



Pacesetters visit school

By Pfc. Adam Helleck,

1st Batt., 82nd Field Artillery Regt.



WARDIYA, Iraq-The Pacesetters of Battery B, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, currently working under 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division met with superintendent of Wada Salam School, Bushra Jabara Abdul Alah, to discuss the needs of her school.

The Pacesetters are cleaning up the school, the surrounding area and providing the school with essential supplies it lacks.

In order to better the learning conditions for the children of the area, the unit is providing the school with much needed air conditioning units and fans for the classrooms and facilities.

“Our goal is to work with the administration in the upkeep of the school,” said Colquitt, Ga. 1st Sgt. Jaime Crankfield, first sergeant of Battery B. “We want to ready all of the people of Iraq for the day when we [coalition forces] are no longer here, so they can continue to thrive.”

The Wada School is also in need of sufficient first aid supplies and a medically trained nurse. During the Pacesetters visit, the unit’s medic Spc. Jason Lincoln, a Montpelier, Ohio native provided treatment to many of the students who had minor cuts and wounds.

“We will be instrumental in improving the learning environment for the students of Wada Salam School,” said platoon sergeant and Lemoore, Calif. native Staff Sgt. Daniel Donez.. “We’ve seen the conditions here, and see that there is plenty of work to be done.”



Children of Wada Salam School pose for the camera after the Pacesetters visited the school and provided essential supplies to the school and the kids April 13. (Photo by Spc. Sean McGuire)

With many of the area schools possessing similar conditions to Wada Salam, the Pacesetters are visiting schools around the area in an effort to impact the youth of Iraq with positive changes.

“We have already begun to hand out backpacks, school supplies, and sporting equipment to the children in the area,” said Crankfield. “We will forge a positive impact in the eyes of the local populous.”



Lemoore, Calif. native Staff Sgt. Daniel Donez plays with the students of Wada Salaam School during the visit and assessment the unit performed to better the school facilities. (Photo by Spc. Sean McGuire)

Inside this issue:

<i>Black Knights train Iraqi mortar battery</i>	2
<i>Joint effort creates jobs</i>	2
<i>Brigade Commander's comments</i>	3
<i>Ironhorse troops provide National Police station more security</i>	4
<i>The Freeshot with CSM</i>	5
<i>"Enforcers" add new tool to arsenal</i>	6
<i>Garryowen Soldier uses training to augment security</i>	7
<i>Muleskinners maintain equipment</i>	8
<i>Ironhorse Soldiers welcome Easter Sunday</i>	9
<i>Black Knights secure the outskirts of northern Baghdad</i>	10
<i>Photo Collage</i>	11
<i>Barbarians improve life in Sadr City</i>	12
<i>Chaplain's Quote & Sudoku</i>	13
<i>Safety Steve's Section</i>	14

Did you know:

- † The youngest pope was 11 years old
- † Mark Twain didn't graduate from elementary school
- † Proportional to their weight, men are stronger than horses
- † Pilgrims ate popcorn at the first Thanksgiving dinner
- † They have square watermelons in Japan-they stack better



Coelacanth



Black Knights train Iraqi mortar battery

By 1st Lt. Scott Lewis, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment



Tomsham, Maine native Staff Sgt. Matthew St. Pierre, mortar platoon sergeant for 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, demonstrates to the mortar battery from the 42nd Iraqi Army Brigade the proper way to operate a 120mm mortar system April 21. (Photo by 1st Lt. Scott Lewis)



Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, train the mortar battery from 42nd Iraqi Army Brigade on a 120mm mortar system April 21. The training consisted of emplacement procedures, crew drills and the clearing of misfired rounds. (Photo by 1st Lt. Scott Lewis)

Joint effort creates jobs

By 1st Lt. Leyla Law

JSS WAREAGLE, Iraq— Escorted by the military police platoon, 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, the embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team visited the Modern Sewing Factory in Baghdad March 30.

The Modern Sewing Factory provides employment to many Iraqi citizens who are widows as



Staff Sgt. Lorenzo Aquinog, embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team operations noncommissioned officer, talks with an employee from the Modern Sewing Factory in Baghdad March 30. (U.S. Army Photo)

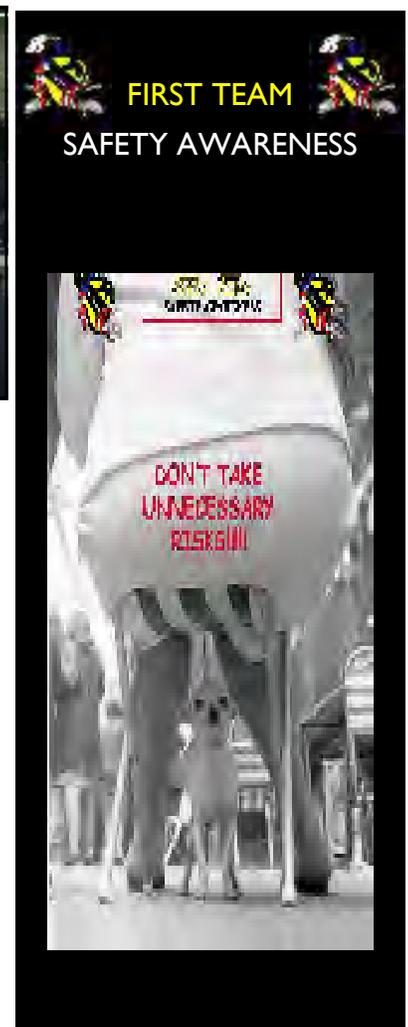


An employee at The Modern Sewing Factory makes collared shirts for the school uniforms for the children in Baghdad March 30. (U.S. Army Photo by Staff Sgt. Lorenzo Aquinog)



a result of the war and are the sole supporters for their families.

The employees of the factory manufacture school uniforms for the children of Baghdad.





From the desk Col. Tobin Green *Task Force Ironhorse troopers earn their "combat" patch*



The past week I have had the chance to speak to Troopers at several ceremonies where unit leadership have placed the 1st Cavalry Division "combat" patch on the right sleeve of Soldiers serving in Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) 09-10. The combat patch ceremony is an important event for Troopers, leaders, and units – a rite of passage in a wartime Army. When a Soldier has been deployed to a combat zone for at least 30 days, he or she is authorized to wear a distinctive shoulder sleeve insignia (or combat patch) on the right sleeve of their military uniform in recognition for their service. At this point in the deployment, with the temporary exception of some new arrivals or late deployers, every Trooper in Task Force Ironhorse is entitled to wear the combat patch, and units across the BCT have recently held ceremonies to formally commemorate this occasion. Indeed, many of our young Troopers are earning the right to wear that combat patch for the very first time, while for our most seasoned NCOs and officers, this marks the third, fourth, or even fifth time they have earned the right to wear the patch. What follows are some of the thoughts I shared with Troopers in the brigade headquarters troop when I spoke at this unit's combat patch ceremony – but the sentiments apply to everyone.

The first impression that hits me when I look across the formation at a combat patch ceremony is the incredible experience level we have in our Army today, at such a young age, and the implications associated with that youthful experience. Looking back at my own career, I had not deployed to war for the first time until I was a Captain, with seven full years in the Army, and that operation was not nearly as taxing on Soldiers and leaders as our current conflict. Now I see so many young servicemen and women - Troopers who are 18 or 19 years of age and already in a combat environment. I see young sergeants on their second or third tour. The result is an incredibly high experience level in the force -- Soldiers and leaders who are physically and mentally tough, emotionally invested and resolved, skilled and practiced at their craft in the profession of arms, fully cognizant of the hazards and requirements of tactical actions and enabling support activities in this theater. It has been my good fortune to wear a Soldier's uniform nearly 25 years now, and I have never seen a finer fighting force. The wisdom and experience accrued at every level of our organizations has made the force so strong. The consequence for our Army, as an institution, is not lost on me. The war on terror, which we are still fighting, has produced an incredibly professional and lethal force. We are so much better at a much younger age than the Army has ever been before.

But that expertise and experience bring obligation. We have gained these advantages at a significant price in lives lost, severe injuries, broken families, and more. We owe it to fellow Soldiers and those who have sacrificed so much not to squander what we have learned under the crucible of combat. This experienced and trained force must hone its sharp edge, and not allow complacency or neglect to erode its skills. We must rapidly acclimate and prepare new Troopers to perform at a high level, and sustain the strengths developed under fire and hardship. We are better today – and need to stay that way. For those of us currently deployed, it means "game on" – all the time – be your best – for yourself and for each other. OIF is a leadership laboratory on steroids. You are smoked by the end of your tour, but you also have these amazing adrenaline rushes at critical times while going through the deployment. Iraq is a test of personal and professional discipline, and commitment - to yourself, your battle buddy, your team, and your beliefs. So far, I think we are doing pretty well, and families at home should find comfort in that assessment.

When I received my first combat patch for duty in the Gulf War back in 1991, I was an idiot. At the time, I didn't think I should wear the patch because I had not been shot, and had not shot anyone else. If you harbor similar feelings – you are misguided today as I was back then. I have a better appreciation of what the combat patch signifies today, and want to pass on my view of why you should proudly wear that First Team patch on your right shoulder.

All of us are here in harm's way. A mortar round could land in the middle of this formation. Any movement could turn into a firefight. Any base could come under attack. We are in a war. There is violence all around, and your being here is a voluntary choice to accept personal risk so that others won't have to endure the same.

There is also no way you can measure the value of your contribution to the organization right now. But in the big picture, that contribution is critical. I am absolutely firm in my belief that every single Trooper in this BCT has their "Andy Warhol" moment in Iraq – that time when you are the most important person in the entire theater – but you probably will never know when that moment has happened. I will share a few examples for illumination. There is the Trooper whose job is to talk on the radio, and helps contact and vector-in attack helicopters for a unit on patrol, and those helicopters provide the deterrent that causes the enemy not to conduct an IED attack against the patrol. That radio operator was the most important person in the entire theater at that moment, and will never know about it here on earth. There is the analyst going over volumes of reports and information, who finds a key piece of intelligence that allows a unit to conduct a time-sensitive-target raid and detain an insurgent who was planning to blow up an Iraqi market. That analyst is the most important Soldier in this war at that moment, and may never know it. It might be a mechanic who is in charge of quality control in the unit motor pool, and who corrects a fault which subsequently prevents a vehicle breakdown that would have exposed the patrol to enemy attacks. That mechanic is the MVP in Iraq at that instant, but will never know the truth, because the proper maintenance on that HMMWV saved lives. Or I could point to the medic whose commitment to preventative health care keeps members of a personal security detachment (PSD) from getting sick, so that when that team leaves the base they are not short-handed, and do not present a vulnerability to the enemy – an enemy who then chooses not to fight the PSD that day. In my opinion, there is no more critical individual than that preventive health care specialist at that moment in time, but he or she will never fully know the value of their job well done. I could provide you endless examples. What I am illustrating with these four vignettes is what the concept of team is about, and why measuring yourself by whether or not you had a bullet come your way is a ridiculous metric. Our success depends on the team – not the individual. Each Soldier's individual contribution to the unit as a whole may determine our collective fate. The chain is as strong as its weakest link. So regardless of MOS or location, Task Force Ironhorse Soldiers throughout this theater are making successful combat operations possible. For Troopers in this BCT, if you have done your very best if whatever the task, then in my eyes you have had a magnificent, enormous, and invaluable impact on the success of us all. You have made a difference, and you have earned the right to wear that patch with honor and with the Nation's deepest thanks for your courage. If you cannot grasp all the connections right now – trust me - with time comes perspective. And you will fully appreciate the significance of the role you are playing in the war effort – and what it means to all the people you touch with your actions.

The combat patch you will wear on your sleeve is symbol of your, and your loved ones', commitment to the cause of freedom and a better future for the people here, the country of Iraq, and the entire Middle East, as well as the long term security of the United States. Frankly, it is not hard for me to personally commit to this mission. Rather, I am "called" to it – I am "all in." I believe in my heart that what I am doing today is the most important contribution I can make. I know am here – at this place – at this time – for a reason. I am incredibly motivated by the challenges and opportunities ahead of us. I am convinced we are making a positive difference by our presence, and that our efforts will benefit others now and in the future. My actions can preclude some Soldier from having to return here to do my job. Most important, my actions can lead to a more secure and peaceful planet for my children. If you share even some of those feelings, then you should take satisfaction in the role you play, and difference you make in this BCT.

Take pride in what you have accomplished already, what you are doing now, and what we will achieve in Iraq together as one team – Iraqi and Coalition. I want you to know that I personally thank you for your service, and I thank the people you hold dear for all their love and support from a distance. Command Sergeant Major Norman and I are privileged to join you in wearing the 1st Cavalry Division Combat patch because we believe in you, and are humbled by your sacrifices. By your actions, each one of you is helping to write a chapter in the traditions and history of the 1st Cavalry Division – a story that sergeants will be telling Soldiers about decades from today.

**IRONHORSE!
TEAM FIRST!**

**Tobin Green
COL, Cavalry
Ironhorse BCT Commander**



1st Lt. Aaron Shittack points and communicates the layout plan at the National Police Station in Hussineyah April 19. (Photo by Sgt. Shejal Pulivarti)

“...It allows for the Iraqi Security Forces to better protect themselves and thereby allow them to provide better security...”

Ironhorse troops provide National Police station more security

By Sgt. Shejal Pulivarti

JSS ISTIQLAAL, Iraq – 1st “Garryowen” Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division partnered with fellow Ironhorse unit, 115th Brigade Support Battalion to provide barriers for a National Police Station in Hussineyah, Iraq April 19.

Garryowen’s Troop B escorted and provided security as Muleskinners transported concrete barriers

to reinforce the NP station to better protect the area’s policemen.

The NP’s, Blackhawk Troop’s counterparts, asked for a more secure site for their headquarters due to a recent incident. They patrol and manage the surrounding area of Hussineyah to improve the quality of life of the local Iraqi people.

The barriers will strengthen the force protection

of the national police allowing them to provide the necessary support for the people.

“This mission is important because (the barriers) it allows for the Iraqi Security Forces to better protect themselves and thereby allow them to provide better security for the Iraqi people,” said West Piont, N.Y. native 1st Lt. Aaron Shittack, platoon leader for Troop B, 1st Squadron, 7th Cav. Regt.



Photo by: Sgt. Shejal Pulivarti



Photo by: Sgt. Edwin Bridges



Photo by: Sgt. Shejal Pulivarti



Photo by: Sgt. Shejal Pulivarti



The Free Shot!

O&A with CSM Norman, Ironhorse BCT Command Sergeant Major

Q: Why is it that every other COP/JSS/FOB gets CLPs everyday and we (the BDE HQ) only get it once every three or four days?

A: To answer the question I will say that your information is slightly off, because there are no FOB/COP/JSS getting CLPs every single day. But the other places all belong to a BN, and those BNs have something that neither BDE HHT or BSTB have, and that is a FSC. We have to rely on the distribution company from 115th to bring our stuff here. They also have to drive to pick up the stuff for the entire BDE. Sometimes the more critical stuff like mail, repair parts and system components, I pick up and deliver myself to you, so you can get what is required.

Q: What is the plan for more time with families once we redeploy?

A: I too would love to spend time with my family, and can't wait to get home. After the deployment, we will do the standard reintegration training, and post deployment leave. There has been a new change that affects the entire Army, and I'm not sure how it is going to shape out just yet.

Q: What is your favorite movie?

A: That is a tough one. I think it is a toss up between a movie called The Godfather (Part II) and SGT Rutledge (A Cavalry 1SG in the late 1800s), and of course a John Wayne movie called The Searchers. Great movies that I could watch every day.

Q: I heard we are supposed to receive a limited amount of ACS; will we have enough for each Soldier?

A: The ACS was designed for wearing with the IOTV. We are getting them in as I type and by the time you read this I will have issues the first 2000 shirts. There are more due in but I do not believe that every single trooper will get one. Bottom line, if your duties dictate that you never leave the FOB, you are on the bottom of the list. The troops that spend the majority of their time walking in sector are priority.

Q: Are color lenses authorized?

A: Basically, to answer your question, no. The current MNF-I uniform policy prohibits those from being worn. But there are some in the BDE that are testing new eye protection for PEO Soldier that have a lens color called Vermillion. These are designed to be worn both day and night with no lens changes required.

Q: Do you think military couples should be together in theater?

A: I do believe that couples who have both decided to serve should be allowed to do so if conditions warrant. If their duties allow them to be on the same installation, great.

Q: What steps are being taken to being midnight chow to Soldiers on JSS WarEagle?

A: Are you volunteering to work as a cook in the DFAC?



Q: Is there an outgoing mail schedule to mail more than letters home?

A: Yes there is. If you check the bulletin board in the DFAC, or on the mailroom door, the dates are posted just prior to the postal dudes showing up to do packages and other things.

Q: When will the troop store open at JSS WarEagle?

A: It should be open by the time you read this.

What are YOUR questions for CSM Norman?

Send them to shejal.pulivarti@us.army.mil and next month CSM Norman will answer some more of your questions.

CSM Norman's answers are not official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of the Army or the 1st Cavalry Division.



1. Operations Orders
2. Map Graphics Overlay
3. Pre-Combat Checks(PCC)/ Pre-Combat Inspections (PCI)
4. Rehearsals
5. Security/ Force Protection
6. Reconnaissance & Surveillance
7. Time Management
8. Composite Risk Management



“Enforcers” add new tool to arsenal

By Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell



JSS WAREAGLE, Iraq – Military police have many tools at their disposal to assist them in accomplishing their mission. The MPs or “Enforcers” of 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, just added to their arsenal a military working dog April 8 at Joint Security Station War Eagle. The dog and its handler will stay with the Enforcers for a few days to aid the mission then move on to another unit that requests their assistance.

The Enforcers run patrols and provide security for different types of missions with two goals in mind.

“We just enforce the laws and make sure everything is up to standard,” said Pfc. John Hanner, a native of Statesboro, Ga., and an MP gunner assigned to the Enforcers. The embedded military working dog team can do



Air Force Tech Sgt. Bob Weigold, a military working dog handler and Sonja, a Belgium Malinois, assigned to the 56th SBCT, patrol the perimeter of JSS WarEagle April 8. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell)

just that as well as add an extra level of security.

“It’s a little bit more security for us, it’s something else to help us out,” added Hanner. “The more equipment we have, the better we are. It’s easier to fight with more equipment.”

Not only can the MPs add more to the fight with spe-

“I feel more safe with having extra equipment, like a dog...”

cialized dogs, but they can mitigate some of the risks of their dangerous job.

“I feel more safe with having extra equipment, like a dog, cause a dog is trained in finding things we possibly might not see or know about,” explained Hanner.

The Belgium Malinois, Sonja, is a dual certified dog for patrols and explosives detection. She is trained to assist in weapons sweeps, caches searches, raids and finding improvised explosive devices, thus reducing the danger for the MPs.

“Having an asset out in front of your team takes a little bit of risk away from them,” said Air Force Tech. Sgt. Bob Weigold, a military working dog handler assigned

to the 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team. “I try to reduce the liabilities for us by having the dog out there to detect the explosive devices prior to anybody going in there.”

Weigold and Sonja are utilized throughout Baghdad by different branches of service, but wherever they go they add a substantial level of security.

“As far as security, the biggest thing is the amount of area we can cover with it in a short period of time,” said Weslaco, Texas native Spc. Chris Saenz, an MP driver assigned to the Enforcers. “It’s another tool to fight the fight.”

The Enforcers job is to use all the tools available to their advantage on every patrol to communicate to higher headquarters ensuring Coalition forces security.

“We’re always relaying



Military police and a military working dog team patrol the perimeter of Joint Security Station WarEagle April 8. The military dog team assists in finding hidden explosives. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell)



Garryowen Soldier uses training to augment security

By 2nd Lt. Josh Risher

JSS ISTIQLAAL, Iraq-Sgt. Zackeria Eckert has to pull guard duty just like many other Soldiers in “Garryowen” at Joint Security Station Istiqlal. Like many of the other scouts in the squadron, he takes it as a matter of course, dutifully reporting and working hard when his shift comes up. But even before he puts on his gear and reports for duty, he has already done something else to help improve force protection.

While deployed with Garryowen during Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08, Sgt. Eckert was trained in installing surveillance systems. In August 2007 he took a two-week course, learning how to install cameras and link them to a central surveillance hub. He completed the course, but went through the rest of the tour without ever getting a chance to use his newfound knowledge.

He redeployed and spent a year at home station, Fort Hood, Texas. The opportunity to use his training never presented itself. When the squadron deployed this time, his skills came into use.

JSS Istiqlal is situated just north of Baghdad, almost directly east from Camp Taji. Almost all of the entire squadron is stationed there, along with an artillery platoon and additional staff members. Garryowen shares the JSS with a local Iraqi Police station and a National Police headquarters. The area is generally quiet, but security still needs to be maintained. That is where Sgt. Eckert’s training came into use.

Eighteen months after completing the course, Sgt. Zackeria was called upon to put his learning to the test. He had held onto his training materials from

the course, and with a bit of help from the S6 noncommissioned officer in charge he was quickly at work.

“It’s a lot like setting up a game network,” he said of his task. “You install the cameras, run the cables, and configure the hub.”

The cameras he installed provide a live feed directly into the Squadron’s tactical operations center. The Soldier on duty can watch them all simultaneously, and can even zoom in on events a good distance away with some of the cameras. If someone approaches the gate, whoever is monitoring the cameras will know about it well before that person arrives.

Sgt. Eckert may not brag about his work, but his ability to use past training has helped ensure the safety of all his fellow Soldiers. As with any training, you never know when you’ll get to use it. It definitely pays off when you do.



Left: Sgt. Zackeria Eckert, a scout in Troop B, 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment stands in front of one of the security cameras he installed when the squadron arrived at JSS Istiqlal in March 2009. The Spokane, Wa. native completed a course on installing the system 18 months ago while deployed with the unit last tour. He used the training to increase force protection. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Josh Risher)

DOG TEAM, from page 6

back to battalion what we see, what we notice,” added Saenz. “Like today, we reported back a couple of mounds of dirt that weren’t there yesterday cause we were just up here less than

12 hours ago. It’s small things like that that just don’t look the same.”

The MPs of 1st BSTB, 1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div., are always on alert and reporting what they see. With the addition of a military working dog

team, they can find and report on things that Soldiers may not even see. Either way, the Enforcers will use all their tools to their advantage to keep enforcing the law and enforcing the standard.



May 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Beltane May Day; No Pants Day	2
3	4	5 Cinco de Mayo; Europe Day 	6	7	8 V-E Day	9 Europe Day; World Fair Trade Day
10 Mother's Day 	11	12 International Nurses Day	13	14	15	16
17 Norwegian Constitution Day	18	19 Victoria Day	20	21	22	23
24/31	25 May Revolution Towel Day; Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30

Muleskinners maintain equipment

By: Sgt. Shejal Pulivarti



Below: Kokomo, Ind. native Pfc. Wayne Bogard, light wheel mechanic for Company B, 115th Brigade Support Battalion, tightens the bolts after rotating and changing the tires on a Humvee April 17. (Photo by Sgt. Shejal Pulivarti)



Above: Norfolk, Va. native Sgt. Damen Miller, a recovery noncommissioned officer for Company B, 115th "Muleskinners" Brigade Support Battalion fastens the chains to recover a downed Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle April 17. Miller practiced the proper procedure in order to decrease the time and improve efficiency for recovering a vehicle. (Photo by Sgt. Shejal Pulivarti)



Above: Lanark, Ill. Native Spc. Kyle Martz, special electronic device repairer for Company B, 115th Brigade Support Battalion puts a pair of AN/PVS-7B Night Vision Goggles together after purging it April 17. Purging dries out any moisture the goggles attain over time and regular use. (Photo by Sgt. Shejal Pulivarti)



Ironhorse Soldiers welcome Easter Sunday

By Maj. Brian Carlin



Soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team listen intently as Maj. Mark Johnston, the brigade chaplain, of El Paso, Texas gives the Easter sermon about grace on Easter Sunday April 12. (Photo by Maj. Brian Carlin)



Fort Worth, Texas native Capt. Jay Hudson, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, attached to 1st Brigade Combat Team leads the congregation in a prayer during the Easter Sunday Service April 12. (Photo by Maj. Brian Carlin)



Above: Soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, led by "The Neverending Band", sang festive hymns during the Easter Sunday Sunrise Service April 12.

Left: El Paso, Texas native Maj. Mark Johnston, the brigade chaplain, explains the importance of celebrating the religious holiday. The 1st Brigade Combat Team held an Easter Sunday Service April 12. (Photos by Maj. Brian Carlin)



Black Knights secure the outskirts of northern Baghdad

By Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell

ADHAMIYAH, Iraq — In a neighborhood in northern Adhamiyah here, a 3-foot wide pipe juts out of murky water connecting two steep banks. The north side of the canal has lush, green fields of varying crops. On the south side, there are disheveled residences with children peeking out from behind doorways. From the fields to their homes, children work with their parents transporting crops on their backs across the pipe that intersects the canal. But crops aren't the only things being transported across these slippery pipes.

"This is one of only a few locations where locals can get from the north to the south," said 1st Lt. Adrian Moreno, a combat engineer and platoon leader from Houston assigned to Echo Troop, 1st Squadron, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. "We have to make sure they are only transporting crops and that the people aren't transporting improvised explosive device materials and weapons."

Stopping the flow of IED materials, weapons and other contraband into the center of Baghdad from places like Shaab on the outskirts of the city, is a difficult task. According to Moreno, Echo Troop has located possible smuggling points and increased security on the canals in their area of operation during an operation dubbed "Crazy Wombat."

"Any area's going to have its weak

links. One of the weakest links in the outskirts of Baghdad I've noticed is the farmlands and the canals," said Cpl. Martin McDonnell, a combat engineer team leader assigned to Echo Troop. "That's where a lot of weapons smuggling is coming in, so if we provide disruption patrols up there and maybe make the terrorists or insurgents... make them think twice about bringing weapons into the area, then it's going to benefit the city center and our AO specifically in Shaab."

For this operation, the Echo Troop Soldiers work hand-in-hand with the Iraqi National Police to establish checkpoints in critical smuggling thoroughfares.

"When citizens see us out here providing security, they feel more secure..."

"These checkpoints are external checkpoints on the outskirts that we set up and control and search people," added Maj. Talib Mishat Khamis, the commander for the 4th Company, 3rd Bn., 4th Bde., 1st National Police Division. "With these checkpoints, we can control the stability and climate of the center of Baghdad."

These operations are vital to the security of Baghdad and have an active role in seizing weapons headed toward the heart of the city, added Talib.

"The people that are trying to smuggle in weapons see us out here and they're going to think twice about it," explained McDonnell, a native of Sweetwater, Texas. "The Iraqi population is going to see us doing these CPs and they're going to feel more secure and more comforted. It's just a snowball effect of things getting better."

Getting better for Coalition forces, Iraqi Security Forces, but more importantly, it's getting better for the people of Iraq.

"When citizens see us out here providing security, they feel more secure," emphasized Talib. "We notice it



An Echo Troop Soldier waits for an Iraqi farmer to cross a canal into Shaab on the outskirts of Baghdad April 10. "The Iraqis are honored that we're here to watch out for the security of the people and the children," said Houston native 1st Lt. Adrian Moreno, a platoon leader and combat engineer. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell)

on the people's faces. When they pass us, they give us a warm greeting."

Even though many of the Iraqi farmers have toiled most of the day in the fields just north of the canal, they don't mind being stopped on their way back home.

"I believe that the majority of them don't see it as a hindrance," confided McDonnell. "It may disrupt their daily lives a little bit, but what they realize is that a minor disruption today is insignificant compared to if we hadn't done these."

The few minutes it takes Moreno and his men to thoroughly search the heaping bags of freshly reaped wheat will safeguard the neighborhood of Shaab. Operations like Crazy Wombat, secure the smaller neighborhoods on the outskirts of the city directly impacting the overall security of Baghdad.

Lenior, N.C. native Staff Sgt. Brooks Coperning (left) and Kopperl, Texas native Staff Sgt. Mason Wood navigate a pipeline used for smuggling contraband into Baghdad April 10. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell)



Echo Troop Soldiers stand guard while an Iraqi man watches in the distance as the sun sets at the beginning of a patrol during Operation Crazy Wombat in Shaab April 10. The operations was to stop the flow of IEDs. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell)



Familiar Faces





Barbarians improving life in Sadr City

By Lt. Stanley Olszewski



JSS SADR CITY, Iraq- Soldiers of Company B “Barbarians”, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, are responsible for completing a variety of missions throughout Sadr City. They conduct infrastructure assessment patrols, secure local council meetings, meet with local leaders, and conduct both mounted and dismounted security operations supporting Soldiers from 1st and 3rd Companies of 2nd Battalion, 42nd Iraqi Army.

While doctrine calls for Company B, a mechanized infantry company, to maneuver and destroy enemy forces with the use of dismounted squads and their M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicles, their current operational focus is different. Despite the differences between their typical mission set and the operations they currently conduct, Barbarians are excelling at their new tasks and becoming more proficient every day.

Sadr City is one of the most impoverished districts of Baghdad. It suffers from sanitation issues, overcrowding, and a general lack of civil infrastructure. One of the ma-



Soldiers from Company B, 2nd Batt. 5th Cav. Regt. Conduct a dismounted patrol in a neighborhood in Sadr City. Frequent dismount patrols allow the unit to interact with the local populace and gauge the situation in the area. (U.S. Army Photo)

major goals of the Lancer Battalion is to assist the local government in improving the conditions in Sadr City. One specific problem that plagues the area is lack of electricity. Many large generators exist throughout the neighborhoods, with the purpose of providing electricity for the residential areas. However, some of the generators are not operational due to lack of parts and poor maintenance. To solve these problems, Barbarians meet with the locals responsible for the generators in order to identify the specific problems with each generator. Their goal is to assist in bringing each

“...security of the Jameela Market is critical to the economic infrastructure of the area...”

generator to full operating capacity ensuring that the residents of Sadr City have enough electricity to meet their needs. An increase in the availability of electricity is a key component for success in the area.

While parts of Sadr City are plagued by poverty and overcrowding, it is also home to one of Baghdad’s most vital pieces of economic infrastructure, the Jameela Market. The Jameela Market, located in B Company’s sector, is a large retail food market that receives goods from throughout the region and sells them to the greater Baghdad area. It is one of the most important areas in the Lancer Battalion’s entire operating environment. Lt. Col. Timothy Karcher, commander of 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, states that “Our decisive point continues to be the Jameela District, as that is one of the key hubs of commerce within Baghdad and Iraq. The security and smooth functioning of this market has operational value, and therefore must be secured and fur-

ther developed.” Securing this market area is one of the most important missions given to the Soldiers of B Company. They conduct combined patrols with Soldiers 2nd Battalion, 42nd Iraqi Army through the market in order to interact with local vendors, assess the condition of the market, and evaluate the overall security of the area. Security in the Jameela Market is one of Lancer’s key objectives, and the Barbarians will continue to ensure that the area is safe and open for business.

While security of the Jameela Market is critical to the economic infrastructure of the area, developing other aspects of Sadr City’s economy is also important. Another mission Company B has been given is to assess the overall economy of their operational area. They have been mapping out the location of local stores, banks, auto repair shops, and other businesses that exist in the area. The goal is to gain a clear understanding of the economic structure of the area, in order to allow for the development of an overall plan to improve the civil capacity of Sadr City. This information will allow the embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team that works with the Lancer Battalion to advise local leaders on the steps necessary to improve the economic structure of the area.

Cpl. Matthew Pavao, medic for Company B takes a knee during a dismounted patrol in Sadr City. (U.S. Army Photo)





8	6	5	1	9	4	2		
			6		5			1
		7		2				4
	5							6
		2				1		
4							2	
9				6		4		
5			3		7			
		4	9	1	8	5	7	2

Easy

			1			9		
		1			4		8	
	7		8			2	4	
6				4				7
8		2				5		3
				3				8
	6	8			3		1	
	9		7			8		
		7			5			

Medium

SUDOKU

*It's easy to play Sukoku!
Simply fill every column
so they contain every
number between 1 and
9.*

*Don't go too fast!
The game is easy to
play but difficult to
master!*

Hard

JSS Wareagle Religious Services

Fridays- 1200 Bible Study

Friday- 1800 Contemporary Protestant Service

Sunday- 0900 Catholic Mass

Sunday- 1100 Protestant Worship Service

Sunday- 1800 Confession

Sunday- 1830 Stations of the Cross

Sunday- 1900 Catholic Mass



6			4		8			9
5	4			6			3	
		2	7	3				
		1						
2			8		7			1
						2		
				7	3	4		
	9			8			1	2
1			5		2			6



Ironhorse Spirit



*“Worrying is like a rocking chair, it gives you
something to do, but doesn't get you anywhere.”*

- Anonymous

*“Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything.
Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.”*

- Philippians 4:6

FIRST TEAM

A



Ask your buddy

- Have the courage to ask the question, but stay calm
- Ask the question directly, e.g., Are you thinking of killing yourself?

Care for your buddy

- Remove any means that could be used for self-injury
- Calmly control the situation; do not use force
- Actively listen to produce relief

Escort your buddy

- Never leave your buddy alone
- Escort to the chain of command, a Chaplain, a behavioral health professional, or a primary care provider

USACHPPM <http://chppm-www.pppw.army.mil/>

TA - 095 - 0505





If Your Buddy is in Pain Help Your Buddy!



*You are a Warrior and a member of a team,
You will never leave a fallen comrade!*



**1st Brigade Combat Team
1st Cavalry Division
Multi National Division–
Baghdad**

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Do you have a story to share?

The **Ironhorseman** welcomes columns, commentaries, articles, letters and photos from readers. Submissions should be sent to the BCT Public Affairs office at shejal.pulivarti@us.army.mil or brian.f.carlin@us.army.mil. Include the author's name, rank, unit and contact information. The **Ironhorseman** reserves the right to edit submissions

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Safety Steve's Section



"I CAN SAVE MY OWN LIFE"

WHAT DOES IT MEAN ?

I am responsible for my own safety both on and off duty, on and off post.



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT ?

Because I AM important.
My family and friends love me
My unit needs me
My nation is depending on me



Risk Factors

Fatigue

Aggressive Driving

- Trying to drive too far without rest -Speeding and driving too fast for the conditions

Seat Belts - IT'S THE LAW

Drugs and Alcohol - State law and UCMJ

Soldier and Leader Indiscipline - Not enforcing published laws/regulations/guidance/standards

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www.cavcountry.net

The Ironhorseman