



# The Long Knife

A MAGAZINE BY AND FOR THE 4TH BCT, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION



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# Inside this issue



*(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Paula Taylor)*

*An Everett, Wash., native, Pvt. Anthony Frunt, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, removes the jack stands from a humvee after changing a transfer case seal. Frunt, a small-arms repairer, works in the Special Troops Battalion motorpool.*

*FOR FULL STORY, see pages 16-17*

5	UAV Soldiers “Always Ready”
6-7	SSA keeps troops ready
10	Mother’s love stretches ‘round the world
12	IA taking lead, ‘doing what it takes’
13	Long Knife Edge competes in battle of bands
16-17	STB Soldiers keep missions rollin’ along
18	HeadHunters teach searches, net insurgent
20	Notes from home
27-31	Around the battalions

**COVER PHOTO:** Specialist Gabriel Faatiga, B Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, from Fort Bliss, Texas, takes a moment to regroup after his convoy was attacked by a complex ambush in Mosul, Iraq. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Vanessa Valentine)

**BACK COVER PHOTO:** Fire fighters respond to a mock emergency scenario at the airfield on Forward Operating Base Marez, Iraq. Rescue crews practice emergency drills weekly to ensure airfield staff are prepared for any type of emergency that may arise for both fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Bradley Clark)

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# A message from Long Knife 6



Greetings Long Knife Family,

I want to thank the Soldiers for their professionalism, hard work, and determination over the last eight months. We have taken the fight to the enemy and it is quite evident that our efforts are successful. I ask that you continue to be vigilant in your day-to-day activities. Your high level of morale is apparent in everything you do. I attribute that to you believing in what you're doing and witnessing the success of your efforts with your Iraqi counterparts.

Remember to operate in a safe manner and watch out for your fellow Soldiers. Summer is upon us and I need for you to ensure that you hydrate. The weather here is very similar to El Paso and Fort Irwin where we had successful training events with minimal casualties due to dehydration. Let's ensure we keep that same mind set to be successful during our summer operations here in Ninewah province.

Every Soldier is a leader and is expected to conduct their business in a professional manner. I expect for you to deal with the enemy within the guidelines set by the Rules of Engagement. Remember the Army values as you conduct your missions, treating every individual you meet with respect and courtesy. I believe that this unit has the best that the Army has to offer and I am proud to serve with you.

Lastly, I ask that you continue to communicate with your loved ones in El Paso or wherever they may be. It is imperative that we keep a sense of home in our hearts and minds to keep us grounded and guide our actions. Failure is not an option. We will prevail!



# A message from Long Knife 9



We are finally over halfway through our 15-month deployment. Our missions continue to be successful thanks to the hard work and dedication of our Long Knife Brigade Combat Team Soldiers.

I ask each of you to consider the three 'Ps' prior to rolling out of the wire:

**BE PROFESSIONAL** in all that you do; always perform your duties in accordance with the Rules of Engagement.

**BE POLITE** when interacting with the law-abiding citizens of Iraq.

**BE PREPARED TO KILL** any terrorist that is trying to hurt us or the citizens of Iraq.

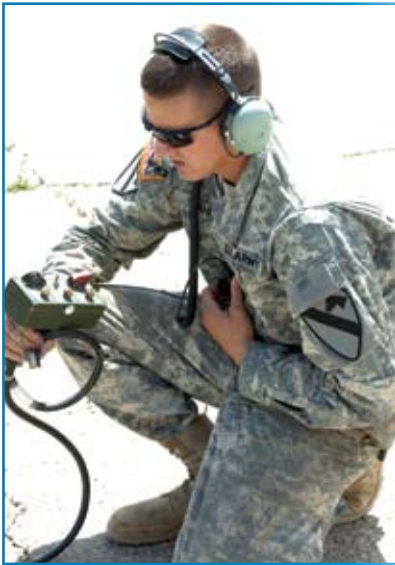
Now that the triple-digit temperatures are upon us, we need to be on the lookout for heat injuries. We have to keep ourselves hydrated and continue to stay in good physical shape.

The hot weather can also cause additional maintenance issues with our vehicles and equipment. Continue to do your before, during and after preventive maintenance checks and services on all of our vehicles and equipment.

Stay safe, remain strong and continue to fight complacency.



# UAV PLATOON "ALWAYS READY"



(U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Bradley Clark)

**Specialist Creighton Brahm, a military intelligence systems maintainer/integrator, A Company, Special Troops Battalion, prepares to launch an unmanned aerial vehicle.**



(U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Bradley Clark)

**Soldiers from the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Platoon, A Company, Special Troops "Always Ready" Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, launch a Shadow 200 UAV from Diamondback Airfield on Forward Operating Base Marez, Iraq. The UAV has a camera that allows the platoon to constantly keep eyes on the battlefield.**



(U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Bradley Clark)

**An unmanned aerial vehicle launcher is reset by UAV platoon Soldiers, Brahm, and Fennessy, A Company, Special Troops Battalion, at Forward Operating Base Marez, Iraq.**



(U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Bradley Clark)

**The engine on an unmanned aerial vehicle is started by Spc. Shaun Fennessy, power-generation equipment repairer, and Spc. Creighton Brahm, military intelligence systems maintainer/integrator, at Forward Operating Base Marez, Iraq.**





*Specialist Dwayne Jones, automated supply specialist, in the issue section of the Supply Support Activity warehouse, loads a pallet of supplies onto a vehicle for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. Jones is just one of the many Soldiers from A Company, 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. who run the SSA warehouse on Forward Operating Base Marez, Mosul, Iraq.*

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## *Supply Support Activities keep troops ready*

STORY AND PHOTOS BY PFC. BRADLEY CLARK

*4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs*

FORWARD OPERATING BASE MAREZ, Iraq—The Soldiers of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, are always in need of supplies to make their jobs run smoothly. It's the job of the automated logistical specialists of A Company, 27th Brigade Support Battalion to make sure the Soldiers get the supplies they need in a timely manner.

Company commander, Capt. Courtney Sugai, is in charge of the Supply Support Activities warehouse here and says the almost 4,400 items that the SSA stocks regularly, helps provide direct support to the 230 Department of Defense Activity Address Codes in the 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. area of operations.

The 230 different DODAACs each represent a different company's supply sergeant or motor pool.

"After a Soldier has requested something from their supply sergeant, the supply sergeant puts the order in the SARSS (Standard Army Retail Supply System)," said Sugai. "Once the order is in the SARSS, we check to see if it's one of the items that we stock. If it is, then the storage section takes it over to the issue section and they put it in the unit's pick-up box. If we don't stock

the item, then the SARSS system sends out the order to the company to have it shipped," said Sugai.

Once an item has been ordered, it gets shipped to the SSA warehouse and the Soldiers in the receiving section are the first to see it.

"We wait for the trucks to come in," said Spc. Margot Sinti, who works in the receiving section. "After the trucks come in, we pull the pallets down and sort through everything. After we sort through it all, we take it to where it needs to go, the storage section, the issue section, or the turn-in section. We do this pretty quickly. Sometimes it only takes us 30 minutes."

"We have 24 hours to get everything to the different sections, but normally it only takes us a few hours," said Pvt. Andre Barbosa, who also works in the receiving section, "We try to have everything ready the same day it comes in because we have customers that come in everyday. We get five to six trucks a day, seven days-a-week, at any time of the day. When the trucks come in, we have to check everything to make sure it's accurate. If a box says it has 100 screws in it, then we have to count all 100 of them."

After an item has made its way through the receiving section, if it is something that the SSA warehouse stocks, it heads over to the storage section.

"When we get an item, we find out what it is and



*Photo (above): Unit supply specialist, Pfc. Alice Stokes, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, watches as Spc. Dwayne Jones, automated supply specialist, A Company, 27th Brigade Support Battalion, moves Stokes' unit supplies to her vehicle at the Supply Support Activity on Forward Operating Base Marez.*

*Photo (right): Automated supply specialist Spc. Shannon Parrott, reviews box labels in the receiving section of the Supply Support Activity warehouse on Forward Operating Base Marez. Parrott, a Fayetteville, N.C. native, has been serving in the Army for two years and is scheduled to return to her home station at Fort Bliss, Texas, early next year.*



stock it in its proper location," said Sgt. Theresa Sutton, storage section noncommissioned officer-in-charge. "If an item doesn't have a certain location, then we create one for it, put the location in the SARSS, and then put the item in that location. After we see that a supply sergeant has placed an order for something that we stock, we send it over to the issue section so they can pick it up. We used to get 97 percent of the items that the receiving section would process, but now we only get about 5 percent of the items that come in due to authorized stock increases."

The final stop an item makes before a supply sergeant can pick it up, is the issue section.

"After items have been received and checked in, they get brought to us," said Spc. Dwayne Jones, who works in the issue section. "When we get the items, we sort them and put them in the proper customer pick-up areas. We have customers that come in everyday and then we have some that come only once a month because they are always in the field."

When it comes to items that stand out in the SSA warehouse, the crew has thousands to choose from.

"We get anything from nuts that cost 1 cent to circuit cards that cost \$20,000," said Pfc. Ivan Martinez, also a member of the issue section. "Those circuit cards come in small boxes and you don't think it's

anything, but it's something."

Even though the little items make a big impression in the storage and issue sections of the SSA warehouse, it's the big stuff that stands out in the receiving section.

"We get everything from pens to engines," said Barbosa. "The thing that amazed me the most was a tank engine that took up a whole pallet."

Whatever it is that Soldiers need, the SSA warehouse makes sure that they get it as quickly as possible.



# STB holds NCO, Soldier of the Quarter

## OUTLAW, WATCH DOG, SOLDIER

STORY BY 1ST LT. BRIDGETTE BELL

*Special Troops Battalion*

FORWARD OPERATING BASE MAREZ, Iraq—Eight Soldiers participated in the Special Troops Battalion Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Quarter competition for second quarter 2007. Participants included: Sgt. Fredrick Claro and Pfc. Derek Salinas of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Brigade Combat Team, Pfc. Artom Neekonov of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, STB, Spc. Lino Hernandez of A Company, Spc. Duane Eddy and Spc. Donald Magnuson of B Company, Sgt. Elhadji Ba and Spc. Adolfo Aguirre of C Company.

The competition began at 6:15 a.m. as participants conducted a timed ruck march from the battalion headquarters to Minute Range for M4/M16 rifle qualification. Sgt. 1st Class Roderick Jack, range noncommissioned officer-in-charge, noted that “Salinas and Magnuson did the best on the range, tying for first place. Overall, it was a good competition.” Soldiers were also tested by 1st Sgt. Willie Brown of HHC, STB on warrior skills, to include land navigation and first aid.

Upon returning to the battalion headquarters, Soldiers went before a board consisting of Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Cook (STB), 1st Sgt. Matthew Stevens (HHC 4th BCT), Sgt. 1st Class Matthew J. Clawiter (A Co), 1st Sgt. Charles Coleman (C Co), and 1st Sgt. Eugene Salet (18th EOD). The board tested a variety of subjects, to include promotion policy and regulations, NCO Corps history, the Code of Conduct, and guard-mount procedures and responsibilities.

The board concluded at noon and the winning Soldiers, Ba and Salinas, were awarded Army Achievement Medals for their accomplishments at a ceremony that evening.



*(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Lakisha Gray)*

*Special Troops Battalion senior enlisted Soldier, Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Cook, congratulates Pfc. Derek Salinas, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division for winning Soldier of the Quarter. Salinas, an infantryman working on the brigade personal security detachment, received an Army Achievement Medal for his victory.*

“For this being the first competition, I was impressed with these Soldiers’ performance,” Cook said, prior to announcing the winners. “Thank you to the leaders for supporting the competition.”

After thanking his leadership, Salinas commended everyone who participated for their hard work. “It was a challenge and I saw everyone out there pushing themselves.”



# of the Quarter competition

## ERS TAKE TOP MARKS



(U.S. Army photo by Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Cook)  
 Soldier of the Quarter competitor, Pfc. Artom Neekonov, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, leads the ruck march to Minute Range, Forward Operating Base Marez.



(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Noemi Silva)  
 Top enlisted Soldier for B Company, Special Troops Battalion, 1st Sgt. Gerald Morgan, observes Soldier of the Quarter participants during M4/M16 rifle qualification. The range is one of several stops for the group to test their skills as leaders and Soldiers. The overall winners of the competition receive an Army Achievement Medal.



Sergeant Elhadji Ba, C Company, Special Troops Battalion, evaluates a casualty during the first aid testing at the Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter competition. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Noemi Silva)



(U.S. Army photo by Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Cook)  
 Soldier of the Quarter competitors listen as 1st Sgt. Willie Brown, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, gives a rules briefing.

# ALWAYS READY



(U.S. Army photo by Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Cook)  
 Participants pose in front of the battalion headquarters following the daylong Soldier of the Quarter competition. Back row (L-R) Sgt. Elhadji Ba, Pfc. Artom Neekonov, Pfc. Derek Salinas, and Spc. Adolfo Aquirre. Front row (L-R) Spc. Donald Magnuson, Spc. Duane Caddy, Spc. Lino Hernandez, and Sgt. Fredrick Claro.



(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Lakisha Gray)  
 Sgt. Elhadji Ba and Pfc. Derek Salinas, STB NCO and Soldier of the Quarter competition winners were two of eight Soldiers to compete in the event. They each received an Army Achievement Medal for their win.



# Mother's love stretches halfway 'round world

STORY BY PFC. BRADLEY J. CLARK

4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE MAREZ, Iraq— While some mothers may be waking up to breakfast in bed and gifts from their children on Mother's Day, there are many that can't be with their families on the special holiday.

One of those separated mothers is Sgt. Michael McKiel, a common ground station noncommissioned officer-in-charge, A Company, Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and a mother of two who is currently serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. She prepared for deployment after she gave birth to her son, Anthony, and joined her husband, Warrant Officer Fred McKeil, targeting officer for the 4th BCT, in Iraq, February 2007.

"Although I had to leave our youngest one at the age of 3 months, I think that it was hardest leaving our 3-year-old," she said. "He knew what he was losing when we left. He is too young to understand why we had to leave, but old enough to understand that we were going to be gone for a long time."

At times, it can be extremely difficult on a mother being separated from her children.

"Sometimes it is excruciatingly painful knowing how much of their lives that we are missing," she said. "Our oldest son just had his third birthday, and our youngest will have his first birthday, and both my husband and I will not be able to be there with them.

"I know what I signed up for when I joined the military," she said. "I have absolutely no regrets about what I have done or what I am doing. I firmly believe that the Army has given me more opportunities to do things with my life than I could have ever imagined."

Being in Iraq can be difficult for people, but McKiel believes that her sacrifice is for a good cause.

*(SEE MOM, Page 22)*



*(Photo courtesy of the McKeil family)*

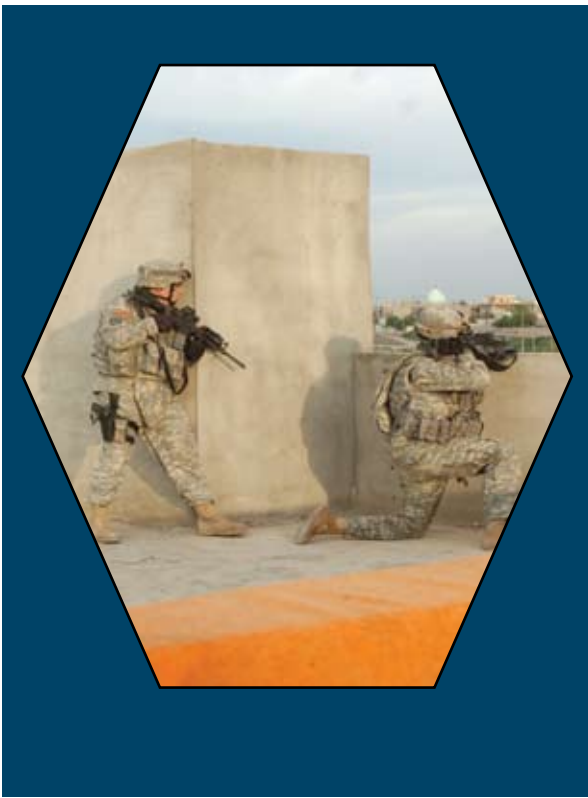
*Anthony McKiel and his mother, Sgt. Michael McKiel, common ground station noncommissioned officer-in-charge, A Company, Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, spend some quality mother-son time prior to her deployment in February. Anthony, 9 months old, is the McKiel's youngest of two sons.*



*(Photo courtesy of the McKeil family)*

*Kai McKiel enjoys Easter with his mother, Sgt. Michael McKiel, common ground station noncommissioned officer-in-charge, A Company, Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, April 16, 2006. Kai, 3, is the eldest of the McKiel's two sons.*





*(Left): Medic, Spc. Sean Triplett, joins Sgt. Jesse Aguilera, infantry team leader, both with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, at a roof-top over-watch position during a search operation in Mosul, Iraq.*

*(Right): Infantry team leader, Sgt. Jesse Aguilera, searches a vehicle during a raid on a possible insurgent's home in Mosul, Iraq. Aguilera and the rest of A Company control the operations on the west side of the second largest city in Iraq.*



## 2-7 Cav Soldiers ‘Live the Legend’ in Iraq

STORY AND PHOTOS BY PFC. BRADLEY CLARK

*4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs*

MOSUL, Iraq — Soldiers from A Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division are on the frontlines everyday in Mosul, Iraq, and have a mixture of emotions on the varied experiences in the second largest city in the country.

“We are the first ones out after something happens,” said Riverside, Calif., native, Pfc. Bryan Quintana, infantryman, 1st Platoon. “We cover the whole west side of town.”

The company has a wide variety of missions they perform. From escort missions, to acting as a quick-reaction force, the Soldiers are always ready to perform.

“Our whole company gets ready to roll whenever something happens outside the wire,” said Glendale, Ariz., native, Sgt. Jesse Aguilera, team leader, 1st Platoon. “We do everything from securing and searching targets to delivering camera equipment to local media outlets.”

Despite the challenges and risks, A Company gets reminded why they are here every day and say they still feel safe out there because of the assets available to them.

“The thing that makes me feel safe is when I hear the air support overhead,” said Aguilera. “I know when we get pinned down, I can look up and hear those rockets and know the insurgents are going to pay for their damages.”

Despite the recent news of the unit extensions, the Company A Soldiers maintain a positive focus as they continue their mission.

“We expected it to happen,” said Columbus, Ohio, native, Pfc. William Stockton, infantryman. “Instead of looking at the negative, you have to look at the positive — it gives us more time to prepare the Iraqis and allows us to be more effective.”

The Soldiers from A Company, 2-7 Cav., have a great pride in the job they are doing here and in their division heritage.

“We are out here every day doing our jobs,” said Stockton. “We’re not losing; we’re ‘Living the Legend.’”



*(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Paula Taylor)*

*Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division prepare to search the town of Muhallabiyah with Coalition Forces.*

## ***Iraqi Army taking lead, ‘doing what it takes’***

STORY BY PFC. BRADLEY CLARK

*4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs*

FORWARD OPERATING BASE MAREZ, Iraq— Since the arrival of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division in November 2006, its Soldiers have had an opportunity to work side-by-side with the soldiers in the Iraqi Army. For many of the brigade’s Soldiers, the IA have proven themselves to be a combat-ready and capable fighting force, and they are enjoying the opportunity to train and serve with them.

“We get along great with those guys; they are really cool,” said Riverside, Calif., native, Pfc. Bryan Quintana, infantryman, A Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment. “Some of them are hardened veterans and are willing to do what it takes.”

Even with all the attacks that the Iraqi Army receives, they won’t back down.

“I remember the day when there were two [vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices] that went off in the city,” said Quintana. “There were four members of the IA at the location of the VBIEDs. When the first one

went off, two of them died. Before the second one went off, the remaining two were getting orders on their radio to fall back and retreat. Then, something happened that I will never forget. They said, ‘We’re not going back. We have to protect our battalion.’ Those two wounded Soldiers stood their ground and fired at the second VBIED before it detonated. They didn’t make it, but their ability to stay and fight gives me confidence when it comes time for us to leave and for them to take over on their own.”

The reason the IA has the ability and confidence to stay and fight has a lot to do with the help they have received from American Soldiers.

“The IA soldiers fight daily,” said IA Command Sgt. Maj. Mohammed Jasim Hussen, 1st Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Army Division. “Training compared from now to the past has vastly improved. The soldiers feel brave because of the training they receive from the Coalition Forces. Ability wise, the IA are strong and confident in their duties,” said Hussen. “My Battalion has proven its worth, since the division is sending us to Baghdad. The Iraqi people and its soldiers are very proud people. We train

*(SEE IRAQI ARMY, Page 22)*



# Long Knife Edge competes in Battle of Bands



STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
PFC. HEATHER WELSH

*27th Brigade Support Battalion*

*Bass player and vocalist, Sgt. Chris Mills, 27th Brigade Support Battalion, plays in the band, The Long Knife Edge, during a competition against three other bands on Forward Operating Base Marez, Iraq. Mills, a Theodore, Ala., native, has been in the U.S. Army for 11 years and is currently serving with the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division in Mosul.*

**F O R W A R D  
O P E R A T I N G      B A S E  
M A R E Z**, Iraq—The Long Knife Edge band from 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, took to the stage once again in an effort to entertain during a Battle of the Bands competition at the Aloha center.

Having played together since January, they had been rehearsing 10-15 different songs, and they chose to play “Pretty Woman,” and the song

“Kryptonite” at the battle.

“I think the crowd was a little awestruck,” explained Capt. Matt Miller, pianist and native of Dresher, Penn., 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment. “They had no expectations of us because we are at war. I think they were impressed with us, definitely.”

Miller’s interest in music began when he started playing piano at the age of 4.

“I remember watching ‘Old Yeller’ with my cousin, and we got bored, so she taught me how to play ‘Heart and Soul’ on the piano. I loved it, and throughout my life had three different teachers and played all the way into my high school years,” he said.

Bass guitar player and vocalist from the 27th Brigade Support Battalion, Sgt. Chris Mills, said although it was one of the first times the Long Knife Edge played in front of a crowd, it was not his first time.

“I started singing when I was 5 years old in my church,” Mills explained. “My grandma taught me to sing, and when I was 11, my grandpa taught me to play bass. I was involved in several gospel groups growing up.”

Although the band felt well-rehearsed, they did not take first place in the battle.

“We are all different in our talents, but we respect each other and understand each other,” said Miller. “Each of us tries to pick songs that we excel at and the rest of us support that person in their part. We were on someone else’s turf for the battle and we had high expectations for ourselves. We had a goal, and we met that goal in getting out and getting more experience in playing in front of a crowd. I know its cliché, but I felt we were all winners, even though we didn’t take first place.”

Mills felt the crowd enjoyed their music, although he was disappointed they didn’t win.

“We were definitely well-rehearsed, and although we were nervous, we were ready for it,” said Mills.

Three other bands that played that night were the Corps Support Battalion, The Soul Sistas, (a Gospel Choir), and The Acoustic Lounge Lizards. The Long Knife Edge is continuing to practice weekly, with plans to hold concerts in the near future for their fellow Soldiers.



*Members of the Long Knife Edge band perform during the Battle of the Bands concert on Forward Operating Base Marez, Iraq. The band, which began forming in January, plays for Soldiers of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division and various other units around the FOB. Members include Maj. Marianne Madrid, guitarist and vocalist, Capt. Matt Miller, pianist, Sgt. Chris Mills, bass guitarist and vocalist, Spc. Amy McCafferty, drummer, and Pfc. Jamie Holder, guitarist.*

# Turning back the hands of time

## *How our modern Army was formed*

STORY COMPILED BY SGT. PAULA TAYLOR  
*4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs*

When the Second Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia in May 1775, General George Washington was elected as Commander in Chief of the Continental Army.

On June 14, 1775, the Continental Congress authorized enlistment of riflemen to serve the United Colonies for one year.

The record indicates that Congress undertook to raise ten companies of riflemen, approved an enlistment form for them, and appointed a committee to draft rules and regulations for the government of the Army, thus giving birth to what we know today as the U.S. Army.

On July 3, 1775, at Cambridge, Mass., Washington took command of his ill-trained troops and embarked upon a war that was to last six grueling years.

In 1777, with the help of Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben, a German-Prussian officer, the Continental Army began to gain stability.

Throughout his time with the U.S. Army, Steuben was appointed inspector general, prepared a manual of tactics for the building of the Army, remodeled its organization, organized an efficient staff, and improved its firing rate.

Steuben's training technique was to create a "model company," which consisted of a group of 100 chosen men who in turn successively

worked outward into each brigade. He trained the Soldiers, who at this point were greatly lacking in proper clothing themselves, in full military dress uniform, swearing and yelling at them up and down in German and French. When that was no longer successful, he recruited Capt. Benjamin Walker, his French-speaking aide, to curse at them for him in English.

To correct the existing policy of placing recruits in a unit before they had received training, Steuben introduced a system of progressive training. Each company commander was made responsible for the training of new men, but instruction was actually done by selected sergeants—the best obtainable.

Warfare in the 18th century was a comparatively simple matter, once the battle was joined. Combat was at close range, a massed-fire melee, where rapidity of firing was of primary importance. Accuracy was little more than firing faster than the opposing line. Speed of firing could only be obtained by drilling men in the handling of their firearms until the motions of loading and firing were mechanical. Firing was done in eight counts and fifteen motions.

Complicated as it seemed, Steuben's new firing regulations were much simpler than those used by foreign armies and they sped up firing considerably. The bulk of the fighting in the Revolutionary War was a stand up and slug match. The winning side was the one that could get in a good first volley, take a return fire and re-load faster than its



*(Painting by unknown artist)*

*The earliest known portrait of General George Washington, painted in 1772 by Charles Willson Peale, showing Washington in uniform as colonel of the Virginia Regiment.*

foes. Once the individual could handle himself and his musket, he was placed in groups of three, then in groups of twelve, and taught to wheel, to dress to the right and to the left. Alignment and dressing the ranks was emphasized but only because proper alignment was necessary for smooth firing.

Perhaps Steuben's biggest contribution to the American Revolution was training in the use of the bayonet. Ever since the Battle of Bunker Hill, Americans had been mostly dependent upon using their ammunition to win victories. Throughout the early course of the war, Americans used the bayonet mostly as a cooking skewer or a tool rather than a fighting instrument. Steuben's introduction of effective bayonet charges became crucial.





*(Painting by Ralph Earl)*

**Baron Frederick Wilhelm von Steuben.**

In the Battle of Stony Point, American Soldiers attacked with unloaded rifles and won the battle solely on Steuben's bayonet training.

The first results of the Army training were in evidence by May 20, 1778, at Barren Hill and then again at Monmouth, which ended June 28.

Washington recommended an appointment for Steuben as Inspector General on April 30; Congress approved it on May 5. It was Steuben serving in Washington's headquarters in the summer of 1778 who was the first to report the enemy was heading for Monmouth. During the winter of 1778-1779, Steuben prepared "Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States," also known as the "Blue Book."

Along with Steuben's training tactics, techniques and procedures, he also developed other areas of the Army, such as camp sanitation. He established standards for sanitation and camp layouts that would still be standard a century and a half later. There had previously been no

set arrangement of tents and huts. Men relieved themselves where they wished and when an animal died, it was stripped of its meat and the rest was left to rot where it lay. Steuben laid out a plan to have rows for command, officers and enlisted men. Kitchens and latrines were on opposite sides of the camp, with latrines on the downhill side. There was also the familiar arrangement of company and regimental streets.

Based on his contributions during the American Revolution, Steuben was given credit for guiding the Continental Army to victory.

Since that time, many things about the Army have changed, but a Soldier's tenacity and dedication to duty has remained the same, which is evidenced in the creed: ..."I will always place the mission first, I will never accept defeat, I will not quit, I will never leave a fallen comrade."

This month, as the Army celebrates its 232nd birthday, people are encouraged to remember the Soldiers who have fought gallantly for the freedoms the American people enjoy today.

*(This article was compiled from the Army Center of Military History and the U. S. Army Military History Institute)*



*(Photo courtesy National Archives Web site)*

**Soldiers trek through a swamp to evacuate a wounded comrade during Vietnam, 1969.**



*(Photo courtesy Army.mil)*

**Entering the outskirts of Metz, France, men of the 378th Infantry are shown on the morning of November 17 in pursuit of the enemy along roads strewn with abandoned equipment during WW II.**



*(Photo courtesy Army.mil)*

**Members of 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment practicing their mine-detecting skills.**



*(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Tierney P. Nowland)*

**A Soldier waits with his interpreter to move to the next objective in an abandoned building during a cordon and search in Mansour, Iraq.**



# *Special Troops Battalion Soldiers*



*(U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Bradley Clark)*

*Private Anthony Frunt, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, an Everett, Wash., native, watches as Spc. Michella Martínez, B Company, originally from Tucson, Ariz., tightens a bolt after servicing the transfer case of a humvee at their motorpool on Forward Operating Base Marez. Both Frunt and Martínez are assigned to the Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.*



*(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Paula Taylor)*

*(Above): Small-arms repairer, Pvt. Anthony Frunt, who is currently working as a mechanic, cleans his wrench after servicing a humvee in the motorpool on Forward Operating Base Marez.*



*(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Paula Taylor)*

*(Right): Signal repairer, Spc. Michella Martínez, B Company, cleans up after replacing a transfer case seal on her humvee. Martínez has been in the Army for two years and is a Tucson, Ariz., native.*



# rs keep mission rollin' along



*(Left): Specialist Michella Martinez, B Company, Special Troops Battalion, gets ready to pull the jack stands out from under her humvee after completing the service on the vehicle.*

*(Right): Specialist Aaron Palmer, B Company, a DeBary, Fla., native, prepares to place a tire jack under a humvee that just had a transfer case seal replaced while Pvt. Anthony Frunt, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, guides it into place.*



*(U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Bradley Clark)*

*(U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Bradley Clark)*

## Red Wolves test repair skills

STORY BY SGT. PAULA TAYLOR

*4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs*

FORWARD OPERATING BASE MAREZ, Iraq—The Soldiers of B Company, Special Troops Battalion are responsible for installing, operating and maintaining equipment that allows the brigade to communicate across the battlefield. This requires them to set up equipment at several remote sites. To get to those sites, they have to travel several miles from the nearest forward operating base, which is why vehicle maintenance is so mission-essential.

“We travel at least once a week, depending on what our remote sites might need,” explained Spc. Michella Martinez, signal repairer. “Without maintenance on these vehicles, one could breakdown and leave members of our team in a dangerous situation.”

Martinez, a Tucson, Ariz., native, is currently assigned to the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, based out of Fort Bliss, Texas, and said her fellow B Company Soldiers conduct maintenance as often as twice a week.

“We double check for any potential problems that could be hazardous to the mission,” she said. “Repairs are done often because of the terrain and usage of the vehicles.”

Although time-consuming, Martinez said she enjoys working on the equipment and appreciates all the help her unit gets from the professionals that work in the motor pool.

“The mechanics point out the ‘dos’ and ‘dont’s,’” she said. “They also teach us what to look for on the vehicles.”



*(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Paula Taylor)*



*(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Paula Taylor)*

# HeadHunters teach search techniques, net insurgent

STORY BY SGT. PAULA TAYLOR

*4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs*

TAL AFAR, Iraq—For the first time, members of 1st Platoon, B Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment and 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division conducted training together.

The training event, which allowed the cavalry to travel to several Iraqi Army area patrol bases, lasted two weeks and covered several types of searches.

“The searches that were taught were the search and seizure, cordon and search, vehicle search, and personnel search,” said Pfc. Kenneth Malone, cavalry scout. “These searches are important because they are vital to the success of their mission.”

Just after the initial class of students had finished learning proper search techniques, a call was received, alerting the group of a possible foreign fighter being spotted in the immediate area.

“The call was from a source that identified a foreign fighter hiding out in the house across the street from where we were training,” said 1st Lt. David Boelens. “The IA went across the street and captured the foreign fighter, using many of the techniques our Soldiers had taught them a couple of hours earlier.”

Throughout the two-week period, Coalition Forces said they trained about 40-50 Iraqi soldiers per day.

“We trained at least 300 IA from first battalion alone,” Malone said. “They took the training well.”

Most of the scouts agreed that the IA soldiers learned valuable techniques that could possibly save lives.

“The combined experiences of my noncommissioned officers and Soldiers gave the IA soldiers good search techniques that may someday save their lives,” said Boelens.

“Knowing what to look for and how to mitigate the threat is something that the IA have been instilled with. We are just helping to enhance that knowledge.”

Boelens feels the classes were relevant and will directly impact the Iraqi Army’s missions by making them more effective, and said that his unit will continue the training throughout the HeadHunter’s deployment.



*(Photo courtesy of 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment)*

**Soldiers of 1st Platoon, B Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment demonstrate the fundamentals of detainee searches to 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division soldiers at a combat outpost in Tal Afar, Iraq.**



*(Photo courtesy of 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment)*

**Iraqi Army and Coalition Soldiers assigned to the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, take cover behind a cement barrier after receiving small-arms fire in Tal Afar, Iraq. The CF are working with IA in the area to teach, coach and mentor their fighting skills.**



# *Airfield drills safety, conducts training*



*(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Paula Taylor)*

*Forward Operating Base Marez fire fighters pull a mock casualty out of the cockpit of an OH-58 Kiowa helicopter as part of airfield management's mandatory weekly training. The training gives all participants experience in a wide variety of different types of scenario drills that could actually occur at an airfield. The program is designed to keep participants proficient in their scope of responsibility on the job.*



*(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Paula Taylor)*

*A fire fighter radios the hospital on Forward Operating Base Marez to respond to a mock casualty.*



*(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Paula Taylor)*

*A fire fighter gently guides a mock wounded Kiowa pilot to the ground during airfield emergency training.*



*(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Paula Taylor)*

*An airfield fire fighter checks for injuries on a mock casualty during a training scenario.*

# NOTES FROM HOME

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**The staff of the public affairs office, 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div., have been posting a Web log (blog) on the El Paso Times newspaper's online Web site since our arrival in Kuwait. So far, we have been averaging more than 3,000 'hits' on the counter per week. As with all blogs, anyone can post a response. We have received comments from family members and friends of the brigade and will use this page to post their messages to our troops. To visit the blog site: <http://elpasotimes.typepad.com/longknife>**

Great Job on video 2 mom of Spc.Brandon Jones 1/9 cav be safe see ya soon love mom and dad. Posted by: paula fitzpatrick |

Thanks for the great video, I miss my son so much and any news from wherever he is, is a blessing. God Speed to all of You, you are forever in my Heart. Lori Stach mother of PFC Stach, Nicholas 1-9cav 1stcav-div, 4th BCT charlie troop from Ft. Bliss now in Iraq somewhere. Posted by: Lori Stach |

Just wanted to say that ALL of you are doing a great job over there. Keep up the GREAT work. I would also like to say HI to my husband CPT. Ryan Greening. Love & miss you. Posted by: Christine Greening |

Congratulations to the PAO for another great Long Knife magazine. It's good to hear the positive news from Iraq instead of the doom and destruction you hear on the major news outlets. Terrific photography as well. Posted by: jim warren |

To my son, SGT Russell Meadows, C CO 2-7 CAV, keep up the good work and keep the cav tradition. Love you son, 1SG (RET) 1ST CAV "FIRST TEAM" and "FIRST TO FIRE" Posted by: Maynard Meadows |

I understand the extended deployment in my head but it was rough on the heart. But we just go with the flow and pray that these extra months fly by. To Spc Matthew---Congratulations Matthew on your promotion!! We all love you and miss you!! Stay safe. Posted by: Terry (Burluson) Walls |

First and foremost, to the troops WE MISS YOU ALL! You are always in our hearts and prayers. The sole purpose of commenting is to just give thanks to all our men and women for their personal sacrifices. Also I want to thank and commend all the families for their strength and dedication to supporting 4-1 Cav. With this extension, we all face a longer heartbreaking deployment. However, with the support of the families and the courage of our troops we will continue to hold down the fort back here while you all take care of business over there. Stay strong and remember we are all here for each and every one of you...GARRYOWEN! To SFC Troy Willey...I love you and

miss you! Be safe and take care. Forever yours, Kalena. Posted by: Kalena Willey |

We too have two soldiers in the 4-1 CAV, 1ST Sgt. Ed Taylor & Sgt. Paula Taylor who we love & miss very much, but we are so PROUD of them. The extended deployment will be very hard for all of the soldiers & their families, but PLEASE KNOW that we stand behind each & every one of you, & we pray for your SAFE & SPEEDY return home. I know that we are luckier than most families in that we can see Paula's Blogs and know that she and Ed are still ok. Our love & Prayers go to all the 4-1 Cav. STAY SAFE, and THANK YOU for your dedicated service. To Ed and Paula, can't wait to see you when you come home on R&R. We love you both. Love Mom & Dad. Posted by: Gary & Charlotte DeBuysere |

To all of 4-1 Cav and my hubby Jason Hanneken. My family and friends Proudly Support Our Troops and all their accomplishments. We just hope that you all stay safe and come home soon. The first 6 months have flown by so quick and the next 9 will be just as fast. So keep doing what you are doing get the jobs done and we will be waiting patiently for you all to step foot off of those planes and into our arms again. Thank you for everything you all do because if it wasn't for people like you we wouldn't have the luxuries we have here at home. Posted by: Mrs. Bambi Hanneken |

While I don't like the idea of my son and the other 140,000 other warriors having their tours extended [except for the air force who still only pulls 4-6 month tours], I fully support the troops and I support their mission. I have to wonder if these extensions would be necessary had Bill Clinton NOT increased the force reduction from 25 percent under President Bush [41] to 48 percent. I also wonder how many of those same members of the congress who voted to support the massive force reductions during the 1990s under Bill Clinton are now bemoaning the LACK of sufficient manpower and blame President Bush. Anyone else pickup on which political party was in control of the congress during other massive force reductions [post-WWI, post-WWII, Korea]? Now link that to global events which mandated massive manpower increases which took years to put into effect. Posted by: Steven Lodahl |



**FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY**

# Top 10 Reasons Why Being a Soldier in Iraq is Like Being a College Freshman

10. You share a room with somebody you wouldn't have if it was your choice.
9. You have to walk or take a bus because you aren't allowed a car.
8. Your refrigerator can fit in a car seat.
7. Cooking for yourself involves only a microwave.
6. You dread going to the cafeteria, but there is no where else to go.
5. You share showers with a group of people you really aren't that close with.
4. Someone always seems to be barbecuing something that smells good, but you would never pay for that meat in a restaurant.
3. You throw all your laundry in a bag and let someone else deal with it.
2. You never can figure out where that smell is coming from.

And the number one reason Iraq is like being a college freshman...

1. No matter how hard you try, you can't get anyone to buy you alcohol.

**FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY**

*(MOM, continued from page 10)*

“I want our sons to know that the hardest thing that I have ever had to do in my entire life was leave them to come to Iraq,” she said. “But I firmly believe in what we are doing over here, and I believe that we are making people’s lives infinitely better.”

The McKiel’s plan on taking their rest and relaxation together in August to see their children. They are also looking forward to redeploying with the unit early next year.



*(Photo courtesy of the McKeil family)*

**Warrant Officer Fred Mckiel, brigade targeting officer, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, enjoys time with his newborn son, Anthony. Mckiel deployed to Iraq with the 4th BCT one month after Anthony was born.**



*(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brian Sipp)*

**Soldiers assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment conduct a mission with Iraqi Army soldiers in Mosul, Iraq.**

*(IRAQI ARMY, continued from page 12)*

hard and with Coalition Forces help we have become very good in our duties.”

Hussen is not the only one that feels that way; many American Soldiers agree with him.

“I’ve seen them in action,” said Pfc. Cary Hawkins, C Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment. “There’s been a couple of times I’ve been out on a street corner pulling security and I looked to my left and saw my squad leader, then looked to my right and saw one of those guys. It’s a good feeling. I enjoy having them around. They’re good at their job and they’re competent.”

First Sergeant Jon Rettmann, A Battery, 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, agreed with Hawkins and added, “The IA have made tremendous strides since my first tour in Iraq during [Operation Iraqi Freedom] II. The 1st Battalion IA are a professional organization with exceptional leaders. During combat patrols, the soldiers from 1st Battalion lead from the front and never hesitate when faced with adversity. With continued, combined training and operations, the entire IA will one day rid Iraq of terrorists.”

Hussen said he is confident he and the Iraq Army soldiers will be ready to stand on their own and protect their country from the devastation and destruction that anti-Iraqi forces cause.



# *Soldiers step through rite-of-passage*

## *Corprals, sergeants, become inducted into the NCO Corps*

STORY BY SGT. PAULA TAYLOR

4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE MAREZ, Iraq— The Special Troops “Always Ready” Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division held a noncommissioned officer induction ceremony for 13 Soldiers May 13 at the Community Activities center here.

The names of the inductees were: Corporal Adolfo Aguirre, Corporal Marc Cochrane, Corporal Said Lazo-Aguilar, Corporal Juan Rodriguez, Corporal Eric Rowbottom, Sgt. Coray Doolin, Sgt. James Durden, Sgt. Gary Jimenez, Sgt. William Patterson, Sgt. Matthew Picking, Sgt. Luis Riso, Sgt. Johnetta Smith and Sgt. Chad Waagen.

Information systems operator-analyst, Spc. Elvis Cabrera, was the emcee of the ceremony and explained the significance to the attendees and guests.

“As Soldiers, each of today’s inductees was recommended for promotion to corporal and sergeant by a series of leaders, starting with their first-line supervisor through their first sergeant, and finally, the command sergeant major.”

These recommendations, he said, were based not only on their demonstrated skill and ability, or having met the requirements for promotion, but their demonstrated potential for greater service to the nation.

“They have demonstrated a desire and ability to lead as noncommissioned officers at a

*(SEE INDUCTION, next page)*



*(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Edgar Taylor)*

*Top enlisted leader, 1st Sgt. Phyllis Green (center), A Company, Special Troops Battalion, and Sgt. Maj. Beverly Lewis (left), brigade S-6 noncommissioned officer-in-charge, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, congratulates NCO Corps inductee Sgt. Chad Waagen at a ceremony held on Forward Operating Base Marez, Iraq. Waagen, A Company, Special Troops Battalion, was one of 13 Soldiers to be inducted.*

*(INDUCTION, continued from previous page)*

level demanded by the NCO corps,” Cabrera said. “Having been selected, trained and duly promoted to corporal and sergeant, they now face another transition—their induction into the NCO corps; for being a noncommissioned officer is more than acquiring skills, passing boards and completing courses. It is a change in mindset that says, ‘I will be a professional at all times and in all ways. I will care for and train my Soldiers where once I was only concerned with my own training, welfare and mission accomplishment.’ Today’s



*(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Edgar Taylor)*

***Soldiers assigned to the Special Troops Battalion exit with the colors after the Noncommissioned Officer Induction ceremony at the Community Activities Center on Forward Operating Base Marez. The ceremony was held to induct 13 STB Soldiers.***

inductees have risen to this challenge and are ready for transition into the Corps of the Noncommissioned Officer.”

The tradition of commemorating the passing of a Soldier to a NCO can be traced back through history to the Army of Frederick the Great.

“Before one could be recognized in the full status of a NCO, he was required to stand four watches—one every four days,” he said. “At the first watch, the privates appeared and claimed a gift of bread and Brandy. The company NCOs came to the second watch for beer and tobacco. Their first sergeant reserved his visit for the third watch, when he was presented with a glass of wine and a piece of tobacco on a tin plate. It was during the fourth watch that the NCOs figuratively crossed the time-honored line. Today we commemorate this rite-of-passage as a celebration of the newly-promoted, joining the ranks of a professional noncommissioned officer corps and emphasize and build on the pride we all share as members of such an elite corps.”

Also there to address the inductees was the battalion’s senior enlisted Soldier, Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Cook.

“Inductees, Soldiers like you didn’t learn your technical and tactical abilities from officers; you learned them from the noncommissioned officers,” said Cook. “NCOs teach, coach and mentor other Soldiers on how to follow and how to lead by personal example. It could be on the drill pad, in the billets, during sergeant’s time training, on the firing range, or here in combat. It’s the NCO who has the most powerful and lasting effect on a Soldier. You are about to begin what is undoubtedly the most important phase of your career as a young leader— You are now officially considered the proverbial motto, ‘The backbone of the Army.’ You will be charged with ensuring that your Soldiers are prepared to engage and destroy enemies of our nation. Your leadership and influence will be evident within the battle space by the expertise of the Soldiers you train.”

Each inductee was presented with a certificate, a Leader’s Book and a CD with basic information to start the NCOs on a path to success.

The ceremony concluded with the reading of the “Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer” and the playing of the Army song.





*(U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Vanessa Valentine)*

*U.S. Army Pfc. Arturo Fernandez, B Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, clears a staircase while searching a business for weapons caches in Mosul Iraq.*





*(U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Vanessa Valentine)*

*U.S. Army medic Pfc. Nayra Verdes, D Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, from Fort Bliss, Texas, comforts a baby during a raid on a home in the Tamooz neighborhood of Mosul, Iraq.*



*(U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Vanessa Valentine)*

*A Bradley fighting vehicle crew with 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, from Fort Bliss, Texas, provides extra cordon security after a rocket-propelled grenade attack in the city of Mosul, Iraq.*



# HEADHUNTER NEWS



STORY BY 1ST LT. SCOTT BEAL

*1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment*

TAL AFAR, Iraq—A community soccer field was constructed by the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army near village of Qadisiyah as a show of appreciation and respect for the community's residents.

A large courtyard nestled in the 3-2-3 IA battlespace was reconnoitered by the battalion commander several months ago. He deemed it a sound place to begin the initial phases of the soccer field project.

After much planning and coordination, the unit coordinated for bulldozers to level the field. The 3-2-3 Military Transition Team assigned to 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, resourced the equipment and arranged for delivery. The Iraqi Army labored side-by-side with community leaders and local residents to assemble the goalposts, nets, and accessories. The battalion commander also gave away a couple dozen soccer balls to the many children in the area. Local Mukhtars supervised precise measurements of the soccer field to set the conditions for this permanent community play area.

This mission is representative of yet another strong and sustained civil affairs campaign in the once volatile, but now far safer community of Qadisiyah, Tal Afar. The 3-2-3 IA consistently work under the guidance of the battalion commander to sustain high impact missions to meet the desired end state of resettling the population in their sector and reaffirming the resident's faith and confidence in the Iraqi Security Forces.

The Iraqi Army planned and executed this mission with minimal Coalition Forces support. This mission created more opportunity for positive interaction between the IA and civilian leadership, which is critical given the recent misfortune with the vehicle-borne improvised explosive device in the southern portion of Tal Afar. The first match will be played in the next week between 3-2-3 IA and the civilian population.

As a result of continued security operations by 3rd Battalion, the Qaddeseyah neighborhood was able to



*(U.S. Army photo courtesy of 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment )*

***Children in the village of Qadisiyah, near Tal Afar, hold the old soccer ball they are going to exchange for a new one, while a Soldier with 1st Platoon, B Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, looks on.***

hold its first soccer game on a field with their newly received goals and team uniforms in an area where months ago such an idea would have been impossible. The ability to do this is representative of the incredible relations built between the Iraqi Army, Iraqi Police and the local population.

Over 500 people showed up for the event to watch and cheer for both sides. All of the children had been given the day off in order to attend, and the Mukhtar was so enthusiastic about the game that he was the referee and had previously measured and chalked the field to regulation size.

In the end, the neighborhood team won 3-1. When the final whistle blew the crowd rushed the field and surrounded the Coalition and Iraqi Army. In thanks they chanted "IRAQ! IRAQ! IRAQ!" until we departed.

1st Lt. David Boelens later remarked that, "It was a day to be remembered by all. It is good to see a positive change and communities coming together to enjoy sports competitions."

# THUNDER HORSE NEWS



STORY BY SGT. MICHAEL LEONHARDY

*2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment*

BAGHDAD – During a night patrol in the farm fields of western Ghazaliya, Soldiers from Multi-National Division-Baghdad found what they thought to be an improvised rocket launcher. This small find led to a very large cache buried nearby.

While moving through a field, observers from the Fort Bliss, Texas-based 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, who are currently attached to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, noticed three pieces of ordnance with the improvised rocket launcher in a cinder block shack. The Soldiers secured the area and waited for daylight to excavate the site.

When sunrise came, the observers linked up with the rest of their Scout Platoon and started investigating the site. 1st Lt. Scott Pharis, on advice from his platoon sergeant, called in an explosive ordnance disposal team to help with the live ordnance.

Initially, all the Soldiers found was a wooden box, about the size of a coffin, buried next to the shack. Further investigation found mounds of dirt that looked like they had been recently disturbed.

“Initially, we thought there was a small cache, maybe only ten rounds. Every time we picked up one round, we would find three more buried in the dirt around it,” said Pharis.

As the Soldiers began to dig, they realized they could not even see how deep the cache went.

The Scout Platoon and EOD worked vigorously for 14 hours straight to remove all the ordnance out of the



*(U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Scott Pharis)*

***Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment pull out buried ordnance at a weapons cache site they discovered in Baghdad’s Ghazaliya district. More than 400 different pieces of explosive material and munitions were found at the site and were destroyed by an explosive ordnance disposal team. The blast of the controlled detonation could be felt at Camp Liberty, more than six miles away.***

deep mud holes of the cache.

What they found were: 178 120 mm mortar rounds, 126 57 mm rockets, 108 unidentified rounds, four homemade bombs, seven shape charges, three initiators, two 81 mm mortars, two cell phones, three hand grenades, two rocket-propelled grenade warheads, one 130 mm mortar round and one 155 mm artillery round.

After all the dust had settled, the Scout Platoon uncovered more than 400 different pieces of explosive material and munitions. This marks the biggest cache found by 2-12 Cavalry since the battalion took over their sector of the Iraqi capital in early November.

EOD conducted a controlled detonation to blow the ordnance in place. The explosion was so big it was felt by Soldiers at Camp Liberty, more than six miles away.



# BLACK DRAGON NEWS



*Soldiers of the 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, Pfc. Anthony Sword, Pfc. Joseph Pace, Spc. Lucas White and Specialist Ian Gray take a break after returning from a mission.*

## 5-82 FA COMPLETE FIRST AIR ASSAULT WITH IRAQI ARMY

STORY AND PHOTO BY CALEB SCHABER

*Northern Nevada News Wire*

NINEVAH PROVINCE, Iraq—Under the cover of darkness, the 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment conducted a successful air assault with the Iraqi Army.

The C Company Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment picked up the 5-82 FA and the IA soldiers and flew the mission. The air assault team linked up with a ground element of IA and Soldiers from 5-82 FA.

Shortly before the mission, the Soldiers practiced exiting from the UH-60 Black Hawks while the helicopters were turned off. The practice insured that the IA and the 5-82 FA knew precisely what they had to do when they departed the Black Hawks in the darkness and dust on the ground.

“They got off OK,” said Chief Warrant Officer Shurd Rice, one of the Black Hawk pilots on the mission.

Once on the ground, the village was secured. Specialist Ian Gray, 23, from Prescott, Ariz., was part of the entry team, going into houses before the search teams, making sure the area was safe.

“It was a good experience working with the IA,” he said. “When we are clearing houses we make sure we are courteous and do not cause any property damage.” Private 1st Class Anthony Sword, 20, from Salem, Ore., was part of the search team. “It was a good operation,” he said. “[The Iraqi’s] were leading it.”

Private First Class Joseph Pace, 26, from Lincoln, Mich., and Spc. Lucas White, 25, from Coffeyville, Kan., made sure no one ran in or out of the houses during the searches, by securing the exits.

White is also a medic. “I stood by in case of casualties,” he added “We didn’t have any today.”

# TASK FORCE READY NEWS



*Story by 1st Lt. Bridgette Bell*

*Special Troops Battalion*

FORWARD OPERATING BASE MAREZ, Iraq—The mechanics of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion provide maintenance support not only to the five companies organic to the battalion, but also to attached units across the FOB. Although not filled to its authorized capacity of 27 personnel, the platoon goes above and beyond to support its customers in accomplishing their missions. Soldiers have cross-trained from different military occupational specialties and performed multiple jobs in order to overcome obstacles and become known as the ‘Best Motorpool in the Brigade’ by many of its customers.

Leading these troops is Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Bouren, maintenance platoon sergeant.

“All of our recovery assets have to be ready 24 hours-a-day to perform recovery operations for units who are out on missions,” said the Detroit native.

On March 21, an E Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment Bradley fighting vehicle had three road arms blown off while on a route-clearance mission.

“It was three of my Soldiers and myself,” recalled Bouren. “We were out the gate in less than twenty minutes and made it to the site about ten minutes later. Right when we got there, we were hit with small-arms fire. The Kiowa [helicopter] came in and took out the anti-Iraq forces. Once the [quick-reaction force Soldiers] suppressed the fire, we recovered the Bradley and all the pieces that had been blown off.”

Wheeled-vehicle mechanic, Spc. Timothy Quarles of Greenwood, S.C., has been in the Army a little over two years, and he credits the platoon’s work ethic to the leadership style within the platoon. “Sergeant Bouren takes care of Soldiers, and to a lot of us, he is like a father-figure.”

Quarles decided to take the advantage of the re-enlistment program during this deployment. Soldiers like Quarles continue to keep Staff Sgt. Erick Jones,



*(U.S. Army photo by Sgt Lawrence Verdekal)*

**Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander, Capt. Kenneth Selby, re-enlists Spc. Timothy Quarles at the Special Troops Battalion Motorpool on Forward Operating Base Marez, located on the outskirts of Mosul, Iraq.**

STB re-enlistment noncommissioned officer, busy. Jones encourages “Soldiers to re-enlist now. Options are coming open and I enjoy helping Soldiers get what they want out of their Army careers.” Quarles re-enlisted on May 12, for duty station of choice, Fort Gordon, Georgia.

Soldiers like Spc. Sean Johnson, a chemical operations specialist from Denver, and Pvt. Rebekah Perez say they learn new skills every day here in Iraq. Perez, originally of El Paso, Texas, serves as a small arms repairer, but she is also doing the job of a prescribed load list clerk.

“Everything I know, I’ve learned from my NCO and Johnson,” she bragged. “I do more than what I was taught in school, but I don’t mind because our jobs are important.”

Ultimately, Bouren, a 21-year maintenance veteran, understands the importance of the motorpool working with all units in order to stress more preventive than reactive maintenance operations.

“Maintenance here should run a lot like it does in garrison. When you roll out the gate, all you have is your equipment. We can’t help things that happen on missions, but we can make sure people don’t cut corners. We try to make sure units maintain vehicles just as hard as they ride them.”



# ROUGH RIDER NEWS



*Story by 1st Lt. Kendra Evers*

*27th Brigade Support Battalion*

FORWARD OPERATING BASE MAREZ, Iraq—People are laughing and talking, Mariachi band music is playing, the smell of homemade salsa fills the air, and a colorfully decorated piñata sways from the ceiling, waiting for someone to take a swing at it.

Must be in Mexico somewhere, right? Well, not exactly. You don't have to go to Mexico to experience the festivities of Cinco De Mayo, a celebration to mark the day of victory of Mexican forces over French forces in the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. You need only to head to the support operations office in the 27th Brigade Support Battalion headquarters building on FOB Marez.

On May 5, the SPO held a fiesta and barbecue to mark this historic day, which also is a day to celebrate Mexican heritage and pride. Pfc. Karla Aviles, a native of Caracuaro de Morelos, Michoacan, Mexico, along with fellow SPO staff, thought it would be a fun idea to have a fiesta and bring a little bit of "spice" to the everyday SPO operations.

"Typically for a Cinco De Mayo celebration, there are dances and parades," Aviles explained. "Some people dress like natives and even re-enact scenes from the battle," added Chief Warrant Officer Andrew Sanchez.

Aviles' mother sent homemade salsa and tortillas for the fiesta, and there was even a piñata.



*(U.S. Army photo by Master Sgt. Ronnie Fauntleroy)*

*(Top): Members of the support operations office, 27th Brigade Support Battalion, enjoy a barbecue as part of their Cinco de Mayo celebration on Forward Operating Base Marez, Iraq.*

*(Bottom): Sergeants 1st Class Dwight Brunson and Karen Finley, run the barbecue grill during the Cinco de Mayo fiesta held at their tactical operations center.*



*(U.S. Army photo by Master Sgt. Ronnie Fauntleroy)*

"The piñata is mostly for children, but a lot of people have them at events because they are fun. Life doesn't stop just because we're here. Doing something like this makes you feel at home."



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