

THE COALITION CHRONICLE

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2/10 searches for missing comrades • IA SGMS meet



Iraqis take the lead
Native security forces take control in northern provinces

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THE COALITION CHRONICLE

The Official Magazine of
Multi-National Corps-Iraq

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This month's covers

Up front: Graduates from the Military Academy at Zakho perform a pass and review during a parade celebrating the transfer of security for Dahuk, Irbil and Sulaymaniyah provinces. Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Elisandro Diaz.

On the back: Iraqi police officers conduct training at Camp Hero in Ramadi. Photo by Army Sgt. Timothy Stephens.

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COMMANDER'S VOICE

Last month I was fortunate enough to attend an awards ceremony, and some of what was said really stuck with me. Maj. Jim Gant was awarded the Silver Star for the extraordinary valor and bravery he displayed in December. Maj. Gant, his Soldiers and his partners in the Iraqi Security Forces repelled a brutal assault from the enemy. Multiple times Maj. Gant put himself at great personal risk not for a key piece of terrain, not for a lofty mission essential to the success of this war, but simply for his comrades in arms — both American and Iraqi.

As he was presented with one of the most prestigious commendations our country can bestow, he spoke not of his own exceptionally brave deeds or the lengths he and his compatriots went to, simply to survive. He spoke of his Iraqi comrades, the bravery they have shown along side their American partners, and the extraordinary commitment they have demonstrated to defend their homeland. I was moved by his eloquence and by his selfless dedication to the Iraqis who are sacrificing so much for their country every day.

The brave individuals Maj. Gant had the pleasure of serving with are thankfully not the exception. Recently the Iraqi Ground Forces Control celebrated its second anniversary. This was indeed a proud day for the Soldiers bravely serving their country as a part of the Iraqi army. In a country where little is certain, refuge is scarce, and supporters of the Coalition or Iraqi government face constant danger on or off duty, they are a beacon of stability. The ceremony to commemorate this anniversary was a fitting tribute to the fine Soldiers they have become. In spite of threats to their families and themselves, their ranks continue to swell. They continue to develop and improve, collectively and individually, steadily taking more responsibility for their own operations as time goes on.

The improvements the Soldiers, leaders, and units of the IGFC have made since the early days of the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps are impressive. These Soldiers have gone from struggling to piece together enough Soldiers for a mission or even to form an adequate security perimeter to planning, coordinating, and executing their own missions. This remarkable



**Lt. Gen. Ray Odierno
MNC-I Commander**

improvement is due largely to the willingness of the Iraqi Soldiers, who in many cases are battle hardened veterans themselves, to learn. Of course, if a student is successful the teacher also plays a very important role in that success. The coalition Soldiers assigned to these transition teams often did not choose to be there. Rather, they were selected for their skills and leadership abilities for an extremely critical and tough mission. They have performed admirably, imparting their expertise and values to the Iraqi forces they coach, train, and mentor. As a result, Iraqi Security Forces continue to improve and develop as they seek to one day defend their liberty by themselves.

One of the most telling signs of this progress came when coalition and Iraqi NCOs came together for the Iraq Army NCO Symposium. Along with his counterpart in the Iraqi Army, Command Sgt. Maj. Kassim, Command Sgt. Maj. Ciotola was able to hold and organize this conference to help coalition and Iraqi NCOs share their experiences. In the old Iraqi army, Soldiers and NCOs were treated with indifference and, at times, disdain. They were fodder for senior officers to carry out their plans and nothing more. One of the most important traditions the coalition Soldiers have passed on to the Iraqi Security Forces is how we empower our Soldiers and NCOs. The NCO is truly the backbone of our Armed Forces. They lead from the front where the rubber meets the road making decisions and setting the example.

In this symposium, the senior NCOs

of the Iraqi army were not only able to hear firsthand what has made the coalition NCOs successful, they were also given a forum to discuss issues facing Iraqi Army Soldiers every day. It was evident that these battle hardened Soldiers look up to their coalition counterparts, and with good reason. It is certainly no secret to the soldiers of the Iraqi army why we are so successful, and now they are looking to learn from our military culture as they establish their own. I saw it in their eyes and I heard it as they spoke. These Soldiers are ready to take charge and they are ready to lead their country into the future.

The Soldiers of Multi-National Division-North and the 25th Infantry Division are cultivating their own road into the future. Recently, the governors of each province within MND-N's area of operations as well as Ambassador Crocker, Deputy Prime Minister Zubai, and MND-N's senior leadership came to the table to discuss how they plan to move forward together. They discussed tough issues, ranging from fuel distribution to national reconciliation, examining ways in which the coalition can best help. This will no doubt help to strengthen the relationship between the regional governors and their Coalition partners in the area.

Though progress continues, we must remember there is still a long way to go. We are enabling the government of Iraq and its security forces to progress steadily, but there are still obstacles we must negotiate together. Recently we were faced with a situation that illustrates the lengths we still have yet to travel.

There have been recent reports of members of the Iraqi Security Forces taking matters into their own hands, attacking civilians outside of their districts. This is a serious breach of trust and something none of us should tolerate. However, it was not so long ago uniformed Iraqis regularly carried out sectarian motivated killings.

Now, not only is it relatively rare to hear of such incidents, but it is also being investigated by appropriate authorities. As the Iraqi army, police and national police are trained by the dedicated Soldiers of the coalition assigned to those transition teams, they also become indoctrinated into our culture and values system.

Our core values are what truly what set us apart, and these same values are what will help to lead the Iraqi Security Forces to gain the trust and confidence of their fellow citizens.

As we continue to fight in this counter-insurgency environment, we must always hold the moral high ground. The citizens of Iraq must see the coalition Forces, as well as the government of Iraq and its security forces, as a preferable alternative to the extremists that infest this country and exploit its population.


There is no doubt the long, arduous, dangerous, and frequent deployments we demand of our men and women in uniform will have a positive affect. These are very stressful times to serve your country and everyone understands the difficulties you deal with every day.

Just the same, we cannot use stress or anger as an excuse to compromise our ethics. More than 40 percent of the Soldiers and Marines stated in a recent survey that they would

condone some type of torture with around 10 percent admitting to abusing civilians. We're better than this. We are the finest military in the world because we do things the right way; we treat non-combatants with respect and we aggressively close with and destroy the enemy. This is a long hard fight and you have performed better than anyone could possibly expect. We have truly been immersed in one of the most difficult combat environments our military has ever undertaken, and still you have conducted yourselves as consummate professionals. Let's make sure we continue to meet the high standards of conduct we have set for ourselves.

I get out as much as I possibly can because seeing our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines in the field really lifts my spirits and gives me the ground truth on our progress as well as those where we have problems.

Every day you put everything on the line for your country, and you all are very aware of the lofty responsibility you took on when you raised your right hand. Major

Gant really said it best as he accepted his Silver Star, "I am proud to be a Soldier. There is no greater calling. There is nothing in today's world that says honor, strength, courage, bravery, sacrifice and loyalty like being a soldier." I couldn't have said it better myself. 

Let's make sure we continue to meet the high standards of conduct we have set for ourselves.

CSM's CORNER

Before I begin I must profess that the words in this article are mine, but the message contained in the same is the idea of a great senior NCO in the 89th Military Police Brigade. This is for you and every dedicated NCO out there doing the right thing.

Doesn't matter where you go in theater, you'll find great young Non-commissioned Officers doing phenomenal things. I marvel at the depth of character exhibited by those NCOs who constantly do the right thing, day after day, one mission after another. Those NCOs who start each mission the night before; who travel to the S2 section for the latest intelligence update; to the S3 section of the latest operations overview; back to their unit to draft up the WARNO or OPORD; that NCO who pulls his section NCOs together and briefs his squad leaders or Fire Team leaders hours in advance instead of minutes; that NCO who lays out a detailed timeline which includes vehicle and individual Pre-combat Checks and Inspections; that young leader that ensures everyone is in complete uniform prior to moving out; that NCO who will enter into a fight without a moments hesitation; that NCO who doesn't stay locked inside his vehicle, but rather walks the area and enters into a dialogue with the locals; that NCO who's constantly tweaking and assessing his young trooper, who takes notes or logs in the back of his/her brain observations and talking points for the AAR or mission debrief; that NCO that leads his or her element back to the FOB/COB, COP, JSS or Battle Position; that



**Command Sgt. Maj.
Neil Ciotola
MNC-I Command
Sergeant Major**

NCO which walks his or her vehicle ensuring that load plans are set for the next mission, all are well policed and all after operations maintenance is performed; that NCO which leads, or is an active participant in, a thorough debrief, one which covers the nuances and observations of all participants; that NCO which identifies any training shortfalls and determines who, when and where retraining shall take place, or immediately reviews the skill set requiring training/retraining and immediately provides the same. And finally, that NCO that looks after the needs of his or her individual troopers, ensuring they're emotionally, mentally and physically prepared for the next mission. Only after all this does this NCO lay his or her head down, get a bite to eat, or call home to check on family. This NCO catches a few hours of sleep and then begins the process all over again.

If you don't get out a whole lot I can tell you from firsthand experience we have more NCOs of this caliber in our ranks than you can shake a stick at, I've seen them in action. I've watched them when they didn't know I was looking and marveled at the depth of character and professionalism they exhibit in doing all that I have mentioned.

On the other hand, we have all manner of NCOs whose failure to do all, or for that matter any, of which I have mentioned earlier is glaringly obvious. We have Sergeants and corporals out there who only by the grace of God have not had their troopers hurt. Sergeants who hold their Soldier to doing the absolute minimum because they know no better, or because they lack the character, self-discipline, or moral courage to lead their troopers in doing all that must be done. Yup, we have an appreciable number of enlisted leaders who are either lazy, feel sorry for their troopers, who don't know what they don't know, or who talk out both sides of their mouth. Enlisted leaders who profess to love their troopers, but in reality wouldn't go out of their way

to do more than the minimum unless it served his or her own purpose.

We have in our ranks enlisted leaders of every shape and size. Many of which are the manifest example of outstanding leadership, all the way to those who did all they could to make themselves look good in an effort to secure advancement purely for the pay raise. Scary thing is your Soldier, Sailor, Airman or Marine knows which one you are. There are those of you out there who will read this and than seek out your troops and ask them their opinion of you.

There are those of you out there who do the absolute minimum, expect the same from your troops, and you've made them comfortable with the marginal environment they operate in and they'll tell you they think you're great. Want a solid assessment? Go ask your battle buddies in an adjacent unit their perception/opinion of you and your unit. Go ask someone who doesn't profess to be your friend. And for those of you out there that are ruthlessly uncompromising (and you know who you are) you don't need to ask anyone. You know what you're capable of; you don't give a darn about a pat on the back; you know the true reward in this thing we call combat is bringing home as many of your troopers as you can, while at the same time making them better Soldiers and human beings.

Want to know what all these NCOs have in common? They all call themselves "Combat Veterans." Want to know what scares the heck out of me? There are those great (no other way to say it); absolutely great NCOs out there lumped in with all the marginal and unethical/incompetent ones who again, call themselves Combat Veterans.

There are those superb junior, mid grade, and senior enlisted leaders out there who think simply being a "combat veteran" will set them apart from their less capable counterparts. Who think that their NCOER will speak of their accomplishments. Who think their evaluation(s) will set them apart from their peers. To them I say wake up! There are marginal performers out there who work for marginal leaders whose NCOER will in the end be made to look as good as yours. It's not because their leadership is unethical, rather it's because some leaders assess success as something exceptional. So again, WAKE UP!

I applaud all who work hard every day to do "what is right." I am humbled by the selflessness of so many of our enlisted leaders. I revel in being in the company of such noble warriors, stalwart professionals, self-deprecating leaders. I hope, and pray that it is our best, our most capable; our most deserving that will lead our respective military institutions into the future. Because as tough as these times have been, as difficult the task we are presently committed to, one thing is certain; the future demands placed on the United States Military will be that much greater, that much more difficult.

If you're a commissioned leader or a commander who has in

A great enlisted leader is one who possesses the attributes and skill sets necessary to lead in garrison and in combat. Great leaders do all they can to improve themselves, knowing all the while that what improves them improves and motivates those subordinate to them as well.

your ranks great enlisted leadership, I ask that you encourage and challenge your NCOs every day.

There are far too many great NCOs out there who think being a combat veteran will secure them the recognition they require to achieve promotion. If you are any one of those great enlisted leaders I've been referring to don't rest on your hands, there are less capable NCOs out there that will seek out additional venues in their effort to secure promotion. There are those self-serving Sergeants out there who'll do all they can because it's all about them.


If you consider yourself a great leader then you cannot deny there is much validity to that which we refer to as the whole Marine/Soldier concept. While our respective services were born in the field and exist to prosecute operations "in the Field," there will come a time when our Marine Corps and Army, all our respective services, will once again find themselves in garrison, home-port, camp, etc. There is not, must not ever be, such a thing as a field Marine or Soldier.

A Soldier is one equally at home on the streets or fields of Iraq, in the mountains of Afghanistan, or back home in the USA. A great enlisted leader is one who possesses the attributes and skill sets necessary to lead in garrison and in combat. Great leaders do all they can to improve themselves, knowing all the while that what improves them, improves and motivates those subordinate to them as well. In affect, if it makes you better, it makes your subordinates better, more capable warriors and members of society.

To our Soldiers I say this; continue your education, when and wherever the opportunity presents itself; compete in those NCO and Soldier of the Month/Quarter boards when and where the opportunity prepares itself. Sure, I know what you're thinking, you don't need that crap.

Well answer me this: What if the youngster you lead does? What if committing yourself to every conceivable challenge is what it takes to capture the attention, imagination or loyalty of your subordinate? Are you equal to the task?

Subject yourself to the rigors of the Sergeant Audie Murphy or Sergeant Morales Club screening process. Don't kick yourself too hard if you don't make it the first time, I've known many a great NCO (Combat Leader) who had to subject themselves to the board process two, three and in some cases four times before they were selected. I shouldn't worry because a combat leader is equal to any task and never quits.

There are all manner of opportunities out there for leaders, young and old, to set themselves apart from their contemporaries while at the same time bettering themselves and encouraging their youth by example. If you still don't agree with me well, that's your prerogative; besides maybe you're not one of the great ones I was referring to. 

COALITION NEWS BRIEFS



Pipeline to bring water to those without

NASIRIYAH – Iraqi engineers met with residents along the path of a proposed water pipeline between villages outside of Logistical Support Area Adder and the city of Nasiriyah May 1.

The project, in its early stages of planning, would provide water for more than 3,000 people in at least four villages, said Army Capt. Jeremy Berndt, a civil affairs officer with 134th Brigade Support Battalion.

“It will mean an uninterrupted source of water,” he said. “The villagers have been very cooperative. This is one of the ways we can pay them back for all the things they’ve done for us.”

Residents in Al Awaya, Abu Sweech, Abdul Razag and Al Tuwamy currently pay for trucks to bring water from Nasiriyah every two to three days, Berndt said. The pipeline would bring running water to those villages for the first time since 2003. As the project progresses, Berndt expects to request bids from local contractors. [🔗](#)



Coalition frees five Iraqis from al Qaeda

BAGHDAD – Five Iraqis who were held captive and tortured by terrorists were freed May 21 during a raid on the site where they were imprisoned.

Coalition Forces targeted the building, northeast of Karmah, during continued operations to disrupt the al Qaeda network operating in the area. After a thorough search of the building, ground forces found a padlocked room. Inside were four men and a boy who had been kidnapped and severely beaten with chains, cables and hoses. The captives also showed signs of torture, and the boy stated the terrorists had hooked electrical wires to his tongue and shocked him.

“The brutality and viciousness of these attacks demonstrate the complete disregard terrorists have for human life,” said Army Lt. Col. Christopher Garver, MNF-I spokesman. “We will continue to hunt foreign fighters who bring this violence into Iraq.” [🔗](#)



Clearing operation nets EFP construction site

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces, along with Soldiers from 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, and 4th Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, detained four suspected insurgents and found several weapons caches, including one believed to be an explosively-formed projectile construction site May 6.

The detentions and finds were part of Operation Dragon Fire/ Arrowhead Strike 10, designed to rid the capital’s Rashid District of terrorists and criminals and protect the population.

“This is a significant find because of the threat EFPs pose,” said Army Col. Ricky D. Gibbs, 4th Brigade commander. “These components will never be assembled into something that can harm others. It also shows how effective the operation is at getting after those who aren’t acting in the best interests of a safe and secure Iraq.”

Also discovered in two days of clearing operations were caches consisting of AK-47 assault rifles, an RPK machine gun, large amounts of 7.62mm ammunition and mortar rounds of varying calibers. The operation included about 200 Iraqi army troops and national policemen and 1,100 Soldiers working together to keep pressure on insurgents. [🔗](#)



IA troops repel attack on hospital

ADHAMIYAH – Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division successfully turned back an insurgent attack on Al Numan Hospital May 9.

The area’s joint security station was tipped to the attack by a caller. The JSS notified soldiers near the hospital and they responded. They engaged insurgents at the rear of the hospital, killing one and wounding another trying to climb a security wall carrying duffle bags full of explosives. Three Iraqi soldiers were wounded in the defense. JSS reinforcements arrived quickly, allowing the Iraqi troops to evacuated the wounded. [🔗](#)



Army Maj. Gen. Benjamin Mixon, Multi-National Division-North commanding general, Nechirvan Barzani, Kurdish Regional Government prime minister, and Korean Army Maj. Gen. Yoon Young-Bum, Multi-National Division-Northeast commanding general, sign a memorandum of understanding transferring security for three provinces from Coalition Forces to the KRG.

Standing Up *Ceremony marks handover of security in Kurdish provinces*

Story, photos by
Air Force Staff Sgt. Christina Wright
MNC-I PAO

Since the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime, Coalition Forces have served with provincial civil authorities to provide security throughout Iraq's 18 provinces. As provinces begin to govern themselves and stand up reliable security forces, security responsibilities have been handed back to the provincial governors' control.

Four provinces have been handed back since July 2006: Muthanna, Dhi Qar, Najaf and Maysan. These provinces met an exhaustive examination of criteria, including the perceived level of threat, the ability of the Iraqi Security Forces, and the proficiency of the

provincial governor.

Duhok, Irbil and Sulaymaniyah provinces, which comprise the Kurdish Regional Government in northern Iraq, met these goals and accepted control of their security from Multi-National Forces-Iraq at a ceremony May 30 in Irbil.

"Today's event nearly doubles the number of provinces under Iraqi control and marks the fifth, sixth and seventh provinces to assume security responsibility, demonstrating another bold and courageous step forward in this country's movement toward an independent and secure nation," said Army Maj. Gen. Benjamin Mixon, Multi-National Division-North commanding general.

The ceremony, held at a convention center in Irbil, was attended by National Security Advisor Dr.



framework which will protect and secure the rights of all parties.”

The Kurdish region has been among the most peaceful in Iraq since the fall of the Ba’ath Party regime. Kurdistan is often looked at as taking the lead in demonstrating necessary progress toward self-governance and prosperity.

“This (security handover) is a result of vigilance and experience gained from 15 years of self-rule,” Barzani said. “We continued to strive and sacrifice until the fall of the regime. Our sacrifices were made to secure our just rights in a democratic framework.”

Barzani went on to thank the Coalition and its role in the emancipation of Iraq.

“I wish to express my gratitude to the multinational force for liberating the peoples of Iraq,” he said. “We value highly and pay homage to the sacrifices made in pursuit of that noble goal.”

In assisting with the revitalization effort in KRG, the Korean Zaytun Division has worked to help with the reconstruction of infrastructure in the Kurdish region in support of MNF-I. This work has been in addition to the coalition’s peacekeeping commitments.

In total, about \$436 million has been spent on reconstruction in the region. That money has funded projects that foster self-sustainment across the three provinces. An emphasis on bringing local and international businesses to the area has also helped create new investment.

“Through your initiative, you have enabled the United States to bring an unprecedented number of American and international businessmen to this area,” Mixon said. “This is a reflection of your abil-

ity to self-govern and provide a secure environment that will foster investment opportunities and continued development throughout the region.”

Sustained security and new investors, coupled with the implementation of democratic and constitutional institutions, have made KRG a model for regions throughout Iraq.

“We see no more noble a duty than to provide stability and safety to the people of our region,” Barzani said. “Political stability is the foundation of economic growth.”

The ceremony and signing of the document transferring authority to the region was followed by a parade of

“The strength of the Kurdish region means the strength of all Iraq and the weakness of any region means the weakness of the entire country.”

***Dr. Mowaffaq al-Rubaie
Iraqi national security advisor***



Iraqi dancers perform a traditional dance at the ceremony.

various security forces in Kurdistan and a martial arts demonstration by female members of the Iraqi Army.

The handover of the Kurdistan region and the ensuing self-governance is a direct result of the people wanting to be governed democratically and judiciously and working toward it, Barzani said.

“When we talk about the federal system, we mean building a country based on democracy, respect for human rights, and the supremacy of law; equitable

justice in sharing power and wealth,” he said. “We talk of a system that protects and strengthens the country. This request is not only for Kurds, but for all Iraqi people.”

Over time, as Iraq’s other provinces stabilize, they will also be handed over and governed by their provincial authorities. Every handover brings the country a step closer to a federal, democratic system ruled by law, not ethnic, sectarian nor religious divisions. ©

Dr. Mowaffaq al-Rubaie, Iraq’s national security advisor, speaks to the crowd at the ceremony transferring security for Duhok, Irbil and Sulaymaniyah provinces in northern Iraq.

Mowaffaq al-Rubaie, the keynote speaker, who represented Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki.

“The strength of the Kurdistan Region means the strength of all Iraq and the weakness of any region means the weakness of the entire country,” al-Rubaie said during his speech.

The memorandum of understanding outlining the security handover was signed by Nechirvan Barzani, KRG prime minister; Mixon; and Korean Army Maj. Gen. Yoon Young-Bum, Multi-National Division-Northeast commanding general.

“Here, we reiterate our commitment to the Iraqi constitution,” Barzani said. “This constitution is a reflection of the will and desire of the peoples of Iraq. It is the legal

authority to the region was followed by a parade of



Top left: Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Steve Emerson from K-9, Task Force Military Police, plays fetch with Dingo, his military working dog, May 1 in Al Qaim. MWDs are used to detect explosives and ordnance in combat operations. Photo by Marine Lance Cpl. Thomas Lew.



Top right: Iraqi police officers practice breaching a building while training with international police liaison officers and the Civilian Police Assistance Training Team May 1 at Forward Operating Base Marez in Mosul. Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Vanessa Valentine.



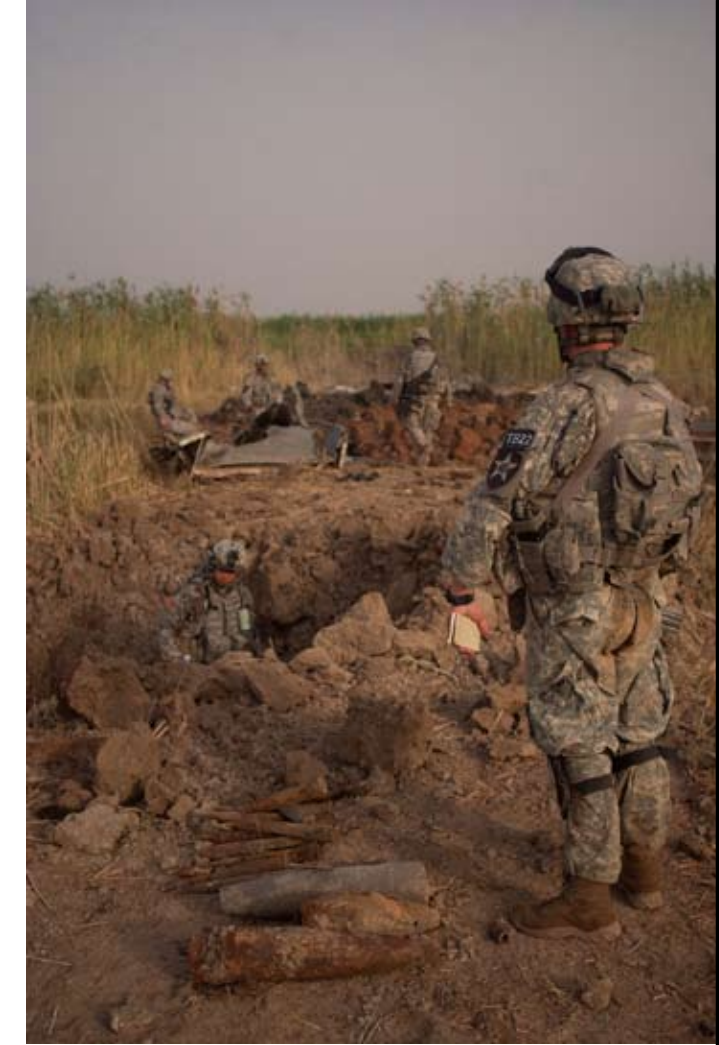
Bottom right: Army Capt. Brian Ducote, commander, Company B, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, speaks to a local resident to get a sense of the security situation during a patrol in the Furat area of Baghdad May 8. Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Bronco Suzuki.



Bottom left: Army Staff Sgt. Nick Crosby, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, provides a helping hand to an Iraqi woman during a cordon and search mission May 8 in Al Risalah. Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Bennie Corbett.



Army Spc. Jason Stacy, Company C, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, cuts a lock during a house-to-house search for illegal weapons, explosives and high value targets May 6 in the Sadiyah section of Baghdad. Photo by Army Spc. Olanrewaju Akinwunmi.



Top left: Iraqi special operations forces and Coalition Forces search for the missing Soldiers from 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, in Baghdad. Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Michael B.W. Watkins.

Top right: Soldiers with Company B, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, retrieve weapons caches in Iskandiriyah May 25. Photo by Army Spc. Elisha Dawkins.

Bottom right: An Iraqi army soldier from 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 8th Division, chats with a lady during a clearing mission May 19 in Uybeaydat. Photo by Army Spc. Olanrewaju Akinwunmi.

Bottom left: Soldiers with Company A, 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, take defensive positions outside a house during a cordon and search mission for insurgents and weapons May 27 in East Rashid. Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Bennie Corbett.





Soldiers from Company C, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, clear a house for illegal weapons, explosives and high value targets May 6 in the Sadiyah section of Baghdad. Photo by Army Spc. Olanrewaju Akinwunmi.

Top left: A Marine with 2nd Maintenance Battalion, 2nd Military Police Company, checks his binoculars before leaving on a combat logistics patrol to Camp Ramadi, Iraq, May 5. Photo by Marine Cpl. Michael J. O'Brien.

Right: A Marine from 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st Iraqi Army Division pays his respects to 1st Lt. Travis Lemma Manion during his memorial service at the Chapel of Hope May 10 at Camp Fallujah. Photo by Marine Lance Cpl. Sarah Furrer.

Bottom left: Army Spc. Jason Hiser, 324th Psychological Operations Battalion, chats with an Iraqi child who was running around waving the Iraqi flag while on a routine mission through the Al Rasheed area of Mahmudiyah May 5. Photo by Army Sgt. Jacob H. Smith.





Spc. Alex Jimenez



Pfc. Joseph Anzack



Pvt. Byron Fouty



A Soldier from the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division gives an Iraqi boy a flyer with detailed information about the missing Soldiers and an offer for a reward for information leading to their return.

MISSING

With one found, 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division Soldiers continue the search for two comrades and those who abducted them

Story, photos by
Army Staff Sgt. Angela McKinzie
2nd Bde., 10th Mountain Div. PAO

It is tightly-knit unit's worst nightmare – the uncertain fate of a fellow American Soldier.

The Soldiers of 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, are not giving up hope on their missing comrades. They are focused on finding them and returning them home.

Spc Alex Jimenez, Pfc. Joseph

Anzack and Pvt. Byron Fouty, all members of Company D, 4/31 Inf., were abducted May 12 near Yusu-fiyah in an attack during a counter-IED overwatch mission that left one Iraqi interpreter and four U.S. Soldiers dead.

A body later identified as Anzack's was found in the Euphrates River May 23.

Leaders say Jimenez and Fouty

have survivor characteristics.

Army Capt. Don Jamoles was the commander of the newly formed Co. D for about a year before being selected for a second command in Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 4/31 Inf.

He shared a lot of firsts with the Soldiers – weapons training, patrols and establishing new battle positions. He was close to all three of the Soldiers, and said that while he understands that casualties happen in war, he never imagined something like this would ever

happen to them.

"I was shocked when I found out. I never thought in a million years that something like this would happen to us, not to us," Jamoles said. "You know, I lay in bed each night imagining where these men can be, hoping we find something that will bring us closer to them and just wishing when I woke up they would be found."

Jamoles recently visited the Soldiers of Co. D.

"I am not sure it was proper protocol to go see the Soldiers, but I wanted to see how they were doing," Jamoles said of the visit. "The Soldiers are really upset – this hurts more than losing a relative. You bring these Soldiers here and then you lose them ... it tears you apart."

The Soldiers were abducted within one of the most contested areas of the brigade's and a former Ba'ath party area – a place that is

not friendly to American Soldiers. The Soldiers of the company faced challenges other companies did not.

Co. D is responsible for a sector that runs along the Euphrates River on a stretch of road routinely planted with IEDs by insurgents. Prior to the arrival of 2nd Brigade, little to no Coalition presence allowed the al Qaeda-affiliated terrorists and foreign fighters free reign to plot and attack.

The area is rural farmland near a defunct weapons factory, populated by former regime intelligence and Republican Guard officers. The three factors combine to provide an enemy force with resources, know-how and means to plant large, catastrophic IEDs.

The deadliness of the local IEDs made overwatch of the area critical. It is easier to prevent emplacement than to defuse the devices.

It was on one such counter-IED overwatch missions that the Soldiers of Co. D were attacked.

Knowing the harsh reality of the area has not kept Soldiers from searching for their missing comrades.

As of May 21, 2nd Brigade and Iraqi forces had conducted 37 company-level or higher missions. Nineteen U.S and 22 Iraqi Army companies are taking part in the search. Twenty-seven air assault missions had been conducted, delivering Soldiers to time-sensitive, intelligence-driven targets to either recover the Soldiers or acquire intelligence and evidence. More than 70 individuals with ties to the attack had been detained.

"From the day this happened, units have been calling and offering assistance," said Army Maj. Brian Kerns, the 2nd Brigade assistant operations officer. "We have every echelon of the military

aiding us ... as long as the Soldiers are missing, we will apply all efforts to find them.”

As time passes, the Soldiers continue to fight scorching temperatures, walk over uneven land hoping not to step on IEDs, sift through reeds taller than them, and wade through canals in hopes of finding their brothers.

“We are not stopping the search until we find these Soldiers,” Infanti confidently said. “The terrorists made a mistake when they took our Soldiers. They’d better watch out, because we’re coming for them.”

He points out that it is also important to keep the moral high ground.

“We are staying aggressive to capture these guys,” he said. “They are worth more to us, in a number of ways, alive, rather than dead.”

Tips from local nationals offer hope as the search continues. More than 159 tips have been passed to the Coalition. Some lead to nowhere; some advance the knowledge as to where the Soldiers might be.

“I haven’t heard of indicators that make me believe the Soldiers are dead,” said Army Command Sgt. Maj. Alex Jimenez, 4/31 Inf. “It gets frustrating that we cannot find them, but we are not losing hope. We will continue searching for our Soldiers and doing whatever we can to find them. We will not leave them.”

Ironically, Jimenez, who shares the same first and last name as one of the missing Soldiers, was on his way back to Iraq from leave, picked up a newspaper while in Kuwait and read about the abduction. The article stated the attack happened in Mahmudiyah, which is home to another unit in the brigade. Jimenez did not find out it was his battalion that was attacked near Yusufiyah until he arrived in country.

“I had no idea it was my Soldiers until I arrived in country,” Jimenez said as he took a deep breath. “I thought, ‘Not my Soldiers ... not my Soldiers.’”

Infanti offered some insight about the ambush.

“Usually terrorists who are behind the attacks will not risk themselves, so they pay others to carry out the attack,” he said. “But right now we have a number of leads that are being followed at this point.”

The Army prides itself on never leaving a fallen comrade. There have only been two U.S. Soldiers – Staff Sgt. Keith Maupin, who was abducted in April of 2004, and Spc. Ahmed Qusai al-Taayie, who

was abducted in October of 2006 – who have not been located.

Other Soldiers, most famously Jessica Lynch, were rescued from their abductors as proof of the Army’s commitment to this creed.

“I am not going to give up on the Army. We will find the Soldiers,” Jamosles said. “We will keep searching.”

Day after day Soldiers will continue to search for their brothers until they are found.

These Soldiers are heartbroken, just like the parents of the missing comrades and the American population.

Jamosles looked down, fiddled with a set of keys in his hand and shook his head in disbelief.

“How could something like this happen? Who would have thought?” ☪

“We have every echelon of the military helping us ... as long as the Soldiers are missing, we will apply all efforts to find them.”

**Army Maj. Brian Kerns
2nd Bde., 10th Mountain Div.
assistant operations officer**



Army Pfc. Dustin Worden, a forward observer with Company A, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division climbs across a pole to search for two missing Soldiers in Yusufiyah May 16.

Plotting a course

Iraqi army's senior NCOs meet to discuss corps' future, their own roles

Story, photos by
Army Staff Sgt. Jacob Boyer
Editor

Noncommissioned officers are known as the backbone of the U.S. Army. They train their Soldiers, care for their needs, and ensure they have and know everything necessary to be successful on the battlefield.

NCOs were once an important factor in the Iraqi army as well, but under the Baath Party regime, their importance dwindled as officers took on all aspects of leadership. For years, the Iraqi NCO Corps weakened. Now, with the help of U.S. and Coalition Forces, that corps is being rebuilt into an important force in the modern Iraqi army, starting with the most senior Iraqi NCOs.

Iraqi army and Coalition senior NCOs from throughout Iraq gathered at Al Faw Palace for the Iraqi army Command Sergeants Major Conference May 19-20 at Camp Victory.

About 98 percent of the sergeants major in the Iraqi army were present.

"The purpose of this conference was to empower (the Iraqi command sergeants major)," said Army Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Moore, Iraqi Assistance Group. "We wanted to allow them to share ideas, and we allowed the commanding general and the



Army Lt. Gen. Ray Odierno, Multi-National Corps-Iraq commanding general, addresses the Iraqi army's sergeants major at the beginning of their conference.

command sergeant major of the Iraqi Ground Forces Command to address all the senior NCO leadership in Iraq."

The goal of the conference was to empower and instill a tradition of leadership and responsibility to Iraqi NCOs and define the role of the NCO in the Iraqi army. Several topics, ranging from operations and logistics to pay and personnel issues, were discussed by both IGFC and Coalition officials during the conference.

Lt. Gen. Ali, Iraqi Ground Forces commander, opened the conference by telling his senior NCOs that it was a chance to rebuild their corps to its former heights. The Iraqi army had a strong NCO Corps before Saddam Hussein came to power, but it was diminished during his regime.

"You are the core and foundation of the establishment of the Iraqi army," Ali told the assembled NCOs. "We had NCOs in the old army, but they weren't as active as they should have been. We have our mission to be like other armies. I would like for all of you to put this on yourselves regardless of anything else."

Moore said bringing the Iraqi sergeants major together with their Coalition counterparts was not done to force them to shape their corps one way, but to share ideas, examples and knowledge that would help build a strong NCO Corps with an Iraqi flavor.



An Iraqi sergeant major asks about his soldiers' pay during one of the conference's question and answer sessions.

"We want to help them facilitate their army and corps into something that works, sharing ideas from history and knowledge on what is working," he said. "The bottom line is there's no one way to have an army, but the best armies in the world have strong NCO corps."

Discussions among the Iraqi NCOs during the various sessions were lively, and even got heated at times as the sergeants major stood up for what they thought was right for their soldiers. Pay and personnel issues were of particular interest to the senior NCOs.

Army Maj. Gen. James Simmons, Multi-National Corps-Iraq deputy commanding general, told the sergeants major they were doing right by their subordinates during his closing remarks.

"What does a good sergeant do?" he asked the crowd. "I just saw it in this room. He stands up for his Soldiers. He ensures they're paid the right amount each month. He ensures they're promoted. He ensures that when they exhibit valor, they are recognized."

Army Command Sgt. Maj. Neil Ciotola, MNC-I, spoke to the

group, emphasizing the NCO's role in keeping his soldiers going on the battlefield every day.

"We affect a great deal of what must be done by virtue of just being there," he said. "All (Soldiers) know is what they see down their rifle. If they're having a bad day, all they see is crap. Who gives them perspective? We do!"

Ciotola also said discipline was one of an NCO's largest responsibilities, emphasizing that being tough on discipline keeps soldiers alive.

"Whose trust is more important?" he asked. "The trust your soldiers have in you or the trust Iraq's mothers and fathers have in you to bring their soldiers home?"

Army Sgt. 1st Class Mark Bailey, IGFC NCOIC, said the event was a step in building a better Iraqi army, because it would allow the sergeants major, and larger NCO Corps, to "get on the same sheet of

music."

"We wanted to bring the senior NCOs together and let them express their issues amongst each other," he said. "There's brotherhood, bonding and networking. We all want the NCO Corps talking in one voice. We want them to get in sync."

The conference could be crucial in accomplishing these goals, Bailey said.

"I call this the Valley Forge event," he said, referring to a crucial winter during George Washington's campaign in the American Revolution. "We're starting the NCO Corps all over again. There are still senior NCOs in the Iraqi army. They need to feed, pay and train soldiers. It will make them a better army and take pressure off their officers and keep them out of NCO business."

Command Sgt. Maj. Kasim, IGFC, said he felt the conference would be a turning point for the Iraqi army.

"This is a historic day because these NCOs are the backbone of the Iraqi army," he said through an interpreter. "This conference has

strengthened the respect between our officers and our NCOs. These NCOs will go back with information to help lift the morale and education of their soldiers. This conference taught us to be a team."

The conference will become a recurring one for Iraq's NCO leadership, Kasim said.

"I wish for this to continue," he said. "If there is only one, we will have no result. We need to see the fruit of what we did here this weekend."

"The best armies in the world have strong NCOs."

***Army Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Moore
Iraq Assistance Group***



Georgian Army Sgt. Maj. Manuchar Davituri, 33rd Light Infantry Battalion, 3rd Brigade of the Georgian Army, awards one of his soldiers a certificate of achievement during a ceremony dedicated to the republic's independence.

Georgian troops celebrate nation's independence

Story, photos by
Army Spc. Alexis Harrison
MND-B PAO

The Republic of Georgia has been around for as many as 2,600 years. Although its history is rich with tradition, Georgia was not able to call itself a free country until May 26, 1918 when it broke apart from the Trans-Caucasus Commissariat.

To celebrate their 89 years of independence, soldiers from the 33rd Light Infantry Battalion, 3rd Brigade of the Georgian Army, stationed in Baghdad's International Zone, held a ceremony and feast to honor their country's independence that their fellow countrymen had fought for in the past.

Hundreds of soldiers lined up amongst humvees and even a tank that the previous unit had refurbished.

During the national anthem, "Tavisupleba," the Georgian flag was unfurled. Several distinguished guests were on hand, including Army Col. Bryan Roberts, commander of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, and Army Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil Jr., commanding general of Multi-National Division-Baghdad and the 1st Cavalry Division.

During his speech, the battalion commander, Maj. Nikoloz Ikoshvili, remarked on the honor and integrity of being a Georgian fighting for his country's freedom and how important it was for him and his soldiers to be in Iraq helping the Iraqi people.


Dozens of certificates and plaques were handed out to guests and soldiers of the battalion for recognition of achievements or support of ongoing operations conducted by the battalion.

After the ceremony, all guests were invited into the palace to dine on traditional Georgian cuisine and local fare.

Several toasts were made by the battalion commander, the battalion's sergeant major, Sgt. Maj. Manuchar Davituri, Fil and Roberts.

"You are doing your country a great service," Fil said. "Your fellow soldiers and families back home should be proud of what you are doing here in Iraq."

The battalion of infantrymen had recently replaced the Bat' Umi Battalion after the tank battalion stayed on the base and worked in the heavily-guarded International Zone for more than six months.

The battalion's main role is to guard several entry points to the International Zone, as well as man its embassy. 

A Tall Order

1st Cavalry Division troops set plan in motion to revive Baghdad's once-affluent Haifa Street

Story, photos by
Army Sgt. 1st Class Kap Kim
MND-B PAO

During a press conference with Iraqi media members, Army Col. Bryan Roberts addressed issues concerning the revitalization of the Haifa Street area in Baghdad's Karkh District with a plan called simply the Haifa Street Project.

Haifa Street was once described by some as "hell on Earth." Roberts, the commander of the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd Brigade, wanted to help change that image and restore the once-affluent and culturally-rich Baghdad district through a series of public works.

"It's an initiative, in cooperation with local leaders, to improve security, essential services and economic opportunities in Karkh," he said. "This exciting project will provide a way ahead to the secure, stable and prosperous neighborhoods that Iraqis want and deserve."

The initiative sent the 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion's Infrastructure Coordination Element into action. Although they have already been working with the Karkh District Advisory Council and neighborhood leaders since the brigade's arrival to Baghdad on essential service-type issues such as



Soldiers with Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division's Infrastructure Coordination Element walk down Haifa Street in Baghdad's Karkh District to assess damage caused by fighting there.

sewer, trash, and electricity, the ICE is focusing on patching up scars inflicted by fierce fighting throughout the years.

"The goal of this project is to make Haifa Street a safer, cleaner and better place to live, work and enjoy in the center of Baghdad," Roberts said. "The Haifa Street Project will be a visible sign of progress that all Iraqis can be proud of and other districts will emulate."

According to Roberts, the project has three distinctive parts.

The first will include projects that demonstrate visible signs of change and a return to normalcy.

"(It will clean up) buildings damaged by fighting, streets littered with destroyed cars, anti-Iraqi graffiti, closed parks and playgrounds aren't part of a living city," he said.

The second part will concentrate on improving essential services.

"We have started assessments and working with local leaders to repair these systems," Roberts said. "All residents of Karkh deserve a healthy, sanitary and safe environment, and we are dedicated to helping (to make) this happen when and where we can."

The third and final part of the

operation deals with security.

"Karkh is patrolled day and night," Roberts said. "Coalition and Iraqi forces have forged a strong partnership dedicated to fighting those who would kill innocent Iraqi men, women and children."

Iraqi Police Commander Col. Baha,

whose department watches over Karkh, noted that since their constant presence in the area began, violent crime has nearly ceased in the area — dropping from more than 50 murder cases in January to only a single case in March.

As a direct result of the increased security, Baha said markets are rapidly reopening, children are going back to school and many of the families who fled out of fear have started coming back to their homes.

Army Staff Sgt. Sean Clark, an ICE member, said he and his team have spent a lot of time walking the streets of Karkh in the past few

months. He said seeing some of the architecture was like that of Bourbon Street in New Orleans.

"It's not bad," he commented on some of the historical buildings.

According to Army 1st Lt. William Pendleton, this project will be the first big expenditure on war damage.

"Most of it focuses on neglect — 40 years of neglect — direct results of combat," Pendleton said. "The scope is huge."

Pendleton, who can view Haifa Street from his balcony on Forward Operating Base Prosperity in Baghdad's center, said he remembers when he and his team watched as Coalition gun ships lit up the Baghdad skies a few months ago to push out extremists.

"It's just amazing there now," he said of the atmosphere of safety on Haifa Street today. "We were out

Violent crime has nearly ceased in the area — dropping from more than 50 murder cases in January to only a single case in March.

there for three hours and not a single gunshot or explosion (was heard)."

Most of the

safety, in large part, is due to the partnership between Coalition Forces and Iraqi police — providing a constant presence within the Karkh District.

There are currently 29 different renovation projects in various stages of planning and execution, valued at more than \$6.3 million.

"If you see this place now, think about what it will look like in six months," said Army Maj. Chip Daniels, the chief of the ICE team.

"You all are a part of history," he told his team after an assessment mission. "You should be proud to tell your families you are a part of this." ☺

Army Maj. Chip Daniels, the team chief for the 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion's Infrastructure Coordination Element, takes a look at a damaged building on Baghdad's Haifa Street



Road tested

Weighing in at 23 tons, the Buffalo Mine-Protected Clearance Vehicle is more than eight times the size of an average humvee. This vehicle belongs to the Marines of Regimental Combat Team 2's Route Clearance Platoon. It is their mission to minimize the number of improvised explosive devices along vehicle routes within the Denver area of operation.

Marines use new equipment to clear convoy routes

Story, photos by
Marine Cpl. Adam Johnston
MNF-W PAO

Officially, the season doesn't start until June 21, but for the Marines and Sailors of Regimental Combat Team 2, the not-so-lazy days of summer are already here. Calendars aside, it can be hard to argue with triple-digit temperatures.

Back in the United States, escaping the heat is only a road trip away. Hop in the car and head to the beach — problem solved.

Over here, however, things are a bit more complicated. Take the RCT-2 Route Clearance Platoon,

based in Dulab, for example. To the outsider, their job appears easy — cruising the streets of Iraq for an honest day's pay.

But like most things in life, things are not always what they seem. This particular road trip is more dangerous than most.

The RCT-2 Route Clearance Platoon, whose members are part of Company B, 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, are responsible for minimizing the number of improvised explosive devices along vehicle routes within western Al Anbar province.

"These guys have the most dangerous job in Iraq," said Marine 1st Sgt. Michael T. Mack. "While everyone else is trying to avoid IEDs,

they're out looking for them."

Sparing no expense, the platoon is armed with the latest mine-resistant vehicle technology that money can buy.

"These new trucks definitely have the advantage [over the humvee]," said Marine Gunnery Sgt. Erik A. Chism, the platoon's staff noncommissioned officer in charge. "Their hull is specifically designed for better blast dispersion."

Chism also pointed out the added height as a vast improvement over the old model. The "birds-eye view", together with larger windows, gives passengers a 360-degree perspective of the surrounding area.



Marine Lance Cpl. Kile G. Miller, a combat engineer with Company B, 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 2, washes his vehicle's window.

"We recently found a command wire IED with five 122mm mortar rounds attached," Chism said. "An explosion that size would've annihilated a humvee. The Buffalo (Mine-Protected Clearance Vehicle), on the other hand, would only be slightly damaged. The Marines inside would be OK."

In addition to the Buffalo, the platoon also uses the Cougar Hardened Engineer Vehicle and the Husky Mine Detection and Towing Vehicle.

"The Husky is a mine detector on wheels," Chism explained. "Once it finds a possible IED, the Buffalo is called over to interrogate the area. The Cougar carries our security element."

Marine 1st Lt. David T. Shanks, the platoon's officer in charge, is all for new technology — the safer, the better. Having said that, he did not want people to forget what matters most in a real combat situation.

"Regardless, the human element is still the most important factor," Shanks said. "A well-trained Marine is the most precise piece of equipment I have. A tool is only as

good as the guy who's using it."

Marine Pvt. Colin J. McNabb, a combat engineer with the RCT-2 Route Clearance Platoon, seconded this notion.

He warned against getting caught up in all the new vehicles' hype.

"These vehicles can give you a false sense of security," he said. "We build bigger trucks, they build bigger bombs. The enemy is



Marine Pvt. Colin J. McNabb, a combat engineer with Company B, 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 2, keeps his eyes on the road.

McNabb, who serves as an M240 machine gunner, voluntarily switched units to deploy with this platoon. Although it's his second deployment overall, it's his first in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"When I deployed last year with the 11th (Marine Expeditionary Unit), we went to places like Australia, Singapore and Thailand," he said. "We were scheduled to come here, but never did. This time around, I wanted to make sure."

The hardest part of the job, according to McNabb, is the monotony.

The platoon travels between 1,800-2,400 miles per week, averaging more than 10 hours of road time each day.

"Yeah, it can get boring," he said. "But the last thing you want to do is fall asleep."

To help ward off the sandman, McNabb and his fellow Marines have turned to an assortment of energy drinks for assistance.

"We'll do pretty much anything to stay awake," McNabb explained. "You've got to pay attention to the little things out here, even more so than normal. It's no joke. Lives are at stake." ☺

much smarter than people think."

IN MEMORIAM

NAMES OF COALITION SERVICE MEMBERS WHO DIED WHILE SERVING IN
OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM BETWEEN APRIL 16 AND MAY 15, 2007

April 16, 2007

1st Lt. Shaun M. Blue, 25
2/7 Mar. Regt., 1st Mar. Div., 1st MEF
Lance Cpl. Jesse D. Delatorre, 29
2/7 Mar. Regt., 1st Mar. Div., 1st MEF
Sgt. Mario K. De Leon, 26
1/18 Inf., 2nd Bde., 1st Inf. Div.
Pfc. Aaron M. Geneviev, 22
1/4 Cav., 4th Bde., 1st Inf. Div.
Lance Cpl. Daniel R. Scherry, 20
1/2 Mar Regt., 2nd Mar. Div., 2nd MEF
Pfc. Lucas V. Starcevich, 25
1/18 Inf., 2nd Bde., 1st Inf. Div.

April 17, 2007

Pfc. Richard P. Langenbrunner, 19
2/7 Mar. Regt., 1st Mar. Div., 1st MEF

April 18, 2007

Pfc. Jason M. Morales, 20
1/28 Inf., 4th Bde., 1st Inf. Div.

April 19, 2007

Cpl. Ben Leaning, 24
The Queen's Royal Lancers
Chief Warrant Officer Dwayne L. Moore, 31
2/15 FA, 2nd Bde., 10th Mountain Div.
Cpl. Wade J. Oglesby, 27
1/37 FA, 3rd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.
Cpl. Michael M. Rojas, 21
1/37 FA, 3rd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.
Trooper Kristen Turton, 27
The Queen's Royal Lancers

April 20, 2007

Lance Cpl. Jeffery A. Bishop, 23
3/6 Mar. Regt., 2nd Mar. Div., 2nd MEF
Pfc. Tomasz Jura, 25
25th Air Cav. Bde.

April 21, 2007

Cpl. Ray M. Bevel, 22
4/31 Inf., 2nd Bde., 10th Mountain Div.
Sgt. William W. Bushnell, 24
2/12 Cav., 4th Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Staff Sgt. Marlon B. Harper, 34
1/8 Cav., 2nd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Pfc. Christopher M. North, 21
1/4 Cav., 4th Bde., 1st Inf. Div.
Pvt. Michael J. Slater, 19
407th BSB, 2nd Bde., 82nd Abn. Div.
Staff Sgt. Steven R. Tudor, 36
210th BSB, 2nd Bde., 10th Mountain Div.

April 23, 2007

Pfc. Jeffrey A. Avery, 19
504th MP Bn., 42nd MP Bde.
1st Lt. Kevin J. Gaspers, 26
5/73 Cav., 3rd Bde., 82nd Abn. Div.
Kingsman Alan Joseph Jones, 20
2nd Bn., The Duke of Lancaster's Regt.
Spc. Jerry R. King, 19
5/73 Cav., 3rd Bde., 82nd Abn. Div.
Pfc. Garrett C. Knoll, 23
5/73 Cav., 3rd Bde., 82nd Abn. Div.
Staff Sgt. Kenneth E. Lockler Jr., 28
5/73 Cav., 3rd Bde., 82nd Abn. Div.
Sgt. Randell T. Marshall, 22
5/73 Cav., 3rd Bde., 82nd Abn. Div.

Staff Sgt. William C. Moore, 27
5/73 Cav., 3rd Bde., 82nd Abn. Div.
Sgt. Brice A. Pearson, 32
5/73 Cav., 3rd Bde., 82nd Abn. Div.
Lance Cpl. Dale G. Peterson, 20
2nd CE Bn., 2nd Mar. Div., 2nd MEF
Spc. Michael J. Rodriguez, 20
5/73 Cav., 3rd Bde., 82nd Abn. Div.
Sgt. Michael L. Vaughan, 20
5/73 Cav., 3rd Bde., 82nd Abn. Div.

April 24, 2007

Spc. Jeremy E. Maresh, 24
1/213 ADA

April 26, 2007

Cpl. Willie P. Celestine Jr., 21
2nd AA Bn., 2nd Mar. Div., 2nd MEF
Cpl. Christopher Degiovine, 25
2nd AA Bn., 2nd Mar. Div., 2nd MEF
Lance Cpl. Adam E. Loggins
3/6 Mar. Regt., 2nd Mar. Div., 2nd MEF

April 27, 2007

Sgt. William J. Callahan, 28
8th ESB, 2nd MLG, 2nd MEF
Pfc. David A. Kirkpatrick, 20
5/7 Cav., 1st Bde., 3rd Inf. Div.
Pfc. Nicholas E. Riehl, 21
5/7 Cav., 1st Bde., 3rd Inf. Div.
Spc. Eddie D. Tamez, 21
5/7 Cav., 1st Bde., 3rd Inf. Div.
Sgt. Peter Woodall, 25
8th ESB, 2nd MLG, 2nd MEF

April 28, 2007

Sgt. Glenn D. Hicks Jr., 24
1/15 Inf., 3rd Bde., 3rd Inf. Div.
Sgt. Michael R. Hullender, 29
1/501 PIR, 4th Bde., 25th Inf. Div.
Pfc. Jay-D H. Ormsby-Adkins, 21
1/15 Inf., 3rd Bde., 3rd Inf. Div.
Pvt. Cole E. Spencer, 21
1/15 Inf., 3rd Bde., 3rd Inf. Div.
Sgt. Norman L. Tollett, 30
1/15 Inf., 3rd Bde., 3rd Inf. Div.

April 29, 2007

Pfc. Brian A. Botello, 19
3/61 Cav., 2nd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.
Rifleman Paul Donnachie, 18
2nd Bn., The Rifles
Sgt. Alexander J. Funcheon, 21
3/61 Cav., 2nd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.
1st Lt. Travis L. Manion, 26
1st Recon Bn., 1st Mar. Div., 1st MEF
Staff Sgt. Jay E. Martin, 29
3/61 Cav., 2nd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.

May 1, 2007

Maj. Nick Bateson, 49
Royal Corps of Signals
Pfc. Zachary R. Gullett, 20
759th MP Bn., 89th MP Bde.
Lance Cpl. Johnathan E. Kirk, 25
2nd CE Bn., 2nd Mar. Div., 2nd MEF

May 2, 2007

1st Lt. Ryan P. Jones, 23
4th BTSB, 4th Bde., 1st Inf. Div.

GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS: THAT A MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS. JOHN 15:13

Pfc. Katie M. Soenksen, 19
720th MP Bn., 89th MP Bde.
Spc. Astor A. Sunsín-Pineda, 20
4th BTSB, 4th Bde., 1st Inf. Div.

May 3, 2007

Spc. Matthew T. Bolar, 24
1/501 PIR, 4th Bde., 25th Inf. Div.
Pfc. John D. Flores, 21
1/18 Inf., 2nd Bde., 1st Inf. Div.
Sgt. Felix G. Gonzalez-Iraheta, 25
1/18 Inf., 2nd Bde., 1st Inf. Div.
Spc. Kelly B. Grothe, 21
321st Eng. Bn.
Pfc. Jerome J. Potter, 24
1/8 Cav., 2nd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Staff Sgt. Coby G. Schwab, 25
321st Eng. Bn.
1st Lt. Colby J. Umbrell, 26
1/501 PIR, 4th Bde., 25th Inf. Div.
Spc. Andrew R. Weiss, 28
1/5 Cav., 2nd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.

May 4, 2007

Pfc. Larry I. Guyton, 22
1/5 Cav., 2nd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Staff Sgt. Christopher N. Hamlin, 24
1/5 Cav., 2nd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.

May 5, 2007

Master Sgt. Kenneth N. Mack, 42
HQs Group, 2nd MEF
Cpl. Charles O. Palmer II, 36
HQs Group, 2nd MEF

May 6, 2007

Cpl. Matthew L. Alexander, 21
5/20 Inf., 3rd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.
Cpl. Anthony M. Bradshaw, 21
5/20 Inf., 3rd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.
Spc. Robert J. Dickson, 27
1/4 Cav., 4th Bde., 1st Inf. Div.
Sgt. Jason R. Harkins, 25
5/20 Inf., 3rd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.
Staff Sgt. Christopher S. Kiernan, 37
1/5 Cav., 2nd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Sgt. Joel W. Lewis, 28
5/20 Inf., 3rd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.
Staff Sgt. Virgil C. Martinez, 33
1/7 FA, 2nd Bde., 1st Inf. Div.
Cpl. Michael A. Pursel, 19
5/20 Inf., 3rd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.
Sgt. Sameer A.M. Rateb, 22
1/505 PIR, 3rd Bde., 82nd Abn. Div.

Staff Sgt. Vincenzo Romeo, 23
5/20 Inf., 3rd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.
Pvt. Kevin Thompson, 21
19th CLS Bn., 19th Light Bde.

May 8, 2007

Spc. Kyle A. Little, 20
HHC, 3rd Bde., 3rd Inf. Div.
Spc. Dan H. Nguyen, 24
1/12 Cav., 3rd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Sgt. Blake C. Stephens, 25
HHC, 3rd Bde., 3rd Inf. Div.

May 9, 2007

Sgt. Maj. Bradley D. Conner, 41
2nd Bn., 1st SF Group
Lance Cpl. Walter K. O'Haire, 20
2/6 Mar. Regt., 2nd Mar. Div., 2nd MEF

May 10, 2007

Spc. Michael K. Frank, 36
1st BTSB, 1st Bde., 82nd Abn. Div.
Pfc. Roy L. Jones III, 21
759th MP Bn., 89th MP Bde.
Pvt. Anthony J. Sausto, 22
1/38 Inf., 4th Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.
Sgt. Jason W. Vaughn, 29
5/20 Inf., 3rd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.

May 11, 2007

Pfc. William A. Farrar Jr., 20
709th MP Bn., 18th MP Bde.
Maj. Douglas A. Zembiec, 34
HQs Bn., Marine Corps Natl. Capital Region

May 12, 2007

Pfc. Joseph J. Anzack Jr., 20
4/31 Inf., 2nd Bde., 10th Mountain Div.
Sgt. 1st Class James D. Connell, 40
4/31 Inf., 2nd Bde., 10th Mountain Div.
Pfc. Daniel W. Courneya, 19
4/31 Inf., 2nd Bde., 10th Mountain Div.
Pvt. Christopher E. Murphy, 21
4/31 Inf., 2nd Bde., 10th Mountain Div.
Sgt. Anthony J. Schober, 23
4/31 Inf., 2nd Bde., 10th Mountain Div.

May 13, 2007

1st Lt. Andrew J. Bacevich, 27
3/8 Cav., 3rd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Spc. Rhys W. Klasno, 20
1114th Trans. Co.

May 14, 2007

Sgt. Allen J. Dunckley, 25
1/15 Inf., 3rd Bde., 3rd Inf. Div.
Sgt. Christopher N. Gonzalez, 25
1/15 Inf., 3rd Bde., 3rd Inf. Div.
Pfc. Nicholas S. Hartge, 20
1/26 Inf., 2nd Bde., 1st Inf. Div.
Pvt. Henrik Nbbe, 20
Jutland Dragoon Regt.
Staff Sgt. John T. Self, 29
314th SFS, 314th MSG, 314th MAW
Lance Cpl. Jeffrey D. Walker, 21
CLR 2, 2nd MLG, 2nd MEF
Sgt. Thomas G. Wright, 38
210th MP Bn.

