

Danger



Forward

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Fallujah under fire, city retaken

See stories,
Pages 10-15





WHITE CHRISTMAS?

MG John R. S. Batiste, commander of Task Force Danger, visits Soldiers of Task Force 2-11 Field Artillery near the Iran-Iraq border Nov. 27.

On the cover



SPC James E. Folkers, cavalry scout with the 3rd Brigade Reconnaissance Troop, provides overwatch Nov. 18 as smoke rises from the blast of a controlled-detonation of a vehicle-borne IED factory the troop found while clearing the industrial sector of Fallujah.

Photo by SGT Kimberly Snow

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MESSAGE FROM DANGER SIX

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to every soldier and family member in Task Force Danger!

It is at this time of year that we should pause and give thanks for our many blessings of family, liberty, and freedom. No one understands better than us the meaning and significance of sacrifice and commitment.

We value teamwork and the importance of serving a cause far greater than self. We know that Task Force Danger is committed to serve others and protect a way of life that most people in this world can only dream about.

We continue this mission with a degree of professionalism and competence that no insurgency in the world can match. Our cause is just and the outcome is certain.

We are now well into the relief in place



MG JOHN R. S. BATISTE

with the 42nd Infantry Division and are committed to set our replacements up for unqualified success. As we enter the eleventh month of this mission, continue to relentlessly pursue the enemy and at the same time work to change the attitudes of the Iraqi people and give them an alternative to the insurgency. Treat the good people of Iraq with dignity and respect, but instinctively “crush the poised rattlesnake”.

We honor our comrades who have given their full measure and continue the mission with decisiveness and resolve—they would not want it any other way.

It is an honor to serve with each and every one of you. God bless all of you during this holiday season.

--Danger 6

MESSAGE FROM DANGER SEVEN

Christmas has come and past, and now we prepare for what 2005 will bring us. We have completed the first brigade relief in place between the 30th Brigade and the 278th Regimental Combat Team. I would like to commend both units for a great Relief In Place. It was conducted professionally at all levels between two great brigades. I would also like to recognize the great job by all the staffs that were involved. Now that we have set this precedent we must continue to prepare for the remainder of Task Force Danger to complete their RIPs to this standard or better.

January will be a very difficult month. Iraqis are making history in their participation in the first free elections of the Middle East. The enemy is determined to disrupt this process. He sees this as a milestone that he will never overcome. He is afraid once the Iraqi people taste their first bite of freedom his cause will be lost.

We will be stalwart in providing the support and instilling the confidence in the Iraqi Security Forces to enable this historic event



CSM CORY MCCARTY

to come to light. The key to our success is our unchanged tactics, techniques and procedures we have trained and perfected the

last eleven months. We will remain focused, disciplined and committed to the day we return home. We must continue to use all the tools available to make our mission a success. No mission ever leaves the gate without a task and a purpose. No Soldier is ever unprepared for mission. We have set the standard in OIF II and we must remain vigilant to that standard until our departure. Soldiers' and the good people of Iraq's lives depend on it.

Lastly, I am proud to be a member of this great task force. Only once in your life do you get to be on a team comprised of total professionals from the lowest private to the commanding general. I will always wear the symbol of The Big Red One on my right shoulder with pride and respect. I will never forget our comrades who gave their lives for their country. There will never ever be a day in our life when a “Mission is too difficult or a Sacrifice too great”.

Happy Holidays
Duty First

--Danger 7





SGT Kimberly Snow

Soldiers from 2nd Platoon, 3rd Brigade Reconnaissance Troop clear a house in Fallujah Nov. 12 after receiving sniper fire from that area.



SGT Kimberly Snow

A Soldier from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team at Forward Operating Base Warhorse prepares for a convoy to Fallujah on Nov. 4.



SGT Kimberly Snow

Soldiers from the 82nd Engineer Battalion, attached to 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, clear a house in Fallujah during Operation Al Fajr (New Dawn) Nov. 13.



SGT Kimberly Snow

SSG Adam P. Mulvey, a cavalry scout from the 3rd Brigade Reconnaissance Troop, uses bolt cutters to enter a house in Fallujah on Nov. 15.



SGT Kimberly Snow

Soldiers from Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment provide support for dismounted troops while clearing houses in southern Fallujah Nov. 15.



SGT Kimberly Snow

MAJ David S. Johnson, commander of the 101st Military History Detachment, and Arwa Damon, a producer for CNN, give water to a puppy during clearing operations in Fallujah Nov. 17.



SPC Brandi Marshall

SGT Trevor Bremer, a cavalry scout, provides security while 1LT Chris S. Boggiano, platoon leader, 3rd Brigade Reconnaissance Troop's "Outlaw" Platoon, throws a fragmentation grenade into a house in Fallujah on Nov. 12.



SFC Nancy McMillan

SPC Kimmer Horsen, a mechanic with Headquarters, Headquarters Detachment, Engineer Brigade, performs a dance at the Native American Heritage Celebration in Tikrit on Nov. 20.



SPC Ismail Turay Jr.

Soldiers at Forward Operating Base MacKenzie play pool at the new Morale, Welfare and Recreation center in November.



SGTRoland G. Walters

SGT Jordan M. Lenhoff, a Soldier with the 1st Infantry Division Band, strikes Billy Blanks' hand during one of the three Tae Bo workouts at Forward Operating Base Danger on Sept. 27.



SFC Nancy McMillan

Soldiers on Forward Operating Base Speicher follow the ball during a football game Nov. 12. The game was part of Veterans Day activities.



SPC Joe Alger

Soldiers from Task Force 1-77 set up a sniper position at a gunnery range in Balad Nov. 28.



SGT Kimberly Snow

An AH-64 Apache helicopter provides convoy security for Soldiers of Task Force 2-2 traveling through Baghdad enroute to Camp Fallujah for Operation Al Fajr (New Dawn) on Nov. 4.



SPC Brandi Marshall

U.S. Army medics from the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment treat a patient who was shot in Fallujah Nov. 13.



SGT Kimberly Snow

Soldiers from 2nd Platoon, 3rd Brigade Reconnaissance Troop clear a house in Fallujah Nov. 12 after receiving sniper fire from that area.



SGT Kimberly Snow

SGT Trevor Bremer, a cavalry scout with the 3rd Brigade Reconnaissance Troop, searches for the source of sniper fire in Fallujah Nov. 9.



SGT Kimberly Snow

SSG Nicholus D. Danielsen, a cavalry scout with the 3rd Brigade Reconnaissance Troop, calls in a situation report after a vehicle in his convoy was disabled by a roadside bomb.



Left: From left to right, SPC Stephen Lewis, SSG Nicholus D. Danielsen and SSG Jimmy Amyett, cavalry scouts with the 3rd Brigade Reconnaissance Troop's 2nd Platoon, clear a house in southern Fallujah Nov. 19. (Photo by SGT Kimberly Snow)

Engineers blaze a trail for those who follow

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT KIMBERLY SNOW
196TH MPAD

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARHORSE, BAQUBAH, Iraq — At five o'clock on a cool October morning, all is quiet, but for the ever-present humming of generators. Hulks of metal giants glint under the starlight.

Soldiers from the North Dakota Army National Guard's 141st Engineer Battalion begin filtering out into the pre-dawn chill, their duty day already underway.

Pre-combat checks and inspections complete, convoy brief concluded, they bypass the huge 5-ton trucks, scrapers and graders, load into five Humvees and one Meerkat, and roll out to begin trailblazing.

"We search out IEDs (improvised explosive devices), hasty minefields and ambush sites," said SSG Cody Hertz, a combat engineer from Bismarck, N.D. "But what it basically boils down to is finding IEDs;

that's the biggest threat now on the roadways."

While most convoys traveling the roads of Iraq drive up to the speed limit, the "Trailblazers" maintain a speed of only 20 to 25 mph. During these route clearance operations, every Soldier in every vehicle scans the roadway, median and shoulders looking for signs of disturbance or anything that seems out of place, intent on seeking out the deadly devices.

"We've been over this route so many times that every driver and TC (truck commander) knows every pothole and landmark on the route," said SGT Jed A. Korth, Alpha Team leader. "We usually notice when something's not right."

When they do find something suspicious, such as a recent ground disturbance, a dead animal, or something as simple as a trash bag or cardboard box, the Meerkat is sent in to investigate.

"I'd say it's probably about the best piece of equipment we've got here," said SPC Matthew A. Davenport. "We're lucky to have it. It's not something everybody can use because of its size - it's small, so you can only put small people in it."

The Meerkat, a single-occupant mine detection ve-

hicle resembling an oversized, armored dune buggy, features a 3-meter wide array that uses both metal-detection and ground-penetrating radar sensors. Should a blast occur, a V-shaped undercarriage directs the blast away from the vehicle, protecting the driver.

The vehicle's manufacturer, the Johannesburg, South Africa-based RSD, a division of Dorbyl Ltd., claims the vehicle is capable of taking the blast of an anti-tank mine, or 15 pounds of TNT. The company's claims have held up. The vehicle has so far weathered four blasts without serious injury to the drivers.

"I was blown up in it. It was kind of fun, actually," said Davenport. "I kind of thrive on that stuff, so it was interesting. It handles pretty well and you don't get jerked around that bad. You're definitely safe in there."

The troops also employ the "Buffalo," a mine protected, remote-control vehicle nicknamed for the vehicle's manufacturer, the Charleston, S.C.-based Buffalo Technical Solutions Group. The blast-resistant vehicle features a hydraulic arm used to uncover a suspected IED site and move suspect items from the road.

But the Meerkat and Buffalo are not the only items in the unit's arsenal. They also use more traditional engineering equipment in their mission to rid the routes of the deadly roadside bombs.

The day following the route clearance, the troops again head out on their mission to make the roads safer.

A Soldier from the North Dakota National Guard's Charlie Company, 141st Engineer Battalion drags a dead dog from Blue Babe Highway near Baqubah during a route clearance sweep.



But this day, they also bring along a scraper and a grader to “sanitize” the route – remove brush and debris from the roadside and median, leveling the surface and making it harder to emplace and hide the roadside bombs.

The Soldiers of Charlie Company have so far located about 60 IEDs from the roadside, but not without incident. They have been ambushed by rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire on several occasions and endured six IED blasts, including one that killed SPC James J. “Tugboat” Holmes, a Soldier from F Battery, 188th Air Defense Artillery, who volunteered to come to Iraq with the Trailblazers.

“Everyone was shell-shocked. We walked around in a daze for a couple of days,” said Company ISG Keith A. Hertz. “Everyone was blaming themselves. I blamed myself because I called him in to assist; the LT blamed himself because he missed it. But I think we did everything right though, now. I don’t think we short-changed him. I think about him all the time, and I don’t feel guilty anymore.”

Because IEDs are the leading cause of death and injury to Coalition Forces, the engineers realize the importance of their mission. They compete within the platoons to see who can find the most and constantly strive to stay ahead of the IED emplacers.

“When an IED goes off on the road, the first thing I do is run over and look,” Hertz said. “When was the last time we went over that? Did we miss it or did they get a chance to set it after we went by. We take it personal when we miss one.”



SPC David Feldman, a combat engineer with the North Dakota National Guard's Charlie Company, 141st Engineer Battalion, pops his head up from his Meerkat mine detecting vehicle during a route sanitation sweep on a roadway south of Hibhib, near Baqubah Oct. 22.





Fallujah falls...

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

FALLUJAH, Iraq — “I feel like a fly walking into a room full of frogs,” said SGT Cory Johnson, a cavalry scout with the 3rd Brigade Reconnaissance Troop.

Johnson laughed nervously as he sat talking with fellow scouts in the dining facility at Forward Operating Base Warhorse on the eve of their departure for Fallujah with the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment for Operation Al Fajr - a joint operation to aid the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force in wresting control of the city from a deep-rooted insurgency.

The BRT’s mission: Secure the city’s eastern flank and help clear a path for the main effort sweeping down through the city from the north.

“Everyone’s excited, happy not to be left out. They’re like little kids,” said SFC Anthony Neusch, platoon sergeant for the BRT’s “Hunter” Platoon. “It’ll be one to tell the grandkids about.”

As the troop moved out to the Marine base of Camp Fallujah at 8:30 a.m. on Nov. 4, SSG Nicholas Danielsen turned to SGT Brock A. McNabb, a medic

SSG Arturo C. Gutierrez, a senior scout with the 3rd Brigade Reconnaissance Troop’s 1st Platoon, scans the area while clearing houses in Eastern Fallujah Nov. 15.



from Charlie Company, 201st Forward Support Battalion, who was attached to the troop, and grinned.

“Are you ready to get your work on?” he asked.

Danielsen, a section sergeant for the BRT’s “Outlaw” Platoon, assumed the roll of platoon sergeant for the mission while the platoon’s senior enlisted man, SFC Jamie Loy, rotated out on leave.

A natural leader, Danielsen slipped into the role effortlessly, crediting Loy with preparing him and the platoon well in advance of his absence. Always maintaining control, he also joked with troops in an attempt to ease nervous tension.

“Shut your mouth!” he would occasionally growl at the sometimes raucous troops, then break into a wide grin. They would respond with a chuckle, continuing on with their mission.

After arriving at the Marine camp, the scouts spent a few restless days preparing for the main assault.

On Nov. 8, the day had arrived with a 2 a.m. wake-up call for the scouts, who would be the first to position for the initial push late that night. By 5 a.m., they rolled out into a wet, cold, morning rain with wind whipping at the men up in the turrets.

“Man, I feel sorry for the Marines,” said SPC James Taylor, who sat shivering miserably in one truck’s turret. “They have to live here all the time.”

Once in position and looking west down into the city, the scouts used their Long Range Advanced Scout Surveillance System - a device that uses thermal imaging to register heat signatures- to call for fire on targets deep into the city in preparation for the main push.

“(SGT Michael R.) Cowles has been Johnny on the spot today,” said SGT Trevor Bremer, referring to the LRAS truck commander who had been calling in artillery strikes. “I’ve been listening to him on the radio all day.”

Airmen from the Tactical Air Control Party of the 2nd Expeditionary Air Support Operations Squadron and SGT Raymond Sapp, a forward observer from 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery who is attached to TF 2-2, deployed together and accompanied the troop to help integrate fire.

“We’re here so fratricide doesn’t happen,” said Air Force SSG Matthew Horgan from the TACP. “The only time they use us is when a bomb is going to be dropped in close proximity to friendlies.”

Reinforced by two M1A2 Abrams tanks from Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 63rd Armor and two Bradley Fighting Vehicles from Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry, the Soldiers and Airmen maintained their position on a screen line above the city’s eastern flank for days while receiving sniper fire and incoming mortar rounds.

During the day, a fierce blue sky to the west pro-

vided a stark contrast to the haze of smoke hanging over the city as an endless chorus of thunderous booms from artillery, mortars and bombs rained down on targets throughout the city.

As the main push began and firefights raged, the scouts, tankers and infantrymen on the screen line added to the cacophony with their own direct-fire weapons – the tank main-gun rounds, Bradley Fighting Vehicle 25mm canons, 240B and .50 caliber machine guns, Mark-19 automatic grenade launchers and every other weapon in their arsenal.

On day two, at about 7 a.m., the troops again began taking sniper fire.

“That sniper’s still targeting us, my truck just took a couple more hits,” said Cowles.

“Yeah, he’s targeting the LRASS, he knows we’re scanning for him,” responded Danielsen.

As the turret gunners responded by returning fire, Danielsen grabbed an AT-4 (shoulder-fired rocket) and launched it into the building the shots originated from. The blast sent a shock wave rolling through the nearby vehicles and elicited cheers along the screen line.

“He ain’t shooting from there anymore, is he?” he said with a laugh. “Whew!”

“No way, man,” said his gunner, SGT Trevor Bremer.

Later in the day, the troops again began receiving sniper fire. As Taylor scanned the city through the LRASS, he spotted another sniper in a window about 1,200 meters out.

SGT Omar Torres, an infantryman and sniper from the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry scout platoon, joined the men on the road, bringing with him his .50 caliber M107 sniper rifle. With Taylor acting as a spotter, he sent several rounds into the building.

“Oh man, you nailed him,” shouted Taylor who was still watching through the LRASS. “That was so cool; he just exploded!”

The men were excited to learn that while calling for fire, they had taken out a top lieutenant of Abu Musab Zarqawi, a Jordanian militant with ties to al-Qaeda, said Outlaw Platoon Leader 1LT Chris Boggiano.

As the scouts and tank crews scanned the city that day, both witnessed men running back and forth carrying weapons into a building in a mosque complex. With dual confirmation from both the tanks and the LRAS crews, a precision strike was approved, destroying the building but leaving the mosque itself intact.

“Both the tank and the LRASS saw bodies flying through the air,” said Boggiano. “They said they saw them flying several stories high. It was pretty exciting because we knew we’d gotten someone big.”

By Nov. 11, the fourth day of operations, the task force had secured the city north of phase line Fran, an



...Task Force Danger unit leads the way

east-west route running through the middle of the city. The scouts had been extremely effective in calling for fire and allowing the main effort to push forward very quickly, said task force commander, LTC Peter Newell.

That day, Outlaw platoon was performing a reconnaissance mission into the southern outskirts of the city. As they dismounted to clear a house near their observation post and ran toward the house, they began receiving sniper fire from the north. Danielsen and Bremer, the first two out of the vehicles, were caught in the open. They ran and dove into a depression behind a small berm.

SSG Jimmy Amyett, a section sergeant, maneuvered his vehicle between the men and the sniper, allowing them to take cover. The other gun trucks returned fire.

"That truck never looked so good coming up over the berm. Sand was kicking up at my feet when I was running," said Danielsen. "It was just like in the movies. It was like in a dream when you just can't run fast enough."

Danielsen and Bremer laughed nervously as they recounted the experience to the others - as always, maintaining a sense of humor about the experience.

"That would have made a perfect commercial," said Bremer. "Not going anywhere for a while? Have a Snickers bar."

After days of performing a more traditional scout role during the initial assault, the troop also began performing more direct, infantry-type duties. While one platoon maintained an observation post or conducted reconnaissance missions, another would take a dismounted force into the city to aid the main effort in clearing buildings.

"We went house-to-house, door-to-door, street-by-street, side-by-side with Alpha 2-2," said Troop Commander, CPT Kirk A. Mayfield. "We have a very mobile force, and the way the BRT is designed right now, it is reinforced with a mechanized platoon, so we brought some armor capability which allowed us to get into the city and have that extra punch."

The attached tank platoon from A1-

pha, 2-63, was also proving to be an invaluable asset.

"ILT (Neil) Prakash made me a believer in tankers," said Mayfield, referring to the tank platoon leader attached to the BRT. "He's a great officer with two great crews in his tanks. Their ability to get into the city and provide overwhelming firepower against the AIF (anti-Iraqi forces) was instrumental in the BRT's success when we got into the middle of the fight."

As the troop began clearing houses and buildings in the eastern and southern sectors, they secured safeholds from which they mounted operations. Nights were spent posting guard and sleeping in shifts. Early on, firefights raged and artillery and bombs continued to pound the city around them, shaking the buildings to their foundations.

The fatigued troops slept on cold hard concrete floors amid broken glass with concrete blocks as pillows.

While conducting clearing operations, they came under fire numerous times and found several buildings rigged with explosive devices, but came through the encounters unscathed. They found caches, fighting positions, and intelligence items during these operations, the largest on Nov 17.

"Oh my God, I found the motherlode!" shouted Amyett after leading a squad into a storage facility in the industrial district of southern Fallujah.

After several hours searching and clearing buildings in the sector, the exhausted scouts found a cache consisting of several anti-aircraft guns and systems, dozens of 60mm rockets, about 50 boxes of 14.5mm and 12.5mm rounds, and about 100 mortar rounds - a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device factory.

The following day, the troops were treated to a fireworks display when the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team, having decided that there were too many munitions to move, blew them in place.

Over the last few days, the troop finished clearing the last remaining sectors with little resistance.

Back at Camp Fallujah, the scouts, tankers and infantrymen who had worked so well together during the operation smoked victory

cigars while congratulating one another and recounting the events of the past 16 days. Age-old branch rivalries - at least for the moment - were set aside.

"The combined arms effort was beautiful," said Prakash. "It was just the way it's supposed to be - tanks protecting the dismounts and dismounts protecting the tanks."

The night before the troops were to leave Camp Fallujah, the Marine command thanked the servicemembers of Task Force 2-2 by temporarily lifting General Order Number One and providing them each with one ice-cold beer. As they gathered round the Task Force 2-2 commander, a collective "ahhh" escaped the lips of those gathered around after each toast - to the Marines whose job was just beginning, to all who fought there, and to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country during the battle for Fallujah.

Word had also gotten around that the Marine command was to award those who fought in the battle with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force combat patch.

"I'm really just happy and proud that we all made it back safe," said PFC Martin Reyna, a scout from the BRT's Hunter platoon. "If we got awarded that patch, it would be a nice thing to have. My dad was a Marine so I always had a high opinion of the Marines.

There's nothing wrong with calling for help, it was a big operation. But I never expected for them to call us in there."

Task Force 2-2 fights for Fallujah

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

FALLUJAH, Iraq — Looking west down into Fallujah from its eastern flank Nov. 8, U.S. troops watched as bombs dropped and artillery whistled by overhead, crashing down and creating a haze of smoke blanketing the insurgent-controlled city.

Soon, their counterparts from 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment would create a breach through which all Army and Marine elements would pour into the city to begin an assault, purging the dug-in and determined insurgency and turning the city back over to the people of Iraq.

The assembled task force was deployed to Fallujah at the request the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, stationed at a camp about 10 kilometers west of the city. It was comprised primarily of about 650 Soldiers from 2-2 Infantry; 2nd Battalion, 63rd Armor; 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery; 82nd Engineer Battalion and the 3rd Brigade Reconnaissance Troop.

On the eve of battle, TF 2-2 commander, LTC Peter Newell gathered the troops around him.

“This is as pure a fight of good versus evil as we

will probably see in our lifetime,” he said. “And there is nobody in the world better at what’s going to happen than you.”

Because they knew the movement of such a large force into Camp Fallujah would not go undetected – the combat force consisted of about 100 vehicles – they assumed the enemy was also preparing for the assault.

“Yeah, they know we’re coming,” said 1LT Karl E. Gregory, a platoon leader with Alpha Company, 2-2. “But to tell you the truth, I don’t think it matters whether they know we’re coming or not. I don’t think there’s anything they can do to stop us.”

By the evening of Nov. 11, the northern half of the city had been secured. A Marine element took over so TF 2-2 could move south.

Despite the use of extensive underground tunnel and bunker systems and being unusually well equipped – enemy fighters were reported to be wearing flak vests, helmets and using sophisticated weapon systems – U.S. forces and Iraqi Intervention Forces defeated the insurgency in only two weeks.

TF 2-2 killed more than 300 enemy fighters and detained 45. They destroyed five vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices and found about 40 weapon caches, two IED factories and a VBIED factory.

Although Newell said he never doubted the outcome, he didn’t expect the battle to end so quickly. And he couldn’t be more proud of their achievements.

“I saw some things that I don’t think anyone there could ever really understand,” said Newell. “I’m talking about the heroics of individuals in the midst of chaos. I don’t think that anyone who wasn’t there could really capture that.”

Newell attributed the success of the operation in part to the support given to the task force, particularly at division level.

“This is probably the first time since the Vietnam War that we were told to take the gloves off and just go in and do what we have to do to win,” said Newell. “Never once did I have to say ‘I need or I want.’”

Success didn’t come without great cost. Four Soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice. Battalion CSM Steven Faulkenburg, Alpha company executive officer, 1LT Edward Iwan, Alpha Company commander, CPT Sean Sims and Scout Platoon team leader, SGT James Matteson all perished in the action.

“I pretend they’re just not here right now, that they’re just someplace else,” said Alpha Company 1SG Peter Smith. “That’s how I deal with it.”

Soldiers assigned to the 82nd Engineer Battalion, attached to Alpha Company, Task Force 2-2, clear the upstairs of a house in Fallujah Nov. 11.

SPC Brandi Marshall

SSG Christopher Shook, attached to Alpha Company, Task Force 2-2, surveys the terrain looking for snipers in Fallujah Nov. 13.

SPC Brandi Marshall





Soldiers enter battle wearing shield of God

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

CAMPFALLUJAH, Iraq -- Under a tranquil, morning sky in a dusty, remote corner of Camp Fallujah, SGT Tom J. Broadbent prepared for battle in his own way.

The cavalry scout from the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment's Scout Platoon emerged from his tent and ambled across a dirt road, drawn by the sounds of contemporary Christian music flowing from a make-shift, open-air chapel.

As he approached, a single green Army cot held camouflage-cover Bibles and military survival kits – small bags containing a pocket-size edition of the New Testament, a devotional book, and a Shield of Strength – a charm adorned with a Bible verse to be worn alongside Soldiers' identification tags.

An altar fashioned from two cots stacked one on top of the other, held a simply-adorned silver cross and a small chalice and box containing communion wafers. Six cots set in three rows of two provided seating.

After greeting the other Soldier-parishioners, each of whom he addressed as "Brother" – a habit he'd adopted since becoming a Christian 16 years earlier – he took his seat, feet tapping in time to the music.

"Being a Christian is extremely important to me," he said. "It's a huge part of who I am. So, to have the opportunity to get together with some other believers, people who believe the same way I do, is very significant. It's huge. I don't know if I could do this without it to be quite honest."

An infantry-

man-turned-scout, Broadbent spent the first half of his deployment serving with 2-2 as an infantryman, patrolling in and around the city of Muqadiyah, near his home base of Forward Operating Base Normandy. While serving with Charlie Company's 1st Platoon, he participated in several battles, including one in which four rocket-propelled grenades were fired at his Bradley Fighting Vehicle. Two missed completely and two bounced off.

"At the time, we had zero casualties. We were the only platoon in the entire task force that had zero casualties," he said. "I left the platoon and about two weeks later, they had a guy get shot in the leg. Call it coincidence if you will. I say it's the difference between prayer being there and prayer not being there."

Since moving to the scout platoon, Broadbent mans the .50 caliber machine gun on his add-on armor Humvee – the only vehicle in his platoon that isn't fully up-armored and has no extra protection in the turret.

"We go out with what the Army gives us," said Broadbent. "When I tell the guys I'm perfectly fine going out in that truck, some of them say I'm crazy. But the book of Psalms talks about God being our shield, our place of refuge, our stronghold, our shelter. And that's the way I look at it. That's my armor right there and nothing can penetrate that."

Even while preparing for the biggest offensive since the invasion of Iraq, he appeared calm and untroubled. He attributed that in part to the opportunity to attend worship services, especially in the field, and to his relationship with the battalion Chaplain, CPT Ric Brown, whom he also calls a close friend.

"I think there's a greater need for the chaplain to be down here at times like this," said Broadbent. "God forbid, anything bad should happen, but if someone

should get hurt, he's going to be right there. And if they want to get things right with God on their deathbed, at least they'll have that opportunity."

Brown, a former reserve military police officer, co-located his mobile chapel with the aid station to be as far forward as possible and to be where he thought he could do the most good.

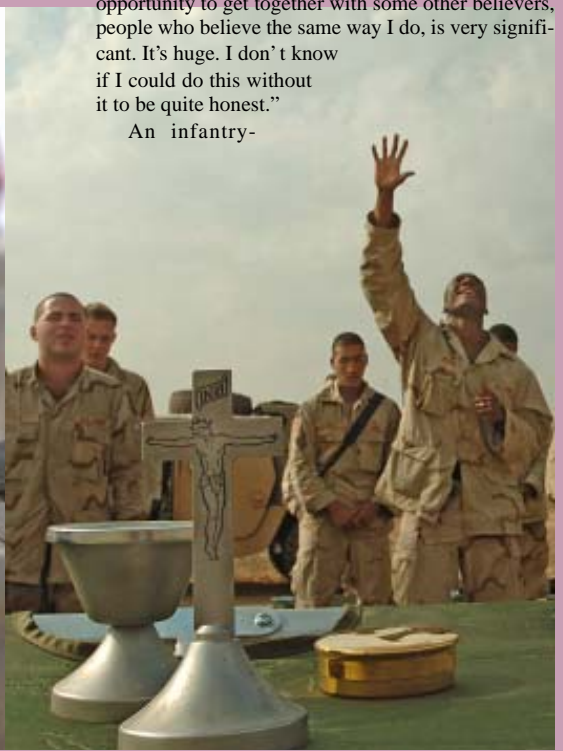
"The service is important to prepare them spiritually," he said. "It gives them encouragement, motivation and strength to do what they need to do. I know that it's going to be a tough mission. That's why I see the importance of being up there with them. I do them no good being back here. I need to be able to reach out and touch them."

Broadbent, whom his troops sometimes affectionately refer to as "Preacher," said he also enjoys the opportunity to minister to Soldiers. When teased about his nickname, he simply sees it as a chance to share his faith.

And when approached by Soldiers who are apprehensive about rolling into battle in his add-on armor Humvee, he encourages them with his deep convictions.

"Don't worry about it. As long as I'm on this truck, you're gonna be okay," he says. "God's got my six."

Photos, this page, Soldiers of Task Force 2-2 Infantry attend worship services held by battalion Chaplain, CPT Ric Brown, shown below and top photo, at Camp Fallujah on Nov. 6.





Soldiers assigned to Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment survey the terrain around Fallujah on Nov. 8 in support of Operation Al Fajr (New Dawn).

SPC Brandi Marshall



More

Fallujah

action

SPC Ruben Labarga, assigned to 82nd Engineer Battalion, attached to Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, fires a Javelin at a house filled with insurgents in Fallujah while supporting Operation Al Fajr (New Dawn) Nov. 11.

SPC Brandi Marshall



SGT Kimberly Snow

Soldiers from Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment line up their M1A1 Abrams tank in preparation for a reconnaissance probe to the outskirts of Fallujah on Nov. 5.



SGT Kimberly Snow

Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade Reconnaissance Troop's 2nd "Outlaw" Platoon clear buildings in the industrial area of southern Fallujah Nov. 17.

SGT Brian R. Peterson, a cavalry scout with the 3rd Brigade Reconnaissance Troop, takes cover in a house in southern Fallujah after taking fire while clearing houses in the sector Nov. 15.

SGT Kimberly Snow



SGT Kimberly Snow

A Soldier with the 3rd Brigade Reconnaissance Troop pulls guard duty from the rooftop of a safehold in eastern Fallujah Nov. 18.



SPC Brandi Marshall

A Soldier sitting on an M1A1 Abrams tank shaves at Camp Fallujah on Nov. 8 while waiting to roll out in support of Operation Al Fajr (New Dawn).



SPC Brandi Marshall

Two Soldiers stand on top of an M1A1 Abrams tank drawing motivational signs on the main gun at Camp Fallujah Nov. 8 while waiting to roll out in support of Operation Al Fajr (New Dawn).



SGT Kimberly Snow

Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade Reconnaissance Troop's 1st "Hunter" Platoon clear houses in southern Fallujah Nov. 15 during Operation Al Fajr.



SGT Kimberly Snow

SPC James C. Taylor, a cavalry scout with the 3rd Brigade Reconnaissance Troop, leads a squad from 2nd "Outlaw" platoon while clearing houses in southern Fallujah Nov. 15.



SGT Kimberly Snow

1LT Chris Neyman, platoon leader for 3rd Brigade Reconnaissance Troop's 1st Platoon, prepares for a dismounted patrol in southern Fallujah Nov. 15.

From left to right, SSG Nicholus D. Daniels, PFC John M. White and CPL Pablo Reyes, cavalry scouts with the 3rd Brigade Reconnaissance Troop, prepare to clear a building in the industrial section of southern Fallujah Nov. 17.

SGT Kimberly Snow



Panther...

...gives Army another mine-clearing weapon



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

FORWARD OPERATING BASE REMAGEN, TIKRIT, Iraq – Recent technological advances have enabled the Army to protect its most valuable asset, the lives of its Soldiers.

The M1 Abrams Panther II is a 43-ton, remote-controlled vehicle designed to help clear minefields. A specially modified M1 Abrams Main Battle Tank stripped of its turret and installed with Omnitech's Standardized Teleoperation System and mine rollers allows this vehicle to mine-proof and clear a hazardous area. The vehicle is also equipped with a magnetic "dog bone," which is designed to set off magnetic mines and tilt rods.

During a Media Day event in September, the 9th Engineer Battalion demonstrated how the remote-controlled Panther II clears a 50,000 square-foot minefield in one hour.

The Panther can also be driven manually with two Soldiers operating the vehicle as driver and tank commander. The driver sits in the traditional tank driver position, the TC, who guides the driver, sits inside the crew compartment, which originally housed the turret.

The Panther, used by the 9th Engineer Battalion, was operated both manually and by remote, making multiple passes on the simulated mine field.

Second Lt. David C. McKelvin, Bravo Company, 9th Engineer Battalion, briefs the media during an event in which the M1 Panther showcased its skills at Forward Operating Base Remagen.

The M1 Panther makes a pass clearing a lane with imaginary mines during a demonstration for local and international media at Forward Operating Base Remagen.

"Usually it will make one pass, turn around and overlap the same pass by maybe about four inches," said 2LT David C. McKelvin, platoon leader of 3rd Platoon, Bravo Company, 9th Engineer Battalion. "The first pass doesn't always get the entire area. You're always making multiple passes."

The Army developed the system in response to a need for an improved route-proofing system in Bosnia. Now, nearly 60 vehicles are equipped with STS kits for unmanned operation, including tanks, tractors, High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles, Skytrak forklift, All Terrain Vehicles and trucks.

Previously deployed to Bosnia, CPT Christopher T. Simpson, commander of Bravo Company, 9th Engineer Battalion, knows firsthand the Panther's effectiveness. The Panthers are more successful here because the terrain is flat; it's ideal for the desert environment, said Simpson.

The 9th Engineer Battalion has the only operational Panther with robotics in Iraq. Boasting two of the six Panthers that the army owns, the 9th Engineers uses them to clear Ammo Supply Points left by the former regime.

It's a great piece of equipment that clears a large area without sloely relying on engineers with mine detectors and probes, said McKelvin.

SGT Vladimir Sanchez, a tank commander from Bravo Company, 9th Engineer Battalion, exits the M1 Panther after making preparations to operate it by remote at Forward Operating Base Remagen.



Distribution center moves supplies forward

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

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, TIKRIT, Iraq— Neither rain, nor sun, nor sandstorm keeps these Soldiers from performing their vital mission.

The 23-man Supply Platoon from the 323rd Maintenance Company, 167th Corps Support Group has adapted from their original mission of running a Forward Distribution Point to running the Division Distribution Center located on Forward Operating Base Speicher.



SGT Nathan M. Grundy, a Soldier from Bravo Company, 701st Main Support Battalion, guides the driver of a rough terrain container handler to make sure that the edge of the container is flush with the trailer at Forward Operating Base Speicher's Division Distribution Center.

SPC Phillip J. Esteves, a Soldier with the 323rd Maintenance Company, uses his body weight for leverage while tightening the cargo strap across a pallet at FOB Speicher's Division Distribution Center.



Standing on top of a "break pallet," SPC Phillip J. Esteves, a Soldier with the 323rd Maintenance Company, points out a tangle in the cargo strap to SPC Stacey Cordwell, also with the 323rd, at FOB Speicher's Division Distribution Center.

The DDC is the hub of the supply network for all of northern Iraq, feeding supplies out into different brigade combat teams to include the Stryker Brigade located around Mosul.

Daily convoys of up to 20 trucks with 40-foot trailers come to the DDC yard to drop off various types of supplies.

The trucks pull into the offloading lane where a team of Soldiers use forklifts to unload the supplies into a staging area.

Another team from the 323rd Maintenance Company checks pallets to see if they need to be opened because their contents may be going to more than one place. Pure pallets are shipped straight through.

Pallets that need to be broken down are opened at the breakpoint where the supplies are separated onto different pallets and marked according to the final destination. All pallets are placed into the corresponding lane with its destination marked clearly.

Each lane represents a forward distribution point that supports anywhere from 50 to 250 military units. The DDC was initially responsible for eight FDPs. Now the number has been reduced to seven since the Stryker Brigade opened its own lane.

"Our mission is to make sure that all the supplies get to the units that need them," said SFC Karen M. Sage, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the DDC.

This includes shipments that have been mis-shipped. That was the hardest thing, Sage said. "We would have pallets come in and have no clue where the unit was at. So we would track them down to get them what they needed."

The Supply Platoon has begun a new phase in its deployment, training the Kellogg Brown & Root workers that will be taking over the yard.

Hip hop sounds hit MacKenzie

Young rappers plan, perform show

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

FORWARD OPERATING BASE MACKENZIE, Iraq – The Morale, Welfare and Recreation center here transformed into a concert hall Halloween night as Soldiers were treated to a three-hour hip hop show.

PFC John Kinnerson, 21, of Selma, Ala., and SPC Jason Cook, 20, of Atlanta, both of the 1st Squadron, 4th United States Cavalry Regiment, organized the concert. It was their second show since arriving here in February.

Along with eight fellow Soldiers, the duo entertained their brothers and sisters in uniform with songs they wrote and others by established artists. Some 100 troops filled the recently built MWR center to show support and cheered on their comrades.

“We just wanted to do something different and help boost morale,” Kinnerson said. “Some people that don’t like rap still came to support us, and we appreciate that.”

The performers, with the exception of Kinnerson, shed their desert dress uniform tops and donned black t-shirts with the words “Hustlemann Records” and “Hustle up” on the front.

A faulty sound system delayed the show for more than half an hour. However, Cook and Kinnerson, true showmen that they are, did not allow that to deter them. The show went on.

The wait proved to be worthwhile. The group opened with “Street Life,” a song with toe-tapping beats. Other songs they performed included, “Oh now,” “Lord you know,” “Sleep away,” “Hook and Cook,” and “Slow motion.”

The lyrics flowed from the rappers’ lips as smoothly as honey.

The audience seemed to enjoy the performance as the crowd gave the rappers several thunderous rounds of applause throughout the night. Others tapped their feet while a few bobbed their heads and sang along.

SGT Jerome Story of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, and a native of Norfolk, Va., said he loved the show and has bought Kinnerson and Cook’s CDs. The performance was even more meaningful because it involved fellow soldiers, he said.

“It’s great to know that people have hidden talents,” Story said.

SGT Carl Foggey, also of HHT, said he especially liked the show simply because it was something different. The day before, Enter Sandman, a band made up of members of the 1st Infantry Division’s Band, gave a concert, he said.

The group played mostly rock and roll, and not all Soldiers like that form of music. So a hip hop show was a grand idea, Foggey said.

“I’m glad that the command sponsored diverse entertainment for the soldiers,” he said.

Cook and Kinnerson said that they plan to put on more hip hop shows during the remainder of their time here. They would also like to take their act on the road and entertain other Soldiers in the IID’s area of operations if given the opportunity, they said.

Cook and Kinnerson said they aspire to become music producers. Each one recently started a record label. Kinnerson said he owns Insain Muzic and has two artists on his label. Cook calls his label Hustlemann Records and he, too, has a couple of artists.

They’ve produced several mix CDs, and they’ve sold nearly a hundred of them to fellow Soldiers in Iraq, they said. Kinnerson’s latest CD is titled “Front page of the Selma Times Journal” while Cook’s is called “Nothing to lose.”



PFC John Kinnerson, left, and SPC Jason Cook, both of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, pose at Forward Operating Base MacKenzie. They are aspiring musicians who put on a concert for fellow Soldiers Halloween night.



PFC John Kinnerson, center, performs a rap song during a hip hop show he and other Soldiers organized at Forward Operating Base MacKenzie.

SPC Jason Cook, left, performs a rap song during a hip hop show he and other Soldiers organized at Forward Operating Base MacKenzie.



RIP rehearsal held around Danger

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

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, TIKRIT, Iraq – In an effort to ensure that their upcoming transfer of authority occurs without a hitch, the 1st and 42nd Infantry Divisions held a day-long relief in place rehearsal in Tikrit on Dec. 5.

The 42nd ID, which is an arm of the New York Army National Guard, is scheduled to take control of North-central Iraq by the end of February for a year-long tour of duty. The 1st ID has been in-country, leading Task Force Danger, since February of this year.

The Rainbow Division is the first National Guard contingent to be in charge of an entire area of operations in the Middle East. It will lead Task Force Liberty, which will be comprised of units from active duty, the National Guard and Reserves.

An estimated 200 leaders from the divisions, including both commanding generals, filled the Morale, Welfare and Recreation center's theater for the rehearsal.

In the days leading to the dry run, each 42nd ID brigade and battalion commander shadowed his 1st ID counterpart, and both drafted a RIP plan. The commanders presented their plans during the rehearsal, and the generals approved them or made suggestions for improvements.

The RIP plans presented to MG John Batiste of the 1st ID and the 42nd ID's MG Joseph Taluto were meticulous. They included troops' rest plans, movement from Kuwait to Iraq, and the 1st ID's withdrawal from Iraq.

Prior to the RIP presentations, 1st ID officials gave the 42nd ID a brief overview of the area of operations, which includes four provinces. The Big Red One also briefed the Rainbow Division Soldiers on the various tribes in each province and their economic statuses, population statistics, and supply routes.

Also discussed were the capabilities of the enemy;

its tendencies, trends and lessons learned; and the various attacks insurgents have launched against coalition forces.

The rehearsal was somewhat of a brainstorming and advice session as well. The 1st ID told its 42nd ID counterpart about challenges the Big Red One faced and lessons it learned the past year.

"(The rehearsal) is all about sharing good ideas," Batiste told the throng of Rainbow and Big Red One Soldiers.

He urged the 42nd ID to use force against the enemy whenever necessary, but the goal should be to end the violence because the vast majority of Iraqis want peace. Additionally, he suggested that the Rainbow Division's commanders trust their junior commanders and allow them to experiment and learn from their mistakes, and "let NCO (noncommissioned officer) business be NCO business."

Advice aside, Batiste said he is committed to having a flawless RIP, and he vowed that the 1st ID will work tirelessly to make that happen. A seamless RIP will set the 42nd ID up for success, he said.

The Rainbow Division has worked equally hard. Its headquarters mobilized in early June and came to Tikrit to do a reconnaissance, get acquainted with the area, and learn from the 1st ID, Taluto said.

In mid-June, another headquarters team – mainly the division support command -- returned for another reconnaissance. Then in July the brigade and battalion commanders conducted a leaders' reconnaissance.

Taluto and his staff returned in August for a third reconnaissance.

"Our reconnaissance has been constant and consistent, and I think it has been worth every effort," Taluto said in July. "We owe a real debt of gratitude to the 1st Infantry Division for the way it's received us. It's been wonderful and professional in every sense of the word.

"Major General (John) Batiste and the Big Red One have set us up for success from day one."

Working with the Big Red One to get an idea of how they operate mirrors a return to school, Taluto said.

He and his staff learned so much, including how the 1st ID prepared for its deployment, things it did well and things it could have done better or differently while in theater, the general said.

The 1st ID and 42nd ID share the same birth year – the 1st ID was formed in June and the 42nd ID in August 1917. They forged a relationship when the divisions fought alongside each other during World War I.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur, who was a colonel at the time, spearheaded the effort to form the 42nd ID in preparation for World War I. When assembling soldiers for the division, he tapped National Guard regiments from 26 states and the District of Columbia.

The Army opted to form a National Guard division because the government wanted to increase support for the war, Taluto said. Besides, having recently fought in the Mexican-American War, the National Guard troops had more combat experience and were better trained than their active army counterparts.

Because the division comprised units from 26 states, MacArthur made the statement, "This division stretches across the land like a rainbow," and the 42nd ID became known as the Rainbow Division.

The Army inactivated the 42nd ID after World War I and reassembled it during World War II. Once again, the Rainbow Division's and the Big Red One's paths crossed during that conflict as they fought across Europe.

In 1947, the 42nd ID officially became a National Guard division, and has served in that capacity since.

Today it stretches across nine states, but 67 percent of its soldiers are located in New York and New Jersey.

CPT Morgan Close, far left, an intelligence officer with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, points to a terrain model as another intelligence officer gives a brief to 1st ID, 42nd ID, 116th BCT and 2/25th BCT leaders during a combined arms rehearsal on Kirkuk Air Base Dec. 2. The CAR was part of the 116th and 2nd BCT's relief-in-place process that covered the 116th's approach march into 2/25th BCT's area of operations.

SGT Sean Kimmons





USAF SSG Shane A. Cuomo

On Nov. 11, Air Force Tactical Air Control Party members from Detachment 1, 2nd Air Support Operations Squadron, attached to 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, and members of Charlie Troop, 1-4 CAV conduct an analysis of a crater from two 1,000-pound bombs that were dropped Nov. 9 on an island in the Tigris River outside of Ad Dawr.

Bombs away

Cavalry unit targets island used as enemy stronghold

STORY BY
SPC ISMAIL TURAY JR.
196TH MPAD

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WILSON, AD DAWR, Iraq – As talks to push rebels out of Fallujah escalated in early November, insurgents pounded this compound with rockets twice a day, the most since the 1st Infantry Division’s cavalry scouts arrived here in February, officials said.

Although the rounds landed close to buildings and shattered some windows, no Soldiers of Charlie Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment were injured. But CPT Paul Krattiger, the troop’s commander, wasn’t going to allow the unthinkable to happen before taking action.

On Nov. 9, he requested an air strike on an island, one of three locations from which insurgents have launched their attacks. There were no rebels on the island that night, but two Navy fighter jets bombed it with two 1,000-pound GBU 32 bombs.

“We knew there was no one on the island,” said Krattiger of Albuquerque, N.M. “So simply dropping those bombs was a show of force that will hopefully prevent those guys from firing from there again. It shows that we know where they are firing from and what our capabilities are.”

Despite efforts to help the people, attacks against Coalition Forces have continued in Ad Dawr because residents are strong Saddam Hussein supporters, Krattiger said.

Many Ad Dawr residents were high ranking officials in Hussein’s government. So they lived better than the average Iraqi, Krattiger said, adding that Izzat Ibrahim Al-Douri, the deposed dictator’s former right-hand man, may be funding the rebels.

Also behind the attacks may be insurgents who were ousted from the city of Samarra by 1st Infantry Division and Iraqi National Guard soldiers in October, Krattiger said.

“We think they came up here to regroup and they probably recruited some folks, and that’s why we are seeing an increase in the attacks,” he said.

Prior to bombing the island, Charlie Troop did some crater analysis to determine where the attacks were coming from. The unit concluded that insurgents had been



SPC Ismail Turay Jr.

CPT Paul Krattiger, pointing, commander of Charlie Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, gives his Soldiers last-minute instructions just before he ordered an air strike on an island in the city of Ad Dawr Nov. 9. Insurgents used the island daily to fire rockets onto Forward Operating Base Wilson.

firing from three locations in the city: northwest, east and south.

Once the troop discovered the locations, it set up several observation posts and did some air and land reconnaissance before calling in the air strikes, Krattiger said.

Several buildings, including the one Krattiger and his Soldiers used to guide the jets to the target, shook and windows rattled. Females screamed in the distance and dogs barked.

The bombs created a crater that’s wide enough for two mid-sized cars. Krattiger is hoping the attacks on his base stop as a result of the bombing, he said.

Perhaps the air strike will anger residents who are tired of their windows rattling and the ruckus in their city, and they will pressure the insurgents to end the attacks, he said. He’s also hoping that other residents will call in a tip or two that will lead Charlie Troop to the rebels, he said.

When they’ve gathered enough information, the Soldiers will conduct some raids in hopes of capturing the perpetrators, Krattiger said. Until then, his Soldiers will continue their dismounted operations.

“When those guys come back, that’s when we are going to kill or shoot them,” Krattiger said.



SPC Ismail Turay Jr.

PFC Matthew Taylor, left, and SPC Justin Brooks, both of Charlie Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, exit a room in an apartment complex in Ad Dawr Nov. 9.

Operation Duluiyah Sunrise

1-4 Cavalry searches, clears vital area

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

AD DULUIYAH, Iraq – After months of fighting, the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment rid this city of insurgents and returned the community to normalcy.

However, 1-4 CAV leaders learned in late October that in the Peninsula, an upscale section of Ad Duluiyah, “a significant” number of residents were harboring insurgents and funding attacks against Coalition Forces.

As a result, the squadron launched Operation Duluiyah Sunrise. The operation called for Soldiers to search each of the 500 homes in the Peninsula and gather information that will be used in the future, said 1LT William Cherkauskas, of Alpha Troop, 1st Platoon.

It’s no surprise that some residents continue to resist, even though Coalition Forces have spent millions of dollars to improve quality of life and infrastructure



SFC Kenneth Garcia, center, platoon sergeant of 3rd Platoon, Alpha Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, and his Soldiers prepare to enter a home in Ad Duluiyah during an operation in November.

in the city. Nearly the entire population is part of the Al Jabouri tribe, which traditionally has been loyal to former dictator Saddam Hussein.

Many of them worked for Hussein during his regime, and he treated the tribe well. They held powerful, high-paying jobs. The average Al Jabouri family in the Peninsula lives in lavish homes, by Iraqi standards, while others reside in shabby dwellings.

“So when (Hussein) went away, they had a lot to lose and that’s why they are not happy to see us,” said Cherkauskas, a native of Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

During a recent dismounted reconnaissance in the Peninsula, SFC Kenneth Garcia, platoon sergeant of 3rd Platoon, Alpha Troop, and his Soldiers searched homes in an area near a major intersection. The platoon teamed up with a group of engineers and mortar men.

A high number of attacks have occurred in the area near the intersection, said Garcia, of Indianapolis. But as he and his men stood in the bustling intersection that Saturday afternoon, SSG Jeremy J. Smith of Louisiana said the chance of an attack was slim.

“We are always trying to keep up security,” said Smith, a 3rd Platoon section sergeant. “But from past experiences, we know that when there are a lot of people on the streets, there’s not going to be an attack.”

During the searches of the homes, Garcia and his men were professional as they asked permission before entering people’s houses. In most cases, the residents were accommodating.

The Soldiers were careful not to disturb the people’s property when searching, and left things as they found them. The troops also acted as goodwill ambassadors as they played with children and gave them gifts of pens and pencils.

After searching the home of an ailing senior citizen, Garcia promised the man’s son that his father would be looked at by an Army medic during the next patrol.

While searching another home, Garcia and his men

found a photograph of Hussein and his two sons. The resident said he’s opposed to Hussein, but he keeps the picture in case the deposed leader returns to power. Garcia confiscated the photograph.

Many of the Soldiers were disheartened by what they saw at another house hours into the mission. Flies covered a little boy who appeared to be mentally ill. His pants were halfway down as he sat in his own feces.

Someone had tied a rope around his ankle and the other end to a metal bar on a window. He appeared to be about 10 years old.

Around the corner from the boy, a toddler wearing dirty clothes sat on the filthy floor with several flies on her face. The child looked as if she had not had a bath in days.

SGT Orville Whitlock of Virginia is a member of the 9th Engineer Battalion and a father.

“It’s sad to see something like this,” he said. “It just makes you more proud to be from America and also proud to be here to help these people so they can handle stuff like this in a more humane manner.

“It’s breaking children down to a lower level,” Whitlock said, his voice cracking. “Even lower than pets because some people don’t even lock their pets up like this. This isn’t right.”

Halfway through Operation Duluiyah Sunrise, which started in mid-October, the 1-4 CAV had not found excessive amounts of weapons or other contraband, Cherkauskas said.

People with illegal weapons tend to hide them in public places such as parks and orchards, Cherkauskas said.

“These people know we are coming,” he said. “You can hear a Bradley (Fighting Vehicle) from a mile away. They know we are coming and they’ve seen us come down there before in the middle of the night and they are not stupid.”



CPT Nicholas Cook of Alpha Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, questions a resident with the help of an interpreter during an operation in Ad Duluiyah in early November.



SFC Kenneth Garcia, right, a member of Alpha Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, shows his Soldiers a picture of Saddam Hussein and his sons found while searching a home in Ad Duluiyah in early November.

Wolfhound Power secures Sunni city

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT SEAN KIMMONS
25TH ID PAO**

HAWIJA, Iraq – Due to recent insurgent activity within this Sunni Arab city, Task Force 1-27 Infantry conducted a multiple-day, offensive security operation called Operation Wolfhound Power beginning Nov. 11.

Operation Wolfhound Power was launched to force insurgents out of the city of about 85,000 residents, following insurgent attacks that injured three TF 1-27 Soldiers and 10 Iraqi National Guard troops on Nov. 11 and 12.

“We’ve been trying to prevent an uprising,” said SPC Victor Salazar, an infantryman with Bravo Company, TF 1-27 Infantry. “We can’t search every house in Hawija, so we’re doing mounted and dismounted security patrols, and searching for and detaining sus-

pects.”

Another element TF 1-27 implemented during the offensive operations were its sniper teams.

“We’ve been fairly successful using our designated marksmen and being able to engage at longer ranges,” said MAJ Mario Diaz, the operations officer for TF 1-27.

The sniper teams also provided early warning and surveillance to maneuver infantry elements below their observation points.

Combat medics were heavily relied upon too, especially during the first two days of the operation.

SPC Stan Matlock, a combat medic with Bravo Company, TF 1-27, tended to Iraqi National Guard troops who were wounded in the insurgent attacks, as well as civilians caught in the crossfire.

“It was important to let [the injured ING troops] know that we are all on the same side,” Matlock said. “It meant a lot to them to be seen by an American medic,

because they’re not used to receiving high-level medical care.”

Plus, Matlock said he built a special bond with the ING troops he treated, and they became more motivated to fight alongside him against the insurgents.

According to the Geneva Conventions, U.S. Army combat medics are even supposed to provide medical care to wounded enemies, if accessible.

“We treat the guys we injure,” Matlock said. “We had a guy who threw a grenade at us and we treated him after we lit him up. It’s something that many other armies don’t do.”

Soldiers of Charlie Company, TF 1-21 also lent their support to Operation Wolfhound Power by helping secure the city of Riyadh, a Sunni Arab town east of Hawija.

The operation will be ongoing until insurgent activity has been terminated in Hawija and its surrounding areas, Diaz said.



SGT Rick Abner, a tactical psychological operations team chief with the 350th Psychological Operations Company, attached to Task Force 1-27, hands out coloring books to Hawija children during Operation Wolfhound Power on Nov. 14.



PFC Michael Hammer, a radio transmission operator with Alpha Company, TF 1-27 Inf., looks out for insurgent activity from a balcony in Hawija as part Operation Wolfhound Power on Nov. 14.



PFC Ty Correll, an infantryman with Bravo Company, Task Force 1-27, provides rear security as his team prepares to move across a street in Hawija during Operation Wolfhound Power on Nov. 13.



A Soldier from Task Force 1-27 takes part in a dismounted patrol in Hawija Nov. 13.

Raid results in friendships not detentions

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT SEAN KIMMONS
25TH ID PAO**

NORTH OF RASHAD, Iraq – When Task Force 1-27 Infantry Soldiers and Iraqi Security Forces conducted Operation Wolfhound Jab, no one was detained and no weapon caches were found within two small Arab villages north of Rashad on Nov. 15.

But this was good news, because it meant there were no signs of insurgent activity, which had plagued the surrounding area in the past week.

As fighting continued in Fallujah to the south, in-



SGT Jeff Czapla, a team leader with Bravo Company, Task Force 1-27, prepares to enter a Rubaydhah home during Operation Wolfhound Jab on Nov. 15.

surgents moved north near these two villages located in the northern tip of the Sunni Triangle. Many improvised explosive devices were emplaced, and Iraqi Security Force checkpoints were overrun and destroyed in the area.

There were reports that the two villages, Tall Suseus and Rubaydhah, were insurgent sanctuaries. As a result, TF 1-27 carried out Operation Wolfhound Jab to kill or capture the enemy.

Nothing incriminating was found during the searches, except some AK-47 magazines and ammunition.

Acting in response to their raid operations, TF 1-27 leaders talked with village males about the reason Multi-National Forces and Iraqi Security Forces were searching their homes.

“We were able to open a line of communications and speak with all the males from both villages and explain that our goal in Iraq is to help them as much as we can until their government is able to do so,” said LTC Scott Leith, TF 1-27 commander. “They were very receptive.”

The villagers were also able to voice concerns and issues that were frustrating them, Leith added.

Leith talked to the males of the Rubaydhah village,



Bravo Company, Task Force 1-27 Soldiers and an Iraqi National Guard member search a Rubaydhah home during Operation Wolfhound Jab on Nov. 15.

while Chaplain (CPT) Abdullah Hulwe, TF 1-27 Inf. chaplain, interacted with the Tall Suseus village males.

“At first they were, of course, scared,” Hulwe explains of the villagers’ first impressions when they saw Soldiers and ISF roll into their villages.

Hulwe, a Muslim who speaks Arabic, along with ISF officers, explained why they were there.

“We opened a channel of communication [and told them] you don’t have to be scared, together we can make a difference,” Hulwe said.

After getting his point across, Hulwe was invited to attend Muslim prayer at the village’s mosque.

“It was a very good experience,” he said.

Because of his religion, Hulwe was even able to break a stereotype of one villager.

“There was a guy whose father passed away a couple of nights ago,” Hulwe explains. “So, I prayed with him in Arabic and read the Holy Koran.

“The guy was freaked out. He must have thought ‘what kind of infidels are these people,’” Hulwe said, laughing.

Hulwe then explained to the man that he was also a Muslim. The man then became very grateful afterward, he said.

Leith believes the villages will help defend Iraq against insurgency as a result of the interaction that occurred in the villages.

“Now there are a few more people who know why we are here and who are more likely to give us information on who’s fighting against us,” Leith said.

SPC Ramy Elmery, a translator and cultural advisor to the TF 1-27 commander, thought the sit-downs helped ease tension from the raid operations.

“It’s a big difference,” Elmery said. “Instead of raiding a home and leaving without saying why we raided their home, we sat down, talked to them and listened to their problems.

“We didn’t leave the villages as Warriors, but as guests,” Elmery concluded.

Soldiers from Bravo Company, Task Force 1-27 walk through a sheep stable after searching the building behind them as part of Operation Wolfhound Jab in Rubaydhah on Nov. 15.



Soldiers pump it up at Speicher

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

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, TIKRIT, Iraq — The gleam shone off of their bodies as they went on stage. Bright lights illuminated the cut and definition of their muscles. The contestants struck their poses with confidence and conducted their routines without hesitation as the crowd went wild.

SFC Woody B. Carter, a Soldier with the 67th Combat Support Hospital, hoped that this would happen when he organized FOB Speicher's first bodybuilding competition, held at the post gym on Oct. 30.

His love for bodybuilding is just one of the reasons he decided to plan a bodybuilding competition. "I got bit by the bug, so now I am hoping that these Soldiers got bit and that it will create a ripple effect to promote natural bodybuilding."

Even in his imagination he couldn't have foreseen the turnout and support the Soldiers and civilians showed for each other.

"After seeing how the crowd reacted, I felt like a father out there watching his kids on the ball field," Carter said.

Carter's "kids" were 15 athletes that competed during the morning prejudging and evening finals not only for gift certificates provided by the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, but, more importantly, for a trophy, recognizing the dedication involved in sculpting their bodies.

Contestants who placed first, second or third also

received a yearlong subscription to Muscle Fitness magazine and protein supplement, compliments of CW2 Roy L. Rucker, a Soldier with the 121st Signal Battalion and a Pro Lab athlete.

"You have some Soldiers that are aspiring bodybuilders, but they never had the venue to expose that," said Rucker, a judge for the competition and avid bodybuilder himself.

The five judges, many of whom were competition bodybuilders and powerlifters, graded the contestants on total body symmetry, confidence in posing, stamina, endurance and attitude.

"It was nerve-racking because it's my first competition," said SGT Ada L. Millby, a native of Dayton, Ohio, and Soldier with the 216th Engineer Battalion.

Although she was worried that someone would laugh or question her presence on the stage, Millby is already contemplating her entry in the next competition that will be held at FOB Danger in December.

Out of the 15 contestants only three had prior competition experience.

SGT Krystal D. Barnes, a Soldier with Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Division Support Command, was one of those three. "First I was a runner, then I wanted to take my fitness to another level, so that's when I started bodybuilding," she said.

Although Barnes won Overall Female bodybuilder and also first in her class, she said that there is always room for improvement.

The event, which took four months of planning, was designed to improve morale and promote bodybuilding awareness to a cheering crowd of over 350 people.

"Being around all this stuff inspires me to do bet-

ter. I've always wanted to be more toned and more muscular than what I am," said PFC Amanda Stettner, a Soldier with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, DISCOM.



SFC Nancy McMillan

SGT Krystal D. Barnes, a Soldier with Headquarters, Headquarters Detachment, Division Support Command, poses during the finals of Forward Operating Base Speicher's bodybuilding competition on Oct. 30.



SFC Nancy McMillan

SGT Dale Fontenelle, a Soldier from the 283rd Transportation Company, holds a pose during Forward Operating Base Speicher's first bodybuilding competition Oct. 30. Fontenelle went on to win the 5'7" and under class.



SFC Nancy McMillan

SGT Ada L. Millby, a Soldier with the 216th Engineer Battalion, observes herself in the mirror before the evening finals of Forward Operating Base Speicher's first bodybuilding contest Oct. 30.

Group rocks the house

Sings the Lord's praise

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

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, TIKRIT, Iraq — The voices could be heard from afar, but they were not the raucous ones of Soldiers in a fierce battle.

Instead, the harmonious sounds were that of the Tikrit Gospel Fellowship Choir, which serenaded their brothers and sisters in uniform at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation center's chapel here Nov. 12.

The performers, who included active duty, National Guard and Reserve Soldiers, come from all walks of life with different musical backgrounds, denominations and races.

But that didn't matter, because God reigned that night.

The Voices of Praise, as the choir is referred to, put on an awesome head-bobbing, toe-tapping concert titled "A Symphonic Testimony." Indeed, it was a music miracle rife with testimonials.

The performance was dedicated to all Soldiers in-country. It was a tribute to the troops' mission and to the choir members' efforts the past year, organizers said.

"We put together several songs that were devised to tell a story of how we were able to persevere throughout this deployment," said CW2 Drayton Gilyard, pastor of the Tikrit Gospel Fellowship and a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 121st Signal Battalion.

Gilyard, a native of Orangeburg, S.C., who was ordained in September 2003, added that with God on their side, choir members overcame all major obstacles and were protected by His angels.

Hogans' personal goal for the concert was to spread the word of Jesus Christ and give people the opportunity to be touched by the music.

"Everybody here has been troubled in some way or another, and music just makes you feel better," he said. "But (the concert) is not about the choir, it's about the gospel."

The concert included a spiritual dance routine by Gilyard and solos by Chaplain (LTC) Mike Lembke, the 1st Infantry Division's top clergyman, and SFC Donald Hogans, head of TGF's music ministry and a member of Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 58th Aviation Regiment.

"The Symphonic Testimony is the opportunity to praise and worship in song so the general public can enjoy," said Hogans, a native of Jackson, Fla.

The 35-member choir started practicing for the concert in early September, in addition to preparing for its weekly performances during Sunday morning church services.

Planning regular and extra practices around the members' duty schedules proved to be challenging, Hogans said.

"This was the tough part, between people going on leave, going to other base camps, and just normal duties," he said.

After his choir's powerful performance, Gilyard said he hoped the music would inspire Soldiers as they battle insurgents in this war-torn country.

"The music can talk to the people," said Gilyard, pastor of Bethel Christian World Outreach Ministries in Germany. "In the Bible before the Israelites went to fight, they sent their singers."



SGT Derrick Wilson, master of ceremonies for the event, takes to the podium during the recent concert on Forward Operating Base Danger.



SFC Donald Hogans, the ministry of music coordinator, watches and plays keyboards as some of the choir members sing solos Nov. 12.



SPC Johnathan Ross and PFC Cadavious Summerall, members of Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 121st Signal Battalion, dance during the Symphonic Testimony concert.

The Tikrit Gospel Fellowship Choir band plays Nov. 12 during a concert called the Symphonic Testimony at Forward Operating Base Danger. The band members are as follows: drums, Pastor (CW2) Drayton Gilyard from Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 121st Signal Battalion; guitar, SPC Tarnisha Brown, a member of Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery; piano, SFC Donald Hogans, of Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 58th Aviation Regiment.



Transportation Soldier remembered at Speicher

**STORY BY
SGT W. WAYNE MARLOW
1ST ID PAO**

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, TIKRIT, Iraq – Soldiers with the 25th Transportation Company and other units gathered at the base gym here Nov. 20 to remember SPC Ricky Flores as brother-in-arms, husband, father and friend.

Flores, a light motor vehicle operator with the 25th Transportation Company, died Nov. 16 when an improvised explosive device detonated.

Following readings from Psalms 27 and II Corinthians 5, some of those who knew Flores best reflected on his life.

"Today we honor Ricky and share the joy of our memories," said SGT Stephanie Paulk, his platoon sergeant. She remembered his fondness for music, electronics, and especially drawing.

"Ricky with a pencil could put his soul on paper," Paulk said. "He has left his mark on all of us as well."

She went on to describe Flores as a "humble and giving person who never asked for anything in return. I am a better person for knowing him. We all are."

One of Flores' closest friends, SGT Dusty Davis, said Flores had a positive impact on everyone.

"Once in a great while you'll meet someone you'll never forget," Davis said. "We need to take a few minutes and remember what it is about him that made us smile. There is not one person in this room he didn't touch one way or another."

The 25th Transportation Company commander, CPT Andra Allsion, read from "The Fallen Soldier," then reflected on what Flores had meant to the unit as both a Soldier and friend.

"When duty called on him he always put the needs of the company before his own," she said. "He was a good-hearted young man with a contagious smile and a love of life. We love you and will never forget the ultimate sacrifice you made for your nation."

Chaplain (Capt.) Andre D'Arden said it was a gift to have known Flores.

"He was a talented person and he shared his love and concern for others," D'Arden said. "He was an artist, among many other talents that he had. When God created him, he gave him a mission and a purpose. Ricky, thank you for being a gift to us."

The ceremony concluded with roll call by 1SG Zacarias Rivera, the firing of volleys, and *Taps*.



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 Joseph L. Lister

B Company, 1-34 Armor
November 20, 2003

SPC Thomas J. Sweet II

Service Battery, 1-5 Field Artillery
November 27, 2003

SPC Uday Singh

C Company, 1-34 Armor
December 1, 2003

SGT Ryan C. Young

A Company, 1-16 Infantry
December 2, 2003

SGT Jarrod W. Black

B Company, 1-34 Armor
December 12, 2003

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

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

HHC, 1-7 Field Artillery
April 9, 2004

SGT William C. Eckhardt

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. Camposiles

HHC, 1-26 Infantry
April 17, 2004

PFC Shawn C. Edwards

B Company, 121st Signal Battalion
April 23, 2004

SPC Martin W. Kondor

A Company, 1-63 Armor
April 29, 2004

SGT Joshua S. Ladd

367th Maintenance Company
April 30, 2004

SPC Trevor A. Win'e

24th Quartermaster Company
May 1, 2004

CPT John E. Tipton

HHC, 1-16 Infantry
May 2, 2004

SSG Todd E. Nunes

A Company, 1-21 Infantry
May 2, 2004

CPT Christopher J. Kenny

F Troop, 4th Cavalry
May 3, 2004

SSG Marvin R. Sprayberry III

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

In Memory of Task Force Danger and 1st Brigade Combat Team Soldiers killed while serving in Iraq through January 4, 2005

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 Jeremiah D. Smith

A Company, 1-34 Armor
May 26, 2004

PFC Marcus J. Johnson

D Battery, 4-3 Air Defense Artillery
June 1, 2004

LCPL Todd J. Bolding

2-4-5 Marine Regiment
June 3, 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

CPL Tommy L. Parker Jr.

2-4-5 Marine Regiment
June 21, 2004

LCPL Deshon E. Otey

2-4-5 Marine Regiment
June 21, 2004

LCPL Pedro Contreras

2-4-5 Marine Regiment
June 21, 2004

LCPL Juan Lopez

2-4-5 Marine Regiment
June 21, 2004

2LT Andre D. Tyson

A Company, 579th Engineer Battalion
June 22, 2004

SPC Patrick R. McCaffrey Sr.

A Company, 579th Engineer Battalion
June 22, 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

ILT Neil Anthony Santoriello

1-34 Armor, 1st BCT
August 13, 2004

SGT Daniel M. Shepherd

1-16 Infantry Regiment
August 15, 2004

ILT 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. Dennie

106th Finance Battalion
September 29, 2004

SGT Michael Uvanni

B Company, 2-108 Infantry
October 1, 2004

PFC Mackenzie F. Callahan

E Company, 196th Cavalry
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

SPC Andrew C. Ehrlich

C Company, 2-2 Infantry
October 18, 2004

SPC Segun F. Akintade

A Company, 2-108th Infantry
October 28, 2004

SGT Charles J. Webb

A Company, 82nd Engineer Battalion
November 3, 2004

SPC Cody L. Wentz

A Company, 141st Engineer Battalion
November 4, 2004

CSM Steven W. Faulkenburg

HHC, 2-2 Infantry
November 9, 2004

SSG Michael C. Ottolini

A Company, 579th Engineer Battalion
November 10, 2004

SGT James C. Matteson

HHC, 2-2 Infantry
November 12, 2004

ILT Edward D. Iwan

A Company, 2-2 Infantry
November 12, 2004

CPT Sean P. Sims

A Company, 2-2 Infantry
November 13, 2004

SPC Daniel J. McConnell

C Company, 1-27 Infantry
November 16, 2004

SFC Jose R. Flores-Mejia

25th Transportation Company
November 16, 2004

SGT Jack Bryant Jr.

A Company, 1-6 Field Artillery
November 20, 2004

SPC Jeremy E. Christensen

A Troop, 1-4 Cavalry
November 27, 2004

SGT Trinidad R. Martinez

B Company, 201st Forward Support Bn.
November 28, 2004

SPC Erik W. Hayes

HHC, 2-2 Infantry
November 29, 2004

SPC David P. Mahlenbrock

B Company, 65th Engineer Battalion
December 3, 2004

SSG Todd D. Olson

C Company, 1-128 Infantry
December 26, 2004

PFC Curtis Wooten

C Company, 1-77 Armor
January 4, 2005

Soldiers from Task Force 2-2 secure the Eastern flank of Fallujah Nov. 9, the day after the initial breach and southward push through the city during Operation Al Fajr (New Dawn). (Photo by SGT Kimberly Snow)

