



Task Force Danger

September 6, 2004

# *BRO Progress*

*1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division*

## 'Quarterhorse' rides to engage the local populace

FORWARD OPERATING BASE MCKENZIE, Iraq -- "All stations this net, all stations this net, three minutes until blast," warned a member of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team.

From within the group of vehicles, a humvee with a loud speaker broadcasted a warning to local Iraqi civilians. Waiting patiently in a staggered column for the improvised explosive device on the road to be detonated was a convoy ready to do its part in "Operation Quarterhorse Rides."

"The commander's intent here was to move into an area that hadn't had a lot of presence in quite some time," said MAJ Michael C. McCurry, chief of staff for the 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment.

Since May, levels of Anti-Iraqi Forces activities against coalition forces have increased throughout the country, Army officials said.

McCurry said most of the attacks against Task Force Sabre have happened in the last three months, causing civil affairs projects in the area to cease. In order to re-establish communication with the local populace, Task Force Sabre conducted increased area security operations in the City of Ad Duluiyah.

The Soldiers in the Headquarters and Headquarters Troop (HHT) convoy were a mix of people from 415<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion, 324<sup>th</sup> Psychological Operations Company (PSYOP), the Tactical Human-intelligence Team and even American civilians working as Iraqi Police Liaison Officers.

Each had a different focus, but pooled together to provide security on the mission.

"The first night Alpha troop went in, we were successful in detaining five of the named attackers," McCurry said.

The following three days HHT's convoy traveled to the towns of Dawoodia and Bichegan.

It was in the town of Dawoodia that the CA team initiated an immediate labor

project by hiring 44 Iraqi men for the day to pick up trash in the streets.

The project was designed to employ men on a temporary basis and help boost the local economy, said 1LT Kevin Calkins, 1-4 Cavalry's S-5 officer. "It also allows them to earn money to take care of their families."

Civil Military Operations assessments, which evaluate the infrastructure, politics and even demographics, are one of the major responsibilities of civil affairs.

The CA team surveys these small communities for any future civil affairs projects that will improve the local

economy or the local infrastructure.

"Basically, we want to improve the quality of life for the people in that area," McCurry said. While the civil affairs team continued its mission and met with community leaders about the water treatment center and rebuilding the school, the PSYOP team passed out pamphlets and talked with the locals.

"We're just meeting the people, trying to build a rapport with them," said SGT Mark Williams, a team sergeant with the 324<sup>th</sup> PSYOP Co. "You know, the American troops coming around... just showing themselves."



# Warrior Brigade inspects progress on two projects

Soldiers from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division met with local Shia leaders (below) to inspect projects targeted at the Shia residents in the Uroba sector of central Kirkuk on August 16.

At the 4<sup>th</sup> Bridge Train Trestle, workers are currently repainting the trestle and improving the Iraqi Security Force guard building. The building will offer protection from improvised explosive devices and small arms fire, as well as provide shade and air conditioning for the traffic control points.

The Domies water tower project (right) consists of repairing the pipes and valves to ensure safe water is available for the local residents.



# Dibis clean the city walk and graffiti removal

Local officials and Soldiers from Charlie Battery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery inspired residents of Dibis to clean up the city by conducting a Clean the City walk on August 17.

City officials, Iraqi National Guard,

Coalition Soldiers, and Police encouraged the citizens to use the city's new trash barrels while members of the Kurdistan Democratic Party and Patriotic Union of Kurdistan political parties painted over graffiti that was applied by their political

party supporters.

This event promoted and encouraged the citizens to clean up the city and take pride in their neighborhoods. The event also encourages multi-ethnic tolerance and defused political tension by removing ethnically and politically charged graffiti.

