

# The GREYWOLF HOWL

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## Warhorse troopers search for lost warriors in Iraq

**1st Lt. Richard Vogt**  
**3rd Bn., 8th Cav. Regt.**

Soldiers from Bulldog Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division joined forces with a personnel recovery detachment to search possible sites that might contain remains from American or British personnel July 21 in southern Iraq.

Bulldog conducted a cordon and search of a suspected burial site where intelligence determined the remains of American and coalition forces were located. The goal was to recover any remains and confirm the identities of the prisoners of war found.

“I was initially surprised to learn that such a mission still existed here in Iraq. My next response was determination to see this mission through; I know my parents would want my remains home and buried properly on American soil if I were lost in combat.” said Capt. Matt Oldach, a native of Waterford, Pa. and Bulldog Company commander.

“Thoughts of those families lacking closure easily motivated me to give this mission 100 percent of Bulldog Company’s attention. My Soldiers were honored and fired up to get out in Amarah and recover our fallen comrades. They truly desired to give every effort and make any sacrifice necessary to bring those who had died before them home.”



Photo by 2nd Lt. Griffin Spencer

Soldiers search near the city of Amarah for American and British remains.

The mission was called Operation Thriller and was a priority for all U.S. Forces – Iraq due to the location in Amarah and the assets involved. One of the major goals of USF – I is to recover the remains of the various POWs from Operation Iraqi Freedom and bring closure to the families involved. The mission was the largest effort toward that goal so far.

Planning for the operation was a complex endeavor. There were over 100 U.S. Soldiers and 70 Iraqi Army personnel involved, as well as aviation and engineer assets.

“Preparation for Operation Thriller required a great deal of coordination with the enablers assigned,” Oldach said. “Successful conditions for this

mission required not only the enablers understanding our scheme of maneuver, but also that my security elements understand the enablers’ capabilities, limitations, and requirements. We began planning for this mission over two months prior to execution with many coordination meetings, rehearsals, and checks prior to execution.”

Platoons from Bulldog Co. along with the 422nd Military Police Bn. provided security for the search teams, who used trained canines to search the area. After the personnel recovery dog teams received positive results at three sites, the engineer heavy digging assets began to dig and carefully determine if remains existed.

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The teams searched an area near the Tigris River among large palm groves. The palm groves bordered downtown Amarah, a city of about half a million people with an indifferent attitude toward USF – I.

“The search areas were very narrow dirt paths that made travel difficult in our large vehicles, presenting a significant challenge to the mission,” Oldach said.

He added that the citizens were generally subdued or friendly, but in

another neighborhood, locals threw rocks at the trail vehicles.

“Outside of that incident, citizens were generally friendly,” Oldach said. “The most significant challenge of the operation was navigating the ancient unimproved roads in modern, oversized, armored vehicles. While these vehicles provide the best protection for our soldiers, they make travel in such narrow areas very difficult.”

But there is no way that such a small inconvenience could stop these warriors when the possible reward is



Photo by 2nd Lt. Griffin Spencer

Soldiers from Bulldog Company, used engineer equipment to search near the city of Amarah.

the recovery of U.S. and coalition remains, and the subsequent closure available to their families and friends.

## 215th Bde. Support Bn.

# Pitbulls and Gladiators help feed the force at Class I point

### 2nd Lt. Tiffany Bradley BFMC 215th Bde. Support Bn.

Soldiers and noncommissioned officers from Bravo Field Maintenance Company ‘Pitbulls’, 215th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division

and 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion ‘Gladiators’, 3AAB, 1st Cav. Div., work together at the Class I food rations yard on Contingency Operating Base Adder to accomplish the brigade’s mission.

The supply point stays busy filling requests and meeting deadlines from all

the units supported by the GREYWOLF brigade. The section provides 24-hour support for sustainment replenishment operations (SRO) to Contingency Operating Station Garry Owen, as well as the weekly Class I support provided for units on COB Adder. Daily, Staff Sgt. Valerie Gregg of 215th BSB, or one of her other noncommissioned officers attend the SRO synch meeting, where details for upcoming missions are gathered and mission planning starts.

Each Soldier at the Class I point takes pride in their role during each mission.

“The Class I team is honored to provide rations to fellow comrades supporting the draw down in Tallil and surrounding areas of operation.” said Sgt. Edward Bennett, a food service specialist with 3BSTB and native of Marmaduke, Ark.

The work load is tremendous, but the combined effort of the Pitbulls and the



Photo by 2nd Lt. Tiffany Bradley

Pfc. Caroline Thompson, a supply specialist and a Chesterfield, Mo, native, uses a forklift to load and unload pallets of supplies at the Class I yard.

Gladiator battalion ensures that food is pushed out on time every day.

“From UGRAs (unit group rations) to Gatorade can make a difference in the morale Soldiers maintain throughout the day,” said Sgt. Carl Myers, a squad leader with 215th BSB and native of Austin, Texas. Myers added that while they may never get to see the Soldiers they impact, he knows his team is helping them.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Tiffany Bradley

Sgt. Edward Bennett, a supply sergeant, and a Marmaduke, Ark. native, hands Staff Sgt. Valerie Gregg, a native of Columbia, S.C. rations to be included in their next shipment.

# Saber Squadron brings Wasit military leaders together

**2nd Lt. Stuart White**  
**6th Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt.**

On July 13, leaders from 6th Saber Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division met with Iraqi military and intelligence leaders on Contingency Operating Base Delta to discuss security matters and Iraqi Air Force capabilities in Wasit province.

The meeting was hosted by Brig. Gen. Abdul Kareem, the deputy commander of Al-Kut Air Force Base, on COB Delta. This was the first time that leaders from the intelligence community and ground forces have ever met with the IqAF in Wasit province.

Since June 11, Saber Sqdn., has been advising and assisting Iraqi Security Forces within the province. Through these partnerships, Saber Soldiers have provided training and assistance through joint patrols to enhance the capabilities of the ISF throughout Wasit province. They discussed the United States Forces-Iraq and ISF coordinating efforts to enhance security and the future re-posturing of USF-I.

Kareem prepared a presentation to show his compatriots the many ways he was prepared to support them and help provide a more united and capable force. Iraqi commanders included Maj.

Gen. Husein Abd Al-hadi, the Wasit provincial Director of Police, Col. Ali Ismail Khalil Mohamad Ali, commander of the Wasit Federal Police Brigade, and Yasir Hasan Hilail Al Shahmani, the Director of National Defense in Wasit. They discussed how the IqAF could provide intelligence through aerial imagery and surveillance, and support ground forces through close air support.

“We have planes, we have pilots, and we have cameras on the planes. We can help the town and the police. I wanted everyone to know the possibilities in the Iraqi Air Force,” said Kareem.

Ground force commanders and intelligence leaders in the province were energetic in their response to the proposal.

“I did not expect this meeting to go so well, but I hope we can continue to build this relationship with the Iraqi Air Force,” said Maj. Gen. Husein Abd Al-hadi, Wasit provincial Director of Police. He then emphasized the importance of coordination, “I hope we can learn to utilize all the assets we have.”

The relationship between Iraqi ground forces, Air Force, and intelligence agencies is just beginning, and there is a lot of work to do to develop these relationships. These types of co-



Photo by 2nd Lt. Stuart White

Brig. Gen. Abdul Kareem, deputy commander of Al-Kut Air Force Base, was joined by a party of commanders for lunch at the dining facility inside the Iraqi Compound.

ordinating efforts will strengthen the ISF.

“When you bring these guys together, they will talk and learn about how they can each help one another with their mission,” said Lt. Col. Cameron Cantlon, commander of Saber Sqdn., and an Ettrick, Wis. native.

“We made a tremendous leap forward today. Our efforts to coordinate better intelligence through the Air Force and to communicate that intelligence to the Iraqi Police will certainly improve security in Al-Kut and Wasit province.” explained Yasir Hasan Hilail Al Shahmani, the Director of National Defense in Wasit.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Stuart White

Lt. Col. Cameron Cantlon, an Ettrick, Wis. native, discusses the role of United States Forces-Iraq in integrating separate Iraqi Forces together in the office of Brig. Gen. Abdul Kareem.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Stuart White

Brig. Gen. Abdul Kareem begins his presentation by greeting his Iraqi ground forces and intelligence commanders, together for the first time.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Stuart White

Brig. Gen. Abdul Kareem was joined by a party of commanders inside the Iraqi compound's Morale, Welfare, and Recreation room to enjoy servings of fresh fruit and more discussion of Iraqi joint security efforts.

# Canine Police team trained for drug, explosive interdiction

**Maj. William Mott**  
**STT, 1st Bn., 12th Cav. Regt.**

The police working dog program for the Iraqi police here in Basrah is expanding with assistance from Stability Transition Team Enforcer, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division.

The police have started to maximize the use of these highly trained and skilled canines. They currently have seven dogs trained for detecting explosives and drugs, and plan to add five more to the team.

“These dogs are extremely exceptional.” said Maj. Kevin Kreie, a military police officer with the STT who works with the canine team trainers.

Kreie witnessed their capabilities during a recent visit for an assessment of the canines and their handlers. He further explained that the dogs are able to respond not only to explosive



Photo by Spc. Jared Forsythe

An Iraqi policeman trains his police dog on an obstacle course at a canine training facility in Basrah, Iraq.

materials that are present, but can alert the handler of an odor indicating residue of a cache that was moved.

This canine team is another weapon against terrorism and explosive smuggling through the 55 checkpoints in Basrah.

Lt. Col. Gregory Stokes, the STT commander said, “Programs like these show the true progress of law enforcement in Iraq.”

Maintaining a canine team is an enterprising task. The logistics are extensive, requiring strict diets, frequent medical attention and rigorous training. Despite the extensive amount

of resources needed for this program, there are plans to expand the facility to accommodate more working dogs, as their capabilities are critical to the war on terrorism.

The current kennel and training area co-located with a local police station are temporary, and can only house the seven dogs. The team will eventually move to a permanent facility capable of holding 14 canines.

“Once this move happens, the Iraqi police will double the missions they currently provide, and further increase Basrah’s security.” said Stokes.



Photo by Spc. Jared Forsythe

An Iraqi policeman trains with his police dog on explosives detection at a canine training facility in Basrah, Iraq.



# Luchadore Platoon: The Rock of Tampa

**2nd Lt. Christopher Molaro**  
**2nd Bn., 82nd FA Regt.**

Daily, 2nd Lt. Patrick Mulvaney, the platoon leader for 3rd Platoon “Luchadore,” Battery A, Task Force 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division and his Soldiers travel a 30 mile stretch of Route Tampa, Iraq’s largest highway.

Tampa has been a hotbed for roadside bombs since the early years of the war, and as the summer winds down, that trend has continued. With the impending re-posturing of United States Forces-Iraq closing in, Tampa is going to be the main highway out of Iraq and back into Kuwait.

As Luchadore platoon has conducted its mission, to secure and protect their stretch of highway, they have worked with the Iraqi Highway Patrol and have carved a hole in the insurgent’s activity.

Recently, Staff Sgt. Christopher Kowalchyk and Spc. Brian Painter, from Killeen, Texas, two of Luchadore’s Soldiers, found six anti-armor improvised explosive devices on the side of the highway while conducting operations.

Finds like that one are exactly



Photo by Spc. Tyler Fischer

2nd Lt. Patrick Mulvaney, a native of Sugarland, Texas commands his patrol while dismounted and securing a stretch of highway.

what the platoon hopes to accomplish every day. Mulvaney said the day was a success because of the teamwork of his troops.

“I am extremely proud of all my Soldiers. Their dedication and sacrifices have made it possible for a safe exit for all U.S. Forces,” said Mulvaney.

Despite temperatures above 120 degrees and a looming IED threat, Mulvaney’s Soldiers conduct every mission outside the wire with the intent of securing the highway, protecting the remaining U.S. Forces here and

working to build strong professional relationships with the Iraqi Security Forces.

“Our partners in Iraq show willingness every time we drive down the highway to do joint missions, share intelligence and help secure the highway,” Mulvaney said.

Just as A “Rock” Battery’s name would suggest, the Luchadore’s resolve is unforgiving and their attitude and track record spells a bright future for the Iraqi International Highway, for now and years to come.



Photo by Spc. Tyler Fischer

2nd Lt. Patrick Mulvaney talks with an Iraqi Highway Patrol officer.



Photo by Spc. Tyler Fischer

Soldiers take a knee and wait for orders during the patrol of a stretch of highway in southern Iraq.

# Military Intelligence in action

**Capt. Derek Kamachi**  
**3rd Bde., Special Troops Bn.**

“Mission” can mean many different things for Soldiers deployed to Iraq. For many their mission involves combined patrols with Iraqi Counterparts, for others it means conducting resupply operations or providing food services to hungry Soldiers.

For the Human Intelligence Collection Team (HCT) members of Alpha Company, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division the mission can vary from day to day. The HCTs and the Operational Management Team (OMT) that provides them collection guidance know that each day will present new challenges that require skills unique to HUMINT collectors.

“We complete a variety of training prior to arriving at our first duty station that provides us the skills necessary to successfully operate in the most challenging environments.” stated an HCT member conducting military source operations at Contingency Operating Base Adder.

The very best HUMINT collectors possess a detailed knowledge of the environment in which they operate, are experts on subtleties of interpersonal communication, and have an ability to quickly adapt to any situation. They must also be as tactically savvy and comfortable conducting missions outside the wire as they are sitting behind a computer polishing intelligence reporting. Gathering intelligence is simply half the job, reporting it is the other.

Today’s HUMINT operations are broader than those of the past, due in part to the non-linear battlefield in which collectors operate. HUMINT collectors liaise with host nation officials and intelligence counterparts in order to bolster collection capabilities.



Photo by 1 Lt. Ryan VanZandt

A Human Intelligence Collection Team member prepares notes prior to a source meeting.

They debrief allied forces and civilian personnel including refugees, displaced persons, third-country nationals, and local inhabitants and interrogate enemy prisoners of war and other detainees as well as exploiting documents, media, and materials.

HUMINT Collection Technician Chief Warrant Officer DeVaughn Rice said that his troops are doing incredible work and that each and every Soldier in his platoon deployed ready and able to accomplish their mission.

“We have a lot of junior Soldiers in their early 20s displaying maturity that’s well beyond their years and rank and that’s one of the main reasons that they’re successful. It speaks highly to the quality of the NCOs in this platoon and the training we underwent at home station.” said Rice.

This training is put to the test as

HCT members integrate with 3AAB’s land owning battalions in order to provide critical intelligence support to force protection and targeting efforts. Before HCT members can meet with any source, detailed planning and coordination must take place. Each team works diligently to prepare key points of discussion for every meeting. This preparation ensures meetings remain focused on relevant intelligence requirements, avoiding the potential pitfall of wandering conversations. They then coordinate acceptable times and locations for meetings, a process that can require considerable effort in order to ensure source comfort and safety. Meeting durations vary from a few minutes to several hours depending on the nature of the meeting and the sources’ availability.

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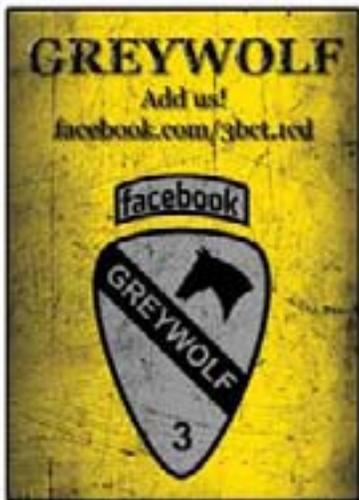
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Photo by 1 Lt. Ryan VanZandt

A Human Intelligence Collection Team member prepares for a mission.

Once the meeting concludes, HCT members return and immediately begin processing the information into draft intelligence information reports (DIIR). Clarity is paramount when writing intelligence reports and each DIIR undergoes scrutiny from multiple echelons prior to release. For time sensitive information that requires immediate dissemination, HCT members publish concise narrative reports with essential information called SPOT reports. These reports carry critical importance.

“These are reports that can ultimately save Soldiers lives and allow commanders to make decisions

that alter enemy attack cycles,” said a Soldier from Co. A.

HCT’s also stand ready to assist with independent or joint interrogations in order to garner additional intelligence from detainees. At a moment’s notice they can prepare specific approaches and deploy to outlying detainment facilities to conduct interrogations. Information collected during interrogations is processed by HCT members and published following review from higher echelons. Depending on the detainees level of cooperation and availability HCT members can conduct several hundred interrogations of a single detainee. While interrogations may be few and far between in today’s fight, HCT members routinely conduct missions with the various battalions in order to keep intelligence flowing. They embed with patrols and travel to objectives where they provide the expertise and capabilities beyond standard tactical questioning.

People are any organizations greatest asset. Exploiting the knowledge they possess provides the commander with critical intelligence that drives decisions. HCT members provide the unique skills and qualifications necessary to mine all avenues of Human Intelligence. Professional, adaptable and always ready, the HCT members of Co. A continue to embrace the daily challenges of military source operations. With plenty of time remaining in 3AAB’s deployment, HCT members will be able to do just that.

