

IA Medics in Abu Assaf • Diwaniyah security • IA tanks

www.mnci.centcom.mil/Chronicle

# THE COALITION CHRONICLE

Volume 2, Issue 5

May 2007

## Protecting Sadr City

*Iraqi National Police are  
gaining acceptance in the  
notorious city*

# What's Inside

# THE COALITION CHRONICLE

The Official Magazine of  
Multi-National Corps-Iraq

May 2007  
Volume 2, Issue 5

MNC-I Commander  
Lt. Gen. Ray Odierno

MNC-I Public Affairs Officer  
Lt. Col. James Hutton

MNC-I Command Information Chief  
Sgt. 1st Class Terrence Hayes  
Editor

Sgt. Abel Trevino  
Staff Writers  
Sgt. Jess Kent

Spc. Laura M. Bigenho  
Spc. D. A. Dickinson  
Spc. Beatrice Florescu-Vila Verde  
Spc. Stephanie Homan



## Positive response!

Marines, INP making progress and getting help from residents

## Page 5

### A Peaceful Movement

Diwaniyah residents help locate AIF

## Page 18

### Giving Back

Iraqi Army Medics treat villagers

## Page 20

### Dawn of a New Era

MND-NE under new command

## Page 25

### Time Waits For No Man

Someone's life depends on them

## Page 24

### First Steps

IA tank battalion's first patrol

## Page 26

### Home on the Range

Macedonian soldiers make Taji home

## Page 27

## Departments

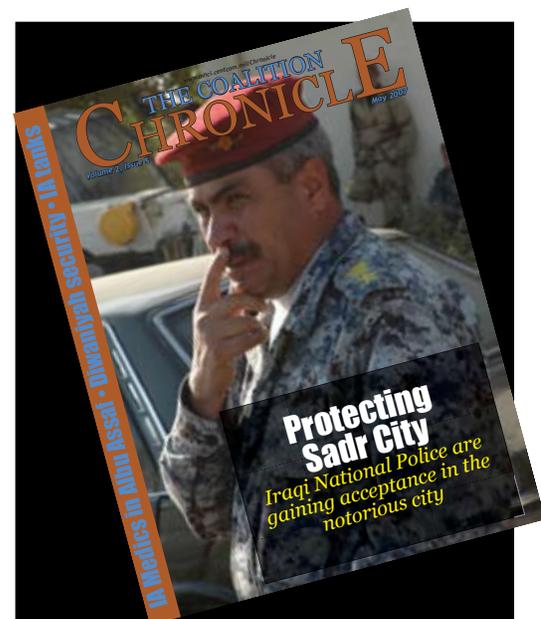
Commander's Voice  
Page 1

CSM's Corner  
Page 3

In Remembrance  
Page 28

Coalition News Briefs  
Page 4

Freedom's Focal Point  
Page 8



### This month's covers

**Up front:** Lt. Col. Mohammad, commander 1st Battalion, 8th Brigade, 2nd Division Iraqi National Police, inspects a formation of policemen as they prepare for a patrol in Sadr City Feb. 21. Photo by Marine Sgt. Jess Kent.

**On the back:** Pfc. Narinesammy mans the turret during joint patrol operations in Riyadh. Photo by Air Force Tech Sgt. Maria Bare.

The Coalition Chronicle is an authorized monthly publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of this monthly publication are not necessarily the official views of or endorsed by the U.S. Government or the Department of Defense. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Public Affairs Office of the Multi-National Corps-Iraq.

Questions, comments and concerns about The Coalition Chronicle can be addressed via email at [jacob.boyer@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:jacob.boyer@iraq.centcom.mil). The Chronicle accepts articles, photos and letters for submission. Send submissions to [terrence.hayes@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:terrence.hayes@iraq.centcom.mil). The Chronicle reserves the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, clarity and space.

# COMMANDER'S VOICE

**A**s we push our troops further into the neighborhoods and countryside of Iraq, dramatic attacks, as well as tangible progress, have to be expected.

We have experienced both over the last month. More than 60 percent of our forces are now in place, with the remaining units beginning to filter in. In the coming months we will be able to make an assessment of our progress, but for now we must expect the good to come with the bad as our units continue to establish themselves with their Iraqi counterparts and in the neighborhoods they patrol.

***A province that only months ago was home to much of the resistance...has now come to the table empowered by its citizens and willing to work with, instead of against, the Coalition and the Government of Iraq.***



**Lt. Gen. Ray Odierno  
MNC-I Commander**

In order to meet our commitments in both Iraq and Afghanistan we had to examine how to deploy our force without stretching it to breaking point. The solution we arrived at was to extend the tours of active duty Army units to 15 months.

**U**nfortunately a leak to the press forced the Secretary of Defense to announce this policy before the chain of command could properly disseminate the information to our Soldiers and families. We still are working out the specific details of the plan and we plan to publish further details in May. Quite simply, it is unacceptable that many of you had to find out about our extension through the news.

We have endured some very real reminders about how difficult our mission to secure Baghdad and its surrounding areas is going to be. This month alone extremists destroyed a bridge, killed hundreds of people going about their daily business outside of the hardened markets, and blew up the cafeteria of the Iraqi Parliament.

One of the most horrific at-

tacks took place in Tal Afar. A VBIED ripped through a predominantly Shia neighborhood killing more than 150 people. In response, local police took justice into their own hands killing scores of citizens in the area. We have said since this plan was implemented, there will be difficult days ahead.

Though nothing can prepare you for an event such as this, we do face a ruthless enemy willing to go to any lengths

to de-legitimize our presence and the Government of Iraq's authority. Many Iraqis are seeing conditions around them improve. Unfortunately the extremists have a vote, and desperate to prove their cause is not lost, they carry out dramatic attacks such as these to show they are as lethal and brutal as ever.

**T**hough the attack in Tal Afar was tragic, many of the events that followed are encouraging. During my visit, only days after this event, Lt. Col. Malcolm Frost, the Soldiers of 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry, and the local leadership of Tal Afar were working together to help diffuse tension. Tents were sent to house the hundreds of displaced people and humanitarian aid was delivered to those in need. Additionally, the Iraqi Police involved in the reprisal attacks have been arrested sending a clear message that this sort of action will not be tolerated.

Visiting the sites of this attack, and others, clearly illustrates that vehicle borne improvised explosive devices of all kinds continue to be

one of the biggest threats to the stability of Iraq, and we are doing everything in our power to mitigate these horrific weapons. Packing a vehicle with enough explosives to leave a crater 15 feet wide and six feet deep takes a great deal of resources and a well established site in which to construct them. These bomb factories continue to be one of our primary targets, and as we pick them off one by one we weaken the enemy's ability to carry out these attacks each time.

**A**nother security measure we have established with our Iraqi counterparts to mitigate this threat within Baghdad's neighborhoods is to emplace concrete barriers around highly populated areas. This particular security measure has recently met with some resistance from a few citizens within these communities as well as a few members of the Iraqi Government. In these "gated communities", by using temporary barriers, berms and other obstacles, entrance to markets and specific communities is controlled through checkpoints, which allow citizens to come and go but which prevent would-be attackers. This is one of the major security measures of our current security plan and is in no way designed to further segment the population and heighten sectarian tensions.

Lt. Gen. Abud, the Iraqi Commander of Baghdad Security Forces, accompanied me on a visit to the Adhamiyya district of Baghdad and the 2nd Battalion, 82 Field Artillery Regiment where much of this controversy began. He made it perfectly clear these barriers were indeed in the best interest of the citizens of Adhamiyya and they would continue to go up.

Some dramatic progress has also resulted from our efforts. Anbar continues to be one of this country's

## *They decided they were tired of the extortion and the senseless violence. The tribes of Abu Ghraib have tired of al-Qaeda and now they fight them along side of us.*

most significant success stories. Early last month I accompanied the Iraqi National Security Advisor and Minister of Defense to a security conference in al-Anbar. Members of ISF from Anbar sat down with us to discuss plans to establish an Anbar Operations Center.

**M**uch like the Baghdad Operations Center, this will be the hub for all security within the Anbar province. A province that only months ago was home to much of the resistance trying to destabilize the very government it is now partnered with has now come to the table empowered by its citizens and willing to work with, instead of against, the Coalition and the Government of Iraq.

Our reconciliation efforts are not only in Anbar. When we visited Lt. Col. Kurt Pinkerton and the fine Soldiers of 2nd Bn., 5th Cav. Regt., at Combat Outpost Courage, we found they were making some significant progress of their own. Abu Ghraib has long been a contentious area for coalition forces. Attacks have been common and resentment prevalent in the streets of this Baghdad suburb – that was until recently. Not long ago, one of Abu Ghraib's most influential tribes decided they have had enough.

They decided they were tired of the extortion and the senseless violence. The tribes of Abu Ghraib have tired al-Qaeda and now they fight them along side of us.

A couple of recent visits I made re-

ally epitomize what makes me so proud of the Service men and women of Multi-National Corps-Iraq. I was able to spend quite a bit of time with the wonderful Soldiers of the 13th Sustainment Command recently, and I was deeply impressed. Their mission is not glamorous, it is not easy, but it is essential. Without their

hard work and dedication, other units within the Corps would wither without the fuel, water, parts, or materials this superb unit helps to provide. You all should be proud of the job you are doing.

**R**ecently I was also able to visit the Soldiers of 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regt. just north of Baquba. Not long ago, they suffered the tragic loss of nine Soldiers, along with 20 additional casualties, when two massive suicide vehicle borne improvised explosive devices hit on one of their patrol bases in succession.

An attack of this magnitude could easily demoralize any unit, not these warriors. The first thing Capt. Jesse Stewart, the commander of the troop that suffered the brunt of these casualties, spoke of was rebuilding the school destroyed in the attack. Their resolve is solid and they were motivated to continue to carry out their mission, and I cannot tell you how proud I am of these dedicated Soldiers. They stared great adversity straight in the eye and they have emerged stronger than ever – I was profoundly moved and I will never forget these incredible men.

Never have we gone to war with a force entirely made up of volunteers for such a long period of time. You are all doing your country proud and it is certainly not lost on them that you represent the finest collection of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines our country has ever known. 

# CSM's CORNER

I'm sitting in the kitchen of an abandoned home in the east Rashid district of Baghdad talking about any and all manner of things related to current operations with three young sergeants (combat veterans of multiple tours), a lieutenant and the company first sergeant. After about an hour of conversation with the same, one of the "young" Sergeants (E5) made a comment to the affect "these new Soldiers sure are green. They don't know what they don't know" (it took everything in me not to chuckle). In other conversations at other sites, I am reminded by mid to senior grade NCOs that Soldiers today are not nearly as disciplined as their predecessors.

I love history. I have a strong opinion that our history provides the foundation from which we can always take that next step forward. I also believe, as have many others, that failure to embrace one's history ensures we'll make those same mistakes. I've read T.R. Ferenbach's "this Kind of War"; Joe Galloway's and General(R) Hal Moore's book "We Were Soldiers Once, and Young"; Stephen Ambrose "Citizen Soldiers", "D-Day" and "Band of Brothers", to name but a few. In all of those, I've read there is always those older Soldier(s) who expresses their displeasure over the quality, discipline or capacity of the newest recruit.

I cannot count the number of times I've listened to NCOs talk about the lack of discipline in our Army or our youth. It wasn't until I was pulling a stint of gate guard on Fort Hood a few years back, when engaging a mobilized National Guard MP in casual conversation that I realized something; the essence of the Army I've been a part of for the last three decades has not changed ... the people have and will.

The young MP sergeant I was talking to at the gate had an eight-year break in service. Actually, he had an eight-year break between his service in the active Army and his mobilization as a National Guard trooper. He was a typical, albeit slightly older, MP NCO; he looked sharp and had a competent demeanor about him. I don't know what he did as a civilian, but in the six hours we shared, he struck me as nothing short of a Soldier.

Now, back to my story; the MP sergeant tells me that Soldiers are not nearly as disciplined today (five years ago) as they were when he was on active duty. I asked the NCO how old he was when he first enlisted and 18 was his answer. At the time of our conversation he was 30. I looked at him for a long moment and then told him



Command Sgt. Maj.  
Neil Ciotola  
MNC-I Command  
Sergeant Major

*I have a strong opinion that our history provides the foundation from which we can always take that next step forward.*

it wasn't the Army that had changed, it was him and his sense of things. His once naive and immature perspective of the military and that thing we call discipline had matured. What was the norm 12 years earlier he now looked upon as childish and immature. The Army hadn't changed, his priorities and his perception(s) had.

I think back to all the times we in the force have thrown stones at our drill sergeants/instructors. We've all berated the school house/training base for the trooper we've received, maybe not on a repeated basis, but we have at least once. I think back to my time as a Basic Combat Training CSM and then as the CSM of a One Station Unit Training (OSUT) Cavalry Squadron. I remember vividly, berating Recruiting Command for what I (and our drill sergeants) deemed fresh recruits that did not possess

the necessary attributes to be a Soldier. I look back now and realize that with every step I've taken along my career I've been the source of, or listened to, someone else complain about someone else, typically our youth.

Then I think of Ar Ramadi, and the young sergeant who

told me it wasn't his job to inspect his Soldiers, it was "their" responsibility to be prepared. I thought of the young trooper who said his supervisor didn't inspect him because his Sergeant said it was an individual responsibility to be prepared. I don't know what scares me more, what we fail to teach our youth, or some of the perverted notions we instill in our youngsters.

I was labeled a turd when I entered basic training. I was called a !@#\$\$bird when I began advanced individual training. I was berated by the draftees in our ranks at my first unit of assignment (many of us were ... and sadly, still are). I recall the mountain of articles that were written about the Army of the mid to late 1970s; the volunteer Army will never work, we'll never fill our ranks, we'll never stand up to a determined foe.

I've listened to all manner of what I deem urban legend in my years and to all those who said this Professional Army we have would never work I say shut up and sit down. To those who said we are less disciplined than those that preceded us I say look at what we do now. To those that bitch about our youth, who complain that they don't know what they don't know, that they lack the self-discipline necessary to carry the fight I ask you to remember this: **I was young once and deemed ignorant by some, stupid by others, ill disciplined by many ... we all were. Isn't it amazing what determined leadership, devotion, persistence, and training can accomplish?**

Instead of complaining about our youth, commit yourself to the betterment of the same: not days, weeks or months from now, start now! Instead of complaining about the training we did, or did not receive before we deployed do this -- Train now!

# N COALITION NEWS BRIEFS S



## Former regime officer arrested with suspects

**TIKRIT** – Iraqi Security Forces detained a former military officer under Saddam Hussein and an associate who are suspected of being involved in corrupt activities and illegal activity in Tikrit May 3. Two suspected insurgents were also captured with them.

The former regime officer and his associate were wanted for using government facilities in Tikrit in order to store munitions, safeguard insurgents and plan and stage attacks against coalition and Iraqi Security Forces in the Tikrit area.

This successful mission is part of the continuing campaign of Iraq Security Forces and the Government of Iraq to target criminal and violent elements causing harm to innocent Iraqis.

No Iraqi or coalition forces were injured during this operation.



## Coalition identifies two al-Qaeda advisors killed

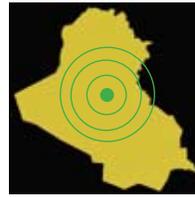
**TAJI** – Coalition forces positively identified two more senior al-Qaeda in Iraq leaders killed in an operation May 1 west of Taji, the same operation where Muharib Abdul Latif was killed.

Coalition forces followed leads from intelligence reports on senior leaders of al-Qaeda in Iraq and conducted the raid. During the operation, terrorists engaged ground forces with small arms fire. Five terrorists were killed in the fighting.

One of the terrorists killed during the operations was later positively identified as Sabah Hilal al-Shihawi, also known as Sabah al-Alwani and Abu Nuri. Sabah Hilal al-Shihawi was reportedly the religious advisor for Muharib Abdul Latif.

Another terrorist killed during the raid was Abu Amar al-Masri. Intelligence reports indicated that he was a foreign fighter who was facilitating insurgent activity and infrastructure support for al-Qaeda in Iraq.

“We will not wait for these terrorists to strike -- we will seek them out. This is what al-Qaeda in Iraq members can expect when they target Iraqi people and security forces that protect them,” said Lt. Col. Christopher Garver, MNF-I spokesperson.



## Coalition forces find cache, torture room

**BAGHDAD** – Coalition forces destroyed a torture room, a large cache of weapons and improvised explosive device-making materials May 6 while targeting terrorists in Sadr City.

Coalition forces targeted the location based on intelligence reports that indicated the presence of suspected members of a secret cell terrorist network known for facilitating the transport of weapons and explosively formed penetrators, or ERFs, from Iran to Iraq, as well as bringing militants from Iraq to Iran for terrorists training.

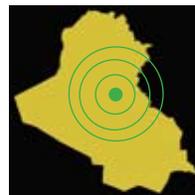
During a search of the objective, coalition forces found a torture room and cache of more than 150 mortar rounds, ammunition and IED-making materials.

Because the explosive nature and instability of the materials, coalition forces cordoned off the area and an explosive ordnance team detonated the materials in place.

When ground forces initially approached buildings at the targeted location, they began receiving heavy small arms fire, including rocket-propelled grenades and automatic weapons, from one of the buildings.

Coalition forces estimate eight to 10 armed individuals were killed during the exchange of fire.

Intelligence reports indicate that the secret cell has ties to a kidnapping network conducting attacks within Iraq.



## IA troops detain 11 suspects in Ramadi

**RAMADI** – The Al Anbar Provincial Council, composed of local sheikhs and civic leaders representing Al Anbar, convened May 4 after nearly a year of meeting in Baghdad due to the security situation in Ramadi.

Provincial Gov. Mamoun Sami Al Awani met with representatives from across Al Anbar to discuss the resolution of major issues in the province, including economic development, improved infrastructure and continued improvements in security.

A site of regular attacks since 2003, the government center in Ramadi is now being renovated. The decision to move ahead with the renovations is largely due to an increased level of security in the city, fueled by Iraqi police presence and local cooperation with coalition Forces.



Iraqi National Policemen stop vehicles and inspect for illegal items at a checkpoint in Sadr City, where a recent drop in violence was partly credited to the National Police presence.

# SUNNIS SADR CITY

H  
I  
A

Story, photos by  
Marine Sgt. Jess Kent  
MNC-I PAO

**W**ith the Baghdad Security Plan in motion, one important objective is securing Sadr City. The militia-filled city has proven tough to tame as Iraqis struggle to contain sectarian violence.

The recent entrance of 1st Battalion, 8th Brigade, 2nd Division, Iraqi National Police has changed life for many in Sadr City, but sectarian violence still ex-

ists. National policemen and coalition advisors are working to improve security.

Iraqi National Police Lt. Col. Mohammad is commander of the first battalion, which is primarily made up of Shia policemen native to the town.

"The people who live in Sadr City are very happy that we come here. We help all the people, check all the trucks and persons coming into the city," Mohammad said. "Because of this, they give us tips to capture killers. We have found car bombs and saved the people. The shurta (junior policemen) feel happy here and they are ready to follow murderers wherever seen."

These murderers have help from outsiders who try to disrupt peace, he said. Shia and Sunnis lived to-

gether and intermarried for years, and national policemen do not differentiate between sects – their job is to protect all Iraqis. Coalition forces come into play as advisors.

“The Iraqi National Police or police and army need a lot of help from coalition forces. The Americans give us good training and support,” Mohammad said. “They will help all the people bring law back to Iraqis and respect the only law – the government.”

**B**ut even the Iraqi Police were not exempt from the influences of sectarian violence. In October 2006, allegations were made insinuating that brigade policemen were involved with sectarian violence. As a result, the brigade was recalled for intense training at Numaniyah.

Marine Maj. Ian Glover, team chief, 1st Bn., 8th Bde., 2nd Div., National Police Transition Team, said the training and support has paid off.

“There were a number of issues and allegations, many of them unfounded,” he said. “For some it was re-training, but for most it was initial police training.”

The transition team spent 30 days with its Iraqi counterparts. Team members forged a stronger relationship with the policemen and watched as Iraqis began to mimic their daily operations.

**“When you have mothers and children smiling and playing in the park, you’re probably doing a good job.”**

**Marine Maj. Ian Glover  
team chief**

“That contact definitely paid off. During the last operation, they entered a mosque and I was surprised at how good their execution was,” Glover said. “The officers had a limited time to plan but they came up with a solid, coherent plan. The shurtas executed. They entered, cleared the mosque and made it to the top so quickly I thought at first they were gunmen we were going to take out of the mosque. They also found some AK-47s.”

This operation was not the only one in which Iraqi Security Forces have impressed their advisors. During cordon and search and daily checkpoint operations, they aggressively pursue their duties.

“You can see a difference in the checkpoints even since we got here a few months ago. They realize they are an important part of the security plan,” Glover said. “People in the city want good security and the militia that has been providing security has been failing lately. They haven’t been able to stop car bombs or minimize the damage, and they have turned into a bunch of thugs the local population is tired of.”

With national policemen patrolling the streets, locals appear happy with newfound security. They greet policemen, bring food and water to checkpoints and provide tips to help secure the city.

“Damage was either minimized or completely done away with for several IEDs encountered. They were able to clear the area of people ahead of time or find the VBIED before it went off,” Glover said. “In another attack, they engaged a guy as he set off the explosive. If they hadn’t killed him where they did, it would have been very ugly. One person died but it could have been a lot worse.”

**W**hile the policemen are mostly Shia in a city heavily populated by that sect, Glover believes any potential for national police involvement in sectarian violence is outweighed by the enormity of their mission. The policemen strive to protect Iraqis, regardless of their faith.

“The Iraqi National Police are operating independently with minimal oversight from coalition forces and with the confidence of the local people. Easily 60 percent of our battalion shurta live in Sadr



**Iraqi National Policemen leave their post prior to patrolling Sadr City. The policemen were recently re-assigned to the area in an effort to bring security to the war-torn city.**

City, so they have the added incentive of protecting where they live, their family and friends, and their mosques,” Glover said. “They’re no different than the Americans in that respect. They don’t want insurgents in their towns. They don’t want militia groups running things and bullying people.”

**W**hile the policemen protect the streets, one stumbling block is a failed logistics system. They face daily challenges and -- at times -- poor living conditions.

“They don’t have reliable sources of clean water, so the coalition supports that or they get disgusting water,” Glover said. “They don’t have sufficient amounts of fuel, so the coalition has to routinely supply them with fuel for their vehicles and generators.”

What the government of Iraq is capable of providing is a good security plan, Glover said. A national police presence in Sadr City shows that capability.

“The way they do business is never going to be the same as we do business. But that’s not to say they don’t know what they’re doing. The officers plan and the shurtas execute,” he said. “In the end, it will work for them. The result will be satisfactory as long as they get necessary support from coalition forces and the government of Iraq.”

Thus far, policemen and advisors see encouraging signs in Sadr City. A good measure of effectiveness for Glover is seeing happy mothers and children in the town.

“When you have mothers and children smiling and playing in the park, you’re probably doing a good job,” Glover said. “Our shurta passed the word that our team is essentially going to be operating in Sadr City, and the people seem happy. They’ve been going through Sadr City and no bad things are happening to them as a result.”

Violence from the Shia population dropped with the addition of the ISF in the city, said 2nd Lt. John Recore, intelligence officer, 1st Bn., 8th Bde., 2nd Div., NPTT.

“A lot of the weapons the Shia insurgency used have been kept there, and a large number of Jaysh al Mehdi militiamen live in Sadr City,” Recore said. “A threat to Shia is some of the Sunnis trying to create mass casualties with attacks at least once or twice a week. Having more of a presence and personnel searching vehicles will deter that.”

Marine Gunnery Sgt. Michael Garreaud, gunner, 1st Bn., 8th Bn., 2nd Div., NPTT, said the Iraqi National Police unit is producing results.

“The shurtas need to be dedicated to their duty as policemen for their families and their country. That’s what this is all about,” Garreaud stated. “A lot of the shurta work hard to make Sadr City a better place.”



**Marine Maj. Ian Glover, team chief, 1st Battalion, 8th Brigade, 2nd Division National Police Transition Team, inspects an Iraqi National Police vehicle checkpoint in Sadr City. After Iraqi policemen were assigned to the city, citizens have provided tips that enabled them to minimize damage from certain attacks.**

It comes down to national policemen leading with a sense of selflessness, said Marine Capt. Michael Milburn, deputy team chief, 1st Bn., 8th Bde., 2nd Div. NPTT.

“I have met and worked with very good Iraqi men who are motivated by the same things that motivate me: family, freedom of choice and freedom of speech,” Milburn said. “I think selflessness is the most important characteristic for any person in uniform to possess, and I see many of these men display this on a daily basis. In Sadr City, I think they have led us more than anything else.” ☺

# Freedom's Focal Point





***Above:*** An Iraqi Army Marksmanship Instructor at the Multi National Forces-West Training Center at Camp Habbaniyah, Iraq, assists Iraqi recruits with their firing positions April 8. Photo by Marine Lance Cpl. Charles S. Howard.

***Bottom Right:*** Iraqi Army recruits at the Multi National Forces-West Training Center, practice their firing positions April 8. Photo by Marine Lance Cpl. Charles S. Howard.

***Bottom Left:*** At the Iraqi School of Infantry, Camp Yassir, Iraq, soldiers with 2nd Brigade, 7th Iraqi Army Division practice acquiring targets from doors and windows April 14. Photo by Marine Cpl. Shane S. Keller.

# Freedom's Focal Point





Cpl. William Walker, squad leader 1st Platoon, Military Police Company, 2nd Maintenance Battalion, conducts a weapons cache search, during a combat patrol near Al-Taqaddum, Iraq, April 16. Second Marine Logistics Group is deployed with Multi-National Forces-West in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in the Al Anbar province of Iraq to develop Iraqi Security Forces, facilitate the development of official rule of law through democratic reforms, and continue the development of a market based economy centered on Iraqi reconstruction. Photo by Marine Cpl. Michael J O'Brien.

# Freedom's Focal Point



*Top Left:* Army Spc. Kon Im, 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, and his squad move through the market area during a foot patrol in Old Baqubah, Iraq, April 5 while conducting Operation Regular Justice in the Diyala Province. Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Stacy L. Pearsall.

*Top Right:* Soldiers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, take a break inside of an unused sewage pipe outside of a sewage pipe factory while an Iraqi Army soldier takes a look inside of one of the pipes during a combined cordon and search in Mansour, Iraq, April 14. Photo by Army Sgt. Tierney P. Nowland.

*Right:* Army Staff Sgt. Daniel Gregory checks a swab from a detainees hands for a positive or negative reading for explosives during Operation Black Eagle on April 6 in Ad Diwaniyah, Iraq. Photo by Army Sgt. Rob Summitt.

*Left:* U.S. and Iraqi Army Soldiers patrol through the streets during an assault against anti-Iraqi forces in Buhriz, Iraq, April 11. After more than 1,000 residents of this Baqubah suburb were displaced by Al-Qaeda insurgents, U.S. Army Soldiers with the 5th Bn., 20th Inf. Rgt., 2nd Inf. Div., and Iraqi Army soldiers with the 4th Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 5th Division, go house-to-house in search for weapons caches and enemy fighters. Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Stacy L. Pearsall.



# Freedom's Focal Point



# Freedom's Focal Point



# Freedom's Focal Point



An Iraqi Army soldier checks an Iraqi man's identification card while conducting an Iraqi lead tactical check point on route Butler, Iraq, April 21. Photo by Air Force Master Sgt. Andy Dunaway.

*Right:* Staff Sgt. John Gregory, Company C, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, takes cover during a dismounted patrol in Adhamiya, Iraq, April 10. Photo by Army Sgt. Jeffrey Alexander.

*Far Right:* Soldiers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division search an abandoned building in Mansour, Iraq during a combined cordon and search on April 14. Photo by Army Sgt. Tierney P. Nowland.

*Below:* Soldiers with Co. C, 1st Bn., 26th Inf. Rgt., 1st Inf. Div., clear a rooftop during “cordon and knock” operations in Adhamiya, Iraq, April 3. The unit performs “cordon and knock” operations to meet the local nationals and gather information about the surrounding area. Photo by Army Sgt. Jeffrey Alexander.



# Freedom's Focal Point





Spc. Steven Reyes, Task Force 1-14 Cavalry, looks down into a hole while searching a rooftop in Diwaniyah.

# With a little help from my friends

## Cavalry troops making progress in Diwaniyah with help of residents

Story, photos by  
Army Sgt. Robert Yde  
2nd BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Pao

After several days of continuous combat operations in Diwaniyah, Soldiers from Task Force 1-14 Cavalry, attached to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, are now focusing their efforts on locating specific targets and performing clearing operations in different areas of the city while forming working relationships with the local population.

Every day the Soldiers are in different neighborhoods searching for weapon caches and talking with the residents about the problems in the area.

"We just picked this up," Sgt. Michael Gibson, a native of Angles Camp, Calif., said explaining his troop's new mission. "We were doing continuous combat operations out here when we first got here."

Gibson and other Soldiers with Troop C focused their

efforts in and around the city's market area during a multi-phased mission April 11.

The morning started off with one specific target, as members of the "Bandit Platoon" began the day in search of a suspected militia member who had been identified as a high value target.

"It was an intelligence-driven raid," acting Platoon Leader Sgt. 1st Class Rodney Bryant explained. "Initially, we were supposed to go to the house, and if he wasn't there, our instructions were to search the surrounding areas and try to find the target."

Unfortunately, after searching the target's house and neighboring houses, Bryant and his Soldiers were unable to locate him.

"We didn't find him and asked a lot of people in the area, but nobody had even heard of the name," Bryant said. "We searched the surrounding area and had no luck in finding him."

After completing this first phase of their operation, the



**Sgt. 1st Class Rodney Bryant (left) looks at a Diwaniyah resident's identification card during a search of the area for a suspected militia member.**

Soldiers transitioned into a clearing operation of the city's market area, with the help of troops from the 8th Iraqi Army Division.

"We're not looking for anything specific; it's just a clearing [operation] for weapons contraband," Gibson said. "We're also trying to get our faces out there, hand out the tip-line cards and let people know we're here to help."

The Soldiers focused in on this area because it was one of the more active spots during the first few days of their operations in city.

"When we initially got into this city, we received a lot of contact from the south of the main street, which is Jumhori, and since we took a lot of contact from there, we decided to clear that area," explained Fort Worth, Texas native, Sgt. Michael Schmieder.

As the Soldiers went from building-to-building and house-to-house, they seemed to be genuinely welcomed by a majority of the locals.

After the Soldiers finished clearing one house, the owner shook each of their hands and welcomed them to Diwaniyah and told them he hoped they would be able to help improve the area.

Bryant said that reactions like this have been typical.

"These people are a little more open down

here. Up there, they're afraid and intimidated," Bryant said comparing the people Diwaniyah to the people of his unit's old area of operations in Baghdad. "These people down here don't seem as intimidated, and if they know of some criminal activity or militia activity going on, they won't hesitate to share that information with coalition forces."

Soldiers handed out tip-line cards at each house so that people who wish to report anything anonymously could do so, and according to Gibson several of the tips that they have received from locals have paid off.

"We've been having a lot of cooperation," he said. "One of our other units actually found a cache where the people came up to them and told them that people had moved stuff out of a mosque and put it in the market. They found a lot of RPGs (rocket-propelled grenades) and a lot of EFPs (explosively-formed projectiles)."

On this day, not much was turned up, but according to Bryant that didn't mean that the mission wasn't a success.

"We cleared and disrupted any activity in the area pretty well today," Bryant said. "Our commander's overall intent is not to necessarily kill or capture always, but to disrupt enemy [activity] and, even though we didn't find a whole lot of weapon caches, I think we were successful in accomplishing our goal."

Bryant said his platoon will continue to search and canvass the area over the next several days, and hopefully, with the continued cooperation from the locals, they will continue to be successful in their efforts to restore order to Diwaniyah.

"These people are actually happy we're here and taking care of the city," Gibson said. "These people we're saying they were scared to go out into the streets before we showed up. It's a good feeling knowing that we're helping them out." ☺

***"Our commander's overall intent is not to necessarily kill or capture always, but to disrupt enemy [activity]."***

***Army Sgt. 1st Class Rodney Bryant***



**Sgt. Michael Gibson listens as his interpreter talks with a resident of Diwaniyah during a clearing operation in the city.**



An Iraqi civilian shares a laugh with his daughter while waiting for his medication. He was one of many who took advantage of the medical care being provided by the Iraqi Army at the Albu Assaf cooperative medical engagement April 28.

# HELPING THEIR OWN

## IRAQI ARMY MEDICS BRING MEDICAL CARE AND POSTIVE RESULTS TO THE VILLAGE OF ALBU ASSAF

Story, photos by  
Marine Lance Cpl. Christopher Zahn  
3rd Bn., 6th Marine Regt.

When civilians in the riverside area of Albu Assaf need medical care they often have nowhere to turn. There are no hospitals, medical clinics or doctors there. That leaves them with one other option: the Iraqi Army soldiers who work every day to make the area more secure.

To help these innocent civilians, a team of Iraqi medics and soldiers of 3rd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Iraqi Army Division, opened the doors of a schoolhouse for a cooperative medical engagement (CME) April 28. They were joined by Marines from the Military Transition Team, a team that originated from 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, who helped the Iraqis provide care and general treatment for the patients living along the Euphrates River.

"It was an Iraqi-run show," said Navy Seaman Nathan T. Pruett, a 22-year-old corpsman from Stillwater, Okla. "It was just basic sick call, there's no trauma or anything like that. Little things like rashes, cuts, sprains, bruises, stomach sickness; just basic sick call procedures."

The Iraqi medics set up in an empty classroom as Marines and Soldiers fanned out across the area to provide security. Once everything was set, it was

simply a matter of waiting for the people to come to them. The message had gone out to the people that if they wanted medical care they just had to show up at the schoolhouse at a certain time. Some kept their expectations modest.

“To be honest I was expecting no more than probably 25 people,” said Cpl. Jasen Ortiz, 21, from South Plainfield, N.J. “A lot of people are scared and they feel that if they get helped by the Ameri-

cans then the insurgents might hurt them. But that’s the whole point of a CME, to show them that we are not here to hurt them, we are here to protect them.”

As word spread about the free medical care, a stream of Iraqis trickled in. They were searched at the gate and then had their hands marked to prevent anyone from coming twice. Once inside they gave their names to a soldier for records and then got seen by an Iraqi medic.

**T**hese medics have been Pruet’s responsibility as an advisor. He has given them classes covering basic first aid and supervised them while they were treating patients.

“I’ve got a couple of them that are really good, but we just got four or five new medics,” said Pruet, a 2004 graduate of Nowata High School. “The four that I have are definitely pretty good at what they do but could always use more training. They’re pretty confident in what they do. I mainly just sit back unless they need my help. If they don’t understand something, or don’t know how to do something, they’ll come get me and I’ll try to help as best I can.”

The Soldiers nervously stood guard while the medics were inside treating patients. Such a large gathering could be a tempting target for insurgents. The day went by peacefully, however, due in large part to the presence of so many Iraqi soldiers providing security.

“It was very successful due to that fact that the locals now know that we are not here to fight,” said Ortiz, an advisor for Company 3. “That we are here for their benefit. Now that

we have the Iraqis showing their face, it shows that we are trying to successfully do a transition in this state of the war.”

**“A lot of people are scared and they feel that if they get helped by the Americans then the insurgents might hurt them.”**

**Marine Cpl. Jasen Ortiz  
MITT advisor**

That transition is the sole purpose of men like Ortiz, Pruet and the others in their team.

“It’s a good thing on our part and the CME is one the crucial things that needs to happen if we ever want to pull out of here,” said Ortiz, a 2004 graduate of South Plainfield High School. “That’s the main thing we need to do is put the Iraqis in front of the Marines. The Marines here are not here to fight the war, we are

here to support the war. That’s why we’re called the Military Transition Team. The CME is just one of the many little things we do to show that kind of force.”

**A**t the end of the day everyone left with a sense of satisfaction from doing their job well. They had successfully provided care for over 160 people without a single hostile incident. The Marines and Soldiers know they made a small difference in the futures of these people.

“I enjoy helping them,” said Ortiz. “It means a lot to know that maybe five years from now I’ll look back and know that this town, this country was safe because of what I did. One day these people will appreciate what we have done.”

**An Iraqi Army medic examines the prescription of a civilian during the Iraqi Army-hosted cooperative medical engagement near Albu Assaf.**



# MND-NE CHANGES HANDS

Story, photos by  
Marine Sgt. Jess Kent  
MNC-I PAO

**M**ulti-National Division-North East troops welcomed their new commander during a change of command ceremony at Camp Zaytun, Irbil, Iraq, April 29.

Korean Maj. Gen. Yoon Young Bum took the reins after Maj. Gen. Hwang Jung Sun was congratulated on progress made in the past year.

Lt. Gen. Cho Jaeto of Republic of Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff presided over the ceremony and Lt.



Republic of Korea troops present their colors during the Multi-National Division-North East change of command ceremony.

Maj. Gen. Hwang Jung Sun, the outgoing commander of Multi-National Division-North East, joins Lt. Gen. Cho Jaeto, with Republic of Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff, Maj. Gen. Yoon Young bum, the incoming commander of MND-NE, and Lt. Gen. Ray Odierno, commander of Multi-National Corps-Iraq, to celebrate the MND-NE change of command Sunday, April 29.



Gen. Ray Odierno, commander, Multi-National Corps-Iraq, remarked on the achievements of Korean troops in the area.

“Maj. Gen. Hwang, you and your Soldiers have helped to build an example of what we are striving to establish in Iraq,” Odierno said. “This region gives hope to all Iraqis; it shows the potential for prosperity where there is stability.”

One of the missions Korean troops in the Iraqi-Kurdish region strived to accomplish was building a stable government to protect its citizens.

“Because of the stability inherent in your community, you were able to devote your time to building schools, opening medical clinics and strengthening partnerships,” Odierno said. “Now you can focus on truly helping the people of Iraqi-Kurdistan to improve their quality of life.”

In the past year, Korean troops helped build 60 schools and 15 medical clinics, where more than 50,000 citizens were treated. They also helped Iraqi citizens find jobs.

“One thousand, three hundred trainees have passed Zaytun Vocational Training Center, and people who signed up for a job were all hired by various Kurdistan Regional Government agencies or by private enterprises,” said Korean 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Song In-beom, public affairs officer, MND-NE.

This success is based on cooperation between leaders of the Zaytun VTC and KRG. The two units work together to improve quality of life for Iraqis.

“Getting a job is the most important thing for stability, while learning and medical services are the

basics for life,” Song said. “I think and hope that our many activities become hope to Iraqis.”

Through their various missions, Odierno said Korean troops and Iraqi-Kurdish partners were able to construct a community that is committed to making a brighter future for Iraqi citizens.

“An educated populace that has access to adequate medical care can focus their efforts on starting businesses, teaching their youth and building their infrastructure,” he said.

The accomplishments in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region made by MND-NE troops set a standard that Odierno hopes to create throughout the rest of Multi-National Corps-Iraq.

“Your Korean countrymen should be proud of the hard work and dedication you brought to your tour in Iraq,” Odierno said. “You have put in long hours, rolled up your sleeves and gotten your hands dirty to help thousands of people you have never met. I know the Kurdish people are very thankful the Soldiers of Zaytun have worked so hard to make their lives better.”

As the new commander, Yoon looks forward to building on the successes of MND-NE troops and bringing further stability to Iraqi citizens in the area.

“We will do our best with the new commander,” Song said. “We know he will do well.”

# FROM FLIGHT LINE



Spc. Shawn Johnson and Staff Sgt. Patrick Kaer scan a unit of blood to package for transport. Based in Balad, the 32nd MMB can pack, ship and deliver critical units of blood across theater in less than four hours.

# TO FRONT LINE

Story, photos by  
Army Staff Sgt. Alex Licea  
Third Army PAO

**N**umbers are a big part in the day-to-day operations for Soldiers assigned to Company A, 32nd Multifunctional Medical Battalion.

Take Maj. Christopher David for instance. As a support operations officer, the Seekonk, Mass., native has to account for more than \$10 million worth of medical equipment and supplies being shipped and distributed into Iraq, and track the movement of more than 615,000 pounds of cargo a month to support more than 450 units in Iraq alone. He also coordinates and tracks dozens of daily ground and air movements to six distribution teams throughout Iraq. The supplies to the outlying posts are for immediate use.

David looks at only one number.

"The only figure I care about is decreasing the waiting time for units receiving their medical supplies," said David, a father of two. "Although we have a good turnaround time from request to product (delivery), there is always room for improvement. That's what's important. Getting the right product to the right unit in the fastest time."

**T**he 32nd MMB serves as the only major medical supply and distribution center in Iraq. From bandages to blood, the 32nd MMB facilitates more than 450 units in Iraq.

"We receive up to 400 customer requests a day," said Spc. Mathavy Yasa, a Pomona, Calif., native who works for the control and request center. "We ensure that we are not only tracking the items, but that they get to their final destination."

One specific, critical factor for their distribution successes was stressed.

"Following up is key," Yasa earnestly proclaimed.

Along the logistical aspect of its mission, the unit is also responsible for the maintenance of all medical equipment in Iraq as well as reacting to emergencies. Sometimes, that includes packaging urgent blood shipments that must reach their destination in a matter of hours.

Army and Air Force assets based in Kuwait and Qatar account for 70 percent of the medical supplies

in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa.

Most of these supplies are housed and flown in from the U.S. Medical Material Management Center-Southwest Asia or based at Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar. The 65,000 square foot medical distribution center is bigger than a football field.

"The center stocks more than 2,700 lines of medical supplies," said Lt. Col. Jonathan Branch, commander of the USAMMC-SWA. "We have the ability to stock and supply all the major hospitals in Iraq and Afghanistan with what they need."

**T**he cargo is packed and placed on pallets then flown to its destinations. Fifty percent of all shipments to Iraq are directly flown to the 32nd MMB's forward distribution teams, completely bypassing the 32nd MMB headquarters in Balad.

"Medical logistics is not perfect, but we are all a team and make it work," said David.

**T**he USAMMC-SWA is under the control of the 377th Theater Support Command and Third U.S. Army in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. U.S. Army Forces Central Command, the Army component for the U.S. Central Command, is responsible for the logistics support for all military assets across the Middle East and Central Asia.

Maj. David Hammer, USARCENT medical logistics officer, sets the policy of all medical logistics entering the CENTCOM theater. Hammer said most of the supplies then travel to the 32nd MMB, who place orders to keep their shelves in stock. There is a similar set-up in place for the Afghanistan theater of operations.

"On average, USARCENT transports 450,000 pounds of medical supplies each month all across the theater," said Hammer. "That equals to 15,000 pounds a day."

**W**hen supplies are moved, military and Civilian personnel hold the cargo in a 35,000 square foot warehouse and then distribute it by air to troop clinics across Iraq. The use of ground movement is also used and accounts for one-third of medical movement in the region. Due to the constant threat of improvised explosive devices, the command is trying to eliminate that threat.

"We are trying very hard to maximize the use of air assets to get us off the roads," said David. "However, sometimes the only way we can receive (shipments) is by convoy."

David said their mission is bigger than them, critical to the troops on the ground.

"For us, it's about making sure the customers have everything they need at all times," he said. "The efforts really do save lives everyday." 

# IA Tank Battalion Mounts Up

Story, photo by  
Army Staff Sgt. Jon Cupp  
1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

Iraqi Army tankers from the newly-formed 1st Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division (Mechanized) took the lead on their first real-world mission performing a mounted patrol in their T-55 tanks on a major highway near Kem, Iraq, April 12.

The patrol, which was conducted with 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, gave the Iraqi Army troopers the opportunity to actively search for insurgents performing terrorist acts.

Before their first patrol, the Iraqi Army tankers received more than three months of training from Company C., 2nd Bn., 8th Cav. Soldiers.

The training included maintenance and driving instruction on the T-55 tanks, gunnery on the various tank weapons systems, traffic control point procedures and combat operations.

"They've really come a long way," said Capt. Nels Hanson, commander Company C. "We're hoping to empower them more and more each day. This week, we'll continue taking them on patrols...to gain confidence as they continue becoming more competent at doing this."

Hanson said this first patrol is a small step toward opening the doors of self-reliance for the Iraqi Army, a vital part of the transition efforts in Iraq.

"Eventually, they will be able to fully take over in their areas of responsibility. It's a good opportunity to get more IA troops into the fight and less U.S. Soldiers into the fight," Hanson said, explaining the goal of eventually turning over the security of Iraq to Iraqis which will allow U.S. forces to eventually withdraw from Iraq.

Hanson said one of the keys to the success were Iraqi platoon leaders who assisted his Soldiers with training the Iraqi tankers.

"Many of them had served in the Army under the previous regime," said Hanson. "We explained to them how we wanted to see the training conducted and they did an excellent job in executing the training and being involved in the day to day activities."

Although the day's mission was short, and no insurgent activity took place, U.S. Soldiers who chaperoned the Iraqi tank battalion's first mission said they could tell the Iraqi troops were well trained.

"It feels good to share in this milestone," said Spc. Jason Aschenbrenner, Company C humvee gunner, who pulled security during the patrol. "The Iraqi troops just keep getting better at their jobs and they show that they really do care about the security of their people."

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Beyer, former drill sergeant, now Co. C platoon sergeant, oversaw much of the Iraqi soldier's training.

"We did plenty of training, but the key to being successful is showing heart in your training and that you genuinely care about the Iraqis and the training you're doing," Beyer said. "I was really excited to see them in action for the first time. I know they're going to be successful."

Capt. Wes Durham, who works with the military transition team for 2nd Bn., 8th Cav., tracked the progress of the mission from the 3rd Bde., 9th IA Div. (Mech.) headquarters and echoed many of Beyer's sentiments.

"We're very proud of them, they're very motivated and we were happy to see them out there," said Durham. "Cobra Company did a great job training them and it went very well. The next step will be integrating them into more complex missions." 



The Iraqi Army T-55 tanks are lined up prior to their first mission, only awaiting the order to roll out.



Macedonian Army Sgt. Emil Angelov and Spc. Boban Alekseski train Iraqi Soldier's on house clearing procedures.

# WORKING LIKE A DOG

FROM THEIR DEN IN CAMP TAJI, MACEDONIAN WOLVES ARE TRAINING IRAQI SOLDIERS, CONDUCTING THEIR OWN OPERATIONS

Story, photo by  
Army Spc. Beatrice Florescu-Vila Verde  
MNC-I PAO

The motto “first, always and everywhere” are the three words that define the driving force of the Macedonian Wolves platoon, detachment for special tasks, attached to the 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, from Camp Taji performing special security operations.

The Wolves, part of the Macedonian Army’s Special Forces, were trained specifically for tasks involving house clearing, raids, arrests and anti-terrorism operations.

“The Macedonian Wolves have prepared for three months for this mission,” said Sgt. Maj. Marjan Misackovski, command sergeant major of the Macedonian Army Special Forces Battalion. “It is a difficult mission because we support operations in an unusual environment, but it is a great experience for the Macedonian soldiers. It is useful and it helps them do their job better. Now they know how to survive outside.”

Misackovski knows about survival -- on his first tour he was awarded the Bronze Star for saving

an American Soldier’s life while on a mission.

The Soldier collapsed and stopped breathing. The Macedonian soldiers decided to take the Soldier to the Aid Station instead of waiting for the medical truck. Misackovski gave him first aid and resuscitated him.

To combat language barriers, Sgt. Andris Jacobs, Company B, 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade, currently attached to the 1st Cavalry Division, is embedded with the Macedonian troops to facilitate communication and ensure clarity.

“I am a liaison between them and the battalion,” Jacobs said. “I help them to obtain equipment when they need it. I go on patrol with them and help them with the radio while on mission to communicate with the battalion.”

Jacobs enjoys working with the Macedonian Wolves.

“They are fun to work with and I am also learning a new language,” he said. “I also like to spend time together with them.”

A common factor between Jacobs and the Wolves’ commander is that they both are on their sec-

ond tour in Iraq and enjoy working in international environments.

“I enjoy working with the American troops and other coalition forces here,” said Capt. Vladko Trajkovski, commander, Macedonian Special Forces.

The Macedonian camp is unique due to soldiers really working to make their area homely. In the last four years, they have built an external dayroom and platforms leading to the command area.

The Macedonian flag stands not only as a testimony of their identity, but also part of their commitment to the coalition efforts.

As part of those efforts, they train Iraqi soldiers in their areas of expertise.

The Wolves have trained 120 Iraqi soldiers since the beginning of this rotation alone. Based on the good results, they were assigned another 300 Iraqi trainees to complete training during March, Trajkovski said.

The Wolves’ participation in the Operation Iraqi Freedom is a tribute to their traditional spirit and willingness to be the first to arrive, always and everywhere they are needed. 

# IN MEM

NAMES OF COALITION SERVICE MEM  
OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM BETWE

## **March 16, 2007**

Sgt. 1st Class Christopher R. Brevard, 31  
*1/501 Inf., 4th Bde., 25th Inf. Div.*

## **March 17, 2007**

Sgt. John E. Allen, 25  
*2/12 Cav., 4th Bde., 1st Cav. Div.*  
Pfc. William N. Davis, 26  
*2/12 Cav., 4th Bde., 1st Cav. Div.*  
Spc. Marieo Guerrero, 30  
*1/18 Inf., 2nd Bde., 1st Inf. Div.*  
Pfc. Anthony A. Kaiser, 27  
*504th MP Bn., 42nd MP Bde.*  
Pfc. John F. Landry Jr., 20  
*2/12 Cav., 4th Bde., 1st Cav. Div.*  
Sgt. Ed Santini, 25  
*2/12 Cav., 4th Bde., 1st Cav. Div.*  
Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin L. Sebban, 29  
*5/73 Cav, 3rd Bde., 82nd Airborne Div.*  
Sgt. Nimo W. Tauala, 29  
*209th ASB, CAB, 25th Inf. Div.*  
Lance Cpl. Harry H. Timberman, 20  
*2/7 Mar. Regt., 1st Mar. Div., 1st MEF*

## **March 18, 2007**

Sgt. Ryan P. Green, 24  
*1/8 Cav., 2nd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.*

## **March 20, 2007**

Sgt. Wayne R. Cornell, 26  
*1/28 Inf., 4th Bde., 1st Inf. Div*  
Spc. Curtis E. Glawson Jr., 24  
*610th Bn., 28th Inf., 4th Bde., 1st Inf. Div.*  
Pfc. Stephen K. Richardson, 22  
*1/28 Inf., 4th Bde., 1st Inf. Div*

## **March 21, 2007**

Staff Sgt. Darrell R. Griffin Jr., 36  
*2/3 Inf., 3rd. Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.*  
Cpl. Dustin J. Lee, 20  
*HQ Bn., MCLB Albany*  
Sgt. Adrian J. Lewis, 30  
*3/69 Armor, 1st Bde., 3rd Inf. Div.*  
Sgt. Nicholas J. Lightner, 29  
*1/8 Cav., 2nd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.*

## **March 22, 2007**

Cpl. Henry W. Bogrette, 21  
*CLB 6, 2nd MCLG, 2nd MEF*  
Sgt. Freeman L. Gardner Jr., 26  
*18th Eng., 3rd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div*

## **March 23, 2007**

Sgt. Greg N. Riewer, 30  
*2/136 Inf., 1st Bde., 34th Inf. Div.*  
Spc. Lance C. Springer II, 23  
*1/40 Cav., 4th Bde., 25th Inf. Div.*

## **March 24, 2007**

Lance Cpl. Trevor A. Roberts, 21  
*2/14 Mar. Regt., 4th Mar. Div., MFR*

## **March 25, 2007**

Pfc. Orlando E. Gonzalez, 21  
*5/73 Cav., 3rd Bde., 82nd Airborne Div.*

Spc. Sean K. McDonald, 21  
*9th Eng. Bn., 2nd Bde., 1st Inf. Div.*

Cpl. Jason Nunez, 22  
*5/73 Cav., 3rd Bde., 82nd Airborne Div.*  
Sgt. Jason W. Swiger, 24  
*5/73 Cav., 3rd Bde., 82nd Airborne Div.*  
Pfc. Anthony J. White, 21  
*5/73 Cav., 3rd Bde., 82nd Airborne Div.*

## **March 27, 2007**

Sgt. Curtis J. Forshey, 22  
*129th Sup. Bn., 101st Sus. Bde., 101st Airborne Div.*  
Staff Sgt. Marcus A. Golczynski, 30  
*3rd Bn., 24th Mar. Regt., 4th Mar. Div., MFR*  
Master Sgt. Sean M. Thomas, 33  
*28th Division Support Command*

## **March 29, 2007**

Sgt. Joe Polo, 24  
*2/12 Inf., 2nd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.*

## **March 31, 2007**

Spc. Wilfred Flores Jr., 20  
*2/14 Inf., 2nd Bde., 10th Mountain Div.*  
1st Lt. Neale M. Shank, 25  
*1/89 Cav., 2nd Bde., 10th Mountain Div.*

## **April 1, 2007**

Staff Sgt. Jason R. Arnette, 24  
*2/14 Inf., 2nd Bde., 10th Mountain Div.*  
Spc. William G. Bowling, 24  
*2nd Bde. STB, 2nd Bde., 10th Mountain Div.*  
Sgt. Robert M. McDowell, 30  
*2nd Bde. STB, 2nd Bde., 10th Mountain Div.*  
Staff Sgt. David A. Mejias, 26  
*2nd Bde. STB, 2nd Bde., 10th Mountain Div.*  
Staff Sgt. Eric R. Vick, 25  
*2nd Bde. STB, 2nd Bde., 10th Mountain Div.*  
Kingsman Danny John Wilson, 28  
*2nd Bn., The Duke of Lancaster's Regt.*

## **April 2, 2007**

Staff Sgt. Bradley D. King, 28  
*2/152 Inf., 76th Inf. Bde.*  
Rifleman Aaron Lincoln, 18  
*2nd Bn., The Rifles*  
Lance Cpl. Daniel R. Olsen, 20  
*2/7 Mar. Regt., 1st Mar. Div., 1st MEF*  
Spc. Brian E. Ritzberg, 24  
*977th MP Co., 97th MP Bn., 1st Inf. Div.*

## **April 3, 2007**

Staff Sgt. Shane R. Becker, 35  
*1/40 Cav., 4th Bde., 25th Inf. Div.*  
Pfc. Gabriel J. Figueroa, 20  
*1/8 Cav., 2nd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.*

## **April 4, 2007**

Staff Sgt. Jerry C. Burge, 39  
*2/8 Cav., 1st Bde., 1st Inf. Div.*  
Cpl. Joseph H. Cantrell IV, 23  
*2/8 Cav., 1st Bde., 1st Inf. Div.*  
Pfc. James Coon  
*1/8th Cav., 2nd Bde. 1st Cav. Div.*

# MORIAM

MEMBERS WHO DIED WHILE SERVING IN  
BETWEEN MARCH 16 AND APRIL 15, 2007

## GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS: THAT A MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS. *JOHN 15:13*

Pfc. Walter Freeman Jr., 20  
*2/12 Inf., 2nd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.*  
Pfc. Derek A. Gibson, 20  
*2/12 Inf., 2nd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.*  
Staff Sgt. Shane R. Becker, 25  
*1/40 Cav., 4th Bde., 25th Inf. Div.*

### April 5, 2007

Sgt. Forrest D. Cauthorn, 22  
*2/27 Inf., 3rd Bde., 25th Inf. Div.*  
Pvt. Eleanor Dlugosz, 19  
*Royal Army Medical Corps*  
2nd Lt. Joanna Yorke Dyer, 24  
*2nd Bn., The Duke of Lancaster's Regt. Yeovil*  
Cpl. Kris O' Neill, 27  
*Royal Army Medical Corps*  
Spc. Jason A. Shaffer, 28  
*1/12 Cav., 3rd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.*  
Kingsman Adam James Smith  
*2nd Bn., The Duke of Lancaster's Regt.*

### April 6, 2007

Chief Petty Officer Gregory J. Billiter, 36  
*EOD Unit 11*  
Pfc. Jay S. Cajimat, 20  
*2/16 Inf., 4th Bde., 1st Inf. Div.*  
Spc. Ryan S. Dallam, 24  
*1/18 Inf., 2nd Bde., 1st Inf. Div.*  
Petty Officer 2nd Class Curtis R. Hall, 24  
*EOD Unit 11*  
Petty Officer 1st Class Joseph A. McSween, 26  
*EOD Unit 11*  
Capt. Anthony Palermo, 26  
*1/18 Inf., 2nd Bde., 1st Inf. Div.*  
Pvt. Damian Lopez Rodriguez  
*1/18 Inf., 2nd Bde., 1st Inf. Div.*  
Pfc. Daniel A. Fuentes, 19  
*1/28 Inf., 4th Bde., 1st Inf. Div.*  
Petty Officer 2nd Class Joseph C. Schwedler, 27  
*Assigned to East Coast-based Navy SEAL Team*

### April 7, 2007

Spc. Ebe F. Emolo, 33  
*5/73 Cav., 3rd Bde., 82nd Airborne Div.*  
Capt. Jonathan D. Grassbaugh, 25  
*5/73 Cav., 3rd Bde., 82nd Airborne Div.*  
Spc. Levi K. Hoover, 23  
*5/73 Cav., 3rd Bde., 82nd Airborne Div.*  
Pfc. Rodney L. McCandless, 21  
*5/73 Cav., 3rd Bde., 82nd Airborne Div.*  
Cmdr. Philip A. Murphy-Sweet, 42  
*Naval Inventory Control Point*

### April 8, 2007

Staff Sgt. Harrison Brown, 31  
*2/69 Armor, 3rd Bde. 3rd Inf. Div.*  
Sgt. Adam P. Kennedy, 25  
*HHC, 4th Bde., 25th Inf. Div.*  
1st Lt. Phillip I. Neel, 27  
*3/8 Cav., 3rd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.*  
Pfc. David N. Simmons, 20  
*2/69 Armor, 3rd Bde., 3rd Inf. Div.*  
Sgt. Todd A. Singleton, 24  
*2/5 Cav., 1st Bde., 1st Cav. Div.*  
Staff Sgt. Jesse L. Williams, 25  
*5/20 Inf., 3rd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.*

### April 9, 2007

Pfc. Brian L. Holden, 20  
*2/17 FA Regt., 2nd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.*  
Spc. Ismael G. Solorio, 21  
*2/17 FA Regt., 2nd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.*  
Spc. Clifford A. Spohn III, 21  
*3/509 Inf., 4th Bde., 25th Inf. Div.*  
Pvt. Brett A. Walton, 37  
*2/17 FA Regt., 2nd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.*

### April 10, 2007

Pfc. Kyle G. Bohrnsen, 22  
*2/12 Inf., 2nd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.*

### April 11, 2007

Sgt. Raymond S. Sevaaetasi, 29  
*15th BSB, 2nd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.*

### April 12, 2007

Cpl. Jason J. Beadles, 22  
*887th Eng., 57th Trans. Bn., 593rd CSG*  
Pfc. John G. Borbonus, 19  
*1/40th Cav., 4th Bde., 25th Inf. Div.*  
Spc. James T. Lindsey, 20  
*3/509 Inf., 4th Bde., 25th Inf. Div.*  
1st Lt. Gwilym J. Newman, 24  
*2/8 Cav., 1st Bde., 1st Cav. Div.*  
Cpl. Cody A. Putnam, 22  
*1/40th Cav., 4th Bde., 25th Inf. Div.*

### April 13, 2007

Sgt. Larry R. Bowman, 29  
*513th Trans., 57th Trans. Bn., 593rd CSG*

### April 14, 2007

Sgt. Robert J. Basham, 22  
*HHC, 1st Bn., 126th FA Regt.*  
Spc. Ryan A. Bishop, 32  
*4/31st Inf., 2nd Bde., 10th Mnt. Div.*  
Sgt. Joshua A. Schmit, 26  
*1451st Trans. Co., 13th Sust. Sup. Cmd.*  
Sgt. Brandon L. Wallace, 27  
*1451st Trans. Co., 13th Sust. Sup. Cmd.*  
Lance Cpl. Daniel J. Santee, 21  
*CLR 27, 2nd Mar. Logistic Group, 2nd MEF*

### April 15, 2007

Pfc. Steven Walberg, 18  
*1/4th Cav., 4th Inf. Bde., 1st Inf. Div.*



NARINESAMMY

