

THE COALITION CHRONICLE

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July 2007

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Seizing the initiative
*MPs, IPs support Arrowhead
Ripper in Kirkuk Province*

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THE COALITION CHRONICLE

The Official Magazine of
Multi-National Corps-Iraq

July 2007
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MNC-I Commander
Lt. Gen. Ray Odierno

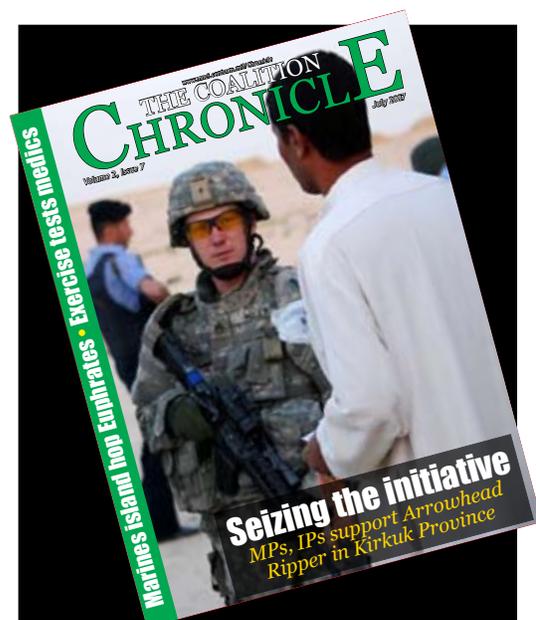
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This month's covers

Up front: Army Staff Sgt. Nicholas Wiley, squad leader, 977th Military Police Company, 97th Military Police Battalion, interrogates an Iraqi man in Qahara. Photo by Army Spc. Mike Alberts.

On the back: Soldiers with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, pull security watch on a clearing mission in Rashid. Photo by Army Spc. Elisha Dawkins.

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COMMANDER'S VOICE

Extremists recently made another attempt to reignite the sectarian violence that followed the February 2006 Golden Mosque bombing in Samarra. However, this time Prime Minister Niuri Maliki and the Iraqi government took immediate actions to avert sectarian violence. In addition to visiting Samarra, the PM imposed a curfew, asked for calm and restraint, initiated an investigation to find those accountable, and adjusted their security posture across the entire country. Although two minarets were destroyed, the reaction has been more muted than in 2006. Then, armed gangs took to the streets, destroying more than 50 mosques and taking their own brand of justice to the streets of Iraq. This year, the citizens of Iraq were indeed angry, but their anger was not directed at one another. Instead they directed it toward the brutal extremists who kill innocent people and conduct heinous acts.

The people of Iraq are beginning to reject al-Qaida in Iraq and other extremists that continue to foment this violence. They clearly understand that AQI is headed by a foreigner — an Egyptian to be specific — and are tired of false promises of help from the foreign fighters ruining their country. Anbar Province, once described as lost, is making good progress and moving in the right direction. This momentum has not gone unnoticed by Iraqis in other provinces, citizens who are weary of conflict. The Iraqi people welcome change and realize that AQI and other extremists provide no hope for the future — they are reaching out to Coalition Forces and want to be a part of a solution.

The vast majority of Iraqis — I'd say easily 95 percent of their more than 25 million citizens — want the same things that Americans want: safe and secure neighborhoods in which to raise their families, basic services and needs, a government that cares about them as a person, and freedom to choose and live as they want. Such an Iraq is in the best interests of the free world. It is vital to our enduring goals in this critical region.

Our forces remain oriented on the enemies of Iraq. Our nation's interests and our aim is stability and security for the Iraqi people. However, success will not be achieved from purely means. It requires integrated political, security,



Lt. Gen. Ray Odierno
MNC-I Commander

economic, diplomatic and informational efforts. We are seeing encouraging signs, but we have a lot of work ahead of us.

All of the elements of the “plus-up” are now in country and conducting combat operations — 20 brigade and regimental combat teams, a Marine expeditionary unit, four combat aviation brigades and a Marine air wing, along with many other combat enablers such as logistics, intelligence and artillery. Additionally, we have 10 enhanced provincial reconstruction teams embedded in our brigade combat teams that significantly increase our ability to work governance, economics and reconstruction. By next month, the remainder of a full Georgian brigade will close in theater, providing even more combat power and agility.

This provides the Coalition tremendous capability to do simultaneous and sustained operations and to maintain pressure across the entire theater. More importantly, it allows us to operate in areas where we have not been in a long time. We will do this on the offense with the full capabilities of our nation's finest combat units, along with our Coalition allies, and in full partnership with the Iraqi Security Forces. Our knowledge of the enemy is good and cooperation among our services — both conventional and otherwise — is genuine and powerful. The level of experience within our force is unprecedented and our fighting prowess is high. We have already begun attacking the enemy from multiple directions and in ways he cannot resist. Our pursuit will be agile and relentless. We will force the enemy to fight from positions

of disadvantage and we will maintain the initiative. Our key tasks include protecting the population, facilitating reconciliation, defeating AQI and extremists, and continuing the development of the ISF. Ultimate success lies with the Iraqis; specifically, their ability to secure themselves from internal and external threats and providing for a stable political environment that accommodates all Iraqi

Operation Phantom Thunder is a corps-level offensive operation that began June 15 to defeat AQI, insurgents and extremists, deny enemy safe havens, and interdict movement, logistics and communications. It is an open-ended operation that will extend through the summer and will be done

in conjunction with civil-military operations to support political and economic efforts. It consists of carefully synchronized, simultaneous operations at division and brigade level to clear AQI, Sunni insurgents and Shia extremists in, near and around Baghdad. It also includes aggressive shaping operations by our special operations forces focused on AQI and special groups.

Another important aspect is the freedom of maneuver we have over the enemy. We can attack at will wherever and whenever we want. These operations are intended to eliminate the accelerants to Baghdad violence from enemy support zones in the belts that ring the city. Coalition Forces and partnered ISF are involved in all aspects of these operations.

On the Fourth of July, America celebrated its 231st birthday. All across the United States, Americans celebrated Independence Day and enjoyed picnics, fireworks, sporting events and being with family and friends. We enjoy these freedoms because generations of Americans have defended our way of life, many making the ultimate sacrifice. We can never forget. Our Coalition partners have done likewise, making great sacrifices in the name of freedom. The memories of our fallen and their families are never far from our thoughts. Their examples fortify our will. The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Civilians of the Coalition are a true testament to dedication, courage and professionalism. We have the fortitude and resilience to stare down uncertainty and we are committed. Thank you for your service and leadership. 

CSM's CORNER

This letter was written by Command Sgt. Maj. Neil Ciotola, the Multi-National Corps-Iraq command sergeant major, to a staff sergeant who is becoming a sergeant first class soon.

On to the issue at hand. Any additional words of advice for a Sergeant Audie Murphy Club member and soon-to-be senior NCO? Well staff sergeant, you know me. I always have something to say.

Insomuch as leadership is concerned, I've forgotten more than I can ever hope to remember. I used to worry about that until I finally realized that this is a team sport. So long as we can lean on one another, we'll all be fine.

As I mentioned to you a while back, you are a top 10 percenter; your @#! is forever staring people in the face as they look up that flag pole. Never forget that you are being watched, observed, assessed, measured and scrutinized even when you think you're not.

Be the first and the last in everything — first to arrive and last to go home or sleep. Check everything and force your platoon leader to do the same, even if it's after you put everyone down for the night. Some of my fondest memories with my platoon leaders and company and troop commanders were trooping the line in the late hours of the evening or early hours of the morning; just the two of us.

Remember to be consistent with your troopers. Be perpetually optimistic. Lift up your troopers spiritually, emotionally and professionally every day. Be that guy or gal, who literally lifts up the youngster who stumbles on patrol or in life.

Don't permit phallic measuring contests in combat. This is a team sport. You do everything as a team: clear a house, climb a wall, walk a street, conduct a combat logistics patrol, prep for any mission or any task, and scrutinize each other.

Be an overt example. Ask one of your privates to check you out each day to show your troopers that it takes a village. Praise your youngsters overtly when they ID a deficiency and do it correctly and respectfully. This has nothing to do with trust. It has everything to do with preserving the fighting strength.



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

***Never forget that
you are being
watched, observed,
assessed, measured
and scrutinized
even when you
think you're not.***

As it relates to trust, remind and hold accountable all your young sergeants to this axiom: All men are valorous and all women are virtuous until proven otherwise. We as the leader must first extend trust in order for our subordinates to prove that they are trustworthy.

Leadership is all about assuming a modicum of risk. We don't gamble with the lives of our troopers. That's why we check everything!

Teach your lieutenant everything you possibly can. Do not permit your troopers to address the lieutenant as "LT." If they want to use a short term of endearment or respect for their officer and leader, have them try the one-syllable word that does it all: sir or ma'am.

Ensure your lieutenant understands he is there to lead, not make friends. If your officer wants to be a private, he should have become one. Show your officer what it is to be selfless.

Teach him there is no such thing as sergeants' business. Everything that happens in a unit is officers' business.

We as NCOs do our job. We spell it DUTY! Finally, remind your officer they are not necessarily smarter than their enlisted troops. To lead is a test of character. Teach your officer to lead!

I've got lots more advice, but I'm not going anywhere. All we senior NCOs and officers are here for you and your battle buddies. You don't have to have all the answers. Together all of us do.

Sometimes we forget that we're all here to lean on one another. We're all here to teach, to inspire, to carry one another, and to recognize and bring out the best in not only

ourselves but everyone around us.

I was and remain very proud of you, young staff sergeant. Take charge, train your troopers, move out, draw fire, PID those sons-a-@%! and kill or capture 'em all. Teach your Soldiers to recognize and embrace all the good people, both here in Iraq and back home.

And finally, please tell all in your brigade how very, very proud I am of them. After 31 years in the Army, I can't help but have strong feelings for our combat support and combat service support troopers. All of you — every one of them — lifts and sustains those at the tip of the spear every day.

Our logistics troopers seldom reap the recognition our trigger pullers do, yet they fight to provide superlative support to them every day.

Now that's devotion. That's love. That's selflessness. That, young sergeant, is commitment! 

COALITION NEWS BRIEFS



Search yields torture chamber, bombs

BAQOUBA – Task Force Lightning and Iraqi soldiers continued sweeping through the city to root out al-Qaida in Iraq insurgents June 23 as part of Operation Arrowhead Ripper.

In the Khatoon neighborhood, Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition Forces discovered a suspected torture chamber in a building. Various weapons – including knives and saws – were found in the building in addition to blood stains. Once the building was secured, it was destroyed by an attack helicopter using Hellfire missiles.

Two houses that contained 45 water heaters filled with homemade explosives, IED materials and computer equipment in addition to booby-traped freezers were also discovered and secured.

In fighting later in the day, Coalition helicopters engaged and killed 17 al-Qaida gunmen who had been observed by Soldiers with the 25th Infantry Division as well as a vehicle they were using. [🔗](#)



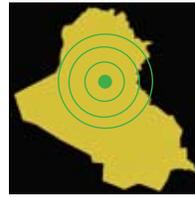
Operation Bull Run disrupts insurgents

AL DURA'YA – Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.), completed two simultaneous operations within 48 hours June 24. Two insurgents were killed and seven detained in the operations.

Operation Bull Run and Operation Blore Heath II were conducted with Iraqi Security Forces. Both are part of Multi-National Division-Center's Operation Marne Torch, the latest Coalition initiative to eliminate insurgent sanctuaries southeast of Baghdad.

Three caches – including artillery rounds, mortars, cell phones, weapons and propaganda – were found in the former operation.

The second involved clearing insurgent caches south of Salman Pak. Mortar rounds and command wires were found. In addition, two boats and one ground vehicle were destroyed. [🔗](#)



Bridge bypass completed, traffic flows

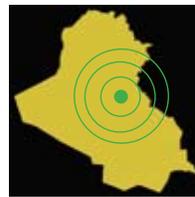
TUZ KHURMATU – Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces completed a critical bypass road to reestablish traffic around the Sariyah Bridge June 24.

The bridge, which provided a critical link between Baghdad and Kirkuk Province, was destroyed by an insurgent bomb June 2. Soldiers from the 4th Iraqi Army Division and Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, constructed the bypass, which will serve as a temporary solution until the bridge is repaired.

“This (road) is essential to the economic health of Iraq,” said Kirkuk Governor Abdul-Rahman Mustafa. “But it is temporary. We are here today to reassure the public that we will continue to cooperate to rebuild the bridge.”

Col. Patrick Stackpole, 3rd Brigade commander, praised the efforts of Iraqi government and military officials in bringing the critical thoroughfare back into service for the people of Iraq.

“The bypass is the result of the hard work of Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces in conjunction with Iraqi government officials in the provinces of Salah ad Din and Kirkuk,” he said. “We’re proud of the work. Together we can help this country prosper.” [🔗](#)



Insurgent leader caught in Sadr City

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Special Operations Forces detained a key insurgent leader in Sadr City during an early morning operation June 20. The individual is responsible for coordinating and conducting kidnappings, death squad killings, and IED attacks against civilian and military targets. Two other suspicious individuals were also detained during the incident-free operation. The primary suspect is allegedly responsible for supplying vehicles, identification and uniforms to support insurgent operations as well as new IED technologies. [🔗](#)

Seizing the initiative

Fort Riley MPs lead Iraqi Police in Operation Cacti Ripper



Soldiers of the 977th Military Police Company, 97th Military Police Battalion, attached to 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, exit a residence in the village of Qahara June 17 as part of a combined Iraqi Security and Coalition Force mission to destroy and disrupt anti-Iraqi force operations and networks.

As thousands of Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces conducted large-scale combat operations dubbed Arrowhead Ripper in Diyala Province, similar missions commenced simultaneously in the northern Kirkuk Province. Among those participating up north was a contingent of military policemen from Fort Riley, Kan., who did their part corralling insurgents and confiscating weapons.

Soldiers of the 977th Military Police Company “Raiders”, 97th Military Police Battalion, and approximately 90 Iraqi police officers from three separate police stations conducted partnered operations in the remote Kirkuk village of Qahara June 17.

The Raiders deployed to Iraq with almost 200 Soldiers and arrived at Forward Operating Base Warrior in March 2007.

Their primary mission is to train, mentor and advise Iraqi Police and assist standing up municipal police stations. Three of those stations are located in the towns of Daquq, Taza and Laylan. The Raiders involved officers from all three stations in recent operations named Operation Cacti Ripper.

Cacti Ripper was a battalion-level operation spearheaded by 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division.

The joint, combined air and ground operation coincided with efforts north of Baghdad to destroy and disrupt anti-Iraqi force operations and networks and to further secure the population in the southern villages of Ghaydah, Qahara and Az Zajji, according to Army Capt. Steven Bartley, commander, 977th MP Co., attached to 3rd Brigade.

“Our piece of the operation was to conduct a cordon and search of just Qahara Village,” Bartley said. “Our key tasks included organizing the Iraqi police officers, rapidly establishing a cordon of Qahara and conducting a thorough search of its various structures,” said the 10-year veteran, who is serving his second combat tour in Iraq.

Bartley’s team of approximately 30 Soldiers arrived at the Daquq police station in the late evening, June 16. Over the next 18 hours, he and his Soldiers would marshal, stage and brief officers on the objective, coordinate the early morning departure and isolation of Qahara, and participate in a comprehensive search of a village that consisted of more than a couple square

***Bartley’s team
had detained eight
suspected terrorists
– five of whom would
remain jailed.***



Soldiers of the 977th Military Police Company search the village of Qahara.

miles with no less than 25 clusters of structures.

When it was over, Bartley’s team of Iraqi Police and U.S. Soldiers had detained eight suspected terrorists – five of whom would remain jailed – and confiscated weapons, ammunition, explosives, bomb making material and anti-Coalition Force propaganda.

“Today was a big success in terms of organizing the Iraqi police from three separate police stations and keeping them motivated,” said Bartley, who explained that considerable measures were employed to maintain the

necessary level of secrecy to ensure the operation was not compromised before it started.

“Our biggest challenge was keeping (operational security) intact,” he continued. “When you get a hundred Iraqi police together and except for a few key, senior people you cannot tell them exactly why they’re here and you can’t tell them where they’re going, that’s tough. They understand, but it presents



Army 2nd Lt. Nathan Obermeyer and Army Capt. Steven Bartley, 977th Military Police Company, discuss a cordon and search operation with Major Nahsid of the Daquq Police Joint Communications Center.

challenges,” he said.

Bartley attributed his ability to overcome those challenges to the competency and experience of Soldiers like Army Sgt. Nicholas Shepherd and Army Staff Sgt. Nicholas Wiley.

“The mission went very well, especially considering we had totally different ethnic groups from three different police stations working together for the first time,” said Shepherd, a team leader. “It was really outstanding. And we found weapons. It’s very important that for our first large operation we didn’t come away empty handed.”

“It would have been difficult for the younger Soldiers if we spent all this time gathering all the intelligence and came back with no results. All this work is now justified in their eyes, and it builds their confidence.”

Staff Sgt. Nicholas Wiley, Shepherd’s squad leader, agreed.

Wiley and his team were principally charged with coordinating and carrying out the search operations. He is on his third combat tour in Iraq and confirmed that mission success was important not only for his Soldiers’ confidence, but also for their perspective.

“I tell all the police chiefs that we are guests at their stations and the younger Soldiers hear that and see us behave that way,” Wiley said. “In this sense, they do benefit from those of us that have been here before and treat the Iraqi people like that. Missions like this one where the (Iraqi Police) are out front and we are simply assisting show our (less experienced) Soldiers that this country is the Iraqi people’s and we’re just here to help.” ☺



Jordanian Army docs bring expertise to Iraqis in need

Jordanian Army doctors operate on a patient in Fallujah. Photo by Jordanian Army Maj. Alnahri Abdallah.

by Army Spc. Beatrice Florescu-Villa Verde
MNC-I PAO

The Jordanian Army Field Hospital was set up in Fallujah in April 2003 to bring medical care to the Iraqis.

The hospital staff is able to perform a wide array of major and minor surgeries for almost all specialties, a Jordanian doctor said. More than 1,000 surgical operations have been performed and more than 750,000 Iraqi citizens have been treated at the hospital.

"This is my second tour in Iraq, together with another doctor and nurse," the doctor said. For some of them it is the first time, for others it is the second or even the third tour. They have expertise in a variety of medical fields.

"Jordan has been participating in humanitarian assistance in many countries through field hospitals, including Iraq, Afghanistan, Er-

itrea, Liberia, West Bank, Sierra Leone, and recently Lebanon, and other troubled parts of the world," the doctor said. "Therefore most of the Jordanian doctors and nurses have already deployed in different places and that gave them different experiences in the medical field."

A nurse said that he came to help.

"All the personnel in this hospital like this work because they want to help Iraqi people and give them the health care that they need," he said. "They empathize with the Iraqi people and their suffering, and wish to give them a bright future."

During their interactions with the Iraqi people, the hospital staff express their kind feelings and respect for the Iraqi people, he said.

The Jordanian field hospital is a major hub in the area for the Iraqi people to receive medical supplies and health care. This hospital is also one of the few in the area. The

hospital receives approximately 500 Iraqi citizens daily. The medical team's specialty areas include internist, pediatrician, general surgeon, gynecologist and obstetrician, and dentist. The hospital is equipped with a lab and X-ray facility and provides emergency services 24 hours a day.

The field staff personnel has set an example of friendship and brotherhood between Jordanian and Iraqi people, the doctor said.

"I would like further to express my appreciation to the Jordanian hospital," said an Iraqi patient. "We are delighted that the Kingdom of Jordan sent this hospital, which helps and treats the Iraqi people. We are very comfortable with the Jordanian hospital and the kindness of the medical staff toward Iraqi citizens has contributed to alleviate our suffering."

Editor's Note: The Jordanians interviewed for this story declined to be identified for security reasons. 

Freedom's Focal Point





Far left: Australian Army Pvt. David Petherick gives a leaflet to an Iraqi boy outside of Saha'alat. Photo by Australian Navy Leading Seaman Phillip Cullinan.

Above: Iraqi Police and members of the 23rd Military Police Company, 702nd MP Battalion, 89th MP Brigade, conduct a dismounted presence patrol June 8 in Lutafiyah. Photo by Air Force Master Sgt. Jonathan Doti.

Left: A Soldier from 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, talks with the children of Selegh during a patrol June 3. Photo by Army Sgt. Jeffrey Alexander.



Freedom's Focal Point



Iraqi and Coalition Forces depart for a mission to capture an alleged terrorist June 20 near Baghdad. Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Michael B.W. Watkins.



Freedom's Focal Point



Top left: A Blackhawk helicopter stirs up dust while landing to pick up Soldiers from Company A, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division June 11 outside Samarra. Photo by Army Sgt. 1st Class Robert C. Brogan.

Top Right: Marine 1st Lt. Paolo Hernandez of 2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, checks an Iraqi girl's heartbeat and breathing on June 9 in Al Nuammia. Photo by Marine Lance Cpl. Julian Billmair.

Bottom right: Army Staff Sgt. Jeff Chitwood, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, lets an Iraqi boy try his binoculars near Hawijah June 19. Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Dallas Edwards.

Bottom left: A Coalition Soldier fires a .50 caliber sniper rifle during a weapons familiarization training course in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom near Taji. Photo by Navy Seaman Zachary Hernandez.





Freedom's Focal Point

Freedom's Focal Point



Iraqi Special Operations Forces advised by Coalition Forces conduct a combat operation to detain suspected terrorist leaders of an insurgent force June 12 in Baghdad. Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Johansen Laurel.



Freedom's Focal Point



Top left: Army Sgt. 1st Class Erik Johannessen and Spc. Eslam Mabrouk, 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, train the Iraqi Army soldiers to use a model 1979 MK-1 60mm Mortar in Mahmudiyah June 10. Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Dennis J. Henry Jr.

Top right: Iraqi Army soldiers move toward an objective near Baqubah June 29. Photo by Air Force Airman 1st Class Christopher Hubenthal.

Bottom right: A British soldier looks on as an upgraded FV430 Mk3 Bulldog vehicle drives past in Basra. Photo by British Royal Air Force Cpl. Andy Benson.

Bottom left: Army 1st Lt. Luke Conway, Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, keeps an eye out for anything suspicious while on a mission June 11 in south Baqubah. Photo by Air Force Senior Airman Steve Czyz.



Freedom's Focal Point



Setting up shop

Seabees improve areas to better mission readiness

by Navy Seaman Shane Montgomery
30th Naval Construction Regiment PAO

When the seabees of Naval Construction Battalion 4 arrived in Ramadi the first week of April 2007 to begin a six month deployment, the area they were to stay – Seabee Village – was in need of serious repair. Seabee Village is made up of several Southwest Asia Huts and includes troop berthing, a medical facility, a supply office, a gym, a theater and the Chapel of Faith. The troops hit the ground running with plans for major improvements to make the village a better place to live.

The medical team, equipped with lumber and an array of power tools constructed a storage area for \$60,000 worth of required Authorized Medical Allowance List supplies, enough to support the whole battalion and enable them to be fully mobile while increasing operational readiness. In addition, the team constructed a medical consultation area and inpatient ward and augmented them with various medical life-saving devices.

“Now, with all the improvements made to this clinic, we are fully capable of treating patients in an absolutely more efficient manner,” said Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Joshua Arnold, hospital corpsman. “We can now administer the correct medical care, which decreases follow-up care at other medical facilities.”

Meanwhile, NMCB 4’s Company D put in a workout at the Seabee Gym. They started by discarding all of the old and damaged equipment and cleaning the facility. Next they replaced the faulty electrical wiring, which allowed them to repair air conditioning units and install new lighting. This made the gym a safe place to work out. Finally, Headquarters Company personnel assembled and installed new two new treadmills, one elliptical cardio trainer, a workout machine and various benches and weights. The repairs and improved aesthetics have made the Seabee gym

a fun and safe place for the Seabees to improve their physical readiness.

Along with the gym, the Chapel of Faith also received a whole new design. Navy Lt. Peter Ott, NMCB 4’s command chaplain, with the help of Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Mark Machemer, religious program specialist, cleaned and refurbished the chapel by painting the interior and installing new tile on the floor. They constructed benches for the troops that attend services. With the help of Delta Company, they added a wall enclosing the chaplain’s berthing area and private office for counseling.

Because the chapel also serves as the village library, they also built bookshelves and stocked them with a variety of books and reading material. The final design also had space for the battalion post office, public affairs office, and an area designated for the United Through Reading program. “Our new space is multi-functional, yet provides a place of refuge from the daily grind of deployment,” Ott said. “It

has become a focal point of our efforts to support the command’s spiritual and emotional well-being.”

The Supply Department also improved their spaces and the theater. They cleaned and reorganized the supply office, enabling them to increase space for inventory storage and maintain better accountability of consumables. They also established an area for controlling and maintaining the tricon and conex storage containers and the central tool room. Working with NMCB 4’s chief’s mess, supply personnel removed a wall from the theater, adding 200 square feet of room repainted the facility, and added stadium-style seating.

Future improvements for Seabee Village include adding a picnic area with a concrete slab, two picnic benches, some patio furniture and a barbecue area. NMCB 4 is supporting critical construction efforts in Anbar Province. 

“With all the improvements made to this clinic, we are fully capable of treating patients in an absolutely more efficient manner.”

*Navy Petty Officer 1st Class
Joshua Arnold
hospital corpsman*

“O

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Joshua Arnold, medical corpsman, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4, ensures a wooden stud is level during the construction of a new battle aid station at Seabee Village in Ramadi. Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Ronald Gutridge .





Recon Marines use WW II tactics to counter Baghdad Island Hopping

Marines with Company B, 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 2, row a Zodiac into an island along the Euphrates River.

Story, photos by
Marine Cpl. Adam Johnston
MNF-W PAO

More than 65 years ago, the Empire of Japan launched an all-out assault on Pearl Harbor, killing more than 2,000 American servicemembers. Wasting little time, Congress responded with a formal declaration of war on Dec. 8, 1941 — the sleeping giant was awoken.

While Soldiers squared off against the Nazis in Europe, Marines spearheaded the war effort on the Pacific front. They were led by Navy Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz, commander of the Pacific Fleet during World War II.

Using the Corps' amphibious nature to his advantage, Nimitz employed a strategy known as "island hopping." The idea was to capture key islands, one after another, until the main islands of Japan were within striking distance of B-52 bombers.

In today's world, technological advances have drastically changed the way we fight. Airplanes can fly halfway around the world on a single tank of gas. But, as the saying goes, history is destined to repeat itself.

Marines and sailors with Regimental Combat Team 2 recently returned from a 72-hour island operation along the Euphrates River, just outside of Baghdadi.

"Our objective was to disrupt

any insurgent activity along the river," said Marine Capt. Ryan S. Murata, the commander of 1st Platoon, Task Force Reconnaissance, RCT-2. "Many of these islands have yet to be touched by Coalition forces. We set out to change that."

Six islands, ranging from 200 meters to one kilometer in length, were specifically targeted for this mission.

"Intel has always pointed to the river's islands as possible enemy strongholds," Murata said. "This operation was simply a continuation of previous ones."

Task Force Recon was joined by Marines from Company B, 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, and sailors with Detachment 1, Riverine Squadron 1.



Patrols River near Baghdadi.

“Theoretically, we could’ve done it ourselves,” Murata said. “But the strain on personnel alone would’ve been tremendous. Bringing in these other units allowed us to focus on what we do best.”

Under the cover of darkness, recon teams were inserted onto the island via the FC470 Combat Rubber Raiding Craft, also known as Zodiacs.

“It’s a rubber boat with a metal floorboard,” said Navy Lt. Keith R. Paquin, the assistant officer in charge of Det. 1, RIVRON 1, RCT-2. “Not very sexy, but it gets the job done.”

Though equipped with an optional 55-horsepower engine, the teams paddled downstream to

avoid detection.

“We’ve worked with infantry Marines before,” Paquin said. “But getting to see how the Recon guys operate was awesome. Paddling 15 kilometers downriver, at night, with no armor or crew served weapons – this was definitely the most clandestine mission we’ve done so far.”

A relatively new unit, RIVRON 1 officially stood up in May 2006.

It has been more than 30 years since the last group of Riverines was disbanded, due to lack of necessity.

“Riverines have a long history,” Paquin said, “From the American Revolution to, most notably, the Vietnam War. We’ve learned from past experiences and applied it to today’s mission; helping to bring about the re-birth of the Riverine.”

According to Paquin, mission execution today isn’t all that different from the past

“During Vietnam, they’d send a five-man boat crew to seek out the enemy,” Paquin said. “Today, our mission has evolved into maritime interdiction operations. We do waterborne guard patrols for units operating near the river. It keeps the insurgents from using it as an avenue of escape. So far, it’s working really well.”

Once inserted, the Riverines drifted downstream to a predeter-



Examples of ordnance collected during the Marines’ mission.

mined extract point. Meanwhile, the recon teams setup ambush positions, remaining on the island until first light.

“Ambush positions are commonly used to gain a tactical position of advantage on enemy forces



Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Grant Burleson, a boat captain with Detachment 1, Riverine Squadron 1, Regimental Combat Team 2, navigates the Euphrates River aboard a Zodiac.



Marines with Company B, 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 2, download a Zodiac boat before putting in for a patrol.

while they're unaware of your presence," said Marine Cpl. Daniel A. Elborne, an infantryman with 1st Platoon, TF Recon, RCT-2.

"After an initial sweep of the island, we got into our positions and waited for any enemy movement," he said.

At dawn, the combat engineers hopped in the boats and headed toward the island.

Recon provided security, while the engineers used their mine detectors to sweep for weapons caches.

A variety of various-sized ordnance was uncovered during the search, including 79 155 mm artillery shells, 48 pounds of high explosive, 40 pounds of propellant,

15 artillery fuses, nine 57 mm mortars, three 130 mm shells, two 120 mm shells, and two 82 mm mortars.

"Was it everything we wanted? No," explained Murata.

"Catching someone in the act would've been ideal. But for disruption purposes? Yes, it was effective."

"The islands need a frequent presence to permanently deny a safe haven for the insurgency."

***Marine Capt. Ryan S. Murata
commander, 1st Platoon,
Task Force Reconnaissance,
Regimental Combat Team 2***

Though the mission was not everything he had hoped it would be, Murata came to one solid conclusion.

"The islands need a frequent presence to permanently deny a safe haven for the insurgency,"

Murata said. "What we did was only a short-term solution. It needs to continue." ©



A Korean soldier with the Zaytun Division paints a design on an Iraqi girl's face at the International Kids Festival in Erbil.



Korean soldiers perform a traditional dance for the crowd at the International Kids Festival.

Iraq's future

Korean division lends support to UNICEF children's festival

Story, photos
courtesy of
MND-NE PAO

The International Kids Festival, supported by UNICEF, took place in Erbil June 1-6.

This festival was attended by 120 children from Arab countries and Europe.

It was held under the platform of peace and reconciliation in the Iraq.

Hence, let all the world notice what progress has been made in this land.

Last February, the Ministry of Culture requested Korea's Zaytun Division's support for the event. The division promised its full support to meet on a common ground that aimed for peace and reconstruction of the region.

In the opening ceremony, Zaytun soldiers performed a military parade, tae kwon do and traditional folklore dances.

Kite making, toy balloons and the art of folding paper made the atmosphere more festive. Most of all,

children enjoyed eating popcorn and cotton candy. Zaytun Division also supported four buses for the children's transportation and prepared balls, sports shoes and school supplies as gifts.

"This festival is an event of children's harmony and it has a great meaning to symbolize this internationally anticipated festival," said Korean Brig. Gen. Lee Jung-ha, deputy commanding general of Multi-National Division-Northeast. "We are very happy to participate in this event. I expect this festival contributes to the peace and stability of Iraq."

Falakadin Kakay, Iraqi minister of culture, said "It would be very difficult without Zaytun's passionate support. Thank you for supporting us. We will hold various events for children such

as this successful festival in the near future with a long perspective."

UNICEF and guiding officials who watched the opening ceremony and the Zaytun film said that Zaytun activities in this region were very impressive.

Zaytun Division continues to support Iraqi peace and reconstruction. ☺

"I expect this festival contributes to the peace and stability of Iraq."

*Korean Brig. Gen. Lee Jung-ha
MND-NE deputy
commanding general*



Army Sgt. 1st Class John Duggins, platoon sergeant with Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, provides security as residents pass through the streets north of the Grey'at neighborhood of Baghdad's Adhamiyah District.

The Adhamiyah Project

Paratroopers drive on in volatile Baghdad neighborhood

Story, photos by
Army Spc. L.B. Edgar
MND-B PAO

Only one man knew what was coming. From afar, he completed the circuit and braced for the blast's impact. None of the Iraqis going about their daily life were ready. The sound cut through the hustle and bustle of daily life on the streets of the eastern Raabi neighborhood in Baghdad's Adhamiyah District.

The following day, paratroopers of Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, passed the twisted metal that

was once a vehicle June 29.

The day's mission was not to dwell on yesterday's vehicle-borne improvised explosive device attack, which claimed the life of one Iraqi policeman, wounded two others and injured another two passersby. The paratroopers instead gauged the attitude of locals and randomly searched vehicles for weapons, kidnapping victims or illegal identification cards, said Army 1st Lt. Jeremy Tillman, the leader of the battery's 1st Platoon.

Tillman estimated that questions would be answered in 48 to 72 hours.

"We're still milling over the 'who and why' and how to prevent

it from happening again," he said. "It was an array of eight to 10 mortars in the back seat of a vehicle. The vehicle was in that position for 30 to 45 minutes before it was detonated. It was remote-control detonated, so the trigger man had to have line of sight. No trigger man was caught or found."

The attack did not come as a surprise to the paratroopers, who expect the unexpected, he said.

"We all know it's just a matter of time before these things happen in our sector," Tillman said. "An insurgency (wages) guerrilla-type warfare to disrupt a good thing; a drop of oil in water that spreads."

While the vast majority of peo-

ple in Raabi, a neighborhood with a mixture of Sunni and Shia, are supportive of paratroopers' efforts to improve their lot in life, there is a minority intent on wreaking havoc, Tillman said.

"You've got small factions here and there who are power hungry and greedy religious zealots," he said.

While one or more of those zealots lashed out with a cold and calculated attempt at destabilizing Raabi, the paratroopers of 1st Platoon are still right where residents can find them — with the people.

Grounded paratroopers

The genesis of Operation Fardh Al Qanoon brought the paratroopers to Adhamiyah, a volatile district of Iraq's capital. The paratroopers entered Raabi, a neighborhood in Adhamiyah, with a heavy-handed approach in keeping with the operation's focus of clearing neighborhoods. They captured terrorists and insurgents before moving to the second phase of the Baghdad Security Plan, engaging the local populace, Tillman said.

"We dismounted out of the gate. We started patrolling immediately and started getting to know the local people. We're now to a point where we know their names, we know their faces and we know their families. They trust us. We trust them," said Army 1st Lt. Larry Pitts, 2nd Platoon leader. "With the correct mentality, we can make a difference in this sector."

Though the paratroopers of 2/319 are field artillerymen, they are performing an infantryman's job and use the dismounted approach to security, he said.

"We're with the people every day. 98 percent of our patrols are dismount patrols," Tillman said. "We're dismounted every day. We're good to good people; we're bad to bad people."

Project progress: essential services

While security remains a prior-



Army Sgt. 1st Class John Duggins, platoon sergeant and Army 1st Lt. Jeremy Tillman, platoon leader, both of Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, check the identification cards of Iraqis stopped at a vehicle checkpoint in the Adhamiyah District.

ity, improving essential services such as adequate sewage, readily available clean water and regular trash pick-up is also an important mission for the paratroopers, said Army Capt. Josh Richardson, Battery B commander.

The battalion is using a two-pronged attack to improve essential services. Its leadership is working with the upper echelons of the Iraqi government to create long-term solutions.

The Battalion subcontracted a company to place trash cans and regularly pick them up, Tillman said. Plans are in the works for two gas stations to open up in the community, he added.

"We hope to get the people ... essential services, such as electricity. They want essential services," Tillman said. "All the essential services that make your hometown back in America clean, this area needs."

Besides improving the quality of life, local projects to provide essential services also create jobs, thereby pumping money into the economy, he said.

Help on the way

The success of 319th's paratroopers was put on display for the U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, Ryan Crocker, when he visited Coalition Outpost War Eagle, the battalion's home

June 27. Subsequently, 2nd Platoon took Crocker on a tour of Raabi's "Fish Market."

"We took him to some of our previous trouble spots. We were able to show him the change that we've created over the last four or five months during the surge and some of the projects we're working on. With his influence, we'll be able to show the Iraqis' progress," said Pitts, who led the tour. "It shows the surge plan working. It's safe enough where we can get the ambassador to come down, walk our streets, even have chai with several of the locals."

Crocker's visit was an opportunity to showcase the battalion's successful dismounted approach to engaging Raabi residents.

"It's important to have somebody with that level of importance in our area, so that we can demonstrate to them that we think we have a foothold for transition. We got to show him some good things and some things that needed improvement," he said. "Transition is the ultimate goal for us and he saw a population and a Coalition Force that are working pretty well together. We definitely have a ways to go but the people know — because we're out there a lot walking the streets — that we care about the future of this area." ☺

INCOMING!!!



Army Spc. Rocky Blair, Headquarters and Support Company, 603rd Aviation Support Battalion, gives instructions to combat lifesavers transporting a simulated casualty during a mass-casualty exercise.

Aviation medics conduct mass casualty exercise at Camp Stryker

Story, photos by
Army Pfc. Monica K. Smith
MND-C PAO

Medics working at the Camp Striker main troop medical center participated in an exercise designed to evaluate their efficiency during a mass casualty event.

"We need to practice and get good at this while we can," said Army Maj. Scott McClellan, brigade surgeon, Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.). "We have to be prepared to provide for the camp of 9,000 people. There is a lot of responsibility and I want to make sure we're squared away should the worst happen."

The exercise was a scenario involving a mortar-round striking the north Morale, Welfare and Recreation center at Camp Striker while many people were exercising in the gym. Chaos was simulated and medical workers, in addition to several combat life savers, were assessed on reaction time and their capability to treat the 14 casualties.

"This was a mini walk-through to catch problem areas," said Army Lt. Shawn Sheets, Headquarters and Support Company, 603rd Aviation Support Battalion. "We have a list of where everyone sleeps and we have runners, so we see how long the runners take to get all the doctors here."

Each month a combat lifesaver class is given. Soldiers taking the class were incorporated into the training to provide additional help. Units tasked soldiers

to act as casualties for the 18 enlisted medics and eight medical officers participating in the exercise. The exercise also incorporated multiple staff sections, including the chaplain, a representative from mortuary affairs and the brigade's personnel office.

"We just tried to get as many people involved as we could," McClellan said. The next exercise will include all the battalions, the mayor's cell, the Area Defense Operations Center and the fire department and Kellogg, Brown and Root employees, he said.

"Prior planning prevents poor performance" McClellan said. "We want to have an exercise four or five times while we're here. We also have a clinic at the flight line and we plan on doing something similar for them."

Each patient must be tracked from the moment they arrive at the troop medical clinic until they either recover or they are transported to another medical clinic or hospital, Sheets said.

"We had (the personnel office), mortuary affairs and the chaplain providing input that we did not initially fit into our plan on how to handle patients and how to track patients that go to other hospitals and clinics in the area," McClellan said. "We learned a lot about our capabilities and changes we need to make in order to provide more efficient help. I think in the end it brought a lot of people together. We got a lot of good feedback on how to improve and get better and better each time we do it. You know what they say, practice makes perfect. You never know what's going to happen and we absolutely have to be prepared for the worst." 

"Prior planning prevents poor performance."

***Army Maj. Scott McClellan
surgeon
3rd Combat Aviation Brigade***



Army Maj. Scott McClellan, brigade surgeon, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.), oversees two medics as they attend to a Soldier during a mass-casualty exercise at the Camp Striker Main Troop Medical Center. Medics were forced to make rapid decisions and the TMC was evaluated on its projected efficiency during a mass-casualty event.

IN MEM

NAMES OF COALITION SERVICE MEM
OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM BETW

May 17, 2007

Sgt. 1st Class Jesse B. Albrecht, 31
425th BSB, 4th Bde., 25th Inf. Div.
Pfc. Victor M. Fontanilla, 23
425th BSB, 4th Bde., 25th Inf. Div.
Pfc. Aaron D. Gautier, 19
2/23 Inf., 4th Bde., 25th Inf. Div.
Pfc. Jonathan V. Hamm, 20
2/23 Inf., 4th Bde., 25th Inf. Div.
Sgt. Steven M. Packer, 23
2/14 Inf., 2nd Bde., 10th Mountain Div.
Spc. Coty J. Phelps, 20
425th BSB, 4th Bde., 25th Inf. Div.

May 18, 2007

Sgt. 1st Class Scott J. Brown, 33
1/325 PIR, 2nd Bde., 82nd Airborne Div.
Sgt. Anselmo Martinez III, 26
1/12 Cav., 3rd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Spc. Marquis J. McCants, 23
1/325 AIR, 2nd Bde., 82nd Airborne Div.
Spc. Casey W. Nash, 22
1/12 Cav., 3rd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Spc. Joshua G. Romero, 19
1/12 Cav., 3rd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.

May 19, 2007

Spc. David W. Behrle, 20
1/5 Cav., 2nd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Cpl. Ryan D. Collins, 20
1/501 PIR, 4th Bde., 25th Inf. Div.
Spc. Joseph A. Gilmore, 26
1/5 Cav., 2nd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Pfc. Travis F. Haslip, 20
1/5 Cav., 2nd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Sgt. Jean P. Medlin, 27
1/5 Cav., 2nd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Staff Sgt. Christopher More, 28
1/5 Cav., 2nd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Sgt. Jason A. Schumann, 23
3/89 Cav., 2nd Bde., 10th Mountain Div.
Pfc. Alexander R. Varela, 19
1/5 Cav., 2nd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Sgt. Justin D. Wisniewski, 22
2/15 FA, 2nd Bde., 10th Mountain Div.

May 21, 2007

Sgt. Brian D. Ardron, 32
425th BSB, 4th Bde., 25th Inf. Div.
Spc. Michael W. Davis, 22
425th BSB, 4th Bde., 25th Inf. Div.
Staff Sgt. Shannon V. Weaver, 28
425th BSB, 4th Bde., 25th Inf. Div.

May 22, 2007

Cpl. Jeremy Brookes, 28
4th Bn., The Rifles
Lance Cpl. Benjamin D. Desilets, 21
3/10 Mar. Regt., 2nd Mar. Div., 2nd MEF
Staff Sgt. Kristopher A. Higdon, 25
4/9 Inf., 4th Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.
Staff Sgt. David C. Kuehl, 27

4/9 Inf., 4th Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.
Sgt. Robert J. Montgomery Jr., 29
1/40 Cav., 4th Bde., 25th Inf. Div.
Pvt. Oscar Saucedo Jr., 21
1/28 Inf., 4th Bde., 1st Inf. Div.

Cpl. Julian M. Woodall, 21
3/10 Mar. Regt., 2nd Mar. Div., 2nd MEF
Pfc. Robert A. Worthington, 19
4/9 Inf., 4th Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.

May 23, 2007

Staff Sgt. Steve Butcher Jr., 27
3/69 AR, 1st Bde., 3rd Inf. Div.
Pfc. Daniel P. Cagle, 22
3/69 AR, 1st Bde., 3rd Inf. Div.
Cpl. Victor Toledo Pulido, 22
3/1 Cav., 3rd Bde., 3rd Inf. Div.
Cpl. Jonathan D. Winterbottom, 21
3/1 Cav., 3rd Bde., 3rd Inf. Div.

May 24, 2007

Spc. Benjamin J. Ashley, 22
1/5 FA, 1st Bde., 1st Inf. Div.
Spc. Mark R.C. Caguioa, 21
1/5 Cav., 2nd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Pfc. Robert H. Dembowski, 20
1/504 PIR, 1st Bde., 82nd Airborne Div.
Sgt. 1st Class Robert E. Dunham, 36
1st Bde. Trans. Team, 4th Bde., 1st Inf. Div.
Staff Sgt. Russell K. Shoemaker, 31
1st Bde. Trans. Team, 4th Bde., 1st Inf. Div.
Sgt. Iosiwo Uruo, 27
1/14 Cav., 3rd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.
Pfc. Casey P. Zylman, 22
3/4 Cav., 3rd Bde., 25th Inf. Div.

May 25, 2007

Pvt. William L. Bailey III, 29
755th Chem. Recon./Decon. Co.
Spc. Mathew P. LaForest, 21
4/9 Inf., 4th Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.
Lance Cpl. David P. Lindsey, 20
3/6 Mar. Regt., 2nd Mar. Div., 2nd MEF
Spc. Alexander Rosa Jr., 22
3rd MP Bn.

May 26, 2007

Spc. Clinton C. Blodgett, 19
1/18 Inf., 2nd Bde., 1st Inf. Div.
Sgt. Clayton G. Dunn II, 22
2/505 PIR, 3rd Bde., 82nd Airborne Div.
Pfc. Charles B. Hester, 23
2/3 Inf., 3rd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.
Spc. Michael J. Jaurigue, 20
2/505 PIR, 3rd Bde., 82nd Airborne Div.
Spc. Gregory N. Millard, 22
2/505 PIR, 3rd Bde., 82nd Airborne Div.
Spc. Erich S. Smallwood, 23
875th Eng. Bn.
Spc. Francis M. Trussel Jr., 21
1/12 Cav., 3rd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.

GREATE HATH N THAN TH A MAN LA HIS LIFE FRIE JOHN

Sgt. Nicholas
1st REcon Bn., 1st I

May 27

Lance Cpl. Emma
1/11 Mar. Regt., 15

May 28

Spc. Alexandre
6/9 Cav., 3rd B
Cpl. Zachary
6/9 Cav., 3rd B
Chief Warrant Officer T
2/6 Cav., 25th C
Sgt. Anthony
6/9 Cav., 3rd B
1st Lt. Keith N.
2/6 Cav., 25th C
Staff Sgt. Thoma
1/38 Inf., 4th B
Pfc. Junior Cede
1/38 Inf., 4th B
Cpl. James E. S
6/9 Cav., 3rd B
1st Lt. Kile
6/9 Cav., 3rd B

May 29

Sgt. Richard
2/14 Inf., 2nd Bde.,
Pfc. Robert A
2/69 AR, 3rd B
Cpl. Jonathan A
6/9 Cav., 3rd B
Spc. Doonew
2/5 Cav., 1st B

May 30

Sgt. Bacilio E
1/18 Inf., 2nd B
Spc. James E
1/18 Inf., 2nd B
Pfc. Joshua M
1/18 Inf., 2nd B

May 31

Pfc. Matthew
2/12 Inf., 2nd B

MORIAM

MEMBERS WHO DIED WHILE SERVING IN
BETWEEN MAY 16 AND JUNE 15, 2007

ER LOVE
NO MAN
HIS: THAT
AY DOWN
FOR HIS
NDS.
15:13

R. Walsh, 27
Mar. Div., 1st MEF

7, 2007
Manuel Villareal, 21
3rd MEU, 1st MEF

3, 2007
A. Alexeev, 23
de., 1st Cav. Div.
D. Baker, 24
de., 1st Cav. Div.
Theodore U. Church, 32
AB, 25th Inf. Div.
D. Ewing, 22
de., 1st Cav. Div.
Heidtman, 24
AB, 25th Inf. Div.
as M. McFall, 36
de., 2nd Inf. Div.
eno Sanchez, 20
de., 2nd Inf. Div.
ummers III, 21
de., 1st Cav. Div.
G. West, 23
de., 1st Cav. Div.

), 2007
V. Correa, 25
10th Mountain Div.
A. Liggett, 23
de., 3rd Inf. Div.
A. Markham, 22
de., 1st Cav. Div.
ey White, 26
de., 1st Cav. Div.

), 2007
E. Cuellar, 24
de., 1st Inf. Div.
E. Lundin, 20
de., 1st Inf. Div.
M. Moore, 20
de., 1st Inf. Div.

), 2007
E. Baylis, 20
de., 2nd Inf. Div.

Pfc. Matthew A. Bean, 22
2/15 FA, 2nd Bde., 10th Mountain Div.
Sgt. Chadrick O. Domino, 23
1/23 Inf., 3rd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.

June 1, 2007
Staff Sgt. Travis W. Atkins, 31
2/14 Inf., 2nd Bde., 10th Mountain Div.
Staff Sgt. Juan F. Campos, 27
1/26 Inf., 2nd Bde., 1st Inf. Div.
Sgt. Bruce E. Horner, 43
709th MP Bn., 18th MP Bde.

June 2, 2007
Spc. Romel Catalan, 21
1/23 Inf., 3rd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.
Spc. Jeremiah D. Costello, 22
5/82 FA, 4th Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Spc. William J. Crouch, 21
2/1 Cav., 4th Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.
Sgt. Dariek E. Dehn, 32
6/9 Cav., 3rd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Sgt. Shawn E. Dressler, 22
1/18 Inf., 2nd Bde., 1st Inf. Div.
Spc. Keith V. Nesper, 21
5/82 FA, 4th Bde., 1st Cav. Div.

June 3, 2007
Sgt. James C. Akin, 23
1/37 FA, 3rd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.
Pfc. Joshua D. Brown, 26
1/18 Inf., 2nd Bde., 1st Inf. Div.
Sgt. Caleb P. Christopher, 25
1/8 Cav., 2nd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Staff Sgt. Greg P. Gagarin, 38
1/37 FA, 3rd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.
Sgt. Tyler J. Kritz, 21
1/37 FA, 3rd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.
Sgt. Robert A. Surber, 24
1/37 FA, 3rd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.
Sgt. Kimel L. Watt, 21
1/7 FA, 2nd Bde., 1st Inf. Div.

June 5, 2007
Tech Sgt. Ryan A. Balmer, 33
AF Office of Special Investigations
Sgt. Andrew J. Higgins, 28
5/20 Inf., 3rd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.
Staff Sgt. Matthew J. Kuglics, 25
AF Office of Special Investigations
Pfc. Justin A. Verdeja, 20
2/12 Inf., 2nd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.

June 6, 2007
Staff Sgt. Timothy B. Cole Jr., 28
5/73 Cav., 3rd Bde., 82nd Airborne Div.
Pfc. Shawn D. Gajdos, 25
2/16 Inf., 4th Bde., 1st Inf. Div.
Sgt. Matthew Soper, 25
1461st Trans. Co.
Sgt. 1st Class Greg L. Sutton, 38
212th MiTT, 1st Bde., 1st Inf. Div.

June 7, 2007
Senior Airman William N. Newman, 23
15th Civil Eng. Sqd.
Cpl. Rodney Wilson, 30
4th Bn., The Rifles

June 9, 2007
Sgt. Cory M. Endlich, 23
2/1 Cav., 4th Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.
Cpl. Meresebang Ngiraked, 21
5/5 ADA

June 10, 2007
Airman 1st Class Eric M. Barnes, 20
90th Log. Readiness Sqd.
Cpl. Llythaniele Fender, 21
5/5 ADA
Spc. Adam G. Herold, 23
2/37 PIR, 4th Bde., 25th Inf. Div.
Staff Sgt. Brian M. Long, 32
2/3 Inf., 3rd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.

June 11, 2007
Pfc. Cameron Payne, 22
2/16 Inf., 4th Bde., 1st Inf. Div.

June 12, 2007
Pvt. William C. Johnston, 22
1/4 Cav., 4th Bde., 1st Inf. Div.
Spc. Damon G. LeGrand, 27
504th MP Bn., 42nd MP Bde.
Lance Cpl. Johnny R. Strong, 21
2/7 Mar. Regt., 1st Mar. Div., 1st MEF

June 13, 2007
Pfc. Casey S. Carriker, 20
2/35 Inf., 3rd Bde., 25th Inf. Div.

June 14, 2007
Staff Sgt. Michael A. Bechert, 24
1/18 Inf., 2nd Bde., 1st Inf. Div.
Spc. Val J. Borm, 21
2/35 Inf., 3rd Bde., 25th Inf. Div.
Cpl. Dustin R. Brisky, 26
92nd Eng. Bn., 3rd Sustainment Bde., 3rd Inf. Div.
Spc. Farid Elazzouzi, 26
2/35 Inf., 3rd Bde., 25th Inf. Div.
Spc. Josiah W. Hollopeter, 27
6/9 Cav., 3rd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Sgt. Richard K. Parker, 26
1/152 FA
Sgt. Derek T. Roberts, 24
2/35 Inf., 3rd Bde., 25th Inf. Div.

June 15, 2007
Pfc. Michael P. Pittman, 34
1/4 Cav., 4th Bde., 1st Inf. Div.
Maj. Kevin H. Sonnenberg, 42
112th Fighter Sqd.

