



IRONHORSEMAN

June 2009 Volume 2, Issue 4



Partnership



الله أكبر



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ON THE COVER



Raywick, Ky. Native Sgt. Cedar Smith, a route clearance instructor for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st "Centurions" Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, assists an Iraqi Soldier with his battle stance May 10. The 'Centurions' trained Iraqi Soldiers at the 11th Iraqi Army Division Headquarters the proper route clearance procedures.

The History of the 1st Cavalry Division Patch

The patch of the 1st Cavalry Division has a history as colorful as its design, reflecting the proud heritage of the United States Cavalry in a timeless manner.

The insignia selected for the First Team patch was designed by Colonel and Mrs. Ben Dorcy. The colonel was then commander of the 7th Cavalry Regiment at Fort Bliss, Texas. Mrs. Dorcy related that the combination of the golden sunset at Fort Bliss and the traditional colors of the Cavalry: blue and yellow, were a great influence on the background color and the insignia. The choice of the horse's head for the insignia was made by the family after they observed a mounted trooper ride by their home on a beautiful blue-black thoroughbred.

Later, to improve visibility, the color scheme was modified replacing the blue with black, the symbolic color of iron and armor. On a sunset yellow triangular Norman Shield with rounded corners 5 ¼ inches in height, a black diagonal stripe extends over the shield from upper left to the lower right. In the upper right, a black horse's head cut off diagonally at the neck, appears within 1/8 inches of an Army Green border. The traditional Cavalry color of yellow and the horse's head is symbolic of the original organizational structure of the Cavalry. The color black is symbolic of iron, alluding to the organizational transition from mounted horses to tanks and heavy armor. The black stripe, in heraldry termed a Sable Bend, represents a baldric (a standard Army issue belt worn over the right shoulder to the opposite hip sometimes referred to as a Sam Browne belt) which retains either a scabbard which sheaths the trooper's saber or revolver holster.

During the Vietnam engagements, the sunset yellow field of the patch was changed to a subdued Olive Drab (OD) green for the Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) in order to minimize targeting of personnel. For current operations, the field of the patch was again changed to a foliage green color and the emblazoned, Sable black charge element remained black for contrast. The sunset yellow / black patch is retained for Class A dress uniform. Otherwise, the patch has not changed from the original design and shape.

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The **Ironhorseman** welcomes columns, commentaries, articles, letters and photos from readers. Submissions should be sent to the BCT Public Affairs office at

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From the desk of Col. Tobin Green

Fighting with bricks and bread



Troopers in the Ironhorse BCT can use a weapon when they need to. They are well trained, sure in their aim, skilled in their warrior tasks, and confident in their abilities and their leadership. But in this type of conflict, excellence in traditional war fighting tasks is a necessary but insufficient means to defeat our enemies. To win in Iraq, units must be good at both lethal and non-lethal operations.

The term non-lethal operations describes a host of activities the BCT performs every day, but these activities did not make up much of our training prior to deployment. Non-lethal operations include key leader engagements with Iraqi military, governmental, tribal, business, and community persons of interest. Non-lethal operations cover all types of communications – such as information operations to shape public perceptions, psychological operations to influence the enemy, and command messages to ensure Troopers are fully informed. Non-lethal operations include claims from civilians, and rewards for tips from informants or for weapons buy-back programs. And certainly not least, non-lethal operations capture all of the money we use to help rebuild the country, provide the Iraqi people with basic needs, and improve their quality of life. If we want to achieve sustainable security in Iraq, we must create the conditions where Iraqi people conclude that their future will be better if aligned with the Coalition, Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and Government of Iraq (GoI) – and aligned against the terrorists or militias. Money is a big part of that effort – because money translates into increased public access to essential services and employment opportunities for military aged males who need to support their families.

The projects that Ironhorse Troopers take part in contribute not only to the economic progress of the city, but also to the security situation as well. For example, the soccer facility that CPT Johnny Ulsamer (Commander, A/2-5 CAV) wants to build just north of JSS Ur will attract local children and families, but it will also bring new small businesses (such as a soda and snack stand, as well as sports merchandisers) to that area. Upon completion of the project, sports teams from across Baghdad and kids from surrounding local neighborhoods will regularly use the field to play soccer and socialize. Moreover, a groundskeeper hired by the belladiyat will care for the field, bleachers, and facility buildings. The net effect of these activities will achieve enemy “terrain denial,” because the interests of the Iraqi people in the new field will prevent insurgents from using this lot as a place to launch indirect fire attacks against Coalition Force bases. Hence, the soccer field project actually has security, social, and economic components – all with benefits for the community and Soldiers. Projects are also cost effective weapons in a counter-insurgency fight. The entire cost of this soccer field project is less than the cost of one MRAP vehicle damaged by a rocket attack, and less than the value of one Soldier’s life insurance policy were that Trooper hit by an incoming mortar round.

As another ready example of the positive impact our money has in the environment, one could look at a recent project to replace an expensive piece of equipment at a water pump station in the northern Istiqlal Qada. This pump station provides water to thousands of acres of fields and orchards in the area. The crops and fruit that land produces will employ hundreds of young men who need money to care for their families. By giving these military aged males a meaningful employment alternative, we have denied the terrorists a possible recruiting market for suicide bombers or IED emplacers. My point is that these projects are not just cost effective means to fight the war, they help win hearts and minds, and they make a powerful statement about US forces. Our actions demonstrate that Americans are a far cry from “occupying infidels.” Just the opposite, Coalition Forces always leave an area in better shape than we found it.

Ironhorse Troopers, make no mistake, these non-lethal projects that you develop, resource, and support are directly contributing to the economic revitalization and sustained security of places like Istiqlal, Adah-miya, Rusafa, and Sadr City. All together, these projects directly contribute to the Task Force Ironhorse mission in Iraq.

Continued on Pg 5

From the desk of Col. Tobin Green

Fighting with bricks and bread

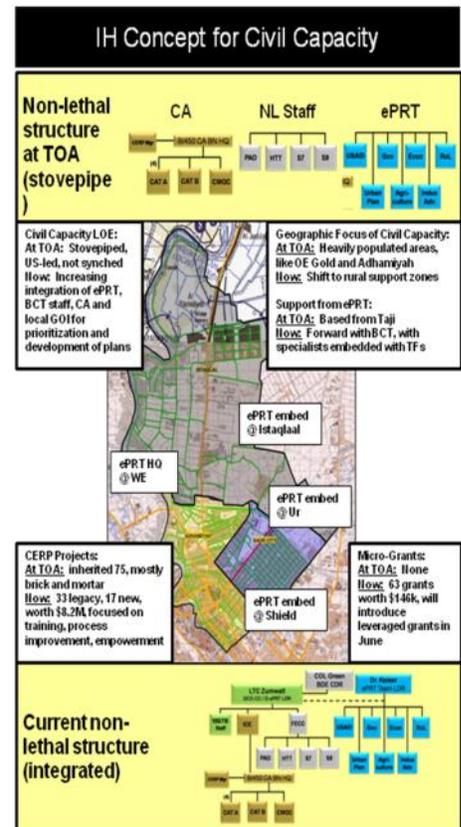
As a result, the Ironhorse Brigade places great importance on non-lethal operations as a whole, and on our Civil Capacity Line of Effort in particular. That importance is reflected both in the way we have structured our brigade to ensure civil capacity receives a lot of attention, and in the practices we have adopted when working in conjunction with Iraqis on projects and reconstruction tasks. What we want to do is create more options and opportunities for Iraqis to join with the Coalition and the Iraqi Security Forces, while rejecting the terrorists and militias. Rather than just using bullets to win the war, we are creating jobs that provide Iraqis with an honorable means to support a family, and we are helping families put food on the table for their children. Together, the combination of lethal and non-lethal operations in the Ironhorse Brigade is the recipe for success in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

CHANGING OUR STRUCTURE

The accompanying chart highlight the structural evolution and maturation of the Ironhorse BCT civil capacity efforts since our TOA (Transfer of Authority) on 21 March.

When 1/1CD first assumed responsibility for this area of Baghdad, the unit initially had a stove-piped organization that did not integrate our civil capacity efforts particularly well. You can see that structure at the top of the slide. Our actions along the civil capacity line of effort were almost entirely US-led, and there was poor synchronization between the BCT and both the ePRT and local Iraqi leaders. Coalition Force projects were focused mostly in the heavily populated areas in the south end of Sadr City and in west Adhamiyah. Moreover, our supporting embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team (ePRT) was, for the most part, working out of Camp Taji rather than living inside Baghdad in order to more easily employ their significant expertise inside the urban areas of the Ironhorse operational environment. Upon our TOA on 21 March, 1/1CD inherited 75 projects from our predecessors (from the 3rd Brigade 4th Infantry Division and 3rd Brigade 82nd Airborne Division) and had to spend several weeks of discovery learning to get our arms around their scope and purpose. Unfortunately, the Ironhorse Brigade had no program in place at TOA to provide “micro-grants” to local businesses (a very common feature of every brigade’s non-lethal operations in this theater), and only a very basic understanding of the mechanisms required to help Iraqi businesses acquire micro-grants. In summary, the brigade began operating in the northwest corner of Baghdad without a full understanding of how to use money to fight the enemy healthy, and with very little momentum in non-lethal operations.

However, the brigade rapidly made a number of key changes to enable our civil capacity line of effort. First of all, we restructured our civil capacity team —reflected at the bottom of the slide — by placing the Brigade’s Special Troops Battalion commander (LTC(P) Maria Zumwalt) in charge of the Ironhorse civil capacity line of effort. Second, our new ePRT leader, Glen Keiser, came on board and moved his team from Taji to JSS War Eagle, to better integrate his personnel with the rest of the BCT staff. Mr. Keiser also embedded his experts with each of the brigade’s three maneuver task forces. This concept of forward support has been a huge benefit for those battalions. Third, the brigade established an Infrastructure Coordination Element, or ICE, to focus on projects for the Iraqi people. The concept of an “ICE” team was an idea passed on to us by the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division as a way to centralize project development in the Ironhorse brigade, in order to improve the quality of projects and accelerate processing of associated paperwork. At present, 1/1CD has 50 projects ongoing, and our companies / troops / batteries have initiated 63 new micro-grants. The structural changes outlined here have enabled our recent success.



Continued on Pg 8

Building trust in the community through partnership

JSS UR, Iraq – The Soldiers of Company D, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division alongside their 3rd Co., 3rd Batt., 4th Bde., 1st National Police Division partners patrol to highlight and

“...The National Police plays a huge role when dealing with the local populace...”

show the local populace the capabilities of the improved and strengthened Iraqi Security Forces.

The “Diablo” Soldiers conduct combined disruption patrols with the local National Policemen in Ur. They knock on doors and greet local business owners to learn information about security concerns and possible enemy activity in the area. “Having the ISF and CF talking to locals is the only way we can get a true understanding of what is happening when

we are not around,” said Los Angeles native 2nd Lt. Kevin Nieto.

“Diablo” conducts all their patrols as a joint effort. “It’s very convenient having the National Police living with us; give them a mission and they’re ready, willing and able,” firmly stated Arlington, Texas native 1st Lt. Thomas Mansfield.

The NPs pull security, direct traffic, or search homes and vehicles in the same manner that the “Diablo” Soldiers do. “The NP plays a

Story By Lt. Kevin Nieto

huge role when dealing with the local populace,” stated Nieto.

Putting the National Police at the front of every patrol has allowed for an increase of community involvement. “People are beginning to trust and rely on ISF throughout the area,” said 1st Lt. Adam Patton, executive officer for “Diablo” Co. “Locals are coming to the NPs to share their concerns; the ISF are truly taking the lead.”

Photos by: Sgt. Shejal Pulivarti



The Free Shot!

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

Q: Why is the internet so expensive?

A: Unlike in the States, where the internet infrastructure is established, we here have to rely on single source contractors. These contractors, because of our remote location, are forced to use satellite services to bring in the internet signal. The must also pay a monthly fee to that satellite network, and pay for all hardware and wiring around the FOB. Coupled with the limited amount of users, this will cause the price to be more than we pay in the states.

Q: Can lines be painted on the soccer field on JSS WarEagle?

A: What soccer field?

Q: Why are Ugandans guarding the DFAC on JSS WarEagle?

A: We put the contract guards on the DFAC doors to provide a more secure environment for troopers to eat in. Since this is a place that has a high concentration of troopers on it, it becomes a target for those that wish us ill will.

Q: Do you believe Soldiers should perform duties within their MOS, especially if there is a shortage for that MOS?

A: I believe troopers are troopers, and perform duties dictated by their superiors as dictated by the unit needs. If everyone stayed specifically within their basic MOS, we would never have the personnel to run the daily life events on the FOB.

Q: Why doesn't the FOB have activities for the Soldiers?

A: The FOBs have regularly scheduled activities for troopers to participate in. They are mostly set up and run by troopers for the benefit of all. The only problem is when an activity or event is scheduled there is very limited participation by troopers on the FOB. If you have an activity you would like to see, the only stopping point from it occurring is your lack of involvement.



Q: What personnel are authorized to wear PTs in the DFAC?

A: According to MNF-I uniform standard, all troopers are authorized to wear PT uniforms in the DFAC as long as they are clean and free from sweat and dirt. This, however, does not make PT uniform the uniforms of the day.

Q: Are reenlistment shirts authorized for wear with the PT uniform?

A: Unit shirts are authorized to wear with the PT uniform. This can be one from your Company or Battalion.

What are YOUR questions for CSM Norman?

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

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

		6			8	2		7
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Easy

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

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

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

Medium

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			1		7		4
8						3	

Hard



FIRST TEAM SAFETY AWARENESS



What actions to take if you find Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)



• After identifying potential UXO, do not move any closer to it. Some types of ordnance have magnetic or motion-sensitive proximity fusing that may detonate when they sense a target. Others may have self-destruct timers built in.

• Do not transmit any radio frequencies in the vicinity of a suspected UXO hazard. Signals transmitted from items such as walkie-talkies, short-wave radios, citizens' band (CB) radios, or other communication and navigation devices may detonate the UXO.

• Do not attempt to remove any object on, attached to, or near a UXO. Some fuses are motion-sensitive, and the UXO may explode.

• Do not move or disturb a UXO because the motion could activate the fuse, causing the UXO to explode.

• If possible, mark the UXO hazard with a standard UXO marker or with other suitable materials, such as engineer tape, colored cloth, or colored ribbon. Attach the marker to an object so that it is about 3 feet off the ground and visible from all approaches. Place the marker no closer than the point where you first recognized the UXO hazard.

• Leave the UXO hazard area.

• Stay away from areas of known or suspected UXO. This is the best way to prevent accidental injury or death.

• A person can lessen the danger of UXO hazards by being able to recognize the hazard and by adhering to the following basic safety guidelines.

• Contact the local Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit ASAP.



CHANGING OUR APPROACH

Of course, the Coalition has been spending money on projects in Iraq for years, in many cases with mixed results. The most vocal criticisms of Coalition projects come from the Iraqis themselves, especially Iraqi government officials with whom we are trying to coordinate our actions. And the most common criticisms from the Iraqis are that the Americans don't know what they are doing, don't communicate well with the Iraqis, and don't ensure get what they are paying for. Each of those criticisms has a kernel of truth. The Coalition Soldiers who are at the point of the spear developing these projects often cannot get access to the engineering expertise they would like to have when developing scopes of work for projects. We also have struggled to synchronize our projects with the projects the Iraqis are doing themselves, and avoid situations such as one when the Coalition spends money to repave a major street, only to have the Iraqis rip up the pavement three weeks later in order to lay new sewer pipes. Perhaps the most challenging reconstruction task for well-meaning Coalition forces has been finding the right contractor for a project. We must use open bidding processes, but even our civil affairs experts have difficulty assessing the abilities and capabilities of various contractors, and the process too often becomes one of trial and error – leaving Iraqis and Americans dissatisfied with the outcome.

As a result of these lessons learned over the years, the Ironhorse BCT is trying something different. Similar to the structural changes described in the preceding section, the BCT endeavored to find a more integrated approach to project nomination and development, with the ePRT, civil affairs teams, and ICE working jointly to bring to fruition projects that would be identified and designed by our Iraqi partners. This fresh approach would both empower local government officials, and result in projects that better reflect the needs and priorities of constituents. To effect this change in approach, 1/1CD is using its leverage (because of the money we bring to pay for a project) to demand more effectiveness from Iraqi governance officials. In essence, the Ironhorse BCT and ePRT are inviting Iraqi officials to join us as partners in prioritizing and developing new projects in a given area, but we are also holding Iraqi officials accountable for the effectiveness of CF projects in their assigned sector, and we are refusing to spend money in areas where the Iraqi officials will not cooperate with one another on these projects. In a nutshell, the Ironhorse strategy involves rewarding effective governance officials with greater access to resources for projects in their area, while denying those resources from ineffective local leaders who will not subordinate self-interest to the needs of their communities.

How do we do it? With some simple rules. In each of the Iraqi governance subdistricts, such as Beladiyahs or Qadas, we are forming "Essential Services Committees" or "Project Working Groups" as the forums to discuss spending on projects. In addition to Coalition membership, we are insisting that all members of Iraqi local governance participate in the working groups. That means the city managers (Qaim Makams), legislative bodies (District Advisory Councils), and executives (Beladiyah Deputy Generals) all must come together to discuss projects. Further, we insist that the Iraqis in these groups reach consensus on prioritizing the needs of their constituents, and presenting that list to the Coalition. Once they agree on prioritized needs of the population, the Coalition next demands that the working group present proposed projects for their area. Again, all have to be in agreement on the recommendation. But project proposals are not enough. These committees must also present the associated scopes of work to accompany their project proposals, as well as a recommended or preferred list of contractors for the Coalition to consult in the bidding process. When all these conditions are met, then the brigade will attempt to support those projects by requesting funds from the Division to get work started. But this approach requires some tough love, because it withholds money to help people until local government officials at least participates in the projects forum. Since the Ironhorse brigade adopted these rules, results have been mixed. Some areas have really embraced the changes and have already produced a large number of project recommendations. Things have slowed in other areas, and officials have not cooperated so well with one another. But it is still early, and we believe this type of interaction -- combining essential services with effective governance -- is the blueprint for the way ahead.

Ironhorse!
Team First!

Toby Green
Ironhorse 6





June 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 National Day of Sweden
7 Flag Day (Peru); Father's Day (Belgium)	8	9	10	11	12 Independence Day (Philippines)	13
14 Flag Day (US); Father's Day; Army B-Day	15 Flag Day (Denmark)	16 Bloomsday	17	18	19 Juneteenth	20 Flag Day (Argentina)
21 Midsummer	22	23	24 Saint Jean-Baptiste Day	25	26 Flag Day (Romania)	27
28	29 IH's 100 day of partnership	30				

'Garryowen' making a difference

Below: After inspecting a burned child, Dayton, Ohio native Pfc. Josh Miracle provided medical supplies and discussed the child's care, while arranging for a follow-up visit by the squadron physician assistant the following day. The boy was discovered during a patrol conducted by Troop C, 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Reiment, 1st Brigade Combat Teeam, 1st Cav. Div. (Photo by Maj. Brian Carlin)



Above: Pfc. Josh Miracle (right), the patrol medic, from Dayton, Ohio, listens as the mother explains that the boy was burned when he fell on the family's gas burner. The burned child was discovered during a patrol on April 30 conducted by Troop C, 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div. (Photo by Maj. Brian Carlin)



Above: The burned child that "Garryowen" medic Pfc. Josh Miracle healed is now without pain and has minimal scarring. (U.S Army Photo by "Garryowen")

'Centurions' conduct Task Force Iron Claw training with Iraqi Army

By Pfc. Bailey Jester

JSS WAREAGLE, Iraq – Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division conducted route clearance training at the 11th Iraqi Army Division Headquarters with the Iraqi Army Soldiers May 10 in Adhamiyah.

In order to ensure the Iraqis have the ability, knowledge and confidence to support their own country, the "Black Knights" platoon of HHC, 1st BSTB, 1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div. took the time to train the Iraqi Army Soldiers, said Waterville, Maine native Spc. Jack Schuchardt, a security and route clearance instructor for the Black Knights.

Schuchardt added that this training is an important step for a positive and successful transfer from American to Iraqi forces.

Working with the Iraqi's has been very rewarding, stated Raywick, Ky. native Sgt. Cedar Smith, a security and route clearance instructor for the Black Knights. Not only do they get to work with them, but they also get to learn about the culture of the Iraqi people.

During the training day the U.S. and Iraqi Soldiers sit and eat in the Iraqi dining facility together,



Soldiers from HHC, 1st BSTB, demonstrate a dismounted security formation May 10. Coalition Forces trained 11th Iraqi Army Soldiers on route clearance procedures at the 11th IA Division Headquarters.

along with participating in arm wrestling matches and games of ping pong.

After lunch, it is time to get back to route clearance exercises and pulling security.

Route clearance teams clear roads of improvised explosive devices or anything that could possibly threaten or harm the mission or personnel, in order to secure the road so that others may use the route to conduct missions and for the safety of the Iraqi people.

This training included many different tasks the IA Soldiers were

"...they have come a long way from when we first started"

required to master. During the training, they worked on clearing routes of IEDs and providing security.

"We start with the basic techniques and formations, and then work up from there," said Smith.

Class began by the students sitting in a U-shape around a whiteboard, where the instructor drew out diagrams that explained how route clearances work. After some discussion and questions, the IA Soldiers performed the tasks learned.

The final exercise was an IED identification lane. On the training site, wires were placed in the middle of the road and imitator IED's under cardboard boxes and piles of rubble for the Iraqi Soldiers to find.

Simulating a convoy, the IA Soldiers put four to five people in a group representing one "vehicle." There were four vehicles in this mission.

Pretending there was a radio mike in their hands, the IA Soldiers were able to practice correct com-

munication techniques, examine areas for possible IEDs and how to contact the proper authorities, the Explosive Ordinance Disposal, in the event it is necessary.

As though there was a real convoy driving down the lanes, the lead group cautiously inched forward and thoroughly scanned the area for any possible IEDs.

During the search a cardboard box, a common hiding place for IEDs, was found and the lead truck slowly started to approach it, and informed the following trucks of what was up ahead.

Driving an invisible Badger, an Iraqi Light Armored Vehicle, over to the site, the Soldiers used a long branch as the mechanical arm, located in the front of the truck, to slowly and carefully remove the cardboard from on top of the IED. The Iraqi Soldiers then cut the command wire of the IED and conducted a secondary sweep of the secured area. Once cleared; the mission continued.

The Iraqi Soldiers successfully cleared the route and disposed of the ordinance properly.

"They still make mistakes," stated Schuchardt, referring to the Iraqi Soldiers, "but they have come a long way from when we first started."



Raywick, Ky. native Sgt. Cedar Smith, a route clearance instructor, congratulates one of the Iraqi Soldiers on successfully completing a hard day of work May 10. The "Black Knights" platoon trained the 11th IA Soldiers at their headquarters on proper route clearance procedures.

 **Familiar Faces** 



Joint patrols build confidence, trust

Story and Photos by Sgt. Shejal Pulivarti

JSS ISTIQLAAL, Iraq-Soldiers from Company A “Warriors”, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division and 3rd Battalion, 144th Brigade, 11th Iraqi Army Division continued to march as they wiped the sweat from their brows during a joint patrol in Hamandiyah May 14.

Now in the transition phase of the security agreement, Coalition Forces operate hand-in-hand with the Government of Iraq (GoI) and Iraqi Security Forces (ISF). All missions are joint efforts between Coalition Forces and ISF in an effort to better equip the ISF with all necessary knowledge, training, and experience as well provide a safe, stable and more secure Iraq in accordance with the security agreement.

Joint patrols are an everyday routine for the “Warriors” and the ISF.

“We don’t do a patrol without them,” stated Lynchburg, Va. native 1st Lt. Joshua Vandegriff, platoon leader for Co.A.

“Everything we do is done with them.”

The “Warriors” and the ISF meet before every patrol to discuss proper tactics and techniques used during tactical operations. The meetings also give Coalition Forces and ISF the opportunity to discuss goals for the patrol, recent activity in the area, and tips provided by people in the community.

During the May 14 patrol, joint forces walked through the community and talked with citizens to inquire about suspicious behavior in the community. The IA also chose to visit a home in the neighborhood in an effort to obtain information on possible extremist activity in the area.

“Our counterparts are taking all the right

steps. It’s good to see that they are aggressive and proactive in their missions and getting the bad guys off the street to make their community a better place for the Iraqis to live,” Vandegriff said proudly.

Most patrols are routine, designed to show a presence and ensure the security of the community. The IA often follow-up on tips provided by sources in the community, speak with citizens of the community, and work to build friendship and bolster support.

This last month before we officially and completely hand everything over to the Iraqi Security Forces is crucial, said Vandegriff. The steps we take right now, to ensure they have all the training they need, will set our counterparts up for success in the future, when it is completely up to them.

“They have taken the reigns. They beat the streets everyday; knock on doors, talk to the people in the community and gain the trust of local nationals to build relations to convey they are protecting the area,” said Vandegriff.



An Iraqi Soldier from the 3rd Battalion, 44th Brigade, 11th Iraqi Army Division pulls security during a joint dismounted disruption patrol in Hamandiyah May 14.

'Ironhorse' troopers react, learn



Phoenix, Ariz. Native Staff Sgt. Bryan Champion, psychological operations planner for 1st "Ironhorse" Brigade Combat Team, takes a "casualty" during a mass casualty exercise May 22. The exercise is part of a training program designed by brigade medical personnel in an effort to ensure all Soldiers are capable of treating wounds and reacting to attacks. (Photo by Justin Carmack)



Phoenix, Ariz. Native Staff Sgt. Bryan Champion, psychological operations planner for 1st "Ironhorse" Brigade Combat Team, takes a "casualty" during a mass casualty exercise May 22. The exercise is part of a training program designed by brigade medical personnel in an effort to ensure all Soldiers are capable of treating wounds and reacting to attacks. (Photo by Justin Carmack)



Columbia, S.C. native Cpl. Jose Guzman, a medic for 115th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div. evaluates a "casualty" during a mass casualty training exercise May 22. The exercise is part of the brigade's ongoing effort to train and evaluate medics and Soldiers in the event of an attack. (Photo by Justin Carmack)



Spc. Amanda Pavao, a medic for 115th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div., applies a bandage to a player during a mass casualty training exercise May 22. The exercise assisted medical professionals in evaluating the strengths and shortcomings that may present problems in the event of an attack. (Photo by Justin Carmack)



Men of steel

Garryowen's welders help build success

Story and photos by 2nd Lt. Josh Risher

JSS ISTIALAAL, Iraq — Metalworkers have long been associated with Cavalry troops. In the days of mounted horse Cavalry, farriers were always on hand at encampments to keep the horses shod. Blacksmiths were also necessary for making the shoes and repairing other iron and steel implements. While you won't hear too many anvils ringing from hammer strikes or smell sulfur from blistering forges these days, the important trade has been carried on by modern welders.

Sgt. Nathan Henderson and Spc. Antonio Quebatay welders for the 1st "Garryowen" Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division have filled the role of modern-day blacksmiths and farriers, playing an integral role in the maintenance process of equipment. They spend their days cutting and welding in an effort to fix equipment quickly and properly. If a vehicle is dead lined due to damage, such as a blown radiator or a warped door hinge, the welders use up-to-date techniques to make the repair.

The methods used for making repairs are significantly different than those used in days past. Forging and shaping metals can now be accomplished with machinery. Electrically powered bench grinders are now used to wear away metal and polish rough edges. Rather than joining two separate pieces with heat and pressure from fire and hammer blows, an electrical arc welder can place metal to fill gaps without making direct contact. A variety of gases for torches, and varying alloys of steel and aluminum are used for different projects. Welding is a skill that demands

both art and science.

Henderson and Quebatay aren't bound to just repairing vehicles. They use their creativity for other functional projects as well.

Sgt. 1st Class Scott Wilkes, the non-commissioned officer in charge for communication's section approached them with a new project aimed at relocating much needed communications equipment. The signal technology that powers the radios and computer networks was located outside instead of in the building where it was most needed. Most of the squadron's communications equipment operated from two track vehicles parked near the Tactical Operations Center (TOC). The equipment's location made it difficult to maintain, and vulnerable to extreme tem-

"...I really enjoy the work..."

peratures.

Wilkes had the idea to put build a cart that could house the same systems typically operated from the track vehicles. After some discussion between Henderson, Quebatay, the Squadron Signal Officer and noncommissioned officers from the communications shop, a design emerged for their "TOC-in-a box".

Henderson and Quebatay took time to make minor adjustments during the week-long process of building the cart. The Squadron's radios, amplifiers, and network systems are now stored on the cart, which is located inside of the TOC. The communications equipment is easier to maintain, and protected from the elements.

The duo has proven they can make just about anything if the need arises. This tour, they have built equipment used for a variety of purposes. They built a new guidon stand for the squadron, several racks for holding body armor, helmets, and shelves used to store equipment in the maintenance yard. They even used steel drums to create a few barbecue grills. Currently they are building a rolling medical supply cart for the squadron aid station, and an extension for a communications tower designed to boost signal strength.

You might say welding is in Hender-



Globe, Ariz. Native Sgt. Nathan Henderson, a welder for Troop D, 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st BCT cuts warped steel away from a "flat rack" cargo frame in an effort to replace weak metal in Istiqlaal. The flat rack recently damaged during the transport of nine-ton concrete barriers.

son's blood. Both his father and a brother are welders. While growing up in Globe, Ariz. his father and an older friend introduced him to welding. He continued with the trade, taking high school and college classes, and earning a number of professional certifications. Henderson even worked as a welder for several businesses, including Phelps-Dodge Mining, before joining the Army.

He has been welding for eighteen years now, seven of them as a Soldier. His experiences have taught him that you can learn from anyone. Experienced co-workers have taught him individual techniques and special tricks of the trade. However, his dad has been the greatest teacher.

Henderson's assistant, Quebatay, never welded before leaving his hometown of Honolulu, Hawaii to join the Army. He learned through 15 weeks of classes and eight-hour days in the workshop during his Advanced Individual Training at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. His experience since has earned him the respect and confidence of his supervisor and other leaders in the squadron.

"He comes up with some good designs," explained Henderson.

The Squadron's battle rhythm has kept both men busy. "It is fun," says Henderson. "I really enjoy the work. It's always good if you can have fun on the clock."



Spc. Antonio Quebatay and Sgt. Nathan Henderson of Troop D complete an existing communications tower project in Istiqlaal May 14. The welders often repair vehicles, but also build or repair other equipment requested through work orders.

Peace through projects in Sadr City

Story and Photos by Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell

JSS SADR CITY, Iraq- At an Iraqi Army base in Sadr City, 302 civil project workers (CPW) readied themselves and put on fresh clothes for their monthly pay day, May 28.

The project, funded by 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, paid out about \$100,000 to the local national workers of the Jamilla neighborhood, here, said Sgt. 1st Class Kurt Blankenship, from San Antonio, Fla. Each CPW earns about \$300 a month.

"It's a win-win situation," continued Blankenship, an infantryman and operations noncommissioned officer assigned to the battalion's Joint Operations Cell. "We're providing jobs for local nationals and we're also having them clean up their own areas while at the same time, we're getting tips and leads."

The CPW clean up their neighborhoods and help out with security by functioning as a neighborhood watch, explained Sgt. 1st Class Marc Dixon, a tanker platoon sergeant, assigned to Company B, 2nd Bn., 5th Cav. Regt., 1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div.

"To help Coalition forces, they man various checkpoints throughout their neighborhoods, or muhallas," said Dixon, from Killeen, Texas. "As

they man their checkpoints they are the eyes and ears for Coalition forces. When we conduct patrols throughout the day or night, we stop off at the checkpoints and they'll inform us if there's any suspicious activity and they'll also let their local Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police know if there's anything suspicious going on."

According to Dixon, the CPW program has been a success and one of the main reasons there has been a drastic decrease in violence in the area.

"It keeps [the locals] doing something positive for their community, for themselves and for their families," said Dixon as his B Co. Sol-

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

diers pulled security for the pay day event. "If we offer them good jobs, it keeps them off the streets, plus it lets them see us, as Americans, not being the bad guys. That we're in their country trying to help them earn that respect and responsibility while we're here."

A table was set up and manned by a local sheik and Soldiers as the Iraqi workers queued up outside with their identification cards waiting to be paid for the month.

"We worked hard and earned the money by helping security and helping clean the community up," said Shaykh Mohammed Ali Mutar, a contracting officer for the local CPW. The contracting officer supplies the CPW workers with food while on guard and other equipment they need to perform their duties, said Blankenship.

According to Mohammed, during the past month, the vigilant workers have reported on suspicious people, reported improvised explosive devices, found caches and reported

on high-value targets.

"If they're not watching out for the neighborhood, they're cleaning up, picking up trash and making sure their area is squared away," said a charismatic Dixon. He also commented on the large improvements his Soldiers have seen in the area regarding litter.

"It gives them responsibility," continued Dixon. "Instead of carrying a weapon...the broom symbolizes that right now, it's time to clean up their areas...to show their neighbors it's time to pick up the community and raise ourselves back up to where we were."

"I'm not saying that these guys are perfect," explained Blankenship. "But I'll tell you, the majority of them want to help, they want to be there to help you and they want to be right beside us on patrol if they could."

However, these local nationals have opted to perform neighborhood security in a more peaceful capacity.

"Instead of carrying weapons," said Blankenship. "They're manned with brooms and shovels."

But, those aren't their only tools, these CPW workers are also armed with their eyes and ears and now, their pride.



There were lots of smiles during a civil project worker pay day event in Sadr City May 28 as Bethlehem, N.Y. native Spc. Alex Kudlack, team leader for Co. B, 2nd Batt., 5th Cav. Regt. Provides security. The civil project workers are tasked to clean up the area



Pvt. Zachary Goff, an infantryman from Madison, Ala., jokes around while Iraqi civil project workers line up during pay day event at an Iraqi Army base in Sadr City May 28. "I try to get to know the people; I'm here so I might as well," said Goff, who's on his first deployment.



IRONHORSEMAN