

# THE MOUNTED RIFLEMAN

3d ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT

APRIL 2005

A silhouette of a mounted rifleman is shown against a bright, hazy sunset background. The soldier is wearing a helmet with a night vision device and is looking through the sights of a rifle. The rifle is mounted on a tripod. The overall mood is one of readiness and vigilance.

*Always  
ready for  
a fight*

# THE MOUNTED RIFLEMAN



**Published monthly by the  
3d Armored  
Cavalry Regiment**

**71ST REGIMENTAL COMMANDER**  
Col. H.R. McMaster

**XVI COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR**  
Command Sgt. Maj. John Caldwell

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER**  
Maj. Gary Dangerfield

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS NCOIC/EDITOR**  
Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

**REGIMENTAL ARTIST**  
Spc. Meredith Nunley

*The Mounted Rifleman* is the official publication for the Troopers, Noncommissioned Officers, Officers, family members and friends of the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment. Views expressed herein are those of the authors.

*The Mounted Rifleman* is the primary Command Information tool of the Regimental command leadership. Its mission is to foster esprit de corps, enhance morale and keep Troopers informed throughout the Regiment.

## ABOUT THIS

### ISSUE

Initially when I began designing the April edition of the *Mounted Rifleman* magazine, I was ready to proclaim the the Regiment's successful move up north as we 'crossed the berm' into Iraq to begin our operations in theater.

I was ready to explain how there were numerous convoys on the dangerous highways and roads, yet the Troopers of this great Regiment remained vigilant and arrived to our various camps with little to no incidents.

Not one convoy endured any attacks by either small arms fire or improvised explosive device (IED). All in all, it was as successful as a convoy operation with this magnitude could get.

I was also ready to enlighten our families and friends back home about our good living conditions. Our meals are served hot four times a day, we have hot showers and when the brunt of the Iraqi sun comes down on us, we're able to cool ourselves in air conditioned tents.

We can't complain, life isn't too bad here. But on April 17, 2005, everything changed. The Regiment lost its first trooper, Pvt. Joseph Knott, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III following an IED attack. In the same attack, the XVI Command Sergeant Major of the Regiment, Command Sgt. Maj. John Caldwell, sustained injuries.

By the time this edition is published, the Backbone of our Regiment, will be recovering at Walter Reed U.S. Army Hospital at Washington, D.C. The heart of every Trooper, family member and friend of the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment is heavy and filled with pain.

Despite this malicious and cowardly attack, every Trooper should know this is a tough fight... and one we will win. We will prevail, but it will take time, and will mean additional risks, sacrifices, and occasional setbacks. We must stay the course.

On a personal note, I was in the vehicle with Command Sgt. Maj. Caldwell when the IED hit us. Even though he was bloodied, broken and bruised, he displayed his warrior spirit while being placed on the litter. He tried to wave away the medics and I know in his heart, he wanted to get up and fight. Brave Rifles standard number one -- Always be ready for a fight!

-- The Editor



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

*Left/Cover: Pvt. Joseph Knott, cavalry scout, Remington Troop, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, maintain the gunner's seat in his Humvee at Camp Striker, Iraq during sunset. Five days after this photo was taken, Knott was killed by an improvised explosive device on April 17. See Pages 8-10 for related article and photos.*

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Cover photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

# A message from the 71st Colonel of the Regiment



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

***Col. H.R. McMaster, 71st Regimental Commander, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, addresses his Personal Security Detachment prior to a mission in the Regiment's Area of Operations.***

I am very proud of our troopers. We arrived in Iraq and immediately began pursuing the enemy. Our troopers, in combined operations with Iraqi Army units, are taking the fight to the terrorists and murderers who would deny the Iraqi people the security and freedom they deserve. The Regiment has captured insurgents, uncovered ammunition and weapons caches, and prevented enemy attacks on critical routes and bases.

Our troopers are building relationships with Iraqis who want to help bring security to their towns and cities. In many areas, our troopers and the Iraqi soldiers operating with them have received a very warm welcome.

When we see Iraqi children who have been victims of the enemy campaign of terror greet us enthusiastically as we patrol the area, we know that we are on a vitally important mission.

When we see the courageous Iraqi soldiers who are standing beside us, we know that the enemy will soon have nowhere to hide. The enemies of freedom, however, are desperate to see democracy fail in Iraq.

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Iraq is still a violent and dangerous place. During a patrol in our Area of Operations on April 17, the Regimental Command Sergeant Major and I, accompanied by our Regimental security detachment, conducted a patrol to assess the situation in our area and visit a unit recently attached to the Brave Rifles.

A Company, 1-41 Infantry had six of their soldiers wounded the day prior. During the mission, RCSM Caldwell's vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device. The Command Sergeant Major's gunner, Pvt. Joseph Knott, was killed in action and the RCSM was wounded.

On a separate patrol in the Ninewa Province on April 28, troopers from Grim Troop, 2/3 ACR were struck by an improvised explosive device. Pfc. Ricky Rockholt and Pvt. Robert Murray were killed in action and Spc. Nicholas Beintema and Pfc. Bryan Lofton were wounded.

All of us are deeply saddened by the deaths of Knott, Rockholt, and Murray. They were tough troopers and fine men. They were greatly respected and much loved by every member of our team. They were absolutely dedicated to our important mission and to their fellow troopers.

I ask you to keep Pvt. Knott, Pfc. Rockholt, Pvt. Murray and their families in your prayers and pray that RCSM Caldwell, Spc. Beintema, and Pfc. Lofton recover quickly and fully from their injuries.

We will do our best to honor our fallen and wounded soldiers with our deeds as we continue our mission.

As you may already know, the Regiment has received a change of mission. As a result of that change, Saber squadron has already moved to Ninewa Province and the majority of the Regiment will join them in the next month.

Because the Regiment is already conducting operations in a critical area south of Baghdad, Thunder Squadron, Renegade Troop, Predator Battery, and elements of Support Squadron, and AVIM Troop will remain in Baghdad as part of the 3d Infantry Division Team.

Families should be very proud of your Soldiers. All of our troopers have displayed extraordinary discipline, professionalism, toughness, and compas-



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

**Col. H.R. McMaster, 71st Regimental Commander, 3d ACR, speaks to troopers during the uncasing ceremony on April 13 at Camp Striker, Iraq.**

sion for the Iraqi people. The Regiment is a family. We will stay true to our purpose and to each other.

Our efforts will help bring peace to over 25 million fellow human beings while pursuing the safety and well being of our own nation. It is a privilege to serve alongside the troopers of this great Regiment as we continue our mission. We are also proud of our families. We appreciate the sacrifices you make that allow us to serve our nation.

### **BRAVE RIFLES!**

H.R. McMaster  
71st Colonel of the Regiment



# A message from the XVI CSM of the Regiment

First and foremost, I wish to extend greetings to all from the land of Iraq. It is great to see that we all made it safe and sound from Kuwait to Iraq.

As we get established in our Forward Operating Bases, I ask all leaders to continue improving them and to constantly ensure we are maintaining the proper force protection measures.

The quality of life for the entire Regiment, regardless of your location, is one of my primary concerns. My priority is to ensure you have everything you need, and most of what you want.

We have a long, hard road ahead of us, and we need every Trooper to complete our mission. The intense Iraqi summer has yet to bear down upon us, so with the upcoming brutal temperatures, we must start earlier in the day and maintain hydration.

Leaders, I personally hold you accountable for this. I want all leaders to ensure our Troopers are eating properly and maintaining a good diet along with drinking water.

From my position the Regiment's strong points are our flexibility to adapt to any mission and teamwork. This will get us through the rough times ahead because we know that we have somebody always looking out for us.

You are well trained and prepared for any mission that comes your way – anytime day or night. Remember the Brave Rifles Standards – always be ready for a fight and plan for casualty evacuation.

I hope and pray we never have to conduct a casualty evacuation, however if we have to, our Troopers will receive the best and quickest care available.

I had the opportunity to witness all of you train and prepare while in Kuwait. I was totally impressed with what I saw you do everyday in preparation for our movement north. You are an organization to be reckoned with and I feel sorry for the fools who will try to test you.

I want to convey to all of our family and friends back home that your Troopers are doing well, and they are ready and focused for the mission at hand.

I know it's difficult, but I ask you to please not to



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

***Command Sgt. Maj. John Caldwell, XVI Regimental command sergeant major, uncases the U.S. flag prior to the Regiment's unfurling ceremony at Camp Striker on April 13, 2005 symbolizing the return of 3d ACR to Iraq.***

worry about them, but always keep us all in your prayers.

As always I am extremely proud of the Troopers of this great Regiment and truly humbled to be a part of this team. I thank you for what you're doing and I thank you in advance for what you will do in the near future.

**Brave Rifles!  
RCSM**



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

***Col. H.R. McMaster, commander of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, and Command Sgt. Maj. John Caldwell, 3rd ACR command sergeant major, salute the Regiment's colors during the uncasing ceremony held on Camp Striker, Iraq April 13, 2005.***

## Regiment unfurl colors symbolizing return to Iraq

**By Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks**  
NCOIC, 3rd ACR Public Affairs

Nearly one year after ending its tour of duty of Operation Iraqi Freedom I, the colors of the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment were unfurled on Iraqi soil once again April 13.

Donning their traditional Stetson hats and spurs, more than 200 Troopers of the Army's first-ever cavalry regiment stood in line as Col. H.R. McMaster, regiment commander, explained the unit's mission in support of OIF III.



McMaster linked a quote from the 28<sup>th</sup> Commander of the Regiment, Gen. George S. Patton, to symbolize the importance of the Regiment's role in fighting the war on terrorism.

"Many years from now when your grandchildren ask you what did you do or where were you during the global war on terrorism, you'll be able to tell them you were not at home watching it on television or placing a yellow ribbon on your bumper," McMaster said. "You can tell them you were here on the ground fighting the war on terror."

The Regiment of Mounted Riflemen was organized by Congress May 19, 1846 and brought into existence a new organization in the American Army: a regiment of riflemen mounted and equipped with Model 1841 percussion rifles to provide longer range and more firepower than the smoothbore weapons of the infantry and dragoons.

***Left: Nearly one year after serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom I, the spurs of the Mounted Riflemen have returned to set foot on Iraqi soil.***

# Regiment honors fallen cavalry scout

Trooper remembered for his devotion to duty, love of music

**By Sgt. 1st Class**

**Donald Sparks**

NCOIC, 3rd ACR Public Affairs

As Pfc. Joseph Labian Knott's name was called thrice by 1st Sgt. Rodney Greene during the memorial service to honor the fallen trooper, not a sound could be heard.

That is except for the chiming of his dog tags clanging in the cool,

dusk breeze during the event held April 21.

Knott, assigned to the Regimental Headquarters, Headquarters "Remington" Troop, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, was killed in action April 17 when his vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device.

At the service, Col. H.R. McMaster, 3rd ACR commander, spoke about the cavalry scout who served on his Personal Security Detachment.

"We are here to honor and say goodbye to one of our Brave Rifles

brothers, a great cavalry trooper and a fine man," McMaster said. "On 17 April during operations in the South Baghdad area, he made the ultimate sacrifice to bring peace to this difficult region, defeat the forces of terrorism and hatred, and permit children, both in Iraq and in our own nation, to live free of fear."

Concluding his remarks, McMaster looked at the gathering of troopers at the service, some donning the traditional Stetsons and spurs, and made a promise on behalf of the first 3rd ACR trooper



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

**Staff Sgt. Matthew Hodges, right, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, cries during the memorial service for Pfc. Joseph Knott held at Camp Striker, Iraq on April 21. Hodges was Knott's platoon sergeant of the Personal Security Detachment.**



*“He strived for excellence in everything he did and always kept the morale of his fellow troopers high.”*

**-- Cpl. Thomas Dillard**



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks  
**Above: The kevlar, M16A2 and dog tags of Pfc. Joseph Knott are displayed for the more than 200 troopers attending the memorial service for the slain 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment trooper. Top right: Knott's photo and boots with spurs are displayed at the service.**

killed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III.

“We should also draw strength from Joseph Knott’s example,” McMaster said. “I, for one, will do my best to follow his example – to put fellow troopers before myself, to do my very best to win this fight against terrorists and the enemies of freedom, to maintain my sense of humor and enjoy the company of my fellow troopers.”

Knott joined the Army from Yuma, Ariz., with ambitions of joining the Special Forces. He was remembered for earning the respect of his fellow troopers on the PSD and his dedication to duty.

His company commander shared his initial conver-

sation with him upon his arrival in October to the unit back at Fort Carson, Colo.

“When I reviewed his welcome center in-processing packet, I noticed his comment in the ‘comments section,’” said Capt. David Rozelle, RHHT company commander. “He had written, ‘Everything was fine, but I would have liked some more time to have some fun.’ Laughing, I asked him what he meant.

“He did not crack a smile but said, ‘I knew that once I was with the Cav we would be working hard to get ready for war.’ He was right.”

Troopers of the historic unit were deeply moved when one of Knott’s closest friends and member of the PSD came to the podium and delivered a personal, heartfelt tribute. Pfc. Shawn Hatley compiled a list of memories of “Knotty” from other members of the PSD and comprised a speech.

“He showed loyalty and respect to his platoon, he showed honor and integrity in his personality; character in how he carried himself, he showed personal courage and selfless service every time we left the gate,” Hatley said. “Knotty Boy always had a tune and kept a tune. He loved music. Every time you saw Knott, he was always singing and nodding his head. And when you would look at him, he would just smile and keep on singing.”

As the breeze picked up a tad, Knott’s dog tags chimed a bit more, reminding his fellow troopers there was still a tune left to hear and a song to sing.

“If I could sing I would sing louder,” McMaster said.

Knott is survived by his father Jerry, his mother Pamela, his sisters Susan and Sheela, and his brother Jerry.

Pfc. Joseph Knott was a great Soldier and the finest of men. He was a natural leader who inspired those around him because of his professionalism, discipline, and absolute dedication to our important mission in Iraq and to his fellow troopers. We will miss him. His family is foremost in our thoughts and prayers. We will do our best to honor Joseph with our deeds.

-Col. H.R. McMaster

We will always remember Pfc. Knott as an American Hero. He is one of the proud volunteers who joined this war selflessly, to better the lives of those who he does not know and to protect America abroad. I will always remember him as a dedicated soldier who I could trust. His friends remember him with a smile.

-Capt. David Rozelle

Joe was a proud Soldier and a kind person. We miss him dearly and will remember him always. Just know that his sacrifice was not in vain and he fought the good fight. May the Lord bless and protect you.

-Spc. Wesley VanBruaene

Pfc. Knott was an outstanding Soldier and an example amongst young men. He strived for excellence in everything he did and always kept the morale of his fellow troopers high. It was a pleasure to have known him and an honor to have served with him.

-Cpl. Thomas Dillard

Pfc. Knotty Boy was always the one to make us laugh and to make us wonder what was going through his head. He was always singing or looked like he was

posing for a picture and smiling. Knotty Boy was a true Soldier...the .50 cal's are all taken care of my friend.

-Pfc. Matthew Ryan

Pfc. Knott was a person who always saw the good in someone and knew that everything would always end up fine. I will always remember him as he smiled and flexed.

-Pfc. Martin Gaymon



Pfc. Knott was an exemplary Soldier and a fine man. He was a motivated and disciplined Soldier who was unwaveringly loyal to his family, his friends, and his unit. It was an honor and a privilege to have known him and to have served with him. He will be missed. Brave Rifles!

-Staff Sgt. Matthew Hodges

Pfc. Knott, "Gunz" is what we called him. He was the type of person that would do everything he could to help the next person. He knew what he wanted to do, and left doing what he loved. He

will always be with us. We will see him again at Fiddler's Green!..rest in peace PFC Knott. It was an honor to serve with you.

-Sgt. Gene Braxton

"No greater gift has a man than this; to give his life for his friends." PFC Joseph Knott was the type of soldier that could instill pride in any leader. He was a great man and a great soldier to lead. He lived daily by the Army values of Honor, Duty, and Loyalty. He will be greatly missed as a member of the team and as a friend. His memory will always be with us and his family will be in our prayers. Peace be with you till we meet again. God speed and God bless.

-Sgt. Jesse E. Miller

I cannot express how well Pfc. Knott did his duties on and off the battlefield. As the gunner in my truck I wish we could have avoided that tragedy. I remember his selfless service on a convoy in Kuwait where he and I helped another injured Soldier after an accident. He didn't hesitate and was right there by my side helping our wounded comrade. He is truly an outstanding Soldier who will be missed dearly, but I know he is in God's hands right now. It was an honor to serve with him.

-Spc. Kanai Thim

I first saw Pfc. Knott during basic training last summer in A Troop, 5/15 Cav. I did not get many opportunities to talk to him at that time until we both got to Fort Carson. At Fort Carson, I got to know him and found out what kind of person he was. He was a great Soldier and a good friend. I will never forget him.

-Pvt. Marcos Rico



# TIGER SQUADRON

**By Lt. Col. Gregory Reilly**  
1st Squadron Commander

Greetings Tiger Squadron, family, troopers, and friends. The Squadron completed all reception requirements and training tasks in Kuwait and is now positioned in Iraq conducting combat operations.

The squadron demonstrated superb flexibility and skill by changing our mission location on the move from Kuwait to Iraq.

It is extremely difficult to execute this 300 mile movement and even more challenging to make changes along the way.

The squadron is now located in one place which enables us to harness and focus the collective energy of all our teams into one mission.

In Tiger Squadron fashion, we wasted little time in planning and conducting large scale reconnaissance operations.

Just three days after our last unit arrived, we deployed all elements forward, working with Iraqi army forces to improve security in our area.

The initial Tiger operation was the first of its kind in the Regiment and ensured all soldiers in the

squadron could hone all aspects of our capabilities.

This operation will certainly pay dividends for the squadron during our tour.

The morale, spirit, and health of the squadron are superb. The confidence, skill level, discipline, and professionalism are the highest I have ever witnessed.

I can assure you that I am committed to accomplishing every mission assigned as safely as possible.

The squadron will certainly leave Iraq in a much better condition after our tour. We will make the Iraqi Army stronger, as well as help those Iraqis in need of assistance that we encounter

and set favorable conditions for a transition to complete Iraqi sovereignty.

Tiger Squadron is demonstrating once again that when the nation calls, only the finest exhibition of service and duty will be provided.

I am so proud to lead this great group of leaders, troopers, and teams. The sacrifice of the unit, its Soldiers and our families is what makes our nation the strongest in the world.

I cordially want to thank the entire Tiger-team for your outstanding support and dedication to the Squadron, the Regiment, the Army, and this great nation.

**Tiger 6**

Tiger Squadron is **demonstrating** once again that when the nation calls, only the finest exhibition of **service** and **duty** will be **provided**.







# SABRE SQUADRON

## Eagle Troop leaders arrange family reunion

**By Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Donald Sparks**  
3d ACR NCOIC, PAO

For many parents after saying goodbye to their children departing for military service the chance to see them in uniform usually takes place at basic training graduation or when they come home on leave.

However, Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Stanley Gillens had to travel across the globe from Eutawville, S.C. to Camp Buehring located at Udairi, Kuwait to see his son, Pfc. Kelton Gillens. The reunion took place on March 28, 2005, seven months after Kelton left for Fort Knox, Ky. to become a tanker.

The elder Gillens, assigned to the 412<sup>th</sup> Replacement Company, deployed to Kuwait in December 2004 four months prior to his son's arrival in March with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment.

"Before he left I told him that not long after completing his training, he'd probably be going to Iraq," Gillens said. "He said he understood that, but it's something he wanted to do."

The elder Gillens, a veteran of Desert Shield/Storm, hoped he would also see his middle son, Stanley Jr., while in Kuwait. He talked to both sons after finding out he was deploying and discussed the possibility of all three meeting each other in Kuwait.

"It would have been a nice family reunion, but it didn't happen," Gillens said.

Despite not being able to see one son, the opportunity to see Kelton as a Soldier meant a great deal for him. The day prior to seeing his 'baby boy,' Gillens reflected on Easter Sundays past with his family in South Carolina and what advice he'd give his son during their reunion.

"I just want to make sure he remembers all the

things and values he was taught growing up," Gillens said. "As long he does that he'll be fine."

Upon entering his tent and noticing his father standing at his bunk, the younger Gillens revealed a huge smile that only a child can give a parent.

See **REUNION**, Page 13



Photo by Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Donald Sparks

**Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Stanley Gillens, right, shares a moment with his son, Pfc. Kelton Gillens, during a surprise visit at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. The Eutawville, S.C. natives reunited when the elder Gillens, while deployed with the 412<sup>th</sup> Replacement Company, found his son assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment.**



***Pfc. Kelton Gillens hugs his father, Sgt. 1st Class Stanley Gillens, during a surprise visit at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, March 28, 2005. The Eutawville, S.C. natives reunited when the elder Gillens while deployed with the 412th Replacement Company, found his son assigned to Eagle Troop, 2nd Squadron, 3d ACR.***



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

“I couldn’t even talk, I was very excited,” Gillens said. “I can’t even think straight right now.”

Gillens, assigned to Eagle Troop, 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron, 3<sup>rd</sup> ACR, mentioned his father advised him to be a perfect Soldier, do what he’s told to do, be safe and look out for his battle buddies. “I’m doing all those things,” he said.

While embracing his son, Gillens reminded him to stay focused and, “to remember first and foremost we’re still at war.”

The reunion was made possible through the efforts of Capt. Stanley Robinson, 377<sup>th</sup> Theater Support Command, who served with the 3d ACR during Desert Shield/Storm, and 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Hernando Pena, E Troop, 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron, 3d ACR. As a lieutenant Robinson served in the same unit as Pena.

Pena made it a priority to ensure the reunion would take place after talking to Robinson.

“I have a son in the Navy, so I can understand what it would be like to have your father in the same theater, something tangible where you can reach out and touch him, that’s awesome,” Pena said. “It’s a great morale booster for the Soldier. ‘My dad gets to see literally that I’m okay. They’re taking care of me up here.’”

Pena added the elder Gillens can relate back to his wife and family members back home “little man is doing fine.”

“And that’s one less thing at home for his family to

worry about,” Pena said. “When you see those combinations like that, it’s awesome. That’s special. Without a question the chain of command here would make that happen.

“It gives that Soldier a sense that my Troop is looking out for me. God forbid something happens. I would hate to say that I never got to see the opportunity to see my dad.”

Gillens said he was extremely glad his chain of command arranged the meeting between him and his father.

“This means a lot to me and it lets me know my leadership really cares about the Soldiers in my unit,” Gillens said. “It makes being over here easier to deal with now that I’ve seen my father. I’m alright now, I’m alright.”

The effect of Gillens’ father also impacted the young Soldier’s fellow troopers. Members of his platoon shook hands and exchanged pleasantries and kudos about Gillens to his father. Also, the Soldiers shared the experience as if it was their own relative visiting the tent.

“I saw the smile on his face when he saw his dad and I think it’s a good morale boost not only for him, but for all of us,” said Pvt. Jose Guerrero, E Troop, 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron, 3d ACR. “In our platoon, if one Soldier is feeling down, then everyone is down. If one is happy, then all are happy. We’re all happy right now.”



# THUNDER SQUADRON

**By Lt. Col. Ross A. Brown**  
3/3 Squadron Commander

**F**riends and Families of Thunder Squadron your troopers have performed every mission to the highest of standards.

In Kuwait, I challenged them to continue to develop their leaders, work their troop-leading skills hard, and conduct an aggressive phased maintenance plan.

Their performance was nothing short of outstanding and resulted in our troopers having much confidence in themselves, their leaders, and their equipment.

The arduous work they put into these areas was indicative in the fact that the Squadron deployed from Kuwait to Forward Operating Base Falcon without any incidents/accidents, or vehicle breakdowns.

The month of April has been busy. The Squadron has performed magnificently while conducting reconnaissance and security operations in arguably one of the most complex environments that Operation Iraqi Freedom has to offer.

In every mission, your men and women have answered the call of the Regiment, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, and the Iraqi people.

I am very proud of them, as

their mission accomplishment has been superlative.

Due to the complexity of our terrain, the Squadron was issued M1114s Up-Armored HMMWVs.

These warhorses have already proven their value in areas where trafficability of our tanks and bradleys would be restricted or very challenging.

This coupled with the force protection they provide your troopers make them a valued

addition to our Squadron.

All of your troopers who joined us in late March and this month have been integrated back into their troops, company, or battery and are doing very well. The team is strong and every trooper has a battle buddy.

Thanks for your continued support of our soldiers and other Thunder families. Our thoughts and prayers remain with you.

**Thunder 6**

“The Squadron has performed **magnificently** while conducting reconnaissance and security operations in **arguably** one of the most complex environments that Operation Iraqi Freedom has to **offer.**”

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# Thunder's first encounter with Iraqis festive affair

## Troopers met with music, food by local Iraqi community upon arrival in new area of operations

**By Capt. Samuel Cook**  
Headquarters, Headquarters Troop, 3/3

Thunder Squadron entered into combat operations on April 6, one day after arriving in Iraq. Since then, the pace has been fast, but the Squadron has made a lot of progress towards gaining an understanding of the local population and their needs.

The Squadron conducted continuous security along major portions of highways that support both local and coalition traffic. It also provided security to protect the transitional Iraqi National government from attacks during their meetings.

Leaders at all levels are developing contacts with the local population, taking a firm, but fair and courteous approach that the people greatly appreciate.

A Civil Affairs Patrol along the Tigris River on April 14 encountered a community of farmers who were receptive to coalition presence. They operated with little electricity and no clean water available.

Through a thorough assessment of the area, the Squadron sought to find projects that the Iraqi people want and will support.

By helping the people rebuild their community, the Squadron hopes to see results towards cooperation on security issues that will one day allow them to live freely and in peace.

The patrol was greeted by a man running to give them a fresh dish of rice, served with warm Pita bread and a curry sauce.

Before the patrol could

accept this offer, they discovered that the food was already half finished by the interpreter who had a craving for Iraqi food after suffering through coalition dining facilities.

Throughout the day, cars that stopped at checkpoints were filled with people thanking for our presence and for providing security.

Two women offered oranges to soldiers as we passed their car. Soldiers, who had not eaten all day, gladly accepted the unexpected meal.

The most excitement on the patrol came when a band started to play on the street. What sounded initially like gunfire turned out to be jubilant beating on a snare drum in the ensemble.

Energized by his Iraqi meal earlier in the patrol, the interpreter began to join the wedding party. The groom was very eager to have his party pass through the coalition checkpoint so that he could assume his full responsibilities as a good husband.

The patrol finished the day with a solid appreciation for the area, the people's sentiment towards the coalition, the new government, and their needs that we can address over the coming year.

Thunder Squadron is well on its way to forming a bond with the people in the area that will result in security and a free, elected government.



Photo by Capt. Samuel Cook

***Iraqi villagers and an interpreter dance and celebrate during a wedding celebration near a coalition checkpoint in Thunder Squadron's area of operations. The community embraced the troopers and welcomed them to the area.***





# LONGKNIFE SQUADRON

**By Lt. Col. Douglass Pavak**  
4/3 Squadron Commander

Dear family and friends of the Longknife Squadron, I trust all is well on the home front. We understand Colorado Springs enjoyed a recent snow storm...believe we could all use a blizzard here in Iraq right about now.

Longknife Squadron continues to perform with distinction during this critical combat mission. The Squadron moved north into Iraq and began operations here starting the end of March and we are currently in full stride.

As expected, the situation is fluid here and just as we have started to settle into our current location, we will likely have to move the Squadron again in the near future. But we are flexible and handle any mission requested of us.

I would like to take this opportunity to officially welcome "Air Raider" (AVIM) Troop and their families to the team. Air Raider has officially teamed up with the Squadron establishing "Task Force Longknife."

Although AVIM Troop remains organic to the Regimental Support Squadron, they have joined 4/3 operationally and will be an invaluable asset to the Squadron.

Although the temperatures continue to climb, and the Squadron has been hard at work, March passed quickly for most. The month finished with a flurry of activity to include taking part in Table VI gunnery, Regimental Convoy Live Fire Exercises, and the move north into Iraq.



Courtesy photo

## Easy does it

*A Renegade Trooper crewman explains how controls on an AH-64D operate to a Kuwait Air Force member during their Static Display March 21 at Camp Buehring.*

When not training Troopers were busy focusing on preparing and maintaining aircraft and vehicles for the movement north.

Each Troop, from AVIM to Stetson, has accomplished a lot over the past month. Prior to leaving Kuwait, Renegade was able to take a little time off from their continuous war time focus and made a special connection with the Kuwaiti Air Force.

The Troop conducted a static display of AH-64D Apache Attack Helicopters, where they familiarized the Kuwait Air Force with the aircraft and were quizzed on controls, functions, and capabilities.

See **LONGKNIFE**, Page 17



**LONGKNIFE** from  
Page 16

I am extremely pleased the movement north was sound and that the Squadron arrived safely in Iraq. The Troopers of Longknife traveled via planes, helicopters and military vehicle convoy bringing new meaning to the phrase, *'planes, trains and automobiles.'*

Now that the team has reassembled, we are conducting missions and continuing to establish our operational base.

Although construction continues, conditions are better than expected. Troopers jump at the opportunity to travel to Camp Victory and Camp Liberty, visit the local Bazaars, call home, visit the gym, get in some much needed PT and get settled before the missions ahead.

I remain extremely proud of Task Force Longknife and am humbled to be a member of this distinguished team. We are the perfect unit to accomplish this mission and our Troopers continue to perform brilliantly.

Morale in the "Task Force" remains high and the Squadron's continued success is a result of every Trooper's hard work and dedication to their respected missions.

Until next month, please take care of yourselves and each other through these challenging times and as always remain proud of what your troopers are accomplishing in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom...GAME ON!

**Longknife 06**

## NFL player, 4/3 trooper reunited through USO

**By Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class  
Donald Sparks**  
3d ACR NCOIC, PAO

The last time Clemente Torres embraced Larry Izzo in uniform, he was wearing the blue and white colors of Rice University as members of the Owls football team following their historic victory over the University of Texas in 1994.

Fast forward 11 years and Torres embraced his old teammate once again, this time wearing Army tan as a trooper assigned to 4<sup>th</sup> Squadron, 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment while deployed to Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

"I was so excited," Torres

said. "I used to go against him in every practice and put him on his back."

Izzo, now a linebacker with the three-time Super Bowl winning New England Patriots, visited the camp along with Atlanta Falcons running back Warrick Dunn as part of the USO and NFL Salute the Troops Tour (Persian Gulf region), March 31.

During the autograph session Torres surprised Izzo and they both rekindled their memories from the gridiron in Houston.

Torres played tight end for Rice after playing high school ball at Houston MacArthur, while Izzo starred at McCullough.

See **TORRES**, Page 18



Courtesy photo

### Dust off

*An OH-58D takes off from port and heads north enroute to Camp Striker, Iraq.*

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**TORRES** from Page 17

**Right: Spc. Clemente Torres, 4th Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, holds up the Super Bowl rings of his former college football teammate, Larry Izzo, at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Izzo, now a linebacker for the New England Patriots, was touring the Persian Gulf region when the two reunited.**



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

“He still looks good,” Izzo said of his former teammate. “We were pretty tough against each other back in the day at Rice. It’s amazing to see him out here and I’m proud of him.”

“We used to talk trash to each other on whose high school was better,” Torres said. “It’s been 10 years since we’ve last saw each other. I can’t believe that I’d run into him all the way over here in Kuwait. This is such a small world.”

Torres, who joined the Army in 2003 as an Apache Longbow Helicopter Armament/Electrical/Avionic Systems Repairer, mentioned he kept track of Izzo’s professional career and he cheers for him every time he plays.

“This event makes me feel very proud,” Torres said. “It lets us Soldiers know that people in America are still supporting us and they know we’re out here. Those guys (Izzo and Dunn) make big bucks and could have been training for the next season, but instead they’re here.”

The USO and NFL Salute the Troops Tour allows current football stars an opportunity to head to the Persian Gulf to provide a morale boost to troops stationed in the region and to ‘meet and greet’ troops and participate in the opening of The Pat Tillman USO Center in Afghanistan.

The NFL donated \$250,000 to the USO for the construction of the new center, located at Bagram Air

**“I used to go against him in every practice and put him on his back.,,**

**-- Spc. Clemente Torres**

Base near Kabul, to be named in honor of Pat Tillman. A former player with the Arizona Cardinals and an Army Ranger, Tillman was killed during combat operations in Afghanistan in 2004.

This is both players second stint visiting servicemembers overseas. While at the 2002 Pro Bowl (his second of three), Izzo visited 8,500 crew members aboard the USS Carl Vinson at Pearl Harbor. The ship left the next day to participate in Operation Enduring Freedom.

He joined NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue and other NFL players on a four-day trip to visit troops in Germany in May 2004.

“It means a lot to me to personally come here and say ‘thank you’ to men and women serving in uniform,” Dunn said. “We are proud of you and we support you. And we are extremely grateful for the sacrifices that you make every day.”



# MULESKINNER SQUADRON

**By Lt. Col. Richard O'Connor**  
Support Squadron Commander

Dear friends and families of the troopers of Support Squadron, I'm happy to tell you the Muleskinner Squadron has made to Iraq.

The Troop landed and began working immediately to ensure the Regiment was prepared to move north into Iraq.

Ahead of the Regimental main body, Tech Supply moved into Iraq and within 12 hours established a repair part warehouse that rivals any that we have seen so far, even though some other units have been operational for nearly a year.

The maintenance shops and Cavalry Support Teams were also established quickly and continued repairing equipment the Regiment relies upon to complete the mission.

On April 13, the Regiment uncased the Regimental Colors, signifying that 3d ACR was officially established in Iraq.

Over the past month, Maintenance Troop has been very busy with both mission and training.

Before deploying into Iraq, at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, we received our equipment, trained convoy tactics, techniques, and procedures, acclimatized to the Middle Eastern climate, and set up



Courtesy photo

***Support Squadron's colors wave over the unit's Command Post on Camp Striker, Iraq.***

our respective shops to support the Regiment.

Many hours were spent learning about the Anti-Iraqi Forces, about our fellow Coalition forces, and about the Iraqi people and their culture.

We continue to develop ourselves professionally, and our troopers work tirelessly ensuring the Regiment has no shortfalls caused by inoperable equipment affecting our important mission.

Since our reception into theater, several troopers have been promoted. They include: Capt. Michael Allard, Sgt. Kendall Bailey, Sgt. Christopher Sullivan, Spc. Tyrone Harris, Pfc. Branden Baxter-Brown, Pfc. Leslie Brown, Pfc. Miguel Hernandez, Pfc. Brian Moore, Pfc. Jay Pfeiffer, and Pfc. Michael Toone.

We are very proud of these troopers. We are also excited to receive two new lieutenants into our troop: 2nd Lt. Jonathan Fredritz and 2nd Lt. Thomas Katsahnias. They will be the 2nd Forward Platoon Leader and Ground Support Equipment Platoon Leader, respectively.

We also said goodbye to Capt. Allard, who is the newest member to the "Monkey Cage" or formally known as the Support Squadron S-3 shop in Headquarters, Headquarters Troop.

The 271 troopers of Maintenance Troop have since completed the movement north into Iraq and are now settling into tents and preparing for our mission of providing direct support to the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen.

Motivation remains high as the troopers look forward to completing their mission, helping to write another chapter in the proud history of this Regiment.

**Brave Rifles!**



# Keeping the convoy moving

Flat tires doesn't deflate S&T troopers mission

By Sgt. 1st Class  
Donald Sparks  
NCOIC, 3d ACR Public  
Affairs

If quitting was an option for Sgt. Christopher Ayala, he would have walked away in defeat from the 175 pounds of rubber at his feet.

After toiling for nearly a half hour in the sweltering Iraqi sun on him while placing a run flat on a new tire for his Light-Medium Tactical Vehicle, he wiped his brow and released a sigh of exasperation for a job finally done.

Hell-bent and physically drained, Ayala, assigned to Supply & Transportation Troop, 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment, and his fellow trooper, Sgt. David Sawyer, now could walk away from the tire and focus on the next one lying on the ground – but only after a well-deserved break.

"You feel the heat out here," Ayala said. "It's tiring, you're going non-stop, but it has to be done."

The El Paso, Texas native serving as a petroleum supply specialist and other members of his platoon were performing their daily Preventative Maintenance Checks and Services (PMCS) after completing a three-day convoy to Iraq from Kuwait earlier in the week.

During the convoy two vehicles suffered flat tires causing a



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

**Sgt. Christopher Ayala, Support & Transportation Troop, Support Squadron, 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment, tightens a bolt on a tire rim using a hand socket on Camp Striker**

minimal delay. Despite the hasty repair of the flat tires, the risk of breaking down on an Iraqi road or highway is something all the leaders dreaded.

"If a truck breaks down, it leaves all of us in the convoy in a bad situation," said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class David McCullum, platoon sergeant, S&T Troop. "Nobody wants to be out there on the side of the road sitting as an ambush target

not knowing if the enemy is out there ready to use an IED [improvised explosive device]. That's why we're performing our PMCS everyday."

The objective of preventative maintenance is to avert equipment failure by finding and fixing minor problems before major defects occur.

Platoon leaders, aided by platoon sergeants and squad





**Sgt. David Sawyer, left, and Sgt. Christopher Ayala, team together to pop the rim off a worn tire. The two petroleum supply specialists, assigned to Suppy & Transportation Troop, Support Squadron, replaced several tires during preventative maintenance checks and services at Camp Striker, Iraq.**

leaders, are for providing technical advice and assistance to operators performing preventive maintenance, and reporting required repairs that are beyond the scope of preventive maintenance.

“If we’re not on mission, we’re doing maintenance,” McCullum said.

Indeed his platoon did perform maintenance as McCullum split his platoon into a day and night shift crews. During a three-day span, the troopers changed 14 tires after the mechanics identified 24 which needed changing.

The grueling task, which normally takes about an hour and a half with pneumatic air compressors, can last up to four or five hours when done with good old fashioned elbow grease.

And if the tire is not put together and sealed properly – then all the hard labor is all for not.

McCullum mentioned when that happens, it is a very frustrating experience for the troopers. Fortunately for his two crews, their average time of putting together a

tire was two and a half hours.

“It’s not unusual for a crew to work on a tire off and on for a week before getting it sealed correctly,” said McCullum, a native of Logans Port, Ind. “If we get lucky and seal it right the first time that’s a bonus. It’s a challenge for them because they don’t want to get beat by a tire. They don’t quit, they don’t give up and they’re going to get the job done.”

Staring at both Ayala and Sawyer as the two took turns rotating to tighten 19 bolts with nothing but a standard hand socket and breaker bar, McCullum expressed how proud he was of his troopers.

“I can’t express the amount of physical labor they’ve put into this mission,” McCullum said. “I couldn’t have picked a better group of troopers.”

Nearly three hours after being slow roasted like a Cornish hen, Ayala and Sawyer watches the Iraqi sunset and reflect on their accomplishment.

“It’s been never ending so far,



**Without pneumatic equipment, the Troopers had to manually unscrew and tighten 19 bolts per tire. The grueling tasks can take up to five hours, however the crews were averaging two and a half hours per tire.**

but we keep each other going,” Ayala said. “When it’s all done, we know we’ve done our part to keep the convoy moving.”



# REMINGTON TROOP

**By Capt. David Rozelle**  
RHHT, 3d ACR Commander

Remington Families and Friends, since the last newsletter, we have occupied our Area of Operation in Iraq. As you know, it has taken quite a lot of work and sweat to get us there.

Besides a few minor fender benders, our troopers made it here in one piece. The most dangerous operation for Remington Troop is complete.

As I mentioned last time, there were some great training opportunities in Kuwait. The highlight of those was our participation in a Convoy Live Fire exercise.

Our troopers drove through mock Iraqi towns and defended their convoy from “attacking” cars and insurgent targets.

Everyone had a great time while honing their skills for the convoy they were about to make. It was a great dress rehearsal for everyone. Fortunately, those skills and our confidence are what kept us safe as we marched north.

We are currently living in a well developed camp. The troopers have everything they need within a short walk, to include a chow hall, free laundry service, gym, chapel, PX, and Morale Welfare and Recreation facilities.

My only concern is our troopers not getting enough PT, but they are getting some as everyone has to walk a good bit each day. There is also a U.S. Post Office right next to the Remington Command Post (CP). Mail seems to be getting here within 4-6 days right now, so keep it coming!

As we are now established, many in Remington are hard at work on endless shifts in the Tactical Operations Center. Some are working in the motor pool, CP or as liaisons with adjacent units. Everyone is busy.

Only a few are actually leaving the wire, because

most of our next levels of support agencies are within our larger encampment. Staying off the Iraqi roads means safer conditions for our troopers.

Those that leave the wire a few days a week are the Scouts, who are working hard as the Regimental Commander’s Personal Security Detachment. They also are safe as they drew brand new up-armored vehicles and have been training for months to hone their skills for these missions.

Remington Troop is doing a great job and is supporting the Regiment’s success as we are now fully part of Operation Iraqi Freedom III. Keep up the great work at home, as it only makes us stronger at war.

Brave Rifles,  
**Remington 6**



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

## Top cuts

**1st Sgt. Rodney Greene, Remington Troop, 3d ACR, cuts his hair using the mirror of a Humvee to ensure he fades it evenly.**

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# Eagle-eye trooper awarded for spotting IED

**By Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks**  
NCOIC, 3d ACR Public Affairs

The role of the cavalry scout is to be the commander's eyes and ears on the battlefield and in the case of Iraq – so are the highways.

Performing his wartime mission in an unfamiliar environment, Pvt. Martin Gaymon, cavalry scout, Regiment, Headquarters, Headquarters Troop, used his eyes to spot an improvised explosive device April 9, while traveling along Route Tampa in Baghdad.

Gaymon, sitting in the gunner's seat of his Humvee, spotted the IED after three previous vehicles in his convoy drove past the device.

"I screamed to my driver, 'whoa, whoa, whoa. I think I see an IED, I think I see an IED,'" Gaymon said.

Gaymon's intuition was correct as there was a green box with red wires placed off the road scantily concealed under sand bags. The convoy proceeded to block off the area to prevent other vehicles from entering the road.

After the 3d ACR was relieved by another unit, the IED was later detonated remotely. There was no damage to vehicles or personnel.

For his quick decision making and possibly saving lives, Gaymon was awarded an impact Army Commendation Medal by Col. H.R. McMaster, commander, 3<sup>rd</sup> ACR. McMaster praised the 19-year-old Brooklyn, New York native for his attention to detail and his performance as a cavalry scout.

"I don't think what I did was heroic," Gaymon said. "I was just doing what I've been trained to do. You know, I was just doing my job."

Gaymon specifically attributed his ability to spot the IED to the continuous training he receives daily and the trust delegated to the troopers from the noncommissioned officers.

"If you don't speak up when you see something, you just killed somebody," said Staff Sgt. Jeffery Marjerrison, section sergeant, Personal Security Detachment. "There is nothing you can say about what he'd done except it was good soldiering. It was an outstanding effort and he wasn't afraid to speak up."

Marjerrison was the vehicle commander of



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

***Pvt. Martin Gaymon, Regiment Headquarters, Headquarters Troop, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment performs a preventive maintenance check on his 50-caliber machine gun. Gaymon was rewarded for spotting an improvised explosive device during a convoy.***

Gaymon's vehicle. He mentioned scouts are trained to recognize combat vehicles as a threat, but the IEDs pose a total different threat the scouts have to be ready to combat.

"It just goes to show the training and his actions have paid off so far," Marjerrison added. "Gunnery aren't just scanning for people, also for IEDs."

He said Gaymon's role as a gunner is one normally performed by a more senior trooper. "He's filling a sergeant's position and he's only a private," Marjerrison said. "He's doing the job of someone a few ranks ahead of him."

Slapping Gaymon on the shoulder prior to the award ceremony, his platoon sergeant Staff Sgt. Matthew Hodges proudly exclaimed, "You might have saved somebody's life today."



# Embrace life with all its problems

**Compiled by Chaplain (Maj.) David Causey**  
Regimental Chaplain, 3d ACR

An impoverished, elderly black minister in Montgomery, Alabama once ran an orphanage for boys. Frequently he made pleas to local churches and his fellow ministers for donations of food, clothing and toiletries for his boys.

This grew tiresome, however, for his bishop who confronted the old minister.

“You’re always coming to us with problems and needs, needs and problems. Your boys always need shoes, they always need clothes, they will always need food - nothing but needs and problems. I’m tired of it! Our churches are always shoveling money into this ministry of yours and never getting any return. When is it going to end? I’ll tell you - never.”

The old minister, rubbed his wrinkled brow and tried to explain.

“Sir, I once asked the same questions - not about the boys in the orphanage, but about my own son - my only son. My wife and I were very poor as we struggled to preach the gospel in our first church.

*Then our son was born and he grew like a weed. It seemed he outgrew shoes and pants and shirts faster than we could buy them. It seemed he would eat us out of house and home. Again and again I complained to my wife: “Woman, this boy is costing us every penny we have. We can’t save a dime.”*

“Then my boy died. And suddenly there were no more clothes to buy. There was need to spend extra money on food. And finally, we could save a few dollars. But once I was bereaved of my only son, I would have gladly given the wages of a 1000 lifetimes to get him back. I learned too late that wherever there are problems, wherever there are needs - there is also life. And wherever there are no problems or no needs - there is death.”

It’s a fact. The people in our lives - spouse, children, Soldiers - have problems – *while they live*. Let us embrace and cherish life in its totality – with its joys and sorrows. Let us love and support the people in our lives – with all their problems.

The Scripture says: “Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*).



Photo by Chaplain (Maj.) David Causey

## Blessed bird

**Chaplain (Capt.) Paul Fritts, 4th Squadron, 3d ACR chaplain, blesses an AH-64 Apache helicopter of Renegade Troop/4-3 ACR. Soldiers often seek chaplains not only to pray for themselves, but also to bless their equipment upon which their lives depend.**



# Re-up money available for qualified troopers

## Mounted Rifleman Reports

It's that time once again; the bonuses are large, tax free and can be acquired in one lump sum. Now is the best time ever to reenlist and stay Army.

"We have had more than 40 soldiers recommit their lives to our great nation to battle the Global War on Terrorism," said Staff Sgt. David Henderson, Regimental Senior Operations/Troop Career Counselor. "That is one of the greatest selfless acts a Trooper could make while deployed in a combat zone."

Henderson added these Soldiers that have consummated the Oath of Reenlistment are a part of history in the War on Terrorism.

"These Cavalry Troopers could not make this possible without the direct support of friends and loved ones back home," Henderson said. "Being deployed for months at a time can be challenging and very stressful, but when the Soldiers feel comfortable with their estates at home, they can excel on their day-to-day missions here."

Henderson wants to remind Soldiers about the Lump Sum Selective Reenlistment Bonus which became effective in December. Currently every Soldier deployed in theatre may be eligible to reenlist to receive a lump sum bonus of up to \$15,000.

All Soldiers, grades E-3 through E-6 who are qualified to reenlist, have the opportunity to take advantage of this bonus regardless of their reenlistment window provided they have never received an A or B Zone Bonus.

Soldiers currently in the C Zone, 10 years, but less than 14 years Active Federal Service, are also eligible for this bonus.

"The C Zone is only offered to those qualified Soldiers while serving in OIF," Henderson said. "This is a rare opportunity for our career Soldiers to receive a selective reenlistment bonus."

For more details on eligibility, contact your Squadron Career Counselor.

• Regimental Senior Career Counselor - Master Sgt.



“This is a rare opportunity for our career Soldiers to receive a selective reenlistment bonus.”

-- Staff Sgt. David Henderson

Scott Leeling;

• Regimental Senior Operations/Troop Career Counselor - Staff Sgt. David Henderson;

• Tiger Squadron Career Counselor - Staff Sgt. Jose Cruz;

• Sabre Squadron Career Counselor - Sgt. 1st Class Michael Paris;

• Thunder Squadron Career Counselor - Staff Sgt. Pablo Martin;

• Longknife Squadron Career Counselor - Sgt. Ines Benson;

• Muleskinner Squadron Career Counselor - Staff Sgt. Mary Victor

Or you may send an e-mail for more information to [david.henderson2@us.army.mil](mailto:david.henderson2@us.army.mil).

# Insects, animals pose threat in desert

**Compiled by Antonio Padilla**  
Safety Officer, 3d ACR

The following articles are reprinted from the March 2003 edition of *Countermeasure* as a guide to prevent heat injuries. This is the second of a two-part series. All leaders should try to implement the measures in the articles to enhance their safety programs.

## Who's sleeping in my bag?

Anyone who has served in the military for any length of time has found themselves living in the outdoors. There are approximately 850 types of ticks, 2,800 types of centipedes, 800 types of scorpions, and countless types of wasps, hornets, bees, arachnids, and ants.

Regardless of the circumstances of your trip to the field, maintaining situational awareness of the biting insects and animals that share your geographic area can save you from a possible life threatening injury or becoming a disease and nonbattle injury.

Conducting an ongoing risk assessment will allow you to identify these hazards and then devise actions that will mitigate these risks.

## Desert wildlife, deployment hazard

Soldiers in CONUS locations know that certain types of native wildlife pose unique hazards while in the field. The desert of the Middle East is no exception. There are snakes, spiders, flies, and multitudes of other "critters" abound in the region.

Deploying Soldiers should be warned of the hazards posed by these native life forms and be aware of the proper procedures for dealing with them.

## Snakes

Bottom line – tell Soldiers to leave snakes alone! There are poisonous snakes in the Middle East region (e.g., cobra and desert horned viper). Even bites from snakes that are nonpoisonous can be harmful if not properly treated, these bites can become infected.

Anyone bitten by any snake should seek medical attention immediately for evaluation and anti-venom

treatment.

Tell Soldiers not to treat snake bites with the "cut and suck" method. Warn Soldiers that snakes burrow under the sand seeking shade during the day and heat at night.

Remind Soldiers to avoid sudden motion when placing their hands or feet near an area that could conceal a snake.

Soldiers should be especially careful when climbing or lifting objects from the ground.

Vipers typically share the following traits: head triangular and considerably broader in the rear than the neck; scales keeled; small scales on top of the head; body short, relatively stout; pupils vertical.

## Arachnids, arthropods, biting insects

Scorpions, centipedes, assassin bugs, black widow spiders, mosquitoes, and sand flies can cause illness and infected wounds.

They are usually encountered in dry, secluded, dimly lit areas such as crawl spaces, cluttered areas in homes and warehouses, crumbling rock faces, wood or trash piles, and under logs and stones in forests and fields.

Remind Soldiers to shake out their clothing before dressing and to check boots before putting them on. When possible, boots should be placed off the ground or inside a waterproof bag or other container.

Soldiers also should carefully check their bedding before use. In addition, remind soldiers that food crumbs attract insects that, in turn, attract spiders and scorpions.

Direct Soldiers to use insect repellents religiously and to use only those approved for human use. DEET repellent lotion (NSN 6840-01-284-3982) is recommended for skin use.

Permethrin clothing repellent (NSN 6840-01-278-1336) is available for use on clothing only.

Caution Soldiers to follow carefully the instructions for use of these products.

Soldiers also should be warned to remain still if they feel an insect or spider crawling on their body – sudden movement could cause a bite or sting.

## REGIMENT'S ENGAGEMENTS

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>UNITS ENGAGED</u>
1-3 Apr 1871	Camp Date Creek, AZ	Detachment B
1 Apr 1901	Near Santa Rosa Mountains, Ilocos Norte, PI	Detachment I
2 Apr 1900	Tatac, Ilocos Norte, PI	A
4 Apr 1871	Sierra Aniba, AZ	F
4 Apr 1991	(ODS) Last soldier departs Saudi Arabia	3d ACR
6 Apr 1900	Near Balaoang, Union, PI	C
6 Apr 1900	Barrio Cabalitocan, Union, PI	Detachment D
8 Apr 1862	Albuquerque, NM	G and K
9 Apr 1901	Dingras, Ilocos Norte, PI	K
11 Apr 1871	Apache Mountains, AZ	F
12 Apr 1871	Apache Mountains, AZ	F
13 Apr 1856	Turkey Branch (waters of the Nueces), TX	B and D
15 Apr 1862	Peralta, NM	C, D, E, G, I, K
15 Apr 1900	Cullenbeng, Ilocos Sur, PI	F
16 Apr 1871	Dragoon Mountains, AZ	Detachment K
16 Apr 1900	Batac, Ilocos Norte, PI	A and L
17-18 Apr 1847	Cerro Gordo, Mexico	Entire Regiment

## REGIMENT'S ENGAGEMENTS

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>UNITS ENGAGED</u>
17 Apr 1868	Nesmith's Mills, near Tularosa, NM (Battle of Round Mountain)	Detachment H
17 Apr 1900	Laoag, Ilocos Norte, PI	A
19 Apr 1900	Barrio Mabalang, Ilocos Norte, PI	A
19 Apr 1901	Near Corisan, Ilocos Norte, PI	Detachment G
21 Apr 1900	San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte, PI	A
22 Apr 1869	Sangre Canyon, NM	A, F, and H
22 Apr 1900	Mabalang, Ilocos Norte, PI	F
25 Apr 1900	Batac River, Ilocos Norte, PI	F
26 Apr 1872	South Fork of Loupe River, NE (W.H. Cody - MOH)	B
27 Apr 1901	Near Barongabong, Ilocos Norte, PI	Detachment I
28 Apr 1875	North Platte River, north of Sidney, NE	Detachment G
28 Apr 1900	Near Batac River, Ilocos Norte, PI	F
28 Apr 1901	Near Banna, Ilocos Norte, PI	Detachment K
29 Apr 1882	Shoshone Agency, near Fort Washakie, WY	Detachment H, K
29 Apr 1893	Birthday - Margaret Lorena Bessey Mangin (daughter of CPL Bessey—CMH recipient)	
30 Apr 1870	Pinal Mountains, near San Carlos, NM	Detachment B



# LESSONS LEARNED

*The history of the Regiment is recorded by those who press pen to pad telling stories of both successes and failures. Whether it be officer or enlisted man, the legacy of the Regiment is captured in the journals, diaries and other means of transcribing history by those who take the time. The author challenges all troopers to not let the history of 3d ACR be erased from time and to pass on to future generations.*

**Compiled by Jim Mallette**

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Today things occur more quickly than they ever did in the past. People are busier than ever before. Why is this possible? How is it that we no longer have time to sit down and read the newspaper, or even maintain a journal, or diary?

Today it is possible to receive information on an event as it occurs, or within minutes of an incidence. In the past it took days, weeks and even months to receive the same, or similar, information.

The records of historical events are not being preserved as they were in the past. This situation can be directly linked to the globalization of information.

We are so eager to keep up with events around the world (stock markets, politics, special events, and gossip in the news), that we do not take the time to write journals, maintain photographs, and talk to our children and grandchildren about how it was back 'in the day.' We are, however, well informed in the eyes of our peers.

Had it not been for the personalities from the past in this Regiment maintaining journals (or diaries), we would not have information on their day to day lives and personal achievements.

Lt. John Gregory Bourke (who joined the Regiment in 1869) wrote about (and personally knew) many of the officers of the Regiment during the Indian Wars. Because of Lt. Bourke we know more about 1st Lt. Howard Bass Cushing, Lt. George Cradlebaugh, Capt. Emmet Crawford and Gen. George Crook.

Unfortunately, most of the journals and diaries were written by the officers of the Regiment. We have very little information about the enlisted men of the Regiment (unless it was written by an officer).

We are fortunate to have a history on Cpl. Charles Albert Bessey (Congressional Medal of Honor recipient during the Indian Wars) because of his daughter, Margaret Lorena Bessey Mangin.

She lived to the age of 107 years; her brother lived to be 101. Because Gabe Kasovitch (of Biloxi, Miss. Chamber of Commerce) contacted the Third Cavalry Museum in 1997, we were able to learn more about Cpl. Bessey and his family (making it the most complete Medal of Honor file in our collection).

Kasovitch telephoned Paul Martin (Director of the museum) in 1997 to see if we had any information on Bessey, who had served in the Regiment during the Indian Wars.

His reason for asking was that the Biloxi Chamber of Commerce had raised the funds for a new headstone for Bessey's gravesite in the Biloxi cemetery and they were planning a big unveiling event to honor the former trooper. They wanted more information about the local Indian Wars hero.

Martin told Kasovitch that we only had a copy of the Congressional Medal of Honor Citation, and that we didn't even know what Cpl. Bessey looked like.

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Kasovitch replied that “perhaps he could be of “more help to the museum than the other way around since Bessey’s daughter was living in Biloxi and she had some photos of her father.”

When questioned to make sure he wasn’t talking about Bessey’s granddaughter, Kasovitch informed the museum that “... no she was his daughter and she was now 104 years old!”

Kasovitch sent the museum a photo of Sgt. Bessey. And it turned out that for a number of years we had had the same picture of the 3d Cavalry Band (circa 1898) in the collection, but none of the bandsmen were identified.

The Sergeant standing in front of the band was Bessey. He had remained unidentified for almost a century until the communication with Bessey’s daughter.

In the photo of the band, there is a little girl (possibly 3 or 4 years old) sitting in the window. We asked Mangin (when she was 104 years old) if she was that little girl, or knew the little girl’s name; but she couldn’t remember.

The museum conducted oral history interviews with Mangin whose mind was still as sharp as the days when she was a school teacher in Biloxi, and her recollections of her father, coupled with documents and other items in the family’s possession enabled the museum to fill in many blanks in the story of Bessey’s exploits in the Indian Wars and on into the Spanish- American War.

Lorena Bessey Mangin passed away in 2000 at the grand age of 107. Fortunately she had been given the opportunity to share her considerable memories of a bygone era with her extended Third Cavalry family.

Had journals, diaries, and written communication not been maintained from those days, so much of the history that we have, would be forever lost to today’s generation. This holds true for us right up to the dawn of the information age and the advent of email. Will future generations (your children and grandchildren)



Photo courtesy of 3d ACR Museum

***Cpl. Albert Bessey, circled, earned the Medal of Honor during the Indian Wars campaign. His daughter, Lorena Bessey Mangin, was able to his story to keep his legacy alive.***

have the advantage of being able to connect with your experiences in OIF?

Or will they have to listen to stories told about the “...time we got an email message from Dad (or Mom) about events in Baghdad – wish we had a hard copy of that...”

Life is a lot busier today than it was back ‘in the day’ ... if you can, try to take a couple minutes a day or week to write something down about that day (week). What happened, what was the weather like, what were you thinking about, what did you do afterward?

Don’t let this part of your history disappear, keep your story alive. If you maintain a journal of your service to our nation (as a soldier, or a spouse), in fifty or a hundred years from now a story can be told about you, with accuracy.

Do you know what your grandfather or great-grandfather did in the war? Give your descendants the same advantage.

*(Editor’s note - Mallette is the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment Museum Technician at Fort Carson, Colo.)*

# Always ready for a fight

“Survival in combat is not solely a matter of luck. Doing things the right way is more important than luck in coming through a battle alive. And training teaches you to do things the right way...It’s training that defeats the enemy and saves lives.” - *SMA William O. Wooldridge*

By Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

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**B**rave Rifles Standard number one states, “Always be ready for a fight. Every movement is a combat patrol.” I’m not sure if every Trooper in this Regiment truly understood this standard prior to deployment in Iraq, however after April 17, 2005 I sure as hell hope everyone does.

As I’ve been told many times by my supervisor, it isn’t Fantasy Island when you go outside the wire. There is no Mr. Roarke or Tattoo clapping their hands bringing you back to an oasis or paradise.

After surviving an improvised explosive device attack on the vehicle I was riding in that killed Pvt. Joseph Knott and injuring Command Sgt. Maj. John Caldwell, a couple of days later I reflected on my actions and the actions of the Troopers who took place in the fight.

There was no hesitation by any Trooper to do what each was trained to do. Every leader and Trooper, from Col. H.R. McMaster to Pvt. Juan Calderon, instinctively reacted according to our tactics, techniques and procedures.

In the above-mentioned quote by former Sergeant Major of the Army William O. Wooldridge, the first SMA, he was on point regarding the importance of training.

Training, not luck, is critical in maximizing our survival on the battlefield. Tough, realistic training conducted repetitiously to standard becomes second nature to Soldiers when the time comes to act.

Training, not luck, helps Soldiers to understand their responsibilities and perform their role on the battlefield.

Training, not luck, allows leaders to demand that Soldiers achieve training standards and allows leaders

to enforce standards. Every noncommissioned officer need to remember, first and foremost, training is the NCO’s principle duty and responsibility.

No one has more to do with training Soldiers than the NCO - period.

During the Regiment’s stay at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, training trooper’s for our pending mission was prevalent on every leader’s mind and agenda.

Whether it was conducting Military Operations in Urbain Terrain training, Convoy Live-Fire Exercises, reflex fire training or basic rifle marksmanship, the Regiment was preparing for a fight.

Was it hot as hell some days - yes! Were there days when troopers were exhausted, aching, and physically drained - yes! I’m even sure that in the minds of some, they wondered why are we doing this battle drill again and again and again.

“Doing things the right way is more important than luck,” Wooldridge said. On April 17, the troopers did things the right way. They executed and did their jobs the right way. That’s why we perform that battle drill over and over again.

Was I ready for a fight on that fateful Sunday afternoon while riding in our convoy? Before the attack I can say I *probably* was, afterall I participated in training, I read manuals and doctrine and I rehearsed in my mind on what to do in case such an attack would occur.

As of this day forward, I know that I’m always ready for a fight. I know my comrades in arms are always ready for a fight. And I know our commander is always ready for a fight. Hopefully, as of April 17, 2005, all of the troopers, NCOs, and officers serving this great regiment is always ready for a fight.

Afterall, we don’t have luck on our side - just great training.



## *April's Fallen Troopers*

*April 17 - Pfc. Joseph Knott, RHHT*

*April 28 - Pfc. Pfc. Ricky Rockholt, 2/3*

*April 28 - Pvt. Robert Murray, Jr., 2/3*

*See the May 2005 edition of the Mounted Rifleman for  
article, photos on Rockholt and Murray*