

## Inside:



### More Marne Husky

Page 6



### Desert Boxing

Page 10

## Photo Contest Get Published!

Want to be famous? Email your best photo to the editor: michael.connors@iraq.cent-com.mil. A photo will be chosen for the next edition of the *Marne Focus*. Include your rank, full name, unit, photo date and a brief caption with rank, full name and unit of each Soldier in the photo.



# Operation Marne Husky

## Infantry, combat aviation join forces, create lethal capability



Photos by Sgt. Ben Brody

Capt. Eric Nylander, commander of Co. B, 3rd Bn., 509th Inf. Regt. uses a laser to point out a suspected IED factory in Sayafiyah during the first mission of Marne Husky. Later, an AH-64 Apache attack helicopter destroyed the building.

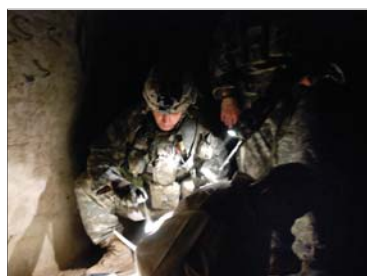
## Major offensive opens with surprise assault

By SGT. BEN BRODY  
3rd CAB, 3rd Inf. Div. Public Affairs

**BAGHDAD** – The opening salvo of Operation Marne Husky netted five Sunni detainees Aug. 15 after a swarm of Blackhawk, Chinook and Apache helicopters dropped U.S. troops into an insurgent compound in Sayafiyah, 20 miles south of Baghdad.

In a surprise assault just before midnight, Soldiers of the 509th Parachute Infantry, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade swarmed from the Chinooks into a cluster of buildings at the center of the compound, where only moments before, aerial reconnaissance drones had identified 20 to 30 men sleeping on the roofs.

Within moments, every man in the compound was in handcuffs, and women and children were gathered in the courtyard. Five of the men tested positive for TNT and other



Spc. John Kahn test a man's hands for explosive residue using X-Spray. He tested positive and was detained.

nitrate-based explosives; all were detained for further questioning. Their number did not include the high-value individual being targeted by the raid, the military said, but the five are suspected to be associates of him.

Outside of the compound, the surrounding fields were lit up by the explosions of artillery shells and Hellfire missiles fired by Apache gunships, in what is called "terrain denial fire." The munitions were aimed at suspected arms cache burial sites but also deterred individuals from attempting to leave the compound.

With the aid of bomb-sniffing dogs, the soldiers fanned out across the complex, searching for evidence of insurgent activity. While searching the sprawling property, Soldiers came across a locked building with machining tools inside, often used in the manufacture of improvised explosive devices. Co B Commander Capt. Eric Nylander marked the building with a laser pointer, and using laser sighting, an Apache leveled the building with two missiles and 50 rounds from a

See HUSKY, Page 6



Like the stories  
you've seen in the  
Marne Focus?

THE  
MARNE  
FORWARD

Search for "Marne Forward"  
on [www.dvidshub.net](http://www.dvidshub.net)  
or watch on the Pentagon  
Channel every other weekend:  
Sat. - 1:30 p.m. (EST)  
- 9:30 p.m. (Baghdad)  
Sun. - 11:30 p.m. (EST)  
- 7:30 a.m. (Baghdad)



Marne 6 sends

## Across the battlefield women make diverse contributions

### Women's Equality Day celebrates women's right to vote

This past weekend we celebrated Women's Equality Day, marking the 87th anniversary of the 19th Amendment – the women's right to vote. Our observances honored the thousands of women who worked to secure the vote for women in the United States. Their efforts are a remarkable testimony to the unrelenting tenacity and spirit of women, and what they can achieve in a democratic society.

Across Task Force Marne, amazing female Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines continue to call attention to women's continuing efforts toward full equality. Across the battlefield I meet remarkable women who set themselves apart not only as Soldiers, but as leaders.

Col. Patricia Anslow com-

mands the 875th Engineer Battalion and when the division asked for more engineers, she answered the call. She created Task Force Sapper and employed engineers from across her battalion to build Patrol Base Murray and now Patrol Base Hawk. In the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3d Infantry Division, medic Pfc. Stephanie McCulley responded to an explosively formed projectile attack to save wounded Soldiers. She did what she was trained to do with complete disregard for her own life, and her actions earned her the Bronze Star Medal. Pfc. McCulley is not only a Soldier, but also a mother who left her two sons home to deploy early so she could attend specialized medical training.

In the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Sgt. Tasha Hunt and Sgt. Martha Bravo-Cullen live at patrol bases with infantry companies. Sgt. Hunt continuously patrols with 2nd



Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch  
Task Force Marne Commander

Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment in Abu Farris in order to gain critical intelligence to lead the company to caches and insurgents' homes. Sgt. Bravo-Cullen supports 2-14 at Warrior's Keep and helps the company conduct intelligence driven operations and precise targeting.

Sadly in the 4th Brigade Airborne Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division,

Sgt. Trista Moretti died when a rocket hit her trailer. As a signals intelligence analyst who worked the night shift, Sgt. Moretti wanted nothing more than to be a Paratrooper. She gave up her assignment in a strategic intelligence unit to move to Alaska to become a Spartan. She loved supporting her fellow Soldiers, and most of all, she loved jumping.

The battlefield of male Soldiers supported by female nurses is a battlefield of the past. Women are on our patrols, delivering logistics in combat logistics patrols, and providing the intelligence to save lives. They are putting up Joint Network Nodes, writing awards, and flying our helicopters. As I look across our wide and diverse battlefield, I am proud of the work of our female Soldiers, and I am proud of you all.

**ROCK OF THE MARNE!**

## Understanding the pillars of Islam, Ramadan

By SAMI H. HOURANI  
Marne Focus Cultural Advisor

The Islam faith is based on five pillars of faith:

- El Shahada, (Confession of faith), that there is no God but God, and Muhammad is the Prophet of God.
- El Salaat, (Prayer), a Muslim must pray five times a day. The prayer invitations are played from local mosques and occur at the exact times that prayer should take place.
- El Zikat, (giving to the poor), it is required to give to the poor. The amount or percentage of the income varies from 2.5 to 20 percent
- El Hajj, (Pilgrimage), the pilgrimage to the city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia is a must for every Muslim at least once in a

life time, if financially able.

• El Siaam, (Fasting), during the Holy month of Ramadan, it is required of every Muslim to fast, if their health permits.

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and the holiest month in Islam.

Ramadan is very significant because it was during this month that the first verses of the Qur'an were inspired and given to the prophet Muhammad.

During the month of Ramadan, Muslims must observe the pillar of fasting according to the Qur'an.

The month begins when the new moon is observed to be born and goes through the cycle of becoming a full moon and then decreases in shape and size. The month ends when the moon is observed to be born

again. The duration of this month cannot exceed 30 days. This year, Ramadan is projected to begin Sept. 13.

The fasting starts every day at sunrise and ends at sunset. During that period the fasting Muslim cannot eat, drink or smoke. After sunset until sunrise the next day, the fasting Muslim can eat and drink. Normally families gather together and have a meal.

As a courtesy and respect for the traditions of our neighbors, when in public, during the month of Ramadan, do not eat, drink, smoke or curse. Also, do not offer any food or drink, even as a courtesy, to anyone as they may be fasting.

At the end of the month, a three-day celebration is observed.

I hope this will give you a brief background on the upcoming Ramadan season.



TASK FORCE MARNE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE  
Commanding General – Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch  
Command Sergeant Major – Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse L. Andrews Jr.

Task Force Marne Public Affairs Staff  
TF Marne PAO – Lt. Col. Randy Martin  
TF Marne Deputy PAO – Maj. Alayne Conway  
TF Marne PA NCOIC – Master Sgt. Marcia Triggs  
TF Marne PA Ops – Sgt. 1st Class Craig Zentkovich

#### Editorial Staff

Managing Editor – Master Sgt. Marcia Triggs  
Editor: Sgt. Michael Connors  
Layout: Sgt. Michael Connors, Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft  
Contributing Writers – Staff Sgt. Tony M. Lindback, Staff Sgt. Carlos Lazo,  
Sgt. Benjamin Brody, Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft  
Graphics – Staff Sgt. Tony M. Lindback, Spc. William Hatton

#### Contributing Units

2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division  
3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division  
2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry)  
4th Brigade (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division  
3rd Combat Aviation Brigade  
214th Fires Brigade  
82nd Sustainment Brigade  
720th Military Police Battalion  
Mobile Unit 3 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Battalion  
875th Engineering Battalion

The Marne Focus is an authorized publication for members of Task Force Marne and its support assets in accordance with Army Regulation 360-1. Contents of The Marne Focus are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or Task Force Marne. All editorial content of The Marne Focus is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Task Force Marne Public Affairs Office. Contents of this publication can be found at [www.dvidshub.net](http://www.dvidshub.net). To contact Task Force Marne PAO e-mail [michael.connors@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:michael.connors@iraq.centcom.mil).



**Marne 7 sends**

## NCOs set high standards, enforcement is a must

**D**o you know where your Soldiers are at 10 a.m.? What about 4 a.m.? Do you think that wherever they are and whatever they are doing is a positive representation of you and the Army? If you hesitated before answering, then I need you to take a look at yourself in the mirror.

Ask yourself a few questions: Are you doing the right thing, enforcing the standard, being a leader and not a friend?

Ultimately the discipline and standards of Soldiers fall on the shoulders of noncommissioned officers. On a day-to-day basis, NCOs should be instructing Soldiers on how to be proficient team players committed to striving for excellence.

Being a mentor and coach in a garrison environment is not an easy task. It requires patience, dedication and strict enforcement of governing laws, regulations and the Army values.

*Integrity is the most significant factor in a successful leader.*

*Make sure your house is in order, you're following the rules ...*

As simple and elementary as it may sound, it is quite challenging when so much is placed on the shoulders of our NCO Corps. I'm asking you to ramp up your situational awareness and have the desire to want to know what your Soldiers are doing in the office and out of your sight.

Concerned leaders will rest better when they are doing what is ethically right and keeping their Soldiers informed and aware of what is and is not appropriate behavior. Clear and concise communication is important, so that everyone understands what consequences lie ahead if the wrong road is taken.

If you don't enforce discipline and standards in your office, then don't get offended when I call you in my office after I've had to correct one of your Soldiers for violating a safety or uniform regulation.

Don't think that because you point out uniform infrac-



Command Sgt. Maj.  
Jesse L. Andrews, Jr.  
Task Force Marne CSM

it is imperative that they conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the Army's code of conduct. There is never a time when we can forget that we are Soldiers and let down our guard. We must remember that we are all combat multipliers and provide synergy to the Army's power and effectiveness.

Being an NCO is not a popular job when done right. Push your Soldiers so that no one is resting on their laurels, but understand that they are not machines. They have feelings, families and need time to make sure that their personal matters are in order. Enforce the standard, but remember that mistakes do happen -- if we lived in a perfect world, we wouldn't be here.

Then after you do all of that, find some time to take care of yourself, your family and personal matters.

Integrity is the most significant factor in a successful leader. Make sure your house is in order, you're following the rules and not only talking about what is right but doing what is right.

Standards are standards, and I hold every NCO accountable for not only their actions but those of their Soldiers.

Again, do you know where your Soldiers are at 10 a.m. -- what about 4 a.m.?

**ROCK OF THE MARNE!**

## GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 1

### PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES FOR TASK FORCE MARNE

**1. Items:** The introduction, purchase, possession, use, manufacture, consumption, sale, display, or creation of any of the following items:

- (a) Privately owned firearms, ammunition, or explosives.
- (b) Alcoholic beverages, controlled substances, unprescribed medicine, or drug paraphernalia.
- (c) Motor vehicles not owned or leased by the US government or any company or agency engaged in contracting with the US government.
- (d) Pornographic or sexually explicit photographs, videotapes, movies, drawings, books, or magazines.

**2. Visitation Policy/Personal Relationships:**

- (a) Visiting living quarters of the opposite gender between the hours of 2300 and 0900, except for lawfully married spouses with permission to cohabitate from the first Colonel (O-6) in each spouse's chain of command, when quarters are available.
- (b) Sexual contact with foreign and local nationals.
- (c) Visiting the living quarters of anyone other than US servicemembers/Coalition forces, except for a lawfully married spouse with permission of the first colonel (O-6) in the Soldier's chain of command.

**3. Mosques:** Entrance into a Mosque, or other site of Islamic religious significance by non-Muslims unless directed to do so by military authorities or required by military necessity.

**4. Photographs and Cameras:**

- (a) Filming or photographing detainees or casualties, except as required for official duties.
- (b) Possessing, distributing, transferring, or posting of visual images depicting detainees or casualties.

**5. War Trophies/Souvenirs:**

- (a) Removing, possessing, defacing, or destroying archeological artifacts or national treasures.
- (b) Taking or retaining public or private property of an enemy or former enemy, to include war souvenirs, and/or any seized currency.

**6. Miscellaneous Provisions:**

- (a) Selling, bartering, exchanging currency other than at the official exchange rate.
- (b) Adopting as pets or mascots, caring for, or feeding any type of domestic or wild animal.
- (c) Preaching of any religion, faith, or practice with the intent to convert the listener.
- (d) Gambling of any kind, including sports pools, lotteries and raffles, unless permitted by host-nation law and applicable service component regulations.

## MARNE JUSTICE COURTS-MARTIAL RESULTS

Cases concluding in week beginning Aug. 19:

Two soldiers from 4/25 faced court-martial for assault on a detainee. In United States v. Carabajal, the junior soldier, PV2 Carabajal, was convicted of assault on a detainee by striking him with a hose, and was sentenced to reduction to E-1, 60 days hard labor without confinement, and a reprimand. In United States v. Rowland, SSG Rowland was convicted of assault on the same detainee and dereliction of duty, and sentenced to reduction to E-4, 90 days hard labor without confinement, and a reprimand.

In a separate court-martial of United States v. Burnette, PFC Burnette, 2/10, was convicted of the rape of a fellow Soldier. The rape occurred when the female soldier victim was attacked in the latrine while she was alone shortly after midnight. Absent any witnesses or leads, CID offered a \$15,000 reward for information, and another soldier provided a tip that linked PFC Burnette to the crime. PFC Burnette pled guilty to rape and was sentenced to 10 years confinement, reduction to E-1, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and a dishonorable discharge.

## Shout out



Soldiers of 26th BSB, 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. form up to "shout out" a Labor Day greeting to loved ones back home from FOB Kalsu. Lt Col. Mark J. Weinerth, commander, 26th BSB, and Command Sgt. Major Clifton H. Johnson stand in the forefront as Soldiers prepare to yell, "No challenge too great, send me. Happy Labor Day." The 26th BSB conducts vital combat logistics within Arab Jabour. Family members can go to [www.dvidshub.net](http://www.dvidshub.net) and click on "Greetings" to view all shout outs.



## Commentary

# Doing the right thing is the only way to go

By COMMAND SGT. MAJ. ANTHONY MAHONEY  
2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. (LI)

"Well, you see Willard ... In this war, things get confused out there—power, ideals, the old morality and practical military necessity. Out there with these natives it must be a temptation to be God. Because there's a conflict in every human heart between the rational and the irrational, between good and evil. The good does not always triumph. Sometimes the dark side overcomes what Lincoln called the better angels of our nature. Every man has got a breaking point—both you and I have. Walter Kurtz has reached his. And very obviously, he has gone insane."

The dialogue between the characters Corman and Willard during the opening scene of the movie *Apocalypse Now* indicates, each of us, as mortals, struggle with temptations of moral and ethical conduct. One may simply acquiesce, citing the original sin from the Garden of Eden as evidence that we lack the ethical sinew to withstand the winds of moral turpitude. Or conversely, one may, to paraphrase Nancy Reagan, "Just say no" to conduct which is illegal, immoral or unethical, and therefore prejudicial to the good order and discipline of an organization.

George Washington once noted, "Discipline is the soul of an Army. It makes small numbers formidable; procures success to the weak and esteem to all."

Army Regulation 600-20 states that military discipline is founded upon self-discipline, respect for properly constituted authority and embracing of the professional Army ethic with its supporting individual values. Furthermore, discipline is manifested in individuals and units by cohesion, bonding and a spirit of teamwork; by smartness of

appearance and action; by cleanliness and maintenance of dress, equipment and quarters; by deference to seniors and mutual respect between senior and subordinate personnel; by the prompt and willing execution of both the letter and the spirit of the legal orders of their lawful commanders.

These characteristics are subjective metrics we use to compare and contrast the discipline of military units; we are all guilty of forming snap judgments as to the discipline of a unit simply by observing it during training or during a walkthrough of its motor pool areas and billets. For example, a first sergeant may display Army values posters on the orderly room walls, but does he require his subordinates to display those values through their personal conduct? A command sergeant major may require Soldiers to recite the seven Army values during promotion board procedures, but does he demonstrate those values through his personal example? Plainly stated, our actions speak much louder than our words.

Additionally, in the "Army of One" the actions of a few may bring discredit upon the many. We are all familiar with the concept of the strategic corporal. The actions of a few undisciplined individuals at the Abu Ghraib Detention Facility in Iraq resulted in a fury of public outcry around the world and a concomitant decrease in the prestige of the U.S. military, both at home and abroad.

Mao Tse-Tung understood well this concept when he published *Basic Tactics*. He observes, "Whether or not the military discipline of a unit is good influences the reputation of our whole Army and its ability to secure the sympathy and support of the popular masses."

Remember, our actions speak louder than our words.

We can bring discredit upon ourselves, our unit and our



Courtesy photo

Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Mahoney and Col. Michael Kershaw, commander, 2nd BCT.

nation through our own egregious acts of willing misconduct, and through our inaction in the presence of malfeasance. There is no defense or excuse for one's conduct when you know that the deed is wrong and you proceed anyway.

As Soldiers, we have the general military authority to take action. The road to military dereliction is paved with the deeds of commission, as well as the sins of omission. I am evangelical in my conviction that all failure at the in-

See RIGHT THING, Page 11

## Suspect poses as pregnant woman, Soldiers detain him

2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. (LI) Public Affairs

**AL-OWESAT** — Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) out of Fort Drum, N.Y., detained several men during an air assault mission along the Euphrates River, Aug. 20.

One of the men detained was dressed as a pregnant woman.

Crimson Shogun was an operation targeting al-Qaeda-allied terrorist networks in the Owesat and Feoah areas along the river.

The operation brought together more than 100 Soldiers of 2-14 Inf., 50 Iraqi army troops and two local residents who volunteered to help identify terrorists.

Thirteen men were detained for further questioning, one of whom was on the battalion's list of persons of interest. His brother, who was disguised as a pregnant woman to avoid capture, was one of the detainees.

## All in a dusty day's work



By Sgt. Luis Delgadillo

Sgt. Eric Howard and Sgt. Marcel Dupree Manice both of Company F, 26th Brigade Support Battalion, walk toward the tactical operations center at Patrol Base Murray June 24. They are a part of a group of Soldiers who run combat logistics patrols to PB Murray.

# Soldiers honor POWs, MIA, search continues

By Sgt. Chris McCann

2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. (LI) Public Affairs

**YUSUFYIAH** — World War II left nearly 100,000 Soldiers missing in action, leaving families back home no evidence as to their fate.

It doesn't happen so often anymore; less than 2,000 Soldiers were listed as missing in action after Vietnam, and only one, Capt. Scott Speicher, after the Persian Gulf War.

But four years into the war in Iraq, there are four Soldiers missing. They cannot be listed as "missing in action" until a year after the war is concluded, but their absence hangs heavily over their unit and all Soldiers in Iraq.

Until that time, they are listed as "missing/captured."

Two of the Soldiers still listed as missing/captured are Spc. Ahmed al-Taie, 41, an Army Reserve Soldier who was kidnapped outside Baghdad's Green Zone Oct. 23, 2006 and Staff. Sgt. Keith "Matt" Maupin who was part of a fuel convoy that was ambushed near Abu Ghraib April 9, 2004.

The two most recent Soldiers to go missing, Spc. Alex Jimenez, 25, of Lawrence, Mass., and Pvt. Byron Fouty, 19, of Waterford, Mich., were both infantrymen assigned to Company D, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) out of Fort Drum, N.Y.

They, along with five other U.S. Soldiers and an Iraqi soldier of the 4th Battalion, 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, were attacked just before dawn May

— Col. Michael Kershaw  
2nd BCT Commander

12, near Qarghuli Village. They were guarding a section of Route Malibu, preventing terrorists from planting improvised explosive devices.

The terrorists — several of whom were captured in the following weeks — planted IEDs further down the road from the Soldiers' position. Then, the terrorists ambushed the Soldiers with grenades and small arms fire. Soldiers at the base less than 800 meters away became worried at the lack of radio communication, and tried to respond, but were slowed by the IEDs that lay between them and their comrades.

Sgt. 1st Class James Connell, Sgt. Anthony Schober, and Pfc. Daniel Courneya, as well as the Iraqi soldier, died in the attack. Spc. Christopher Murphy got out, but his body was found not far away; the terrorists had shot him. Jimenez, Fouty and Pvt. Joseph Anzack Jr. simply disappeared.

The search began immediately; thousands of Soldiers encircled the area.

Route Malibu and Co. D's area of operations lie in the rural southern part of Baghdad province; date palm groves, apple orchards, and even banana trees line the roads. Canals crisscross the territory, making the roads wind around them, and the reeds that grow near the water can grow twice a man's height, reducing visibility.

Helicopters from the 3rd Infantry Division and the 1st Cavalry Division swarmed over the land, trying to see from the air what could not be seen from the ground.

"I don't care about eating or sleeping," said Capt. Chris Sanchez, an infantry officer with the 4-31 plans staff, in the days after the attack. "We just need to find these guys."

Eleven days later, Anzack's body was found in the Euphrates River south of the attack, near Musayyib. But de-



Photo illustration by Sgt. Chris McCann

A memorial to fallen and missing Soldiers of 2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. (LI).

spite the best work of intelligence analysts, search parties, interrogators and translators, Jimenez and Fouty remain missing.

Constant patrols continued for weeks; two Soldiers were killed in the efforts. Although after a few weeks, as it had to, the focus returned to combat operations, the Soldiers continue to look for their brothers-in-arms, goaded by occasional breakthroughs.

A month after the Soldiers disappeared, their personal effects, including identification cards and wallets, were found by Soldiers of another unit operating near Samarra when they searched an ad-hoc video production studio. The objects were shown in an al-Qaeda propaganda video.

Such finds bring hope.

"You don't want to leave a buddy just out there," says Pfc. Clayton Peterson, of Aiken, S.C., who has been in the same company as Fouty since basic training. "You feel like you left them behind."

Every patrol searching for caches, every meeting with local sheikhs, every mission to distribute supplies to schoolchildren could be the one that puts Soldiers at the right place at the right time to find the missing men.

"The families back home need to know that we are not going to stop searching for the Soldiers until they are found," said 2nd BCT commander Col. Michael Kershaw. "They (the families) need to know the Soldiers in this brigade are doing everything they can to find these Soldiers."

Part of that effort is the constant search for further information about the men.

"After three months, the missing Soldiers remain our first priority," said 2nd BCT intelligence noncommissioned officer in charge Master Sgt. Paul David Adkins, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla. "The desire for their recovery drives our operations across our area of responsibility."

They may not officially be MIAs or POWs, but they are honored just the same.

## Residents examine homes lost years ago to terrorists

By Sgt. Chris McCann

2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. (LI) Public Affairs

**LUTIFIYAH** — Iraqi homes seized years ago, either by Saddam Hussein's regime or by members of rival religious sects, are being given back to their rightful owners with the help of Coalition and Iraqi forces.

Under Saddam Hussein's regime, Shiites or Kurds were frequently forced from their homes, which were given to Sunnis favored by the regime.

Since Saddam's fall, Shia and Sunni extremists and al-Qaeda terrorists have forcibly taken over homes in efforts to seize religious and political power.

Coalition Forces are trying to put things right.

On August 18, troops of the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) out of Fort Drum, N.Y., brought 40 former residents of the Shaka district, west of Lutifiyah, back to the area to assess the damage done during the years their homes were in the hands of al-Qaeda fighters.

*"I'm very happy to go back. God willing, we can start over again."*

— Kham Jabar Ali  
homeowner  
Shaka district

15th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

The Shaka district was long held by Sunni extremists, who took over homes and removed Shia residents either at gunpoint or by pressuring them to leave through threats and intimidation, Bright said.

Soldiers of 2-15th FAR and 1st Battalion, 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, however, have been building battle positions in the Shaka area for the last month, and al-Qaeda-allied fighters have left the area, driven out by air assaults and roundups of terror suspects.

Residents are not ready to move back in yet. The mission was only to check on the condition of the houses. Nonetheless, Soldiers agreed, it was a good start.

"Today is a celebration for Lutifiyah," said Nakib Foras, intelligence officer for the 1/4/6 IA. "Most of the people in this area lost their families and houses, and they're coming back because of the work of the Iraqi and American armies."

Col. Khalet, 1/4/6 IA executive officer, said his battalion now controls the area and will not let terrorists return.

"We will insist that al-Qaeda elements not return," he said, smiling. "That's our job — to make everyone safe, regardless of sect."

He also mentioned that the battalion has more than 100 vehicles and will assist the homeowners with transportation when the families are done with repairs and are ready to return.

Kham Jabar Ali, a homeowner, came back from checking his house looking a little dejected.

"It's destroyed. They stole all our belongings, ruined everything," he said. "All the vehicles are gone. My father was kidnapped."

Ali said he left a year and a half ago, when his cousin and uncle were murdered and their bodies dumped in the canal behind the house.

Despite the destruction, however, there was hope.

"I'm very happy to go back," Ali said. "God willing, we can start over again."





A Black Hawk helicopter (above) from 3rd CAB, 3rd Inf. Div. flies over the outskirts of Baghdad. A CH-47 Chinook (right) kicks up dust while landing in a farmer's field to pick up Soldiers during the mission in Sayafiyah.

By Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Mills

## HUSKY: Soldiers detain 5 suspected insurgents

From Page 1

30 mm cannon.

"Having the infantry company assigned under us, with their intel-gathering capabilities and working dogs, makes the CAB more lethal and capable than ever before," said Lt. Col. Robert Wilson, the 3rd CAB executive officer. "It gives us the opportunity to get into places the insurgents think we can't get to."

Marne Husky is designed to strike at insurgent havens in areas of the Tigris River Valley that have not had significant U.S. presence in the past year. Because no units "owned" the area, a task force of infantry and aviation was assembled specifically for the operation.



By Sgt. Ben Brody



By Sgt. Ben Brody



By Sgt. Ben Brody



Courtesy photo

Spc. Marion Tucker (above), a crew chief with B Co., 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation, works on his CH-47 Chinook helicopter at Baghdad International Airport before an air assault mission. Two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters (left) land at Forward Area Refuel/Rearm Point Hammer where, in addition to supplying fuel and ammunition, the initiative is taken to supply crewmembers with cold drinks.





Photos by Staff Sgt. Sean A. Foley

## Soldiers, air power team for Marne Husky

### Booby-trapped building destroyed during Operation Falcon Fury II

3rd CAB, 3rd Inf. Div. Public Affairs

**BAGHDAD** — Coalition Forces conducted an air assault in the Tigris River Valley south of Baghdad and destroyed a possible booby-trapped building and car bomb Aug. 21.

Paratroopers from 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division were transported to the target area via helicopters from the Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division. The operation was dubbed Falcon Fury II, another air assault conducted in support of Marne Husky.

After arriving on the objective, a local resident pointed the Paratroopers to a building where he believed a weapons cache was hidden. They moved to the structure and saw wires leading from a junction box to various parts of the structure and into the vehicle beside the structure.

Apache helicopters destroyed the suspected car bomb with a hellfire missile, and Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt jets leveled the building with a 500-pound bomb. An Air Force B-1 bomber destroyed a nearby suspected cache with another bomb.

Falcon Fury II falls under the umbrella of



Top and above: Paratroopers and a military working dog team board a CH-53 Chinook helicopter before an air assault on a suspected weapons cache in Sawarah, south of Baghdad.

Marne Husky — the combined air and ground campaign led by the CAB to disrupt enemy insurgents' ability to recover after previous Marne offensives in the Arab Jabour and Salman Pak areas.

Not all of our enemies are outside the FOB...

## OPERATIONAL SECURITY

...some have disguised themselves as one of us. Report suspicious activities immediately.

**...IT'S EVERYONE'S JOB.**

## Troops get breakfast after extremists flee

Residents from area formerly known as 'heart of darkness' now welcome Coalition Forces

2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. (LI) Public Affairs

**NORTH HARGAWI** — Despite 10 months of near-continuous presence of Coalition Forces in the area, Iraqi citizens in the village of Dawoud always fled when they visited.

More frustrating for the Soldiers of 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), was that any patrol there was followed by a mass exodus of residents and an attack.

The Soldiers still continued to try to win the citizens over, with shocking results seen on the morning of Aug. 16.

As soon as the patrol rolled into town, a man they expected to flee waved instead. He waited for them to stop and offered to show them around the area.

The troops agreed to the tour, and the man they'd met summoned the village elders to join them. Soon the Soldiers were surrounded by a swarm of homeowners asking them to breakfast.

They spoke at length about the civil-military operations going on in the area, pointed out the village water pump and discussed security concerns.

The area, called the "heart of darkness," is bisected by Jasim Road, which for years was a safe haven for Sunni extremists and al-Qaeda fighters.

After intense pressure exerted on that area by 4-31st Inf. Regt. and 4th Battalion, 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, as well as concerned citizens putting up checkpoints of their own, the extremists have departed.

"Residents have realized that Coalition Forces can offer their area security and ... essential services," said Co. B commander Capt. Matt Dawson.

Soldiers of Co. B had never before walked on Jasim Road, Dawson said. On Aug. 18, the residents poured into the streets to escort them down the road and to feed the troops. Before, non-hostile contact with Coalition Forces was an offense punishable by death.

"Ten months of hard patrolling in this area was worth it to have the people greet us and invite us into their homes," said Sgt. 1st Class Steven Johnson, a 4-31st Inf. Regt. platoon sergeant. "It's absolutely amazing to see how Dawoud Village has changed. It means a tremendous amount to the Soldiers to see how their actions have led to this. It makes the whole deployment worth it."

## 10 detained after RPG attack from mosque

2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. (LI) Public Affairs

**MAHMUDIYAH** — Coalition troops responding to reports of weapons being moved into a mosque south of Mahmudiyah were attacked with a rocket-propelled grenade Aug. 18.

A local resident called Coalition Forces and reported weapons being unloaded from a vehicle and moved into a mosque. Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) out of Fort Drum, N.Y., investigated the report.

As the vehicles came up the road near the mosque, an RPG was fired from the building. It struck the vehicle and caused a small fire which Soldiers quickly extinguished.

Another platoon of 2-15 FAR troops arrived and secured the area. A bystander said a group of armed men had fled the mosque in groups of three and dispersed in different directions.

Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division searched the mosque, finding five possible rocket-launching devices. They also examined nearby buildings. A home near the mosque contained a flak vest and ammunition. Iraqi troops detained 10 people on suspicion of involvement in the incident.

As Soldiers of 2-15 FAR returned to Forward Operating Base Mahmudiyah, another RPG round was fired at them, but missed.

The detained men were taken to the Iraqi Army Compound in Mahmudiyah for further questioning.

The mosque was not damaged during the incident.





Brig. Gen. Edward Cardon, deputy commanding general - support of Multi-National Division-Center, receives the El Salvadoran colors from Col. Víctor Bolaños, commander of the departing El Salvadoran Cuscatlán Battalion VIII.

## Cuscatlán battalion bids farewell to Delta

214th Fires Brigade Public Affairs

**FOB DELTA** – On more than one occasion the El Salvadoran Civilian Military Cooperation chief has said, “My country is just a small point on the map,” comparing El Salvador’s size to that of the tip of a pen.

Now he and his fellow soldiers are poised to leave Iraq and return to their country and families. In a ceremony Aug. 23, El Salvadoran Cuscatlán Battalion VIII transferred its mission to Cuscatlán Battalion IX, commanded by Col. José Benítez-Parada during a transfer of authority ceremony at FOB Delta.

The battalion’s mission is to help with the reconstruction of Iraqi infrastructure and to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Iraq, said Col. Victor Manuel Bolaños-Caballo, Cuscatlán battalion commander.

“In this way we can give help to the people of Iraq and help with the democratization in Iraq,” he said.

The battalion completed 126 projects totaling more than \$4 million and benefiting more than 1,400,000 Iraqi citizens. The projects addressed the needs of the population and included electrical, communications, education, health, sewage, and water purification projects, Bolaños said.

The battalion also provided citizens of Wasit with medicine, medical consultation, humanitarian food packages, clothes, sports and educational equipment, Bolaños said.

In addition to the battalion’s civilian and military mission, the battalion provided a quick reaction force, performed convoy security, and provided internal and external guard force.

“Col. Bolaños, we have only worked with you and your battalion for a short time, and we are very impressed with what you and your great soldiers have done,” said Brig. Gen. Edward Cardon, deputy commanding general – support, 3rd Infantry Division.

“You came to build a strong Iraq. Most importantly you have built a strong professional reputation with the Iraqi leaders and citizens,” Cardon said. “You contributed to the building of Iraqi governmental institutions and governmental capacity, civic action projects, health clinics, essential services – the list goes on and on.

“You are true team players; providing security for our convoys and the all important quick reaction forces. You can always tell the quality of a force when they sign up for a quick reaction mission – to be ready to go into harm’s way to assist those in trouble,” Cardon said. “You and your team are a part of us bonded through shared hardship and tough missions; we are very grateful to have the opportunity to serve with you.”

The Cuscatlán Battalion became part of Multi-National Division - Center June 20 when the division assumed responsibility of Wasit province. El Salvador has deployed more than 3,000 troops in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since August 2003.

## 1-15 brings mobile commo to battlefield, raises bar

By SPC. BEN HUTTO  
3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div. Public Affairs

**FOB HAMMER** – Staff Sgt. Matthew Hancock looked over the schematics the 82nd Airborne had put together for a mobile tactical operations center and knew that he could build something similar for his battalion.

Hancock, of Eatonton, Ga., signal chief for 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, saw the potential of having a mobile off-road vehicle equipped with multiple radio systems in 1-15th Inf. Regt.’s area of operation, so he rolled with the idea.

“I actually knew we could build it better,” Hancock said. “The plans I saw looked pretty flimsy. I knew there was no way that would hold up on the battlefield, so we looked to make it better. I think we improved on it in every way, actually.”

In two days, Hancock, Spc. Johnny Simmons, of Columbus, Ga., and Spc. Ashley Hartin, of Columbia, S.C., both of Headquarters Company, 1-15th Inf. Regt., transformed a regular four-wheel, all-terrain vehicle into the DRAGON V, the first Deployable Radio Air to Ground Operational Network Vehicle.

Hartin designed the cabinet that houses a 10-kilowatt generator, two long-range FM radios, a satellite radio, an un-manned aerial vehicle radio and a computer that helps the operators monitor everything on the battlefield.

Simmons provided Hancock technical support and helped wire all the equipment on the vehicle.

Pooling their expertise wasn’t a problem for the three Soldiers.

“The challenge for me was knowing the correct sizes of everything and making a base that could fit everything, but still provide protection and support,” explained Hartin. “We worked really well together. We each helped on the other’s tasks. The fact we had it fully mission capable in two days says something.”

The vehicle wasn’t given an easy test run for its initial outing.

The Dragon V was used during Company A’s night air assault mission Aug. 16 southeast of Baghdad.

Despite going over uneven terrain and drainage ditches and through heavily wooded areas, the vehicle performed exceptionally well, 1-15th Soldiers said.

“It went really well,” said Spc. James Jones, of Tyler, Texas, Headquarters Company, 1-15th Inf. Regt., the vehicle’s driver that night. “The vehicle handled the terrain fine. Nothing broke off. We couldn’t have asked for better.”

Hancock was pleased with the vehicle’s first mission and sees potential for its use on the battlefield.

“It gives the commander a lot more assets on the battlefield,” he said. “Instead of having to rely on relays, he can get live feeds. He can be at one spot and check on a unit 100 meters away in moments. He can gauge reactions on the battlefields as they happen and not have to hear it from miles away.”

According to Hancock, 1-15th Inf. Regt. plans to use it in future missions. He is excited that the role he and his fellow Soldiers will play in upcoming operations.

“This is the first time a mechanized Army unit has engineered, built and deployed a vehicle like this,” he said. “We are proud of what we’ve done. We feel like we have raised the bar for the Army.”



By SPC. BEN HUTTO  
Spc. Ashley Martin and Spc. Johnny Simmons test drive the Dragon V.





# Soldiers assess water facility's needs

## Station functions well says officer, electricity is the main concern

By SGT. LUIS DELGADILLO  
2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. Public Affairs

**ARAB JABOUR** — Using foot paths that run parallel to improvised explosive device-laden roads, Coalition troops recently visited a Saddam-era water treatment facility here.

The mission for Soldiers of Company A, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, dubbed Operation Gator Aid, was to secure the area around the facility, meet with the manager and conduct an assessment of the water treatment facility's operations.

"Everything is fine with the station itself, all the pumps work, everything is functioning," said Capt. Eric Mello, company commander.

He said the mission was important because it's not every day his Soldiers interact with individuals in the community who have a direct impact on hundreds of people's lives.

Mello, a native of Huntsville, Texas, said the facility supplies 300 families from the surrounding area with clean water. About 100 people visit the site daily at Abu Awaitha, a community in the Arab Jabour region.

The facility requires about three hours of electricity a day to keep the storage tanks stocked full of clean water, electricity that until about three days ago had been available for eight hours a day.

"If the guy (water treatment facility manager) has any issues at all, it's power right now. About three days ago the power had basically ceased to work in the area,"

Mello said.

He said the cause of the electricity outage was yet to be determined, but that if it was a local problem the connectivity could be restored.

Local electricians have been able to restore power to some of the region's homes, thanks to safer streets made possible by Soldiers of the 1-30th Inf. Regt.

To continue purifying water when city power is not available, the facility manager relies on generators to keep the water flowing.

The water treatment facility's pumps pull water from the nearby Tigris River into storage tanks where the water is separated from fine sediment. The river water is then moved to larger storage tanks where it is treated with chemicals by the treatment facility's sole operator.

Resupplying the water treatment plant is another issue of concern for the Soldiers of Co. A because of the necessary closure of roads to vehicle traffic in Arab Jabour.

Road closure is mainly to ensure security of local citizens and Coalition Forces, and to minimize insurgent activity.

Mello discovered that as a result of the closures, re-supplying the facility with fuel and more water purifying supplies, like chlorine, will be an issue they'll have to address in the near future.

"If (residents) don't have water, they're going to blame us because we're the main presence down here," said 1st Lt. Russell T. Deal, 3rd platoon leader, Co. A.

Deal said the facility either needs a dependable supply of electricity through city power or generator power and a certain amount of fuel every 40 days.



Photos by Sgt. Luis Delgadillo



1st Lt. Russell T. Deal (above) speaks with the manager of the water treatment facility in Abu Awaitha with the assistance of an interpreter and Pfc. Stephen Raab. A local girl (left) collects water at the facility.

As it stands right now, he said, the treatment facility has 2,000 liters of fuel for generators that power pumps to draw water from the river.

"We need to go figure out what we can do to make sure that the pump station can get enough water," said Deal, a native of Charleston, S.C.

Regardless of the issues that the manager of the pump station faces, Soldiers of the 1-30th remain committed to helping Arab Jabour residents fix their area infrastructure.

"We just want to make sure that people of Abu Awaitha have enough water," Deal said.

# Citizen sacrifices life to thwart suicide bomber

By SPC. BEN HUTTO  
3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div. Public Affairs

**FOB HAMMER** — An Iraqi man saved the lives of four U.S. Soldiers and eight civilians when he intercepted a suicide bomber during a Concerned Citizens meeting in al-Arafia Aug. 18.

The incident occurred while Soldiers from 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, were talking with members of the al-Arafia Concerned Citizens, a volunteer community group.

"I was about 12 feet away when the bomber came around the corner," said Staff Sgt. Sean Kane, acting platoon sergeant of Troop B, 3-1 Cav. "I was about to engage when he jumped in front of us and intercepted the bomber as he ran toward us. As he pushed him away, the bomb went off."

The citizen's actions saved the lives of four American Soldiers and eight civilians.

Kane felt the loss personally because

*"He could have run behind us or away from us, but he made the decision to sacrifice himself to protect everyone."*

— Staff Sgt. Sean Kane  
Troop B, 3-1 Cav

he had met and interacted with his rescuer many times before the incident.

"He was high-spirited and really believed what the group (Concerned Citizens) was doing," Kane said. "I have no doubt the bomber was trying to kill American Soldiers. It was very calculated the way the bomber tried to do it. If he hadn't intercepted him, there is no telling how bad it could have been."

Kane believes the citizen is a hero.

"He could have run behind us or away from us, but he made the decision to sacrifice himself to protect everyone. Having talked with his father, I was told that even if he would have known the outcome before hand, he wouldn't have acted differently."

Capt. Brian Gilbert, commander of Company D, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, currently attached to 3-1 Cavalry, echoed Kane's sentiment.

"I spoke with the father," Gilbert said. "He said he has no remorse in his son's death because he died saving American Soldiers."

Later that night, the Concerned Citizens group contacted the local National Police director, Lt. Col. Samir, with the location of the al-Qaeda cell believed to be responsible for the attack. The NPs immediately conducted a raid that resulted in four arrests.

Despite the man's death, Gilbert is encouraged by the cooperation between citizens and the NPs.

"The effort of the Concerned Citizens

group has made the area much safer," he said. "They are proud of who they are and their area, and want to get rid of the terrorists."

Gilbert praised the NPs for their role in eliminating insurgents.

"The cooperation between them and the Concerned Citizens has been key," Gilbert said. "The NP has done a great job of responding to the tips they have been given by the group."

Gilbert said he believes the area is improving because of the efforts of local citizens. The death, while unfortunate, demonstrated how close many in the area have become with the Soldiers operating there.

"I consider many in the town friends, and I know they feel the same," Gilbert said. "This is a tough situation, but we'll move on and try to prevent things like this from happening again. I've talked with his family and told them how brave their son was. This is a huge loss for everyone involved."

# Soldiers practice sweet science

By SGT. 1ST CLASS THOMAS MILLS  
3rd CAB, 3rd Inf. Div. Public Affairs

**CAMP STRIKER** – The boxing ring isn't a ring at all. It's a slab of concrete next to a dusty road traveled by armored vehicles, buses and Soldiers. In that non-ring, Spc. Ricky Clay, Company C, 603rd Aviation Support Battalion, and Sgt. David Joseph, Headquarters and Support Company, 603rd ASB, are circling each other, jabbing, dancing, and looking for an opening in the opponent's guard.

These Soldiers, and several others from the Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division on Camp Striker, have found a way to practice their art despite the lack of a gym with a boxing facility.

"We're hoping to start boxing smokers in about two months," said Joseph, between sparring matches. Joseph is the group's coach, a former professional boxer, who boxed regularly during the unit's last rotation to Iraq in 2005.

"Once we get a ring built we'll be out here boxing."

Regardless of the setting, say Soldiers like Clay, they are bound and determined to keep practicing.

"It's like an art," Clay said. "You have to figure each other out. There's a lot of thinking and reacting to it."

Clay boxed during an Army tour to Korea where he was 11-1.

"I loved watching it on TV, and I just wanted to see how far I could go with it," Clay said. "(Joseph) is trying to get me ready for the All Army team."

Sgt. Jesus Ramirez, Company B, 603rd ASB, has been boxing for two years. He was pulled into the sport by Joseph at Camp Taji in 2005. After a round of sparring, he compared the sport to an art form as well.

"I like the fact that you have to have good style and technique to go out there and have a good fight," he said. "There are guys who go out there and just throw punches. You have to have patience."



By Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Mills

Spc. Ricky Clay jabs as Sgt. David Joseph defends during a sparring session on Camp Striker.

In a regular amateur fight there are three rounds, two minutes each. For training, though, rounds here are lengthened to three minutes. After warming up, the boxers enter the "ring" and on Joseph's signal begin to spar.

Soon other Soldiers who have wandered by stop to watch, and a crowd forms. Vehicles passing by honk and drivers shout encouragement. When the first round is over, the two boxers go to spots designated as corners.

"Don't back off," Joseph tells one boxer. "Don't lean

back when you're punching."

In the other corner Clay is helping another boxer, giving him pointers on how to move under a punch to get close to his opponent and bring the pain.

At one side Pfc. Jon Crouch, awaiting his turn, warms up. He taps his gloves together as the next round begins.

"I like it all," Crouch said about boxing. "It doesn't get any better. It's good training, keeps you in shape. Who doesn't like hitting someone every once in a while?"

# STB troop aims high, wants to make difference

Women's Equality Day celebrates Women's suffrage, fitting time for goal-oriented female supply specialist

By SPC. EMILY WILSONCROFT  
MND-C Public Affairs

**CAMP VICTORY** – Spc. Latoya Thompson has been in the Army only four years, but she already has high aspirations – to be the Sergeant Major of the Army.

"I want to make a difference," the Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division supply specialist said. "I want to take care of Soldiers."

When she first arrived to the 3rd Inf. Div. as a private straight out of Initial Entry Training, Thompson was not quite as sure of herself.

"She was very shy," said Chief Warrant Officer Doretha MaGee, Thompson's supervisor and the STB property book officer. "She didn't even want to answer the phone because she was self-conscious about the way she talked, and now we can't get her to stop talking! She's come a long way."

Thompson first voiced her lofty ambi-



By SPC. EMILY WILSONCROFT

Spc. Amie McClintic, Maj. Colleen Benzinger and Master Sgt. Marcia Triggs, all from Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Inf. Div., act in a skit on women's suffrage.

tion while in the promotion board.

"They asked me what my long-term goals were," she said matter-of-factly. "I thought that was a good one."

Since she's getting promoted to sergeant Sept. 1, Thompson is already on her way.

"She's going to be a tough NCO," MaGee said. "She'll be the type to always go by regulations, and she doesn't make ex-

cuses, so she won't accept them."

Thompson said she draws inspiration from the NCOs she's met who have similar standards.

"I look at (STB) Command Sgt. Maj. (Mark) Thornton, and I see how he interacts with Soldiers," she said. "He seems like he never lets anything bother him. You know, you're around good leaders, and you

want to be the same – a good mentor."

She added, "I want to lead Soldiers on the correct path and make sure they get something out of the Army."

Thompson's supervisor couldn't speak highly enough of her.

"She's dedicated, pays attention to detail; she's competitive with (physical training)," MaGee said. "She's the best Soldier I've ever had."

Thompson also specified that she'd like to be the first female Sergeant Major of the Army, a fitting sentiment for this time of year, as Women's Equality Day was observed Aug. 26.

The guest speaker at the event, Col. Tricia Anslow, 875th Engineer Battalion commander, emphasized how far women have come in the military in recent years.

"It's amazing to think that we're sitting here in Baghdad, Iraq," Anslow said, "and the fact that I get to be here with some absolutely amazing women in combat to talk about women's equality is a feat I don't think any of us could have imagined just 10, 12 years ago."

If that trend continues over the next 10 or 12 years, be on the lookout for Sergeant Major of the Army Thompson.

MaGee concurred.

"She still has a lot of learning and growing to do, but she has what it takes. She'll make a great leader."



# Delta Team sets 214th FB up for success

## SMEs establish headquarters

214th Fires Brigade Public Affairs

**FOB DELTA** – Establishing a headquarters can be a demanding process, but the task is even tougher when performed with minimal personnel.

The 214th Fires Brigade deployed to Iraq to augment the 3rd Infantry Division headquarters, but was given the mission of command and control of Forward Operating Base Delta shortly after its arrival in theater. With about 50 personnel in tow, the brigade assumed control of FOB Delta June 20.

To make the process easier for the 214th Fires Brigade, Multi-National Division - Center stood up a team to help with the establishment of a brigade headquarters.

Dubbed the Delta Team, or "Tiger Team," the Soldiers converged on FOB Delta to help establish systems to sustain themselves as a brigade headquarters, according to Sgt. Maj. Reginald Young, Delta Team noncommissioned officer in charge.

"The Soldiers brought here are the subject matter experts in their areas," Young said. "They were able to mentor and support designated brigade members in their day-to-day missions."

One of the biggest tasks was helping the brigade staff receive and integrate the 3rd Georgian Brigade, said Master Sgt. Kevin Tatem, one of the division's logistical support representatives.

Two areas receiving division support are communications and logistics.

Division automation specialists assisted the 214th FB with the migration to a secure network, provided automation support to the 3rd Georgian Brigade, and acted as a liaison between the 214th and the 86th Signal Battalion, said Sgt. Edward Mayfield, a network administrator.

Mayfield assisted with the cabling of the Georgian brigade and the hospital, completed trouble tickets, helped establish help desk procedures, and helped the brigade's communications section keep up their daily mission.

The brigade's logistics section also received assistance in establishing its systems and procedures, completing the theater property hand receipt, contract submission process, receiving and distributing property.

"It was very extensive," said Sgt. 1st Class John Anderson, 3rd Infantry Division Special Troop Battalion NCO in charge. "(Staff Sgt. Valerie Morris, the Fires Brigade supply sergeant) started from scratch. She was responsible for six (theater property equipment) hand receipts."

Besides providing support, the team also mentored staff members.

"I'm here to assist the (logistics officer) and help get systems in place so they can function more effectively as a brigade (logistics section)," said Maj. Thomas Fife, a division logistical officer and the Delta Team officer in charge.

For the logistics NCO, the team's mentorship was what she needed.

The team of supply sergeants showed her checks and balances, proper procedures for completing paperwork, helped her complete inventories and provided a much needed channel of information, Morris said.

The team helped her get the supply system working, establish rules for the field operating officer program, and establish a tracking system for incoming property.

Morris, a track mechanic, said she's never had to build a supply system.

"The foundation was not here, but it's getting there."

## RIGHT THING: *Don't give in to temptation, 'Just say no,' persevere*

From Page 3

dividual level can be attributed to one of three ultimate causes: lack of training, lack of resources or lack of motivation. If lack of these ingredients is a recipe for failure, then if present in the correct proportions, they can also produce delicious success. Knead the mixture with a little "leadership by example," and the result will be a productive, cohesive unit.

Field-Marshal Viscount Slim records the importance of discipline in the final chapter of his memoir *Defeat into Victory*. He observes that, "At some stage in all wars Armies have let their discipline sag, but they have never won victory until they make it taut again; nor will they ... We found it a great mistake to belittle the importance of smartness in turn-out, alertness of carriage, cleanliness of person, saluting, or precision of movement, and to dismiss them as naïve, un-intelligent parade-ground stuff. I do not believe that troops can have unshakable battle discipline without showing those outward and formal signs, which mark the pride men take in themselves and their units, and the mutual confidence and respect that exists between them and their officers."

Remember, your actions speak much louder than your words and do not ever compromise your honor. The concept of honor, while considered quaint and perhaps old fashioned to some, is the inculcation of those individual and group values we hold dear. Externally, honor manifests itself by deeds, and not words.

Martin Van Creveld describes it best when he wrote, "When rewards become meaningless and punishment ceases to deter, honor alone retains the power to make men march into the muzzles of cannon trained at them."

During the movie *Apocalypse Now*, Walter Kurtz got off the boat and quickly descended into the dark, decaying abyss of insanity. Good did not triumph and Kurtz allowed the darkness to overtake his better angels. In today's decentralized operating environment opportunities abound for Soldiers and leaders to discover that they have impaled themselves on the horns of an ethical dilemma.

Much like Dorothy and her companions—the Tin Man who lacked a heart, the Scarecrow who needed a brain, and the cowardly lion—during their journey to find the Wizard of Oz, our Soldiers today must display that same sort of grit in order to navigate their "yellow brick road" on the slippery slope of ethical ambiguity. They must use their intelligence to distinguish legal issues in the fog and confusion of rapidly developing events, their heart to discern moral lassitude and their courage to execute the ethically correct option, even when it may not be the most comfortable personally.

In the final analysis, what matters most in the real world is not the deceptive outward public appearance, but the real man behind the curtain.

Telling the Task Force Marne story One Soldier at a time...

FREEDOM REPORT

Every Friday on  
DVIDSHUB.net  
under  
Audio/Newscast

## Outside the AO



By Marine Cpl. Kyle J. Keathley

A Marine from the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit has his priorities: a loaded .50 cal, a picture of a loved one and cigarettes.





Photos by Sgt. Marcus Butler

Paratroopers walk through open ground en route to the Hateen Apartments in Iskandariyah to check on living conditions and for militia activity.

## Paratroopers visit Shiite, Sunni neighborhood

By **SGT. MARCUS BUTLER**  
4th BCT (Abn.), 25th Inf. Div. Public Affairs

**ISKANDARIYAH** — With the influence of Sunni and al-Qaeda pressing down from the North and West and Shia and Jaysh al-Mahdi rising from the South and East, the city of Iskandariyah straddles the fault line of sectarian violence.

The epicenter of sectarian tremors in the area is the Hateen Apartment complex, a neighborhood of more than 25,000 Shiite and Sunni Muslims.

Paratroopers from 1st Platoon, Company D, 3rd Battalion, 509th Airborne, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, and Military Policemen from 3rd Platoon, 127th MP Company are tasked to provide security in the area and keep extremist influence to a minimum.

"The militia has a pretty good hold over the Hateen Apartments by keeping the people in fear," said 1st Platoon leader Capt. Paul Pena, of San Marcos, Texas, Co. D, 3-509th Abn. "Although, now our presence in this area is welcomed, and most of the local people are starting to help us, accepting the change."

Even though Shiites outnumber the area's Sunni's roughly 70 to 30, this area has been relatively calm over the past months. First Platoon has conducted more than 40 missions in this area over recent months, and Paratroopers can see the difference that their hard work is making.

"We can tell that we are making a difference by the drop in violence in this area," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Brown, platoon sergeant, of Huntsville, Ala. "Now people are always coming out and thanking us for our help."

Even though the area is a mix of Shiite and Sunni, most residents of the Hateen Apartments seem to get along fine.

"I live across the hall from Sunnis," said a Shiite resident of the Hateen Apartments. "We are all Iraqis, and we get along fine."

With Shiites and Sunnis beginning to live in harmony in this area, and with violence on the decline, Paratroopers from 1st Platoon still will not get complacent.

"No matter what, I am always thinking of the task at hand," said Pfc. Matt Lundberg, of Fayetteville, N.C. "Keeping an eye out for anything out of the ordinary and completing the mission."

Now that the violence has subsided, the focus shifts to rebuilding.

"Along with searching for intelligence leads to militia activity, we also just sit and talk with the residents to see what we can do to help make their neighborhoods better," Pena said. "We work closely with the Iraqi Security Forces and community leaders to help make their neighborhoods better and take responsibility for the future of their homes."



A merchant (left) sorts through melons at a market near the Hateen Apartments as Paratroopers patrol and talk with residents. Paratroopers (above) talk with an Iraqi policeman regarding living conditions and militia involvement at the apartments. Paratroopers find two AK-47s and four magazines while searching a room.

