



*The Arrowhead Brigade*

# ONPOINT



# NOTES FROM ARROWHEAD 6 AND 7

Dear Family and Friends of the Arrowhead Brigade,

Greetings once again from the garden spot of Diyala, Iraq, or as we like to call it, home...for now. Previous updates have focused on team accomplishments, and rightly so. None of us succeeds without a team-oriented approach to problem solving. However, it is also true that any successful team is made up of immensely talented and dedicated individuals. So let us take an opportunity to recognize some of the Soldiers and leaders who make our teams so strong. This month's update will focus on the personal achievements of your Arrowhead Soldiers.

But first, as always, the weather. We had our first real "cold spell" in January. It only lasted a few days, but we noticed it. A few nights dipped down into the 30s (with wind chill, it felt like the 20s). High winds and dust combined to keep the days well below 60. It appears to have passed, and we are now back to mild weather. By the way, there's still not enough rain to write home about... so we won't. Let's get to the focus of this update – your heroes.

**Marne Heroes of the North.** Since November, our higher headquarters has been the Third Infantry Division, known as the "Rock of the Marne" for its exploits in WWI. The Division regularly chooses a Marne Hero of the North from among the 22,000 Soldiers serving under its command. This award recognizes those Soldiers who go above and beyond the expected standards, who truly represent the best we have to offer. So far, 15 of your Arrowhead Soldiers have earned this honor, more than any other unit in US Division-North. From the Patriots we have SPC Barten Howard, SPC Danny Cooper, and SPC Nicholas Smith. From Sykes' Regulars is SGT Mario Huerta-Morales. The Tomahawk heroes include SGG Gabriel Troll-

inger, SPC Andrew Carlile, CPL (now SGT) Vladimir Mathurin, and SPC Stephan Stothers. Warhorse Heroes were PFC Sean Stolfi and SPC William Freidberg. The Red Lions' Hero was SPC Hezekiah McRae. Task Force Frontline heroes include SPC Bonnie Tarpley (334 Signal Co), SPC Courtney Clarke, SPC Ali Tanveer, and SPC Mary Collins.



Col. David Funk

**NCO and Soldier of the Quarter.** Among the Army's best traditions are the competitions designed to recognize the best NCO and Soldier in the unit. The Tomahawk Battalion winners were SGT Steven Rea and SPC Jason Ratlif. From the battalion level they competed against their counterparts across the brigade – six battalions in all – and again they came out on top. Most recently, these two superb Soldiers competed in the Marne Division-level competition, which they also won. Think about that. Two Tomahawk Soldiers were selected as the best of 22,000 in the division. What an amazing accomplishment!

**Sergeant Audie Murphy Club.** This competition is unique to the Marne Division. It is devoted to the

memory of one of the Marne Division's (and America's) most famous and beloved Soldiers – Medal of Honor recipient Audie Murphy. As you might expect, the standards for inclusion in this club are high. Candidates go through a grueling, two-hour board, during which they must excel at everything from uniform and gear inspections, to a seemingly endless barrage of questions about military history, customs and courtesies, the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and leadership. When the Division CSM recently held a competition here at FOB Warhorse, there were six worthy candidates. However, when the smoke had cleared, only one NCO stood victorious. Congratulations to SSG Joseph Spicer from 1-14 CAV, the newest member of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club.

**Master Sergeant Promotions.** One of the toughest cuts to make in the NCO Corps is promotion to Master Sergeant (E8). This is the rank from which we draw our company First Sergeants, arguably the most important NCO position in our Army. These are the Army's chosen senior leaders. When the recent Army list was announced we were thrilled to see 11 Arrowhead leaders had made the cut. From the Patriots comes Fred Tucker. Sykes' Regulars added Aron Alexander. The Red Lions had two selected: Jerome Koehler and Tang Smith. From Task Force Frontline comes Otis Lawrence, Richard Stickell, and Jason Fortenberry (334 Signal Company). Finally, from the brigade's headquarters company we add Christopher Curfman, Jeanine Lewis, Daniel Ogawa, and Gabriel Sapien. Congratulations to all.

**Battlefield Promotions.** Our Army has made the superb decision during this war is to reinstitute the custom of battlefield promotions. This program allows unit commanders to recommend

their strongest performers for early promotion to the next rank. These promotions are not approved lightly. To be eligible, Soldiers must clearly be operating at a higher level than their current rank, and they must be excelling in all ways. The final approval rests at the level of a four-star General. As of December, we have had five Arrowhead Soldiers receive battlefield promotions to the ranks indicated. From the Patriots: SGT Paul Phelps, SPC Michael Stone, and SPC Casey Robertson. From Sykes' Regulars – SSG John Edmisten; and from the Red Lions – SGT Steven Smith. Congratulations to all these outstanding Warriors.

#### **Naturalization Ceremony.**

Among the most inspiring things we have witnessed during this tour is the Naturalization Ceremony held at the Al Faw Palace in Baghdad on 11 November. There we watched more than 300 US Army Soldiers swear an oath of allegiance to our nation, thereby completing the journey to US citizenship. This ceremony was the culmination of a long journey for these men and women. It was all the more special because two of the Soldiers who raised their right hand that day were Arrowhead heroes: SSG Jesse Ayin from the Patriots, and SPC Juitan Huang from Sykes' Regulars. These two men have served our nation proudly and selflessly as US Army Soldiers. They have done this without the benefits of citizenship that most of us take for granted. Now that is changed. Congratulations to them and their Families.

**Company Changes of Command and Responsibility.** It is said that the only constant in life is change. Thus it is in the Army. As of 1 Feb, we will have conducted 25 company changes of command or ISG responsibility since our arrival in Diyala. Hold on tight. Whether we list these chronologically or by unit, it will still be con-

fusing, so here goes. The Patriots saw CPT Don Kanase take the reins of B Co from Andy Pesature while CPT Joe Wells took C Co from Chris Hallows. Sykes' Regulars switched ISG Thomas Pickerel (C/52 IN to B Co) and ISG Joseph Martinez (B Co to C/52). Great to keep them both on the team. Meanwhile, CPT Drew Marsh took command of C/52 from Ryan Case. Ryan



Command Sgt. Maj. Alan Bjerke

then moved over to take A Co from Joel Ellison. In turn, Joel moved to HHC to replace Josh Brandon, who then took B Co from Pete Casterline. Finally, CPT Preston Aaron took the reins of C Co from Andy Benson. The Tomahawks had a few changes too. CPT Mark Pemberton recently took command of A Co from Ryan Reichert, and CPT Nick McDermott took HHC from JM Phillips. JM will take a line company in the near future. Are you still with us? Hang on...we're not done yet.

Warhorse saw CPT Rich Dempsey take command of B Trp from Clint Tisserand while CPT Nick Shallcross took A Trp from Greg Jenemann, CPT Brian Wong took HHT from Damon Armeni, and CPT Ken Quail took com-

mand of C Trp from Bob Cornelius. Finally, ISG Sean Jordan assumed responsibility of D Trp from ISG Louie Barlolong. Over in the Red Lion Battalion, CPT Chris Incremona took command of C Bty from Chuck Noll, and this coming week, CPT Rick Helton will take A Bty from Jimmy Archange. Finally we have a few changes in Frontline. Back in September Kai Hawkins took command of HHC from Preston Aaron. Just last week, ISG Mickey Robinson took responsibility for the same company from ISG Calvin Davis. In October, CPT Luis Quinterorivera took A Co from Jon Cheek. This week we will see ISG Calvin Davis assume responsibility for that company from ISG Pang Shen. In November CPT Will Bryson took B Co from Octavia Davis. This month, MAJ Sam Jungman took C Co from Fred Terrado. And finally, ISG Paul Davis recently assumed responsibility for 334 Signal Co from ISG Robert Warren. Now you can take a deep breath... we're done.

Congratulations to all those who have assumed new leadership responsibilities in the Army's most powerful brigade. And thanks to those great leaders who have taken us this far. They will continue to serve the Army and our nation with distinction.

Well, this is a wrap on the January update. I hope you are as proud of your Arrowhead Soldiers as we are. With Soldiers like these, it is no wonder this brigade is so powerful. Thanks to all of you for your continued love and support. Until next month we are humbly...

## **Arrowhead 6 and 7**

### **ARROWHEAD**

### **SECOND TO NONE**

### **AMERICA'S CORPS!**

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Staff Sergeant Tony Springer, a vehicle commander for 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, covers himself from debris as a helicopter takes off behind his Stryker. (US Army photo by Pvt. Zachary Zuber)

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The ON POINT is a command information magazine authorized for members of the U.S. Army and the 3-2 SBCT community. Contents of the ON POINT are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or Department of the Army. The editorial content of the magazine is the responsibility of the 3-2 SBCT Public Affairs Office.

The ON POINT is prepared monthly by the 3-2 SBCT Public Affairs Office, which includes Soldiers of the 135th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment. Any story or photo submission should be forwarded to the editor at [jennifer.palmeri@sbct1.army.mil](mailto:jennifer.palmeri@sbct1.army.mil).

## ON THE COVER

Private 1st Class Michael Elmore from Las Animas, Colo., assigned to 2nd Platoon, Apache Company, 1/23 Inf., runs out the back of a Stryker to pose for photographs for painter Jim Dietz on January 12. Second Platoon Soldiers volunteered their time in hopes that their likeness will be portrayed by Mr. Dietz. (US Army photo by Spc Anderson Savoy)

## BACK COVER

Members of the 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment pause during a security search of a palm grove and orchard in As'Sadiyah, Iraq on January 11. The search was performed in cooperation with the Iraqi Army to show increasing strength in the area. (US Army photo by Pvt. Zachary Zuber)

# "Hailstorm" Soldiers Roam At Night With Iraqi Forces

Story and Photos By  
Pfc. Adrian Muehe  
135th MPAD

DIYALA, IRAQ – On the night of Jan 21, residents of Muqdadiyah, Iraq, were soundly asleep in their beds, completely oblivious to the "hailstorm" that was outside. No ice fell from the sky, just the "Hailstorm" Soldiers of 4th Platoon, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, doing their part in a joint combat patrol with their partners in the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police.

The Soldiers of 4th Platoon, Company C, 2/3 Inf., rolled out late at night to meet up with soldiers of 3rd Company, 1st Battalion, 20th

Brigade, 5th IA Division, and members of the Muqdadiyah IP Emergency Company Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team at the IP compound in Muqdadiyah.

After linking up, Capt. Laith Muhammad Nagen, commander of the IP SWAT team and Capt. Zehid Muhammed Shmiel, the commander of IA 3rd Company, provided 2nd Lt. Nicholas Beazley, from Roanoke, Va., platoon leader of 4th Platoon, with intelligence about people they were looking for and identified key points along their designated route where they observed suspicious activity.

Around midnight, the Soldiers of 4th Platoon, along with their IA and IP counterparts, set out on foot

to patrol the streets of Muqdadiyah. The patrol, which consisted of about 60 people, marched on with night optical devices and a few flashlights. The city was so dark that one would have to use a flood light to see everyone involved. Communication was done through radios and low volume talking amongst Soldiers close to each other. If anyone looked out their window, they would have had no idea how many troops were out there.

The IA Company and the IP SWAT team took the lead, with 4th Platoon in the rear. The mission lasted approximately two hours and covered about seven miles.

"We didn't find anything, but this has been our best patrol," said Capt. Nagen. "The cooperation was really good."

This mission took four days of planning between the leaders of the three teams, but they have been working together for the last six months, especially 4th Platoon and the 3rd IA Company.

"We work with these guys every week," said Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery Ship, a native of Laurel, Mont., platoon sergeant for 4th Platoon. "They're our primary partners."

The "Hailstorm" Soldiers have created a good working relationship with the 3rd IA Company through training together and conducting joint combat patrols throughout Muqdadiyah.

The training courses covered a wide variety of combat skills. Soldiers of 4th Platoon have taught the

IA Company different battle drills such as how to react to contact as well as a reacting to a near ambush. The IA soldiers have also learned how to search personnel and vehicles, and how to operate and move as a fire squad.

"We have a level of trust that allows for better cooperation during training and on missions," said Sgt. 1st Class Ship.

During this training, these warriors of two nations have created a bond.

"Since we started working with them, they have started joking a lot more," said Pfc. Nicholas Bartell, who hails from Syracuse, N.Y., a Stryker driver for 4th Platoon.

While working with this IA Company, the U.S. Soldiers have a first-hand view of the vast improvement in their skills.

"A couple of them have graduated from 'train the trainer' courses, and they have taught the other soldiers," said Pfc. Bartell. "The ones



who understand it easier teach the ones who don't seem to get it right away."

Even with this great relationship between these forces, the IA and IP are hopeful for a future on their own.

"Working with the Coalition Forces has been great, but we will be able to conduct these missions on our own soon," said Capt. Nagen.

Above: Second Lieutenant Nicholas Beazley, poses for a photo with Capt. Laith Muhammed Nagen, commander of the Muqdadiyah Iraqi Police Emergency Company Special Weapon and Tactics Team, and Capt. Zehid Muhammed Shmiel, commander of 3rd Company, 1st Battalion, 20th Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division, after a night patrol of Muqdadiyah, Iraq, on Jan. 21. The groups these three men lead have worked together for the last six months to conduct joint security patrols in Muqdadiyah.



Sergeant Jeffery Ship, platoon sergeant, 4th Platoon, Company C, 2/3rd Inf., and 2nd Lt. Nicholas Beazley, platoon leader, 4th Platoon, Company C, 2/3 Inf., discuss plans for a night patrol with Capt. Laith Nagen, commander, Muqdadiyah Iraqi Police Emergency Company Special Weapons and Tactics Team, and Capt Zehid Shmiel, commander, 3rd Company, 1st Battalion, 20th Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division. These leaders have been working together for the past six months to provide security in Muqdadiyah, Iraq.



Left: Soldiers from 4th Platoon, Company C, 2/3rd Inf., get ready to go on a night patrol with members of 3rd Company, 1st Battalion, 20th Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division, and the Muqdadiyah Iraqi Police Emergency Company Special Weapons and Tactics Team on Jan. 21. These three groups have worked together for the past six months to help make Muqdadiyah a safer place.

# NCOs Receive Fiery Induction into the 296th

Story and Photos by  
Pvt. Zachary Zuber  
135th MPAD

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARHORSE, Iraq – The “Year of the NCO” came to a close as Soldiers from both Task Force 296, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division and the 5th Iraqi Army Division faced their final set of challenges together before being inducted in the Non-Commissioned Officer Corps on Dec. 31.

“The NCOs went through a team building event, then the ‘Pit,’ which is a rite of passage for new NCOs, and finally the official induction ceremony,” said First Sgt. Shawn E. Romero, first sergeant for TF 296 medical company.

The team building event divided the Soldiers into four separate elements, charged with completing tasks located at different points around the FOB. They were given a map and a simulated casualty litter to carry as they maneuvered through the exercises to test both their physical and mental skills and their ability to work

as a team.

“Our first task was to carry a casualty over a shipping container, which had several layers to consider in order to keep everybody safe while we went from one side to the other,” said Sgt. Matthew Ferguson, a Soldier from TF 296.

Another event required the Soldiers to move sandbags set in a flag design, through a winding path and place them correctly on the other side in the same pattern. The third station showcased the joint efforts of these new NCOs as they hauled an inoperable Gator vehicle filled with simulated radioactive material over a bridge and up a short yet steep hill using only ropes, pulleys, and shovels.

“My favorite event was pulling the Gator up the hill,” said Sgt. Howard K. Browning, a supply sergeant from TF 296. “It required us to use thought and strength to complete.”

The final task required the teams to move sandbags into a humvee and then push the humvee around a traffic circle and then unload them again.

“The teams had four hours

to complete their tasks and then get to ‘the pit’ for the next part of the induction,” said First Sgt. Romero.

The ‘pit’ is a time-honored ritual that encompasses three



Sgt. Major Gerald Roberson, operations sergeant major, 296th Brigade Support Battalion, is the first to walk through ‘the pit’ prior to the induction ceremony for the newest non-commissioned officers of the battalion. New NCOs had the option to follow his example in going through the symbolic pits of fire, water, and stone. They were not negatively affected by a choice to not participate.

different phases; first is fire, water is the second, and the final section is stones. It was an optional exercise for Soldiers

“The three stages of the pit are symbolic; the fire to burn away old bad habits, the water to cleanse their souls, and the stones to sharpen their skills as new NCOs,” said First Sgt. Romero.

After the pit the new NCOs formally accepted the ‘duties and responsibilities’ of a non-commissioned officer during a formal ceremony welcoming them into the NCO Corps.

“The events leading up to the ceremony are a great way get soldiers’ motivation

to another level before their official induction to the unit as new NCOs,” said First Sgt. Romero.

This event provided a special memory for the soldiers especially since they had a unique opportunity to go through the training with some of the new NCOs in the Iraqi Army.

“It was great to work with the Iraqis during this because we got to see their style of leadership and they were very motivated to do this training,” said Sgt. Ferguson. “I learned that everybody has different ideas but being a leader means taking other ideas and using them to make the mission happen.”



Sgt. Melissa Woodruff, 296th Brigade Support Battalion, throws sandbags off the back of a humvee during a team-building challenge as part of the NCO induction ceremony held on December 31, at Forward Operating Base Warhorse. Soldiers were split into four groups and then sent around the base to perform four challenges before going through a pit of fire, water, and stones as a rite of passage, before heading to a formal induction ceremony.



Members of Team Scorpion work to pull an inoperable gator up a hill during a challenge that was part of their NCO induction ceremony on December 31, at Forward Operating Base Warhorse. Four teams went through four different challenges designed to test their mental and physical toughness, teach team building skills before their formal induction ceremony.

# UNCOVERING SECRETS FROM A CRIME SCENE

Story and Photos By  
Pfc. Adrian Muehe  
135th MPAD

DIYALA, IRAQ – At an Iraqi Army compound in Sindiyah, Iraq, Iraqi soldiers are uncovering new skills in gathering information and data from crime scenes to strengthen their quest to make the streets safer in Diyala province, Iraq.

Soldiers of 2nd Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, taught soldiers from 2nd Company, 1st Battalion, 19th Brigade, 5th IA Division, sensitive site exploitation (SSE) techniques and procedures on Jan. 25.

“We didn’t have this information,” said Sgt. Yasir Muhammad Abdullah, an IA soldier with 2nd Company. “Before when Coalition Forces came with us, they did the



searching. Now we are we helping.”

Never before, did the Iraqi judicial system have a recognized and reputable evidence collection process used to develop arrest warrants and prosecution cases against suspected criminals.

“Iraqi’s have not been good at collecting evidence,” said 1st Lt. Terrance Nolan, 2nd platoon leader. “The common problem with the court system is not keeping people locked away because of the lack of evidence.”

U.S. Soldiers, at the request of IA leadership, created a class that covered the previous significant friction points with collecting and maintaining criminal evidence.

Soldiers from 2nd Company take a photo of evidence found during a practical exercise conducted after a sensitive site exploitation class. This training enables the IA to have a better way of gathering evidence that is accepted in the Iraqi judicial system.

Staff Sergeant Gabriel Trollinger demonstrates how to properly label and store evidence collected from a an arrest during a sensitive site exploitation class in Sindiyah, Iraq, on Jan. 25. This class enables soldiers to implement a system of gathering evidence.

The SSE training taught Iraqi soldiers how to properly catalogue evidence, secure and label materials and how to photograph and document detainees.

The eight Iraqi Army soldiers practiced how to properly search a crime scene or an explosion site after the area is secure and cordoned off. As they rehearsed taking photographs and how to properly label evidence, the lead U.S. instructor, Staff Sgt. Gabriel Trollinger, 1st squad leader, 2nd Platoon, was present to offer best practices and techniques. Evidence is presented to the local authorities when the accused is taken into custody and must fol-

low the specific process for it to be accepted.

“This class is important. This process is needed in order for arrests to be fruitful for prosecution,” said Staff Sgt. Trollinger.

The tools the Iraqis use to investigate these sensitive sites are not the high tech gadgets you see on crime shows on American prime time television. Instead of fancy evidence collection bags, they use ordinary storage bags and label items with duct tape.

“The class was tailored to their needs with the resources they have, but was based off Army standard,” said Staff Sgt. Trollinger.

Ideally, with both the photos and evidence being turned in, there is enough proof to construct a case against the detainee for a guilty verdict and in turn impose a sentence.

“This is a really good idea,” said Sgt. Yasir Muhammad Abdullah. “Before this, the evidence didn’t get to the right people, and the bad guys were just released.” With the knowledge and training the IA soldiers have been given, they have more tools to use to get criminals off the streets and make Diyala province a safer place to live.

“We’re trying to build Iraqis up using the rule of law, and to build a better democracy,” said 1st Lt. Nolan.



Above: Staff Sergeant Gabriel Trollinger shows Iraqi Army soldiers how to sort through evidence collected during a sensitive site exploitation class on Jan. 25. This class teaches the IA how to collect and document evidence from a crime scene.

Below: Iraqi Army soldiers bag and label evidence during a practical exercise after a sensitive site exploitation class as Staff Sgt. Gabriel Trollinger looks on. This class helps the IA develop a system of gathering and turning in evidence they collect at a crime scene.



# Soldiers Field New Vehicle, New Technology

Story and Photos by  
Pvt. Zachary Zuber  
135th MPAD

DIYALA, Iraq – Innovative technology has inspired people around the world to change their lifestyle. Modes of transportation and the transfer of information, has evolved over the past 10 years. Today, Soldiers, are not only able to communicate face to face with loved ones while deployed, but now have non-lethal capabilities to respond to demonstrations and protests without leaving their vehicle.

The 3rd Platoon, 66th Military Police Company, attached to 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, is employing two new Strykers which will change the way they do their jobs every day.

“The Strykers have a full-spectrum effects package (FSEP),” said Mr. James Yeiser, field service representative for the FSEP. “It is an escalation of force defense system designed to keep the Soldiers out of harm’s way.”

This will be especially helpful during the upcoming elections where security a primary concern for the MPs. Each FSEP Stryker is operated by four Soldiers, each having their own television screen with real-time video feed streaming from cameras located outside the vehicle.

“These are good for a lot of things, even outside the MP

world,” said Sgt. Blake Jones, a vehicle commander for 3rd Platoon, 66th MP Co. “My favorite feature are the 360 degree cameras that allow the vehicle commander to see everything that’s going on.”

Through this system, the vehicle commander not only sees everything, but is able to identify potential threats and designate targets to his team members, depending on his desired response.

“If someone shoots at you, the commander can send that target to the gunner, but if it a target requires non-lethal force, you can assign it to the LRAD [Long Range Acoustic Device] controller,” said Sgt. Jones.

Another feature of the package,

the LRAD, is mounted to the rear of the vehicle along with a non-lethal shotgun mount. This is where most Soldiers notice the difference from a regular Stryker. Most Strykers only have one remote weapons system, but on the FSEP, this second mount is also remote controlled, and represents the most diverse piece of equipment.

“The LRAD is equipped with a phrase-a-lator which allows Soldiers and interpreters to take certain English phrases and translate them into Arabic before a mission,” said Mr. Yeiser.

It will also play loud, annoying tones, intended to cause unruly crowds to disperse without any violence. If none of this provides

the desired effect, a mounted shotgun is capable to fire non-lethal rubber buckshot to diffuse any serious situations.

One final feature helps Soldiers react to hostile actions without leaving the vehicle.

“There are four microphones tuned to detect bangs and provide an on-screen target for people in the vehicle,” said Mr. Yeiser. “This lets them see what the target is and react accordingly.”

As a complete package, this will change the way Sgt. Jones and others in his platoon to resolve situations with a non-lethal force.

“This gives me a better visualization of what’s going on both inside the vehicle and outside and keeps us safer,” said Sgt. Jones.



Members of the 3rd Platoon, 66th MP Co. test fire the .50 caliber machine gun on their new FSEP variant Stryker. There are only two FSEP Strykers in Iraq, both being used by the MPs for future stability missions in Diyala, Iraq.



Left: Soldiers of 3rd Platoon, 66th MP Co. learn to calibrate the .50 caliber machine gun with its control system in the new full-spectrum effects package Stryker. The MPs will operate the only two vehicles of this Stryker variant in Iraq during upcoming stability missions.

Above: Sergeant Robert Martinez, a vehicle commander for 3rd Platoon, 66th MP Co., gives instruction on operating the remote weapons system in the new FSEP Stryker. The 66th MPs possess the only two vehicles in Iraq for upcoming stability missions in Diyala, Iraq.

# Three Forces Come Together for Checkpoints

Story and Photos by  
Pvt. Zachary Zuber  
135th MPAD

DIYALA, Iraq – For several weeks in January, members of the 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division have been training members of both the Iraqi Army and the Kurdish Peshmerga at Combat Outpost Cobra. They are working together to staff checkpoints around the As’Sadiyah area of Diyala, Iraq.

The checkpoints are a part of the Combined Security Area(CSA) in the region. These points, placed in positions throughout the area, will be manned by United States Forces, Iraqi Army Forces, and Peshmerga as a cooperative effort to protect the local communities. The CSA is traditionally a region where Iraqi Security Forces’ responsibility for security ends and the Kurdish Forces take the lead.

Currently the 1/14th Cav. is not only working to prepare members of both groups to handle any and all challenges they may encounter at these points but they’re building a partnership between the two forces. A



Above: Pfc. Patrick Fisher, Bronco Troop, 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, along with a member of the 4th Brigade Iraqi Army, secures an entrance to a training checkpoint set up at Combat Outpost Cobra on January 10. The Soldiers are training to operate checkpoints along with the Peshmerga in the As’Sadiya area of Diyala Province, Iraq.

Below: Members of the Iraqi Army and Peshmerga detain a U.S. Soldier who is acting hostile during checkpoint training exercises held at Combat Outpost Cobra on January 10. These exercises were used to train the units before manning checkpoints in the Combined Security Area near As’Sadiyah, Iraq.



goal of Capt. Richard Dempsey, Bronco Troop commander, 1/14th Cav., is that both forces will build the foundation for a lasting friendship through training and working together on a daily basis.

“The training is very strategic and goes above and beyond checkpoint tactics to foster cooperation between the two groups who, in their history, have had conflicts,” said Capt. Dempsey.

Through training, the Soldiers of the Iraqi Army, Peshmerga and the 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment react to a grenade thrown from a vehicle during a training exercise at Combat Outpost Cobra on January 10.



diers have been able to take one step closer to achieving the overall goals of working together and becoming more knowledgeable about the operations of a checkpoint.

“The training has gone very well, and we will try to apply everything we have learned here to the real checkpoints. We have greatly benefited by this training,” said Major Farhat Hamma Muhammed, 2nd Battalion, 34th Peshmerga Brigade.

Checkpoint training at Cobra is made up of three four hour blocks. During the first block members of Bronco Troop demonstrate procedures used at checkpoints. Soldiers teach the different levels of searching suspects, how to use escalation of force with approaching vehicles, and how to react to casualties during attacks. In the second block, the students perform what they have learned at a slow speed while U.S. Soldiers provided helpful tips. Finally, a full speed mission readiness exercise allowed all three groups to work together during a real-time simulation.

The Soldiers participated in a variety of scenarios, from trouble-less vehicle searches

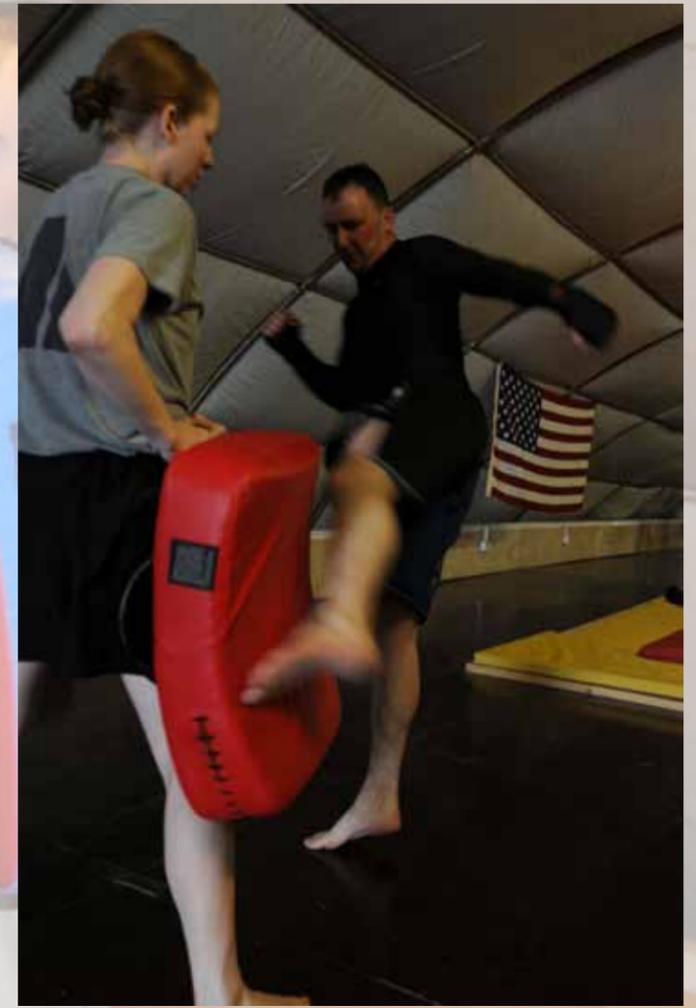
to reacting to a mass casualty event. Soldiers, role playing as combatants, used smoke grenades to simulate IED explosions or grenades, as they ‘attacked’ the training checkpoint.

“Just like anywhere else, when the groups came in they were initially divided and by the end you could see Pesh soldiers and Iraqi Army working together to help the simulated casualties and really gelling as a group by the end,” said Capt. Dempsey.

“It was very good experience for us to learn different things like indirect fire and moving casualties and I wish the best for everyone as we go to the checkpoints,” said Lt. Hassanen Amir Mohmmmed, 2nd Company, 4th Brigade Iraqi Army.

# 1-37 FA FIGHT HOUSE

SOLDIERS OF THE 1ST BATTALION, 37TH  
FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT CREATED  
THEIR OWN TRAINING CENTER



# Sykes' Regulars Keep Archery Skills Sharp

Story and Photos by  
Pvt. Zachary Zuber  
135th MPAD

DIYALA, Iraq – Every forward operating base has firing ranges of some sort, but there is one at FOB Warhorse that is unique. It is the archery range. Standing atop a shipping container at one end, some people may not recognize what the small area is used for. Sixty yards away, there are four target stands. The first two hold up pieces of foam, the third cardboard, and the fourth contains tightly-packed wool blankets.

Though it may seem like a simple thing, for Soldiers of 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team,



2nd Infantry Division, it is an oasis for relaxation and preparation before going home after deployment.

“It’s real peaceful down there, you can just relax for a little while,” said Sgt. Christopher Velez, a medic with 5/20 Inf. “We go down, shoot for a while, take a break to rest our eyes and then shoot some more.”

Besides recovery time, the range gives Soldiers the convenience to hone their skills before bow season opens once they return stateside.

“Having our bows here gives us the opportunity to prepare on our own time and get everything ready so we don’t have to rush when we get home,” said Spc. Curtis Gamble, a vehicle commander with 5/20 Inf.

The range provides the same liberties to any soldier stationed at FOB Warhorse.

“Before we started we checked with the Mayor Cell to see what we needed to do to use the range and they told us it was open,” said Spc. Gamble.

“Having the open range allows us to get out there whenever our schedules work out, so we follow

Left: Specialist Gamble prepares his bow for hunting season on the FOB Warhorse archery range. The range is open to all soldiers at the base to hone their bow skills.

Right: Specialist Gamble takes aim at a target on the FOB Warhorse archery range. Spc. Gamble and other Soldiers are preparing for hunting season after their deployment.

safe range practices and go have a good time,” said Sgt. Velez.

The only thing they would like to improve upon is the amount of people that can shoot at once.

“Right now only two people can shoot at a time, but we would like to get more so that we can set them at different ranges and allow more people to shoot together,” said Spc. Gamble. “We can really only use the one target because arrows just go straight through the foam ones and break coming out of the cardboard.”

Sergeant Velez, who has begun learning archery since arriving at FOB Warhorse, the skills he is learning will help him execute his exciting future plans.

“We are planning to get together as a group when we get home to go on hunts,” Sgt. Velez said. “I want to get a big elk, even if I have to buy a new deep freeze.”



# Playground Opens In Tahrir After A Rough History

Story and Photos By  
Pfc. Adrian Muehe  
135th MPAD

DIYALA, IRAQ – A crowd of children gather on a street corner bearing smiles from ear to ear in an area where, two years ago, no one was smiling. The kids are excited about the opening of a new playground in a community that saw some of the worst violence in Diyala, Iraq.

The park opened in the Tahrir neighborhood of Baquba, Iraq, on Jan. 17, after months of construction and cooperation between local officials and U.S. Forces. Making sure the area is safe and providing security for this project were Soldiers from Company B, 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, and Iraqi Policemen.

“The neighborhood is a much safer place, but we always have to be vigilant,” said Capt. Joshua Brandon, a native of Cleveland, Ohio, commander of Company B, 5/20 Inf.

Soldiers of Company B, 5/20 Inf., have been conducting joint patrols regularly with Iraqi Police in the area since their arrival in Diyala last September.

“This was really the government of Iraq’s vision,” said Maj. Toby Moore, the battalion executive officer for 5/20 Inf., who hails from Fayetteville, N.C. “They came up with the idea and we provided oversight.”

Also assisting with this undertaking were Soldiers from Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd SBCT, 2nd Inf. Div.

“I’m really happy to take



part in this,” said Capt. Jimmy Archange, a Miami, Fla., native and commander of Alpha Battery, 1/37th FA. “This demonstrates how Iraq is improving.”

The finances for this project came from the Commanders Emergency Relief Program (CERP) and local contractors started park construction in late November. Soldiers of Company B, 5/20 Inf., conducted assessments on the park, making sure the playground equipment was safe for children to play with.

When the park was ready for opening, people crowded around in anticipation. Children lined the fence, eagerly looking on with wide eyes at a playground they will be able to use for the first time. Parents and other adults were present with cameras, documenting this historic event for Tahrir.

Cutting the ribbon to open the park was Qaim Maqam Abdallah, the mayor of Baquba. After the cutting, he took a tour of the playground with other local officials, and the local media.

A small Iraqi boy goes down a slide in a new playground in the Tahrir neighborhood of Baquba, Iraq. This area used to see heavy violence but is now safe for children to play in a park that was built as a cooperative effort between local Iraqi government officials and U.S. Forces.

After the tour was over, children who had been waiting eagerly swarmed the park. The tallest thing inside was a slide that most of the kids ran toward, happy to finally use it after seeing it built.

“This is a good story for Iraq,” said Capt. Archange, as kids entered the playground.

With children playing, the Soldiers from Company B, 5/20 Inf. proceeded to their Stryker vehicles and Iraqi Police officers took charge of keeping the community safe.

“A couple years ago, U.S. forces wouldn’t go to this neighborhood,” said Capt. Brandon about the violence that used to dominate the region. “Now there’s a playground here! This shows the long road Iraq has been on.”

# Warhorse Soldier Selected For Audie Murphy Club

Story and Photo by  
Pvt. Zachary Zuber  
135th MPAD

DIYALA, Iraq – An examination board composed of senior non-commissioned officers reviewed six NCOs from 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, who were nominated to become members for the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club. The club honors the achievements of the most decorated soldier of World War II.

Of the six NCOs, the board chose to recommend one for induction, Staff Sgt. Joseph Spicer, senior Human Intelligence Collector for Bronco Troop, 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment.

During World War II Audie Murphy received every medal available in the U.S. Army at that time, to include the Medal of Honor, the Army's highest award for valor, as well as three Polish medals and a French one. He reached the rank of staff sergeant before being discharged.

"This is definitely a culminating event," said Staff Sgt. Spicer, a native of Baltimore, Md. "There was a lot of stuff to learn, but now that it's done there is no more pressure."

The board reviewed basic Soldier skills, knowledge of current events, and assessed the NCOs' moral compass by judging their reactions to a variety of hypothetical real-life situations. They also posed questions to test the Soldiers on the life and history of Audie Murphy. Soldiers selected by the board must excel in all of these areas. In addition they must demonstrate a high level

of confidence in explaining their responses to the board, in order to prove they have the qualities shown by the club's namesake.

"This is the epitome of being an NCO, earning the distinction of being a member of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club," said Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse L. Andrews Jr., United States Division-North command sergeant major.

Each Soldier learns during the board as well, receiving a critique from board members after their examination is complete. Reviewing their individual performance allows the NCOs to learn what skills they can work on as they return to their units.

"This allows me to look at myself as a leader, and learn how to better myself," said Staff Sgt. Spicer. "Ultimately, this is a great experience that I can take back to my Soldiers."

Below: Non-commissioned officers from 3-2 SBCT and their sponsors are greeted by members of the examination board for the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club.



Above: Staff Sergeant Joseph Spicer, senior human intelligence collector, 1/14 Cav. stands before the examination board for the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club.

# Steppin' Into His Father's Boots

Story by Pfc. Adrian Muehe  
135th MPAD

Photo courtesy of CSM Steven Winters

DIYALA, IRAQ – Traditions are compelling inspirations in many cultures. These may be found in recipes, causes or even ambitions and dreams. For some, it leads them to follow in the footsteps of those who came before them; taught them, and made them proud. For Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Winters of 296th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, the tradition is enduring even from halfway around the world.

Command Sgt. Maj. Winters graduated from the University of Utah prior to being drafted as a defensive back with the Kansas City Chiefs. Winters choose to leave his football career in 1990 when he enlisted in the U.S. Army as a combat engineer.

When asked why he decided to leave behind his professional athletic career, Winters responded, "I knew where I needed to be, it's what you do for your community that matters most."

The Winters' family roots run deep in military history dating back to the Buffalo Soldiers who served in the Civil War.

"The Army is a family tradition," said Winters.

Winters' grandfather, Isaac, fought in the Korean War, retiring as a command sergeant major and his father, Frankie, served with the 82nd Airborne Infantry Division and the 18th Airborne Infantry Division before he retired as a command sergeant major.

Continuing the Winters' family heritage, Isaac, named after his great-grandfather, arrives to Beast Barracks this summer, boot-camp for freshmen Plebes scheduled to attend the United

States Military Academy at West Point in the fall of 2010.

Following his father's footsteps in the football arena as well, Isaac, has many accomplishments on the field as a running back in high school, including playing on the U.S. All-American Army team his junior and senior year. He will continue to play football for the Army Black Knights, as he is currently their third ranked recruit.

"I was being recruited by other schools," said Isaac. "When West Point became an option it seemed like the right thing to do."

"Isaac will be the first officer in a long line of Soldiers," said Winters with a proud look on his face. Isaac's success isn't just on the gridiron, throughout high school he has maintained a 4.0 grade point average.

It is outstanding to excel at this level in sports, or in academics, especially growing up in the military life style, constantly moving and adjusting. To excel in both of these fields at the top level is just extraordinary.

"The first word in 'student athlete' is student," said Winters. "That has always been Isaacs's main focus."

"Isaac made a decision on his own that is in the best interest of his future," said Winters. "The rest of his family and I are super excited."

Despite living the stereotypical military lifestyle, moving all over the country, enrolling at four different high schools in four years and watching his father go on long deployments; Isaac plans on following his father's heritage of service to the nation.

"I look forward to my first chance to salute my son," said Winters. "If my father was still alive, he would be extremely happy."

"I can see my son as a general officer someday," said Winters. "He's a smart kid and has learned all he can from me; it's time for him to learn on his own how to mold himself into whom he is going to be."

Command Sergeant Major Steven Winters, command sergeant major of the 296th Brigade Support Battalion, poses with his son, Isaac Winters, who will be continuing his family's tradition of service in the Army by attending the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.



# DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM INCREASES THOUGHT

Story and Photo by  
Pvt. Zachary Zuber  
135th MPAD

DIYALA, Iraq – Since taking command of Charlie Troop, 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment in mid-December, Captain Ken Quail has hosted a weekly meeting with his platoon leaders to discuss different events in military.

Each week the officers are given a topic to study by Capt. Quail, ranging from historic engagements to books on military strategy and tactics.

“Our theme has been what I like to call doing windows,” Capt. Quail said. “Places our military has been where we have not just fought major battles, but also done provincial reconstruction to include supporting communities and building stabilizing operations.”

American tactics and policies during the Philippine War were up for discussion on Jan. 13.

“The stuff this week was my favorite topic because it is similar to the things we are seeing in Iraq in terms of relating to the people around us,” said 1st Lt. Kyle Harkin, 3rd platoon leader.

“This was a chance for us to see similarities in the situations and the differences in how things are being handled.”

This is exactly the kind of deliberate thinking these meetings are meant to encourage.

“The focus is education because it teaches mental flexibility and the cognitive ability to make difficult decisions,” said Capt.

Quail. “As people advance in their careers in the military, they



Platoon leaders from Charlie Troop, 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division listen to their peers’ opinions on U.S. military involvement in the Phillipine War, during an officer personal development meeting on Jan. 13. The 1/14th Cav. is at Combat Outpost Cobra.

have received enough training to react to situations they expect and more education allows them to respond better to things they don’t expect.”

Discussing many different subjects not only provides the platoon leaders with different perspective on issues they may face, but also provides the commander with valuable insight.

“It teaches me to understand the people that make up my team and understand how my team will react in different situations,” said Capt. Quail.

They also help everyone add value to the operations they are doing on a daily basis.

“We get a little break from what’s going on here and get to step back and look at the bigger picture,” said 1st Lt. Harkin.

The officer personal development meetings are a great all around asset to the leaders of Charlie Company.

“Every commander wants to be able to mentor their subordinates and even though we are very busy throughout the week, sometimes we just have to make time to do it,” said Capt. Quail.

# Chaplain’s Corner

*A Study On Character: The Life of David*  
-Four-

*From The Pastures Of Bethlehem*  
*To The Palace In Jerusalem*

There may not be a more *profound* tragedy in all of life than the *failure* to realize our *full potential* in *service to God!* In the record of the Old Testament, only Esau approximates the heartbreak and tragedy that earmarks Israel’s *first* King, Saul.

The Lord informed the prophet Samuel that *King Saul* would be removed from the throne of Israel due to his *disobedience* to God’s word. However, God would *not* leave Israel without a shepherd. Even though Saul would be deposed, a *new* King would be anointed and seated on the throne.

Sent by the Holy Spirit, Samuel went to interview the sons of Jesse. After examining seven of the eight sons, he turned to Jesse and asked, “*Are these all the sons you have?*” He had not met with the youngest son who was still tending the flocks in a nearby field.

Once Samuel realized that Jesse had *another* son, he immediately commanded that David be brought to him, and upon seeing the handsome youth, he heard the Spirit of the Lord say, “*This is the one I’ve chosen to rule over my people Israel!*”

The Lord will use *others* to confirm and certify a *witness* of His divine plan in our lives. No matter how you feel or what others say, **God is in control** and he will bring about *good for those who put their trust in Him.*

The unassuming shepherd of Bethlehem was anointed by Samuel and told of the destiny that would embrace him. David believed the great prophet, and this allowed him to see *beyond* just being a *shepherd*. He could *visualize* himself as a *King* because he *believed* in the *One Who decides destiny!*

Whenever God’s Word is *be-*



CHAPLAIN (MAJ.)  
PATRICK BASAL

*lieved* and *acted* upon in this fallen world, the *power structures of evil* are *shaken* and *displaced!* Shortly after David’s anointing, he moved from the pastures of Bethlehem to the palace in Jerusalem to minister to Saul, and to learn how to be a king. The songs he composed to comfort his sheep were sung to quiet the troubled spirit of the fallen King.

As we consider the promise of God for each of our lives, let’s remain patient and obedient to His word. God *will* make good on all He has promised!

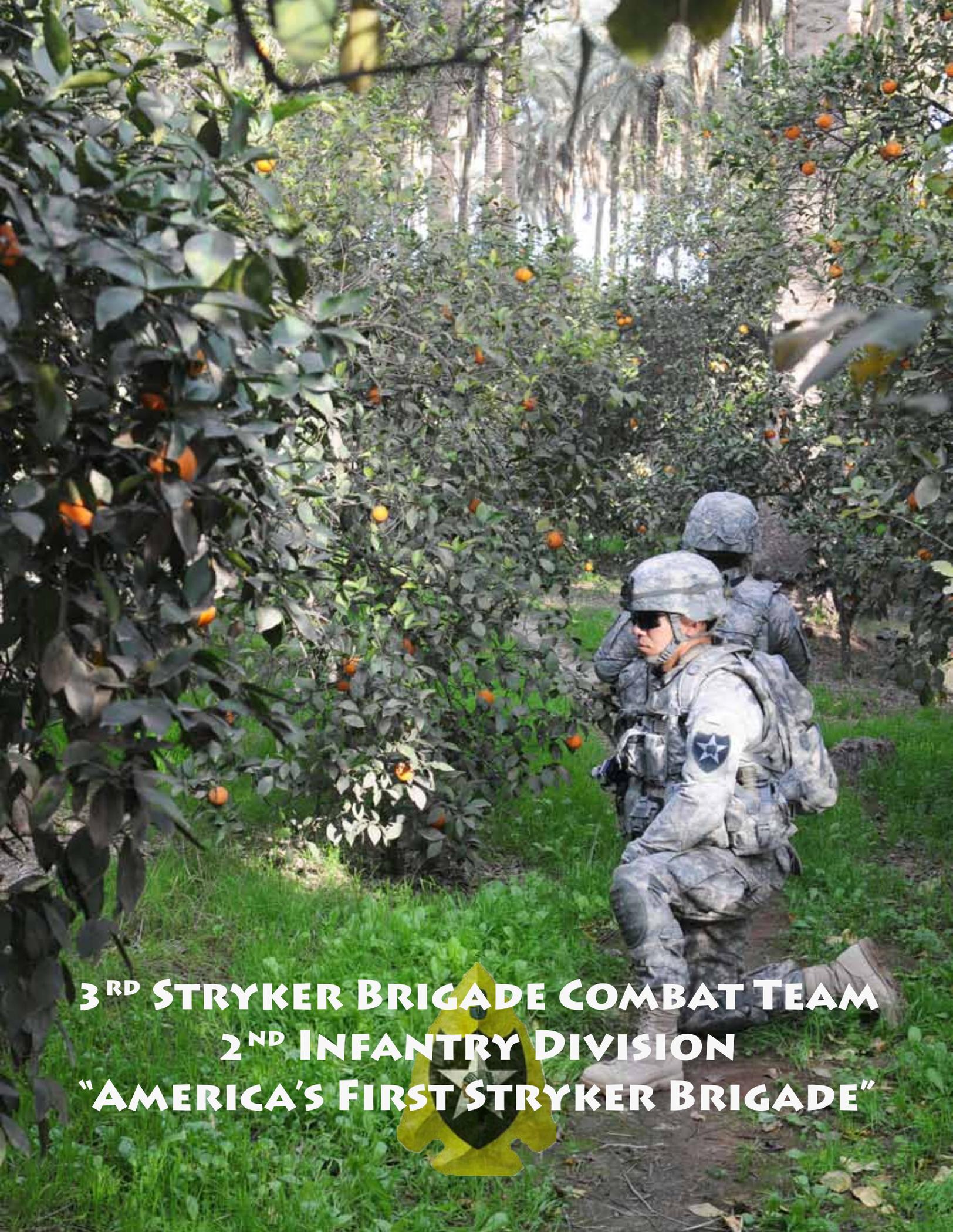
**PAX DOMINE**  
**(The Peace of the Lord)**

## MAY THOSE FALLEN NEVER BE FORGOTTEN

Staff Sgt. Todd W. Selge  
Company A, 5th Battalion, 20th  
Infantry Regiment  
June 22, 1984 ~ September 3,  
2009

Sgt. Jordan M. Shay  
Company A, 5th Battalion, 20th  
Infantry Regiment  
April 3, 1987 ~ September 3,  
2009

Staff Sgt. Amy C. Tirador  
209th Military Intelligence  
Company  
July 18, 1980 - November 04,  
2009



**3<sup>RD</sup> STRYKER BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM**  
**2<sup>ND</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION**  
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