



2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat  
Team Forward  
Camp Liberty, Iraq

# The Striker Torch

29<sup>th</sup> Edition

September 03, 2006

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Quote of the Week

“Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity.”

- General George S. Patton

Front Page

**Top:** Soldiers of Company A, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, provide support to Iraqi Army units during Operation Together Forward in the Baghdad Neighborhood of Ghazaliya in August, 2006. *Photo by Spc. Holley Baker*

**Bottom Left:** Lt. Col. Robert Cheatham, Commander of the 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment promotes 1st Lt. Paul Radion during a ceremony in August, 2006 at Camp Victory, Iraq. *Photo by 1st Sgt. Christopher Jarvis*

**Bottom Center:** Sgt. Andrew Atchley and Sgt. Joshua R. Riemer of Service Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, works on a M1114 Humvee in August, 2006 at Camp Liberty, Iraq. *Photo by 1st Lt. Phidel Hun*

**Bottom Right:** Sgt. Derek Calhoun of Support Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 40th Engineer Battalion, pushes a barrier into place in Ameriyah, Iraq. Once in place, the barrier blocked key areas of approach for Anti-Iraqi Forces. *Photo by Capt. Kris Haley*



This Page

**Top Left:** Capt. Shawn Cadlec (right), of the 754th Ordnance Company, talks with Lt. Col. William Graham, Commander of 40th Engineer Battalion, about plans to utilize a robot to remove an Improvised Explosive Device that was discovered by 40th Engineer Battalion in the neighborhood of Ameriyah. *Photo by Capt. Matthew Holbrook*

**Top Center:** Sgt. Scott McKinney (center), of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment discusses an upcoming patrol with 1st Sgt. Joseph Glass (left) at Camp Falcon, Iraq. *Photo by Capt. Dan Tower*

**Top Right:** An Iraqi child touches the weapon of a Soldier from Company A, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, 172nd Stryker Brigade. The U.S. military played primarily a support role while the Iraqis searched the area for contraband and insurgent activity on August 13, 2006. *Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey*

**Bottom Left:** Combined search teams of 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, and Company A, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, patrol the Baghdad neighborhood of Ameriyah in August, 2006. *Photo by Sgt. Raul Montano*

**Bottom Right:** Spc. Matthew Phillips of Company B, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, provides security on the streets of the neighborhood of Ghazaliyah, Baghdad, on August 21, 2006. *Photo by Sgt. Raul Montano*



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**Top Left:** Pfc. Brenton Kiomall, of Co. B, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment provides security for members of his patrol in August, in Baghdad, Iraq. *Photo by 1st Lt. Jason Blackston*

**Bottom Left:** Lt. Col. Gian Gentile, Commander of the 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, promotes 1st Lt. Grant Speakes at Camp Falcon, Iraq. *Photo by Capt. Dan Tower*

**Right:** Spc. Tyler Johnson, of Company A, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment conducts a patrol in the Baghdad Neighborhood of Ghazaliyah in August, 2006. *Photo by Spc. Holley Baker*





**Top:** Pfc. Rogelin Dossantos of Company C, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, scans his sector from a tower on the Abu Ghraib Internment Facility in late August, 2006. *Photo by Capt. Scott Wybro*



**Right:** Iraqi children from the neighborhood of Ghazaliyah greet Staff Sgt. Michael Casarez from Company B, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment. *Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey*



# Russian by Birth, American at Heart

Story by 1st Lt. Christopher Burciaga

**P**fc. Artur Liamin, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, was born in Perm, Russia, and grew up in a country that did not have the opportunities or freedoms that Americans enjoy everyday. As a young child, Pfc. Liamin watched his father and uncles serve in the Soviet Army, and their service inspired him to become a Soldier. As a teenager, he and his mother moved to the United States, where he chose to serve in the U.S. Army and make a better life.

Pfc. Liamin joined the Army as a combat medic, and has been recognized as one of the hardest working medics in the 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt. As a line medic, Pfc. Liamin prepares everyday to save lives on the battlefield and has performed as an exceptional medic while in combat. He has been awarded the Combat Medical Badge, an Army Achievement Medal, and has been recognized by the Brigade Commander for his bravery while on patrol. Upon

arrival in Kuwait, Pfc. Liamin was the youngest soldier in the battalion and was a candidate for the security detail for the Multi-National Corps-Iraq Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Beam. After his Army obligation is complete, Pfc. Liamin plans to attend college, become a U.S. citizen, and receive a commission as a Medical Officer in the U.S. Army. After he finishes his commitments to the Army, he plans to operate his own resort near his mother's resort, "Casa Verde," in La Ventana, Mexico.

Currently, Liamin works at the Battalion Aid Station under the leadership of 1st Lt. Christopher Burciaga, the Task Force medical platoon leader. "Pfc. Liamin is one of the hardest working Soldiers in the Platoon; he is always eager to learn and aspires to be the best," stated Sgt. 1st Class Godines, the medical platoon sergeant. Upon return to Ft. Hood, TX, Liamin is looking forward to becoming a team leader, then attending school to better enhance his medical skills for the next deployment.



Pfc. Artu Liamin of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, studies for college entrance tests while not on patrols in Baghdad in hopes of commissioning as a medical officer. *Photo by 1st Lt. Christopher Burciaga*

# The Stryker Arrives in the 2nd BCT

Story by Spc. Joshua Ramey

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team gained new capabilities with the addition of a Stryker battalion to assist in Operation Together Forward. 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, of 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, based at Fort Lewis, Washington, was attached

to the 2nd BCT upon the brigade's convergence into Baghdad. The Ft. Lewis battalion was one of the first Army units to use the Stryker vehicle in combat during Operation Iraqi Freedom 03-04.

The Stryker vehicle program was a concept of Gen. Eric Shinseki during his tenure as the Army Chief of Staff in 1999. According to official Army web-



Stryker Armored Vehicle in February, 2002. The name Stryker comes from two unrelated enlisted men, Pfc. Stuart S. Stryker, and Spc. Robert F. Stryker, who were both posthumously awarded Medals of Honor for their actions during WWII and the Vietnam War

sites, the vehicle's capabilities would add flexibility in urban combat and would be the primary platform of the Interim Brigade Combat Team. The initial project developed and produced enough Strykers to support six brigades.

The vehicle, originally named the Interim Armored Vehicle, was named the

respectively.

The Soldiers of 1st Bn., 23rd In Regt., are confident in the capabilities of their vehicles. "The vehicles allow us to rapidly transport a full squad of infantry to the battlefield with a high level of safety. Its basic com-

**Top:** A Stryker from Company A, 1st Bn., 23rd Inf. Regt., begins search operations in N. Ghazaliyah in the early stages of Together Forward. *Photo by Spc. Holley Baker*

**Bottom:** Spc. Jay Navas, of Company B, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, in conjunction with Iraqi Security Forces, maintains security on the streets of the neighborhood of Ghazaliya, Baghdad, during Operation Together Forward on August 21, 2006. *Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey*

**Opposite Page:** Sgt. Timothy Yrojo of Company A, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment patrols in Baghdad with a Stryker Infantry Fighting Vehicle providing support. *Photo by: Spc. Holley Baker*



# The Chaplain's Corner

## Present With the Paratrooper

Imagine you're waiting in a C-47 on an airfield in England. It's 2130 hours on the night of June 5, 1944-- the night before the D-Day invasion. You're assigned to the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division-- just one of sixty-six hundred paratroopers winging your way to Normandy, France, where you'll drop behind German positions in the dark of night.

With eighty pounds of gear, you're crammed into that plane, shoulder to shoulder. The stress makes you feel like vomiting the stew you had for dinner. Now maybe you can imagine how Private Robert C. Hillman felt as he rode a C-47 that night.

During the flight, each of those paratroopers checked and re-checked their chutes to make sure there was nothing faulty. As Hillman inspected his, he noticed that it had been inspected at the

Pioneer Parachute Company that just happened to be located in his hometown of Manchester, Connecticut. He glanced down at the inspection label and stopped.

Hillman turned to the man next to, NBC Broadcaster Wright Brown, and



shouted above the engine roar, "My chute's ok!"

"How can you be so sure?" Brown shouted back.

"Because I know someone who works as an inspector for the Pioneer Parachute Company. It's my mom and her initials are on my chute!" (Taken

from Unexplained Mysteries of WW II by William Breuer).

Was Hillman's parachute merely a coincidence, or just another example of how God lets us know He's there?

When was the last time you were struck with a powerful awareness of God's presence?

In the book of Jeremiah, the Lord asks, "Can anyone hide from me? Am I not everywhere in all the heavens and earth?" (Jeremiah 23:24, NLT) God is everywhere, but He's also right next to us. And whether we run away or run toward Him today is up to us.

Wishing you the very best, I'm Chaplain Anthony Horton., 40th Engineer Battalion.

*Struler Arroves - Continued from Page 4*

puter and navigational system greatly improves situational awareness, and allows for rapid orders, and changes to orders so we can adapt to dynamic situations," said Maj. Rich Edwards, the battalion executive officer.

Cpl. Robert Walls, of Co. C, began his Army career as an infantryman working with Bradley fighting vehicles, and Humvees. He remarked, "My thought is that the Stryker is the best possible solution for the demands of an urban environment."

There are currently 11 variations of the Stryker that are in various stages of development and deployment. Among these are ambulance Strykers, engineer and

route clearance Strykers, 105mm direct fire anti-tank Strykers, mortar platform Strykers, and others. The performance of these vehicles is still under constant analy-

sis by the Defense Department, and with future improvements, will undoubtedly sculpt the Army's future urban warfare platform.





# Bringing Security To Those That Need It

Story by Spc. Ricky Watkins

In recent weeks, the increase in violence has started to subside in Baghdad, thanks in part to the efforts of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division. The Soldiers of the Brigade are working to improve the lives of the people of Baghdad by helping Iraqi Security Forces and police secure their communities. This effort involves many different missions, such as supporting the ISF and police when they search for Anti-Iraqi Forces,

patrolling neighborhoods, and supporting projects that help secure the area. This effort has been effective in reducing the number of attacks on the local

populace as well as on the Soldiers working within this area.

Transportation section of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 40<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion's Support Platoon has had the privilege over the last week to participate in a small portion of this operation. In conjunction with Company B, 47<sup>th</sup> Forward Support Battalion, and 8<sup>th</sup> Squadron, 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment, the section was tasked with the emplacement of barriers around the community of Ameriyah, Baghdad. This mission is meant to help establish a safer living environment for the residents of Ameriyah, and to make it more difficult for Anti-Iraqi Forces to attack Iraqi police, the Iraqi Army, and Coalition



**Top:** Sgt. Derek Calhoun (left) and Spc. Daniel Graska of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 40<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, work in tandem to lift and emplace a barrier using a Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Trucks (HEMTT's) crane. *Photo by Capt. Chris Eastburg*

**Bottom:** Spc. Shane Halsall and Sgt. Mason Gayles of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 40<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, spray paint "Ameriyah Department of Public Works" in Arabic on each barrier. *Photo by Capt. Kris Haley*





Forces working in the area. Furthermore, this mission would help the local populace identify and keep out individuals who don't live or work in their community.

Working for four long, hot days, the Soldiers emplaced barriers around Ameriyah, concentrating on intersections and specific roads to help the community close access to Anti-Iraqi Forces and other criminals. This is also intended to help improve the community's standard of living and safety.

The first day was spent emplacing roughly 30-35 barriers in the less complex locations around the area. The Soldiers could tell from the very beginning this wasn't going to be an easy task. Traffic was thick and busy, but the operation was conducted at a fast pace, helping to ensure the safety of the Coalition Forces and citizens of Ameriyah. In addition, Soldiers worked in small alleys and crowded spaces, making it hard to move large equipment around to emplace the security barriers.

The mission continued

through the week without incident and by the final day of emplacement, there was already a visible difference in the flow of traffic in and out of the community and Soldiers began to take notice that the community seemed a little more at ease. Several members of the community told the Soldiers that these barriers helped the citizens of the community feel a little safer, reinforcing to the Soldiers that everyone of them could make a difference in the Brigade Combat Team's mission in Baghdad.

There's still much to do to help the people of Ameriyah and other communities throughout Iraq, but every action 2nd BCT Soldiers take to help the people of Iraq with security is a step in the right direction. In the end, the Soldiers of HHC, 40<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion's Transportation Section all expressed pride to have been able to help the citizens of Ameriyah.



**Top:** Soldiers from Company B, 47<sup>th</sup> Forward Support Battalion prep their trucks to go out on mission. The Palletized Load handling System and Load Handling System - Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Trucks (HEMTTs) were loaded with barriers to be placed around the neighborhood of Ameriyah, in Baghdad, Iraq. *Photo by Capt. Kris Haley*

**Bottom:** 2nd Lt. Theresa Biolsi, the Platoon Leader of Support Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 40<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, inspects the platoon's progress as she provides the command and control for the mission in Ameriyah, a neighborhood in Baghdad. *Photo by Capt. Chris Eastburg*

## Legal Issues to think about when you redeploy

### #1 Powers of Attorney

When Soldiers return to home station, there are many things going on at the same time. As you begin to plan your redeployment, make sure to keep in mind that there are legal issues that need to be addressed when you return. In this 4 part series, we'll discuss some things you should do upon your return from the deployment.

#### #1 – Powers of Attorney

The only way to make sure your Power of Attorney has been legally revoked is to destroy it. Destruction may be accomplished by ripping, burning, or otherwise destroying the original document. The key to revocation is the destruction of the **ORIGINAL** document! In the event you come across copies of the original, it cannot hurt to destroy those documents as well. However, destruction of a copy will not act as a revocation. You **MUST** destroy the original document.

If you are aware of any businesses where the POA has been used, you should send a certified letter to each business that may have a copy of your POA to inform the business that you have revoked that POA. This will help you to protect yourself. You should have a good idea of which businesses have a copy of your POA. Your bank or credit union, insurance company, and utility companies are good examples of businesses that may have copies of your POA. If you determine that your POA was used in a manner you did not intend, come to the Legal Assistance Office immediately.

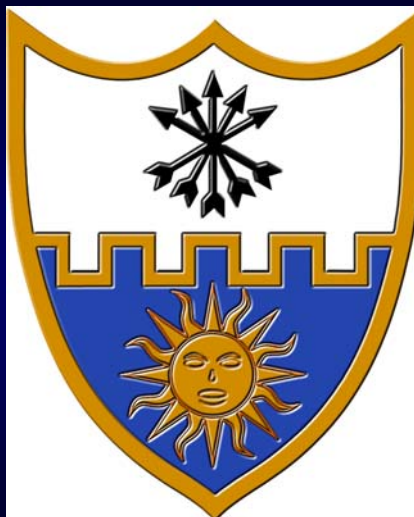
Next week, lawsuits will be discussed.

# What's in a Crest?

## 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment

**Description:** A gold and enamel device, 1 1/16 inches (2.70cm) in height overall, blazoned: Per fess embattled Argent and Azure, in chief a bundle of five arrows Sable armed and flitted Gules, in base a sun in splendor Or garnished Azure.

**Symbolism:** The shield is white and blue, the old and present infantry col-



ors. The embattled partition line is for the wars in which the regiment has taken part. The arrows stand for five Indian campaigns; the sun in splendor was the old Katipunian device in the Philippine Insurrection.

**Background:** The distinctive unit insignia was approved on 8 May 1923.







# Unsung Heroes: The Mechanics of Bandit Troop

Story by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Gary Barney

The first impression that one gets when they see the Troop B, 8<sup>th</sup> Squadron, 10<sup>th</sup> US Cavalry motor pool is that of order and professionalism. This is because of the precise way the tents are set up and the manner in which the cones and wire are emplaced around the outside of the work areas. The maintenance teams really are the unsung heroes of the Troop, working long hours to ensure that the scout platoons are able to roll out their vehicles and accomplish the mission

The Troop's maintenance platoon has two types of teams, a wheeled vehicle team and a tracked vehicle team. The wheeled vehicle team fixes and maintains the Humvees and trucks of the Troop, while the tracked vehicle team works on the unit's Bradley Fighting Vehicles.

A typical work day for the maintenance team starts early, usually around 0600. The types of jobs the team typically encounters in a

day include four to five Quality Assurances / Quality Checks, unscheduled maintenance jobs, vehicle services and installation of add-on accessories. The conditions in

which the mechanics work can be extreme in the desert, therefore the teams usually break during the hottest part of the day from 1400 until 1800 because the equipment is hot and very difficult to work on.

The maintenance teams of Troop B not only fix and maintain the unit's equipment, but also have the responsibility of recovering vehicles anywhere, anytime. It is not



**Top:** Spc. Andrew Rice, of Troop B, 8th Squadron, 10th U.S. Cavalry conducts a Quality Assurance / Quality Checks on a M2A2 Bradley at Camp Liberty, Iraq. *Photo by 1st Lt. Gary Barney*

**Bottom:** Spc. Andrew Rice, of Troop B, 8th Squadron, 10th U.S. Cavalry conducts a Quality Assurance / Quality Checks on a M2A2 Bradley at Camp Liberty, Iraq. *Photo by 1st Lt. Gary Barney*

*Bandit Troop Mechanics - Continued on Page 10*





# Safety during Operation Iraqi Freedom

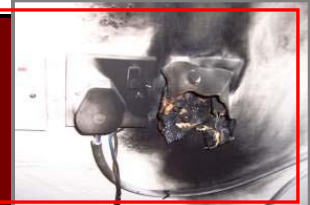
By Mr. Jerrold Scharminghausen, 2nd BCT Safety Officer

Safety precautions that we need to follow in Iraq are no different than those in Kuwait; however, the conditions we find ourselves in have changed. Everyone has had sufficient time in theater to be acclimated to the temperature, but operations outside Camp Liberty, Iraq, require full protective gear to be worn, which increases the work load being performed. Water loss through perspiration occurs more rapidly in these circumstances, so additional fluids must be consumed to avoid becoming a heat casualty.

Rollovers continue to be a major threat to US Forces. Speed is the major contributing factor in rollovers. While performing your patrols and missions, do not drive faster than environmental conditions allow and always wear your seat belt. Vehicle gunners should be at the lowest possible profile in the hatch. Also, load plans should be checked before each mission. Any items that are not tied down have the potential to become a projectile in the event of a rollover. It is up to the vehicle commander to ensure compliance with the standard.

On Camp Liberty, electrical fires continue to be a problem. Ensure that electrical outlets are not overloaded, power strips are not daisy chained, and only extension cords with a circuit breaker and/or fuse are used. Smoke alarms should be tested, and batteries should be replaced at least every 6 months. Fire extinguishers must be checked monthly.

Remember to practice safety, check your equipment and maintain standards. This will help to eliminate accidents, injuries, and keep Iron Brigade Soldiers safe.



*Bandit Troop Mechanics - Continued from Page 9*

uncommon for the teams to go out to recover a vehicle, tow it back to their work area, and work for hours to fix the vehicle and put it back out on the roads of Baghdad. Some of these operations last for 36 hours, but the professionalism and knowledge of everyone in the maintenance platoon helps to ensure that the trucks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles of Bandit Troop are fully

mission capable so Soldiers can get the job done.

**Right:** Mechanics of Troop B, 8th Squadron, 10th U.S. Cavalry work to replace a Humvee engine at Camp Liberty, Iraq. The Soldiers from L to R: Spc. Alex Paszek, Spc. Jeremy Eddy, and Spc. Christopher Bohannon. *Photo by 1st Lt. Gary Barney*





# Stallion Express

Story by 1st Lt. Phidel Hun

Often heard over Service Battery's Command Net, at the end of each Combat Logistic Patrol is, "Thank you for traveling the Stallion Express. I hope your trip was enjoyable, safe, and we ask you, if you have supplies, personnel, and/or equipment, we hope you choose the Stallion Express for all your transport needs."

The Iron Thunder Battalion and Service Battery, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 27<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery has undergone a transition during the last three months. Service Battery, which is comprised of a combination of military occupational specialties, transitioned from being a purely combat service support based unit into a combat Motorized Rifle Company capable of performing a multitude of missions.

Since arriving at Camp Liberty, Iraq, Service Battery has adapted to its newly acquired skills that were honed in Camp Buehring, Kuwait, to accomplish its mission. The Battery's mission, although ever evolving, has found its purpose again, as the backbone of logistic support to the Battalion's forward element at FOB Justice. The Battery's traditional role is to provide all classes of supply to the Battalion. The way Service Battery accom-

plishes its current mission is through Combat Logistic Patrols (CLPs). To date, the Battery has successfully completed multiple CLPs that were vital to overall success of the Battalion's mission.

The CLP consists of the escorts and the escorted. The escorts for these CLPs consist of a team that has worked and trained together many times before and this team is the Command and Control node for these movements. Other components of this CLP include civilian truck drivers, fuel handlers, and recovery specialists. Service Battery has taken control of these varied assets and made them into a well-oiled delivery machine. Spc. Timothy Robertson, the Battery Commander's driver states, "I think the patrols that Service Battery runs are well executed. They bring all the different [Soldiers] in the Battery together for a common mission. That mission is to provide the Soldiers stationed at FOB Justice with everything that they need to survive and perform day-to-day operations."

Soldiers performing these duties are trained and ready for any mission that is presented to them. They all realize

the dangers from Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and small arms fire. Despite these factors, they all know that there is a mission to be accomplished and there are Soldiers on the other end of the line who rely on the CLPs for their support. Sgt. Jonathan Rhodes, the battery Operations Sergeant,

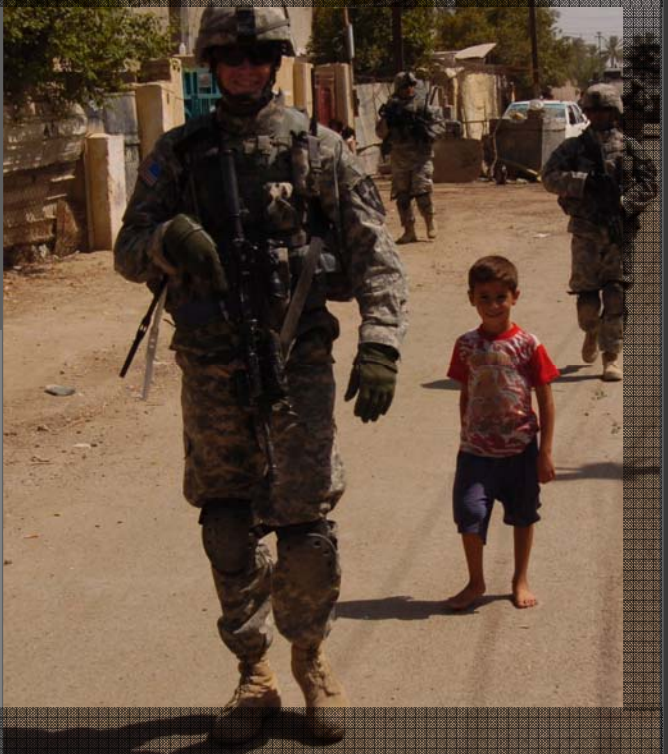
believes that the CLPs are the major focus of the battery's mission here. "I believe that our mission here is very important for the future of Iraq. Whenever you have Soldiers who are geographically detached from your unit, you need to look out for them and make sure they have what they need for everyday operations. In order to do that you need to get out and actually see what conditions they are living in and talk to the Soldiers to see if there is anything you can do for them. I really look forward to the CLPs because it gives me the chance to do just that. Being able to help out by delivering mail and other items to our guys at FOB Justice makes me feel like I really accomplished something."

The Soldiers stationed at FOB Justice can count on Service Battery to provide them with mail from home, food, supplies, and other mission essential items without fail. These patrols are an integral part of the Battalion and its mission in support of the War on Terrorism.

**Top:** Spc. Joran Jackowski from Service Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery makes final preparation before a CLP. *Photo by Sgt. Jonathan Rhodes*

**Left:** Spc. Brandon Ernst from Service Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery, checks his .50 caliber machine gun ammunition before the start of operations. *Photo by 1st Lt. Phidel Hun*





# STRIKER TORCH NEWS TEAM

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This Edition can also be found online at  
<http://www.1ad.army.mil/2BCTNewsletters.htm>

**We are looking for any type of submissions to include:  
letters, articles, comic strips or artwork, and photographs.**

If you would like a copy of this issue please contact your Battalion UPAR

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