



# The Striker Torch

*The Official Newsletter of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division*

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## Iron Brigade Celebrates



## Thanksgiving In Iraq



## Happy Thanksgiving

Happy Thanksgiving to the Iron Brigade Family Members and Soldiers. CSM Eyer and I had the pleasure to travel to our units and celebrate with our Soldiers a day of Thanksgiving. Many of our Soldiers are spending their first Thanksgiving deployed to a war zone and far away from their family. We wanted to communicate to the Soldiers that the command was looking out for their welfare. We are thankful that we are healthy and amongst our closest comrades.

While I was out circulating the battlefield, I took a knee to reflect what Thanksgiving means to me. I thought of the first Thanksgiving in 1621 with the Pilgrims and Native Americans. The Plymouth Governor proclaimed a day of Thanksgiving and prayer for the bountiful harvest the Pilgrims had produced. The Thanksgiving was shared with the Native Americans who had helped the Pilgrims with the harvest. It is remarkable that almost 400 years later, Thanksgiving is a holiday shared by so many different religious faiths and peoples. It is truly an American tradition shared by so many in the world.

Today, even in a war zone we have much to be thankful for. Thanksgiving is a time for the Army Family to pause and enjoy a day of rest, relaxation, football games and fellowship. As families and friends gather wherever you may be located, Thanksgiving also provides an opportunity to show our gratitude for the blessings we enjoy in a free and prosperous Nation. Soldiers and their families can take pride in the fact that their service and sacrifices preserve the privilege of living and working in a free society characterized by the highest ideals of liberty.

One-hundred and forty-five years ago, President Abraham Lincoln reminded Americans, "We have

been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has ever grown." Those words were spoken in 1863 during the Civil War. Our Nation emerged from that conflict stronger than ever before. And today, as the Army fights the war on terrorism as part of the joint team, those words still ring true as we enjoy the privileges and unparalleled freedoms that Soldiers have helped secure for over 233 years.



Thanksgiving is a time for families to join in celebration and reunions. Families have long provided strength and values to our Soldiers, our Army, and our Nation. We know we do not soldier alone. For just as Soldiers sacrifice and dedicate themselves to honorable service, our families also sacrifice and make invaluable contributions to the well-being of our Army and our Nation. We give you our thanks, and a grateful nation thanks you as well.

We are proud of the Iron Brigade Family Members and Soldiers. And so to all of you, the dedicated men and women of the Iron Brigade, we offer special thanks for the difficult and dangerous work you are doing for the citizens of our great Nation. We wish all of you and your loved ones a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday.

**STRIKE HARD!**

**COL Pat White  
Commander, 2BCT  
"Striker 6"**



# STRIKER 7

## On Point

By CSM Michael Eyer  
2nd BCT Command Sergeant Major



### Don't forget nothing!

Thanksgiving is a time for family. Yet, for our great Brigade, our families are far away separated by time and space. And so the Iron Brigade spends another holiday away from home and the ones we love. But like the true professionals we are, this Thanksgiving enforces the reason why we do what we do.

I was privileged to join some of our great Soldiers in several locations within our battle space. At every location the leaders and Soldiers celebrated this special time as one big family, with competitions, games, sports, the occasional argument, but more importantly "great food". Our cooks did an outstanding job no matter where they were. Some had the help of KBR, others had none.

One small COP had three cooks who had worked all night preparing to feed a hungry Company of over 120. The smiles on the faces of the Soldiers coming through the line said it all.

My only question was, "How are you going to top that at Christmas? The answer was "no problem" from one young PFC.

Back in Baumholder many families went to the chow hall, and were met by a magnificent array of displays and good food. I would like to thank everyone for a job well done. Again the Iron Brigade did it right.

Below is a poem I found and would like to share with all Iron Brigade members, Soldiers, families and friends. Happy Holidays. Know we are at war, But I hear change is in sight Instead of family and friends for Thanksgiving you will

Chow with your comrades tonight  
One to your left, the other to your right.  
Your regiment, your battalion,  
Have now become family and friends  
Living day to day in a personal sacrifice  
On a mission to defend.  
You are the heroes who's faces we may never get to see  
But the pride and glory that's lives in a soldier heart  
Bears one word  
"Integrity"



On this day  
We give thanks and honor to those brave and true  
Our banners, we will proudly wave  
The Red, White, and Blue  
We will give our thanks not only to our god  
but also to every soldier for our bounties, that be.  
For they give meaning to words  
Home of the brave Land of the

Free.  
To the soldiers in the mess hall  
Eating their thanksgiving feast,  
to the troops in the desert eating another  
Meal Ready to Eat.  
May peace, hope and strength  
Travel with you along the way  
And may these wishes find you  
On a Soldiers Thanksgiving day.

**STRIKE HARD!**

**CSM Michael Eyer**  
**"Striker 7"**



# A Soldiers Other Side

By 1LT  
Gordon Bostick



TF 1-6 IN

**W**hen I first took over a Platoon in Alpha Company, the Soldiers were coming off a very physical fight along the wall on Route Gold. They had done exactly what they had trained for back at Hohenfels and Grafenwoehr; used direct and indirect fire to destroy the enemy. Now, as the fight transitioned to rebuilding Jamilla, I got to see another side of my Soldiers; my Soldiers cared about the people of Iraq and they cared about each other.

Firstly, the men care about the Iraqi people. Even though, for most of the Soldiers, this is their second or third de-

ployment, the Soldiers still care about making things better for the citizens of Sadr City. When they see the children swarming around them, begging for soccer balls, pens or a MRE, it's difficult to tell who has a bigger smile: the children or the Soldiers.

One child in particular has connected with my men. His nickname is "Jonnie Jihad", mostly because of his fighting nature. Even though he is one of the smallest of the boys in our neighborhood, he is definitely the alpha male; ordering the other boys around, taking stuff from them he wants, getting the choice of

*SSG Robert Gray of Homer, Louisiana carries an Iraqi boy on his shoulder during a patrol.  
(Courtesy Photo)*



treats. Whenever he sees our patrol he comes running and he's usually rewarded with some candy or a water bottle.

Going out on patrol, each of my squad leaders have families within the community they know by name. These families know our names as well; if a different Soldier meets with them, they'll ask about their friend who isn't there. This goes far beyond sources for information; its young American Soldiers meeting, getting to know and taking care of Iraqis. They often ask us to stay for meals and invite us to return. Many times we try to provide them with small gifts; candy, a pair of shoes or a tea set.

Secondly, the men care about each other. The time they spent with each other, time spent training, time in downtown Baumholder, even time spent with the other men on previous deployments has made them close. The time spent building the wall on Route Gold has made them really close. This was one of the

hardest parts of my job when I first took over; the platoon knew and trusted each other because they had all just gone through a fight together while I was unknown.

Yet it's not hard to care about my Soldiers because they care about each other. They keep track of each others families back home; know who went through a break-up, who just had a child born. On our birthdays, in my Platoon, we celebrate as a group. Even if we can't get together for a beer or throw a barbeque, we still try to make the day special.

Overall, things are much better than when we first arrived in Sadr City. The Soldiers have connected with the population and have a strong working relationship with the Iraqi Army. Attacks in all of Baghdad are down and much of the population greets us with optimism and thanks. Much of that comes from the fact that, in addition to their fighting prowess, the Soldiers care.



*A young school boy smiles up at U.S. Soldiers checking the progress of his school's grounds renovation (Courtesy Photo)*



By 2LT  
Greg Halbert

# Iraqi Army: A Success in First SOI Payday



TF 2-6 IN

**A** Sons of Iraq fighter from the Al Bawi region of Salman Pak walks away from the pay window with a mixed look of joy and disbelief, and with a handful of Iraqi Dinars as his payment for keeping his neighborhood safe. As a Sahwa, the term used by locals for the Sons of Iraq, he completed a long journey which began in early September to transition the Sons of Iraq program to the administrative control of Government of Iraq. It is a transition that many Sahwa members did not believe would become a reality. Now, the reality is in their hands, in the form of dinars, along with a renewed confidence in the Government of Iraq.

Many Sahwa had doubts when told the Government of Iraq and Iraqi Army, and not Coalition Forces, would be the ones to pay the Sahwa members permanently. After mid-November that thought of distrust is now a mere reflection. Prior to this transition, the Coalition Forces were the largest employer in the Ma'adin in large part due to the Sons of Iraq program. This program held a great power in the *Shaykh Hussein from Stiyah verifies Sahwa with the Iraqi Army (Courtesy Photo)*



*A Sahwa shows his emotions in receiving his pay from the Government of Iraq.(Courtesy Photo)*

minds of the locals as it marked a joining of force between citizens of Iraq and Coalition Forces. If the transfer of authority of the program from Coalition Forces to Government of Iraq forces had failed it would have left over 3,000 locals with a sense of reservation about their government and potentially seeking opportunities with the insurgents. However, since the transition was a success, more and more locals go to the door step of the Iraqi Security Forces rather than Coalition Forces looking for guidance and help.

The effect of paying directly to each Sahwa member could be seen in the smiles as they left the payment window. The market in Salman Pak had a different feeling after the first Sahwa payday. There was an air of relief and an increase in activity. This payday marked the first time since the program's inception that each individual Sol fighter received individual payment. Up until this point, Coalition Forces paid the contract holder in



accordance with our regulations. Sometimes the money did not get all the way into the Sol fighter's hands. The Gol direct payment method allowed for a more equitable distribution of wealth and more money to circulate in the markets. The people seemed proud to spend their money. Ali Karim, a local Sol in the market said "I am proud to spend the money of my people." The people were spending money from their own government; an important step to show the Iraqi Government is taking charge. CF are now taking a step back and being less prominent in the pub-

lic eye.

Payment to the Sawha was a success because of the strong cooperation between the Iraqi Army and Coalition Forces. There was a sense of willingness to work together and ensure a proper handover was conducted. Many long hours were spent by both parties. This hard work was worth every bit to see a Sahwa walk off knowing that their government is there permanently and will be there in the future to take care of them.



*A Sawah from Salman Pak and a soldier from the 4-35/9 IA during the Sol payday. (courtesy Photo)*



# Building a Police Emergency



By 1LT  
Wesley Brown

## Response Force

TF 1-35 AR

**W**arrior Company's (Company B, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry) recent work with Iraqi Security Forces maintains a strong focus on the training of the newly formed Jisr Diyala Emergency Response Unit (ERU). By working with the ERU on a daily basis, Company B is teaching another component of the Iraqi Security Forces to function more efficiently. In time, the ERU will operate as independently as the Warrior Soldiers of Task Force Knight.

The ERU has a major training event every month, in addition to their regular work at various checkpoints throughout the city, patrols in the local area, and joint patrols with Warrior Company that span a large and varied environment.

November's training event was weapons familiarization with the Czechoslovakian VZ-58V Automatic Rifle. Now, what does this mean in plain English? The ERU get to learn about how their per-

*SFC Boyte demonstrates how to assemble and disassemble the ER (Courtesy Photo)*



*SFC Boyte teaches the ERU how to break down and clean a VZ-58 (Courtesy Photo)*

sonal weapons function, and after taking it apart and putting it back together, they get to shoot.

With First Platoon spearheading the ERU training, several days were devoted to learn about the weapon and develop a class. With a vast knowledge of weapons and military training, the Noncommissioned Officers and well-known weapons buff, SPC Melott, created a class that was taught to over 100 ERU Officers to-date. This was no simple task, as these men took several decades of combined military knowledge, doctrine, and jargon and condensed it into a comprehensive 3-hour block of instruction for an average Iraqi citizen that walked off the street and put on a police uniform within the last year.

With all of the preparation complete, classes started. The ERU is a very large unit, and in order for them to get the most out of this excellent training, only 30-40 Police Officers were instructed per class.



Although teaching the same class over and over may seem like a tiresome task, it gives the Soldiers of Warrior Company a chance to refine their teaching skills and they improve every time they do it. This is equally beneficial to the ERU, as each subsequent group gets a better class than the last.

At the range, which becomes a large outdoor classroom, class begins with an introduction to the weapon the ERU was issued. The VZ-58V is the standard-issue ERU weapon, and is very similar to an AK-47, with several minor improvements, especially accuracy. The ERU learns how to disassemble, clean, and reassemble their weapons, all vital to their ability to effectively police Jisr Diyala.

After learning how to disassemble and assemble the weapons, they move into their preferred portion of the class, hands-on training. The ERU has to take their weapon apart completely, and reassemble it without any help. Then, they move to the other part of the range where they get to learn the basics of shooting. Here they learn to shoot the weapon at a specific target, one bullet at a time with control and skill.

Since the first class with the ERU, Warrior Company has already seen the benefits of the training. The ERU has a great respect for a weapon that does not carry the moniker of AK-47 – a rare case in all of the Middle East. They understand that having a weapon and ammunition is not enough; they must know how to use the weapon.

However, the most important thing they learned at their first training event had nothing to do with their weapon at all. They learned that Warrior Company and the US Army have an unmatched military knowledge that can provide them with the tools for being an effective Police force, serving and protecting the citizens of Jisr Diyala.

Through these tireless efforts, the Soldiers of Warrior Company and of First Platoon are making positive changes in Iraq that everybody, not just the military and government officials, can see. The Company is, and will continue to do amazing things with a full calendar of events to keep them busy for months to come.



*ERU Soldiers get the opportunity to take their weapons apart. (Courtesy photo)*



# Sons of Iraq Pay Day

By CPT  
Jim Beam



TF 4-27 FA

On October 1, 2008 the responsibility of the Sons of Iraq program (Sol) was assumed by the Government of Iraq. The Sol are very similar to a neighborhood watch program, using local Iraqi men to provide security for their own neighborhoods.

The success of this program has greatly reduced violence in Iraq and transitioning Sol operations from Coalition control will be a significant step for the Government of Iraq as it will allow them to have a larger role in the security of their country.

Task Force 4-27 and its subordinate units are playing a big part in the initial transition, assisting their Iraqi Army counterparts by assisting the payment process. There are several thousand Sol in Task Force Thunder's Operating Environment, and they are instrumental in keeping the insurgents out of the region. Iraqi Security Forces in the Mahmudiyah Qada want to ensure a smooth transition of control and ensure the Sol receive the same support as they enjoyed under Coalition control.

Initially there were grave concerns with the transition from both sides. It has been Task Force 4-27's job to assist the two organizations through the process and ensure that the growing pains were worked out as smoothly as possible. The Commanders of B/2-6, B/1-35, and A/4-27 have actively engaged leaders from both the Iraqi Security Forces and the Sol and to date the process has been a success. There have been only minor issues during the transition and those that have arisen have been addressed jointly by the Iraqi Army and the leaders of the Sol.

Before the actual transition took place, Task Force Thunder worked for weeks to prepare both Sol and the Iraqi Security Forces for this transition. Members of the Task Force went to each checkpoint in the Task Force Thunder Operating Environment, scrubbing names and numbers with the Sol



*CPT Munther, 2/55/17 BN S1, pays Sols throughout the northern part of TF 4-27 FA area of operation. (Photo taken by 1LT Bret Woellner, B/1-35)*

leaders and Sheiks so they could provide the Iraqi Security Forces an accurate and up-to-date roster when they assumed responsibility of the Sol. Task Force leaders also addressed the Sol's concerns about the transition of control. The Sol liked the idea of getting paid more money under the Government of Iraq and also see the transition as a chance to legitimize their organization.

"This was a tremendous step forward in securing Iraq. It demonstrates that Iraqis from different backgrounds are ready to work together for the security of their country. I was pleased to witness the Iraqi Army working with the local Sol leaders to ensure the Sol were paid and that the process went smoothly," said 1LT Paye Zawolo, A/4-27's Fire Support Officer.

Overall the transition went very well; the Sol and their leaders were pleased with the operation. Both sides seemed confident that this partnership would work and looked forward to the continued success of the Mahmudiyah Sol program.



# A Day without Communications



40 EN

By 1LT  
Tim Kim

**C**ommand, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, also known as C4ISR, provides capabilities that enable forces to generate, use and share the information necessary to survive on combat missions. Out of those seven segments, communications is the most important part of the C4ISR. Effective communication allows everyone to achieve common goals faster and safely.

That is where the 589th Signal Company comes in to play. They support a full spectrum of brigade-wide communications equipment through the Joint Network Node and Command Post Node.

Their satellite based systems provide secure and unsecure communications for all organizations within the 2nd Brigade Combat Team. They are behind the scenes on every one of the Brigade's outposts ensuring access to the Wide Area Network is available. Without the Soldiers and equipment provided by the 589th, there would be significant limitations to the Brigade's ability to command and control.

Imagine one day without the

589th Signal Company in the 2nd Brigade Combat Team. Commanders throughout the battle space would be unable to communicate to one another with VOIP phones.

All Soldiers would be limited to the use of Single Channel Ground to Air Radio System (SINCGAR) radios, and only if they were within range. Soldiers would also not be able to make phone calls to families in Germany or CONUS. The list goes on and on as to how limited the Brigade's capabilities would become without their Signal Company due to the growing reliance of the digital communications world.

The 589th Signal Company undoubtedly has become the cornerstone of success the Brigade has achieved thus far during Operation Iraqi Freedom Fiscal Year 2008, and repeatedly does whatever it takes to keep the 2nd Brigade's communications impeccable.

A day without communications will never happen to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team due to the 589th Signal Company's constant strive to keep all the communications up and running every moment of every day.



# Engineering



40 EN

By CPT  
John Holcombe

# Partnership

**B**ravo Company, 40th Engineer Battalion, Task Force Ram is at the dawn of what is expected to be a long and rewarding partnership with 1st Company, 9th Iraqi Army Engineer Regiment.

The partnership was officially started on October 7th, 2008 when an initial meeting was held at the Iraqi Engineer company headquarters located on the outskirts of Salman Pak, Iraq. Both of the company's leadership exchanged greetings and laid out their vision and goals for the near future. The meeting sparked great interest by the Iraqi Engineers to partner with the Soldiers of the Bravo Bulldawgs with the goal of combining efforts for the primary mission of route clearance.

The Bulldawgs conducted a demonstration of equipment capabilities for route clearance patrols on October 27th, 2008. 1LT Lorintz Gleich and his route clearance platoon brought their route clearance equipment to the Iraqi Engineer company and provide the Iraqi

*Iraqi Engineer Officers and soldiers pose in front of the Talon Robot, a critical piece of engineer equipment used if a suspicious item is found during route clearance missions. The Talon Robot assists engineers by allowing them to interrogate and get a closer view of a suspected IED from a safe distance. (Courtesy Photo)*



soldiers a hands-on demonstration. The Iraqi Engineer Company Commander, LTC Deawood, and his Officers and Noncommissioned Officers were provided the opportunity to operate many of the unique pieces of equipment that are organic to a route clearance platoon.

The Iraqi Engineers were ecstatic about the opportunity to receive the hands on training, but most importantly, the day's mission was not that of a show and tell, but to establish a friendship and brotherhood of a fellow engineer company.

The day was concluded with the planning of the first joint mission that the two companies would endure. The mission was to conduct a joint training operation at the Al Rasheed Base where the Engineer Regimental headquarters is located. The training would set the conditions for both units to operate together during future route clearance missions.

Currently, the training is underway and both units are moving in the right direction. It is only a matter of time before Task Force Ram's Bravo Bulldawgs and the Iraqi Engineers are providing safe and secure roads for the citizens of Mada'in.



*A Second Lieutenant Iraqi Engineer Officer operates the Talon Robot as SSG Andrew Hoover, from Bravo Company, 40th Engineer Battalion assists. (Courtesy Photo)*



# Rapid Response Team

By CPT  
Jared Black



47 FSB

**H**eadquarters detachment of the 47th Forward Support Battalion recently assumed the duty of Area Defense Operations Cell (or ADOC) as part of its new mission set at Camp Striker. In addition to the Soldiers that HHD dedicated to this mission, Base Defense Operations Command has contracted with Explosive Ordnance Technology Inc. (EODT) for force protection augmentation.

EOD Technology, Inc. is an employee-owned company that provides munitions response, security services, and critical mission support worldwide in austere and hostile environments.

In addition to the largely Ugandan guard force that checks ID cards at the PX and dining facility, is the Rapid Response Team. Several different nationalities make up this civilian force from five different continents worldwide. The RRT is composed mainly of prior service members with backgrounds in Special Forces, S.W.A.T., police, detective, and military work. All this expertise is contracted through EODT into a consolidated team that works directly for the ADOC, and brings extensive added capabilities to the military oversight team. Under the HHD command, the team safeguards Camp Striker from all threats both internal and external.

The huge collective experience gained from the employment of the RRT is put to good use every day on Camp Striker. The team is visible at all times of day conducting traffic control points and

compliance inspections, manning towers, patrolling the perimeter, and maintaining emergency readiness. While they are able to operate largely on their own, the ADOC maintains constant Soldier participation in all RRT functions. This joint effort has multiple effects. The RRT can easily point aggressive or non-compliant personnel back toward the military which helps to alleviate the potential for problems with personnel on Striker that do not want to take orders from the civilian EODT force. This often diffuses situations at the scene without the need for escalation which would inevitably involve US military forces anyway. In addition to this much-needed oversight, the ADOC Soldiers benefit from the extensive experience of the RRT, and are quickly learning many new skills from their civilian counterparts.

All things considered, the EODT contract, and specifically the RRT, provide increased functionality to the Striker ADOC force protection team. Without their involvement a large number of Soldiers would have to be taken out of their MOSs in order to guard the camp. With EODT the requirements from the military for both numbers of Soldiers and force protection experience are dramatically reduced, freeing many Soldiers to work as they were trained in their own jobs. This in turn leads more effective units as they are not tasked with force protection in addition to their standard missions.



# Bounty Hunter

By *CPT*  
*Cory Roberts*

## Commander



1-63CAB

**A**s we rapidly approach the two month mark of our deployment, the Bounty Hunters are reaching full stride.

Over the course of the last month, we have been able to work the kinks out of our newly gained equipment and get a better understanding of our area of responsibility. All of the Bounty Hunters have hit the ground running by conducting weapon cache recovery missions, combat patrols to answer intelligence requirements, joint Iraqi Army patrols, security operations for the payment of Son's of Iraq, and Cordon and Search operations in support of our Iraqi Security Force counterparts.

Our headquarters has developed a Company command post capable of tracking daily operations and maintaining communication with our Dragon Battalion Headquarters.

Our commodity shops have been instrumental by providing equipment and knowledge enabling us to shoot, move, and communicate. The attached FIST element is pulling double duty as a Fire Support team and an Operations and Intelligence cell, assisting the company in understanding our operational environment and the links between the people and events that happen daily. And leadership couldn't get anywhere on the battlefield without the ability of these Soldiers to shift from a technical knowledge of a commodity to an infantry soldier in the blink of an eye.

First Platoon is a solid powerhouse of talent under the leadership, who bring a dearth of motivation and experience from previous deployments. Solid squad leaders and team leaders help them get the job done in a large area of our sector populated by canals, farms, and plenty of cows. They were able to hit the ground running, and have partnered with an Iraqi Army Battalion who they conduct patrols with daily.

Second Platoon is a cool, collected

brotherhood of experienced leaders. Their teams and squad leaders are rising professionals assigned to an area where their focus is the prevention of enemy network movement through our sector. They've been busy collecting information and data from the local countryside, enabling us to create projects, provide security, and assist the Iraqi Army in helping their country out.

Third Platoon is a nitro-glycerin packed, "can do" team who benefit from deployment experiences at most levels and a young aggressive style of leadership. They have inherited a very busy sector, and have had their hands full helping the Iraqi Army maintain the peace here.

The Bounty Hunters wake up every day and know they have a chance to make a difference. They have seized that chance and are turning Iraq into a better place for the people here.

I am amazed to see what our Soldiers are capable of. They can go out and be doctors, by helping conduct medical screenings for Iraqi children and people who need care.

They can go out and be engineers, developing plans and contracts to help the Iraqis rebuild their roads, bridges, schools and security stations. They can be police officers, walking a "beat" and tracking the movement of people and preventing them from doing harm to innocent people on the streets.

The Bounty Hunters are absolute professionals who can accomplish any mission, no matter the magnitude, and it has been an incredible honor to lead them. We will continue to make gains and push this country forward. When the Bounty Hunters get some well-deserved sleep, they close their eyes knowing that they've made a difference.



# Iraqi Army soldiers stand in lead during joint patrol

By PFC  
Evan Loyd



*SPC Ian Faling, from Jackson, Mich., the medic of Mortar Platoon, Company D, 1-63 Combined Arms Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi National Division-Baghdad, talks with a soldier of the 2nd Battalion, 25th Brigade, 17th Iraqi Army Division, while on a compliance inspection patrol in Al Murtada, Iraq, Nov. 26th. (U.S. Army Photo by PFC Evan Loyd)*

**M**ulti-National Division – Baghdad and Iraqi Army soldiers conducted a joint compliance neighborhood inspection patrol Nov. 26 in the town of Al Murtada in the Mahmudiyah Qada, south of Baghdad.

Soldiers from Company D, 1st Battalion, 63rd Combined Arms Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, and Iraqi Army soldiers from 1st and 2nd Battalion, 25th Brigade, 17th Iraqi

Army Division conducted the dismounted patrol visiting more than thirty houses.

The Iraqi Army uses compliance patrols to hold residents accountable for the safety and sanitation of their neighborhoods. Each household is asked to sign a form stating that they will keep their walls clean of graffiti and will report any suspicious behavior to an Iraqi Army soldier.

“This patrol is a great way for the

Iraqi Army to make the locals take an active stance in their neighborhoods,” said 1LT Cameron Mays, a Marion, Ky., native who serves as the mortar platoon leader. “The best part about the patrol though is that the Iraqi Army in the lead; we were purely in a supervisory role.”

Throughout the dismounted patrol not a single MND-B Soldier went to a door. Instead the Soldiers provided security to Iraqi Army soldiers as they went door to door speaking to the residents.

“The Coalition Soldiers have been great partners throughout my time with them,” said Iraqi CPT Salah, the Iraqi Army mission Commander. “It is good to be able to show them how much we’ve learned from them in their time here.”



*LT Ahmed a soldier of the 2nd Battalion, 25th Brigade, 17th Iraqi Army Division, explains the compliance patrol to a resident of Al Murtada, Iraq, Nov. 26th. (U.S. Army Photo by PFC Evan Loyd)*



*LT Ahmed a soldier of the 2nd Battalion, 25th Brigade, 17th Iraqi Army Division, takes advise from 1LT Cameron Mays, from Marion Kentucky, Mortar Platoon Leader, Company D, 1-63 Combined Arms Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi National Division-Baghdad, during a compliance inspection patrol in Al Murtada, Iraq, Nov. 26th. (U.S. Army Photo by PFC Evan*



# Big Red One

Soldiers  
Join  
combat  
veteran  
ranks

*By PFC  
Evan Loyd*



**M**ulti National Division-Baghdad Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 63rd Combined Arms Battalion, currently attached to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, marked a milestone in their combat deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom by receiving their combat patches during a ceremony on Forward Operating Base Mahmudiyah, Iraq, Nov. 27.

The Soldiers, assigned to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, donned their combat patch on Thanksgiving Day to join the storied ranks of combat veterans of the 'Big Red One'.

The combat patch, officially titled shoulder sleeve insignia-former wartime service (SSI-FWTS) is worn on the right shoulder of the Army's ACU and Class A uniforms to signify the Soldier's active participation in or support of ground combat operations against hostile forces in which they have been exposed to the threat of enemy action or fire, either directly or indirectly.

"This day is symbolic, when you first stepped foot in this country you all earned this patch," said LTC Jim Bradford, Lynchburg, Tenn., commander of 1-63 CAB. "Be proud that you are serving in Iraq and making this country a better, safer place to be."



*CPT Matt Johnson, Ft. Riley, Kan., the commander of Company A, 1st Battalion, 63rd Combined Arms Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi National Division-Baghdad, places the Combat Patch on the shoulder of a Company A Soldier during a ceremony held at Forward Operating Base Mahmudiyah, Iraq, Nov. 26th. (U.S. Army Photo by PFC Evan Loyd)*



*1LT Cameron Mays, from Marion Kentucky, Mortar Platoon Leader, Company D, 1st Battalion, 63 Combined Arms Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi National Division-Baghdad, places the Combat Patch on the shoulder of a Mortar Platoon, Company D Soldier during a ceremony held at Forward Operating Base Mahmudiyah, Iraq, Nov. 26th. (U.S. Army Photo by PFC Evan Loyd)*

The Soldiers on their first deployment were proud to receive the combat patch of the 'Big Red One' and their leaders were proud to honor their Soldier's achievement.

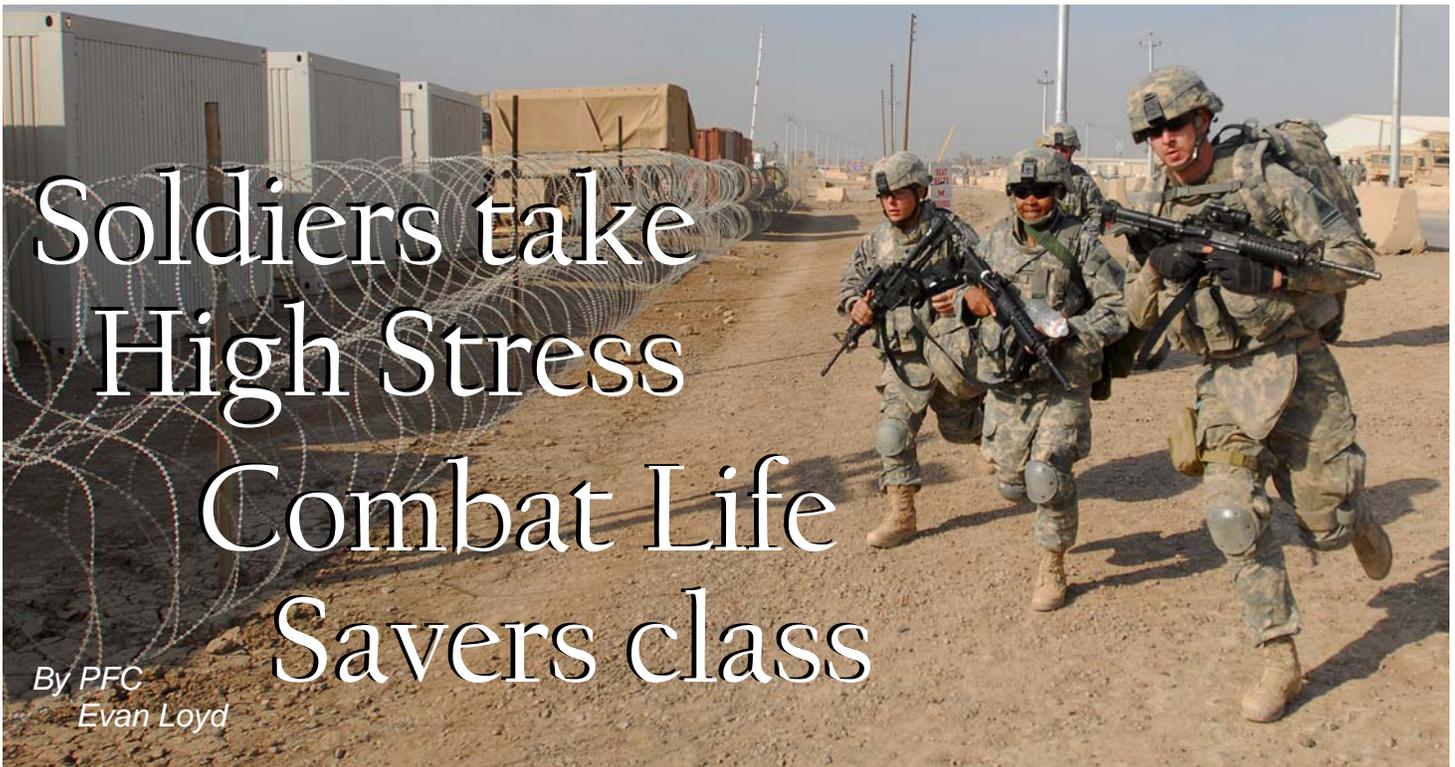
"My men receiving their combat patch shows them that we recognize their commitment to this country and served in a combat environment," said CPT Matt Johnson, Ft. Riley, Kan., the commander of Company A, 1-63CAB. "I'm proud to be able to give them this honor."

While the Soldiers missed having Thanksgiving dinner with their families many saw receiving their combat patches together as something that brings their unit together in a time where all they have is each other.

"On Thanksgiving we give thanks for our families," said Bradford. "Your true family here are these men that you will fight beside every day and who will protect you in your time of need."

*LTC Jim Bradford, a native of Lynchburg, Tenn., the Commander of 1st Battalion, 63 Combined Arms Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi National Division-Baghdad, speaks to Soldiers before they receive their Combat Patch at a ceremony held at Forward Operating Base Mahmudiyah, Iraq, Nov. 26th. (U.S. Army Photo by PFC Evan Loyd)*





# Soldiers take High Stress Combat Life Savers class

By PFC  
Evan Loyd

*PFC James Nikkels, from Pitman, N.J., an instructor of the CLS course and other Soldiers in 47th Forward Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi National Division-Baghdad, run to a simulated attack while performing their final combat simulation on Camp Striker, Iraq, Nov. 28th. (U.S. Army Photo by PFC Evan Loyd)*

**M**ulti National Division-Baghdad Soldiers from 47th Forward Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, took part in a high stress Combat Life Savers Course at Camp Striker, Iraq, Nov. 28.

While the CLS course has been taught for many years now, this latest class had instructors try a new tack.

"We're bringing a new approach to the whole program," said Pfc. James Nikkels, from Pitman, N.J., an instructor of the CLS course and a Soldier in 47th FSB. "We're always looking for ways to improve"

While staying true to the curriculum, the instructors used the final tactical simulation to really put the pressure on their

students. Since Combat Life Savers are instructed in various techniques for dealing with combat injuries, from dealing with an amputated limb to keeping an airway open, the instructors tried to simulate a combat environment as much as possible for this final simulation.

"We want Soldiers to be able to adjust to the high stress environment they might encounter," said Nikkels. "We have a few surprises in store for them."

The final exercise started with the students running approximately 100 meters in response to a structure hit by a simulated indirect fire attack. In the building they were greeted with simulated power outages and continued explosions.



After finding no casualties in the first two rooms the trainees came across the impact point and found a room filled with strewn furniture. Then they saw the casualties they've been in."

"When I first saw the victims I was just kind of frozen in shock," said Spc. Enrico Arroyo, a Portland, Ore., native, from Headquarters, Headquarters Detachment, 47th FSB. "But then the adrenaline kicked in and I did what I needed to."

To get into the room, the trainees had to move an overturned couch out of the doorway. As they began moving the couch, someone noticed a hand beneath it. Other casualties were found throughout the room, with some lying across furniture and some behind.

After providing initial treatment to the casualties as they had been trained, the Soldiers prepared the three most critically

wounded for an air evacuation. They then performed another check of the surroundings and found a survivor who was dehydrated and suffering from shock.

"They were very observant and managed to deal with a great deal of problems we sent their way," said Nikkels. "I'm really proud of them."

The exercise ended with the trainees returning to their classroom for an After Action Review. The class then critiqued both themselves and the course in whole. "The class was really rewarding. It had been ten years since I last did a CLS course, and things have really changed. The equipment and the curriculum are all new," said Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Blankenship, from Sarasota, Fla., another Soldier from Hq., Hq, Det. "I would recommend everyone taking a refresher no matter how long they've been in."



# 2nd BCT Commander Visits

By SSG  
Scott Wolfe

## IP station in Narhwan

As the MRAPs and HMMWVs pull into the compound, the signs of construction and improvement are evident. Cinderblocks and gravel are set aside where a new fuel point is to be laid in and lumber is stacked along one wall for future projects.

Entering the office of the Ma'adin Iraqi Police District commander, Col. Pat White, commander of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi-National Division-Baghdad, renewed his friendship with Brigadier General Kareem the afternoon of Nov. 26 with a warm handshake and hearty hug and slap on the back.

White told Kareem about his move from Forward Operating Base Hammer to Camp Striker and how it was now harder to see his friend. He promised to continue meeting the general as often as possible, but it might be a week or two between visits now that his headquarters was farther away.

White also expressed his confidence in the capabilities of the police in Ma'adin. He brought up the possibility of creating a joint coordination center in the general's area of responsibility and asked for his thoughts on the matter.

*COL Pat White listens to a point the Iraqi police commander of the Mada'in police district, BG Kareem, has to make about the the capabilities of his forces on a visit to the Narhwan IP station*



The brigade commander emphasized that it might take a while to complete, but that with the security in the area continuing to improve, it could definitely take place.

Emphasizing a point that MND-B is pushing throughout all of its sectors, the commander of 2nd Bde., 1st Armored Div. stressed that the objective now was the transition from a military authority to a civilian one, when the IPs would play a major role.

As the discussion moved into the goings on of the area and possible needs for future operations, the brigadier asked about the possibility of obtaining an up-armored HMMVEE.

The Ma'adin district commander said that he knew where some militias were hiding, but needed logistical support to perform the assault. He asked for a possible coalition cordon around the hideout, and that his men would do the actual raid...if he had some armored protection for the breaching of the compound.

The 2nd Bde. commander turned to his military liaison attached to the IPs, and asked if the request had been passed further up the chain.

White said to make sure it had, as it showed the IPs wanting to be in the forefront of the operation cleaning out the militias in their district.

Kareem would not let the "Iron Brigade's" senior officer leave without showing him the newest improvements to the facility. He enthusiastically led the Col. White around, showing him the work already done on the compound's future fuel point and the improvements to perimeter. His smile clearly demonstrated his pride in his men and their facility.

At the end of the meeting, Col. White reminded the Chief of his invitation to the Security Council and Thanksgiving feast on Nov. 27, reiterating his promise to visit the station as often as he could.

# Salman Pak

## refurbished school opens for students



By LTC  
Wayne Marotto

*Iraqi Army COL Muhammad Ali, 1st Battalion, 35th Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division, cuts a ribbon to open the Wurwood Kindergarten Nov. 21 in Salman Pak. The school completed a two-month refurbishment and re-opened its door for students. (U.S. Army photo by LTC Wayne Marotto )*

**W**urwood Kindergarten School officially reopened its doors Nov. 21 in the Rash-eed neighborhood of Salman Pak after a two-month long refurbishing period.

The school has 350 students enrolled, aged four to five years old, and six class rooms. Prior to the refurbishment, the school could only hold 60 students. The school employs eight teachers, a director and an assistant.

“The neighborhood families feel safe sending their kids to the school,” said Nawad Abid Alaziz, the school’s headmistress, adding that the refurbishment flows in synch with the improved security in the area.

CPT William Richardson, the com-

mander of Company C, Task Force 2nd Bn., 6th Inf. Regt., 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, along with his Soldiers, attended the building dedication ceremony. His unit assisted the Iraqi Army, local Sheiks and contractors in achieving their success at the school.

“The increased professionalism of the Iraqi Army has made the area more secure,” Richardson said.

The brightly painted and orderly school contrasts to what the building’s condition was a short time ago. Much of the building had been hit by gunfire and was strewn with garbage.

Alaziz led Richardson, along with

Iraqi Army officers and local Sheiks on a tour of the school.

Alaziz said she was pleased with the \$80,000 refurbishment and that she watches television and sees American kindergarten schools and dreams of having schools like that in Iraq to educate their children.

"We need more rugs, a hot water heater, space heaters for the classrooms and more furniture," Alaziz told the group.

Richardson said he felt improving education opportunities for the children requires efforts from all those involved.

"Yes, that's very important because the kids are the future, and with the help of the IA, Sheiks and neighborhood, we can make the school better," said Richardson.

The kindergarten project is a micro part of a larger macro program in the neighborhood. The overall objective of the Disarmament, Disbandment, and Reintegration is to pump \$5.6 million in the area to stimulate the economy and provide employment and vocational skills for lasting employability.

The money will be spent on seven construction projects, which will include two more kindergarten schools in the neighborhood, a land registration office, roads, a clinic, new fire trucks and new ambulances.

Mr. Razaaq, a Civil Service Corps contractor, whose students refurbished the school, also attended the opening. Eighty-seven of his students worked on the Wurwood kindergarten. His vocational program trains students on carpentry, masonry, electrical, crane operators and laying asphalt.

"The program provides good paying jobs for the members of the community," said Razaaq.

The DDR program provided nine local Sheiks the opportunity to nominate people from their tribes to enter the program.

"Before the program, there were no job opportunities in the area.

It's good because it provides jobs and gives positive alternatives for the young," said Sheik Hussein.

LTC Michael Shrout, commander of TF 2-6, who is partnered with the 9th Iraqi Army Division in the area, was asked by the Iraqis to cut the ribbon to signify the opening.

"Thank you for your gracious offer," said Shrout, "but this school was built by Iraqi workers for Iraqi children with the support of the Iraqi Army maintaining security. We (Coalition Forces) are just your fans to cheer you on."

COL Muhammad Ali, who serves with 1st Battalion, 35th Brigade, 9th IA Div., took the honor of cutting the ribbon to signify the official opening.

Two more schools are planned to open in the neighborhood in the near future.



*A student at the Wurwood Kindergarten holds the tray with the scissors for a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the opening of the school Nov. 21 in Salman Pak, Iraq. The school completed a two-month refurbishment and reopened its doors for students. (U.S. Army photo by LTC Wayne Marotto)*





# Thanksgiving with the troops

By SSG  
Scott Wolfe

*SPC Timothy Proot of Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 40th Engineer Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi-National Division-Baghdad helps COL Pat White, commander of the 2nd BCT carve the first slice of turkey during the Thanksgiving meal on forward operating base Hammer. (U.S. Army Photo by SSG Scott Wolfe)*

**I**ron Brigade cooks and KBR dining facility personnel went all out for Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi-National Division Baghdad this Thanksgiving.

Soldiers might have been missing their families back home, but they did not lack for food or ambiance.

Forward Operating Base Hammer and Combat Outposts Cashe and Cahill had plenty for Soldiers to choose from.

Carved turkey, roast beef, prime rib, and sliced ham were the main courses. Add in the sides like two types of stuffing, mashed potatoes, corn, green beans, and salad and a Soldier was really only left with two questions.

“Is the plate big enough?” and “How much room do I leave for desert?”

COL Pat White, commander of the “Iron Brigade” started off his Thanksgiving Day at FOB Hammer.



“Thanksgiving is a day when we sit down with our friends and family to give thanks for everything good in our lives,” he said.

Family might have been missing, but friends were plentiful as squad mates sat with each other and joked over the meal.

The colonel caused a few chuckles when he dragooned Spc. Timothy Proot, of Fenton, Mo., into helping him carve up a turkey.

“My son usually helps me with this but he’s not here, so hold this,” he said, thrusting the meat fork at Proot and directing him to catch the first slice of turkey being cut off the bird.

Proot, a Soldier from Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 40th Engineer Battalion said that helping the brigade commander was only the second time he had been around an “important” person.

He said that only other time was,



*COL Pat white was impressed with the cooks at COP Cashe for their decorations of ice sculptures and vegetable flowers and jumped in this group photo of the cooking crew. (U.S. Army photo by SSG Scott Wolfe)*

“when the Pope conducted Mass in a stadium.”

COP Cashe was just cleaning up from their lunch time meal when White arrived there.

He noted that the ice sculptures were particularly impressive and was very admiring of the detail in the flower decorations made out of onions and potatoes. The ornamentation impressed him so much; he handed out his commander’s coins to the cook staff before taking a group photo with them.

He also snuck a slice of turkey before the cooks put it away.

COP Cahill was in the middle of serving when the brigade commander showed up, so he treated himself to some prime rib and a piece of cherry pie good enough that he recommended it to another Soldier in passing.



*CPT Miller serves up some food in the chow line on Thanksgiving Day at COP Cahill. (U.S. Army Photo by SSG Scott Wolfe)*

For entertainment afterwards, some Soldiers took out their remote controlled cars and raced them around, kicking up dirt and rocks in between catching air on a make-shift ramp.

It was interesting enough that White took time out to sit down and watch their antics.

Col. White ended his Thanksgiving

with a long drive in the dark back to Camp Striker, but he can honestly say that he ate as good as his troops and that Iron Brigade Soldiers were in good spirits.

Give thanks this year for the health you have and the buddy sitting across from you.

*Two Soldiers from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division decided to spend their Thanksgiving evening playing with remote control cars. PFC Brandon Rogers, from Houston, Texas and SGT Gilbert Gabriel from Oahu, Hawaii, enticed other remote control enthusiasts out with their antics. (U.S. Army Photo by SSG Scott Wolfe)*





# Wetzel Wizard

Dec 2008

Our Magic is Knowledge!

## Wetzel Elementary Honor Roll 1st 9 Weeks

### **4<sup>th</sup> Grade All A's:**

- 1) Hunter Adams
- 2) Hannah Dooley
- 3) Caleb Garcia
- 4) Jeremy Hall
- 5) Jalen Myhand
- 6) Rosario Silva

### **4<sup>th</sup> Grade A/B Honor Roll:**

- 1) Paige Bolline
- 2) Aungelika Broussard
- 3) Austin Campbell
- 4) Lachlan Conery
- 5) Shaianne Dement
- 6) Nick Detherow
- 7) Ameer Farmer
- 8) Elvin Figueroa
- 9) Tatiana Gatling
- 10) Luke Griffith
- 11) Cecilia Gutierrez
- 12) Krishten Jenkins
- 13) Cecilia Johnson
- 14) Nicolas Newman
- 15) Deyaneira Oyola-Marrero
- 16) Daniel Perez
- 17) Haley Perez
- 18) Dennis Popp
- 19) Taylor Salinas
- 20) Connor Score
- 21) Terrell Shelton
- 22) Hannah Vaught
- 23) Johanna Waldhalm

### **4<sup>th</sup> Grade Perfect**

#### **Attendance:**

- 1) Hunter Adams
- 2) Aungelika Broussard
- 3) Austin Campbell
- 4) José Concepcion
- 5) Shaianne Dement
- 6) Ameer Farmer
- 7) Elvin Figueroa
- 8) Kelly Garrison

- 9) Tatiana Gatling
- 10) Cecilia Gutierrez
- 11) Jeremy Hall
- 12) Drelan Hargrove
- 13) Cecilia Johnson
- 14) Deyaneria Oyola-Marrero
- 15) Haley Perez
- 16) Dennis Popp
- 17) Joshua Rasmussen
- 18) Taylor Salinas

### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade All A's**

- 1) Michael Ebbs
- 2) Lanthaniel Labrador
- 3) Leandra Martinez
- 4) Aaliyah Myhand

### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade A/B Honor Roll:**

- 1) Jazmine Cook
- 2) Hannah Foster
- 3) Kenteria Franks
- 4) Sierra Garcia
- 5) Jordan Gillespie
- 6) Angelo Guajardo
- 7) Hannah Hall
- 8) Charles Keller
- 9) Julliana Kern
- 10) Spencer Learar
- 11) Tyson McCovery
- 12) Kiersten McKenzie
- 13) Kelsey Rasmussen
- 14) Michael Sullivan
- 15) Kasey Walker

### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Perfect**

#### **Attendance:**

- 1) Tyren Finney
- 2) Hannah Foster
- 3) Darrell Harris
- 4) Spencer Learar
- 5) Tyson McCovery
- 6) Kiersten McKenzie
- 7) Samantha McLain

- 8) Aaliyah Myhand
- 9) Kelsey Rasmussen
- 10) Levi Reese
- 11) Seth Reynolds

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade All A's:**

- 1) Tiana Collins
- 2) Rolando Ferreras
- 3) Andrea Jones
- 4) Dakota Welch
- 5) Cheyenne Williams

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade A/B Honor Roll:**

- 1) Kylie Carbaugh
- 2) Kimberly Familia
- 3) Ethan Foster
- 4) Veronica Garcia
- 5) A'Lisa Jones
- 6) Nisrine Kaise
- 7) Ivette Pinedo
- 8) Tiffany Real
- 9) Jessica Richardson
- 10) Ginuwine Rossum
- 11) Jamie Sadler
- 12) Kallie Soller
- 13) Jacob Wilson

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Perfect**

#### **Attendance:**

- 1) Tamerick Blockmon
- 2) Artiziel Broussard
- 3) Rolando Ferreras
- 4) Ethan Foster
- 5) DeAndre Hall
- 6) Shanavia Howard
- 7) Andrea Jones
- 8) Dorris McLain
- 9) Isiah Miller
- 10) Ivette Pinedo
- 11) Jessica Richardson
- 12) Tiffany Real
- 13) Jacob Wilson





# Wetzel Wizard

Dec 2008

Our Magic is Knowledge!



## Wetzel Elementary S.L.C. Less Fortunate Food Drive

Starting Date: Thursday, November  
20, 2008

Ending Date: Wednesday,  
November 26, 2008

- Teacher's are also **COMPETING**  
**NON-PERISHABLE FOODS!!!!!!!**  
**Top 3 classes will receive a small**  
**prize!!!**



# S1 Personnel

By SFC Steven Martz



## Christmas Correspondence

**I**t is hard to believe, but it is the holiday season already and the Military and U.S. Postal officials have announced this year's deadlines for mailing letters and parcels to military members overseas in order to ensure it gets here by 25 December.

Here are the deadlines:

- First-class Letters and cards:  
11 December
- Priority Mail:  
19 December
- Parcel Post:  
13 November
- Parcel Airlift Mail:  
4 December
- Space Available Mail:  
27 November

To help ensure timely delivery of mail please advise family and friends to wrap packages securely, label packages properly with a complete address to include your current location, i.e. Camp Striker, COP Meade, etc and fill out customs forms correctly. Many times it may also be more beneficial for them to insure

your packages, while you may be paying more up front, in the long run your investment will be protected. Tell them to avoid liquid-filled containers and any other substances that may tend to break or cause suspicion. As always remember that contraband items are strictly prohibited and if found will be confiscated. These include alcohol, tobacco, munitions, and pornographic material. All packages are subject to random inspection by postal personnel!

It is important to note that the Department of Defense has asked the American public to not flood the military mail system with letters, cards, and gifts due to security concerns and transportation constraints emphasizing that there are other ways to support US Servicemembers, however rest assured your Brigade S1 will be making mail runs on a daily basis to get your mail, or should I say your Christmas presents. If you have any questions concerning holiday mail or the military mail system please contact me, SFC Steven Martz at VOIP 778-7088 or at [steve.martz@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:steve.martz@iraq.centcom.mil). Happy Holidays from your Brigade S1!



# Safety Bulletin

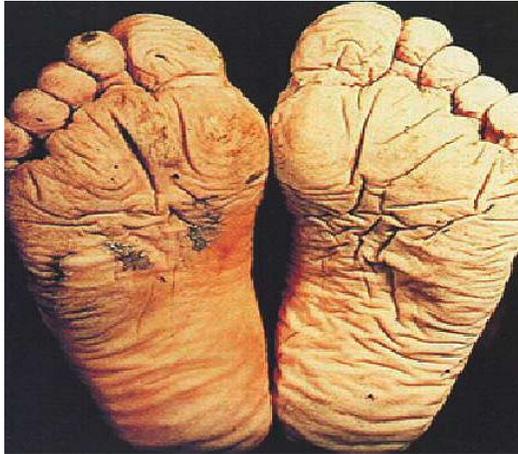
By Jerrold Scharninghausen



## Trenchfoot

**W**inter has arrived in Iraq. While it is not exactly comparable to winter in Baumholder, the rainy season in country lasts from November – March. Snowfall is most likely in the mountains but is possible anywhere in Iraq and temperatures are generally mild except in the high mountains. Even though we will not receive the extreme cold normally associated with winter, there are still the possibility of cold weather injuries.

Trenchfoot is a very serious injury that may result in permanent nerve or tissue damage. Constant dampness softens skin, causes blistering or bleeding and may lead to infection. Untreated, trenchfoot may require amputation. Early signs of trenchfoot include itching, numbness or tingling pain. Later the feet may appear swollen, and the skin mildly red, blue or black. Commonly, trenchfoot shows a distinct "water-line" coinciding with the water level in the boot. The risk of this potentially crippling injury is high when troops are exposed to wet conditions for prolonged periods (>12 hours). Contributing Factors include immersing



feet in cold water, not changing socks frequently, standing in wet defensive positions and poor hygiene.

Soldiers wearing tight-fitting boots are at risk for trenchfoot regardless of weather conditions, since sweat accumulates inside these boots and keeps the feet wet.

Immersion Foot is almost the same as trench foot but the time exposed to the water is significantly less.

If trenchfoot is suspected, seek medical help immediately. Re-warm feet by exposing them to warm air, do not allow victim to walk on injury and evacuate victim to a medical facility. Do not massage, rub, moisten, or expose affected area to extreme

heat. A good way to mitigate this risk is to change out boots and socks as much as possible in wet environments. If you are wearing the same boots every day, they do not have the chance to dry out properly. Dry leather boots by stuffing with paper towels. Prepare for missions by packing extra pairs of socks to help keep your feet dry. Trenchfoot is a painful, possibly crippling condition that is easily avoided if the proper precautions are taken.



# Chaplain's Corner

By CHAP (MAJ) NANA BASSAW  
2nd Brigade Chaplain



## Thanksgiving

*"If you want to turn your life around, try thankfulness, it will change your life mightily."  
-Gerald Good*

**S**even months into the deployment, and we are finally celebrating the holiday of Thanksgiving. During this season, we give thanks to those we love and things we cherish. Understanding that being separated from our loved ones makes it difficult to be thankful, it is good to reflect on what you are thankful for. With this, you may ask yourself "What am I to be thankful for?"

While deployed, it is always important to remember your family members and those who keep you motivated during the deployment.

Though we can't be with those loved ones during this holiday season, it is still crucial to remain thankful for those who stand behind you at home.

They are also going through the same separation anxieties that you are and need your love more during the holi-

day season than ever.

Also, while deployed there are many different things to be thankful. While deployed, we build friendships that under normal conditions we might not take the time to create. Though we are separated from our loved ones, these friendships turn into a make-shift family while away. During this holiday season, take the time to be thankful for those relationships built on the conditions set.

Just remember, if you begin feeling lonely during your holiday season, pull up a chair in the DFAC next to someone new, join a sports team, engage in church fellowships, or simply call home for a little hope. We are now on the down slope of deployment. Soon you will begin to see the cold air turn warm and we will begin packing our bags to head home.



# Striker Justice

By SGT Jesse Saenz  
2nd BCT Paralegal NCO



## Counseling

Purpose Flexibility Respect Communication Support

**W**ith the above five words, the Army has given their guidance to every leader in how to praise their Soldiers in times of good and how to notify them of below standard performance when the situation warrants such. Appendix B of FM 6-22 gives general directions we should follow during our counseling sessions, but the Field Manual does not describe how these counseling statements transition to the UCMJ aspect of the military.

The use of counseling statements is perhaps the most significant source of evidence when the command chooses to implement nonjudicial punishment against a Soldier, and the lack of clear and precise statements are also the number one reason for delays in processing. As the counselor you must always strive to be as informative as possible in order to assist the paralegals of the Brigade Legal Section in fully understanding the situation.

There are no strict rules to adhere to, but what may be considered the “rule of thumb” is to always include the Who, What, When, Where and How.

Example: *Private Bubbles (Who), this counseling is to discuss your misconduct this morning, 24 February 2008 (When). You failed to report to 0600 PT Formation (What) at the Company CP (Where). This is not your first incident of failing to show at formation, and I am now recommending an Article 15 to the Commander.*

The above example is simple, yet fully detailed with vital information to allow a third-party to fully comprehend the incident. Another common mistake is the practice of not using full identifying information. When a Soldier is being counseled for disrespect or insubordinate conduct towards a noncommissioned officer or an officer; the inclusion of their rank and first name must be included in the counseling.

If you have any questions or request more information pertaining to counseling and their involvement with Military Justice, the POC is contact [jesse.saenz@2bct1ad.army.smil.mil](mailto:jesse.saenz@2bct1ad.army.smil.mil) or visit the SJA SIPR Portal.



# Doctor's Desk

CPT David Nelson  
2BCT Dentist



## Dental News

Now that I have been in the brigade for approximately six months, I am starting to hear many misconceptions concerning dental health care. More often than not, questions arrive from Soldiers with many years in the Army.

In this installment for your brigade surgeon I would like to give everyone a little insight into a dark and damp subject, your mouth. Questions and misinformed statements will be in italics with the best answer I can provide following.

*What does my dental classification mean?* There are four classifications for your dental status: Class I means you have had a check-up and cleaning with in the past year and you do not need any further treatment. Class II means that you have had a check-up in the last year and you still need some type of treatment. The treatment may be a cleaning, fillings, orthodontic treatment, a crown placed on a tooth, etc. Class III indicates you have a significant issue that requires treatment as soon as possible and the issue will cause you a problem with in the next year. You may have one or more large cavities, or in need of a root canal, for example. Class IV means that you are in need of an annual exam and your dental status is unknown.

*If I am Class II I don't need treatment because it doesn't hurt, right?* False, you could not be more wrong. This is the time you should be coming in to get treatment completed. You may need a small filling that takes less than an hour to do and then you can get as far away for the dental clinic as possible. Waiting can have

disastrous results. That small cavity will eventually turn into a large cavity. Instead of needing one, simple, small filling, you may end up needing several appointments that include a root canal or possibly extraction of a tooth or teeth. This not only affects you, but your unit and friends as well. You will have to miss much more work and you will be taking up more of the dentist's time treating your complex case, and as a result other soldiers are not able to be seen by the dentist. Keeping exceptionally good oral hygiene can slow a cavity from becoming larger. This makes brushing and flossing all the more important while you are deployed.

*Why do I need a cleaning?* Try as you might you can not get all the deposits off your teeth with a toothbrush. Human saliva, spit, contains many minerals that get deposited on your teeth. Look at the build up around an old faucet to see what I mean. These deposits provide a nice home for bacteria to live and breed in your mouth leading to chronic bad breath, gum disease, and cavities.

*How long should it take me to brush?* On average people brush for less than 30 seconds and say they brushed for two minutes. You need to brush for 2 – 4 minutes, two or three songs on your iPod. Be sure to brush all the surfaces of your teeth. In a small, circular motion, brush the fronts (cheek side), the tops (chewing surfaces), and the inside (tongue side) all separately. Do not saw back and forth. This damages the teeth and gums. The toothbrush bristles miss most of your teeth



# Doctor's Desk

CPT David Nelson  
2BCT Dentist



when you do this.

*Do I really need to floss?* Yes, you are missing half the surfaces of your teeth when you do not floss. You wouldn't do P.T. and then wash half your body, would you?

*How often should I replace my toothbrush?* Once every three to four months. After that time the bristles break down and the toothbrush is no longer effective. Many have an indicator strip of some kind and when it wears away it's time to get a new one.

*Can I switch from drinking sodas to drinking sports drinks to prevent cavities?* No. This is a common misconception. Sodas have sugars in them that bacteria use as a food source. As the bacteria process, or digest, the sugars produce acid which dissolves the minerals in your teeth. The result is a cavity. Sport drinks, on the other hand, have chemicals in them that bind to the minerals in your teeth and pull them

out. You teeth are then more susceptible to developing a cavity. The good news is you can enjoy both, in moderation, however. The key is to drink them all at once. Do not make a bottle or can last all day. Think of trying to drink from an open fire hydrant verses drinking from a slow running garden hose. There is no way you can drink all the water coming out of the fire hydrant. You will only get a little bit. The same thing happens if you drink a soda or sports drink in a short amount of time. Most of the sugars, etc go right past the bacteria and they do not get a change to eat. Sipping is like the slow running garden hose.

I hope this helps put some light into at least one of the holes in your head. I am sure there are many more questions out there. Please, stop by and ask and I will do what I can to answer your question or questions.



# STRIKER TORCH

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## NEWS TEAM

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2<sup>nd</sup> BCT Commander  
COL Pat White

2<sup>nd</sup> BCT Command Sergeant Major  
CSM Michael Eyer

Striker Torch Executive Editor  
LTC Jason Kirk

Striker Torch Editor in Chief  
LTC Wayne Marotto

2<sup>nd</sup> BCT Public Affairs Officer  
LTC Wayne Marotto

2<sup>nd</sup> BCT Public Affairs NCOIC  
SSG Scott Wolfe

## Striker Torch Staff

---

PFC Evan Loyd

The Striker Torch welcomes submissions of :  
articles, comic strips or artwork, and photographs. Please email articles in Microsoft Word and send photos as JPEGs (Please do not send photos embedded in PowerPoint and Word)

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