

THE MOUNTED RIFLEMAN

3d ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT

August 2008



Training the force

THE MOUNTED RIFLEMAN



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3d Armored
Cavalry Regiment**

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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 we have moved well past the halfway mark of this deployment, the regiment's success is becoming evident. The amount of violence faced while conducting missions has decreased dramatically and the Iraqi Security Forces have moved into the lead in the fight for their country against the insurgents.

While it is a great sign for Coalition Forces, the fight is still far from over and our Troopers continue to assist the ISF when needed to ensure the citizens of this country are safe.

Most of the stories that you will see are focused more on the partnership with the ISF and how we are all working together rather than just focusing on the U.S. forces. This helps give you a better idea of what our Troopers are doing on a daily basis and will give you a better idea of the success the Brave Rifles are achieving.

We are witnessing, and are part of the turning point in Ninewah Province, down in Diyala Province where Sabre Squadron is based, and Longknife continues to help keep Baghdad secure. Everyone should be proud of the job the Troopers are doing.

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 SVOIP 573-2097 or DSN 849-5270.

The Mounted Rifleman and other photos, news releases and information is available on the 3d ACR's Web site: http://www.hood.army.mil.3d_acr

Visit the often as the information is updated regularly.

- The Editor



3d Armored Cavalry Regiment



Left/Cover: U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Jason Alexander, field artillery/effects adviser embedded with 1st Battalion, 8th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Army Division, helps an Iraqi army Jundi with his basic infantry skills in the Iraqi Security Forces' Forward Operating Base Al Kindi in Mosul, Iraq. Their 12-day training program consisted of mounted combat patrolling, close quarter combat, first aid, and other essential training to develop good infantryman skills. (See story on Page 27).

Cover photo by Spc. Karla P. Rodriguez Maciel

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Sgt. Matthew Boyd

Col. Michael Bills (left) speaks with Company A, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment commander, Capt. Carlos Flynn during a market walk in Mosul in August.

Troopers and Families of the Regiment,
I was recently able to return home on EML to the states a couple of weeks ago, during which time I got the opportunity to visit with many of our wounded Soldiers currently at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Brook Army Medical Center.

It was an amazing and uplifting experience to see these great Soldiers who, in the best of spirits, are working to get their lives back to a relative degree of normalcy after experiencing incredible traumatic events. Staff Sgt. Michael Clark, Sgt. Charles Duplessis, and Spc. Oscar Liberato are great examples and represent the best in our Soldiers.

They display courage, perseverance, and physical and mental toughness! I am proud of each and every one of our Wounded Warriors and their sacrifices to their country, fellow Soldiers, and especially family.

They were truly an inspiration to be around. They love their Regiment, miss their buddies, and want to get back into the fight. The bravery by all our Wounded Warriors was an experience I will not soon forget and one that renewed my vigor to return to the fight at hand in Ninewah Province.

As I returned from leave, I was reminded almost immediately of how well we as a Regiment have done. What you have accomplished in terms of security and transition is second to none in Theater!

However, I am also reminded that we are at the 10th month of our rotation, a time where historically, complacency starts to set in and Soldier discipline starts to slip. It impacts mission focus and Soldier safety as evidence in vehicle roll-overs, negligent discharges, personnel injuries, and fires we have experienced the last two months.

I expect leaders at all levels to enforce standards and discipline on and off the FOB and leaders reinforce the 14 points stated in the Brave Rifles Standing Orders down to the Soldier level.

We still have a lot of work to do with our Iraqi brothers, both the Iraqi Security Forces and the Provisional Government.

We as a Regiment must maintain the exceptional security posture achieved these past 10 months in order to assist the provincial leadership with essential services and economic programs.

As the XVII Command Sergeant Major of our Regiment stated last quarter, we have started to set the stage for the ISF to take over and protect their countrymen. We must continue to build those relationships and provide that valued training the ISF needs to transition.

I would like to thank and farewell 4-6 Air Cavalry Squadron; Lt. Col. Jamison and Command Sgt. Maj. Clowser your Troopers have performed

phenomenally. Your squadron broke many aviation OIF records in theater; the most significant, logging more than 50,000 combat flight hours. Good luck to your team as you return to Fort Lewis, Wash.

With the loss of 4-6 Air CAV we gain another outstanding unit and I welcome the 6-17 Air Cavalry Squadron with Lt. Col. Snelon and Command Sgt. Maj. Bailey from Alaska into the Regimental Team.

We look forward to the support and professionalism your team brings to the fight. Another welcome attachment to the team is 1/2 SCR with Lt. Col. Barnett and Command Sgt. Maj. Boom. They have fought hard in MND-B for the past 12 months and are more than ready to take the fight to the enemy.

Troopers; keep up the great work you are doing and more importantly, continue to take care of each other as we take the fight to the enemy in every corner of Iraq with 2/3 ACR and HOW BAT in Diyala, 4/3 ACR in central and southern Iraq, and the majority of the Regiment here in Ninewah.

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



Sgt. Matthew Boyd

From left, Col. Michael Bills and Command Sgt. Maj William Burns present a sabre to (from right) Lt. Col. T.J. Jamison and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Clowser as 4-6 Air Cav ended their deployment in Iraq in August.



Courtesy Photo

Col. Michael Bills presented a Purple Heart and Combat Action Badge to Spc. Oscar Liberato in July. Liberato was injured while deployed in Iraq with the 3d ACR.



Courtesy Photo

Left, Col. Michael Bills present the Purple Heart and ARCOM to Staff Sgt. Michael Clark in July. Clark was injured while deployed with the 3d ACR in Iraq.

Right, Col. Michael Bills and Sgt. Charles Duplessis pause for a photo. Duplessis was presented a Purple Heart and Combat Action Badge by Col. Bills in July. Duplessis was injured while deployed with the 3d ACR.



Courtesy Photo

A message from the XVII CSM of the Regiment



Sgt. Matthew Boyd

Command Sgt. Major William Burns walks through Mosul neighborhood during a battle field circulation to visit the area and check on the progress being made by the Iraqi Security and Coalition Forces.

As we continue to take the fight to the enemy, keeping him off balance and wary of direct contact; we as leaders must keep our combat focus.

With that said, we must also remain a disciplined fighting force that remains safety-focused and respectful of our leaders, Soldiers, and the Iraqi people.

DISCIPLINE AND STANDARDS

As some of you have experienced, I believe in discipline and enforce standards on a daily basis!

There is no excuse, nor is there a time when these two elements should not be present in the execution of our missions and daily activities. Maintaining discipline in our formations is what enables us, as Soldiers and leaders, to follow the Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures along with best practices we have learned while in the fight. We can never look for a short cut or the ‘easy way’ that worked the last time; even though it wasn’t to standard.

Remember that a disciplined unit can overcome what sometimes appears to be insurmountable adversity because it is always doing the right thing

— even when no one is looking.

I am impressed with the tenacity of how the Soldiers of this Regimental Task Force have fought the enemy while at the same time respected the people of Ninewah Province. You have set the standard for others to follow and your efforts will be written into the history of the Regiment.

As we move past the midway point of this deployment we have begun to make preparations for our return home. These preparations are not a time for you to think about home; it is time for you to think about re-energizing yourselves and continuing to focus on those things that have become SOP during the past nine months.

Don’t get me wrong, looking ahead to returning home is natural, but maintaining your discipline and strictly enforcing standards will keep the enemy off balance and unable to mount a coordinated or effective attack against your formations.

SAFETY

Overall, the safety with which the Regiment has conducted its operations and missions has been impressive.

“ You have set the *standard* for others to follow and your efforts will be written into the *history* of the *Regiment.* ”

-- *Command Sgt. Maj. William Burns
XVII CSM of the Regiment*

While accidents will occur no matter how many precautions you take, the reported incidents of avoidable accidents have been extremely low considering all of the high-risk operations you have executed.

That is a direct reflection of the leaders ensuring their Soldiers are prepared and ready to conduct combat and combat support operations.

Our job is inherently dangerous and the key to executing operations is to always make safety one of the underlying threads in preparation for any operations.

RESPECT

As the tour rolls along, coupled with the summer heat and 24/7 contact with the same people, tempers can flare.

Leaders need to continue to monitor their Soldiers to ensure that attitudes stay in check and that we continue to treat each other with respect. It can be easy to get agitated as we continue to perform the same tasks on a daily basis; however, we all need to remember that disrespecting your fellow Soldiers or your leaders will only bring about negative consequences.

Respect goes for our ISF partners as well. Together we have had an incredible impact in the province. Take a minute to think about what the security situation and the training level of the Iraqi Security Forces were when we arrived and look at it now.

What our combined training and mission execution have accomplished is nothing short of amazing. They have steadily improved in their skill and ability to perform missions.

We must continue to push them hard in the right direction while at the same

time understanding and respecting their culture and way of doing business.

It may be different than our ways, but in the end we have the same goals for security and will achieve them together.

Leaders and Soldiers; the road before us gets shorter every day. We must continue to work together as one cohesive team. Discipline and Standards, Safety, and Respect have been the cornerstones of our success during this deployment.

I know the Soldiers of this team and have trust and confidence that you will continue to fight, win, and care for your brothers and sisters on and off the battlefield! Maintain your focus and enforce the standards and we will continue to achieve our goals and defeat the insurgency.

**Brave Rifles!
RCSM**



Sgt. Matthew Boyd

Command Sgt. Major William Burns greets a Soldier at COP Apache during a battle field circulation.

REMINGTON

Headquarters Troop, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment



Capt. William Nance Remington Troop Commander

Remington Troop continues to excel as we have now pushed well past the half-way mark of the deployment and begin to turn our thoughts toward redeployment.

The beginning of the summer brought several significant changes to the troop with the departure of the previous commander, Maj. Jocuns, and his executive officer, Capt. Fan, and the arrival of myself, and my executive officer, 1st Lt. Nass.

During the past two months, the Soldiers of the troop have constantly amazed me with their dedication to duty and attention to detail, despite the often tedious work of being part of a regimental headquarters.

Regardless of the mission, whether the Soldiers are rolling down the streets as part of the regimental commander's PSD, inventorying containers, or working long, hot hours in the motor pool, the troop's Soldiers meet all challenges with determination and a sense of humor.

The regimental staff has been very busy, assisting the Iraqi army as it stands up to take responsibility for Ninewah Province, while at the same time controlling the regiment as it continues to take the fight to the enemy. Despite such an enormous work load, the regimental staff has managed to assist in dramatically improving the quality of life for the Iraqi people in this province.

The troop's focus has also begun to shift during the past couple months. Whereas for months, the troop has been focused on setting up and maintaining steady state operations, we have now begun the long process of moving the unit back home.

This has meant long hours opening and inventorying containers and vehicles as well as identifying and training all the appropriate key personnel who will be needed during later phases of the redeployment. Needless to say, home is still months away, but it still feels great to begin the necessary work in order for us to get there.

The troop celebrated the Fourth of July with a weapons range, where we decided to familiarize as many Soldiers as possible on machine guns. Even 1st Sgt. Brown got into the act, showing off his skills on the M-240 and M-249. The overall favorite of the day was still the .50-caliber machine gun that the PSD brought out to train. After we had finished the range event, each section

went back and celebrated the day with section barbecues or a trip to the DFAC, where our cooks had produced an awesome grilled meal.

As the summer intensifies, we are doing our best to stay cool. The mechanics have shifted their hours to work in the evening, and more work is being done earlier or later in the day to avoid the 100-plus degree temperatures during the afternoon.

We have also fielded the new Army Combat Shirt just in time for the hottest part of the summer. It is designed with a very thin under-armor type fabric for the body core, which is covered by the Body Armor, and has ACU style sleeves that are also fire resistant. The Soldiers love them, as they are much cooler to wear under body armor than regular ACUs.

The troop remains strong and committed to the mission and setting the standard. Thank to all you for your support to our Soldiers.

Brave Rifles! *Remington 6*



1st Lt. Christian Nass

From left, Capt. William Nance, RHHT, 3d ACR commander, re-enlists Remington Troop Soldier Sgt. Frank Fritz, a track vehicle mechanic, during a ceremony in June.

TIGER

1st Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment



Lt. Col. Thomas Dorame Tiger Squadron Commander

As we have moved past the halfway point, this gives us a good time to reflect on what we have done thus far and on the major events yet to come.

The squadron has achieved much to date. Beginning with the deployment phase when we moved the entire squadron from Fort Hood to Kuwait and to our operating base in Iraq.

We have established three Troop level outposts to better position our Soldiers for security across the region. We have defeated the insurgency in the Za'ab Triangle; we have stemmed the foreign fighter flow across the Jazeera desert; and we have brought security and hope to the people of southern Ninewah Province. Still, there are many challenges to come.

The squadron remains ready to fight any re-emergence of Al Qaeda in our area of operations.

We continue to work to develop the Iraqi army and police capability. Additionally, we are supporting the local government in an effort to boost their economy in order to provide essential services for the needs of their people.

As we do this, we will continue to set the conditions so the Iraqi government can be self-reliant, having earned the people's trust. This should all be highlighted by a free



Courtesy photos

Lt. Col. Thomas Dorame, Tiger Squadron commander, and Dr. Mohammed Ismael Ahmed (left), conduct an interview with a local television station from Hechel, Iraq, Aug. 4, about a meeting with the area leadership to discuss future plans.

and fair provincial election by the end of the year.

All of our achievements have come from the great work of our Soldiers. They continue to perform above and beyond each and every day. However, this mission is not without sacrifice.

This past month we felt the pain of that sacrifice as we lost three of our fellow Soldiers, three heroes: Sgt. Alejandro Dominquez, Spc.

Joel Taylor, and Spc. James Yohn.

I ask that you keep their families in your thoughts and prayers. Again, Tiger continues to do great things based on the outstanding job of every Soldier in the formation.

Together, we remain Tiger Strong.

**Teeth of the Regiment!
Tiger 6**



Command Sgt. Maj. Jonathan Hunt, command sergeant major for 1st Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, meets Iraqi Warrior Leader Course soldiers during a conference sponsored by Tiger Squadron. The senior NCOs from the Iraqi army met with senior 3d ACR NCOs at FOB Q West Aug. 11-13 to discuss how to improve IA daily operations and soldier training.

SABRE

2nd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment



Lt. Col. Paul Calvert

Sabre Squadron Commander

Throughout much of July and August, world attention focused on Diyala Province. The Maliki government had announced that Diyala — specifically the area of Diyala where Sabre Squadron lives and works — would be the focus of the latest Iraqi army offensive.

Emboldened by their successes in Basra, Sadr City, and Mosul, thousands of Iraqi army soldiers poured into AO Sabre and they quickly discovered that Sabre had prepared the ground for their arrival. Eastern Diyala Province was a different, more peaceful province than perhaps anyone expected.

After more than three months of extensive operations in south Balad Ruz, Sabre Troopers routed al Qaeda. Former terrorist strongholds are now thriving villages with new Iraqi police outposts and new Iraqi army checkpoints helping to keep the peace. Previously impassable roads were open to even civilian traffic and citizens celebrated their newfound freedom.

Even further south, the remnants of once-fearsome al Qaeda cells fled rather than face Sabre Squadron and its Iraqi allies. Braving intense heat, battling through IED traps laid by their departing enemy, and with the eyes of the world on them, Sabre Troopers upheld the best traditions of the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen as they cleared hundreds of square kilometers of previously enemy-held land.

Just as they did in May to launch Operation Sabre Tempest, Grim Troopers, in late July, took to the sky to begin Operation Sabre Pursuit with an air assault deep into southern part of AO Sabre. Fox Troopers surged forward in ground attack convoys, while Lion Battery moved into Combat Outpost Bama to hold ground just south of Balad Ruz.

HHT Troopers kept the rest of Sabre supplied with food, water, ice, and medicine, even as Fox and Grim operated miles from any population centers. By the first of August, the whole of south Balad Ruz was firmly under Iraqi government control.

The sense of progress is palpable, and even the enemy's successes are quickly countered and neutralized. As discussed in the previous edition of

the Mounted Rifleman, al Qaeda hit Balad Ruz hard on May 1 when a woman faking a pregnancy blew herself up on a crowded street. But the enemy's efforts to maintain a campaign of terror suffered a severe blow when Iraqi police and HHT Troopers captured the architect of the bombing and a key al Qaeda suicide cell leader.

Emboldened as al Qaeda leaders and thugs are killed, captured, or fleeing, ordinary Iraqi citizens are standing up for themselves. Sabre Squadron has recruited more than 300 "Sons of Iraq," local citizens who pledge to guard their own communities. In July, al Qaeda terrorists viciously attacked a small group of these citizens as they manned an outpost near their village. Despite being outnumbered by their attackers, these citizens did not run. They fought back, took casualties, and kept fighting. When the dust cleared, a key al Qaeda leader lay dead, and the "Sons of Iraq" held their ground.

Sabre Troopers are maintaining their magnificent professionalism and courage. Nine months into the squadron's third deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, our Troopers are not just handling their own operations at nearly-peak efficiency, their qualities and habits are having a profound impact on the Iraqi police, soldiers and citizens they work with every day.

We are now seeing things that once seemed like a pipe dream: Iraqi police arresting high value targets; elite Iraqi army units leading large offensives with minimal coalition help; and ordinary citizens laying their lives on the line to protect their homes from terror. Of course, there is much work to be done — and the enemy is still dangerous — but AO Sabre is a very different place than it was on Thanksgiving Day 2007, when the majority of the squadron arrived at FOB Caldwell.

One of the most encouraging and notable aspects of Sabre Troopers' performance is their sheer versatility. Cavalry Troopers have conducted air assaults, field artillerymen patrolled roads and meet with village leaders and cooks helped secure towns torn by terrorist violence. Regardless of their MOS, Sabre Troopers are "Soldiers first."

See "Sabre," Page 34.

THUNDER

3rd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment



Lt. Col. Keith Barclay
Thunder Squadron
Commander

Family, friends, and members of the Thunder Team, it is hard to believe that July has come and gone already.

This was another month of exciting advances in Iraq and another month of remarkable missions and tasks executed by the Troopers of Thunder Squadron.

One of the most important tasks, the voter registration process, began this month. It is truly an exciting site to see so many Iraqi citizens taking the future of their nation seriously and registering to ensure their voices are heard. Preparation for the latest round of elections in Iraq began months ago with the identification of voting registration sites in Mosul and across Ninewah Province.

Troopers from Thunder Squadron fanned out to all corners of the province to scout out the nominated locations. There were many important factors when considering a site for voter registration. The most prevalent is of course was security, but a close second and third are the location's ability to handle the number of citizens and finding a site that most locals know about. These factors are essential to a successful registration site.

As in the United States, schools were typically chosen to serve as suitable places where Iraqis could come and register to vote. Troop and company leadership from Thunder Squadron personally

visited more than 40 sites and engaged the Iraqi leadership in conversations regarding security, past voter turn out levels, and any needs or assistance that would be required to facilitate registration.

Despite the smoldering temperatures, the squadron has provided any and all assistance needed by the Iraqi government to ensure the safety and legitimacy of the elections process. However, these elections will be vastly different from previous elections in that, like other aspects of current Iraqi national security, the Iraqi Security Forces are solely responsible for security and order.

This is a great step forward, further illustrating how Iraqi institutions are beginning to take responsibility for their jobs allowing the coalition to reduce its role.

In the first week of July, sites were mapped out by ISF and both policemen and soldiers were portioned up and sent to secure their respective sites. With Iraqi security in place, Thunder Squadron's role became one of overwatch and readied itself to respond to any given registration site in the event of security issues that the ISF were incapable of handling themselves.

On July 15, voting registration sites officially opened their doors to the populace and registration began. Citizens could either physically register on site if it was their first time voting or they could complete their registration by telephone if they had previously voted. All across Mosul and Ninewah, informative posters and

billboards told the people of the locations they could register at and the two options of registering. Actual election dates are still to be determined by the Iraqi parliament, but after the 30 day registration process, things are successfully underway.

In addition to the ensuring mission accomplishment, Thunder Troopers also found time to commemorate our nation's independence. The familiar aroma of charcoal briquettes and slowly simmering meat permeated throughout FOB Marez and Sykes on the Fourth of July, allowing the Troopers to experience a small taste of home and a well deserved break.

Our nation's birthday was celebrated by all, and I believe most, like me, took a moment of pause. Few in our country are afforded the privilege to experience a Fourth of July in a war zone far away from home. Granted, it may not seem like a privilege at face value, but as I'm sure all Thunder Troopers here will echo, you are given a chance to reflect on what our mission here is really all about.

Defending our nation's freedom, while assisting allies in defending their own, comes with a sense of humble satisfaction.

In closing, as always, Thunder Squadron families and friends have very much to be proud of. Your Troopers have shown no signs of tiring over the past months and just as dedicated to see the mission through now, as

See "Thunder," Page 34.

LONGKNIFE

4th Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment



Lt. Col. Todd Royar
Longknife Squadron Commander

In the last issue of the Mounted Rifleman, it was likely that the squadron was going to move from Taji to Baghdad International Airport (BIAP) and become part of Multi-National Division-Center.

That indeed did happen and during the past few weeks have been getting accustomed to our new location and mission.

While the squadron's basic mission has not changed in providing aviation support to Soldiers on the ground, the unit has had to make some major changes in the way it operates within MND-

C. The major difference from Baghdad is just the sheer size of the area that we now support.

Whereas in Baghdad we could literally fly anywhere inside our area of operations in 10-15 minutes, here in MND-C it can take several hours to get to where we need to be. And like when the squadron arrived in MND-B last November, Longknife again effectively replaced three battalions upon our arrival to MND-C.

With the increase in the size of the area that we cover, the squadron also has new and additional requirements. One of the major changes is that we have operational control over the Shadow unmanned aerial systems within the MND-C.

To support operations over an extended battle space, the squadron runs two FARPs instead of one and also runs the bulk fuel storage point at Baghdad.

The Troopers in Renegade, Tomahawk, Air Raider and Headhunter make it happen by providing quality maintenance and support.

Stetson is again doing a great job flying the Division Command Group. Nomad, Outlaw and Pegasus had an immediate impact by finding multiple cache sites within hours after taking over the mission.

Make no mistake; we had hoped to rejoin the regiment upon our departure from Taji. Unfortunately, that did not work out. However, ironically, our geographical move further away from the regiment did enable us to provide some support to Sabre Squadron in the Diyala River Valley as we were tasked to support MND-N with

several AH-64 teams for a couple weeks.

If there is one thing the squadron is good at though, it is change. While planning is still on-going and many

decisions are still to be made, it looks as if a sizeable portion of the unit may move again prior to redeployment. Regardless of where the squadron is sent, I'm confident that the Troopers will get the job done.

As much as the Troopers do themselves, as a unit we receive a lot of support from those back home that make the deployment just a little bit easier. A special thanks goes out to VFW posts 6008 (Hewitt, Texas) and 8571 (Whitney, Texas), and the Capt. Scott Corwin Foundation.

Each of these groups has taken the squadron under their wing and assisted both those deployed and our families back home with their time and resources.

Command Sgt. Major Lindsey and I appreciate everything that both Troopers and their families do. We could not be more proud of the entire squadron.

"Regardless of where the *squadron* is sent, I'm *confident* that the *Troopers* will get the *job done*."

*-- Lt. Col. Todd Royar
commander, Longknife Squadron*

Longknife 6

MULESKINNER

Support Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment



Lt. Col. Steven Cook
Muleskinner Squadron
Commander

Summer is upon us and the Muleskinners are as busy as ever.

While we continue to provide support to the regiment and the Military Transition Teams (MiTTs) in our area of operation, we are working to send personnel on leave.

This will require everyone to dig in and cover down for their battle buddies as they go home to visit with family and friends. Everyone will be going on Environmental Morale Leave, so everyone will get the chance to cover down. As in everything we do, teamwork is critical.

The heat is on, with daily temperatures exceeding 100. It is imperative that we all take care of ourselves and look out for each other.

Ensure that you and your battle buddy are drinking plenty of water and cutting back on soda and sports drinks.

The caffeine will give you an initial charge, but in the long run it can dehydrate the body, and with the sun and the heat of the summer season, we don't need the additional help.

If working during the heat of the day, try to stay in the shade as much as possible and take breaks every 15 to 30 minutes.

I know that many sections have adjusted work hours to

work when it is cooler; however, everyone still needs to watch for signs of heat injury. It may be cooler than during the day, but the temperatures are still in the high 80s and low 90s.

HHT is busy planning and managing current operations, as well as starting the initial planning to bring the squadron home.

We are well over halfway through our 15 month rotation and it is time to start thinking about how we will get back to Fort Hood, though this is still not our primary focus.

The SPO shop is keeping logistics on the table and ensuring that the regiment doesn't lose sight of the importance of transitioning the Iraqi army and Iraqi police to self-sustained logistics.

S&T is busy conducting daily Combat Logistics Patrols, ensuring that all of the units we support have the equipment and supplies required.

They are busy conducting maintenance on their equipment, ensuring they are ready to hit the road on a moment's notice. They are also continuing to update and train on tactics, techniques and procedures, adjusting as necessary to combat the most current techniques used by the insurgents.

Maintenance Troop is busy repairing vehicles and keeping them on the road, as well as conducting regularly scheduled services.

They are also busy in the SSA ensuring that supplies are

delivered to the customers in a timely manner, as well as assisting with the turn-in of all the excess Class 9 that has been identified by the MRT.

On the medical side of the house, Medical Troop is busy ensuring that the squadron is medically ready to perform our duties.

While performing their normal daily duties such as sick call, they are also continuing to conduct Combat Life Saver classes in addition to training to keep their own medical skills sharp.

On Logistical Support Area Diamondback, the 89th Chemical Company continues to run one of the best Detainee Holding Areas in the theater.

They have been repeatedly recognized for the professional manner in which they run the facility and treat the detainees with dignity and respect.

Time is moving quickly and before we know it, fall will be here and we will be making preparations to welcome our replacement unit as they arrive for PDSS. Start working your continuity books early and update them as needed so we are handing over a good product when it is time for us to redeploy.

Until the next article; stay focused on the mission and keep working as a team while taking care of each other.

Muleskinners!
Muleskinner 6

1-8 Infantry Bn.

3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division



Lt. Col. Christopher Johnson
1-8 INF Commander

We are in the heat of summer and you continue to put the “heat” on the enemy. The security in eastern Mosul continues to improve due to the hard work from our Soldiers and their Iraqi counterparts.

This hard work and perseverance has enabled the improvement of new marketplaces and businesses, which now stay open longer, thus improving the economy.

Your efforts toward security have enabled us to work toward conducting a myriad of Civil Affairs projects that include, but are not limited to, road repair, building or refurbishing new schools, cleanup projects, drilling wells for fresh water, solar lighting, and soccer fields. The list will continue to grow at a fast pace while we continue to maintain security.

I am proud of the junior leaders’ demonstrated ability to ensure our Soldiers are practicing proper hydration and eating well enough to offset the effects of the deadly heat.

I am equally proud of the fact that the tough conditions did nothing to dull the offensive spirit of our Soldiers, resulting in some significant captures in the month

of July. You continue to take the fight to the enemy aggressively and relentlessly.

At the same time, we have continued momentum in constructing checkpoints that embolden the ISF to perform their duties. Just recently, we have seen some improvement in their uniform standards and vigilance and that is a testament to you demonstrating to them “what right looks like.”

“This is a *critical* time in the development of the Iraqi *democracy* and the *people* of Mosul need our help.”

-- Lt. Col. Christopher Johnson
commander, 1st Bn., 8th Inf. Regt.

I would ask the leaders to continuously assess your foxhole, both tactically and from a leadership perspective. Look at ways in how we can continue to improve our positions, both for our forces as well as the ISF. The enemy will adapt and we must stay ahead.

From a leadership perspective, I ask leaders to ask for feedback from your Soldiers about how we are doing and what we need to be sustaining and areas that we can continue to improve.

This type of feedback is what makes Army the best, so I ask each of you to provide your leaders feedback, including myself, on sustains and improves.

It will only make us better.

I ask that leaders continue to focus on standards and discipline and always doing the right thing. These qualities have made a difference thus far in our deployment and they are the hallmarks of good units.

During the next month, we will continue to support the voter registration from a distance.

We will also continue to work alongside the troopers of the 3d

ACR and 94th Eng. Bn., and we look forward to working with the Soldiers of 1st Sqdrn., 2nd Stryker Cav. Regt., as they move to Mosul.

Our partnership with Coalition Forces and the ISF will continue to allow us to achieve

complementary effects and we all work daily for the people of Mosul.

As we move toward the Iraqi election season, the complexity of our operating environment will continue to grow daily as the many forces and interests battle for control of Mosul and Ninewah. A lethal enemy, although disrupted, still remains. We each need to stay focused whether outside the wire or working on base.

This is a critical time in the development of the Iraqi democracy and the people of Mosul need our help. Do the best you can.

Fighting Eagles, Strike Fear!

4-6 Air Cav Sqdrn.



4th Squadron, 6th United States Cavalry

Reflections from Redcatcher 6

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

It is hard to believe our redeployment is right around the corner.

As we prepare to hand the battle over and reflect on all that has been accomplished during the squadron's 15 month rotation, it is remarkable. Collectively, TF Redcatcher and its attached units maintained 55 aircraft, pumped more than 4 million gallons of fuel, and logged in excess of 47,000 flight hours to maintain 24 hour coverage in support of ground elements dispersed all throughout MND-N.

With Prankster UAV operators and Airscan, Redcatcher pilots perfected the sensor-shooter concept allowing the

In Memory of

CW3 Scott A. Oswell – KIA, Mosul, Iraq	4 July 2007
CPT Corry P. Tyler – KIA, Kirkuk, Iraq	22 August 2007
CW2 Paul J. Flynn – KIA, Kirkuk, Iraq	22 August 2007
SPC Rickey L. Bell – KIA, Kirkuk, Iraq	22 August 2007
SPC Matthew Tallman – KIA, Kirkuk, Iraq	22 August 2007

ground commander to find, fix, and destroy the enemy with unprecedented precision and lethality. Every time it was challenged, the squadron excelled through each Trooper's disciplined mission focus, creative innovation, fearless tenacity, and tireless endurance.

Since our arrival, the pockets of violence have continued to decrease, the ISF have assumed

greater responsibility for the security of major routes and key infrastructure, and with voter registration sites packed and an election on the horizon, the signs of progress are evident.

We have enjoyed working with and supporting the 3d ACR and wish every unit continued success and safety as you carry out the remainder of your rotations. This is TF Redcatcher signing off!



Courtesy photos

Above, Spc. Jose Gonzalez fireguards as Chief Warrant Officer 3 Tom Boise prepares his aircraft for refueling at LSA Diamondback.

Right, Staff Sgt. Sean Gardner (right) and 1st Sgt. Tina Martinez share candy with children during a MEDCAP event at FOB Sykes.





Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Willome, a UAS maintainer, familiarizes Lt. Col. T.J. Jamison with the Shadow UAV at LSA Diamondback.



Above, Spc. Allen Hamilton collects parts for upcoming maintenance on equipment at Forward Operating Base Sykes.



Left, 4th Sqdrn., 6th Air Cav Soldiers set up TOC antennas at Logistical Support Area Diamondback.

Below, D Troop Soldiers are silhouetted against a dusty backdrop during a change of command ceremony as the sun sets at FOB Sykes.



94th Engineer Bn.

18th Engineer Brigade



Lt. Col. Luke Leonard
94th Eng. Bn. Commander

An outpost can start off with Soldiers living out of their Bradley Fighting Vehicles or an abandoned building. However, every Soldier on the ground knows that this isn't fun after awhile.

The Wolverines are here to bring long-term solutions by enhancing force protection and quality of life to the Soldiers who fight in the city's toughest neighborhoods or farthest locations from their operating bases. We'll gladly take the terrain and make it inhabitable.

Starting with our construction equipment operators, the ground is leveled and HESCO bastions are placed to build, improve, and tie into existing force protection measures. With a new distinct, protected perimeter and flat ground inside to work with, our leaders on the ground then coordinate numerous improvements in the quality of life on the outpost.

These improvements include the addition of living quarters, shower and hygiene facilities, a tactical operations center, a dining facility, urine soakage pits, motorpool space, and other features the supported unit might need such as a 25-meter small arms range.

Our carpenters and electricians provide the structures and wiring that turn a dysfunctional piece of real estate into a fully operational base for combat troops.

The scope of work is immense, but we've had the opportunity to execute this mission numerous times alongside Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces throughout northern Iraq.

Our efforts seem to have had a significant impact in the fight for

Mosul. The Iraqi army and police have reduced violent acts, IED strikes have gone down in every neighborhood we've outposted and the main arteries into the city are now safe enough that local businesses have begun to re-emerge.

Beyond supporting the Soldiers who inhabit the city, our battalion is affecting the fight in many other ways. We're constricting enemy movement with comprehensive obstacle operations — providing miles of berm around the city of Mosul, and traffic control points inside the city itself.

We're repairing and clearing hundreds of miles of routes in and around the city and our repairs to Mosul's airfield will eventually help in re-establishing commercial airline capability here.

Our engineer Soldiers may be involved with many missions across the battlefield, but their commitment to each mission is unparalleled and their achievements on the battlefield have affected the lives of many Soldiers and civilians in many ways.

We are very proud to serve in Mosul with Brave Rifles of the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Wolverines!



Courtesy photo

Soldiers from the 94th Eng. Bn., repair a culvert destroyed by an enemy improvised explosive device.

Staying in the loop

Signal Soldiers ensure communication flows rapidly across battlefield

Spc. Eric A. Rutherford
115th MPAD

In today's high-tech world, it is hard to imagine life without a phone line or internet access. In Iraq, not having internet connectivity and phone lines

can sometimes be the difference between life and death.

For the Soldiers and commanders of 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, that difference is made by Company B, 63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion.

"We are here to provide

communications support to 3d ACR with data and digital connectivity," said Capt. Michael Burns, of Pittsburgh, Kan. "We give them the pipes to talk to the outside world and to talk internally."

This mission allows the commander to have situational awareness and command his troops, said Burns, commander of Bravo Company. The 63rd ESB attached to 3d ACR in June to deploy to the National Training Center, then deployed to Iraq with them in November.

"This is the first time for the signal corps to deploy under the new signal architecture as an expeditionary signal battalion to attach to and provide communications to a combat arms unit," said Burns.

Signal troops work in a variety of positions to assist 3d ACR with communications, from handling network operations, setting up line of sight signal systems and setting up and managing secure and nonsecure communication lines.

The 63rd does this by embedding multi-channel transmission system operators and maintainers with units on small combat outposts throughout Mosul and the Ninewah Province, said Burns.

"We have five locations of COPs that we provide support to," said Burns. "Of course the everyday Soldier just wants to be able to call home, so we make sure we get out there and help them with that. We also take care of the secret communications side of the house."

See "Signal," Page 19.



Photos by Spc. Eric A. Rutherford

Virginia Beach, Va. native, Spc. Ray Miller and Sgt. Charlie Tenio, of Moncks Corner, S.C., inserts a section of a signal tower in Mosul, Iraq. Tenio and Miller are multi-channel transmission system operator and maintainers with Company B, 63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion. Signal Soldiers set up the tower at Combat Outpost IMN to help keep the outpost connected with the units higher headquarters.



Tenio checks the tension on a guy wire for a new signal tower at Combat Outpost IMN.

Signal,” From Page 18. —

communications role is the network operations.

“Our mission is important because without communications, you really don’t know what must be done when it has to be done,” said Sgt. Gregg Cross, of Newark, N.J. “My job is to make sure people can talk. Once they can talk, they can get done what they

have to get done.”

The network operations of Co. B, 63rd ESB provides signal communications, voice, and data so the warfighter can do their job, said Cross, a multi-channel transmission system operator.

Network operations also provide the means for Soldiers to communicate from the commander to the Soldier in the field.

In the past, Soldiers have



Newark, N.J. native, Sgt. Gregg Cross explains how to properly set support wires while setting up a signal tower in Mosul, Iraq. Cross is a multi-channel transmission system operator and maintainer with Company B, 63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion.



The 60-foot tower set up by the signal Soldiers is dwarfed by an Iraqi public communication tower in the distance in Mosul, Iraq.

had to rely on lower-tech communications equipment. This meant delays in communications, and less information being passed from troops in the field to commanders.

“If you just rely on FM radios, you have to wait in between transmissions,” said Cross. “It is a longer and slower process. In today’s day and age of information technology where they (commanders) like to see pictures and streaming video, that is what we provide. That is why what we do is important.”

It may be a new way of working for signal Soldiers, but the relationship between the Co. B, 63rd ESB and 3d ACR has been beneficial to both units, said Burns, who has no doubts about his Soldiers’ ability to perform a difficult mission in a hostile environment.

“If you spin the globe and put your finger on it, anywhere, we can deploy the company there and set up communications,” said Burns. “That is the amount of faith I have. I know the Soldiers will accomplish the mission. They are an amazing bunch of Soldiers.”

Maintainers enhance battlefield success

Spc. Karla P. Rodriguez Maciel
11th PAD

On a regular day, the sound of heavy metal music fills the air, drowning out most of the drilling noises in the background.

Mechanics in the motorpools use music to take their minds off of the heat as they work on Bradleys, humvees and various weapons, day in and day out.

Maintenance support personnel within units throughout theatre are like any other Soldiers in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

These Soldiers are hard working and dedicated. However, because most of the fight occurs outside the wire, many times they go unnoticed.

The maintenance group consists of ground, communication and armament mechanics.

“These guys are like the ‘backbone of the unit’ because without their support, the war fighters wouldn’t be able to shoot, move or communicate,” said Master Sgt. Roy Taylor, the senior maintenance supervisor with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd “Thunder” Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Mechanics, many times known as the unsung heroes, do a lot of work in order to keep every vehicle up and running so Soldiers can safely go out and do their jobs.

“Having more than twice the amount of vehicles that we would normally, it is critical to keep them all up and running to support the mission,” said Maj. Tom Feltey, Thunder Squadron’s executive officer. “These guys do a great job at having all of them serviced and ready to go on time.”

One Soldier explains that although his job may seem easy,

there is more to it than meets the eye because other Soldiers’ lives would be at risk if not done properly.

“As a mechanic, you do a lot of the same stuff and you eventually get quicker,” said Phoenix native Spc. Charlie Garcia, a Bradley mechanic with Lightning Troop, 3rd Sqdrn., 3d ACR. “But you can’t take any short cuts because our guys are out there in the vehicles we work on, and we would be putting their lives at risk.”

Due to the extreme heat, mechanics work on a reverse cycle, where they do their job early mornings and late evenings.

However, if something comes up and a vehicle breaks down in the middle of the day, they are prepared to work to get that vehicle on the road again. A recovery team is always on standby to provide support in case

a vehicle breaks down while Soldiers are out on missions. They have minimal time to grab the necessary equipment to go out and provide assistance.

Mechanics have quickly learned some of the maintenance they perform here is not the same as what they performed back at home station. Therefore some challenges arise.

“Obviously we don’t have any kind of improvised explosive device damage in the rear,” said Taylor, an Upper Darby, Pa. native. “So they have to learn how to fix that



Photos by Spc. Karla P. Rodriguez Maciel

Spc. Antwon Jackson, a mechanic with Ironhawk Troop, 3rd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, performs a quality assurance, quality control assessment on a tactical vehicle at Forward Operating Base Marez in Mosul, Iraq. Jackson is from Anniston, Ala.

once they're out here."

Also the sand, dust and heat cause parts to wear out faster and so they have to get replaced sooner, he said.

Armament and communication mechanics play just as an important role as the ground mechanics who fix tactical vehicles.

Armorers ensure all the weapons systems on every vehicle and Soldier is operational.

"With the knowledge we have in our shop, we ensure that when a weapon leaves our doors, we have done everything possible to make sure that it functions correctly to prevent misfires and jams," said Spc. Jason Gresham, a small arms repairman from Dallas with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Sqdrn., 3d ACR.

Communication specialists provide all the equipment necessary so that Soldiers inside the vehicles can communicate amongst each other as well as with their tactical operations center.

A lot of Soldiers have come to notice that out here, they wouldn't be able to do their jobs if it wasn't for the support personnel, Feltey said.



Above, Spc. Trevor Gould, a recovery specialist, assists Sgt. Nixon Pacheco, the armament shop noncommissioned officer in charge as they gauge an M-16A2 rifle at Forward Operating Base Marez in Mosul, Iraq. Both are with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Sqdrn., 3d ACR.



Left, Spc. Kendall Alston, a tanker with Thunder Sqdrn.'s Lightning Troop, replaces one of the road wheels on an Abrams tank.

Below, Pfc. Luis Munoz, a Bradley systems maintainer with Killer Troop, 3rd Sqdrn., 3d ACR, fixes the brakes on a humvee.



BRAVE RIFLE



Capt. John Karcher from 3rd Bn., 5th Bde., 2nd IA Div. Military Transition Team, makes friends with local Iraqi boys in the Somer neighborhood in Mosul, Iraq, July 21.

Pfc. Sarah DeBoise



Above, Soldiers lift a casualty into a vehicle during a mass casualty exercise on FOB Marez. The reaction of Soldiers should be noted.

Below, Pvt. Zachary Brown from Company 1, 8th Infantry Regiment, pulls security during a recent visit to Mosul, Iraq, and speaks with residents in Mosul, Iraq.

Lt. Col. Mohamed of the 2nd Bn., 2nd Bde., 2nd Iraqi Army Div., poses for a photograph with Maj. Gary Dangerfield, public affairs officer, 3d ACR, during a recent visit at Tal Afar, Iraq.



Capt. Mohamed



Master Sgt. Tim Volkert

Col. Michael Bills, commander, 3d ACR, pins an AAM on Sgt. 1st Class Zzarr, at FOB Marez, June 5. The dog and his handler, Staff Sgt. Kevin Dee, completed their tour of duty in Iraq in June. The team is with the 221st MP Det. at Fort Eustis, Va.





Pfc. Adam Carl Blazak in ambulance during an incident occur

Company B, 1st Battalion, while his platoon during a patrol.



Courtesy Photo

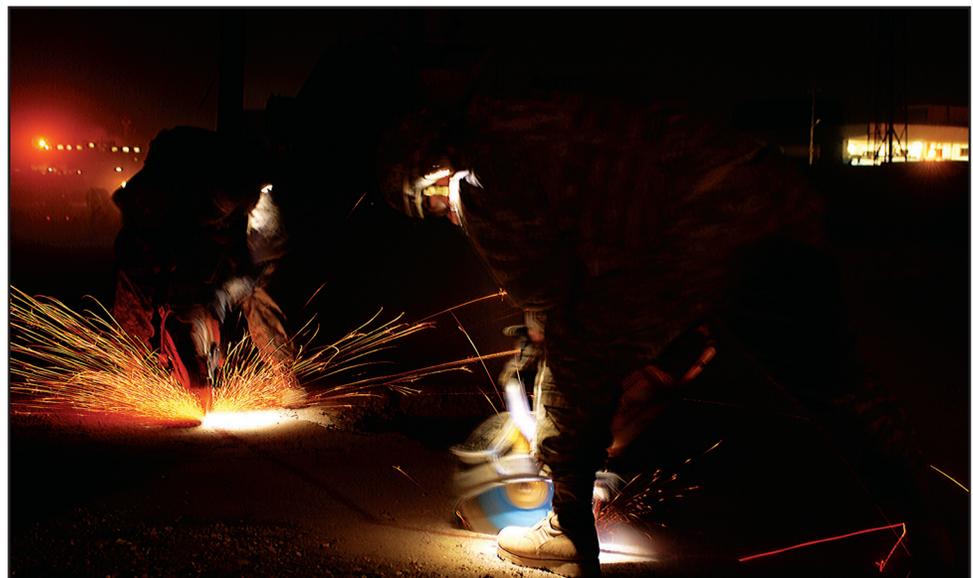


Pfc. Adam Carl Blazak



Spc. Karla P. Rodriguez Maciel

Staff Sgt. Bronco, a patrol and explosives detection dog, trains for his next mission with his handler, Sgt. Daniel Fulton, with 148th Military Police Detachment out of Fort Carson, Colo. Staff Sgt. Aaron Kimes, with the 67th Eng. Canine Co. from Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., helps train the dog with the bite jacket. The canine teams operate out of Logistical Support Area Diamondback in Mosul, Iraq.



1st Lt. Danyelle Kimp

Above, Soldiers from the 77th Engineer Company (Vertical), 94th Engineer Battalion, repair the airfield runway on LSA Diamondback.

Left, 1st Lt. Zachary Brown, Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, speaks with Iraqi Army soldiers while conducting a patrol and speaking with residents in some of the Mosul, Iraq, neighborhoods.

Grim Troop clears out insurgents

Staff Sgt. Kyle Richardson
11th PAD

Flying just above the horizon, hours before sunrise, Soldiers are prepared for an air assault mission. "One minute," yells the Black Hawk crew chief.

"One minute," the team of cavalry scouts relay throughout the helicopter. "Wheels down, move it, move it," the crew chief yells through the roaring engine and the whirling propellers.

In sequential harmony, Grim Troop Soldiers exit the bird and within seconds they have been inserted into the dangerous village of Al Fatah Miaya in the eastern Diyala Province of Iraq. The Soldiers of Grim Troop will have to maintain until ground troops can safely make it to their location.

Grim Troop, 2nd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, along with Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 18th Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division, took part in an air

assault clearing operation outside Forward Operating Base Caldwell, July 25.

We're here to seek out the al-Qaida in Iraq, said 1st Lt. David Sherck, a Grim Troop platoon leader.

"Today's mission is a joint operation with the Iraqi army taking the lead," Sherck said. "They take the lead because they know what looks different," he said. "They have a better sense of things that are out of place, they are more aware of where people would hide stuff."

"We're going to go from house to house looking for guys on our list," said Staff Sgt. William Montgomery, a platoon sergeant with Grim Troop. "If we come across anybody not on our list, we scan their eyes and enter their fingerprints into the HIDE."

The HIDE is a system used to collect data on individuals.

Along with searching homes for possible terrorist threats, the Soldiers also search in the canals for hidden weapons caches.

"We search through the canals and burn them out because AQI likes to hide their weapons caches in them," Sherck said.

Al Fatah Miaya is comprised of 35 households, Scherck said. At the first home, Grim Troop set up a control point to rehydrate and reorganize troops.

"From here, we're going to rehydrate, and then we will reconsolidate and push a team out to the canal," Montgomery said. "Then we're going to head west, we will push another team out to give over-watch before we start clearing the other houses," Montgomery said.

We'll keep going until mission is complete or until the commander tells us to stop, Montgomery added.

"Hopefully we can make a difference," said Spc. Martin Pino, a Soldier assigned to Grim Troop. "We're out here in the heat, day in and day out, doing what we were trained to do," he said.

Pino said the goal is to secure this village for both the residents and for the safety of the Soldiers patrolling this area.

"Our overall goal is to bring security to this village," Sherck said. "Hopefully, re-establishing the economy down here."

"Once the area is secure, more of the local villagers will move (back) in and participate in the local government," Sherck said. "When the people feel that it's safe enough to come back, they will start re-establishing their economy."

As the sun sets and the temperature begins to drop, Grim Troop continues to push through the village until it is safe for the villagers to return and the mission is determined a success.



Staff Sgt. Kyle Richardson

Soldiers with Grim Troop, 2nd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment and the 5th Iraqi Army Division, sit on the helipad at Forward Operating Base Caldwell waiting to begin an air assault mission, July 25.

Eye in the sky aides ground troopers

Pfc. Adam Carl Blazak
11th PAD

MOSUL, Iraq – Soaring high in the sky, a high-tech, tactical unmanned aircraft system conducts a surveillance mission in the heart of Mosul.

To some, this may seem like an extraordinary accomplishment, but to 66th Military Intelligence Company, 3rd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, this is business as usual.

Day or night, the aircraft are used to help offset improvised explosive device attacks through IED surveillance.

“We have daily counter-IED surveillance,” said Spc. Jeff A. Hawkins, a standards operator with 66th MI Co.

The TUAS, with the official tag of Shadow 200, is capable of flying at higher elevations getting better views of targets with its rotating, zooming camera than traditional aircraft, said Sgt. 1st Class Thomas E. Willome Jr., the



Spc. Zachary W. Pike waits for his cue to launch a Tactical Unmanned Aircraft System on Logistical Support Area Diamondback's airfield.



Photos by Pfc. Adam Carl Blazak

Sgt. Dennis L. Perry (left) and Spc. Zachary W. Pike prepare the launching ramp for a TUAS on Logistical Support Area Diamondback's airfield. Perry is a section sergeant and Pike is a crew chief. Both are assigned to the 66th Military Intelligence Company, 3rd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment.

platoon sergeant of 66th MI Co.

Because of its ability to fly at high altitudes, the aircraft maintains stealthy operations while flying over neighborhoods in search of the enemy.

“They know we’re out there, just not where we’re at,” he said.

By using the TUAS instead of manned aircraft, the 66th MI Co. gains surveillance intelligence without “putting anybody at risk,” he added.

The company has gained a lot of experience flying its fleet of TUAVs in the province.

“We have over 5,500 hours of accident-free flying,” Willome

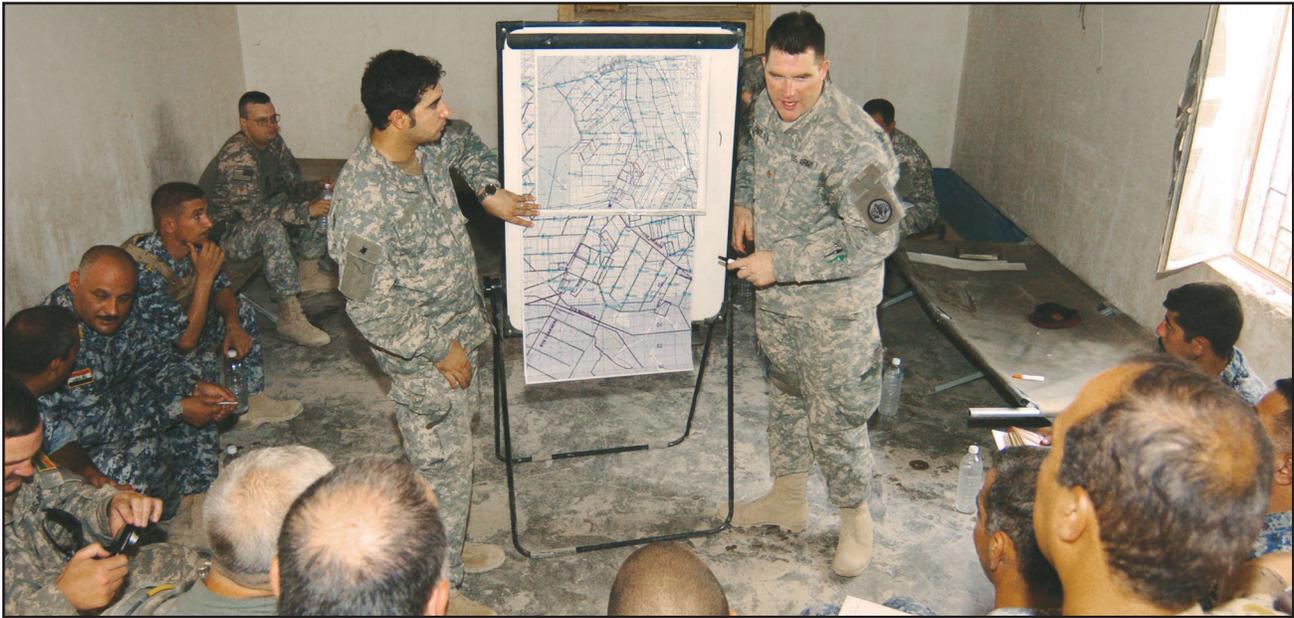
said. “We broke the Army’s previous record.”

Having this technology is more cost-efficient than traditional surveillance aircraft, he said.

“The government is starting to develop more of these systems,” he said. “It’s the way of the future.”



A TUAS takes off from airfield at LSA Diamondback in Mosul, Iraq.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Mary Rose Mittlesteadt

(Above) Maj. Cameron Cantlon, executive officer for Sabre Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment a (right), goes through a map of the Balad Ruz area in Iraq's Diyala Province, Aug. 1, where the unit is handing over security responsibilities to the 18th Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division and Balad Ruz Police.

(Below) ISF and Coalition Force leaders go through plans for the security transfer from Sabre Sqdrn., 3d ACR, to the ISF in the Balad Ruz area of Iraq's Diyala Province.



Iraq Aug. 2.

The volatile area of Diyala, where two operations are currently being conducted, has seen success with security for the Iraqi army, Iraqi police and local residents.

The 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment's Sabre Squadron handed over its security responsibility to Col. Faris Radi Abbas, Balad Ruz police chief and the 18th Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division Commander Staff Brig. Gen. Jafa Kadhim to allow the ISF to maintain security in their own townships.

"The Iraqis are ready to take over this area," Faris said. "Our people are ready to come back to their homes and support the Coalition and Iraqi forces."

Both Iraqi and Coalition commanders discussed the boundaries in a meeting, July 31, coming to an agreement on specific responsibilities that were distributed out between both the IA and the IP.

The area being discussed is the same area where the combined Operation Sabre Tempest, which began May 1, took place.

"It is truly an exciting day," said Maj. Cameron Cantlon, executive officer, Sabre Squadron, 3d ACR. "There is absolutely no question that our forces couldn't have done any of this without the help of the Iraqi forces."

Sabre Squadron transfers Diyala security control to Iraqi forces

Multi-National Division – North PAO

DIYALA PROVINCE, Iraq – A transfer of responsibility from Multi-National Division – North Soldiers to Iraqi Security Forces was finalized in the southern Balad Ruz area of the Diyala Province of

MiTT trains Iraqi Army unit for success

Spc. Karla P. Rodriguez Maciel
11th PAD

For more than three months, Soldiers in the Military Transition Team embedded with the 1st Battalion, 8th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Army Division, have gone through a series of training cycles with fresh out of Iraqi Basic Training Jundi, or Iraqi soldiers ranking from privates to privates first class, at Al Kindi in Mosul, Iraq.

During their basic training, which lasts anywhere from 30 to 45 days, Jundi receive AK-47 weapons training, including assembly, disassembly, care, marksmanship drills and qualification, basic medical training, and drill and ceremony. But infantrymen for this particular battalion are receiving additional training that will help them successfully achieve their missions out in the streets of Iraq.

MiTT Soldiers, in conjunction with leaders of the IA, gathered to develop a training program that would satisfy a task list made up by the Iraqis.

“With our mentoring, IA leaders were able to develop a plan in which they could invest ownership and also increase the chance for the training to be

sustained long after our team has departed,” said Capt. Jason C. DeRosa, staff maneuver adviser embedded with Iraq army unit.

“So we pulled the battalion S3, their noncommissioned officer, their sergeant major and the company commander into a conference room and began to refine the tasks with them,” DeRosa continued.

By the end, they came up with a 12-day training model. The training includes close quarter combat consisting of short range marksmanship live fire using the same style drills as the U.S. Army, which is led by Sgt. 1st Class Jason W. Alexander, the MiTT field artillery/effects adviser.

Staff Sgt. Christopher Hultgren, the MiTT’s medic also provides a block of instruction on first aid. Improvised explosive device recognition and defeat, traffic control point training and squad maneuver tactics are among the other tasks that are completed by the end of training.

Because the MiTT has additional missions, the schedule is very flexible and training may be moved around.

After every training cycle is finished, they hold an awards ceremony for the Jundi.

“At the completion of the training cycle, we print up certificates of training with their picture and all tasks completed,” said DeRosa. “There is a ceremony at the Iraqi battalion headquarters, and the battalion commander and sergeant major, along with MiTT, award the certificates to the soldiers.”

The training is very rewarding, DeRosa said. Iraqi soldiers greatly improve their skills and feel very proud to be part of this type of training, he added.

“They feel, and so do we, that we are making them better soldiers in order to conduct combat missions,” DeRosa said.



Spc. Karla P. Rodriguez Maciel

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Jason Alexander, field artillery/effects adviser embedded with 1st Battalion, 8th Brigade, 2nd Division Iraqi Army, demonstrates basic infantry skills to a group of Iraqi army Jundi at the Iraqi Security Forces’ Forward Operating Base Al Kindi, in Mosul, Iraq. The 12-day training program consists of mounted combat patrol training, close quarter combat, first aid, and other essential training to develop good infantryman skills.

Coalition Force Soldiers conduct cordon training with Tal Afar police

Pfc. Adam Carl Blazak
11th PAD

TAL AFAR, Iraq – In late May, a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated near the palace grounds in Tal Afar, a city in northern Iraq.

A handful of local civilians died and scores more were injured from the blast. Chaos ran rampant over the scene as Iraqi police attempted to cordon the area over the wailing sirens of police cars and fire engines and the screams of mourning relatives.

Since that event, Iraqi police from around the area have been converging on Forward Operating Base Sykes to learn better cordoning techniques.

“For many of the IPs, this is their first formal training,” said 1st Lt. Michelle Weinbaum, executive officer for the 116th Military Police Company, attached to the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Although this is a relatively new training program, the MPs understand its importance.

“We’re trying to help correct the practices of the IPs,” said Staff Sgt. Aaron J. Kellum, a squad leader for 116th MP Co.

“The training tests the IPs’ reaction to initial



Photos by Pfc. Adam Carl Blazak

An Iraqi policeman pulls 1st Lt. Michelle Weinbaum, executive officer, 116th Military Police Company, attached to the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, away from a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device during a training exercise on FOB Sykes.

critical response,” said Sgt. John M. Marshall, a team leader for 116th MP Co.

The first day of training is a mixture of classroom instruction and a walk-through of basic cordon procedures. The second day the MPs added more scenarios. On the final day, the IPs run through multiple, full-blown scenarios, Marshall said.

During a recent training iteration, Tal Afar’s Iraqi Police Brig. Gen. Fawaz Mahmood Essa Al Jouburi attended the final scenarios to see what his police learned.

“I see them working together as one team,” he said. “They are becoming more proficient. We have to keep going with this kind of training.”

During a short break between scenarios, Fawaz addressed the police officers telling them they “have to take care of their country,” and they must “treat everybody the same.”

Kellum said, “throughout the training, we’ve seen improved initiative on their part.”

After three days of training, the IPs learned valuable training techniques they will take back to their individual police stations.

“We have learned different techniques to help secure the area of civilians if something happens,” said Khudir Mohamed Obeed, a Tal Afar policeman.

“This [training] is a benefit for both IPs and civilians,” said Loqman Mohamed Hussen, another Tal Afar IP who took part in the training. “It will help us better secure our people.”



An Iraqi policeman runs past a mock wreckage from a VBIED during the training exercise.

Fighting Eagles help pave way for elections

Pfc. Adam Carl Blazak
11th PAD

MOSUL, Iraq – This fall, the city of Mosul will hold local elections.

The elections will test the improved security throughout the city. In order for the elections to be free and fair, voting registration centers must be secured, providing potential voters with a sense of safety as they sign up to participate.

Helping to make sure this process runs smoothly, Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, has been working hand-in-hand with the Iraqi army in the Al Ba'ath neighborhood to ensure the voting registration sites are equipped with the appropriate amount of security and supplies needed.

The Soldiers of Co. B have become a familiar face in the neighborhood. The unit regularly patrols the local neighborhoods and speaks with its residents.

“We go out there to make sure they’re in their planning process,” said 1st Lt. Francisco Hernandez, the executive officer for Co. B. “We go and talk face-to-face and ask questions to make sure they are prepared.”

In the Al Ba'ath neighborhood, four schools have been leased by the local government to act as voting registration sites for the area. Voting registration will take place through mid-August with the elections slated for this fall, Hernandez added.

“They are doing this on their own,” he said. “This is Iraqi army lead and Iraqi army driven.”

All of this is needed to enhance force protection at the sites to limit the chance of an attack.

“The police in our area of operation are more receptive to us as far as how we coach, mentor them,” Hernandez mentioned. “They are more apt to come to us if they need help.”

As the voting registration process

continues, the infantrymen will continue to maintain their support role in this IA planned and executed voting process.

“Success will be met (with the registration), then they will have a successful election this fall,” Hernandez said.



Soldiers with Co. B, 1st Bn., 8th Inf. Regt., patrol a street in the Al Ba'ath neighborhood during a mission in Mosul, Iraq, July 12. The company visited a site slated to hold voting registration.



Photos by Adam Carl Blazak

Speaking with local Iraqi army soldiers, 1st Lt. Francisco Hernandez, executive officer with Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, gathers information about a voting registration site that will be established in the Al Ba'ath neighborhood of Mosul, Iraq.

FRG summer meetings mix work, play

The summer is in full swing back here at Fort Hood. Many 3d ACR family members have taken the opportunity to go on trips while the kids are out of school for the summer months.

A few of our FRGs held events in June and planning activities for August, but most took taken July off while so many families are out of town.

Remington Troop held a yard sale FRG fundraiser in June. Remington continued to hold video teleconferences (VTC) at least once a month.

With so many Remington families out of town for the summer, RHHT postponed their July event. They are currently planning a Family Fun Day event for a weekend in August. Please contact your FRG leader if you would like to help.

Tiger Squadron held a "half way there" event June 23 at the Austin Fun Park in Pflugerville. There were a lot of outdoor activities for Tiger families to participate in and they had a blast at the event. Lt. Col Dorame, Tiger Squadron commander, was home on leave in August and the squadron held a town hall meeting Aug. 12.

Lt. Col. Dorame gave the families an update of what the Tiger Troopers have been working on in Iraq. Tiger Squadron also planned a big end of summer event at BLORA. The next consolidated squadron meeting will be Sept. 9.

At the beginning of June, Tiger Squadron welcomed their new FRSA, Dianna Gavin to the Tiger

family. Dianna quickly learned the ropes as she assisted the rear detachment with the Tiger Family Fun Day.

In June, Sabre had their consolidated squadron FRG meeting but added a skating party to the event to keep the kids busy.

After they finished with the business portion of the meeting, the adults enjoyed a movie while kids skated.

In July, Sabre held a FRG steering committee meeting at Giovanni's in Copperas Cove to say farewell to Sgt. 1st Class Lowe, Mariann Nance and Murette Huckleby. They also welcomed Sgt. 1st Class Mendoza, who be taking over as Scabbard 7 as Sgt. 1st Class Lowe prepares to go down range.

Sabre will hold their September consolidated squadron FRG meeting Sept. 11 at Oveta Culp.

Thunder Squadron FRGs have kept busy this summer. In June the Havoc Troop FRG had a pool party at their FRG leader's house. Thunder Squadron continues to have VTCs throughout the summer, giving families a chance to see their Troopers.

The squadron is still accepting T-shirt orders for their "Thunderettes" OIF deployment shirts. Ghost rider Company (66th MI Co.) is also selling company T-shirts.

The squadron is also planning a Squadron Town Hall Meeting in August, where they will receive an update from the Squadron Commander, Lt. Col. Barclay, who will be here on leave.

At the beginning of June, Thunder Squadron said goodbye to their FRSA, Jolie May. Jolie has been a valuable part of Thunder Rear Detachment and will be greatly missed. At the end of June, Thunder welcomed a new FRSA, Jacey Loudon.

Longknife Squadron family members cooled off from the summer heat with a squadron pool party July 31 at the Patton Pool.

The FRG reserved the pool for two hours so that Longknife families could splash and play.

With school just around the corner, the squadron held its quarterly squadron FRG meeting Aug. 18. School-age children received a backpack with the 3d ACR "Bug" and the slogan "I've got my hero's back" on it.

Thanks to the wonderful support of the Hewitt and Lake Whitney VFWs (VFW Post 6008 & 8571 & Ladies Auxiliary) that have adopted the squadron.

Muleskinner Squadron was treated to a special Town Hall Meeting with the Squadron Commander, Lt. Col. Cook. Lt. Col. Cook was home on leave from Iraq and gave the Muleskinner families an update on what was going on with the unit in Iraq.

Lt. Col. Cook also talked to families about what to expect during the next few months leading up to the redeployment early next year.

Thank you to all of our Brave Rifles families for all you do each day to support your Soldiers.

We're more than half way!

Train to prevent MRAP accidents

Peter Higgins
Safety and Occupational
Specialist

Since I joined the regiment, we have been busy fielding and using a new piece of equipment known as the MRAP (Mine Resistant Ambush Protected) vehicle.

This new vehicle has been issued as a replacement for the much smaller M1114 humvee.

Although it is an improvement over the smaller vehicle, the MRAP has some safety issues Soldiers need to know about and precautions they should take.

First of all is its size. It is massive, weighing more than 33,000 pounds (empty), standing about 13 feet tall (not including optional antennas) and 10 feet wide.

This massive size, while necessary to protect the crew, can also be a detriment to its safe operation. Operations in and around town as well as on the various FOBs have shown that it can remove most power and telecommunications lines.

When you go out, be sure that you have your "wire strike kit" in place and if it is damaged, get it fixed. Snagging a 20,000 volt cable without it could really ruin your day. Besides, ripping down all of the internet cables can be a bummer as well.

Because the vehicle is so heavy and wide, drivers need to be careful crossing bridges, culverts and levees.

Some bridges are simply unable to support its weight and can collapse with little to no warning, potentially causing the vehicle to experience a roll- or fall-over. If on an unfamiliar road and conditions permit, check it out before driving across it.

Speed is the big monster. This vehicle can accelerate up to 65 mph in less than nine seconds and travel up to 300 miles on a tank of fuel.

Even though it can run at stateside highway speed, it is best to slow down. The rough roads and high speed will really take a toll on the vehicle, the passengers and have even been tied to sudden tire failure.

Drivers simply need to slow down, watch convoy speed and the interval, because at speed, the MRAP does take quite a distance to stop. Because it sits so high and has such small windows, visibility is limited.

A driver could run right over a smaller vehicle and never see it. Crosstalk between the Soldiers in the vehicle can help considerably.

Load plans and crew drills with this vehicle should be strictly adhered to.

Many injuries and fatalities associated with MRAP roll over or fall over have been directly connected to failure to follow proper load plans and crew drills.

When in this vehicle, Soldiers need to be sure to wear their seat belts. Being secured in the seat or the gunner's fall harness can save a life.

If there is gear stowed inside of the crew compartment, it must be tied down. In the event of a roll over, unsecured items will fly around and possible hit someone.

Because this is a new piece of equipment and does not have much of a test history, maintenance checks and services are vital.

When doing a PMCS, look at everything, not just what is on the standard list. Be on the lookout for loose or broken bolts and welds.

If something is not right, report it. Soldiers should look for things that need improvement or redesign, and if found, they can submit an EIR (equipment improvement request) through the maintenance team.

Many of the things on this vehicle were thought of and designed by Soldiers. The wire strike kits, ammunition box stowage, exhaust grills and more lights were thought of, designed, and later added by Soldiers.

Of course before any Soldiers try making modifications, they need to make sure to check with the chain of command and the maintainers first.

Like everything else in the Army, the MRAP is designed to protect Soldiers and enable them to better perform their mission.

Following the SOPs, TTPs and other guidelines help in this endeavor. Soldiers need to be smart and be safe so everyone can go back home in one piece, together.

Ai-ee-yah!

Communication is key to relationships

Chaplain (Maj.) Larry Holland
Regimental Chaplain

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

At the time of this publication we will have completed two thirds of our 15 month deployment.

Ten months is a long time and we still have five more to go. I know that you have faced many challenges throughout this time and met most of them with determined spirits.

One of the biggest challenges of any deployment is maintaining healthy relationships while separated for such a long time.

As a chaplain I do a lot of counseling, both formal and informal. Most of the time these encounters involve a time of struggle or crisis for the person with whom I'm talking. But regardless of whether the situation is good or bad, I can honestly say that every conversation eventually turns to the relationships in that person's life.

Sometimes it involves relationship with their friends or peers, other times with their leaders or supervisors, but more often than not it is about their relationship with family and loved ones back home.

Relationships are, without a doubt, one of the most important factors in making our lives bitter or sweet; bitter because of relationships that are strained, broken, or lost and sweet for the joy and fulfillment that strong relationships bring.

Every part of our existence, be it of body, mind, or soul is affected positively or negatively by the

relationships that we have with others at work and at home.

The relationships we build with each other here in this war environment are vital to our existence and enduring. Though we trust others with our lives completely and would give ours in the defense of each other, there can still be something lacking.

“In order to maintain a healthy relationship with another person, people need to be able to express themselves openly and honestly.”

**-- CH (Maj.) Larry
Holland
3d ACR chaplain**

With so many people around us and as close as we may be, we can still feel alone.

It is easy to feel alone, but it is not necessary. Remember in the 23rd Psalm, we hear the words *“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil ... for you are*

with me.” The Psalmist declared that the Lord is our Shepherd.

“The Lord is my shepherd” conjures up a picture that we see lived out daily as we drive and fly all over northern Iraq.

Just outside and often within the Mosul city limits, we see sheep, and always with them are their shepherds. In the same way, the Lord, our Shepherd, promised *“I will never leave you, I will never forsake you.”*

In our darkest hours, though we walk through any deep valley, we are not alone.

I am not alone, and you are not alone. For there is a rod and a staff that protects us and it is yielded by the Great Shepherd who never loses track of His sheep. He will comfort and guide us, He stands with us. And even in lonely times we can find peace and comfort.

All we need to do is trust and believe. Such a life with God strengthens all our relationships.

We are social creatures, created in the image of a social God to relate and live. Because of this, we long for intimacy with others, and we need intimacy with God.

I believe that the basis of all our relationships in life is found in our relationship with God.

How we understand God and relate to God affects the way we see ourselves and therefore others. If we see God as only judging and punishing us then we will most likely treat others the same way.

If we know God as loving, understanding, and forgiving we will be able to forgive others as we are forgiven. It is all a matter of trust.

See “Chaplain,” Page 35.

Re-enlisting is selfless service to your country

In today's society, the focus almost always seems to be about "me."

"What is in it for me?" That question is asked all too often.

When a Soldier chooses to continue their service by re-enlisting they are putting the team first. Although they may not admit it, selfless service, one of our core values, leads us down the path to continuing a career in the Army.

Deep down we all understand that what we do is for the greater good.

Sometimes the vital importance of each Soldier successfully completing their portion of the mission may be overlooked by some. However, it takes every MOS, every soldier fulfilling their assigned task for the Army to successfully complete the mission.

The brotherhood of arms builds a lasting relationship between Soldiers that will remain

long after we remove the uniform and return back to being a normal citizen.

This camaraderie, and the benefits available for Soldiers and their families, make continuing their service a viable and worthwhile decision.

I would like to thank the 220 Soldiers and families who chose to re-enlist and continue their careers since our last issue of *The Mounted Rifleman*.

We also had 25 Soldiers from the Brave Rifles footprint attend the largest re-enlistment ceremony ever conducted at Al Faw Palace on the Fourth of July in Baghdad.

More than 1,200 service members participated in the ceremony.

Remember to talk to your servicing career counselor or squadron re-enlistment NCO about the options and incentives available to you if you decide to stay on the team.



Master Sgt. Tim Volkert

Sgt. 1st Class Justin Bolyard receives a congratulatory handshake from Col. Michael Bills, commander, 3d ACR. Bills re-enlisted Bolyard in front of his fellow Ironhawk Troop, Thunder Squadron Soldiers Aug. 22 at FOB Marez, Ira.



STAY CAV, STAY ARMY!

Engineers reinforce the fight in Mosul

1st Lt. Danyelle Kimp
94th Eng. Bn.

Since March, the 94th Engineer Battalion has aided Iraqi Security Forces in their effort to drive insurgents out of Mosul by providing force protection, combat outposts and safer roads.

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, battalion commander, 94th Eng. Bn.

Their component units, 77th Engineer Company

"Sabre," From Page 10. _____

Amidst all the encouraging news, however, Iraq remains a dangerous place — even when there is no hostile fire. Combat operations are difficult and dangerous. In late July, we lost Spc. Andre Mitchell in a tragic accident. We keep his family in our thoughts and prayers, we honor his service, and we are humbled by his sacrifice. Spc. Mitchell will not be forgotten.

We are winning the war in Diyala, but it is not yet won. We are defeating the enemy, but the enemy remains dangerous. In other words, there is much work left. For the remainder of its deployment, Sabre will do what it has always done: pursue the enemy, empower Iraqis, and bring hope to a land formerly dominated by fear.

Sabre Ready!
Sabre 6

"Thunder," From Page 11. _____

when they arrived.

Hemingway once wrote of shared hardships and how they "trim the fat from our souls."

This thought frequently passes thorough my mind as I walk the motor pools, day areas, and the streets of Mosul, seeing the magnificent effort of the Troopers whom I am blessed to command.

Once again, my deepest gratitude to all of you and the support and encouragement you provide us.

THUNDER!
Thunder 6

(Vertical), 103rd Eng. Co. (Horizontal), and 232nd Eng. Co. (Horiz.) continue to construct combat outposts and upgrade force protection in and around the city. They are also providing essential route clearance assets to clear the roads of improvised explosive devices, which is beyond its typical construction capabilities.

The 59th Combat Effects Eng. Co. has conducted more than 4,340 miles of route clearance work since its arrival in Mosul, making the roads in and around Mosul safe and trafficable.

The 94th Eng. Bn. has completed more than 50 construction projects in and around Mosul in three months, resulting in numerous combat outposts and traffic control points, which are essential to the fight in the city. Some outposts are many acres in size, while some are the size of a baseball diamond. No matter what the size, however, they are all carefully planned and placed resulting in increased security in the surrounding neighborhoods.

The 94th Eng. Bn. has been essential in not only building some of these combat outposts, but also upgrading the existing structures in order to increase the standard of living for the Iraqi Security Forces.

Sometimes, these improvements simply involve out-fitting burnout latrines and wooden structures with electricity, but those who live on the COPs know that when the 94th Eng. Bn. Soldiers show up that their living conditions are going to improve.

Senior leader visits troops



Sgt. Matthew Boyd

Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, speaks with Soldiers at Mosul, Iraq, during a visit to the area July 8.

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN



SGT Alejandro Dominguez
Apache Troop, 1/3 ACR
June 24, 2008



SPC Joel Taylor
Apache Troop, 1/3 ACR
June 24, 2008



SPC James Yohn
Apache Troop, 1/3 ACR
June 24, 2008



SPC Andre Mitchell
HHT, Troop, 2/3 ACR
July 31, 2008

“Chaplain,” From Page 32. _____

Do we trust that God loves us and wills only the best for us? Do we trust that others in our lives are genuinely concerned for us and want us to be happy?

The answer can be found in how we communicate with the significant others in our life. Effective communication skills between people are one of the largest predictors of relationship satisfaction and success.

In order to maintain a healthy relationship with another person, people need to be able to express themselves openly and honestly.

This means that each person is able to express positive feelings, negative feelings, complaints, desires, and needs in an effective and productive manner. Once again it is a matter of trust.

When we communicate effectively, we are either expressing ourselves or responding to someone else. Self expression can involve making an observation or stating an opinion or feeling.

The best way to communicate your thoughts is to use what is called an “I” statement.

“I” statements are much more effective in getting our point across honestly and directly because we are not pointing a finger at the other person.

“You” statements are the largest reason for ineffective communication.

When we use “You” statements, what we are

actually doing is placing the other person in a defense mode, thus blocking the chance for effective communication. Compare these statements:

“You make me angry.” “I feel angry when you make fun of me in front of other people because it makes me feel embarrassed and stupid.”

The first “You” statement can clearly raise an opportunity for defensives to rise. The second statement, however, is following a formula that allows for open, honest, and direct feelings and thoughts to come through.

The formula looks like this:

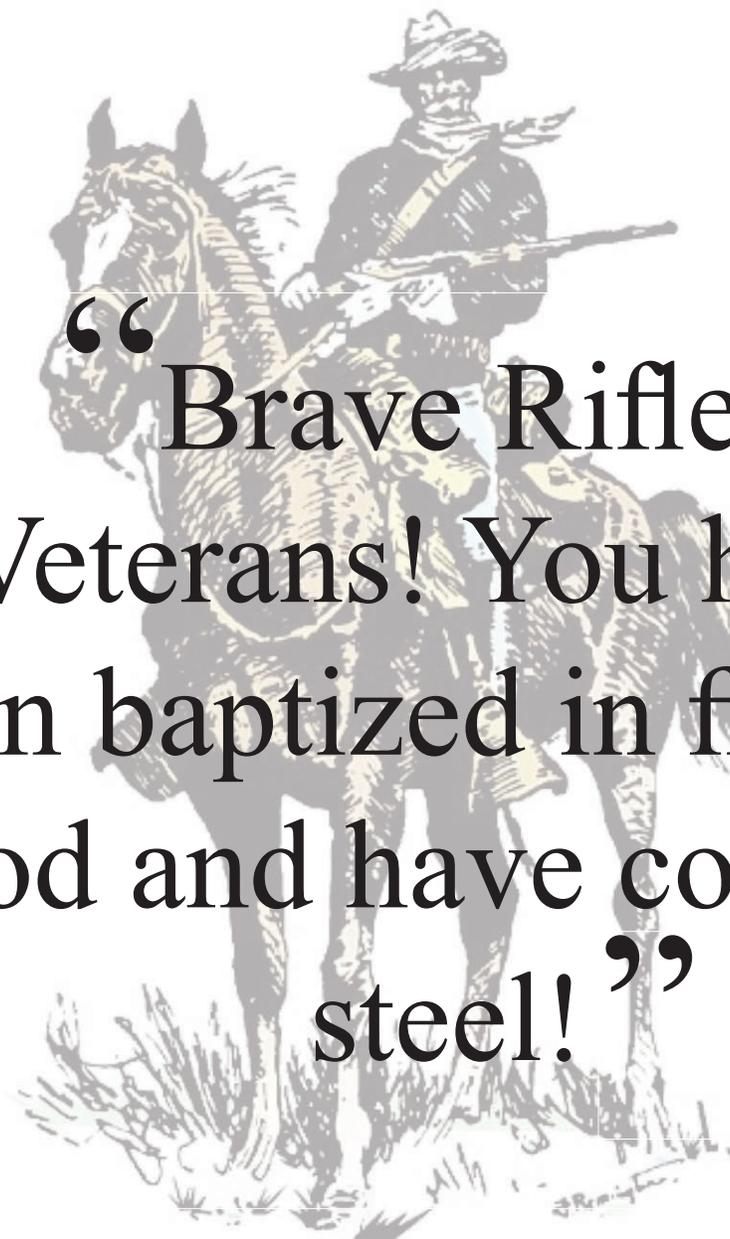
“I feel/think/want (express the feeling/thought/desire) ... when (state the behavior causing it) ... because (identify the reason)...”

We can also use this same formula when responding to others. For example:

“What I hear you saying is that you’re feeling/thinking/wanting (express his or her emotion, thought, or desire you hear) ... because (state the reason you heard for it)...”

Try this the next time you are in a conversation with someone important in your life, especially back home. Whether by phone, letters, or e-mail, we can communicate more effectively with family, friends, and loved ones.

This will ensure that strong and healthy relationships endure through, and following our deployment.



“ Brave Rifles!

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