to secure a T-Wall for movement.



Richard Ybarra
Iron, 6th Air
rocket at the
Supply Area



1st Lt. Owen Mayo

Sgt. Dante Parker (right) and Spc. Jose Casellano of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Squadron, 3d ACR, install a new engine in a generator.



Courtesy Photo

**they cross
Iraq, during a
1st Battalion,**

FIT TO FIGHT

Longknife Soldier battled with doctors to deploy with 3d ACR

By Sgt. 1st Class Chris Seaton
Task Force XII PAO, MND-B

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – “Chief, what the heck are you doing?”

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Christian Smith, a maintenance technician who had just tripped and fallen to the ground, looked up at his confused motor sergeant.

Smith, who hails from Villa Grove, Ill., but was on a deployment to Iraq, had fallen a lot lately.

Something was wrong with his left leg, and he didn't know what – all he knew was that it made him fall.

“I don't know,” said Smith. “I just fell. It happens all the time.”

“Well next time, yell ‘incoming’ and I'll go down with you,” said the sergeant.

The year was 2003, and Smith was deployed with a military police brigade. Over the course of the deployment, he noticed his muscles growing alarmingly weaker.

“It was very humbling – to say the least,” said Smith. “There wasn't much I could do about it then, but I knew that once I got back from (Iraq), I was going to have to go see a doctor and find out what was going on.”

In February 2005, after multiple visits to doctors, Smith underwent surgery for a herniated disc in his back to help relieve pressure on what his doctor thought was a pinched nerve. It didn't help.

By this time, he couldn't move the toes of his left foot, and he continued to grow weaker.

Still more visits to more doctors led him to a neurologist. Late in September 2005, he was diagnosed with multifocal motor neuropathy.

“It's a condition where my body thinks there's something wrong with the nerves,” said Smith. “It's attacking my nerves, and it doesn't allow good conduction for the signals that tell the muscles to move – but there's treatment for it.”

He began treatments right away. Every three weeks, he underwent an intravenous immunoglobulin treatment at a local hospital. By this time, Smith's unit was on mobilization orders for deployment, but he was scheduled to stay with the rear detachment.

“Within four or five days, I started noticing a lot more strength, and by 10 days after that, I could wiggle my toes and keep my left foot up,” he said. “I went back to the unit and told them the treatment was working. At that point, it was a matter of how the Army medical system was going to handle this.”



Sgt. 1st Class Chris Seaton

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Christian Smith, a Villa Grove, Ill., native, stands at the open hood of a military humvee May 16. Smith is the squadron maintenance technician for 4th Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, Task Force XII, Multi-National Division – Baghdad. He fought for, and won, the opportunity to deploy to Iraq in November despite being diagnosed with multifocal motor neuropathy.

The unit deployed. Despite his objections, Smith stayed at Fort Hood.

“The doc said, when he diagnosed me, that this is a legitimate medical condition that would definitely keep me from deploying,” he said. “He asked me why I'd want to deploy if I didn't have to.”

“It's one of those things where, having grown up playing sports, you spend all that time practicing with a team; and, all of a sudden, they go to an away game, out of town, and you're stuck at home,” he added. “It's not a good feeling.”

A year and a half later, Smith found himself facing the same situation, this time with a new team.

He was newly assigned to Renegade Troop, 4th

Squadron 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, once again on orders for Iraq.

The treatments were working, and Smith said he was determined not to get left behind again. He began what he called a very frustrating process to make himself deployable.

Once again, the doctors said no. A chain of e-mails revealed one medical professional after another who believed he had no business deploying. They cited the risk for contamination with possible secondary effects of anaphylaxis or renal failure. They said his understanding of the condition was “oversimplified.”

“My response to those e-mails was rather lengthy,” he said. “They thought I was oversimplifying the condition, and I thought they were over-exaggerating it.”

In his response, he said he outlined his own research

– discussing the shelf life of the medication and the plan that he and squadron surgeon, Maj. Sean Hollonbeck, had come up with to administer the treatments.

“The Army is attempting and perfecting new things in the theater of operation every day,” he wrote. “Why not this?”

“I didn’t think he’d get to go based on seeing the e-mail traffic from the doctors in theater,” said Capt. Jeffery Hernandez, his troop commander. “I never tried to talk him out of it though. He had such a desire to be with the troops and support the mission.”

“You have to understand chief,” added 1st Lt. Larry Burney, the squadron maintenance officer. He’s the type of person who doesn’t take no for an answer when it comes to anything.”

“I guess I just felt like I’m in the Army to do a job,” Smith said. “Having been left back once, I told my wife, if I can’t deploy and go do what I’ve trained to do, then I shouldn’t be doing this anymore.”

The fight for Smith to deploy became personal for Renegade Troop. In a situation where some would

look for excuses not to go, he was fighting for a chance to serve.

“A lot of people try to get out of deployments for one reason or another, and here he is doing everything he can to go when he had his ticket out,” said Burney. “Of course, that had an impact on the troops. Some people flat out said ‘if chief doesn’t go, I don’t want to go either.’”

After a successful month at Fort Irwin, California’s National Training Center, during which an enlisted combat medic successfully administered the treatment, the Army finally relented. Smith deployed to Multi-National Division – Baghdad as part of Task Force XII in November, 2007.

“Army doctrine is to train in times of peace and to win at war,” said Smith. “I see a lot of value in what I did as a rear detachment Soldier, but if the Army’s

at war, I want to go.”

“I know it motivates me,” said Sgt. Nelson Dawson, a Soldier in Smith’s troop.

“Even though he has this condition and could have stayed home with

“ Even though he has this condition and he could have stayed *home* with his family, he *chose* to come here and be with his *Soldiers ...*”

-- Sgt. Nelson Dawson

his family, he chose to come here and be with his Soldiers. He said ‘you know what ... I can still do my job. Why can’t I go?’”

He continues his treatments every third week at the aviation clinic on Camp Taji. So far, he said everything has gone as planned.

“Other than his treatment days, I don’t think he’s taken a day off since he’s been here,” said his commander.

“At one point during the process, I had a doctor ask me what I wanted to get from all this,” Smith recalled. “I said ‘I want to be able to run and play basketball and do all the things I could do before.’ He said ‘you mean you plan on staying in the military?’”

“I said, well yeah, if I can do all those other things, of course I want to stay in the military,” he went on. “If I wanted to get out I would have done it a long time ago, but that’s just not me.”

STAY CAV, STAY ARMY!

Iraqi and coalition engineers team up in Mosul for COP Inman rebuild

Capt. Richard Ybarra
115th MPAD

MOSUL, Iraq — On March 23, Combat Outpost Inman, a new COP in west Mosul manned by the 2nd Iraqi Army Division suffered a blow that al-Qaeda in Iraq had intended to be fatal to the strategic post; a suicide-truck-bomb crashed through the gates at approximately 7 a.m., detonating in the main compound, killing 13 Iraqi soldiers and wounding 35.

“All the damage the terrorists have caused to the people and their homes, I do not understand these men, why would they do that?,” said Nami Ibbrahim, a soldier in the 2nd IA Div., clearly more concerned about the damage to the surrounding area than to the COP.

Despite the devastation to the COP, the IA soldiers did not abandon their post. They held it in anticipation of the help they knew would come. The help came in the form of engineers from the 2nd IA Div. and the U.S. Army’s 232nd Horizontal Engineer Company, 94th Engineer Battalion, which arrived to start reconstruction of COP Inman just five days after the bombing.

Both engineer elements completed projects in other parts of Ninewah Province and then made assessments of the damaged COP. The units gathered supplies and equipment as rapidly as possible, arriving on the scene within hours of each other.

Work commenced as soon as heavily armored front end loaders, road graders and excavators were unloaded from their trailers.

IA infantry soldiers, eager to help improve security of their post, also chipped in by helping to

string Hesco barriers and unload supplies during the night.

In the morning, the heavy equipment took over the operation, as dismounted operations were stopped as the sun came over the horizon due to an elevated sniper threat. The front end loaders the IA brought to the project tripled the expected output for filling the newly strung Hescos.

The IA and CF Soldiers were completing the project in a very rapid fashion, working as one unit. If one unit, they seemed veterans, as the loaders quickly fell into a rhythm; one picking up fill material, one filling Hescos and one moving between the Hescos.

If all the equipment had been the same type, it would have been an impossibility to distinguish one unit from another based on performance.

“The IA has been great ... last night they were stringing Hescos (barriers) with our guys,” said 1st Lt. Nathan Foust of the 232nd Eng. Co., which is attached to the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment. “We



Photos by Capt. Richard Ybarra

A Soldier from the 232nd Horizontal Engineer Company, 94th Engineer Battalion, exits his humvee as the sun rises over Mosul, Iraq in late March, ready to take over the next shift rebuilding COP Inman.



Iraqi Army and Coalition Forces front loaders work in tandem rebuilding COP Inman in Mosul, Iraq.

had their two bucket loaders ... all day helping with the filling. We only had one (bucket loader) out here, so it was a huge help. It would have taken a lot longer without them.”

Foust’s compliments of the IA engineers were echoed by members of his platoon.

Any engineer in any Army would be happy to have the compliments of this group. 3rd platoon has been a major part of the COP building program that is ongoing in Mosul. They have constructed seven COPs in the previous two months, in the most difficult of circumstances. The unit has experienced all the hazards that fighting terrorists has to offer, bar none.

However, the unrelenting schedule and associated dangers has not affected the morale of the Soldiers.

“They are doing real well, their morale has been unbelievable, I couldn’t ask for anything more,” said Foust. “The NCOs have really been on top of it, they are great. The Soldiers are all solid. They all work very hard.”

IA and CF engineers, as well as IA infantry, continued to work around the clock to rebuild the COP. The Soldiers took steps to improve security, develop the defensive characteristics of the roads and to re-level the surface inside the perimeter.

“By rebuilding we are showing the people that we have the will to continue this fight, to win, that we will not abandon them,” said Ibbrahim, a soldier in the 2nd IA Div. “We will carry the fight, wherever they make it, we will win. With all my friends in the IA, I will stay and fight, forever if we have to. I am from Diyala and he is from Baghdad, but together we are the IA.”

In a testament to both the Iraqi army’s and Coalition Force’s resolve to complete this mission, the job, which was slated to take three nights, took only two.

The two units parted ways, hoping not to meet again under similar circumstances, but nonetheless proud of what they had accomplished and the respect they had earned.



A Soldier from the 94th Eng. Bn., walks past the entrance to Combat Outpost Inman as vehicles pull into the COP. Coalition and Iraqi Forces worked side by side to rebuild the combat outpost after it was damaged by an improvised explosive device.

Coalition Force COP program solidifying trust in Mosul

MOSUL, Iraq - Coalition Forces conducted a human-intelligence driven raid in eastern Mosul based on information gained from presence patrols out of Combat Outpost Rock.

The COPs allow Soldiers to live in the city and provide constant contact with Iraqi citizens and foster trust.

“The proximity of the COP allowed us to recon the area ... local citizens we interviewed said that the (target) area was a bad area” said 1st Lt. Donald Maloy of Santa Fe, N.M., a platoon leader for Company D, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment. “When we reconed again, we realized it was a perfect place to make VBIEDs (vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices).”

Although this particular raid did not net Coalition Forces any significant finds, the raid typifies actions that represent a gradual shift in operations that is occurring



Photos by Capt. Richard Ybarra

Spc. Jimmy Marble, assigned to Company D, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, pulls security outside a mechanic's shop during a raid in east Mosul, Iraq.

in Mosul; human intelligence driven raids based on information coming from Iraqi citizens.

“At first I don't think some of

the citizens quite knew what to expect, but now they are starting to react very well, our patrols go into the market dismounted,” said Maj. Mike Edwards, executive officer, 1st Bn., 8th Inf. Regt. “There is a lot of interaction between the people and the troops.”

This contact between Soldiers and citizens is building confidence in the people.

“The people have been intimidated for so long, but they see when we build the COPs that we are here for more than an overnight patrol,” said Edwards. “This leads to tips, which we can use to target the enemy in that specific area. When we do this, we send a signal to the people, that IA and Coalition Forces are here to stay.”



Pfc. Jeremy Sparks, Pfc. Gerado Guzman and Pfc. Mark Ramirez, all assigned to Company D, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, move between buildings during a raid in east Mosul, Iraq.

IPs and MPs surprise school with gifts

MOSUL, Iraq — Iraqi police and Coalition Force Soldiers made a surprise visit to a Mosul elementary in April, providing the students with shoes, sandals, clothes and small toys.

The toys were collected and sent Iraq by relatives and friends of civilian contractors and Soldiers serving in Mosul.

“Putting smiles on those kid’s faces makes this job worth all the effort,” said a U.S. contractor who asked that his name be kept anonymous in the spirit of charity.

Soldiers from the 552nd Military Police Company provided security for the event and mingled with the children before and after the children received their gifts.

“It was obvious that what we were doing really made them happy, and they were excited about it,” said 1st Lt. Laura



Pfc. Timothy Beck of De Soto, Mo., assigned to the 552nd Military Police Company, attached to the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, chats with a group of boys at an elementary school during a humanitarian aid visit in Mosul, Iraq, in April.

Proffit, a platoon leader with the 552nd MP Co. “It was a really good feeling.”

Proffit said events like this provide her and other Soldiers a

sense of accomplishment.

“It definitely built a good relationship between the Iraqi people, Iraqi police and of course, Coalition Forces.”



Photos by Capt. Richard Ybarra

Elementary students wave a cheerful farewell to Iraqi police and Coalition Forces after the officers and Soldiers conducted a humanitarian aid visit to the Mosul school, providing the students with shoes, clothes and gifts.

Securing one neighborhood at a time

Combat Outposts allow Iraqi Army and Coalition Forces to provide protection for residents while eliminating enemy threat

Capt. Richard Ybarra
115th MPAD

MOSUL, Iraq - Iraqi Army and Coalition Forces have continued to solidify their hold on Mosul by adding another Combat Outpost, COP "Shan" in the al-Bareed neighborhood where al-Qaeda in Iraq has made an effort for the COP to live up to its name. "Shan," means "beehive" in Kurdish,

"They (AQI) have used a remote control VBIED (vehicle-borne improvised explosive device), rocket propelled grenades and sniper fire" in an attempt to thwart construction said, then 1st Sgt. Anthony Gast of Fort Bliss, Texas, assigned to Ironhawk Troop, 3rd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment. "Each COP is becoming more of a battle. We are restricting



Staff Sgt. Gary Pearson of Moreno Valley, Calif. and Spc. Cameron Beal of Fort Campbell, Ky., both assigned to Thunder Squadron, 3d ACR, move along the single row of completed Hesco barriers at COP Shan during its construction.

their freedom of movement and they are running out of places they can bring their equipment in."

The COPs are designed to drive a wedge between AQI and the citizens who live in the troubled neighborhood. This is accomplished by improving security and acting as a facilitator for constant communication between the citizens and their IA and CF protectors.

"The COPs provide increased security and ultimately as security increases, allows for infrastructure improvements and more commerce," said Gast. "COPs allow the Iraqi army to have a permanent presence and show the Iraqi people that the IA and IP are here to defend them every day, and that has made a big difference."



Photos by Capt. Richard Ybarra

Pfc. Mitchell Wallace of Hartford, Conn. and Sgt. Christopher Ryder of Grants Pass, Ore., both assigned to Ironhawk Troop, 3rd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, move to set a cordon around their commander upon their arrival at Combat Outpost Shan in the al-Bareed neighborhood of Mosul, Iraq, in early April.

Keep safety in mind when grilling

Peter Higgins
Safety and Occupational
Specialist

As the days grow longer and warmer, more of us like to turn to entertainment outdoors. One very favorite pastime of mine and many others is the backyard barbecue.

Here in Mosul, as well as back in Texas, this popular activity is a great way to unwind and relax. However, it is also important to remember that some caution and safety measures should be observed.

The Army Combat Readiness Center at Fort Rucker, Ala., indicates that backyard grilling results in more than 2,000 fires, 300 grill-related injuries, and 30 or more deaths in the United States each year.

While new safety devices have reduced these statistics for gas grills by nearly 50 percent, the number of injuries and deaths remains relatively unchanged

for charcoal grills. Some of the leading causes of grill fires have been the ignition of combustibles or gas fuel, leaving food unattended, and grilling in an enclosed area.

There are also numerous incidents resulting from the use of improper fuels such as gasoline and paint thinner for starting a charcoal fire.

Grilling safety does not end after the food is cooked. On gas grills, be sure to turn off all valves and on charcoal grills, ensure that the ashes are totally extinguished. Remember that charcoal can remain hot for up to 48 hours.

Enjoy your time grilling and spending time with friends, just remember that a preventable accident can ruin the day.

The following is a list of suggestions from the National Safety Council:

- * Wear a protective apron and use oven mitts
- * Always follow the manufacturer's instructions
- * Never use a grill indoors.
- * Keep your grill at least 10 feet from any house or building
Note: The Mosul Fire department requires 25 feet.
- * Always use grills on a level surface
- * Never leave a grill unattended
- * Keep a fire extinguisher handy and know how to use it
- * Observe manufacturer instructions for storage, use and filling of gas cylinders
- * Use a limited amount of starter fluid and never use gasoline.
- * Remember that grills remain hot long after you are finished cooking
- * Seek immediate medical attention for any burns

IA, 3d ACR team up to help Mosul citizens

Capt. Richard Ybarra
115th MPAD

MOSUL, Iraq – Iraqi army and Coalition Forces Soldiers based out of Combat Out Post Rat in Mosul pooled their resources in a humanitarian aide effort April 17 that provided water, drinks, food supplies, medical aid, and gifts to help the citizens in the al-Mamoon neighborhood who have been displaced by al-Qaeda in Iraq-driven activities.

“Tents and food supplies were provided by the Red Crescent when they first arrived,” said 1st Lt. Peter Cacossa of Heavy Company, 3rd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment. “Now the IA has eyes

on them. They have been dropping off necessities to them too. Additionally, we have been working through our chain-of command to get them help on an official level.”

The IA and Heavy Co., 3rd Sqdrn., 3d ACR Soldiers made the decision to join forces to help. They gathered all the supplies they could spare and purchased stuffed animals for the children.

“It has kind of become our personal quest to help take care of these people. We like seeing the little kids,” said Cacossa. “A lot of the guys who have small children at home, they kind of take it to heart. Helping them makes us feel good at the end of the day too.”

Family members earn their spurs

The regiment's families have continued to stay busy back here at Fort Hood. FRGs have been holding events before summer kicks off and families take their summer vacations.

Remington Troop held a T-shirt design contest. The winning design was used for the Remington T-shirts worn at the Spouses' Spur Ride. Remington is currently looking for fundraising ideas and help with their planning committee for a Family Fun Day event this summer. Remington will be holding their troop FRG meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at the Oveta Culp Soldier & Family Readiness Center. Childcare is available at most meetings

Tiger Squadron has been holding their monthly squadron meeting on the first Tuesday of the month. Each month they have different guest speakers highlight different things on Fort Hood. The squadron is gearing up for a "half-way there" event for families at an Austin park in June.

Tiger said goodbye to Christine Durand from King Battery. Christine helped stand up the King Battery FRG in 2006 when the regiment first moved to Fort Hood. Thank you, Christine Durand, for all of your hard work and dedication to King Battery. Tiger is also sad to bid adieu to their squadron FRSA, Janeth Lopez. Janeth has been a valuable part of the

Tiger rear detachment and will be greatly missed.

Sabre Squadron is also highlighting a monthly squadron FRG meeting in addition to all the individual troop events. April's meeting had a "self care" class for the families so they can get their over-the-counter medications at the pharmacy for free. Sabre's June event will be a skating party to celebrate the end of the school year. Sabre also continues their "walk to Iraq" they are currently at mile 4,373, about half way to Iraq!

Thunder Squadron is also continuing to hold monthly squadron meeting for the families. The Thunder ladies, always the trendsetters, fashioned their own "special" squadron guidon for their rear detachment. Thunder is currently selling OIF 07-09 "Thunderettes" Deployment T-shirts. Thunder also said goodbye to two FRG leaders this past month. Roxane Gast passed the FRG torch of Ironhawk to Jennifer

Parnell and Toni Palmer. After three years heading the Regulator FRG, Maura Kilbride is passing the reins to Kalin Wells. Roxane and Maura, thank you both for hard work, endless spirit, and consistent support of the Troopers and their families.

Longknife Squadron continued to hold numerous troop events during the past couple months. They ended the month of May with a Squadron Family Fun Day at the hanger. There were plenty of great events for all ages including bouncing houses and the joust. The squadron had the event catered and everyone left with a smile on their face.

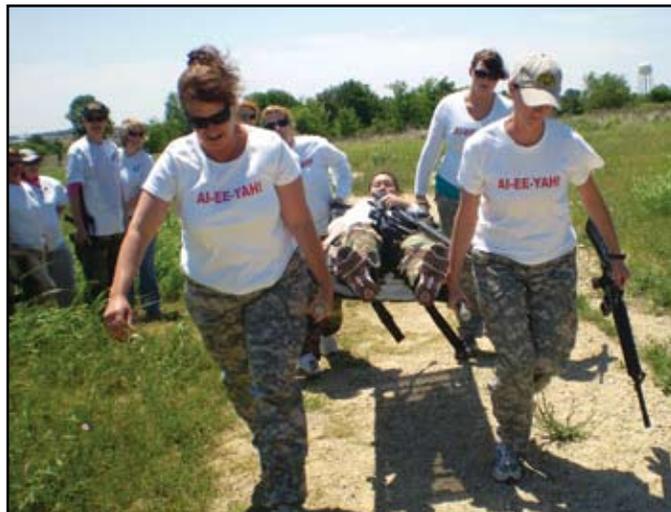
Longknife is very proud to have the honor of having the lone male spouse who participated in the Spouses' Spur Ride. Chris VanHelden, who is a former Soldier himself, came out to earn his Cav Spurs and was a great addition to the Longknife team.

Muleskinner Squadron

continued to collect items for their "All a kid needs" supply closet. The squadron is closing the month with a squadron level FRG meeting featuring a telephone conference with their squadron commander and command sergeant major, fielding questions and concerns from Muleskinner families.

Spouses' Spur Ride

The big news this past month was, without a doubt, the 3d ACR Spouses' Spur Ride. All



Photos by Megan Bills

Family Readiness Group members take part in the obstacle course event during the 3d ACR Spouses Spur Ride at Fort Hood, Texas, May 16.

Station of choice is now a re-enlistment option

The Troopers of the regiment continue to re-enlist and extend their service to our great nation.

As we celebrate the 162nd year of service of the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment during the month of May, we can also start requesting duty assignments for Soldiers in conjunction with their re-enlistment.

For the first time since the 3d ACR left Fort Carson, Colo., and moved to Fort Hood, Texas, in 2006, Soldiers now have the opportunity to request a Station of Choice re-enlistment.

The Soldier must be in the reenlistment window (two years or less from their ETS date) to be able to

request a new duty location.

Out of 440 Soldiers who have re-enlisted this year, 122 chose Current Station Stabilization to remain a part of the regiment. The fact that 28 percent of our total re-enlistments choose to remain a Brave Rifle speaks volumes about the leadership and the legacy of this great organization.

I will close in saying Thank You to each and every Trooper who has chosen to continue his or her service. I ask that each of you who are unsure or undecided, talk to your servicing career counselor about options and opportunities for which you might be qualified.

3d ACR Career Counselors

Regimental Career Counselor: Master Sgt. Sluss

Tiger Squadron: Sgt. 1st Class Kiehl

Sabre Squadron: Staff Sgt. Menocal

Thunder Squadron: Staff Sgt. Burgos

Longknife Squadron: Staff Sgt. Martin

Muleskinner: Staff Sgt. Countryman



squadrons and RHHT were well represented.

The Spouses' Spur Ride was held May 16 and lasted about six hours. Nearly 150 spouses participated. Spouses came dressed in their Army gear, BDUs, DCUs, and ACUs, paired with their squadron T-shirts proudly displaying their Cav pride.

The Spouses began the day in true Soldier fashion with the squadron PT lead by their respective squadron rear detachment cadre. The cadre really seemed to enjoy leading the spouses through PT and ensuring they were feeling the burn.

The Spur Ride was a round robin event where spouses moved to different stations participating

in various Army events. The stations included CTT, EST, Land Navigation, and a game of 3d ACR History Jeopardy. There was a special obstacle course event held right before lunchtime where all of the teams met and went through the course in groups of five before digging into a special lunchtime treat of yummy MREs!

There were a few small bumps and bruises, but all in all, at the end of the day, the spouses had a great time and got a small taste of what our Soldiers do.

The day concluded with an end of event celebration meal. Families chowed down on a barbecue feast prepared by our rear detachment cadre spouses. At 6 p.m. we finally reached the

moment everyone was waiting for - time to get the spurs! Spouses received a Spur Certificate, a set of "Spouses" Spurs Charms and a Spouses' Spur Ride "I've got my Spurs" T-shirt.



Spouses stretch during PT at the Spouses Spur Ride. Spouses received certificate, a set of "Spouses" Spurs Charms and a "I've got my Spurs" T-shirt.

Remember what Memorial Day means

Chaplain (Maj.) Larry Holland
Regimental Chaplain

Greetings and blessings to all 3d ACR family and friends, wherever you may be. I hope this finds you well. As I write this article we celebrate Memorial Day.

It is the time of the year marked by most as a day of fun, food, and fellowship with family and friends ushering in the beginning of summer. But it is a Day of Remembrance that takes on a whole new meaning for us during this deployment.

I hope that you had a good and safe holiday, but I hope that some part of it included time to honor our fallen. Sadly, too many Americans never knew (or have forgotten) the history and true meaning of Memorial Day.

It was originally known as "Decoration Day" because it was a time set aside to honor the nation's Civil War dead by decorating their graves.

By proclamation, May 30, 1868 was *designated "for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land."*

During the first celebration of Decoration Day, then Army Gen. James Garfield (later to become our 20th President) made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, after which 5,000 participants helped to decorate the graves of the more than 20,000 Union and Confederate Soldiers buried in the cemetery. By the late 1800s, many

communities across the country began to celebrate the observance and, after World War I, also began to honor those who had died in all of America's wars.

In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be celebrated the last Monday in May. (Veteran's Day, a day set aside to honor all veterans, living and dead, is celebrated each year on November 11.)

"... I encourage all of us to erect ever-living *memorials* in our hearts and minds so that we may *never forget* those who gave the *ultimate sacrifice* in service to our country."

-- Chap. (Maj.) Larry Holland

The tradition of honoring the war dead by placing flowers and flags upon their graves continues around the world at our national monuments and cemeteries. They are awe inspiring places to visit and every American should take advantage to do so if they have opportunity. They are "hallowed" grounds filled with history, stone markers and monuments, and the spirit of the fallen.

Such places have Biblical roots. The first mention of several such memorials in the Bible is found in the Old Testament book of Joshua, chapter 4. After crossing the parted waters of the Jordan River "on dry ground" Joshua commissioned the first of several stone monuments recorded in the Scriptures. He directed 12 men from all the tribes of Israel to

"Go into the middle of the Jordan and take a large stone upon your shoulder and place them here to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, what do these stones mean? Tell them they are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever." (Joshua 4:1-7). Such stone monuments and memorials are an important part of ours and many people's history.

But, in addition to stone monuments and grave markers, I encourage all of us to erect ever-living memorials in our hearts and minds so that we may never forget those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country.

On the next page you will see the pictures of the two fallen Soldiers lost since our last issue of the "The Mounted Rifelman," and below that, a list of all 22 of our fallen Soldiers. Take time to reflect on the sacrifice they made. May God rest their soul. Remember also our Gold Star families who continue to deal with their loss. We need to pray for them and be there for them when needed in any way that we can.

May we never, never, never, forget! God bless the USA and may God bless you all.

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN



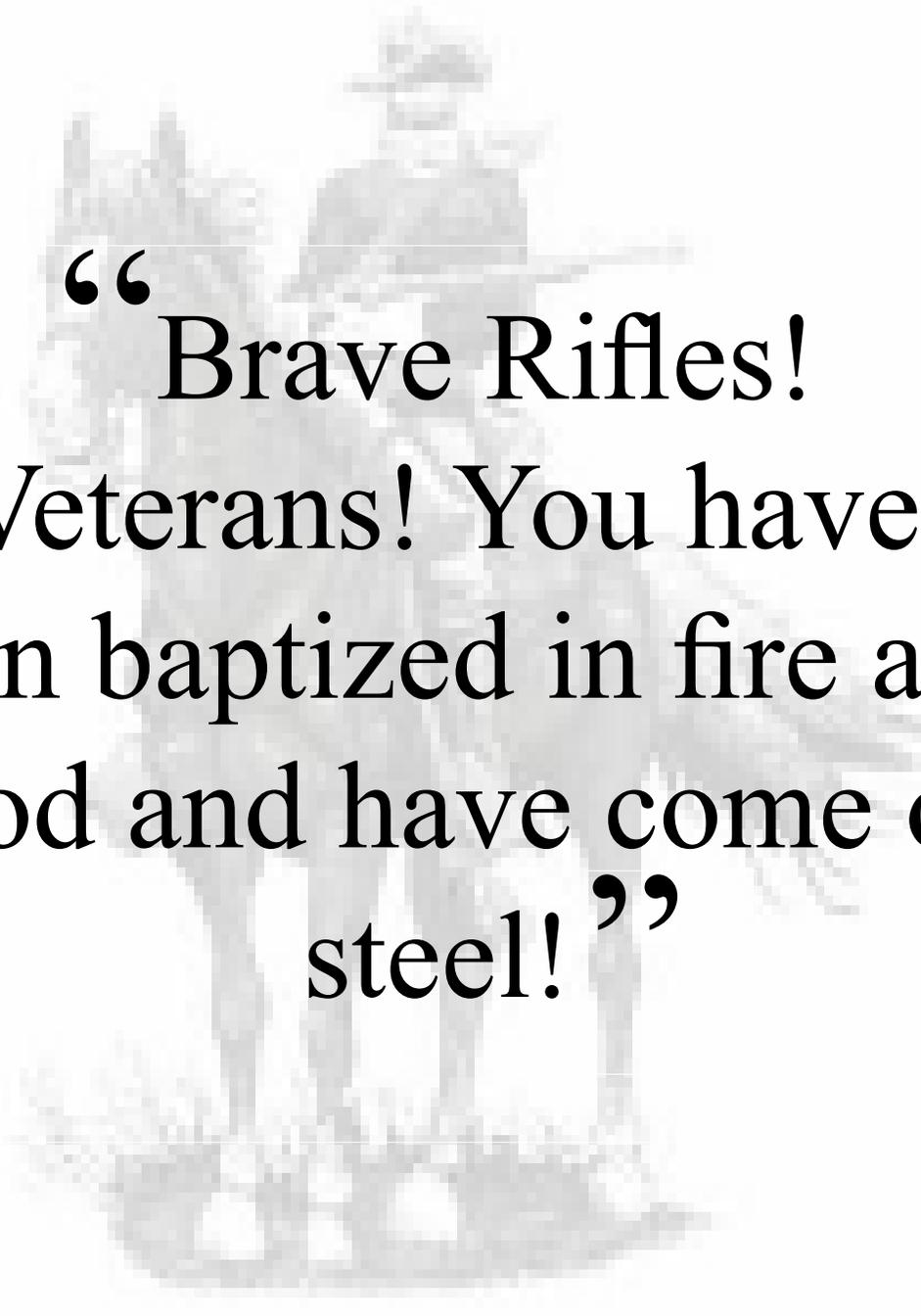
SSG Chad Caldwell
Killer Troop, 3/3 ACR
April 30, 2008



SPC Alex Gonzalez
43rd Combat Engineer
Company, 2/3 ACR
May 6, 2008

Fallen Heroes - OIF 07-09

SPC Christine Ndururi, Air Raider Troop, 4/3 ACR, November 6, 2007
SFC Jonathan Lowery, Howitzer Battery, 3/3 ACR, December 14, 2007
1LT Jeremy Ray, King Battery, 1/3 ACR, December 20, 2007
CPT Rowdy Inman, Ironhawk Troop, 3/3 ACR, December 26, 2007
SGT Benjamin B. Portell, Ironhawk Troop, 3/3 ACR, December 26, 2007
PFC Keith Lloyd, Roughrider Troop, 1/3 ACR, January 12, 2008
SSG Justin Whiting, 3rd Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), January 19, 2008
SSG Gary Jeffries, Company B, 1/8 Infantry Regiment, January 28, 2008
SGT James Craig, Company B, 1/8 Infantry Regiment, January 28, 2008
CPL Evan Marshall, Company B, 1/8 Infantry Regiment, January 28, 2008
SPC Brandon Meyer, Company B, 1/8 Infantry Regiment, January 28, 2008
PFC Joshua Young, Company B, 1/8 Infantry Regiment, January 28, 2008
SGT Corey Spates, Grim Troop, 2/3 ACR, February 10, 2008
SSG Bryant Mackey, Lightning Troop, 3/3 ACR, February 20, 2008
CPT Torre R. Mallard, Fox Troop, 2/3 ACR, March 10, 2008
SGT Phillip R. Anderson, Fox Troop, 2/3 ACR, March 10, 2008
SPC Donald A. Burkett, Fox Troop, 2/3 ACR, March 10, 2008
SGT Gregory D. Unruh, Fox Troop, 2/3 ACR, March 19, 2008
SPC Matthew Morris, Lion Battery, 2/3 ACR, MiTT 0511, April 6, 2008
CPT Ulises Burgos-Cruz, MiTT 0511, April 6, 2008
SSG Chad Caldwell, Killer Troop, 3/3 ACR, April 30, 2008
SPC Alex Gonzalez, 43rd Combat Engineer Company, 2/3 ACR, May 6, 2008



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