

Danger

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Forward

Volume 1, Issue 4

July 2004



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Above the Tigris River, a stunning display of glowing colors light up the night sky before a festive crowd on 4 July. The fireworks brought a close to the day commemorating Iraqi Freedom and American Independence.

Photo by
SPC David Dyer

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Danger Forward is published monthly by Task Force Danger Public Affairs Office, HHC (FWD) 1st ID PAO, APO AE 09392, DNVT (302) 553-3394, Internet Phone (703) 621-3944.

Danger Forward is an authorized publication of the Department of Defense. It is distributed free to members of Task Force Danger. Circulation is 19,500.

Contents of Danger Forward are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government or the Department of the Army.

Editorial content is the responsibility of the Task Force Danger public affairs officer.



With a simple handshake, COL Dana Pittard, Commander of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, announces the official transfer of authority in the Diyala Province to Dr. Abdulla Al-Jurbori, Governor of Diyala Province, June 28, 2004 in Baqubah, Iraq. (Photo by M. Scott Mahaskey, Army Times)

TIDBITS ...

- ✓ **Be sure to check out Danger TV available from Task Force PAO**
- ✓ **Have an awesome picture from a mission? Task Force PAO accepts digital photos with cutlines. Photos must have Soldiers "doing the right thing" ... in proper uniform, implementing safety, no smoking, profanity, vulgarity. Submit photos via email (firstid.pao@us.army.mil) or stop by the PAO office in Division Main with a USB drive or CD.**



Correction: The photo on the back cover of May's issue of Danger Forward Magazine was taken by Petty Officer 1 Van Eric Johnson.

MESSAGE FROM DANGER SIX

The mission continues to a very high standard. I remain impressed with the teamwork and high standards of discipline within Task Force Danger. Both qualities are fundamental as we prepare to begin the second half of our mission. We will continue to conduct full spectrum operations, to include deliberate combat missions to kill or capture the enemy and stability operations designed to set Iraq up for self-sufficiency. The complexity of the mission is significant, but I remain impressed with the capability and agility of the American Soldier. There is nothing that we, together, can not accomplish. Since the Iraqi Transfer of Sovereignty on 28 June 2004, we have all noticed new resolve and determination on the part of the Iraqi Security Forces. We will continue to train and equip the Iraqi Police, the Iraqi National Guard, and the Department of Border Enforcement in order to achieve local control well before the national elections in six



MG JOHN R. S. BATISTE

short months. The partnerships you have formed at every echelon are important. Continue to focus on deliberate operations and doctrinal troop leading procedures. Pride yourself on doing the right thing in the absence of supervision. Keep your chin strap buckled and be prepared for the unexpected. The signs of progress are everywhere and we will accomplish our mission.

We all extend a special thank you to our families and loved ones. Their support and encouragement is a huge combat multiplier that we can never take for granted. Take the time to thank all those who selflessly support our mission in hundreds of different ways. Our strength is grounded in our American, Army, and family values. Write, call, or email your loved ones today and thank them for all that they do. God bless you all and continue mission.

-Danger 6

MESSAGE FROM DANGER SEVEN

Complacency is a word you hear being tossed around TF Danger. I am not quite sure we know the meaning or if we are even using the word correctly in most cases. Complacency is defined by the dictionary as: Self-satisfied, usually in an unreflective way and without being aware of possible dangers. If we break this definition down: you are fully convinced something is right, not tending to think or reflect or beware of possible dangers. Further breaking that down means that you are so confident in your patrol that you think you know everything and there is no chance for the enemy to get a vote.

I have told Soldiers numerous times in this Task Force that you may do the same patrol one hundred times without a single bit of trouble but you always have to be prepared because one hundred and one may be the worst day of your life or maybe even the last day of your life. As the temperature continues to rise it is very easy to start skipping important steps or procedures because it is too hot.

There is just as many ways to fight complacency as there are people. I have heard the gambit from changing sleeping quarters to completely changing sectors. All plans to fight complacency work to a certain degree. My answer is just plain old discipline. Disciplined Soldiers do not have problems with complacency. All Soldiers from Private to Major General must prepare for every mission as if they have never been there before. Troop leading procedures and pre-combat checks and pre-combat inspections are forms of discipline. The Soldiers are required to prepare their equipment and knowledge and the NCO and Offic-



CSM CORY MCCARTY

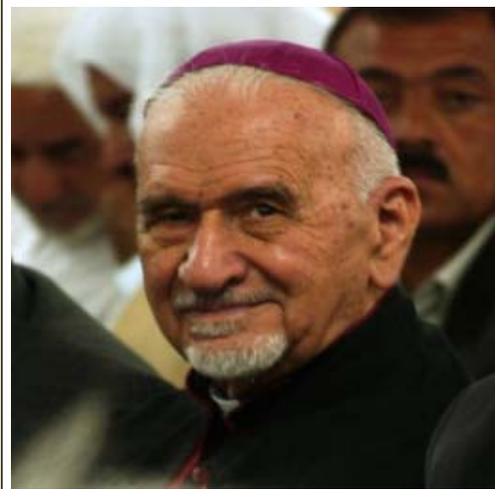
ers are required to do the same and also conduct inspections and rehearsals. If either one does not happen, I guarantee you are heading into trouble. Once you are out there in your observation post or on the street it is way too late to start wondering if you brought the proper equipment with you.

I guess that if somebody were to ask me what I would do to fight complacency, I would tell them that at all times I would keep the Soldiers engaged with each other and as a leader I would not tolerate shortcuts. I would require all patrol items be inspected and serviceable and not let a patrol leave the gate until they were. I would change my routes, task and purpose for every mission and most of all take nothing for granted. I would continually work on the discipline of my unit. I would enforce all standards and demand the other leaders around me do the same. I would constantly remind Soldiers and leaders the enemy picks when, where, and who he is going to fight with each day. Our mission is to be ready for him at all times.

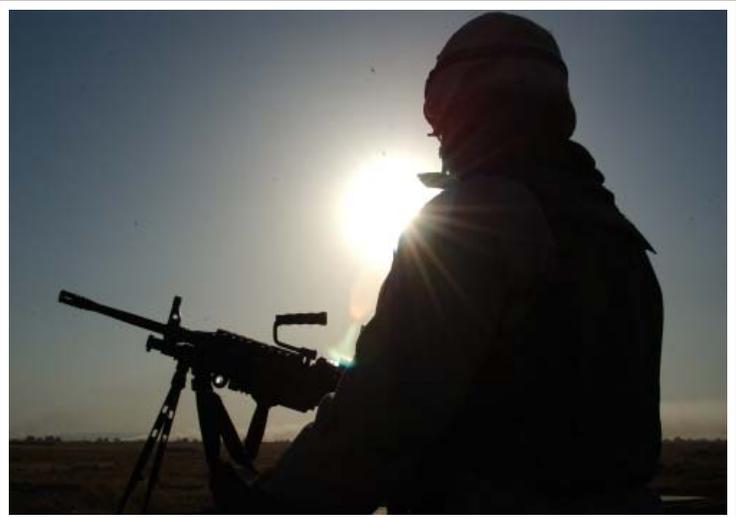
MG Batiste told the Commanders the other day to answer two questions before they go to bed at night: **WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO IMPROVE THE DISCIPLINE IN YOUR UNIT TODAY? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO BETTER PREPARE YOUR SOLDIERS FOR THE MISSION?** This does not just apply to leaders, it applies to all Soldiers in task Force Danger.

-Danger 7

DUTY FIRST!



On June 22, 2004, the Governing Council's Roman Catholic representative smiles while waiting with members of the Kirkuk Provincial City Council, and various other tribal and religious leaders for a meeting with Ambassador Bremer and Interim President Ghazi at the airfield outside of Kirkuk, Iraq. (US Army Photo by PFC Elizabeth Erste)



SPC Jack Jones, a member of Alpha Company, 9th Engineer Battalion, pulls security with a M249 machine gun during an unexploded ordnance patrol in the town of Bayji, Iraq on 19 June 04. 9th ENG conducts these patrols to help deter any injuries or deaths to the Multi-National Forces and civilian personnel. (US Army Photo by SGT April L. Johnson)



A soldier from Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, looks through high powered binoculars for any suspicious activity during an improvised explosive device sweep during a convoy to a medical clinic in the town of Az Zawiyah, Iraq on 21 June 04. A/1-7 FA conducts these operations to help deter any injuries or deaths to the Coalition Forces and civilian personnel. (US Army Photo by SGT April L. Johnson)



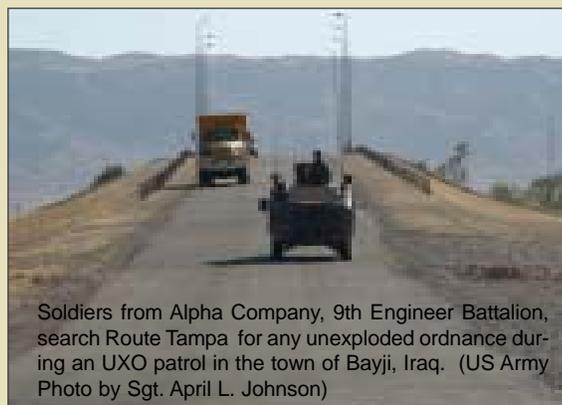
SFC Michael Morris, a member of Alpha Company, 9th Engineer Battalion, puts C-4 on a surface to air missile propellant charge during an unexploded ordnance patrol in the town of Bayji, Iraq on 19 June 04. (US Army Photo by SGT April L. Johnson)



Soldiers from Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, pull security outside of the Az Zawiyah Medical Clinic while Iraqi children watch in the town of Az Zawiyah, Iraq. (US Army Photo by SGT April L. Johnson)



A surface to air missile propellant charger is detonated by Alpha Company, 9th Engineer Battalion during an unexploded ordnance patrol in the town of Bayji, Iraq. (US Army Photo by SGT April L. Johnson)



Soldiers from Alpha Company, 9th Engineer Battalion, search Route Tampa for any unexploded ordnance during an UXO patrol in the town of Bayji, Iraq. (US Army Photo by Sgt. April L. Johnson)



An Iraqi man and his child stand in front of the police station in the town of Az Zawiyah, Iraq. (US Army Photo by SGT April L. Johnson)



Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment pull security at a hasty checkpoint set up outside the city of Baqubah June 24. (US Army Photo by SGT Kimberly Snow)



SPC Brian Oliver, a member of Alpha Company, 9th Engineer Battalion, searches the terrain inside a destroyed building for any unexploded ordnance during an UXO patrol in the town of Bayji, Iraq on 19 June 04. (US Army Photo by SGT April L. Johnson)



2LT Staggs of Headquarters and Headquarters Service Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, photographs the progress of a collaborative road project during a day patrol of the area outside the city of Penjwin, Iraq. (US Army Photo by PFC Elizabeth Erste)



On the morning of June 4, 2004, with the flag of Kurdistan flying overhead, a member of the Iraqi Border Patrol is observed keeping a watchful eye over the Iraq-Iran border at the Border Checkpoint Bashmakh located outside the city of Penjwin, Iraq. (US Army Photo by PFC Elizabeth Erste)



Soldiers from Alpha Company, 9th Engineer Battalion, prepare 37mm anti-aircraft rounds to be demolished during unexploded ordnance clearance in the area of K2 near the city of Bayji, Iraq on 20 Jun 04. (US Army photo by SGT April L. Johnson)



The explosion of over two hundred 37mm anti-aircraft rounds found by members of Alpha Company, 9th Engineer Battalion, during unexploded ordnance clearance in the area of K2 near the city of Bayji, Iraq on 20 Jun 04. (US Army photo by SGT April L. Johnson)



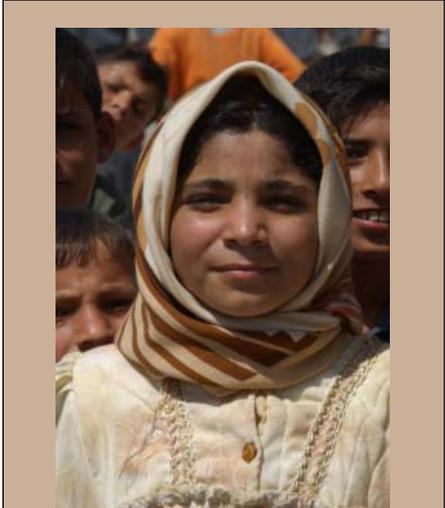
Troops at FOB Danger participate in a volleyball tournament on June 27, one of many activities sponsored by Morale, Welfare, and Recreation.



Multi-National Forces dropped bombs on several targets in Baqubah June 24 after insurgents attempted to create strongholds in the city.



SPC Joshua Burgess (right) and SGT Edwardo Colon-Gonzalez, both Soldiers from Bravo Company, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, pass out school supplies to Iraqi children in a small village west of Baiji, Iraq on 17 Jun 04. B Co., 1-4 CAV frequently give donated items to Iraqi children to improve their quality of life. (US Army Photo by SGT April L. Johnson)



An Iraqi girl smiles outside of the Az Zawiyah Medical Clinic in the town of Az Zawiyah, Iraq on 21 June 04. (US Army Photo by SGT April L. Johnson)



An Environmental Chemical Corporation worker waits for the groundbreaking ceremony of a new structure that will house a brigade of the New Iraqi Army in K1, Iraq on 12 May 04. (US Army Photo by SGT April L. Johnson)



Alpha Company, 9th Engineer Battalion found a field full of mock surface to air missiles during an unexploded ordnance patrol in the town of Baiji, Iraq on 19 June 04. (US Army Photo by SGT April L. Johnson)

Translator sacrifices for job, freedom

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SPC ISMAIL TURAY
196TH MPAD

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, TIKRIT, Iraq - It isn't difficult for Ghazwan Nazhan Sharif to know who his friends are. Sometimes, it seems as if he has none.

The telephone harassments began a week after Sharif volunteered to work with the American military in May 2003. Then leaflets were distributed in his neighborhood branding him a traitor. He has been shot at and his family's home bombed, injuring his 11-year-old sister.

Still, Sharif continued to work with the Americans, initially as a paid translator for the Coalition Provisional Authority and now with the 1st Infantry Division's engineering brigade in Tikrit.

"Freedom," said Sharif, 32. "I believe in freedom. I know that you guys (Americans) are going to improve life for us."

Prior to the war, Sharif was an interior and fashion designer, and an artist. He owned a successful gift shop that sold fashion from around the world, and did flower arrangements. Saddam Hussein's representatives, including his wife, frequented Sharif's store whenever the former dictator and his family visited his compound of 18 palaces in Tikrit, Hussein's hometown.

Although people liked going to his store, he was mocked because he acted too much like a Westerner. He'd spike his hair and wear baggy jeans. He also listened to western music, including hip-hop, and liked to express his opinions. Some scorned him for speaking English.

"For them, I am weird because I was like a westerner," he said in his admittedly imperfect English. The son of a wealthy Iraqi diplomat, he had lived much of his life in the West where his father served in Czechoslovakia and London. For five years, Sharif lived on his own in Jordan.

"I became an absolutely free guy," he said. "You know what they (fellow Iraqis) think freedom is? They think freedom is a naked man walking the streets. They say we don't want this freedom.

"I say this is not freedom. Freedom is to talk whatever you want to talk."

For a man who professes a love of freedom, Sharif has very little. When he reported being shot at, CPA officials told him to start living at the base. But he lived in sight of the base and did not want to be away from his family.

CPA was no longer sending a bus to pick him up after he declined to move on the base. So he hired a private taxi to take him to and from work daily. For the next few months the threats were limited to late night phone calls.

However, that changed in early October.

Sharif planned to leave work early that day, so he told the driver not to pick him up. When he left the base, he flagged down another taxi. It was a white, 1981 Toyota Corona.

The driver was a young man who looked to be about 19 and had curly, blond hair. His mustache was thin, and wore a deshdashah, a gown worn by Arab men. Sharif got in the car and gave the driver directions to his house and the young man nodded without saying a word.

Less than a minute into the drive, the driver



Ghazwan Nazhan Sharif frequently stares at the water tower in the distance, wondering if his family is OK. His parents' home is a half mile to the right of the water tower and two miles from the base.

played a tape of a song about Saddam Hussein: "By the sword, by the blood, we will defend you, Saddam."

Sharif was baffled. "I say to myself, 'Something weird is happening.'"

The driver never uttered a word during the drive, not even to say thanks after Sharif tipped him.

Sharif took a shower later that evening and started watching television while he smoked apple flavored tobacco and charcoal in his pipe. About 6:30 p.m., he heard three loud explosions a few seconds apart.

Smoke and dust filled the house. He could barely see as he searched for his two sisters and his mother — his father had gone for a walk about a half hour earlier. When he found his mother and 28-year-old sister, they both were hugging and screaming hysterically.

"Where is Zena, where is Zena?" his mother asked about her youngest child.

Suddenly, they heard Zena screaming "mama, mama, mama" in Arabic. But they could not see her amid the thick, black smoke and heavy dust. Seconds later — it seemed like an eternity — the 11-year-old girl came running from the direction of the bathroom with both hands covering her face.

Blood was running through her fingers, and her dress and arm were bloody. "Let me see," Sharif shouted at her. But Zena refused. So Sharif told her not to be afraid as he grabbed her hands and removed them from her face.

The left side of Zena's face -- from the corner of her mouth to just below her earlobe -- had been ripped open. Sharif could see his sister's teeth from the side of her mouth. Her forehead and chin also were bleeding profusely.

"My mom screamed. My (28-year-old) sister screamed. I screamed," Sharif recalled.

His mother ripped a piece of cloth from the bottom of her dress and told her son to put it on Zena's cheek to stop the bleeding. Sharif then grabbed Zena, cradled her, and with her left cheek pressed against his chest, he dashed for the front door, which had been blown out.

He now remembers that a crowd had gathered outside, and there was some shouting. But they were all a blur at the time. Residents several miles away said they heard the blasts.

He stopped the first vehicle he saw and jumped

in. His mother also got into the car. As the driver sped to the hospital, they encountered an Army convoy that would not allow them to pass. For safety reasons, Soldiers normally don't allow civilian vehicles to enter or pass their convoys.

Sharif understood that, and he held no ill-will toward the Americans.

When they finally arrived at the hospital, Sharif and his mother, with the help of nurses, took Zena to the emergency room. He fainted as soon as he put his sister on the operating table.

A half hour or so later, his mother woke him up crying. He too started to cry. He became even more enraged, and started shouting in the hospital.

"Where is the brave guys? Where is the heroes who done this great thing?" he thundered. "This is a small kid, she is 11. What fault she's got? I'm here. I'm Ghazwan. I'm in front of you. If you are men, come and kill me. Come and kill me."

After surgery that night, Zena was released from the hospital.

The next morning, Sharif returned to the base and reported the attack. The Army offered to pay for Zena's hospital bills and repair his parents' house. But he was prohibited from returning home. This time, he complied.

He didn't see his family again until early March when the military gave him a disguise and took him under heavy security. He's not sure when he will see them again. His parents still gets phone calls vowing to kill Sharif.

"Do you see over there? You see it?" he asked, pointing at a water tower in the distance as he stood in front of a palace where he lives on this base. "My house is beside this water tank."

Sharif believes he can no longer live in Iraq. But no matter where he goes, he said, he will somehow contribute to the efforts in the country to ensure that it's a better place for his 1-year-old son, whom he has never seen.

His goal is to get to the United States and find a publisher for a book he's currently writing. The book will be about his life and the events that took place the past year. He also will discuss the Iraqi culture, the people, the suffering, the bloodshed, the lies Hussein told, the American liberation of Iraq and the like.

Though he dreams of a better life and a better future, several times a week he stands in front of the palace on top of a hill on the base and stares at the water tower, wondering if his family is OK.



Ghazwan Nazhan Sharif interprets for Todd Whatley (third from right), a CPA representative, last October.

Railway links Iraqi cities

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT ROLAND G. WALTERS
196TH MPAD**

The train station was empty of any hustling and bustling that accompanies many other terminals on a normal day. The only passengers on May 24 were armed men, four Iraqi Republic Railways (IRR) inspectors and a couple of contractors.

Although small in number, the nervous excitement in the air was an indication of the importance of the day. The opening of the rail spur between Tikrit and Forward Operating Base Speicher was in the final stage of becoming a reality: Inspection.

"Based on the inspection, today the rail line is good, and we can use it within a week," said LTC Larry E. Strobel, 1st Infantry Division's G-4. There are a couple of safety things to do, but the spur is ready for use today."

In earlier inspections, the railway had to endure the weight of 26 moving carriages hauling up to 65 tons each. The inspection of the rail spur was primarily to identify any problems on the line and the condition of the railway.

"This line is of vital importance for all Iraqi people," said Jassim Zwair, a contracted power engineer consultant working for the Al Thuraya Group.



Logistically, trains are better for transporting goods because they are safer and have a higher loading capacity than trucks on the highway, he said.

Al Thuraya is a group of 15 Iraqi companies, each specializing in a specific area, including construction, power generation and distribution and water projects. Originally, they had an \$850,000 contract to repair the rail spur with the 4th Infantry Division. However, the project was taken over by the 1st Infantry Division in February.

The company handled everything from the restoration process to hiring the IRR inspectors to examining the spur track.

Prior to Operation Iraqi Freedom, the majority of the railways in Iraq had, for the most part, been neglected. Only one line currently remains operational. The railroad is an important link in tying Iraq together, said CPT Jeffrey A. Holt, the 1st ID's minister of transportation.

The three kilometer spur track is an offshoot of the main line, which runs between Baghdad and Mosul. Working through Al Thuraya, the 1st ID had the sub-base, embankment, rail line, as well as other things fixed.

ABOVE: The eyes, or lights, of one diesel locomotive seem to stare endlessly while sitting motionless at the Tikrit rail station.

LEFT: The weathered Iraqi Republic Railway sign which stood unnoticed for years, is now a welcome site outside the train station.

BELOW: A group of Iraqi children stand by a tractor watching the diesel locomotive travel down the length of the rail spur between Tikrit and FOB Speicher.

The spur brings an immediate benefit to the military. It offers a means of transporting supplies and saves Soldiers lives, by reducing convoy traffic.

The connection between Tikrit and FOB Speicher will be used to transport basic goods, water and construction materials.

The primary reason for opening the link was to allow FOB Speicher to become an industrial base, Strobel said.

"This rail spur will provide the local community of Tikrit the ability to pull in large amounts of supplies on the rail."

Between the rail spur and a recently opened airfield at FOB Speicher, the community will be able to improve its economic situation, he said. The airfield is already receiving commercial flights, Strobel added.

Initially, this benefits the military, but when FOB Speicher becomes an Iraqi facility, the rail spur will be there to facilitate the progress of Iraq, Holt said.

"We are just customers," he said.



Pilots dust pests from province

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT KIMBERLY SNOW
196TH MPAD

FOB WARHORSE, Iraq —

In a cooperative effort between Iraq's Ministry of Agriculture and Multinational Forces Iraq, Iraqi pilots crop dusted the province's date palm fields on May 14.

It was the first time Iraqi pilots had flown in their airspace since Operation Iraqi Freedom began more than a year ago.

The joint operation covered nine areas in Diyala province which continued for weeks, until the end of the date spraying season, said CW4 Phil Owen, Aviation Operations Officer for the 1st Infantry Division. Owen, who coordinated initial efforts with the Ministry of Agriculture. He said the spraying covered an estimated five to eight square kilometers a day.

Spraying is critical to the operation of Iraq's date palm industry, he said. About 60 percent of the world's dates come from Iraq, and of those, about 65 percent come from the Diyala province. Because it is so important, the Ministry of Agriculture requested MNFI support, he said.

The operation was almost wholly Iraqi; they used their own equipment, pilots, chemicals and mechanics. MNFI provided only fuel and lubricants, and a place to secure the aircraft, he added.

The Ministry of Agriculture's head pilot, CPT



An Iraqi pilot lands his Russian-made MI-2 helicopter-turned-cropduster at FOB Warhorse on 14 May after completing his first successful spraying mission.

Muntadhar Mohamed, began meeting with MNFI representatives months before to help coordinate the operation. Trained in the United States, the 24 year old agriculture pilot said the MNF supplied the operation with 10,000 liters of fuel.

"The most important thing was the security," he said. "We did a good job of (working) together."

Hussein Ali-Tahir, a pesticide analysis specialist with the Ministry of Agriculture, earned his Ph.D. in

chemistry from the University of Dublin. He certified the chemicals, which he said are not dangerous for humans or animals. Iraqi farmers have been spraying these crops for more than 50 years, he added.

"Every year we apply (the pesticide) to use against these insects," he said referring to the white fly and fruit fly. "All the date palms last year were infected, so Army support is really good, because we needed that. It is very important to us, it is important for the people."

The only concern was that the chemicals are poisonous to bees, Owen said. Because a lot of local residents raise bees, ministry officials notified the local populace the night before, so beekeepers could take protective measures.

1LT Michael R. Adams, 1st Squadron, 4th U.S. Cavalry Regiment Aviation Liaison Officer to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, took over the project on May 14 and coordinated through military channels for airspace, flight routes and logistical issues.

"The pilots are heroes," he said. "They risked their lives for the people of Iraq, knowing that insurgent forces might try to disrupt the operation."

The aircrafts are Russian-made MI-2 helicopters, purchased from Poland in 1985. While initially sent to the military, the Ministry of Agriculture acquired them a short time later for use as crop dusters. Two aircraft have been pieced together from the parts of 17, Owen said. The pilots, he added, are not in the military.

All of the pilots work for the Ministry of Agriculture and are regular crop dusters, Owen said. Some of them have been flying 15-20 years.

Project officials performed a test flight on a second aircraft May 20 and put it into use May 21. Adams said the aircraft was built in 1955.

"That showed the determination of these guys to get them up and repair them," he said.

Because the crops won't be destroyed, farmers and merchants will have jobs this year, he added.

Following the completion of the date palm operation, the pilots continued to spray other crops such as corn, rice and cotton, Adams said. Based on the success of the operation, they will most likely move on to other provinces throughout the country and continue spraying throughout the year.



MAJ Brian Paxton, 1LT Michael Adams, and CPT Alexander Bullock stand with pilots and representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture.

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPT L. PAULA SYDENSTRICKER
196TH MPAD**

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SUMMERALL, BAYJI, Iraq — The Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 33rd Field Artillery Regiment have, perhaps, one of the most dangerous assignments in Northern Iraq.

The unit is responsible for hauling seized enemy ammunition and weapons throughout the region to Ammo Supply Point Arlington, which is located here. The weapons and ammunitions are stored on the FOB and subsequently destroyed, said SSG Adam Bolton of the battalion's Charlie Battery.

Up to 100,000 pounds of ammunition are transported daily, and the mission takes place six days a week. Since taking on the assignment in February, the unit has destroyed about 1.5 million tons of ammunition, Bolton said.

Charlie Battery uses Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck – HEMTT -- and Palletized Loading System vehicles to move the ammunition. Bolton said during the convoys, there are not only the natural dangers, but also the uploading and downloading that can create a priority of high risk.



Multi-National Forces found a Surface to Air Missile 7 while gathering other seized enemy ammunition. 1st Battalion, 33rd Field Artillery Regiment hauled it to the demolition point to be destroyed.

High-risk mission a blast

“What we’re hauling could be an asset to the enemy,” Bolton said, adding that the regiment has escorted engineers to non-secure cache sites to be blown in place.

Some of the weapons and ammunition the battalion has seized and destroyed include mortars, land mines, surface to air missiles, AK-47s and rocket propelled grenades, Bolton said.

Destroying enemy weapons and ammunition is an important mission because it decreases the amount of damage insurgents can inflict on coalition forces, he said.

Battalion Commander, LTC Ken Boehme agreed, adding that his Soldiers also have numerous other duties.

His troops are assigned to target acquisition teams, escort and fire and effect missions, force protection, quick reaction force and harassment interdiction, Boehme said.

Most of the Soldiers in the regiment are cross-trained to do several of the jobs that the unit has. Boehme attributes his Soldiers’ versatility and their missions’ success to the support they receive from the maintenance, communication and security protection sections.

Additionally, the battalion supports the community around the surrounding area by giving the people clean water, repairing their vehicles and the like. In the process, Boehme said, Soldiers are winning the locals’ trust, and the Iraqis have helped the troops locate weapons and ammunition.



Ammunition confiscated throughout the area is blown up at Ammo Supply Point Arlington.

Services sought of local organizations

**STORY AND PHOTO BY
SPC ISMAIL TURAY JR.
196TH MPAD**

Lake Dokan, Iraq – The 1st Infantry Division recently invited nearly 20 nongovernmental organizations to the Lake Dokan resort in an attempt to persuade the groups to provide their services in the Big Red One's areas of responsibility.

"Coalition forces and NGOs are in many respects different. But we have lots in common," MG John R. S. Batiste, Commander of the IID told his guests at the conference, which officials said will be held quarterly. "The first thing that comes to mind is that we all want to help the good people of Iraq."

There are four provinces – Diyala, Salah Ad Din, At Tamim and As Sulaymaniyah – in the division's areas of responsibility. Representatives from each one, including governors and military officials, attended the conference. Also present were Coalition Provisional Authority and United Nations officials.

The 1st ID's courtship of the NGOs took place at the Hotel Ashur on June 1.

Although there are many NGOs in Baghdad, Kuwait, Jordan and other surrounding Arab nations, none are in Northern Iraq, said MAJ Dan Gajewski, S-3 of the 415 Civil Affairs Battalion and the conference director. Many of the organizations have opted not to go north because it has been unsafe, he said.

However, 1st ID officials and the provinces' representatives assured the NGOs that the area is now safe, and the division will provide security and security updates for the NGOs.

Batiste is adamant about having NGOs in the four provinces because there are so many things they can do that the military is incapable of. If the NGOs do respond to the IID's plea for help, the Big Red One is willing to form a partnership with the organizations and assist them however it can, Gajewski said. That will include identifying projects for the NGOs, he said.

"I think the NGOs' effort is so important that I'm

willing to give you lodging space on the (forward operating bases)," Batiste said.

Guests started arriving at the resort, with its tranquil, mountainous backdrop and a pool, on May 31. They were serenaded by the 1st ID's band, which played a mixture of jazz, blues and classical music.

Kurdish singers and a dance troupe wearing dazzling costumes also entertained the guests. Traditional Iraqi and Kurdish cuisine was served.

The conference opened early the next morning with a question and answer session that was run by COL Gene Kamena, the 1st ID's Chief of Staff, and U.S. Agency for International Development's program manager, Eugene Szepesy.

USAID is an independent federal government agency. Its work supports long-term and equitable economic growth, and advances U.S. foreign policy objectives, according to the organization's Web site.

Like a group of salesmen, each representative gave a 25 minute presentation about his province after the Q&A. The governors and Soldiers' pitches to the NGOs included background of their respective provinces and needs.

The provinces are in dire need of medical supplies and equipment, assistance with housing construction and renovation, literacy training, rail systems, road improvements, police training, extraction of more than 7 million mines from about 3,000 mine fields and others, the representatives to the NGOs.

At the conclusion of the conference, several of the NGO representatives said the 1st ID and the provincial governors' presentations were persuasive. Conference attendees said they were considering providing their services in the four provinces.

However, before Khalil Barzinji, of International Medical Corp., makes his final decision, he'd like to get confirmation that the 1st ID will fulfill its promise of providing security for his workers, he said. He would also like to see more check points on the highways,



SGT Julia M. Ludeman, left, and MAJ Dan Gajewski, both of the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion, distribute name badges to guests at the NGO conference in June.

especially between Tikrit and Kirkuk, Tuz and Khalis, and further west, he said.

"Those are very dangerous roads, and if more checkpoints are put in those places, I definitely will go to the provinces," he said through an interpreter.

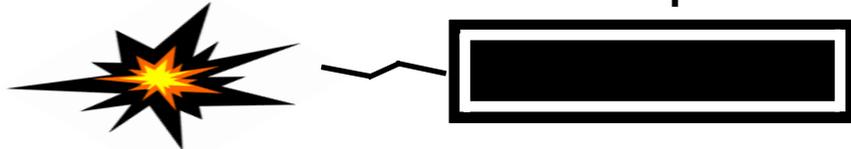
Other NGOs said having internet access or long range radios in the provinces would be helpful. That would allow them to communicate with their headquarters in Baghdad without having their drivers travel on the dangerous highways several times a week.

Many of the guests lauded the 1st ID for hosting such a "wonderful and formative" conference. They said similar meetings are needed throughout Iraq. Some suggested that the division publicize it more and broadcast it on television and radio in the future.

The Iraqi people will be more willing to cooperate if they see what the coalition is doing for them, said Saad Abbas Khudier of Youth Ranlecanse Society, adding that newspapers are not an effective way of communicating with the people because the majority of them can't read.

Sappers, Air Force EOD make explosive team

**STORY BY
SPC SEAN KIMMONS
25TH ID PAO**



KIRKUK, Iraq – Throughout the open plains outside this city's limit, tons of unexploded ordnance lay scattered inside and outside old Iraqi Army bunkers.

They serve as supermarkets, of sorts, for insurgents who frequent the sites for ingredients to make improvised explosive device.

"UXOs are easy to make IEDs with, since it already has an explosive," said SSG Grachya Kazanchyan, a squad leader with B Company, 65th Engineer Battalion. "All (insurgents) have to do is put a fuse or booster with a wire attached to it in order to set it up."

To prevent insurgents from endangering Multi-National Forces and Iraqi civilians, Sappers from B Company, 65th Engineer Battalion, conduct weapon cache destruction missions on a daily basis inside 2nd Brigade Combat Team's area of operations.

Sometimes the destruction missions have the

Sappers removing hundreds of munitions from the Kirkuk area in one day. The cache is then stacked together, lined with C-4 explosive and detonated at a specified safe location.

"We do these types of missions seven days a week," said SSG Jason Hyde, a squad leader with the 65th Engineer Battalion. "We encounter munitions everyday, and 90 percent of the time we explode them."

Airmen from the 506th Air Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit roll out with the Sappers to lend their expertise during the missions.

"The (Sappers) can't look at ordnance and see if it has been fired or if it is safe to handle — that's when we come in," said Air Force SSG Travis Brewster, a technician with the 506th EOD. "We went to school almost a year for this and we know what kind of munitions to look for."

Hyde said it's good for the Sappers to have the EOD asset alongside them.

"EOD and engineers work pretty well together," Hyde said. "We don't go outside the wire without EOD with us. We're not experts. We know a lot of the [demolition], but there's some stuff that we encounter we don't know."

In just under four months here, the Sappers and Air Force EOD have been responsible for destroying nearly 130,000 pounds of net explosive weight. About 10 percent of the total weight of one round is the explosive weight.

"I know we've made an effect on the munitions that the enemy uses against us," Hyde said. "In just the last month or so [attacks] have slowed down since the first month we were here."

Esse Quam Videri ... "to be" Outlaws

**STORY BY
LTC KEN BOEHME
COMMANDER, 1-33 FA**

In early March 2004, the 1st Battalion, 33rd Field Artillery Regiment (MLRS/TA) of the 1st Infantry Division was given a mission to incorporate a Field Artillery Battery task organized as a Mechanized Infantry Company from the North Carolina National Guard.

At first glance, Big Red One Soldiers weren't sure what kind of package they were going to receive. But it turned out to be a complete package. The "Outlaws" of C Battery, 1st Battalion, 113 Field Artillery Regiment were the real deal, a group of highly-skilled professionals who epitomize the Warrior Ethos and the North Carolina motto, *Esse Quam Videri*, which means to be, rather than to seem.

For these 67 attached Soldiers, living the life of a Soldier is to be and they wouldn't want it any other way.

The 1-33 FA has had the pleasure of working with the Outlaws for more than three months now, and every mission they have been given has been a success. They have re-defined mounted and dis-

mounted patrolling via an ongoing mission known throughout the 1st Infantry Division and Danger Area of Operations as Operation Hickory View.

Operation Hickory View has created Soldier visibility in areas around our for-

adversaries that Multi-National Forces do, indeed, have a vote.

The Outlaw Palletized Load System crews have made monumental contributions in support of our 1-33 FA CEA operations. Within the first month of op-

"From projectiles to rockets to missiles, these highly competent crews have hauled it all"

ward operating base where the Iraqi nationals haven't seen American Soldiers before. These Outlaw Soldiers have won over the hearts and minds of many local sheep herders and farmers who have provided the troops with valuable information leading to the capture of enemy ammunition and suspected Anti-Iraqi Forces.

Their patrols have also helped eliminate many of the established indirect fire patterns which the Anti-Iraqi Forces have directed against our FOB over the past year. The Outlaw Team has shown our

erations, the Outlaw crews have supported CEA operations in Northern Iraq to a tune of hauling more than 1 million pounds of ammunition to destruction sites.

From projectiles to rockets to missiles, these highly competent crews have hauled it all, and are always eager to get on with the next mission.

The movement and destruction of captured enemy ammunition is so critical to the success of Operation Iraqi Freedom II because it keeps ammunition out of the hands of Anti-Iraqi Forces who

want to use it against the Iraqi people or Coalition Forces/contractors.

The enormous amount of hauled captured ammunition has been a tangible sign of support to 1stID's mission of cleaning up Iraq in order to improve Iraqi living conditions before sovereignty is passed to them 28 June 2004.

The entire Outlaw team has been a true asset to Golden Lions Task Force and has made significant contributions in just a few months. 1-33 FA is truly proud to serve alongside these great National Guardsmen who have demonstrated the power in the Army's slogan "An Army of One."

I am looking forward to the months that lie ahead as we continue to integrate these fine Outlaw Soldiers into the many missions 1-33 FA is given to execute. I am confident that the Outlaws will remain our most valuable asset and continue to lead the adventurous Soldier spirit which has personified the Outlaw name. In my eyes, they have capably answered our nation's call and have shown that Soldiering is "to be, rather than to seem".



TF 1-21 INF and 208th ING Battalion leaders unveil the ING crest during the grand opening of the new headquarters building in Kirkuk May 25.

KIRKUK, Iraq – An Iraqi National Guard (ING) building that was paid for by 2nd Brigade Combat Team Commander Emergency Relief Program funds was officially opened during a ribbon cutting ceremony here May 25.

The building will serve as the new headquarters for the 208th ING Battalion. Its 892 personnel conduct operations in and around Kirkuk.

The battalion's old headquarters is located outside Kirkuk Air Base, and was desperately in need of repairs. The new building, which cost \$157,000, will put the ING in the southern sector of the city, and closer to the action, said CPT Kealii

Morris, Commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Task Force 1-21 Infantry.

"It will provide another stabilizing force in this area, where a lot of insurgent activity comes from," CPT Kealii Morris said.

The open terrain has no traffic control points in the southern section of the city and provides a popular infiltration route for enemy forces that travel from the south into the city. The new ING headquarters location will hopefully alleviate some of these problems, said Morris, whose company sponsors the ING forces in Kirkuk.

BCT funds new Iraqi National Guard Battalion headquarters

**STORY BY SPC SEAN KIMMONS
25TH ID PAO**

"If there are any emergencies or problems in Kirkuk, we will be closer now instead of near the air base," said CPT Jafe Wali Husain, an officer with the 208th ING Battalion. "We can also serve the people in this area."

Work on the building took about a month and the majority of the workers were from the area, LTC Mark Dewhurst, Commander of TF 1-21 INF, said during the dedication ceremony.

Hiring local laborers for the construction project was important to the surrounding area, as it put more money into the economy and offered new jobs.

"The biggest complaint from Iraqis that we talk to is the lack of jobs and their high unemployment rate," Morris said. Also "people that are unemployed are most likely to do bad things to make money."

Building the new facility was only phase one for the compound. The next step will be to add a maintenance area

for the ING vehicles, a carport, a shower facility and furniture.

Throughout their Iraq tour, Soldiers of HHC, TF 1-21 INF will continue to train up the ING personnel as part of their sponsorship of them.

"By training up the ING, we are training ourselves out of a job and allowing them to stabilize their own country," Morris said.

The anti-tank platoon of HHC, TF 1-21 INF is responsible for the initial-entry training of the ING personnel. This training is an augmentation to their basic training that encompasses a 15-day block of instruction covering physical training, marksmanship, first aid and basic Soldiering skills.

In June, the 1st Infantry Division started a Division-level basic training course and a Primary Leadership Development Course for the ING personnel in Tikrit.

Army, Marines ...



... bridging the gap

ABOVE: A Soldier from 216th Engineer Battalion moves a beam on the Tikrit Bridge with the help of a Marine from the 6th Engineer Support Battalion.

BELOW: Soldiers from the 216th Engineer Battalion work together with Marines from 6th Engineer Support Battalion to rebuild the Tikrit Bridge.



STORY AND PHOTOS BY SPC JOE ALGER 1ST ID PAO

Building bridges may not have been what the Soldiers of the 216th Engineer Battalion expected to be doing in Iraq.

But with the help of Marines from 6th Engineer Support Battalion, they are participating in the \$4 million Tikrit Bridge rebuilding project in Tikrit, Iraq.

“Bridge work is an extension a little beyond our normal scope of activities,” said MAJ Wayne Moening, 216th Eng. Bn., Operations Officer. “Usually, we’re more involved in road building, quality of life improvement, carpentry and force protection.”

While building bridges may not be their specialty, the Soldiers of the 216th Eng. Bn., were ready for the challenge.

“Building bridges is an engineer mission, so we’ll be up to the task whether it’s our primary job or not,” said SGT Todd Kristoff, Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of Bridge Inspections, 216th Engineer Company.



SSG Gerald Tietje removes a plank with a forklift from the Mabey Johnson Bridge in Tikrit, Iraq, as fellow soldiers and Marines look on.

To aid them in the bridge rebuilding process, the 216th Eng. Bn., Soldiers worked together with Marines from the 6th Engineer Support Battalion.

“We’ve conducted a few operations of bridges like this before,” said SSG Martin Kenny, Staff NCOIC Bridge Company Bravo, 6th Engineer Support Battalion. “We’re one of only two bridge companies in country right now, so we work with Engineers who may not have as much experience on bridges. We’ve had good success working with them in the past.”

Kristoff said he’s confident this project will be no exception.

“The relationship between us and the Corps is very strong. We should definitely be able to complete this job in time,” he said.

In addition to getting help from the Marines, the 216th Eng. Bn., Soldiers also received a three day class on bridge building at Forward Operating Base Anaconda prior to the beginning of the project.

According to the SFC Abraham Johnson, 216th Engineer Company 1st Platoon Sergeant, there was a representative from Mabey Johnson, the bridge company the engineers will be working with, to answer any questions they had about the process. The Soldiers from 216th Eng. Bn., have also been doing a lot of bridge maintenance recently to get familiarized with the Mabey Johnson units.

Rebuilding the bridge will be a three-phase project, Johnson said.

The first part will be to move the temporary Mabey Johnson bridge that’s covering the holes in the main bridge now out of the way. Next, the Iraqi workers will place beams over the gaps and put the Mabey Johnson bridge back in place to allow for two-lane traffic on the bridge.

The final part of the project, Johnson said, will be for the Engineer to return to the bridge site later in the year to place asphalt in place of the Mabey Johnson Bridge.

“This is the main crossing over the Tigris river in this area,” Moening said. “It was bombed during the war and we’re restoring it to eventually give back to the Iraqi people.”

For now, the Mabey Johnson bridge will provide

the support for almost any military or civilian vehicle that needs to cross the bridge.

“The Mabey Johnson bridge is the bridge of the future,” said Kristoff. “If you’re hauling heavy equipment, this is the bridge you want. It can be crossed by pretty much any heavy military vehicle.”

Kristoff, who is also the safety NCOIC on the site, hopes to avoid any injuries during the project.

“I have to keep an eye out for trip hazards and make sure nobody gets close to any of the gaps,” he said. “The most dangerous part though, will be when the 120 ton crane lifts the Mabey Johnson Bridge off the gap and then replaces it with the beams, which are 90 tons each. You’re definitely going to get some bumps and bruises doing a job like this, but I’m trying to avoid any major injuries or fatalities.”

The bridge building process is expected to take about eight days. Upon completion of the Tikrit Bridge, the 216th Eng. Bn., next mission will be the Haight-Jordan float bridge.



Soldiers from 216th Engineer Battalion help lower a plank from a Mabey Johnson Bridge while rebuilding the Tikrit Bridge in Tikrit, Iraq.

Mortality and Gallantry a rough mix

STORY AND PHOTO BY SGT KIMBERLY SNOW
196TH MPAD

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARHORSE, BAQUBAH, Iraq — Blood, sweat and tears.

Soldiers from F Troop, 4th U.S. Cavalry Regiment have shed them all, experiencing loss and heroism in equal measure and bringing the tight-knit group even closer.

“Our first casualty was mine,” said 2nd “Outlaw” platoon leader, 1LT Dean W. Morrison, referring to SGT William Cody Eckhart. “It was pretty rough. The memorial service helped me and the guys to get better. We’re still trucking through.”

The sole combat unit stationed at this FOB, F Troop’s primary mission is to kill or capture the enemy, said CPT Thomas H. Johnson Jr., the unit’s Commander. Aside from that, the unit conduct raids, ambushes, area or zone reconnaissance and daily mounted combat patrols.

The Vilseck, Germany-based troop, also known as the Brigade Reconnaissance Troop, has had more contact with the enemy than any unit within the 3rd Brigade, and not without casualties. The BRT has lost six men since arriving here in early March.

Johnson said he couldn’t be more proud of the way his Soldiers have performed in combat, particularly in April, when insurgent activity spiked in Baqubah and throughout the country.

“I’ve got about six guys who came directly to my unit in January from basic training and AIT, and this is the first thing they’ve ever done in the Army,” he said. “Privates Patchke, Beardslee, Calderon, these guys all got here about the same time fresh out of AIT, and they’re a bunch of studs. To a man, nobody has hesitated, nobody has frozen up.”

The Soldiers say morale is high, even through the losses they’ve suffered. They attribute much of this to their leadership.

“Lieutenant Morrison is a squared away PL (platoon leader),” said SGT Cory Johnson of Outlaw” platoon. “CPT Johnson is the best commander I’ve ever had. Straight up. He cares about his soldiers.”

The troop faced its fiercest fighting in early April -- the same time most of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team moved south to An Najaf to respond to threats posed by insurgent leader Muqtada Al-Sadr.

“When 3rd brigade went down south to An Najaf, that’s when we started getting attacked the most,” SGT Johnson said. “We got hit six out of seven days in a row. That’s a lot.”

Eckhart, the troop’s first casualty, was killed in action on April 10. On that night, Soldiers from Bravo section “Outlaws” were traveling along the canal road during their daily counter-mortar surveillance when they were ambushed at close range by an armor-piercing rocket-propelled grenade.

The RPG went through the driver’s side armored door and skipped across the top of SGT Scott Darling’s legs. It then struck Eckhart and traveled out the other armored door, CPT Johnson said.

The blast ejected SGT Johnson, who was manning the 50-caliber machine gun, out of the hatch. He climbed back in the hatch to suppress enemy positions and directed Darling to cover before passing the gun off to SGT Jerrod S. Bowman, who had been wounded in the leg by shrapnel.

With Bowman providing suppressing fire, SGT Johnson, a combat lifesaver, helped Darling and Eckhart out of the vehicle and began administering first aid to Eckhart.

“SGT Eckhart was severely wounded. Johnson did everything right. He stopped the bleeding, which was pretty difficult to do, given the wounds,” CPT Johnson said. “When I pulled up on the scene, SGT Johnson was working on SGT Eckhart and simultaneously shooting at the enemy with his rifle.”

With the arrival of all elements of 2nd platoon, the wounded were evacuated to the aid station at FOB Warhorse. CPT Johnson then called in all of F Troop for

reinforcement. The remaining Soldiers continued to fight, calling in OH-58D “Kiowa Warrior” armored reconnaissance helicopters for air support. Upon arrival, the troops, who were arranged in a horseshoe around the palm grove, popped smoke to mark their positions, allowing the Kiowa’s to begin strafing and rocket runs.

CPT Johnson then called in artillery, “massive amounts on this little piece of palm grove,” he said.

With Troop 1SG Luther Lancaster setting up a local support by fire, the artillery barrage continued until the Soldiers assaulted across the objective. They began the assault from the west, but were unable to traverse the canals and rough terrain. They repositioned to move in from the east and assaulted across about 600 meters of open ground.

“It was strange because the enemy, who we were used to just shooting a few rounds at and running away,” said CPT Johnson, “they actually repositioned on the eastern portion of the objective into supplementary positions to counter our ground assault.”

The troop managed to push the enemy back and into the fire of Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment “Bandits” tanks, who had also arrived on the scene.

Just before they started the assault, Cory Johnson saw a man stop his car, laid down a mortar tube and began shooting it at the troops preparing to assault.

“It happened simultaneously,” said CPT Johnson. “When I told the 1SG to initiate our local support by fire, my XO (executive officer), who was back (at Warhorse) with a couple of tanks, thought (the mortar fire) was our Mark-19s. There was a little fear of fratricide, but we quickly realized that SGT Johnson saw the guy and killed him. It was just some idiot with a mortar tube who was passing by.”

The battle, which lasted about four hours, ended after troops swept the area. The commander decided not to advance further because they had depleted much of their ammunition and physical exhaustion was beginning to take a toll, he said.

“It was a really good effort by my Soldiers and some guys from B Company, 2-63 who just happened to come to the sound of the guns and

help us out,” said CPT Johnson. “As well as the pilots of the Kiowas, Eagle 1-9 and Eagle 3-5. They’re air CAV scouts, so they were real good in helping out their CAV brothers on the ground.”

CPT Johnson said he will recommend SGT Johnson for a Bronze Star with valor for his actions that night.

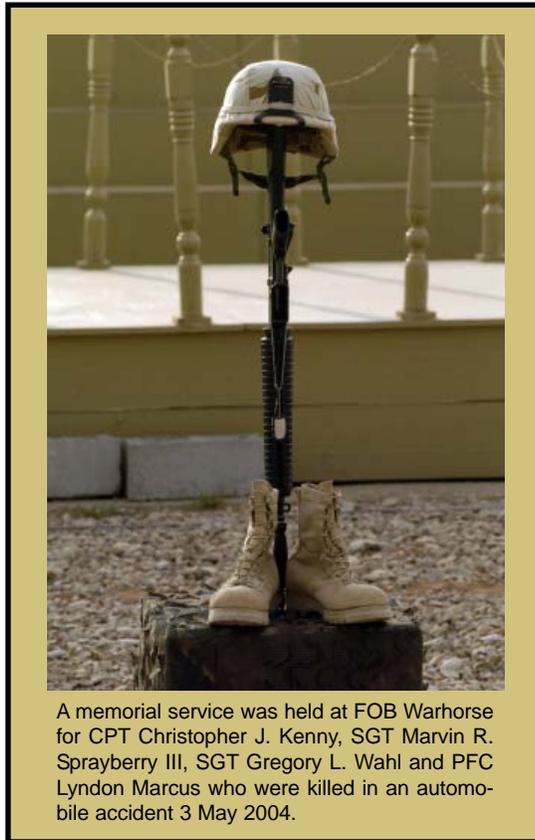
Only two days after the battle that claimed Eckhart, the troop was hit with its second casualty when SSG Victor Rosales was killed by an improvised explosive device. CPT Christopher J. Kenny, SSG Marvin R. Sprayberry III, SGT Gregory L. Wahl and PFC Lyndon A. Marcus were killed May 3 when the road they were traveling on collapsed, causing their vehicle to roll down into a canal.

Memorial services for their fellow Soldiers helped the men to grieve, said CPT Johnson. They channeled their sadness and anger in the right places, releasing it on the enemy in subsequent battles, he said.

The troop continues to carry on with its mission and have met with much success. Its Soldiers have captured and killed about 40 enemy personnel, said Thomas Johnson.

Although suffering much loss, morale among the troops remains high. And their commitment to the mission, particularly to each other, is unshakeable.

“I feel I’m definitely doing my duty as an American Soldier,” SGT Johnson said. “I feel that I’m doing it for my family back home. But when the fighting starts, it’s only for these guys right here.”



A memorial service was held at FOB Warhorse for CPT Christopher J. Kenny, SGT Marvin R. Sprayberry III, SGT Gregory L. Wahl and PFC Lyndon Marcus who were killed in an automobile accident 3 May 2004.

Seek -n- Find Canines

... help save lives

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPT L. PAULA SYDENSTRICKER
196TH MPAD

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, TIKRIT, Iraq — With the assistance of military handlers, man's best friend is contributing to the war efforts in Iraq by helping save Soldiers' lives.

Before civilians, vehicles and packages are allowed onto forward operating bases throughout the country, the dogs search for explosive devices, weapons and other contraband. At FOB Danger, three K9s -- two German Shepards and one Belgium Malinois -- share the searching duties. They also are taken on patrols with Soldiers.

One of the German Shepards and the Belgium Malinois belong to the Navy while the third dog belongs to the Army, which has a total of 20 in Iraq. All the dogs are from units that are based in Europe.

"Feels good to be part of the mission here," said Petty Officer, Master of Arms Two Jeremy Aldrich, one of the Navy dog handlers. "The Navy doesn't live shore to shore anymore; they perform land missions to accomplish the overall mission for the military."

Aldrich and another sailor, Petty Officer, Master of Arms Two Jason Hand and their dogs are currently serving a six month tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

Hand and his dog, Bak, a 7-year-old German Shepard, search and patrol the city.

"People ask me all the time if they can pet my dog and I always tell them no," Hand said.

He refuses to let others pet his dog because it's taught to respond to certain commands from the handler. Therefore, it gets confused if others pet it, he said.

The K9s and handlers go through four hours a week of proficiency training. One of the things that dogs are taught is the reward system. If they do a good job, they get a treat, a pat on the head and a ball or a chew toy.

"The dogs don't get paid with money, but by play or treats. We play with the dogs a lot," SGT Christopher Gronli said.

Gronli is with the 1st Military Police Company, the only Army dog handler stationed at FOB Danger. Sarbon, his 7-year-old dog, is trained in patrol explosive training.

All three dogs have the extra protection gear, which includes the booties, bullet-proof vests and the goggles — goggles for dogs.

Gronli says the dogs must go through a test to determine if they will make it through the five month long military course that trains dogs for all the military branches. He also said if the dogs pass the test, the military will purchase the animals and certify them at the end of their training.

The only place that trains the dogs and the handlers is Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. As part of their training, the dogs learn to distinguish between more than 10 explosive odors, Gronli said.

The animals have a smell receptor that ranges from 125 million to 250 million odors, whereas human smell receptors that's between 5 million and 15 million, according to Parkside Animal Medical Center in Fountain Hills, Ariz. The study also determines that the dogs' black, wet noses are so sensitive they can detect minute odor.

Along with the dogs getting certified, the Military Police or Master of Arms also has to go through an 11-week course that the Soldier must either request or is selected for.

All dog handlers must be in the police field beforehand.

"The military tries to get the dogs between six months to a year and half," Gronli said. The Act of 2000 allows the dogs to retire from the military after they are unable to fulfill their mission, in which case, the military de-certifies the animals. If the current handler or former handler wants to assume ownership, that is an option.

Aldrich says the hardest part about the job is the attachment that handlers develop with the dogs. The dogs are considered property of the Command of each post, therefore the animals remain at the post when the Soldiers move to another.

"You build a bond with the animal. They rely on you and you rely on them," Aldrich said, adding that most handlers treat their dogs better than they treat themselves.

Gronli added: "My mom sends me care packages, but they are for Sarbon not me."

The main factor that stresses the dogs and the handlers is the heat. The heat is an important factor in how much productivity you can expect from the animals.

Aldrich said the heat pounds away at the animals and it is very grueling.

The dogs and handlers work four hour shifts at the gate. While on duty and off, they try to keep the animals out of the sun as much as possible.

"I trained Rico to wear the booties before we got here, so he would be used to wearing them during the heat," Aldrich said. Rico is his 6-year-old Belgium Malinois.

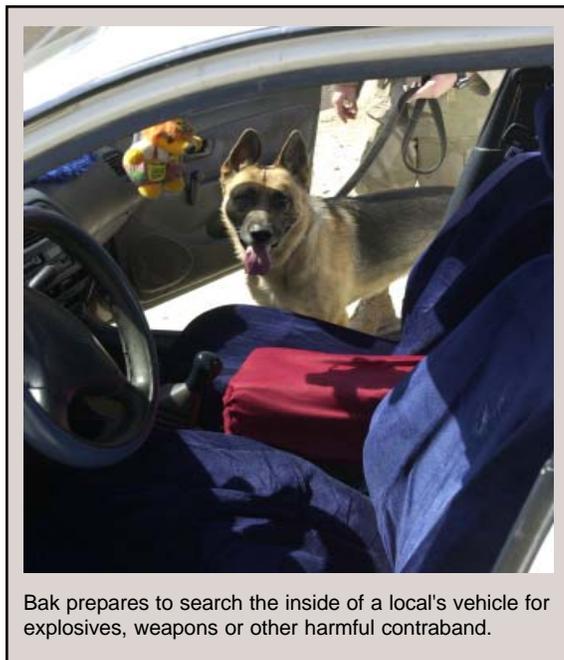
So while the Soldiers perform their mission inside the compound, they can rest assure that nothing bad is going to come in because the dogs are on duty.



During the proficiency training required for all dogs and their dog handlers, Rico listens to commands that prompt him to react.



SGT Christopher Gronli and his canine, Sarbon, perform a C4 search during the four hour proficiency training.



Bak prepares to search the inside of a local's vehicle for explosives, weapons or other harmful contraband.

Thirty plus years later ... seasoned vets still cooking

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SPC SHERREE CASPER
196TH MPAD

FORWARD OPERATING BASE ROUGH RIDER, DIYALA, Iraq – For many Soldiers, dining on some of the best cuisine here doesn't require reservations at a restaurant back home, just a short wait in the chow line.

And they have a trio of seasoned cooks in the Mobile Kitchen Trailer at FOB Rough Rider.

Three of the 10 West Virginia Army National Guard cooks with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 150th Armor Regiment, have served in a combat zone before.

SFC Henrey Hutteman, SPC Ricky R. Shafer and SPC Roy D. Cole are all Vietnam veterans who served in the active Army in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

"They actually cooked in Vietnam," said SFC Morris G. Yule, the battalion's food service noncommissioned officer in charge.

As a combat engineer and heavy equipment mechanic for the Army, Cole served in Phuvay, Vietnam, from January, 1970, to December 1970. Hutteman was an avionics mechanic who served in the combat zone from August, 1969 to January, 1971. Shafer worked as a mortician in Vietnam from January, 1969 to February, 1970.

Among the three Soldiers they have nearly 50 years of service in the Army and National Guard. Hutteman has served 17 years; Shafer, 16 and Cole, 16.

Not only do they keep the hungry troops happy, but the three men – all who are over 50 – have inspired the younger Soldiers.

"He has set the standard for the younger guys," Yule said of 54-year-old Cole.

Although he holds a lower rank on the enlisted pole, the W.Va. resident is known fondly as "Sergeant Major Cole."

"Even when the chips are down, he drives on," Yule said. "He is an inspiration to me."

During their mobilization at Fort Bragg, N.C., many younger Soldiers became undeployable because of medical reasons, Yule said. However, a day after all of Cole's teeth were pulled, he returned to training, Yule said.

"He doesn't miss a day of work," Yule said proudly of the retired food service supervisor for the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Beckley, W.Va.

As Soldiers began filing into the MKT, Cole began to ladle out portions on the trays.

Asked how he likes his job, Cole is matter-of-fact.

"Any job you do you have



SPC Ricky R. Shafer, a cook with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 150th Armor Regiment pours water into a pot to boil some pasta.

standards that you have to meet," he said. "Once you meet those standards, everything falls into place."

Many Soldiers on FOB Rough Rider think the cooks exceed the standards when it comes to whipping up meals.

After all, it takes a certain discipline to feed some 600 Soldiers with an average of 200 men and women turning up for breakfast.

Stirring a large metal pot of hot spaghetti sauce, Shafer, 53, turned his attention to a nearby pot full of boiling water.

"Needs a little more time," he said of the pot, which will cook pounds of pasta. As a civilian, Shafer is a maintenance engineer for a Holiday Inn Express.

in their product.

In fact, they are downright defensive about it.

Ask them about their thoughts on the mass servings by Kellogg, Brown and Root at some of the bigger FOBs and the guys scoff.

"Brown and Root should have never been let in the military," Shafer said with disdain. "No civilian should be able to do my job."

The younger cooks appear to hold the same sentiment.

"It's nice being able to do my job here," said SPC Mark R. Peters, 20, of Princeton, W.Va.

When he was tapped for deployment, Peters was a sophomore at Bluefield State College majoring in civil engineering. He's learning a lot from the more seasoned cooks and admires their stamina.

The 10 cooks at FOB Rough Rider are split pulling 12-hour shifts.

"We try to maintain a 24-hour operation," Yule said, of the two meals served daily.

Like many in a field environment, Soldiers here crack open a MRE for lunch.

But troops look forward to the two meals served by cooks inside the MKT.

After all, a hot shower, mail and good chow are three things that boost morale for those deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"It's all gone if you're not feeding them good," Yule said.

Standing in line, 1LT Alex J. Sanderson of Pembroke, N.C., was eager to grab some of the spaghetti and meatballs with some green beans on the side.

"These guys are the most popular people on the camp," Sanderson said. "It's great chow. It's one of the really good things that we have going here."



SPC Ricky R. Shafer, left, and SPC Roy D. Cole prepare dinner in the Mobile Kitchen Trailer on Forward Operating Base Rough Rider.

Combat patch has long history

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SPC JOE ALGER



MG John R.S. Batiste, 1st Infantry Division Commander, presents 1st ID Soldiers with their combat patches in a ceremony at Forward Operating Base Dagger, Tikrit, Iraq.



FORWARD OPERATING BASE DAGGER, Tikrit, Iraq - Soldiers from Forward Operating Bases Dagger, Warhorse and Caldwell received their 1st Infantry Division combat patch during three separate ceremonies June 6.

The awarding of the combat patch is a tradition dating back to World War II.

"You are now joining the ranks of your fathers and grandfathers who have worn this patch in the past," said MG John R.S. Batiste, 1st ID Commander, during his address to the patch recipients.

"You are all veterans tested under fire," he said.

PFC Stephen Cogan, a terrain analyst with the 517th Engineer Detachment, was among those who received a combat patch.

"My grandfather served with the 1st ID during World War II," Cogan said. "It's great to be serving in the same division as him and getting a combat patch."

The patch ceremonies were held on the 60th anniversary of the D-Day invasion of Normandy.

Thousands of 1st ID soldiers gave their lives during the historic invasion.

"This is a great day to reflect on the sacrifices of

so many and connect the past to the present," Batiste said.

The soldiers receiving the patches were happy to be making an impact on future generations as well.

"It's an honor to be a part of another turn in history and providing a safer place for the Iraqi people," said SGT LaDona Davis, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Division Engineer Brigade.

"It's nice to be part of a division with so much history," Davis said.

Soldiers to get side protection on body armor

BY JOE BURLAS
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Deployed troops will soon start getting side protection for their Interceptor Body Armor, thanks to the efforts of Program Executive Office Soldier.

The IBA Deltoid Extension was one of dozens of pieces of equipment PEO Soldier officials showed off to the Pentagon press corps during a media briefing June 14.

In the two years since the organization stood up, it has researched and fielded or is in the process of researching more than 350 pieces of equipment — everything from boots to parachutes to new rifles — in order to save Soldier lives, improve their quality of life and increase their effectiveness on the battlefield, said BG James Moran, PEO Soldier executive officer.

"Outfitting Soldiers is just as important as (acquiring) a major piece of equipment," Moran said.

At about 16 pounds, IBA is lighter than the 25-pound Vietnam-era flack jacket it replaced and it offers better protection, Moran said. The Deltoid Extension will add about another five pounds and protects the sides of the ribcage and shoulders.

However, the extension comes with a price for the Soldier. Moran explained that it can limit movement and block air from circulating under the body armor

— decreasing the Soldier's ability to cool off in a hot environment.

"Everything we do is a balance," Moran said. "We want all Soldiers to come back without any injuries. At the same time, we want them to be combat effective. Nothing can be made to be indestructible."

Despite the weight of IBA, Moran said he has no doubt that the new body armor has saved lives. In the past 18 months, the Army has purchased about 300,000 full sets of IBA.

The current Army budget buys 50,000 Deltoid Extension sets this fiscal year, all of which will be shipped to selected troops by the end of September, according to COI John Norwood, program manager for PEO Soldier—Equipment. The Army plans to request enough funding in next year's budget to equip all 132,000 Soldiers in the Central Command area of operations with the extension.

"We have a clever enemy, an adaptable enemy, so we must be clever and adaptable," Moran said.

Another piece of equipment PEO Soldier showed off is the Microclimate Cooling System now in use by Army aviation flight crews. The system is a liquid-filled vest worn next to the skin that is connected by a flexible tube to a 12-pound box that circulates the coolant. A quick disconnect allows users to move around the aircraft as necessary and a rheostat allows users to control the coolant temperature.

PEO Soldier tests of the system have demon-

strated that flight crews can increase flight times from 1.5 hours in a hot environment to about five hours, Moran said.

The third piece of equipment PEO Soldier demonstrated was the XM8 rifle. While the XM8 still faces four more formal tests before the decision is made whether to buy it, Moran said the Special Forces Soldiers and other troops who have tried it out all said they want it now.

There are three variants of the XM8: a light version with a collapsible stock and a 9.5-inch barrel, a standard version with a 12-inch barrel and a designated marksman version with a 20-inch barrel. While a longer barrel means greater weight, it also means greater accuracy over greater ranges and a higher rate of fire, Moran explained.

In addition to being lighter than the M16 and M4 rifles, the XM8 has the advantage of being easier to maintain with significantly lower problems with stoppages. The first XM8 tested fired 15,000 rounds without cleaning or lubrication without a first misfire, said COL Michael Smith, program manager for PEO Soldier—Weapons.

The last new type of rifle the Army has bought was the M16 in the 1960s, Moran said.

If the XM8 passes its remaining tests and the decision is made to buy it, the Army will likely purchase about 8,000 next fiscal year to equip two units of action, Moran said.

Renovated schools improve learning atmosphere



SGT Jake L. Tilseth, a Wisconsin National Guardsman with the 264th Engineer Group, makes some friends during a re-opening of one of the schools.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SPC SHERREE CASPER
196TH MPAD



SPC Robbin J.M. Goettl, a cook with the 264th Engineer Group, brings school supplies to help celebrate the re-opening.

KHUZAMYAH, Iraq – When children in this town return to school in the fall, they’ll be learning in newly refurbished surroundings, courtesy of the 264th Engineer Group.

Soldiers from the Wisconsin Army National Guard unit repaired the Mohlhl Primary School here and were making improvements to a nearby medical clinic in June. The unit also had a hand in refurbishing a grade school -- Al Biset -- in the City of Al Alem.

Prior to the renovations, children had to travel home just to use the bathroom, because there was no running water at the school in Khuzamayah, said MAJ Patrick D. Beyer, the projects officer.

With the bare necessities lacking there, Beyer said this caused a major disruption for students and teachers. The Berlin, Wisc., resident pointed out that education is critical in the rebuilding of Iraq.

“It’s important to me to bring back central services,” he said, referring to the need for everything from electric and water to education.

The refurbishing of the two schools and medical clinic cost \$50,000 each, and were funded by the Commander Emergency Relief Fund. Both schools consist

of six classrooms and two offices. The medical clinic, staffed by a doctor and two nurses, is comprised of a treatment room and doctor’s office.

While the Mohlhl School will welcome some 500 students in the fall, the Al Biset School in Al Alem will house about 150 students in its classrooms. Beyer said the small clinic serves 12,000 people in the area.

After the official ribbon cutting ceremonies at each school, Soldiers delivered about 500 pounds of donated school supplies from Operation Pencil Box.

SGT Jake L. Tilseth enjoyed helping deliver the mounds of boxes filled with everything from notebooks to folders, he said.

As a member of the South Dakota Army National Guard, the 26-year-old built schools in Nicaragua three years ago. Looking at the happy faces of the children in Khuzamayah as they scampered around their newly renovated school, the Menomonie, Wisc., resident said he felt a certain satisfaction.

“When you get to see the kids, it makes you feel as though you are doing something worthwhile,” Tilseth said.

As small hands tied to grab at the boxes she was

carrying inside the school, SPC Robbin J.M. Goettl couldn’t help but think of her 4-year-old daughter, Paige, back home in New Auburn Wisc.

“It feels great,” the 24-year-old said. “I wish I could do more for them.”

A cook with the 264th Engineer Group, Goettl described the experience as “awesome.”

Beyer wouldn’t mind if more Soldiers shared in that sentiment. In fact, they may get that opportunity.

“I have a boatload of future projects,” Beyer said.

Funding is currently being sought for four water treatment plants that will each serve 300 to 500 people in small villages along the Tigris River. Money is also being sought for a water distribution project that will serve five villages and 30,000 people in the Makhou Valley between Bajji and Sharquat.

Pricetag? About \$1.2 million.

Beyer said the 264th Engineer Group is helping to rebuild Iraq one project at a time.

Army gets new combat uniform

STORY BY
SGT. 1ST CLASS MARCIA TRIGGS
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON -- The Army will field a new combat uniform that was designed by noncommissioned officers and tested by Stryker Brigade Soldiers in Iraq since October.

On the Army’s 229th birthday in June, senior leadership introduced the Army Combat Uniform during a Pentagon cake-cutting ceremony. Soldiers were on display, suited-up in the wrinkle-free uniform with a digitized camouflage pattern.

Three different versions of the ACU have been developed, and more than 10,000 uniforms have been produced and dragged through the sand in Iraq and at

Army training centers. More are on American production lines to be issued by April 2005 to Soldiers in deploying units. Fielding to the total Army should be complete by December 2007, said officials from the Program Executive Office, known as PEO Soldier.

There were 20 changes made to the uniform, to include removing the color black and adapting the digital print from the Marine Corps uniform to meet the needs of the Army, said SFC Jeff Myhre, the Clothing and Individual Equipment noncommissioned officer in charge.

Black is no longer useful on the uniform because it is not a color commonly found in nature. The drawback to black is that its color immediately catches the eye, he added.

“The color scheme in the ACU capitalizes on the



SFC Jeff Myhre, sports the Army Combat Uniform, the recently approved wear for Soldiers.

environments that we operate in," Myhre said, adding that the current colors on the ACU are green-woodland, grey-urban environments and sand brown-desert.

The pattern is not a 100-percent solution in every environment, but a good solution across the board, he added.

"This isn't about a cosmetic redesign of the uniform," said COL John Norwood, the project manager for Clothing and Individual Equipment. "It's a functionality change of the uniform that will improve the ability of Soldiers to execute their combat mission."

Every change was made for a reason. The bottom pockets on the jacket were removed and placed on the shoulder sleeves so Soldiers can have access to them while wearing body armor. The pockets were also tilted forward so that they are easily accessible. Buttons were replaced with zippers that open from the top and bottom to provide comfort while wearing armor.

Patches and tabs are affixed to the uniform with Velcro to give the wearer more flexibility and to save the Soldier money, Myhre said. Soldiers can take the name-tapes and patches off their uniforms before laundering, which will add to the lifecycle of the

patches. Also, the cost to get patches sewn on will be eliminated, he added.

The ACU will consist of a jacket, trousers, moisture wicking t-shirt and the brown combat boots. It will replace both versions of the BDU and the desert camouflage uniform. The black beret will be the normal headgear for the ACU, but there is a matching patrol cap to be worn at the commander's discretion.

At \$88 per uniform, about \$30 more than the BDU, Soldiers will eventually reap gains in money and time by not having to take uniforms to the cleaners or shine boots.

The life of the ACU began in January 2003 when PEO Soldier teamed with Myhre, MSG Alex Samoba and SSG Matt Goodine - from the 1st Stryker Brigade, Fort Lewis, Wash.

The team looked at a number of uniforms and took the best part of each uniform and combined it into one. They built their first prototype and delivered 25 uniforms to Stryker squads at the National Training Center. After listening to their comments, the team went back to the lab and created prototype two.

Twenty-one uniforms were then delivered to Stryker Soldiers at the Joint Training and Readiness

Center, Fort Polk, La.

"We watched them as they entered and cleared rooms, as they carried their rucksack and all of the things they had to be able to do in the uniform, and then we came up with prototype three," Myhre said.

Two issues of the third version were given to the Stryker Soldiers deploying to Iraq. Three months ago, Myhre was among a team who visited Iraq to get more feedback from Soldiers.

"We would talk to Soldiers right after they had completed a mission while the benefits of the uniform were still fresh in their minds," he said. "We wanted to know how did the uniform help the mission."

SMA Kenneth Preston is one of the ACU's biggest supporters. He said major command sergeants major had a chance to see the uniform and give advice toward the final version.

"We have not made a major change to our uniforms since the BDUs (battle dress uniforms) were introduced in the early 1980s," Preston said. "This new uniform performs well in multiple environments. Its new pockets and color designs are a result of feedback from Soldiers in combat. Every modification made on the uniform was designed with a specific purpose and not just for the sake of change."

Engineers go it alone, save military money

**STORY AND PHOTO BY
CPT. L. PAULA SYDENSTRICKER
196TH MPAD**

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, TIKRIT, Iraq – Efforts by an Ohio Army National Guard engineer unit deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II recently saved the 1st Infantry Division about \$30,000.

The 1st ID would have had to met out that amount had it hired a civilian contractor to construct the Division Tactical Command Post. Instead, the money was saved when Charlie Company's 2nd platoon, 216th Combat Engineer Battalion took on the project in April.

The funds will instead be used for more important projects that will directly benefit the Iraqi people, officials said.

Construction of the DTAC took about six days. But in a normal situation, the DTAC would be constructed within six hours and operational in 18 hours, said MAJ Larry Reeves of Fayetteville, Ga. the DTAC's OIC. He's stationed with the 1st ID in Germany.

In addition to constructing the structure, the engineers, stationed at FOB Speicher, did the electrical wiring. Additionally, the platoon of 31 soldiers build four 16-foot by 16-foot offices that were attached to the main DTAC tent and serves as dual purpose bunkers, said SFC Timothy Lewis of Youngstown, Ohio. He's the platoon's noncommissioned officer in charge.

"The engineers make this a more livable and serviceable place to work," Reeves said.

The DTAC will house several groups to include the division engineers, intelligence unit, Fire Support Element, aviation, air defense and communications, Reeves said, adding that about 100 people will work in the structure.



SGT Raymond Boso trims the window section to place in the Division Tactical Command Post while SSG Todd Szabo stabilizes the board.

The Youngstown, Ohio-based 216th Engineer Battalion brought more than 540 Soldiers in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. When it landed in Iraq, the unit's Soldiers were dispersed to more than five FOBs within Task Force Danger. The engineers are attached to 264th Corps Engineer Group based out of Germany.

A car salesman from Cleveland, Ohio, SPC Joseph Reinert said his military job and the deployment has been a different experience compared to his civilian career.

"At work I use the gift of gab, but here it's physical labor," Reinert said.

Other soldiers discovered that the leadership skills they used back home were needed in their mission in Iraq. A school principal from Lorain, Ohio, SGT David Hall said he found the leadership skills he uses similar.

"If you care for your troops, they will care for you," he said, noting that the same applies to the teachers he oversees back home.

Helping a community one step at a time

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SPC SHERREE CASPER
196TH MPAD**

FORWARD OPERATING BASE COBRA, JALAWLA, Iraq - "Mount Up!"

With those words from 1LT Shaun Robinson, Soldiers from 2nd Platoon, Alpha Company, 252nd Armor Regiment climbed into their assigned Humvees and prepared to exit through the front gate of this base.

Their mission? A foot patrol of nearby Jalawla, home to a crowded market place. It's also an area prone to be targeted with Improvised Explosive Devices.

Robinson, the platoon leader, has led foot patrols into the city and adjacent area for the past few months.

A familiar sight often greets him and his Soldiers as they leave on their patrols. A shaggy, large mixed-breed dog is often found lying in the middle of the roadway just outside the gate of Forward Operating Base Cobra.

"Just keep driving, he'll move," Robinson advised the Soldier behind the wheel. Almost like clockwork, the tired canine lifted his head to stare straight at the approaching vehicle. He slowly got up and dragged his dirt-caked body to the side of the road and plopped down again.

"Told you," Robinson said, smiling with an air of authority on the matter.

A member of the Ohio Army National Guard, Robinson has been mounting up for the day and nighttime patrols. He and his men normally pull the mission three times a week.

Other Soldiers attached to Alpha Company, 252nd Armor Regiment, round out the patrols that are carried out three times a day in Jalawla and Seda.

Although the Ohio Guardsmen are actually assigned as tankers to Charlie Company, 107th Armor Regiment, they've been meshed with the North Carolina Army National Guard unit in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, said Robinson, a resident of Stowe, Ohio.

"It's nice that they kept our whole company together," he said. "We became Alpha Company, 252nd Armor Regiment so none of us would have to be split up."

For any outsider looking in at the Soldiers, one conclusion is instantly drawn. They have one another's backs and know the job that has to be done.

This was evident as the four-Humvee convoy pulled outside an Iraqi National Guard (ING) station on the outskirts of Jalawla.

Here, Robinson and his men linked up with some members of the ING. They are no strangers, as they shook hands and exchanged pleasantries. They've been through this drill more than a dozen times.

After deciding which Soldier would take point on the patrol, the men start up a steep, rocky hill leading to the center of the city, which gives way to a bustling market.

"They are nice people," Robinson pointed out as he turned the corner onto the main thoroughfare and was greeted by stares and waves from bystanders who appeared at times to bottleneck the streets.

"Sometimes though it gets hectic," he said, as he carried his M16A2 at the ready.



After a foot patrol in early May, 1LT Shaun Robinson questions a shepherd tending his herd whether he has seen anything suspicious in the area.

When there are no children playing on the streets, Robinson said it's a red flag.

A restaurant manager in his civilian life, he said insurgents are less likely to set off an IED if children are nearby.

Then again, he pointed out, the rebels are capable of just about anything.

Pointing over to the Iraqi Police Station in town, Robinson showed where an IED blew up only a week before. No one was killed.

"Usually we find them before they blow up," said SSG Jeffery Oyster of Alliance, Ohio.

A salesman in the pet industry, Oyster said finding an IED is almost a daily occurrence for those on patrol here.

Looking around the crowded streets where a cow can be seen lingering downtown without its owner, Oyster looked on as some strays searched for some shade in the sweltering afternoon sun.

"I have a heart for animals," he said.

Point man on the patrol, SSG James M. Davis said pulling foot patrol versus a mounted one on a tank has some parallels.

"You're using the same principles," said the postal supervisor from Canton, Ohio. "You're just a little more vulnerable."

After the foot patrol, the platoon headed to a nearby mountainous terrain for target practice. Robinson said it's done after every mission to ensure the weapons are working properly. The last thing they need is for firepower to malfunction while on a foot patrol.

Firing a 50 cal, SPC Bryan "Turtle" Holden is anxious to empty his weapon and hone his marksmanship proficiency.

"If someone tries to take a pot shot at you, you have to be ready," said the tanker from Akron, Ohio.



1LT Shawn Robinson patrols the city streets with help from a member of the ING.

PsyOps, Public Affairs hit the streets

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SPC ISMAIL TURAY JR.
196TH MPAD**

TIKRIT, Iraq -- As they stepped out of their vehicles in a Northern Tikrit neighborhood, 1st Infantry Division Soldiers immediately began scanning rooftops for possible snipers when they were ambushed.

The troops weren't attacked by insurgents that afternoon in May. Instead, members of the 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment and the 324th Psychological Operations Company were mobbed by nearly 20 children who were excited to see them.

The mission of the 324th PsyOps Co., was to meet with the local shaikh and deliver toys, coloring books and food to the children. The unit also wanted to test some of its products, said SFC Glenn Lewis, the company's product development detachment noncommissioned officer in charge.

"Al S'alam Wa Alekum," a little girl greeted a Soldier in Arabic as he exited a Humvee.

Before going to visit the shaikh and the neighborhood children, the two units spent several hours at Tikrit University. The 196th MPAD mission was to recruit student journalists while the 324th PsyOps Co., went to get the students' perception and attitudes about a number of issues, including their lives, the interim Iraqi government, Multi-National Forces and what they think will happen after the June 30 turnover of power.

The student journalists' job would be to write stories about the Multi-National Forces from the Iraqi perspective, said Maj. Neal O'Brien, commander of the 196th MPAD. They also would translate in Arabic stories written by American journalists to be published in local newspapers, he said.

The students would be allowed to write whatever they want, even negative stories, about the coalition,



SGT Michael McCarty of the 324th Psychological Operations Company passes out packages of MREs (Meal Ready to Eat) to a group of Iraqi children.

O'Brien said. Giving them that freedom is part of the Army's plan to introduce a free press in Iraq, he said, adding that the job would pay \$500 per month.

He was looking to hire two students who would be sent to Baghdad for basic journalism training, he said.

Some students eagerly took the flyers containing information about the job, promising to attend an information session on Forward Operating Base Danger the following Monday. However, a few declined, saying they would be forced to work as informants for the

Americans if they accepted the job.

In talking with the students, the 324th PsyOps Co., determined that some were in favor of the American-led occupation of Iraq, Lewis said. However, others felt that the Multi-National Forces are an inconvenience, and there is little security in the country, he said.

"The general perception is that they don't want us here," but in the same breath they said that the economy will worsen if the United States were to pull out of Iraq, Lewis said.

After leaving the university, the Soldiers went to visit a shaikh who has a following of about 1,000 people in the area. The Soldiers were swarmed by children as they stepped out of their trucks.

The children became even more excited when the 324th PsyOps Co., Soldiers distributed toys, including soccer balls, coloring books and coloring pencils, and packages of MREs (Meals Ready to Eat).

They were in awe when the public affairs Soldiers showed them images of themselves on digital and video cameras. Some of the Soldiers also took pictures with the children.

"The toys were just to win the hearts and minds of the children," Lewis said.

The primary reason for the visit was to test some of their psychological operations products on families who are loyal to the shaikh before distribution, Lewis said. Some of the products include leaflets and radio spots.

The shaikh and his followers also check spelling and grammar of brochures, leaflets and of stories for a newspaper that the 324th PsyOps Co., publishes for the local police.

PsyOps frequently visits the neighborhoods in the city to get people's feeling about the coalition forces, Lewis said. Sometimes his Soldiers make appointments with families. Other times they pick houses at random and stop at people's homes unannounced.

"We normally are well received," he said.



Members of the 324th Psychological Operations Company discuss with Tikrit University students the Iraqis' feelings pertaining to American-led occupation of Iraq.

Finance ... a morale necessity



**STORY BY CPL STEVEN JENSEN
HHD/106TH FINANCE BATTALION**

Manned by SFC Terry Dearman, SFC Shawn Smith and CPL Steven Jensen, the 106th Finance Battalion Disbursing section hit the ground running in Tikrit, Iraq. The disbursing section is in charge of the entire 1st Infantry Division's area of responsibility funds.

Since assuming responsibility from the 230th Finance Battalion, the 106th Finance Battalion Disbursing Cell has ensured that all funding and payment issues have been handled in an expedient and profes-

sional manner. They provide the funding for the Commanders' Emergency Relief Fund (CERP), Developmental Funds for Iraq (DFI) and ensure that all contractors receive prompt payments for services rendered to the U.S. government.

To date, the 106th Finance Disbursing Cell has made more than \$98 million in transactions. It has made more than \$39 million in contract payments, not to mention the millions of dollars in the hands of pay agents who also are putting money back into the Iraqi infrastructure.

Additionally, the disbursing cell is responsible for

ensuring that each outlying 106th Finance Detachment has enough funding to provide cashier operations. Without these operations, the Soldiers serving in Iraq would be unable to acquire money.

The 106th Finance Battalion disbursing section has improved operations and standards already set forth by its predecessors. As part of the Big Red One its Soldiers strive to ensure the bar is set and raised at every opportunity. They are the reason why the funds in the IID AO are being handled efficiently.

Detention Facility paradise next to old prisons

**STORY AND PHOTOS
BY SGT KIMBERLY SNOW
196TH MPAD**

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARHORSE, Iraq — The governor of Diyala province, along with two members of the provincial council and about 21 members of the press, convened here May 15 for a tour of this FOB's detention facility.

Local officials spoke to Diyala Governor Dr. Abdullah Hassan Rasheed al-Jburi — a dentist who lived in London -- requesting the visit following news coverage of the controversy surrounding detainee treatment at Abu Ghraib Prison.

"This is the first time a brigade-level facility has been opened to the press and the council," said 3rd Brigade Combat Team Commander COL Dana J.H. Pittard. "It's the first time since we've been here that anyone's asked to visit. So when the governor asked, we said 'of course.'"

Although the visitors were asked not to take pictures of the detainees, they were free to speak to them, said 1LT Nolan J. Barco, who oversees daily opera-

tions at the detention facility. Pittard provided the governor with pictures of each as well as the reasons they were being held.

"The detainees didn't complain of mistreatment," said 1LT Nolan J. Barco. "Their only complaint was boredom. Our translators told us they told (the council members and press) that they were actually pretty content with the treatment they received. They've even said this is paradise compared to the old regime's prisons."

MAJ Kreg Schnell, brigade intelligence officer, explained that all personnel who have contact with detainees receive training on their care.

"We do not touch the detainees unless they get physical," he said. "And we have never had to physically restrain a detainee. We provide them the same food that we eat, that the Soldiers eat. We get no better than they do."

Pittard encouraged the visitors to ask questions. When one reporter asked if everyone was innocent until proven guilty, "Of course," he replied, and gave a brief explanation of the American court system.

Barco, a platoon leader for 3rd Platoon, 1st Military Police Company, out of Vilseck, Germany, said that the facility consists of two holding cells and a medical treatment facility. It is equipped to hold up to 120 detainees, but they try to keep no more than 75, he said.

Detainees arriving at the facility are interviewed and questioned, said Schnell. A minimum of two people, usually a Soldier and an interpreter are present for the interview.

"When someone is accused of a crime against the Iraqi people, they're brought here with a file containing evidence against them," he said. "We sit down with the detainees and ask them about the charges against them. We want to get their story."

For detainees held at the facility, one of three things will happen to



COL Dana J.H. Pittard and Diyala Governor Abdullah field questions from provincial council members and press during a detention facility visit May 15 at FOB Warhorse.



A detainee is released from the FOB Warhorse detention facility May 15. The scheduled release occurred during a visit by Diyala Governor Abdullah and members of the provincial council and press.

them, said Pittard. They can be released to their mosque, tribal leader or home, transferred to a division-level facility or Iraqi prison, or turned over to Diyala police.

If a detainee is found to be falsely accused, he is released and paid \$3 - \$5 for each day he was detained. Pittard explained that they are paid because many are heads of family and haven't been able to take care of their families.

When he learned of this, Governor al-Jburi joked "people will turn themselves in for the money."

Pittard also explained that because this is a temporary facility, visitors are not normally allowed. However, detention facility officials work closely with Iraqi police, and share information daily. He explained that family members can get information on relatives through the Civil Military Operations Center located in Baqubah. In response to a request by one councilmember, he promised to also provide the information to the provincial council.

"It is very important to us for information to be shared with the people, so relatives know where detainees are," he said.

Ultimately, said Pittard, the goal is to close the detention facility and send all anti-Iraqi forces through the Iraqi court system.

Radar system aids in tracking mortars, combatants

STORY AND PHOTO BY
CPT L. PAULA SYDENSTRICKER
196TH MPAD

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SUMMERALL, BAJI, Iraq -- One may wonder who tracks the mortars coming in and gets the insurgents shooting them. How do Soldiers know what direction they're coming from and where to strike back?

Ssg Eric Baker, with Delta Company of the 1-33 FA out of Bamberg, Germany, provides counter-mortar coverage for his area of operation. Baker said he enjoys his job because of the mathematics and electronics involved. He oversees six Soldiers who track hostile fire, friendly fire as well as pinpoint locations to minimize the collateral damage to the civilian assets.

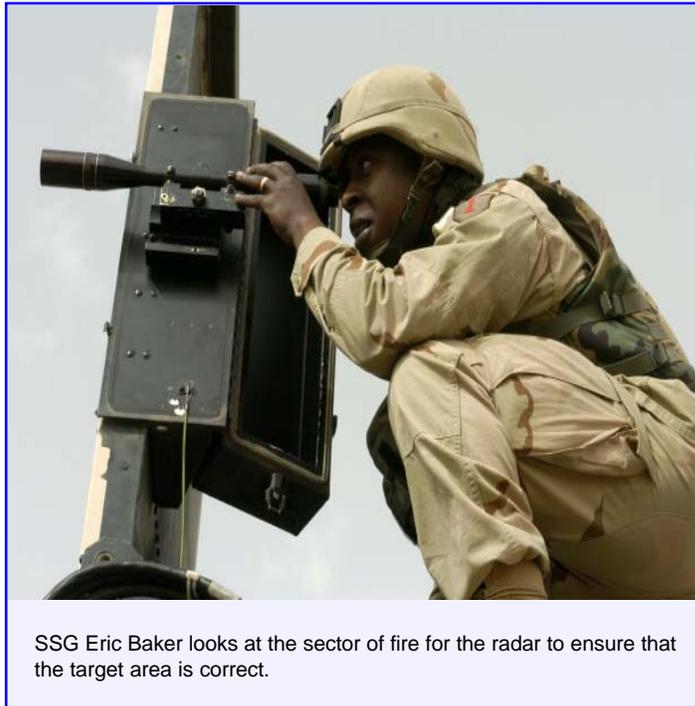
Operating in the desert is a unique environment, he said.

"It is hot, dry and sandy," Baker said. "You never know what is going to happen next."

There is a need for the radar system to track the insurgent's movement in Iraq, he said.

While the mortars are tracked by Baker, WO2 Greg Marcum of the Headquarter, Headquarters Battery of the Division Artillery Brigade tracks all the radars in the area of operations for the 1st Infantry Division as the counter-fire officer.

He maintains maintenance, positioning and parts for repairs on the 16 radars spread throughout all the



Ssg Eric Baker looks at the sector of fire for the radar to ensure that the target area is correct.

forward operating bases.

Marcum said he maintains contact with each intelligence officer and commander to determine the best azimuth and coverage available for each of the radars.

With Baker and Marcum collecting the data on where the targets hit, the directions they come from

and where the best area to place the radar to get the data needed, the 1-7 FA search for the insurgents that shoot the mortars.

Ssg Kenzie Wade with the 1-7 FA out of Schweinfurt, Germany, conducts a counter-mortar mission where Soldiers search for the guys who shoot the mortars and go after them.

Wade is the convoy sergeant in charge. He said they do several other missions like the convoy security, quick reaction force and counter-fire missions. The squad patrols are sent on three-to four-hour missions twice a day, at various times, to minimize fatigue. Wade said the squad tries not to do patterns with whatever mission they are on.

In order to make the roads safe for others, the engineers conduct route clearance, which means the unit drives on the roads to look for anything that is suspicious like improvised explosive devices, said 2LT Michael Scell, platoon leader with the 9th Engineer Battalion.

As the patrol went out to conduct the counter-mortar attack, the field artillery and engineer Soldiers separated to cover both sides of the road. There they wait for insurgents. The Soldiers said this is the tedious

part of the job. While waiting, they watch for enemy movement by foot or vehicle using night vision and heat thermal sighting goggles.

Fortunately, this night nothing happened.

"No contact is always good," Wade said.

Medics from Cavalry Regiment attend to trainees

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SPC ISMAIL TURAY JR.
196TH MPAD

FORWARD OPERATING BASE MCKENZIE, AD DULUIYAH, Iraq -- While the 1st Squadron, 4th U.S. Cavalry Regiment scouts train Iraqi National Guard (ING) soldiers, the unit's medics ensure that the trainees remain healthy to perform their duties.

"We treat them as if they are our own," said 1LT Doug Jerry, whose platoon is the ING's primary caregiver. "They know that they can come here and get the best care."

Jerry and his Soldiers treat the ING troops for a variety of ailments that range from the common cold to broken bones. There also are a few who make regular visits to the aid station for blood pressure testing and general health issues, said Jerry, of Arkansas.

Many of the ING soldiers also require a lot of dental care because they've never had it before, he said.

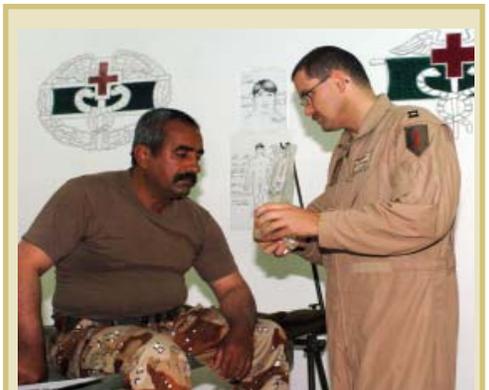
When the unit first arrived in the area more than four months ago, they treated up to 10 ING soldiers per day. Now, they treat up to four per day, Jerry said in April.

The most serious injury Jerry and his medics have had to treat was that of an ING soldier who was injured by shrapnel from a RPG. Jerry and his crew quickly treated his wounds and then transported him to Camp Anaconda for better care.

"We have to teach them to be soldiers and how to lead," but that won't be possible if they are not healthy, he said.



PV2 Danny Ratliff, a medic with 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, takes the blood pressure of ING soldier, Norie Saed, during an examination in April.



An ING soldier, Gazi Abdullah Jassam, left, listens intently as CPT Brian B. Cushing, a doctor with 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, request a urine sample during an examination in April.

Sojourning In Iraq

If you are like most people, you are probably wondering what the word sojourning means. It might interest you to know that every Soldier who is deployed to Iraq is currently sojourning here.

Have I aroused your curiosity? Well, to sojourn means to dwell in a strange land for a period of time as an alien or a non-resident, to live somewhere for a length of time in anticipation of returning to your homeland. Now I think you get the picture. Some of you are saying, "Iraq, yea this is a STRANGE LAND!"

Possibly you have had some of the prayerful thoughts like me. Have you wondered what the purpose is for you being here? I am not referring about the political or diplomatic reasons. Have you asked God why you are here?

I believe that our time here presents us with three main realities we are now forced to deal with here in this land that is strange to us.

First of all, we have a challenge to overcome. Existing as an alien in a country taxes our resources in mind, body and spirit. Many of us have faced unexpected obstacles since we have come to Iraq.

We have seen life-threatening situations that have caused many of us grief and sorrow. Hopefully, we have all grown much more appreciative of our own home that God has given us.

Secondly, we have had to respond to an opportunity to grow. We have had to learn to survive and hopefully we are maturing as individuals and Soldiers. It is my



BY CHAPLAIN (CPT) EVERETT FRANKLIN
1-21ST INFANTRY

prayer that we will become wise through this time of sojourning here in Iraq. Now, what does wisdom look like? Well, I believe that it is understanding the experiences of life in relation to the purpose and plan of God.

Third, I believe that with being here, God has given us time away from our normal circumstances to look beyond. He is challenging us to examine what our future holds and where He is calling us. Sojourning here in Iraq must propel us to seize that destiny that God has for our lives.

This desert experience will reveal our strengths and weaknesses, and God will disclose His plan for our lives if we listen intently.

There is a Biblical character named Abraham that God called out of a place that would later be known as Iraq. God led him to a place we now know as Israel. This later became known as a land of milk and honey or the Promised Land.

The Bible says that he dwelled there as a sojourner; as one who looked for a home whose builder and maker was God. We all look forward to returning to our homes. There is safety and family and friends there, but as we trust God, we will understand that we have an eternal home in His Kingdom.

As you sojourn here in Iraq, do so in the strength, power and plan that God brings to your life. As we do, the strangeness will be a little more bearable and the danger a little less frightening.



The Candle Burns for Peace

BY CHAPLAIN (MAJ) DAVID WAKE
DIVARTY

Many Americans support the Global War on Terror. This is the story of how one church with a personal connection to the Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division wanted to show its support through prayer.

My father, Chaplain (COL) Henry Wake, Ret., served in the Big Red One from 1986-1988 at Fort Riley, Kan. As the Division Chaplain to MG Gordon Sullivan, he continued to pray for the Soldiers as they prepared for possible conflict in far-away lands. He prayed that the combat leaders would have wisdom and courage in the face of adversity.

As his son, and as a new second lieutenant of armor at the time, I realized the great need for prayer and protection in the profession of arms.

In 2003 when the Armed Forces of the United States engaged in combat on Iraqi soil and at the urging of Pastor Dr. Patrick Wrisley, my father started a prayer candle vigil at his church, Celebration Presbyterian Church, in Celebration, Fla. The plan was simple: Light the candle at each service to remember the men and women defending freedom and making the ultimate sacrifice. That candle has burned at every service since January 2003.

When I was assigned as a chaplain to the 1st Infantry Division, my dad knew it would not be long before the Big Red One would get their marching orders. After a full year of worship services, the candle needed to be replaced. So my father called on me for a favor.

He asked if the Big Red One would supply the candle for the prayer vigil. This would physically connect the earnest prayers of the faithful in the United States to

the men and women going into harms way.

I informed COL Richard Longo, DIVARTY Commander, of the desire to form a partnership in prayer with the church in Celebration, Fla. The commander gave his full and enthusiastic support.

I first lit the BRO candle at a Prayer Breakfast in Bamberg, Germany.

The candle is emblazoned with the unit crests of the Division Artillery; 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment; 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment; 1st Battalion, 33rd Field Artillery Regiment and DIVARTY. This allowed the families to be a part of this important act of faith.

I physically carried the BRO candle to Iraq. The second lighting of the BRO Candle came on Easter Sunday morning at the Forward Operating Base Summerall Chapel in Baiji. The Soldiers present on that Resurrection morning prayed for safety, comfort and God's strength to complete the mission.

I then sent the BRO candle to my father so it could become a part of the Celebration Congregation prayer vigil. The third lighting of the BRO candle was done on Memorial Day, 2004.

Remembering all those who have defended freedom in the past, the veterans of Celebration Presbyterian Church prayed for the modern warriors.

The Celebration Presbyterian Church has sent its own prayer vigil candle to me in Iraq to keep the flame of faith burning in both houses of worship. When it arrives at FOB Summerall, it will burn brightly anytime God's people worship in peace.

Loss of a Brother



BY SPC TRAVIS RUNNELS
4-3 ADA CHAPLAIN'S ASSISTANT

We Will Never Forget.

Well, as we finish the final stage of the memorial, we begin to move on and accept what has happened. For most of the Soldiers in 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, this is one of our first experiences with the ultimate price of war, and all too often we forget that things like this can happen.

It serves as a reminder of how fragile life is and how we must live everyday to the fullest. Now that we have lost one of our brothers, the war becomes more personal for us as we are now forced to reflect on our losses and not just our accomplishments.

This was my first time dealing with the loss of a Soldier, and hopefully the last. The tremendous outcome and the overwhelming love that was expressed at the memorial showed the type of people Soldiers and Americans are.

The Theater was packed, as Soldiers came from everywhere imaginable. Whether they knew PFC Markus Johnson or not, Americans and Soldiers came to pay their respects. It was a simple ceremony designed to help the troops in the unit prepare to move on with the mission and respectfully say good-bye to a dear friend and a fellow Soldier.

It is sad that it often takes an event like this to help us to remember how great being a Soldier really is. The sacrifices we have made as Soldiers bring us together, and it shows the immense love and compassion we share for each other in

a time like this.

There was not a dry eye in the ceremony whether you knew him or not. We all came here together, served here together and are supposed to leave here together. There is a never-ending bond that only Soldiers will know, the loss of a brother is never accepted, and will always be honored.

There is something special that happens as you progress through the ranks and "make it," something special that allows you to consider yourself a Soldier. Many Americans don't know the joys that come with the sacrifice we make. The pride we all feel is expressed in our own ways; it can never be compared or questioned.

The Soldier that we lost died with honor and dignity, and most of all, the pride of knowing that he died making the ultimate sacrifice for his family, friends, fellow Soldiers and his country. He has moved on to be with God now; he is in a better place. We will always remember those who went all the way and helped to make this country what it is today.

Today we now must remember PFC Markus James Johnson and his contributions to his unit, the First Infantry Division, the United States Army and to his fellow Soldiers. He will never be forgotten.

Rest in peace, Markus. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. From one Soldier to another, "Thank You, I will never forget you."

In Memory of Task Force Danger and 1st Brigade Combat Team Soldiers killed while serving in Iraq through June 30, 2004

SSG Christopher E. Cutchall
D Troop, 1-4 Cavalry
September 29, 2003

2LT Todd J. Bryant
C Company, 1-34 Armor
October 31, 2003

SSG Gary L. Collins
A Company, 1-16 Infantry
November 8, 2003

SSG Mark D. Vasquez
A Company, 1-16 Infantry
November 8, 2003

SPC Joseph L. Lister
B Company, 1-34 Armor
November 20, 2003

SPC Thomas J. Sweet II
Service Battery, 1-5 Field Artillery
November 27, 2003

SPC Uday Singh
C Company, 1-34 Armor
December 1, 2003

SGT Ryan C. Young
A Company, 1-16 Infantry
December 2, 2003

SGT Jarrod W. Black
B Company, 1-34 Armor
December 12, 2004

SGT Dennis A. Corral
C Company, 1st Engineer Battalion
January 1, 2004

SFC Gregory B. Hicks
B Troop, 1-9 Cavalry
January 8, 2004

SPC William R. Sturges Jr.
B Troop, 1-9 Cavalry
January 24, 2004

SPC Jason K. Chappel
B Troop, 1-9 Cavalry
January 24, 2004

SGT Randy S. Rosenberg
B Troop, 1-9 Cavalry
January 24, 2004

CPT Matthew J. August
B Company, 1-9 Engineer Battalion
January 27, 2004

SFC James T. Hoffman
B Company, 1-9 Engineer Battalion
January 27, 2004

SGT Travis A. Moothart
B Company, 1-9 Engineer Battalion
January 27, 2004

SSG Sean G. Landrus
B Company, 1st Engineer Battalion
January 29, 2004

PFC Nichole M. Frye
415th Civil Affairs Battalion
February 16, 2004

2LT Jeffrey C. Graham
C Company, 1-34 Armor
February 19, 2004

SPC Roger G. Ling
C Company, 1-34 Armor
February 19, 2004

SFC Richard S. Gottfried
HHC, Division Support Command
March 9, 2004

SSG Joe L. Dunigan Jr.
B Company, 1-16 Infantry
March 11, 2004

SPC Christopher K. Hill
B Company, 1-16 Infantry
March 11, 2004

CPT John F. Kurth
B Company, 1-18 Infantry
March 13, 2004

SPC Jason C. Ford
B Company, 1-18 Infantry
March 13, 2004

SPC Jocelyn L. Carrasquillo
HHC, 1-120 Infantry
March 13, 2004

SPC Tracy L. Laramore
B Company, 1-18 Infantry
March 17, 2004

SPC Clint R. Matthews
B Company, 1-18 Infantry
March 19, 2004

PV2 Ernest H. Sutphin
B Battery, 2-11 Field Artillery
March 19, 2004

PFC Jason C. Ludlam
HHC, 2-2 Infantry
March 19, 2004

PFC Dustin L. Kreider
B Company, 1-26 Infantry
March 21, 2004

SPC Adam D. Froehlich
C Battery, 1-6 Field Artillery
March 25, 2004

1LT Doyle M. Hufstедler
B Company, 1st Engineer Battalion
March 31, 2004

SPC Sean R. Mitchell
B Company, 1st Engineer Battalion
March 31, 2004

SPC Michael G. Karr Jr.
B Company, 1st Engineer Battalion
March 31, 2004

PFC Cleston C. Raney
B Company, 1st Engineer Battalion
March 31, 2004

PVT Brandon L. Davis
B Company, 1st Engineer Battalion
March 31, 2004

PFC John D. Amos II
C Company, 1-21 Infantry
April 4, 2004

SGT Lee D. Todacheene
HHC, 1-77 Armor
April 6, 2004

SFC Marvin L. Miller
C Troop, 1-4 Cavalry
April 7, 2004

SPC Isaac M. Nieves
A Company, 82nd Engineer Battalion
April 8, 2004

SSG Raymond E. Jones
C Company, 1-7 Field Artillery
April 9, 2004

SSG Toby W. Mallet
C Company, 1-7 Field Artillery
April 9, 2004

SPC Allen J. Vandayburg
C Company, 2-2 Infantry
April 9, 2004

SPC Peter G. Enos
HHB, 1-7 Field Artillery
April 9, 2004

SGT William C. Eckhart
F Troop, 4th Cavalry
April 10, 2004

PV2 Nathan P. Brown
C Company, 2-108 Infantry
April 11, 2004

SSG Victor A. Rosaleslomeli
A Company, 2-2 Infantry
April 13, 2004

SGT Christopher Ramirez
B Company, 1-16 Infantry
April 14, 2004

SPC Richard K. Trevithick
C Company, 9th Engineer Battalion
April 14, 2004

SGT Brian M. Wood
A Company, 9th Engineer Battalion
April 16, 2004

SPC Marvin A. Camposiles
HHC, 1-26 Infantry
April 17, 2004

PFC Shawn C. Edwards
B Company, 121st Signal Battalion
April 23, 2004

SPC Martin W. Kondor
A Company, 1-63 Armor
April 29, 2004

SGT Joshua S. Ladd
367th Maintenance Company
April 30, 2004

SPC Trevor A. Win'e
24th Quartermaster Company
May 1, 2004

CPT John E. Tipton
HHC, 1-16 Infantry
May 2, 2004

SSG Todd E. Nunes
A Company, 1-21 Infantry
May 2, 2004

CPT Christopher J. Kenny
F Troop, 4th Cavalry
May 3, 2004

SSG Marvin R. Sprayberry III
F Troop, 4th Cavalry
May 3, 2004

SGT Gregory L. Wahl
F Troop, 4th Cavalry
May 3, 2004

PFC Lyndon A. Marcus
F Troop, 4th Cavalry
May 3, 2004

SPC James J. Holmes
C Company, 141st Engineer Battalion
May 8, 2004

SPC Phillip D. Brown
B Company, 141st Engineer Battalion
May 8, 2004

SPC Marcos O. Nolasco
B Company, 1-33 Field Artillery
May 18, 2004

SSG Joseph P. Garyantes
B Company, 1-63 Armor
May 18, 2004

SPC Michael C. Campbell
Headquarters Troop, 1-4 Cavalry
May 19, 2004

SPC Owen D. Witt
B Company, 1-4 Cavalry
May 23, 2004

PFC Markus J. Johnson
D Battery, 4-3 Air Defense Artillery
June 1, 2004

CPT Humayun S. M. Khan
HHC, 201st Forward Support Battalion
June 8, 2004

PFC Jason N. Lynch
C Company, 1-6 Field Artillery
June 18, 2004

SPC Patrick R. McCaffrey Sr.
A Company, 579th Engineer Battalion
June 22, 2004

2LT Andre D. Tyson
A Company, 579th Engineer Battalion
June 22, 2004

SPC Daniel A. Desens Jr.
A Company, 1-120 Infantry
June 24, 2004

CPT Christopher S. Cash
A Company, 1-120 Infantry
June 24, 2004

HISTORY... how much do you know

1) At the time the Declaration of Independence was signed, the US consisted of how many colonies:

- a. 11
- b. 13
- c. 10
- d. 15

2) The colonies fell under the rule of England's King:

- a. King George III
- b. King Arthur I
- c. King Henry VIII
- d. King Louis II

3) Delegates from the colonies formed the First Continental Congress where:

- a. Washington D.C.
- b. Ellis Island
- c. Boston
- d. Philadelphia

4) The major objection the colonies had with England was over:

- a. Equal Rights
- b. Taxes
- c. Tea Shortage
- d. Land Ownership

5) The first draft of the Declaration of Independence was written by:

- a. Benjamin Franklin
- b. John Adams
- c. Thomas Jefferson
- d. John Hancock

6) Who was the first person to sign the Declaration of Independence:

- a. Philip Livingston
- b. Thomas Jefferson
- c. John Hancock
- d. Roger Sherman

7) The Declaration of Independence was signed on:

- a. July 7, 1777
- b. July 4, 1767
- c. July 7, 1776
- d. July 4, 1776

8) The Liberty Bell, which rang in Independence Hall, was first called:

- a. Province Bell
- b. Colonial Bell
- c. Freedom Bell
- d. Concord Bell

9) The Declaration of Independence was not actually completed until:

- a. August 1776
- b. September 1776
- c. October 1776
- d. November 1776

10) The 4th of July was not declared a legal holiday until:

- a. 1780
- b. 1876
- c. 1910
- d. 1941