

Danger

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Forward

Volume 1, Issue 7

October 2004



Occupational Hazards

EOD technicians put their lives on the line to save others, p. 8



TRAINING FOR TOMORROW

Iraqi National Guard soldiers conduct training on how to clear a building at the ING Compound in Taza Sept. 21.

On the cover

CPT Joseph A. Kling of the 748th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company collects shrapnel from a crater created by an IED that detonated along MSR Tampa in August.

Photo by SPC Ismail Turay Jr.

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MESSAGE FROM DANGER SIX

As we move into the ninth month of the Operation Iraqi Freedom II mission, I could not be more proud of the 1st Infantry Division Combat Team, to include deployed soldiers, rear detachments, and family members.

We are collectively accomplishing so much in our important work to defeat the insurgency in Iraq, move the country towards freedom and a representative government, and defeat terrorism.

The Big Red One team should take enormous pride in our accomplishments, from decisively defeating the insurgents in places like Baqubah, Hawija, Bayji, Tikrit, Balad, and Samarra, to achieving normalcy in our four provinces of North-Central Iraq, to training and equipping the best Iraqi Security Forces in Iraq, to improving infrastructure and putting people back to work, to setting the conditions for national elections in January 2005, to addressing head on the difficult resettlement issues in the Kirkuk and Diyala Provinces, to setting the Army standard in Rear Detachment operations.

We are fighting an unpopular insurgency in Iraq and the vast majority of the people want nothing to do with the anti-Iraqi forces.



MG JOHN R. S. BATISTE

Indeed, the people of Iraq want and deserve a better future, and that is precisely what we are helping them achieve.

Perhaps our biggest accomplishment is our work to produce very capable Iraqi Security Forces, to include the Iraqi National Guard, Iraqi Police and the Department of Border Enforcement. Our training programs and regional training centers, unit partnerships, world class Joint Coordination Centers and team work with International Police Advisors are setting the standard in Iraq.

Our joint operations with the Iraqi Security Forces are achieving incredible results. The dedication and fighting skills of the Iraqi 36th Commando Battalion, the 7th Iraqi Army Battalion, the Ministry of Interior 1st Special Police Battalion, and three Iraqi National

Guard Battalions were fundamental in the fight to reclaim Samarra.

We have achieved irreversible momentum. Our collective commitment and sacrifices are paying off in spades. The legacy of the Big Red One continues. May God bless each and every one of you. Continue mission.

--Danger 6

MESSAGE FROM DANGER SEVEN

Nine months have passed and the Soldiers of Task Force Danger continue to make big strides in improving our sectors. Every day we take AIF off the streets that have indiscriminately killed and terrorized their own people. We have spent countless hours training the Iraqi Security Forces to step up and assume the mission of securing their country. Every project we start puts Iraqis to work and every project we finish improves their quality of life.

It is difficult for you to see changes in your area of operation because you are out there and it has been slow and subtle. If you were to travel around to the entire area of operation, you would notice a massive difference. All sectors in the Task Force continue to show big improvements. People who would give you cold stares before now will wave. Kids run to the road to give you the thumbs up. More and more Iraqis are giving valuable information on AIF and weapons cache. All these actions add up to only one thing, "trust." We are starting to finally break through the wall



CSM CORY MCCARTY

between them and us. I attribute this to our Soldiers treating all with dignity and respect and the will of every Soldier in Task Force Danger to make Iraq better in our time here.

As our time grows short in this mission, we must continue to strive for improvement. I don't think anybody wonders why we are here anymore. Out in sector, I only see discipline, motivation and determination in your faces. I am sure the good people are feeling better and the AIF are feeling threatened. You are making a difference everyday. The good things are starting to outnumber the bad. Scores of Iraqis are joining our team to rid their country of terrorism and former regime elements. Regardless of what you see on the news, I give you my word that we are winning. We are winning because we are a team with one common goal, to rid terrorism not only from Iraq, but from the face of the earth.

DUTY FIRST!

--Danger 7





SPC David C. Dyer



SGT Roland G. Walters

Left: MG John R. S. Batiste, Commander of the 1st Infantry Division, and BG Dan Hickman, Commander of the 30th Brigade Combat Team, present Combat Infantryman Badges and Combat Medic Badges to 30th Brigade troops at a ceremony held on Forward Operating Base Caldwell Sept. 20.

Top: Hamad Hamood, governor of Salah Ad Din Province, along with military and U.S. Agency for International Development officials, cut a ribbon during the Tikrit Bridge re-opening ceremony Sept. 22.

Below: A Soldier with Task Force 1-26 pulls security down the road from the Golden Mosque in Samarra while LTC Eric O. Schacht, Commander of the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, met with the city council Sept. 15. (Photo by SGT Roland G. Walters)





SGT Roland G. Walters



SGT Roland G. Walters

Top: SGT Winston O. Thomas, a member of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, dribbles the ball past a 201st ING soldier during the Partnership Day soccer tournament Sept. 1 in Tikrit.

Left: 2LT Lee Tate, a Soldier with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, plays the bagpipes during a Patriot Day ceremony at FOB O'Ryan.

Bottom: SFC Keith R. Jones, master gunner with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade, tallies the score during a field stripping and firing competition at FOB Warhorse Sept. 3. (Photo by SGT Kimberly Snow)





SGT Roland G. Walters

Top: MG Aziz, 4th ING Division Commander, and MG John R.S. Batiste, 1st Infantry Division Commander, present certificates of achievement to six honor graduates of the Primary Leadership Development Course on Oct. 9 in Tikrit.

Right: SGT Christopher Dingus assists 1SG Matthew F. Nisbet with his bomb suit during an IED encounter on MSR Tampa in August. Both Soldiers are members of the 748th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company. (Photo by SPC Ismail Turay Jr.)

Below: SPC Michael B. Lamb, a Panther driver with Bravo Company, 9th Engineer Battalion, sets up the robotics system for the M1 Panther during a remote controlled demonstration at FOB Remagen on Sept. 9. (Photo by SGT Roland G. Walters)



Explosive Ordnance Disposal

Endangering so others

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

BALAD, Iraq -- As they approached the black milk crate in the median of Main Supply Route Tampa, the team of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Soldiers knew they had to act fast, or someone on the convoy would die.

The crate, with wires sticking out of its side, appeared to be an Improvised Explosive Device. So the members of the 748th EOD Company and their escorts from the 81st Brigade Combat Team sped out of the kill zone - they were just outside of this city, which is an hour north of Baghdad.

About a minute after the convoy stopped a half block or so away, the bomb exploded as armor piercing shrapnel flew in all directions. Immediately, the Soldiers took cover behind their vehicles and pulled security. Then 1SG Matthew F. Nisbet and CPT Joseph A. Kling, both of the 748th, sprang into action. They grabbed their EOD equipment - robot and its re-

mote control, bomb suit and the like - to begin clearing the scene and defuse other bombs that might be in the area.

Like hundreds of EOD technicians in Iraq, Kling and Nisbet put themselves in harm's way nearly every day as they tend to IEDs and a myriad of other bombs intended to kill American troops. But despite the dangers that come with being an EOD technician, both Soldiers say they enjoy their profession, and they don't think about the dangers involved when they work with bombs.

While performing their jobs, EOD technicians must be meticulous because there is no room for error. A mistake could be their last. Still, Nisbet said his job is the easiest and safest in the military because he does not have to deal with unpredictable people.

"I have confidence in myself and my team leaders who have been trained to know what that piece of ordnance is going to do," the California native said. "So it's easier to deal with something that I know than it would be to have to deal with people and crowds."

As of early October, six EOD technicians - five Soldiers and one Marine - had died while attempting to diffuse bombs since the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq began in 2003, Nisbet said. The 748th has not lost any

soldiers, he added.

The company has seven two-man teams at locations throughout the country. Those include Forward Operating Bases Warhorse, O'Ryan and Brassfield-Mora, which are all in the 1st Infantry Division's areas of operations

The Ft. Jackson, S.C.-based unit had responded to 1,067 incidents as of Oct. 1, said Kling, a West Point graduate. The company has been in Iraq since March.

Meanwhile, along MSR Tampa, as Kling and Nisbet prepared their equipment, a man wearing a white t-shirt was seen sprinting across a field, away from where the IED had exploded. The soldiers opted not to shoot him because they would have injured several civilian motorists who were in the area.

Besides, they weren't certain that he detonated the IED, Nesbit said.

"But it's kind of weird that he started running at the same time the IED (detonated)," he said.

A security team went to the only house in the area to search for the man, but did not find him. The residents denied seeing him and the team did not have enough people to search the mini-mansion without endangering the Soldiers.

PFC Andrew Gernux, left, and SGT Carl Tucker, both of the 748th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, pull security moments after a roadside bomb detonated along Main Supply Route Tampa in early August.



themselves may live

Back on the highway, Nisbet and Kling followed the usual procedures of disarming bombs and clearing the scene. First, they stopped traffic as the troops pulled security. The EOD technicians then sent the robot, which was equipped with a camera, to search for other bombs in the area.

“A lot of time after IEDs detonate, you think it’s safe and you go walking down there and there is a secondary bomb,” Nisbet said. “So the first thing you do is send the robot.”

When the robot found no other explosives in the area, Nisbet donned the 52-pound Med-Eng 8 bomb disposal suit. The suit is meant for protection, but it doesn’t make the technician invincible.

As Nisbet searched the area, everyone appeared to be on edge as they held their collective breaths.

Nibet spent several minutes searching the side of the road before determining that it was safe. He and Kling said that the IED that detonated was a 130mm bomb. It dug a hole that was nearly 2 feet deep and 4 feet wide.

The pieces of shrapnel were about a foot long each and could have easily penetrated the humvees and killed a couple of Soldiers had the IED not malfunctioned while the convoy was in the kill zone, Nisbet said.

“We were really lucky,” he said.



1SG Matthew F. Nisbet (front) and SGT Christopher Dingus, both of the 748th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, prepare to clear a scene moments after an Improvised Explosive Device detonated. The Soldiers' convoy was traveling north on Main Supply Route Tampa, just outside of the city of Balad, in early August when the IED exploded.

Right: Shell fragments from an IED explosion along Main Supply Route Tampa in August.



Below: CPT Joseph A. Kling, Commander of the 748th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, readies a robot during a roadside bomb encounter on Main Supply Route Tampa in August.



Country musician serenades U.S. troops in combat zone

PERFORMANCE BY CHELY WRIGHT

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SPC JOE ALGER
1ST ID PAO

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SUMMERALL, BAYJI, Iraq – Soldiers here were treated to an evening of country crooning Sept. 19, courtesy of Chely Wright and her band.

Wright, who performed as part of the “Stars for Stripes” tour, entertained American troops in five Iraqi cities between Sept. 13-22. Prior to going to FOB Summerall, she played in the Green Zone of Baghdad.

Chely Wright, one of People Magazine’s “50 most beautiful people” sings for the Soldiers on FOB Summerall Sept. 19.

“Stars for Stripes” is a non-profit group committed to providing quality entertainment to deployed troops. Wright’s concert marked the third SFS tour of South-west Asia in the past year. The previous two included sending two country artists to the theater for its “Seasons Greeting Tour” during the 2003 holiday season and the “Summer Salute Tour” in June and July. The tours are paid for by a Department of Defense organization, Armed Forces Entertainment.

Prior to the show, Wright met with Soldiers, civilians and Iraqi National Guard members who wanted to catch a glimpse of the singer, one of People Magazine’s “50 Most Beautiful People.”

After signing autographs and posing for pic-

tures, Wright took the stage to “bring a little bit of home to you,” she later said.

“These entertainers aren’t paid extra to come here, they’re just here to play the best show of their lives to show support for the Soldiers,” said LTC Kyle McClelland, Task Force 1-7 Commander. “Their sincerity really touches your heart.”

Wright, whose brother, Marine Gunnery Sgt. Christopher Wright, recently served in Iraq, enjoys performing in front of troops for several reasons.

“I was taught at a very early age to appreciate those serving and having served in the armed forces,” she said. “Performing for the troops fills up my heart, inspires me, galvanizes my appreciation for life and freedom and makes me feel like I’m doing something valuable.”

This series of concerts marked Wright’s second Stars for Stripes tour.



Country music singer Chely Wright meets with two Iraqi National Guard members at FOB Summerall near Bayji prior to her Sept. 19 concert.



Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Summerall, listen intently while country music singer Chely Wright performs for them during a concert in September.

Band rocks Soldiers at FOB Speicher

Group leader: 'I can honestly say playing for the Soldiers here in Iraq was the best show I've done in my entire life'

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SPC JOE ALGER
1ST ID PAO**

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, TIKRIT, Iraq -- For many deployed Soldiers, fighting boredom and monotony can be just as difficult as battling the enemy.

Fortunately for Soldiers here, Puddle of Mudd, the rock band behind hit songs such as "Blurry" and "Control," helped the troops do that by putting on a concert Sept. 12.

"All the men and women of the armed forces are over here working hard every day, and we figured coming out here and playing a show for them was the least we could do," said Wes Scantlin, lead singer and guitarist for POM.

Soldiers around the FOB were delighted to hear of the band's arrival.

"I couldn't believe we were going to get a chance to see a live band in a deployed environment," said PFC Rebecca Smith, a network administrator with the 38th Personnel Support Battalion. "Not too many bands would agree to come out here and play like that."

While the band jumped at the chance to play in front of Soldiers, getting to Iraq was a long journey.

"We traveled almost halfway around the world to get here," Scantlin said. "We flew from L.A. to Germany, Germany to Kuwait and took a C-130 from Kuwait to FOB Speicher."

Once the band arrived at FOB Speicher, it was taken to the dining facility for dinner before being given a brief tour of the FOB and meeting with Soldiers at the hospital.

"Being over here has been a very humbling experience," Scantlin said. "It makes me appreciate my life back in the States a lot more."

Finally, it was time for the band to take the stage.

The thousands of Soldiers who packed the seats of the abandoned soccer stadium at FOB Speicher enjoyed every minute of the concert as they sang along to their favorite songs.

"I've probably played over 1,000 shows in my life and I can honestly say playing for the Soldiers here in Iraq was the best show I've done in my entire life," Scantlin said.

After the concert the band stayed for several hours signing autographs and meeting with Soldiers.

"They interacted with us really well," Smith said. "They're really cool people."

The band was equally impressed with the Soldiers they met during their trip to Iraq.

"All the Soldiers over here are amazing," Scantlin said. "We had a great time and we'd come back and do it again any time."

Prior to playing at FOB Speicher, POM had played for Soldiers in Baumholder, Germany.



Wes Scantlin, guitarist and lead singer for Puddle of Mudd, signs a guitar for Soldiers at FOB Speicher prior to the concert in September.



Wes Scantlin thanks Soldiers for their service at a FOB Speicher dining facility.



Douglas Ardito, bass player for Puddle of Mudd, lays down some funk during a concert at Forward Operating Base Speicher.



Members of the rock band Puddle of Mudd meet with PVT Jeff Burdette, 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, at a hospital on Forward Operating Base Speicher.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle keeps a watchful eye over Baqubah



An RQ-7A "Shadow" UAV lands at FOB Warhorse after a reconnaissance flight Aug. 31 .

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT KIMBERLY SNOW 196TH MPAD

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARHORSE, BAQUBAH, Iraq — In the Tactical Operations Center (TOC), all eyes were glued to a video screen.

Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team watched as four 500-pound bombs were dropped on carefully chosen targets, the live video feed courtesy of Alpha Company, 101st Military Intelligence Battalion and the RQ-7A "Shadow" Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) they operate and maintain.

Literally the "eye in the sky" for the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, Soldiers from the 101st Military Intelligence Battalion stationed here help the brigade commander keep "eyes on" the surrounding area for at least 10 hours per day.

The UAV is a reconnaissance drone used primarily for improvised explosive device sweeps and reconnaissance for the Baqubah Task Force, said instructor-operator SSG Lucas Johnson. Alpha Company keeps four of them here, three used as primary flyers and one in

reserve, which can also be used for parts.

The team normally schedules two 5.1 hour flights per day, keeping only one bird in the air at a time. However, when requested, they can launch the UAV within an hour. They can also fly more than one aircraft at a time when continuous coverage is needed.

"On the 24th of June, we had about 12 hours worth of coverage on one area; we just kept sending bird up after bird," Johnson said. "We were able to pick up a sniper, report his location, and they were able to shoot a 203 round (40mm grenade) into the window and kill him. We also monitored the insurgent's movement through the city of Buhritz."

While RQ-7A has a "textbook" range of up to 50 kilometers, the team has tested and flown the aircraft to almost 80 kilometers out, Johnson said. GPS systems on the aircraft and on the ground antennas "talk to each other," triangulating the UAV's position and allowing the operator to control the craft from the ground.

The aircraft is launched using a system that combines a hydraulic launcher with nitrogen gas. A compression chamber builds up pressure and shoots the UAV into the air from the launcher's 30-foot rail at about

70 knots, or approximately 130 mph.

The UAV is brought back down to the landing strip using a Tactical Automated Landing System (TALS).

"It's basically a remote control," said Johnson. "You hit a button and a little ray dome takes control of the plane. It tells it to go up, down, left, right and it brings it in."

The entire operation, consisting of an Air Vehicle Transporter -- which houses three aircraft, spare parts, tool boxes, the TALS and fuel for the launcher and ground control station -- is designed to fit inside a C-130 airplane for rapid deployment, said SGT Francisco Huereque, the maintenance chief. It was also designed to be set up quickly once they're on the ground.

The crew is relatively new to the system and has been working together on the RQ-7A for only five months. They cross-train in order to better understand the system and simply to help one another out.

"The whole system is basically designed so even the operators are able to set things up," said Huereque, a Prineville, Ore., native. "We don't fly, of course, but we need to know the basic stuff to be able to test the payload and things like that."

While the crew performs the majority of the maintenance, they also get help from field service representatives who deploy with them. Because of their in-depth knowledge of the system, many times they act as trainers and help with troubleshooting, he said.

Together they have had their hands full working out the bugs. They have had four UAVs go down because of mechanical problems and equipment malfunctions. Although cleared of responsibility, they take the accidents personally.

"It's heart wrenching for us," said Huereque. "They're like your children sometimes, and when something happens, you feel real bad about it. And when it's first launched, you're all nervous, like when your kid rides a bike for the first time. So we take it pretty serious."

A former military police officer, Huereque said he foresees a great future for the system, including civilian applications such as police and search and rescue work. And he enjoys helping to work the bugs out of the system.

"I feel like we're kind of like in on the ground floor, we're like the beta testers here," he said. "Because every time we discover something, in a week or even sometimes a day or two later, a new bulletin will come out saying, 'do this or do that.' So we're helping build the system."

SPC Robert Clarno and SPC Jeremy Squires perform post-flight maintenance on a "Shadow" UAV Aug. 31 at FOB Warhorse.



PFC Robert J. Hartung, left, and SPC James D. Lindner, right, secure the RQ-7A "Shadow" UAV at its airstrip on FOB Warhorse Aug. 31.



Civilian cooks hard to find in this kitchen

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
PFC JESSE GRANGER
1ST ID PAO

FORWARD OPERATING BASE BRASSFIELD-MORA, SAMARRA, Iraq — The Soldiers walk through the dining facility twice a day. There is no vacation when it comes to feeding America's finest.

The cooks of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment run one of the few Army-only dining facilities in the 1st Infantry Division's area of operations. They also prepare all the meals themselves. The cooks put their lives on the line, conveying out three to four times a week to bring back the food that will be cooked, baked, grilled or fried before being fed to the hungry, hard-working Soldiers of Task Force 1-26.

These cooks serve hot breakfast and dinner to every growling stomach on post. Unlike most forward operating bases in Task Force Danger, Brassfield-Mora's dining facility doesn't have civilian contractors to help lighten the load. They cook the food, wash the pots and pans, clean the equipment and serve hot meals twice a day.

After a long day of patrolling near the city of Samarra, Soldiers can get tired of the same old stuff. The cooks of HHC, 1-26 try to mix up the usual fare by providing some variety. Their most popular dish is their grilled T-bone steak, which they serve on Sundays.

These Army cooks' only support comes from the six members selected to the Kitchen Patrol detail from out of three companies on post. The KPs lend a hand by pulling 13-hour shifts, which entails breaking down rations, cleaning utensils and equipment, preparing and serving food, and disposing of waste. But you won't hear a complaint from these troops.

"We're Soldiers, we get paid to do it so we make it happen," said SPC Donald Baptiste of Fayetteville, N.C., one of the HHC 1-26 cooks.

These Soldiers are proof that the best recipe for a good meal is hard work. Their patrons can agree that they're doing a good job with what they have.

"Our cooks do a great job. It's not easy, but I give them credit for what they do under these conditions," said 1LT Joel Light of Lebanon, Penn., as the HHC Medical Platoon leader ate breakfast.

In addition to their responsibilities as cooks, these Soldiers have only four open tents and a few scattered concrete shelters to protect them from not only the desert weather, but incoming attacks from Anti-Iraqi Forces. But these Army cooks make do with what they have.

"One of our main focuses here is cleanliness. Just keeping the flies away and making sure everything looks dress-right-dress," said SSG Lavo Smith of the HHC, 1-26, DFAC section.

The attention to detail doesn't go unnoticed. Despite the outdoor setting and lack of contracted support personnel, the Brassfield-Mora chow hall compares favorably with those on other FOBs that do have help from civilians.

"These guys are doing really well. I've been to other FOBs and the meals are better here than a lot of other places," said 1LT Kurt Brooker, a staff officer with HHC, 1-26 and a native of Greenville, S.C.

With about 900 Soldiers filing through twice a day, the plastic tables and chairs are showing the expected wear and tear. Luckily, a new dining facility is nearing completion.

After three long months of cooking hot meals in even hotter weather, the cooks are ready to move into their new digs. The renovated building will allow Soldiers to enjoy their meals indoors and in a nicer atmosphere.



CPL Billy L. Richardson (left), of the 299th Forward Support Battalion and a native of Savannah, Ga., chats with 1LT Stephen Ploacek, also of the 299th FSB, a native of North Bend, Ore., during breakfast on Sept. 13 at FOB Brassfield-Mora.

SPC Justin D. Williams of HHC, 1-26 Infantry Regiment, a native of Grants Pass, Ore., scoops tater tots out of the fryer for the breakfast meal for Soldiers of Task Force 1-26 at FOB Brassfield-Mora.



PFC Levi Foley, of HHC, 1-26 Infantry Regiment, a native of Cheyenne, Wyoming, serves another hot meal to a Soldier waiting in line on Sept. 13 at FOB Brassfield-Mora.

TASK FORCE DANGER 1



SOLDIER'S QUARTERLY CALENDAR

December 2004

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

January 2005

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30	31				

February 2005

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

March 2005

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

3rd Brigade touts new detention facility

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT KIMBERLY SNOW
196TH MPAD

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE
WARHORSE, BAQUBAH, Iraq** — The Brigade Consolidated Collection Point here, the 3rd Brigade Combat Team's temporary detention facility, recently received an \$80,000 facelift.

The much needed renovations divided the facility into 28 separate cells and added an indoor shower and latrine. The reconstruction was done by a local Iraqi contractor, said 1LT Nolan J. Barco, who oversees daily operations of the detention facility.

The structure previously consisted of two large general population holding cells with two smaller high-priority cells in the back for detainees whom officials wanted to keep away from the general population. Temporary latrines and shower facilities were previously located outside the building.

The renovations were made to improve the operating conditions and living environment for the detainees, Barco said.

"We were able to cut down on the number of personnel we use to run the facility, which gives us more flexibility to go out on combat logistical patrols," said Barco, a native of Miami, Fla. "We're better able to secure it and the Soldiers also have more flexibility to move about within the facility."

The two-man cells lock individually, which aids in controlling the detainees. The detainees also have less access to camp operations, said PFC Chris R. Savoy, a 19-year-old military policeman from Athol, Mass., who works at the facility.

"It's easier to watch over the detainees because they're all in a confined area," he said. "They can't see outside now, so they can't see our other facilities. Before, it was easy for them to see the motor pool and the fuel point. Maybe some who got released could go out and tell people."

Savoy explained that the guards' main duties is to ensure the safety of the detainees; to ensure that they have food and water, latrine breaks, and showers; to supervise their daily exercise time; and to take care of any complaints that may arise.

In case of illness, an aid station within the facility is also available to detainees. A health care specialist, along with a physician's assistant or nurse, screens all incoming detainees for illness. Aside from the initial screening, the health care specialist checks in on the detainees twice daily.

"The aid station is open 24 hours a day for all calls, just in case something develops in the middle of the night," said SPC Tony T. Thigpen, a health care specialist from Charlie Company 201st Forward Support Battalion.

"There have been numerous times when we've had to come over at 2 o'clock to 3 o'clock in the morning for different types of health care issues," he said. "We're here for the Soldiers and the detainees as well."

Although the language barrier keeps interaction with detainees to a minimum, detainees can occasionally speak a little English, and will sometimes talk to the guards.

Savoy said the detainees don't cause many problems and that the guards will answer their questions as long as they're not personal.

"We try to help them out that way; they feel more comfortable and it keeps them happy," he said. "There isn't a problem here. The detainees listen to you; they don't cause trouble."

"We treat them well, but we're also stern so they know we're not joking around, so they listen to us."

On Sept. 4, the BCCP held an open house for local government officials and members of the press. They were very pleased with the new facility, Barco said.

"They said that it was a paradise," Barco said. "The Governor (Dr. Abdullah Hassan Rasheed al-Jburi) of Diyala actually said he wanted a room there himself. The interpreters gave us feedback on what they were saying, and they said that everything was to standard, they were not being mistreated, and that the Americans were actually treating them with dignity and respect, which is what we hope for."



SPC Tony T. Thigpen, a health care specialist with C Company, 201st Forward Support Battalion, checks in at the FOB Warhorse BCCP on one of two daily visits to the facility. Thigpen is a native of Drew, Miss.



COL Dana J.H. Pittard and Diyala Governor Dr. Abdullah al-Jburi field questions from Baqubah city officials and the press at an open house of the Brigade Consolidated Collection Point in September.

Third Brigade Combat Team Commander, COL Dana J.H. Pittard, speaks with a local sheikh during an open house of the FOB Warhorse detention facility Sept. 4.

1LT Nolan J. Barco, right, of Miami, gives a tour of the newly-remodeled 3rd Brigade Consolidated Collection Point at FOB Warhorse Sept. 4. Diyala Governor Dr. Abdullah al-Jburi, left, was on hand.



Humane treatment of detainees a top priority

STORY BY
SPC ISMAIL TURAY JR.
196TH MPAD

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, TIKRIT, Iraq -- Long before the United States came under heavy criticism for the Abu Ghraib prison debacle, the 1st Infantry Division committed itself to setting the standard for the way detainees are treated in hopes of winning the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people.

The formula is simple: Treat detainees with dignity and respect without coddling them. As a result, they'll be willing to work with coalition forces after they are released, said LTC Frank R. Hall, commander of both the 101st Military Intelligence Battalion and the Division Centralized Collection Point (DCCP) located here.

That theory was recently proven, he said. He tells the story of a cell leader who was arrested for orchestrating attacks against coalition forces.

During his arrest, the man was badly wounded and he spent more than a month in an Army hospital at Logistical Supply Area Anaconda. After he was discharged from the hospital, the insurgent leader boasted about how well he was treated by the Americans.

"We couldn't stop him from talking," said Hall, a North Carolina native. "He wanted to let us know everything that was going on and wanted to do everything he could to help us in establishing a secure, stable Iraq."

"He felt that he had been lied to about what U.S. forces had been doing and how he would be treated if captured," the colonel added.

Treating detainees with dignity and respect are the keystones of 1st ID's operations. When the division arrived in North-Central Iraq in February, MG John R.S. Batiste, Commander of the Big Red One, told his staff that he wanted a "world-class" holding facility on this forward operating base. Since then, the division has spent more than \$1 million to renovate the once-dilapidated facility.

Some of the improvements include a monitoring system with real-time audio and video for interrogations. The video will be used for historical documentation and training purposes. Air conditioners also were installed in the facility. There are plans for \$199,000 worth of additional improvements, Hall said.

Moving detainees through the system after their arrest is an arduous and long process that must be done in a short period. Multinational Corps Iraq (MNC-I), which is responsible for detention operations, mandates that detainees be held for a maximum of 14 days before being transferred either to Iraqi police or Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad.

The clock starts immediately after the arrest, Hall said. Normally, the arresting unit holds the detainee for 24 hours. During that time, the unit documents the reason for the arrest and photographs the detainee and the evidence.

"We are very detailed in our paperwork," he said.

The suspect is then sent to the brigade collection point where he is screened, gets a medical checkup and is questioned. Within 72 hours, the brigade transfers him to the DCCP if there is evidence that he has committed a serious crime such as attacks against Iraqi Security Forces or coalition forces. Otherwise, he's transferred to the Iraqi Police or released.

At the DCCP, the detainee is once again screened and gets another medical checkup and is questioned.



SPC Sherree Casper

A sign posted on a giant placard in the 1st Infantry Division's detention center reminds guards and others to treat detainees humanely.

His fingerprints and photo are taken and his information is entered into the biometric automated tool set or BATS. If he's been arrested in the past, the BATS, which is a computer program networked with MNC-I, alerts the MPs.

After the detainee is in-processed, he's given an orange jumpsuit and placed either in the general population or a separate area if he's considered to be more violent. At the end of the 14 days, the detainee is either transferred to Abu Ghraib to await trial, turned over to the Iraqi Police or released.

"Throughout the entire process we require everyone to be treated with dignity and respect," Hall said. "It starts with command emphasis. It is all about standards."

While at the DCCP, Hall said, detainees are given two Meal-Ready-to-Eat packages and six bottles of

water per day. They also are allowed to shower every other day. Additionally, detainees are given copies of the Holy Koran and are allowed to practice their religion.

To ensure that guards don't stray away from the standard, rules of the treatment of prisoners are posted on giant placards on the walls of the facility. Hall also visits the DCCP nearly every day to check on the detainees and his MPs, he said.

Extensive training of the guards and interrogators is another way Hall ensures that prisoners are treated humanely. For instance, the division's lawyers often give refresher courses on the law of war and the Geneva Convention, Hall said.

There also is a system of checks and balances in place. Officials from the Department of Defense and the Division's Staff Judge Advocate make frequent, unannounced visits to the facility. They randomly talk with detainees about their treatment, he said.

"That goes on without my knowledge normally," Hall said. Iraqi officials and media have also visited the facility and talked with detainees, he said.

"To date, all inspections and visits have been very positive," Hall said. "Our willingness to open this facility to visitors and inspections only makes us better. It helps to stop rumors of what goes on in here. Normally everyone leaves very much impressed."

Despite comments from Iraqi officials and Iraqi media who say that Americans are too kind to detainees, Hall said he and Batiste are committed to the system that's in place. They are confident that it will change the mindset of some would-be insurgents and save Soldiers' lives.

"I think we are improving the security of Iraq by the way we treat detainees," Hall said. "We can shape their views of what we are trying to do for their country through how we treat them. So if we do end up releasing them, they are no longer on the sidelines. They will support a secure, stable and democratic Iraq and will not support Anti-Iraqi forces."



SPC Sherree Casper

LTC Frank R. Hall, right, Commander of the 101st Military Intelligence Battalion and COL Gordon Mereness, chief of staff for the 42nd Infantry Division, discuss health care for detainees while touring the Division Centralized Collection Point's first aid station.

Village gets running water for first time in nearly two years

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

OWJA, Iraq — For the local populace of Owja, Sept. 7 was an important day.

The Owja Water Plant held a grand opening for the newly installed water pumps that will pump water from the Tigris River into this quaint town, which is located next to Tikrit.

The people had good reason to celebrate because they were able to water their trees and gardens for the first time in nearly two years.

Long before the 1st Infantry Division came to Iraq, this town was without water for lawns, trees and gardens.

With the help of 10 workers, Mandu Hazali, who headed this project for the town, worked 40 straight days for about 12-14 hours a day. The project was originally slated to take four months.

"I am very happy about this project because I see what this will mean to my town," Hazali said.

"Actually, the only thing we did for this project besides give support was facilitate the paperwork for the bids and bring in the supplies," said CPT David Krzycki, the Alpha Company Commander of 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment.

Krzycki, who hails out of Sturgis, Mich., also said this project was extremely important.

The project started in May with bids for the pump to be fixed. With the project approved for funding, it was just a matter of waiting on the material to arrive.



CPT David Krzycki, Commander of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, cuts the ribbon during the grand opening of the Owja Water Plant on Sept. 7, as villagers look on.

By the time the project was approved, the new city council was together and they started getting involved and eventually took over.

Hazali would go to the city council and update them weekly on the project. The first real problem came when others wanted submersible pumps while Hazali, an electrical engineer and a professor in Tikrit, wanted horizontal pumps.

After showing them the process and how much better this would be in the long run, the horizontal pumps were installed.

"This is a good thing for this city. To show how they are improving their lives," Krzycki said.

The project cost \$17,600 for two large water pumps and the parts. Hazali has offered to repair any parts that break for the first year.

With the pumps being fixed, the city council and Hazali can now concentrate on the city park.

"After this they will finish the park and also revamp some schools before they opens," said 1LT Matt



Mandu Hazali, project coordinator, shows new pumps to Owja city council members Sept. 7.

Angliss of Redlands, Calif.

Angliss, who is Alpha Company's fire support officer, also mentioned that the task force wants to work on street lights and roads for future projects.

"My friends come to me and tell me how happy they are about this project and what good it will do for the town," Hazali said.

"All the credit for this project goes to Mandu and the workers along with the city council, they deserve all the credit," Krzycki said.

1st Infantry Division boosts power plants' output, local economy

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

BAYJI, Iraq — As part of its effort to bolster security and the economy in Northern Iraq, the 1st Infantry Division partnered with civilian companies and the Army Corps of Engineers to repair the Bayji Power Plant complex.

The facility, which comprises three power plants, once generated 1,300 megawatts of power. But after the first Gulf War, Iraqi officials were unable to get parts to maintain the plants because of sanctions levied against the country.

The three plants were generating a little less than 400 megawatts of power prior to the American-led invasion of Iraq last year. Since then, coalition forces have worked diligently to repair the complex, which was one of the major power sources in the nation.

In August, it was generating about 800 megawatts of power, said CPT David Unger, electricity adviser with the 1st ID's 415th Civil Affairs Battalion.

The complex produces power for hospitals, schools, factories and thousands of schools, said MAJ Daren Payne of the Army Corp of Engineers.

"This is breathing life into all of Iraq," he said.

Added Daniel Juracek, civilian construction representative with the Army Corps of Engineers: "It tremendously helps the local economy. Almost all the contractors are local."

The plant employs 2,000 locals, including 1,200 full-timers, said Unger, a Texas resident. As of August, the 1st ID had spent more than \$1 million on parts for the plant.

Aside from repairs to the 500-acre complex, security was a major issue. Its fence had gaping holes that served as a gateway for looters who frequently stole equipment and supplies from the power plant, Unger said.

To remedy that problem, the Big Red One spent \$450,000 to build a 12-foot wall around the entire complex. That project created more than 700 jobs for locals, as six different contractors who submitted the lowest bids worked on the wall simultaneously, Unger said.

Additionally, the division implemented an identification card system for all employees.

There are plans to build guard towers and install fire equipment, Unger said.

The 1st ID also built a health center for workers on the complex, and it plans to refurbish the local sewage system. Both projects will cost a combined \$360,000, he said.

"We know that if the workers are healthy, they will want to come to work," he said in explaining why the division invested in the clinic.

Basin Al Janabi, the plant's assistant director general, said the work the Army has done on the plant is invaluable. But more work needs to be done, he said.

The plant is expected to be fully operational by the end of 2005, Payne said.



Basin Al Janabi, left, assistant director general of the Bayji Power Plant Complex, and CPT David Unger of the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion take reporters' questions during a press conference.

Iraqi, American police form partnership

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

BAQUBAH, Iraq — It began as a plea for help — brother to brother, police officer to police officer.

Diyala Police Chief, Gen. Waleed Khaled Abed Al-Salaam, had been fighting alongside coalition forces for the security of Diyala province since assuming his position in August 2003. When he started, he had outdated tools and equipment. He needed help.

So late one night last December, this dedicated and charismatic leader with more than 20 years of law enforcement experience, sat down in his office in the Baqubah police station and wrote a letter to Detective Mike Harris, a man he had never met.

He heard about Harris from a Soldier with the California Army National Guard's 649th Military Police Company stationed here during Operation Iraqi Freedom I. The Soldier was also an investigator with the Fresno (Calif.) Police Department.

"We worked together and he saw how I worked an investigation and he told me 'If you have more investigators who are as smart, with all the technology we have in the States, I think you guys could beat the American investigators,'" said Waleed. "He was always talking about Mike Harris, so I suggested I write a letter to him, from a police officer to a police officer, away from the governments."

In his letter, Waleed detailed his experience with the police force, the corruption of the old regime, and told of the headway his police force was starting to make. He explained the current state of his police force, which lacked essential equipment and supplies.

"We started working and we didn't have anything except a broken chair and a table with three legs, we used bricks for the fourth leg," said Waleed. "We started working to build a new Iraq, so I wrote to him to help me out as much as he can."

Waleed also described in the letter other obstacles his po-

licemen faced daily, including terrorist attacks - specifically, two attacks in which 10 officers were killed and 36 wounded.

"The attacks were intended on intimidating us and preventing us from doing our job," he wrote. "Instead of this happening, the opposite occurred. Our colleagues' corpses, the destroyed buildings and burnt cars gave us the way to choose the path to building a new Iraq. A framework for an Iraq based on freedom and democracy."

Harris responded and from the relationship that ensued was born the Brotherhood of the Badge, a partnership between the Fresno and Baqubah police departments.

After corresponding for several months, Harris came to Baqubah to meet with Waleed and to see how the Fresno Police Department could best aid the struggling Iraqi police force. After Harris returned home, supplies began arriving at the Baqubah police station.

To date, the Fresno Police Department has contributed 273 helmets, 174 vests, 80 batons, 60 utility belts and 120 radios. They also recently decided to add the police station in Ramadi to their partnership.

However, Harris realized that supplies alone were not enough to help the station get back on its feet after more than 20 years of neglect. So he invited Waleed to visit his police station in California.

The visit was planned for mid-October. Accompanying Waleed was to be CPT Christian H. Solinsky, the Diyala province police coordinator. Solinsky, a field artillery officer from Blackfoot, Idaho, has worked closely with Waleed since arriving here in January and has been facilitating the burgeoning partnership.

"The cities of Baqubah and Fresno are the first. I think other cities are starting to catch on," said Solinsky. "I know (The Brotherhood of the Badge) is getting big, and they want to make it bigger. Part of chief's trip is to help facilitate this. He's going to be the first Iraqi to go to the States as part of this program."

The purpose of the partnership is to provide an exchange of equipment and resources and perhaps, someday, training, said Solinsky. The purpose of the visit to California is to provide Waleed with training and mentorship. He will also come back with the Fresno Police Department's entire training curriculum, he said.

The visit has garnered much interest. Even California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has expressed an interest in meeting with Waleed, said Solinsky.

The Diyala Police Force and Chief Waleed have a

long, hard road ahead of them in their efforts to stabilize and build their new democratic nation. In the old regime, the Ba'ath party had 13 agencies with over 200,000 people working to maintain order, Waleed explained. Now the job is left up to the 4,000 men of the Diyala Police Force.

"There was no fighting with insurgents back then," he said. "These 4,000 fight crime and insurgency. Don't forget, we also have stolen cars, robberies, kidnappings, murder crimes, drugs - they start showing up these days - after the fall... That's our job, that's our mission, to fight everything at one time with these 4,000 guys."

Attacks on the police officers have discouraged many, said Waleed. So he started meeting with them every day - on the streets they're patrolling, and at their police stations. He has fired over 300 police officers who left their posts and didn't show up for four to five days following attacks.

He explained his belief that God controls man's destiny - when and where he will die. But he also said that it is different to die at home in bed than to die in the line of duty, aiming for a goal.

"When you die doing your duty, it means that you gave away your life for your people and your family and your country and your community," he said. "It is more honorable. (The officers who deserted) hurt the brave police officers, who didn't leave no matter how many souls we gave away."

As of Sept. 15, the Diyala police force had lost 85 police officers in the line of duty, and over 150 have been wounded. Four have lost legs.

With the help of coalition forces and the Fresno P.D., Waleed foresees a bright future for both his police force and his country. He believes that with democracy established, Iraq will flourish, and in about 20 years, Iraq will be as prosperous as some of its neighbors - Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Waleed said that he couldn't blame the Iraqi people for what's happened in Iraq, and likened them to a bird that's been locked in a cage, and the cage locked inside a room.

"When you open the cage door for the bird, he doesn't even know the main door is open because he's been blind for 20 years," he said. "Pretty soon he's going to be flying everywhere trying to find the door, but the door is open! He'll be flying into walls, bouncing around. After a little while, he's going to calm down and find the door. That's the Iraqi people. We just need time to find that door."



Diyala Governor Dr. Abdullah Al-Jburi and police chief, Gen. Waleed Khaled Abed Al-Salaam pose at the detention facility at FOB Warhorse in May.



The two flower vases on the left are actually parts of a rocket that blew through the Diyala police chief's living quarters and landed in this office.



Wynot residents cast first-ever ballots

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT W. WAYNE MARLOW
1ST ID PAO

WYNOT, Iraq -- Ahmed Mutlok Oda creases his ballot slowly, seemingly worried he will fold it wrong. He starts to place it in the cardboard-and-tape ballot box, then pulls it back, unsure if he's doing it right.

He looks to a 1st Infantry Division interpreter who tells Oda he's doing it correctly. Reassured, Oda drops the ballot in.

If Oda seems unnecessarily timid, it is because no one in Wynot has ever voted before. Oda has no predecessor, no way to know if he's doing it right.

After Oda, another 145 voters came through, representing almost every household in this tiny village about 15 miles outside of Tikrit.

The Wynot City Council elections of Sept. 13 came after months of work and planning by Soldiers of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division.

The strong turnout completed a turnaround in how Wynot residents view the U.S., according to the company commander, CPT David Krzycki.

"This was probably the most anti-coalition town in sector when we first got here," he said. "Kids and adults were throwing rocks at us and calling us names. But we established a knock-and-talk program, where we'd go to six to eight houses per night. We'd ask people what they needed and what they thought of us. Eventually they realized we're here to make their way of life a little bit better."



Ahmed Mutlok Oda becomes the first resident of Wynot to vote. The city council elections were held Sept. 13, with the assistance of Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment.

Krzycki credited 2LT Scott Robinson and SFC Todd Carlsrud with helping to spearhead the election effort. Robinson cited perseverance as the key to bringing democracy to Wynot.

"We...had meetings once a week and explained what we are trying to do and why having a city council would be good," Robinson said. "Initially they weren't too favorable, but we explained that with a city council, you could solve your own problems."

Building up to the elections, Soldiers encouraged teamwork among the Wynot residents and urged them to set goals. One week, for instance, they encouraged everyone to clean their front yards so the residents could see the benefits of working together.

All voters were male, but such decisions were left up to the Iraqis, according to 1LT Matthew Angliss, a fire support officer. "We didn't want to impose an American-style of democracy on them," he said. "We let them decide how to run it."

The evening had a few quirks that might be expected for a town's first election. Just as the sun set, the electricity went out. But the Soldiers weren't about to be deterred. Flashlights and Humvee headlights were used to provide the illumination necessary to continue Wynot's foray into democracy. Later, persons from another town attempted to vote, but they were pointed out by Wynot residents. Few of those residents have identification cards, so company officers relied on common sense and honesty to determine if a would-be voter was 18.

Prior to helping run the Wynot elections, Alpha 1-18 Soldiers helped bring city council elections to the nearby town of Owja. Krzycki thinks success there helped bring around Wynot residents.

"In Owja, people are happy because they get police patrols through town and they coordinated and funded a city cleanup program," Krzycki said. "And people here can see the effects city councils are having."

Wynot residents elected new leaders to seven positions: director, vice director, city manager, and directors of agriculture, education, transportation, and utilities. Krzycki said the company will help the city council in its early stage, but the long-term goal is for the council to be self-sufficient.

Oda has no doubt. "It feels good to vote," he said. "A city council will help our community."

Reservist dentist give Iraqis something to smile about

STORY AND PHOTO BY
1LT WILLIAM A. DIEFENBACH
4-3 ADA UPAR

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, TIKRIT, Iraq — LTC John Elliott is a periodontist who normally plies his trade in private practice in sunny Corona, Calif., "the city spelled like the beer."

But he is also a reservist attached to the 380th Medical Company, Dental Section out of Memphis, Tenn. For 90 days he has volunteered to conduct his practice in Tikrit. He has been working on the mouths, teeth and gums of American and Iraqi soldiers on FOB Danger since August. In addition to volunteering his time



LTC John Elliott, a periodontist from the 380th Medical Company, examines an Iraqi patient at the Al-Har Al-Thani School in Tikrit Sept. 7.

with the military, he has another mission that makes his journey that much more special.

On Sept. 5, Elliott, in conjunction with CPT Donna Kentley, assigned to the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion out of Kalamazoo, Mich., visited the Al-Har Al-Thani School in Northern Tikrit to conduct an oral hygiene teach-in with the students.

Elliott's desire to help some of the local communities fit perfectly with the goals of the 415th, a unit that spends most of its time outside the FOB in an effort to stabilize and support the Iraqi infrastructure. That's where he met Kentley.

"Lieutenant Colonel Elliott really fills a gap for the 415th," said Kentley. "Dentistry and oral hygiene are widely ignored in this country, and he helps us out by providing a way for us to reach out to the communities and express how important this is for the kids, which is why I am so glad to go to these schools."

As a physician's assistant assigned to a civil affairs battalion, Kentley is no stranger to medical assessments, and has conducted a large number of them during the past eight months throughout Salah Ad-Din Province. But having a dentist along helps her address what she sees as a serious health issue for Iraqi children.

The two medical personnel take separate classrooms for privacy while they work with individual children one-on-one for about five minutes at a time. Elliott uses tongue depressors and the children say "Aah" while he examines them for any serious problems. He then gives them each toothbrushes and toothpaste and sends them to Kentley, who examines their eyes, throats and spines.

She describes the purpose of her examinations as more for "health assessment and reporting trends" rather than for actually curing illnesses. If time permitted and she had the means to take care of all the children's health problems, she would have gladly done so, Kentley said.

Her main job at these schools, however, is to "discover trends and report them to the Ministry of Health so that they can address the problems acutely."

As they leave Kentley's room, the children receive a gift donated to the Army, courtesy of private donors and the division's Operation I CAN.

Rather counterproductive to the efforts of Elliott, Soldiers from the 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment soldiers give the children gifts of lollipops and Tootsie Rolls, and with mouths stained with the candy's juices, they mimic the actions of the dentist as he demonstrates the proper way to brush teeth.

4-3 ADA win hearts and minds of young Iraqis with toys, school supplies

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SPC JOE ALGER
1ST ID PAO

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, TIKRIT, Iraq -- While many American children are used to getting toys for their birthday or at Christmas time, Iraqi kids don't always have that luxury.

However, that wasn't the case for many in Tikrit on Aug. 26, when Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Regiment, surprised them with bags of toys and school supplies.

All of the toys and items were snatched up by the eager children in less than one hour, but the mission, referred to as "Operation Helping Hand," was several months in the making.

"We started a program called 'Operation I Can,' which has a Web site to receive donations from people all over the world to help get school supplies to the Iraqi children," said 1LT William Diefenbach, 4-3 ADA's civil affairs officer.

Soldiers from 4-3 ADA were eager to help out with the mission.

"This kind of mission is a lot more rewarding than what I normally do, said SSG Nichole Bower, 854th Engineer Detachment Heavy Equipment section sergeant "It felt fantastic to see the smiles on their faces when we handed out the toys."

In addition to the 4-3 ADA Soldiers who volunteered for the mission, there were members of the Iraqi Security Force (ISF) who helped hand out the toys and supplies.

"The ISF thought what we were doing was great and were very excited to learn that in the future, we're going to be donating all of our supplies to them, so they can go out on their own and hand the stuff out," Diefenbach said. "This should help bolster their credibility with the Iraqi people.

Since a mission like "Operation Helping Hand" isn't the kind 4-3 ADA Soldiers are used to doing on a regular basis, Diefenbach made sure to plan everything down to the last detail.

"We planned it like a combat mission with a civil affairs tint," Diefenbach said.

"The first thing we prepared was the security aspect of the mission to make sure everything went safely and smoothly and then coordinated how we were going to give the supplies out.

The Soldiers took it upon themselves to go out and interact with the children and they did a great job."

The number of Iraqi children who came out to receive the toys was a little more than some of the soldiers expected.

"There were so many of them, I didn't know if we'd have enough toys for all of them," said Bower.

The Iraqi children were happy to get the toys and supplies even if they weren't familiar with all of the items given away.

"I don't think any of them had ever seen a football before," said SGT Richard Hauser, 4-3 ADA Stinger section sergeant.

With a few quick lessons from the soldiers, the Iraqi children were throwing footballs around and having the time of their lives.

"This kind of thing is what we came here for," said Bower. "Winning the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people and changing the way they view us is very important."

"Overall, the mission went great," Diefenbach said. "We definitely plan on doing similar missions in the future."



2LT Raven Bukowski of the 101st Military Intelligence Battalion distributes toys and school supplies to Iraqi children as part of "Operation Helping Hand."

SGT Joshua Riley, 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, gives an Iraqi child some pointers on how to throw a football during "Operation Helping Hand."



'I HOPE IT BRINGS ENOUGH MONEY TO MAKE A SIZABLE DONATION'

STORY BY
SPC JOE ALGER
1ST ID PAO

While almost everybody has certain hobbies or activities to stay occupied outside of work, it's not every day that a person can put their skills at that hobby to good use to help out a worthy cause.

However, SGT Nicole S. Smith of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 121st Signal Battalion has been given a chance to use her sewing skills to raise money for the 1st Infantry Division Foundation. Smith, a native of Marysville, Pa., will make a quilt that will benefit the 1st ID Scholarship Foundation for children of fallen Soldiers.

"I hope it brings enough money to make a sizable donation," Smith said.

The 1st ID Foundation is a charitable organization established in 1966 during the Vietnam War. The foundation allowed for funds to be collected both by Big Red One Soldiers in Vietnam and by 1st Infantry Division veterans at home

to establish scholarships for children of Big Red One Soldiers killed during that war.

Smith was happy to devote her free time to help with such a worthy cause.

"I had planned on making a quilt since before I came to Iraq," she said. "I wanted this to be a piece of history and something different; something a Soldier made."

The process of making the quilt took about three months, Smith said. While she did almost every part of the quilt-making, such as the piecing together, cutting, sizing and ironing herself, she received a helping hand when she needed it.

In addition to the help she received from her mother, who mailed her the fabric, Smith was also aided by several Iraqi nationals who embroidered the names of the unit on the quilt and Soldiers who donated patches for her to

sew on it.

"I didn't expect to get so much support from other Soldiers," Smith said. "They really helped out a lot."

The 1st ID Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt foundation organized as a

charitable trust and chartered in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Soldiers wishing to give donations to the 1st ID Foundation can find information at www.bigredone.org



SGT Roland G. Walters

SGT Nicole S. Smith, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 121st Signal Battalion, and SPC Andrew W. Meyer, a medic with the 1st Military Police Company, hold up the partially completed quilt, which will be sold to support the 1st ID Scholarship Foundation for children of Fallen Soldiers.

SGT Roland G. Walters

Both above photos: SGT Nicole S. Smith, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 121st Signal Battalion, places the finishing touches and closes up the handmade quilt at the MWR palace where she is able to use the sewing machine.

Spreading the gospel on the ROCK

Contemporary Christian service another way for Soldiers in combat zone to worship

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SFC CHUCK JOSEPH
196TH MPAD**

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, TIKRIT, Iraq – A group of Task Force Danger Soldiers, led by two Army chaplains, celebrated contemporary Christian services Sept. 19 with music and prayer during a program dubbed Relying on Christ in Combat or “ROCK.”

Prior to arriving in Iraq, Chaplains CPT Bret J. Gilmore of the 121st Signal and CPT Lane J. Creamer of the 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, held joint services at their units’ Kitzingen, Germany, location where the services were dubbed “ROCK” -- Relying on Christ in Kitzingen.

The “K” was retained upon landing in Iraq. Thus, the preaching duo referred to the service as “The ROCK Forward,” even though it isn’t exactly the same. The

Danger version has a group of seven 1st Infantry Division band members leading the music. In Germany, the music came from congregation members.

This congregation expanded to include Soldiers from FOB Danger-based units. About 30 Soldiers and some civilian workers attended the service. As many as 50 people have attended the service at one time, Gilmore said.

The contemporary celebration wasn’t like any traditional Christian service. About two-thirds of the hour-long session was Christian music. The lyrics were displayed on the theater’s screen, and the congregation helped the band rock the house.

Creamer, a Fort Myers, Fla., native, has told the faithful to “Go after the Lord” during worship. “Don’t worry about the person to your left or right.” The enthusiasm in the crowd proved they listened. Hands clapped and hymns were belted out.

“We’re growing, so the Soldiers must be responding well,” Gilmore said. “As I watch them worship, it seems to me they are enjoying it,” he added.

“It’s awesome and outstanding,” SPC James L. Cox Jr., a driver from Headquarters Company, 121 said.

“It’s good,” said SPC Michael S. Jenson II, a training Non-commissioned officer from B Battery, 4-3 ADA. “Here, we’re able to keep the enjoyment of the music and stay genuine to the worship,” he added.



The congregation sings along with the members of the 1st Infantry Division band during contemporary Christian services on FOB Danger at the Chapel in the Morale, Welfare and Recreation center.



Chaplains CPT Bret J. Gilmore, 1-21 Signal Battalion, and CPT Lane J. Creamer, 4-3 ADA, lead the praise and worship service Sept. 19 in FOB Danger’s Chapel in the Morale, Welfare and Recreation center.

Sounds of Carnegie Hall come to Danger

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

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, TIKRIT, IRAQ -- While Carnegie Hall may be thousands of miles away, 1st Infantry Division Soldiers were treated recently to the same sounds that cost their civilian counterparts a lot of money.

The 1st Infantry Division Band’s Brass Quintet gave a concert featuring the works of Andrea Gabrieli, Victor Ewald and Leonard Bernstein. The recital was performed in the Division Main’s Conference Room in August, an ideal location, according to the performers.

“The acoustics are really good in here,” said SGT Gary Wilder, who plays the trumpet in the five-member ensemble.

The Cleveland, Ohio, resident was joined by SSG Robert Bauerle on trumpet; SGT Rebekah Holmes on French horn; SSG Brian Eve on trombone and SGT Marcus Davis on tuba.

“We are doing this concert to offer something unique to the Soldiers of the division,” said Davis, who hails from Sweetwater, Texas.

On that particular evening the Big Red One’s Brass

Quintet featured a recital of Gabrieli’s “Ricercar del sesto tuono,” Ewald’s “Conerto no. 1 for Brass Quintet,” and Bernstein’s “West Side Story Suite.”

Bauerle of Radnor, Ohio, gave the audience background for the various musical selections played.

“We don’t always pull in the biggest crowds because people aren’t always used to this music,” said Holmes of Brazil, Ind.

The Big Red One’s Brass Quintet has performed on a variety of forward operating bases in the 1st ID’s footprint. They are also a staple at many of the division commander’s ceremonies.

A resident of Great Falls Mo., 34-year-old Eve said MG John R. S. Batiste likes the small ensemble’s musical repertoire.

Eve said he’s proud to represent the band and the 1st ID in the Brass Quintet. He enjoys having the chance to play “more technical” as opposed to marching band music.

“Sometimes we have five or 10 gigs a month, sometimes less,” he said.

CW3 Gordon Kippola, 1st ID band master, said classical recitals are planned for each month or so.

Kippola said the music is challenging to play, “but it sounds good.”

And no matter if the quintet plays to a handful or more, the group enjoys making music together.

“It’s an awesome experience,” Wilder said.

The 30-year-old said it’s what he “joined the Army to do.”

The sole female in the group, Holmes likens the quintet to a small family.

“I feel like I have four big brothers most of the time,” she said.



Soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division Band’s Brass Quintet perform a concert in the Division Main’s Conference Room at FOB Danger.

Iraqi, Coalition Forces take Samarra

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT W. WAYNE MARLOW
1ST ID PAO

SAMARRA, Iraq--Soldiers and police with the Iraqi Security Forces and the 1st Infantry Division continue to search for insurgents two days after a major offensive wrested control of this city from anti-Iraq forces in October.

The 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment; the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment; the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment; and the 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment; 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment launched a major offensive, "Operation Baton Rouge."

Just after midnight Oct. 1, the coalition forces began pounding rebel strongholds and the firefight continued much of the night. The attack led to heavy losses for anti-Iraq forces, with at least 125 rebels killed and 128 detained.

By daylight, coalition and Iraqi Security Forces had gained control over most of the city. There were continued sporadic small arms conflicts with pockets of resistance throughout the city during the morning. Around noon, Iraqi Security Forces stormed the city's Golden Mosque, a rebel stronghold, and cleared the historic site of 25 armed fighters.

Having Iraqi Security Forces enter the mosque, as well as other sensitive sites like the city hospital, were deliberate decisions, said MAJ Jeffrey Church, executive officer of the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment.

"Coalition forces breached the mosque gate," Church said. "But Iraqi Security Forces entered, cleared and secured the mosque. They entered, cleared and secured the Spiral Miranet and the complex around it. The Iraqi Security Forces also entered, cleared and secured the Samarra Hospital."



1st Infantry Division CSM Corey McCarty surveys the scene in Samarra after his Soldiers seized control of the city from anti-Iraq forces.



Iraqi soldiers from the 36th Commando Battalion prepare to storm a mosque in Samarra on Oct. 1. The troops were lauded for their performance during a massive assault to rid the city of insurgents.

There were about 2,000 Iraqi Security Force personnel in the operation. Their performance contrasted starkly with what happened in April when many of them retreated in the first attempt to rid Samarra of insurgents.

"The Iraqi Security Forces that were in Samarra in April...were not well trained and were poorly led," Church said. "Because of perceived prior successes, they were operating in a semi-autonomous role. When the anti-Iraq forces rose up in April, the poorly-trained, poorly-led Iraqi Security Forces melted away."

But this time, the Iraqi Security Forces contributed greatly to the operation's success.

"The difference between now and then is, the Iraqi Security Forces that participated in Operation Baton Rouge were much better trained and better equipped," Church said. "Their leaders had been better trained in military tactics and their soldiers had all completed, at least, a basic training course."

Church also credited teamwork with contributing to the success of the operation. "It wasn't just a U.S. operation. It wasn't just a coalition operation. It wasn't just an Iraq operation. All the forces worked together," Church said.

Church credited the quick victory to intelligence and shaping operations. But also important, he said, was that most Samarra residents were resentful of the anti-Iraq forces and welcomed the Iraqi Security and coalition forces back into the town.

"We did a lot around the outside of Samarra that showed the residents that we were serious about improving the quality

of life and that we could do the same for them," Church said. "We also started a radio station that gave the coalition side of the story, so that the residents could understand our intent and actions."

"The vast majority of the population wants security, peace and prosperity for their city, for their families and for Iraq. The operation was successful because the people did not support the goals or objectives and the anti-Iraq forces terrorists."

Now that control has been seized from the insurgents, the focus has turned to rebuilding the beleaguered city.

"There are 22 projects for Samarra that amount to about \$1.5 million," Church said. "Those projects have already been contracted to Iraqi contractors."

These projects include trash and rubble removal, building repair, road construction and bringing clean water and electricity to the city.



The 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment and attached elements stormed Samarra in the early hours of Oct. 1, and took control of the city from anti-Iraq forces. Here, one of the soldiers stands guard on a rooftop, buffeted by many sandbags.

9-11 victims remembered around TF Danger

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

FORWARD OPERATING BASE O'RYAN, BALAD, Iraq — The musicians played on their bagpipes the song *Wearing O' the Green*, as if calling the troops to assemble for the somber occasion. The members of Task Force Hunter formed their ranks, patiently standing, waiting exactly until 8:46 am, Eastern Time, Sept. 11 to commence the Patriot Day ceremony.

The event was conducted by the New York National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment at Forward Operating Base O'Ryan and held a special significance for those in attendance.

Many of the Guardsmen were at Ground Zero for days — months, in some cases — after the Sept. 11 attacks. The Soldiers provided security and helped with recovery operations, said 1LT Thomas Woods, assistant Fire Support Officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment.

The unique perspective and stories that were recounted painted vivid pictures of the days following the attack on the World Trade Center.

"I remember the apocalyptic appearance. Gray, ankle-deep dust; burned out, abandoned vehicles; and the smell of burnt flesh," said LTC Mark R. Warnecke, commander of the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment. "Papers from thousands of desks and file cabinets blowing down the street, everything from grocery lists to financial reports, the debris of lives lost."



2LT Lee Tate of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, plays the bagpipes during a Patriot Day ceremony at FOB O'Ryan.

Added Woods, a police officer for the City of New York: "The first week or so we searched for the living, after that it was like a huge crime scene that had to be protected."

Guard members reported without having received the call and helped out on chain hauls moving literally tons of debris throughout the night and day. Some not resting until ordered to do so or just too exhausted to continue.

The National Guard was used to secure airports, bridges, tunnels, subways, nuclear power plants, and other key infrastructure in the aftermath of 9-11.

During the remembrance ceremony, Soldiers paid their respects to those who lost their lives the day of the attack. In the second part of the ceremony, the efforts Soldiers made here in Iraq were recognized by awarding the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Combat Medic Badge.

Some of these Soldiers re-enlisted or transferred into deployable units in order to "take the fight to the enemy." In the end, the actions of terrorists declared war not only on the United States, but also on the state of N.Y.

During the ceremony, Warnecke reminisced about his most vivid memory of 9-11 and the World Trade Center.

"I remember (seeing) on Sept 12 in the piles of rubble near the globe monument a hand in the rubble; a woman's hand," he said. "And in that hand was a small singed, dust covered teddy bear with a heart on its chest. On that heart were the words 'I love you mommy.' A dead mother, a child who would never see her again, who would grow up without her."

"To mother and child I say 'late on dark nights in Iraq when I am on patrol you are both with me, and I know why I am here.'"

3rd BCT Soldiers and civilians commemorate World Trade Center attacks during ceremony

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

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARHORSE, BAQUBAH, Iraq — Soldiers, civilian contractors and guests of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team gathered at the MWR hangar here Sept. 11 to commemorate the events of the day three years ago when more than 2,600 lives were taken in the attacks on America.

Eyes misted throughout the crowd as images from the events of that day faded into one another on a video screen at center stage. Positioned in front of and below the screen, was an M-16 rifle with Kevlar, boots and identification tags - a memorial representing all American lives given in the Global War on Terrorism.

Flanking the screen were the American flag, the division and brigade colors, unit guidons and several enlarged photographs of the event's aftermath.

A polished plaque sat discreetly on stage in front of the 5th Special Forces Group guidon. The plaque, made from a piece of I-beam taken from the ruins of the World Trade Center, was given to the Soldiers by the New York Police Department and has traveled with them on subsequent missions in Afghanistan and Iraq in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom I, and Iraqi Freedom II.

The gathering of approximately 500 Soldiers and civilians occupied every seat and nearly all remaining standing room in the hangar. First to address them was 3rd Brigade Combat Team CSM John D. Fourhman, who referred to the Global War on Terrorism as a "war we are destined to win," but not without sacrifice.

"It's important to take a moment to reflect and remember those who have already given their lives in the name of this priceless thing we call freedom," he said.

COL Dana J.H. Pittard, commander of the 3rd BCT, also spoke to the gathering and introduced Diyala Governor Abdullah al-Jburi, whom he referred to as a "beacon of hope" for the Iraqi people. Abdullah, who had run a successful dental practice in London before returning to his native country to accept the post of Diyala governor, gave a short but heartfelt speech, thanking coalition troops for their dedi-



SFC Dennis Hamer from Bravo Company, 201st FSB performs the National Anthem during a ceremony held at FOB Warhorse Sept. 11 to observe Patriot's Day.

cation in the fight against terrorism.

"I really appreciate what you are doing," he said. "I think this is what encouraged me to come and put myself in the same position as you."

Other guest speakers included 1st Infantry Division Rear Detachment Commander LTC Chris Kolenda and State Department representative, Mr. Sherman Grandy.

SFC Dennis Hamer from Bravo Company, 201st Forward Support Battalion sang the national anthem and later, Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the U.S.A." Chaplain Chip Huey gave the invocation and led those gathered in singing "America the Beautiful."

Following the ceremony, civilians and Soldiers, including those from the Georgian 16th Mountain Infantry Battalion stationed here, posed for photographs in front of the American flag and the memorial.

Soldiers left the ceremony, which was coordinated by 3rd BCT Logistics SGM Mark A. Braatz, feeling somber, but also feeling a renewed pride and resolve.

"Every generation has its challenges and this is ours," said Pittard. "A sleeping giant has been awakened. We will not be victims again. Never forget."

Desert Sunset

BY 1LT S.K. ALFSTAD
1-4 CAV CHAPLAIN

From 22 June to 22 July, I served the Soldiers of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment at Forward Operating Bases MacKenzie and Wilson. They have an excellent unit ministry team, and Chaplain Gary Fisher, their chaplain, took a well deserved R&R leave.

I stayed on an extra week when he returned. I provided religious support at MacKenzie while he went to Wilson because the division chaplain's office anticipated a need for augmentation in that specific area of operations. Their ministry required them to convoy between the two FOBs, which took them by Samarra, which is, as most of you know, a rough place, to say the least.

Fisher and his assistant, SGT Edward Baptist, have an intense mission. While I was there, I experienced some wonderful moments as well as the terrible heartbreak of Soldiers losing their comrades.

It didn't take long to discover how tough the 1-4 CAV mission is. We had two killed in action, two critically injured, four seriously injured and one minor injury while I was there. Chaplains serve troops, and with Baptist's help, Fisher's guidance, and most importantly, God's grace, I was able to minister to those who needed it.

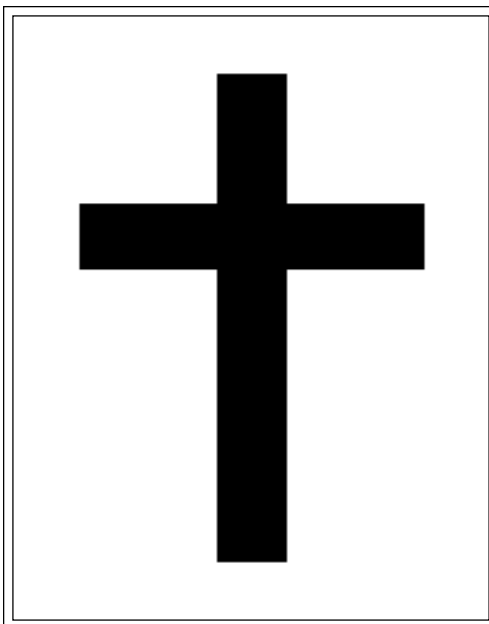
Following each one of the incidents where the two esteemed Soldiers lost their lives, the troops were gathered. God's Spirit moved in a powerful way. About 25 gave their heart to God for the first time, and about a dozen rededicated their lives to Christ.

With many humble tears, these men rose out of their grief to embrace a loving and receptive Heavenly Father. By allowing something positive to transpire out of these tragedies, the legacy and memory of these two heroes were honored. However, there was another life-changing moment. Apparently, God wanted to teach me something.

On July 19 after one of the attacks late in the afternoon, I saw the body of our fallen brother. It was a sight that engraved an unforgettable image on my heart and mind. That night, at approximately 9 p.m., I was walking outside and saw the most spectacular sunset.

For those of you who are not familiar with MacKenzie, it is in the middle of the desert. It is so far out that the paved road ends, and vehicles go through sand for a couple of miles in order to get to the gate. All this set the stage for this magnificent sight.

In the western horizon, there was a strip of orange, created by the dusty, desert atmosphere. Above that was a small strip of white, gradually fading into blue, which got darker and darker as my eyes moved upward.



In the blue area was an awesome royal color; it formed a spectacular backdrop for the brilliant crescent moon, with a star bold and bright near it. This is the way God works in the lives of His children.

Whenever we go through something harsh and painful, He follows it with something wonderful. Psalms 126:5 & 6 tell us, "Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him."

For God's children, bad news turns into blessings. If we rely on the world, bad news gets worse. Proverbs 24:16 assures us, "For though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again, but the wicked are brought down by calamity." God wrote these verses for you and me!

Do you want to "return with songs of joy" and "rise again"? It's easy. In the famous biblical story of the Prodigal Son, when he came back to his father, he didn't have to jump through a bunch of religious hoops, meet strict requirements to repent and prove his loyalty.

The father only cared about the loving relationship with his wayward son (Luke 15:11-32). With God it's about "relationship," not "religion." Does this incredible invitation appeal to you? Maybe you want a little more guidance. Seek your chaplain or someone you know who is a strong and true believer. You can find the Way!

This article is dedicated in loving memory to MSG (Ret.) Michael Copley and PVT Nicholas Blodgett, and all our fallen comrades.



1st Infantry Division chaplains and chaplain's assistants attend a Unit Ministry Team training conference at Forward Operating Base Danger in Tikrit, Iraq. (Photo by SPC Sherree Casper)

SSG Christopher E. Cutchall

D Troop, 4th 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 Josph 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. Chappell

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, 1st Engineer Battalion

January 27, 2004

SFC James T. Hoffman

B Company, 1st Engineer Battalion

January 27, 2004

SGT Travis A. Moothart

B Company, 1st 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

In Memory of Task Force Danger and 1st Brigade Combat Team Soldiers killed while serving in Iraq through October 8, 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

PFC 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

SFC 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

PFC 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. Camosiles
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
HHC, 2-2 Infantry
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
HHT, 1-4 Cavalry
May 19, 2004

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

PFC Richard H. Rosas
3-62 Air Defense Artillery, 10th Mt. Div.
May 25, 2004

PFC James P. Lambert
3-63 Air Defense Artillery, 10th Mt. Div.
May 25, 2004

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

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

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

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

SPC Patrick R. McCaffrey Sr.
A Company, 579th Engineer Battalion
June 24, 2004

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

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

2LT Brian D. Smith
A Company, 1-34 Armor
July 2, 2004

SPC Samuel R. Bowen
HSC, 216th Engineer Battalion
July 7, 2004

SGT Robert E. Colvill
HHC, 1-26 Infantry
July 8, 2004

SPC Sonny G. Sampler
HHC, 1-26 Infantry
July 8, 2004

SPC Collier Barcus
HHC, 1-26 Infantry
July 8, 2004

SPC William R. Emanuel
HHC, 1-26 Infantry
July 8, 2004

SPC Joseph M. Garmback Jr.
HHC, 1-26 Infantry
July 8, 2004

MSG Linda A. Tarango-Griess
267th Ordnance Company
July 11, 2004

SGT Jeremy J. Fischer
267th Ordnance Company
July 11, 2004

SGT Dustin W. Peters
314th Logistics Readiness Squadron
July 11, 2004

PFC Torry D. Harris
12th Chemical Company
July 13, 2004

SFC David A. Hartman
401st Transportation Company
July 17, 2004

PFC Nicholas H. Blodgett
A Troop, 1-4 Cavalry
July 21, 2004

SGT Tatijana Reed
66th Transportation Company
July 22, 2004

PFC Torey J. Dantzler
66th Transportation Company
July 22, 2004

SPC Nicholas Zangara
C Company, 1-7 Field Artillery
July 24, 2004

SGT Deforest L. Talbert
C Company, 1-150 Armor
July 27, 2004

PFC Joseph F. Herndon
A Company, 1-27 Infantry
July 29, 2004

SPC Anthony J. Dixon
B Troop, 1-4 Cavalry
August 1, 2004

SGT Armando Hernandez
B Troop, 1-4 Cavalry
August 1, 2004

SPC Donald R. McCune II
1-161 Infantry, 81st BCT
August 5, 2004

CPT Andrew R. Houghton
A Troop, 1-4 Cavalry
August 9, 2004

1LT Neil Anthony Santoriello
1-34 Armor, 1st BCT
August 13, 2004

SGT Daniel M. Shepherd
1-16 Infantry Regiment
August 15, 2004

1LT Charles L. Wilkins III
A Company, 216th Engineer Battalion
August 20, 2004

SPC Ryan A. Martin
A Company, 216th Engineer Battalion
August 20, 2004

2LT Matthew R. Stovall
401st Transportation Company, 167th CSG
August 22, 2004

SPC Charles L. Neeley
454th Transportation Company, 232nd CSG
August 25, 2004

A1C Carl L. Anderson
494th AEF, 835th CSG
August 29, 2004

SPC Joseph C. Thibodeaux
HHC, 2nd Brigade, 25th ID
September 1, 2004

SPC Brandon M. Read
125th Transportation Company, 167th CSG
September 6, 2004

SPC Michael Martinez
A Company, 1-6 Field Artillery
September 8, 2004

SPC Edgar P. Daclan Jr.
HHC, 1-18 Infantry
September 10, 2004

SPC Marva I. Gomez
A Company, 828th Finance Detachment
September 11, 2004

SPC Joshua J. Henry
A Company, 1-7 Field Artillery
September 20, 2004

SSG Lance J. Koenig
B Company, 141st Engineer Battalion
September 22, 2004

SPC Gregory A. Cox
C Company, 1-77 Armor
September 27, 2004

SFC Joselito Villanueva
C Company, 9th Engineer Battalion
September 27, 2004

SGT Tyler D. Prewitt
HHC, 2-2 Infantry
September 28, 2004

SSG Mike A. Deenie
106th Finance Battalion
September 29, 2004

SGT Michael Uvanni
B Company, 2-108 Infantry
October 1, 2004

SPC Morgen N. Jacobs
B Company, 1-18 Infantry
October 6, 2004

SSG Michael S. Voss
HHC, 1-120 Infantry
October 8, 2004

SFC Marvin J. Meeks, a crew chief with 2nd Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, inspects his M-60 Machine gun before takeoff from Forward Operating Base Danger on Oct. 2. (Photo by SPC David C. Dyer)

