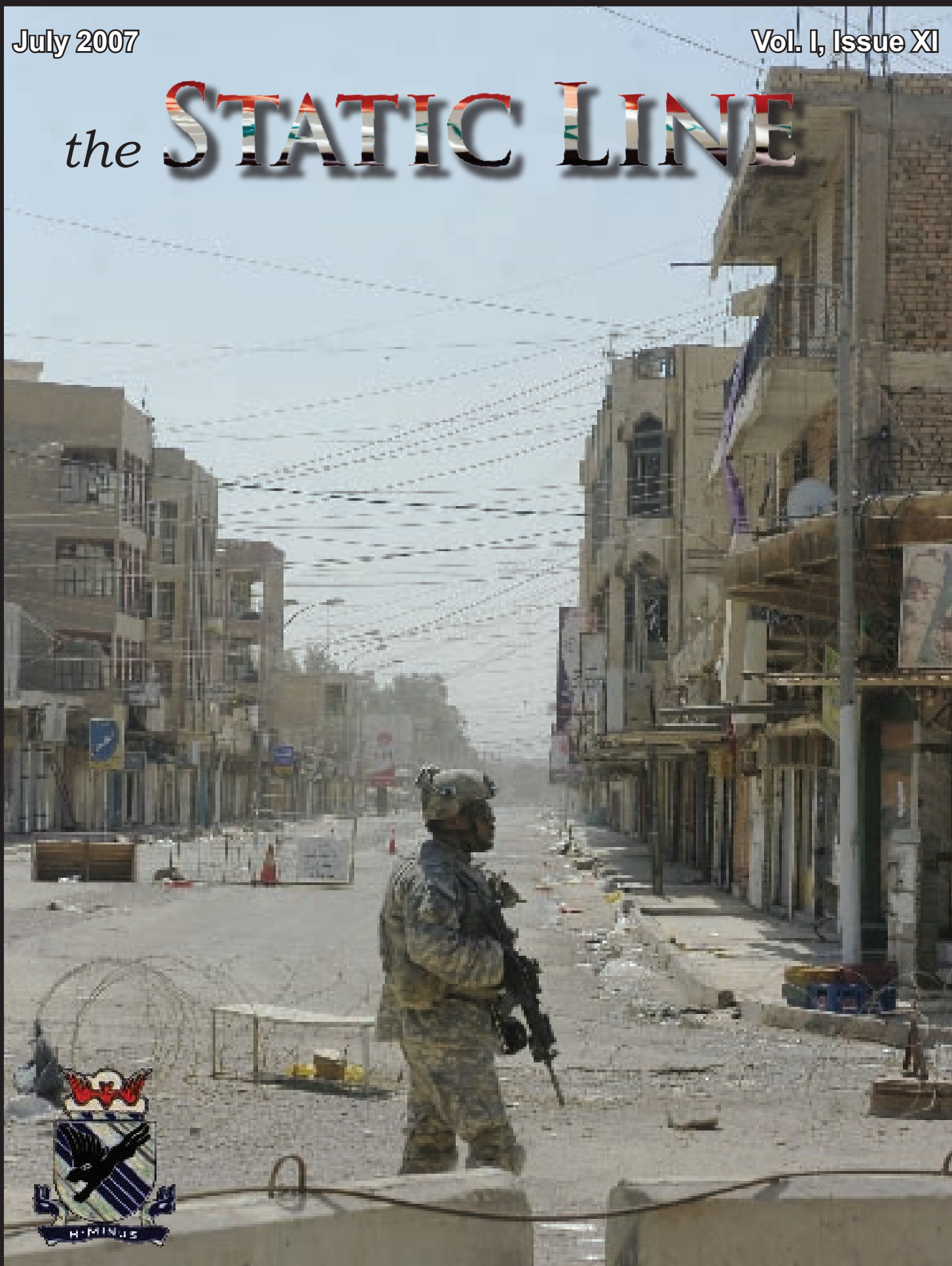


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# *the* **STATIC LINE**





# the **STATIC LINE**



## On The Cover:

*Spc. Bernard Watson, infantryman, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, patrols empty streets near the Askariya Mosque June 19 in Samarra, Iraq.*

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# Paratroopers arm Iraqi security forces with insurgent weapons

*Sgt. Joshua R. Ford*  
*3BCT, 82nd Abn Div PAO*

**FOB Summerall, Iraq**—When a suspected insurgent is arrested, his weapons immediately become property of the U.S. Army. These weapons, along with other weapons discovered in weapons caches, all end up in a database that tracks the weapons' whereabouts.

Some of the weapons are destroyed, depending on the type and condition of the weapons.

Other weapons, predominately small arms, are refurbished and given to Iraqi security forces.

Since August 2006 Paratroopers with 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, have confiscated more than 1,200 small-arms and have given approximately 500 AK-47s and 120 9mm pistols to Iraqi security forces in



*Photos by Sgt. Joshua R. Ford/3BCT, 82nd Abn Div PAO*

**Spec. Curtis Kuhn and Spec. Justin Lee, both intelligence analysts with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, sort through confiscated weapons June 10 at FOB Summerall, Iraq.**

Bayji, Suniyah and other small villages in their operational area.

The Paratroopers have also destroyed more than 300 types of illegal weapons ranging from heavy machine guns to shot guns.

Before the weapons are handed over to Iraqi security forces the Paratroopers clean the weapons thoroughly. Sometimes the Paratroopers have to switch out ineffective parts for effective ones.

"We want to make sure we are giving the Iraqis effective weapons," said Kuhn.

"We get weapons two to three times a day. Once the weapons comes to us, it's our property, and then we'll hand-receipt it over to Iraqi security forces. Then those hand receipts will go on to the next unit in the area so it's always going to be our property from that point on," said Curtis Kuhn, intelligence analyst with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division.

"It's really important to track the weapons," said Spec. Justin Lee, intelligence analyst with Headquarters and Headquarters Company. "If a weapon from an Iraqi police officer is used against us we can track it down and it also helps us identify criminals in the area."

Once the weapons get to the Iraqi police or soldiers and military transition teams train the Iraqis on how to take accountability of that weapon and all of their weapons to ensure they do not end up in the wrong hands again, said Kuhn.

Tracking and receiving the weapons gives the Paratroopers a better idea of what they are up against in the cities around their base.

"We get to see what kind of foreign weapons are out there," said Kuhn. "We can then educate the ground troops so they know the damage that each weapon does."

"In a nutshell, it lowers crime and is for the safety of the Iraqis as well as for coalition forces," said Lee.



**Spec. Curtis Kuhn, an intelligence analyst with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, sorts through confiscated weapons June 10 at FOB Summerall, Iraq.**

# Brothers fight side-by-side in Iraq

**Sgt. Joshua R. Ford**  
**3BCT, 82nd Abn Div PAO**

**COB SPEICHER, Iraq**— Kelly Fletcher was 12 years old when he watched his brother enlist in the Army.

Over the years Kelly heard of his brother's accomplishments during his service and when he was 15 decided that maybe he would serve.

Kelly was interested to hear about his brother's experiences at Airborne and Ranger School and his deployments to Europe and the Middle East.

"(Joining the service) was just a general thing that I'd wanted to do. I'd say (my brother serving) was a large factor, but not directly him, but more so because I knew about it because of him. So it was easier for me to decide," said Kelly, an infantryman with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division.

At 20 years old, Kelly decided to join the Army.

"When he told me he wanted to come into the Army, I was just totally stoked because it was a common plane that both of us could have," said Sgt. 1st Class Neil Fletcher, an operations noncommissioned officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division.

"My brother came in and was unable to get an airborne contract initially when he came in at basic training. I kept telling him, hey listen, you need to

volunteer for it, you need to volunteer for it," said Fletcher.

After hounding his drill sergeants about airborne school Kelly got his contract and went to airborne school.

After Fletcher pulled some strings, he got his little brother into the same battalion he was in at the time.

Kelly remembers when he got to his first unit in the battalion and his platoon sergeant telling him not to get into trouble.

"No sergeant I don't get into any trouble," Kelly said to his platoon sergeant.

During the conversation Kelly's brother's name came up. "Who's your brother?" the platoon sergeant asked. Kelly replied, "Sergeant First Class Fletcher." Because of Neil's reputation Kelly's new platoon sergeant told him "I don't even know why I'm worried about you then. I know you don't have any problems."

"It's been interesting seeing the impressions people have of you because of our relationship," said Kelly. "And it's been interesting for me as a younger brother seeing peoples' impressions of him as a (fellow) Soldier and co-worker. The only downside that I've thought about being his brother is that I won't actually have the chance to work with him."

In August 2006, the Fletcher brothers deployed to Iraq. Neil was with Company D, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, and Kelly was with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment. The brothers were based



Courtesy Photo

**Sgt. 1st Class Neil Fletcher (left), then a platoon sergeant with Company D, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, and his younger brother Pfc. Kelly Fletcher (right), an infantryman with Company C, discuss a mission they had previously been on together.**

close to each other covering the city of Samarra.

During the deployment, the Fletcher brothers got a chance to work together.

Neil was leading his platoon through Samarra on a mounted patrol. A few blocks away Kelly was on a dismounted patrol when his platoon saw a vehicle traveling quickly towards them.

After using escalation of force procedures, Kelly's platoon fired on the vehicle.

Over the radio Neil heard his brother reporting to his headquarters that shots had been fired at his position.

After Neil heard his brother, he directed his platoon to Kelly's platoon's position to help out with security.

Neil then got another report over the radio but this time it wasn't his brother talking, worrying him that something had happened to Kelly.

"I'm thinking the worst because my brother's the

platoon (radio and telephone operator), he initiated the first transmission, but he's not coming back saying anything else. So that kind of worried me a bit," said Neil.

"We're just hauling through the city trying to get there and several minutes are passing by and no one's saying anything and we're trying to get a hold of Charlie Company to get an updated (report)," said Neil. "In the back of my mind, I'm thinking, come on, Kelly, come on, come on; get back up on the net."

Kelly was writing out a medical evacuation sheet for an Iraqi man wounded during the shooting when Neil's platoon arrived.

"So sure enough, I see my brother's trucks rolling up and (Neil) comes out and I see him, he comes up to see me and says, 'you doing alright, man?'," said Kelly. "I told him I was fine."

— see **Brothers**, page 6

# Another day in Charlie Company

*Sgt. Joshua R. Ford*  
*3BCT, 82nd Abn Div PAO*

**PB OLSEN, Iraq**— Paratroopers gathered around the Patrol Base's ping pong table watching two of their comrades hit the ball back and forth. Others sat in the morale room down stairs surfing the internet or calling home. More could be found at the gym working out.

This is what the Paratroopers based at Patrol Base Olsen did on their off time. But sometimes they would be pulled away from that phone call home or that recreational game to work. Sometimes the call would come at unexpected times.

It was 5 a.m. when Spc. Ryan Clark, infantryman, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, sat down in front of the phone to call his wife and son at Fort Bragg.

After talking to them for hours he went to his room exhausted.

Clark lay asleep in his room when he was awakened abruptly by an explosion. "That didn't sound too close," he told his roommates, certain the noise was far-off in the distance. Seconds later another explosion would send Clark rolling off his top bunk and taking cover in between his bunk and his roommate's.

Their ceiling light had crashed to the floor from the force of the blast.

Immediately Clark ran outside to see what had happened. The explosion was caused by a car bomb that targeted Iraqi security forces in Samarra.

Clark saw armored gun trucks leaving the base minutes after the explosion. His comrades were responding to the incident.

Paratroopers based at Patrol Base Olsen will tell you that anything can happen in Samarra at any time.

"After 11 months here nothing is really that surprising anymore," said Clark.

"We take mortar fire all the time. There is never a dull moment in Charlie Company," said Clark.



**Paratroopers with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, patrol an area near the Golden Mosque June 19 in Samarra, Iraq.**



**Photos by Sgt. Joshua R. Ford/ 3BCT, 82nd Abn Div PAO**  
**Paratroopers with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, observe a crater caused by a car bomb June 19 in Samarra, Iraq.**

The light on his ceiling now hangs from five-fifty cord in case of another explosion.

Spc. Bob Shoopman, an infantryman with Company C, said situations like this are to be expected on a patrol base Olsen.

"This is why Charlie Company is here," said Shoopman.

"We're one of the best companies in the brigade because of our training and leadership."

"It's really not that bad. The first six or seven months, there's constantly something going on. The tempo of being on a small patrol base is extreme. It's bitter-sweet; it kind of makes time go by quicker, but sometimes it kind of wears down your nerves," said Shoopman.

He wouldn't have it any differently, though, because he said he is experiencing the excitement he originally signed up for as an infantryman.

"We go out looking for trouble," said Shoopman. "As infantry, that's our job and our company's pretty good at it. We go out looking for trouble so we can get rid of it. And at the same time, we keep the city safe. Security's the number one thing. We're always aware of our surroundings."

see **LIFE**, page 4

# BSTB teaching troops how to save lives

*Sgt. Joshua R. Ford*

*3BCT, 82nd Abn Div PAO*

**COB SPEICHER, Iraq**—The Paratroopers raced to the humvee and pulled out the casualty during the exercise.

“The casualty has two broken legs and his left arm is amputated below the elbow,” the instructor told the students.

“We need a tourniquet, splints and bandages over here,” one Paratrooper yelled to the other.

The Paratroopers treated the casualty with all the knowledge they had attained earlier in the week from the combat life savers course. Unfortunately during this simulation the casualty did not survive.

The Paratroopers sat attentively after the demonstration listening to their instructor during their review.

“It’s not like an episode of Full House where everything

see **CLS**, page 5

## LIFE

“(Every infantryman) knows they’re going to be up at the front lines when stuff goes down,” said Shoopman. “Everybody here is mentally tough.”

In February 2007, Spc. Ariel Rivera, an infantryman with Company C, sat in his gunner hatch on his armored vehicle when his convoy took small-arms fire.

“Our truck was in the lead when the convoy took fire,” said Rivera. “(The insurgents) were about 75 meters at our 12 o’clock.”

Rivera identified his targets and fired his 50. caliber machine gun at them, killing them.

“We all wait for that day to come, so it was exciting,” said Rivera. “I love my job. We train for this and (in Samarra) we actually get to do what we trained for.”

Rivera was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with device for valor for his actions on the battlefield that day. Rivera said when he is in his turret he puts himself in different scenarios and figures out what he would do in each while staying focused on the mission.

When he is not in the gunner’s seat he is thinking about his 7-year-old son Alexander Rivera, who is currently living with Rivera’s mother in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

Rivera said if his son ever decided to



Photo by Sgt. Joshua R. Ford/3BCT, 82nd Abn Div PAO

**A U.S. Paratrooper with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, directs a crane to lower a cement barrier in front of a police station June 19 in Samarra, Iraq. The Paratroopers placed six cement barriers in front of the police station to serve as a temporary wall after the police station’s old wall was destroyed by a car bomb**

join the Army he would mentor him on all of his experiences during his deployment to Samarra, Iraq.

Company C’s platoons operate on several mission cycles so there are always Paratroopers ready to go take the fight to the enemy. One mission cycle requires the Paratroopers to be ready to go to the fight.

Spc. Michael Pierro describes the cycle

to be the most exciting.

“Sometimes it’s work nonstop, always doing something different. It’s fun because you get a lot of contact. You’re going out for a specific reason, not just to do the daily patrol or anything like that,” said Pierro, an infantryman with Company C. “But it definitely takes its toll on you.”

## BROTHERS

“The moment I saw him there, I was actually very proud to tell you the truth,” said Neil.

Now the Fletcher brothers look back at the incident and laugh at it.

The Fletcher brothers are farther apart now, with Neil in

Bayji and Kelly in Samarra, but they still communicate frequently.

“As a big brother to a younger brother type-of-thing, he worries about me a lot. He’s always telling me he keeps tabs on me from when he was at Brassfield,” said Kelly.

The Fletcher brothers agree that they have always

had a close relationship and everything that has happened to them in Iraq has brought them even closer.

Kelly said he doesn’t know if he wants to follow in his older brother’s footsteps and be a career Soldier. He said there are other things he would like to experience outside of the Army but does

not regret joining and getting the chance to serve with his brother.

“Well it’s been an experience, to say the least,” said Neil. “To be honest with you, I sometimes question my reasoning for wanting him down here with me. Other than that, it’s been pretty rewarding.”

ends up okay in the end,” the combat life saver course instructor told his students. “You have to give him the care you are going to be qualified to give him. Sometimes it ends up okay, sometimes it doesn’t so much.”

Staff Sgt. Clark Hitchcock is a treatment noncommissioned officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, and has been teaching the class to Paratroopers for more than four years now.

The scenario-based course was only four days long because the unit is currently deployed to Iraq, but in that four days Paratroopers were taught the basic steps to life saving on the battle field and a little extra.

“We try to make it as real as possible. I want a Soldier who is combat life saver qualified to know what to expect when he or she is put into that situation. I want to expose what they might see, feel or smell at a casualty site,” said Hitchcock.

The class included two days of classroom study and two days of hands-on training. The hands-on training included how to properly apply tourniquets, an assortment of field dressings and a catheter.

The class also teaches its students the difference between initial medical care a Soldier would provide in combat compared to medical care someone would provide to in the civilian world.

For example if a casualty stops breathing a Soldier will not

perform CPR because of how long it takes. Instead the Soldier would move to the next casualty and begin treatment.

“As a combat medic on the civilian side, I couldn’t initiate half the interventions I can here, without a doctor or a civilian provide giving me express consent to do it. That’s why the medics and CLS providers go through a more rigorous, hands-on procedure so we can have the faith and confidence to do those procedures,” said Hitchcock.

Because so many preventable deaths in Iraq are caused mainly by hemorrhaging the class focuses on stopping the bleeding of a wound before any other treatment is given.

“About 15 percent of casualties that die before making it to a treatment facility can be saved if the proper measures are taken,” said Hitchcock. “And those measures are what we teach.”

“I feel confident about treating a casualty now,” said Jason Teat, armorer for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division. “I realize that it is not my primary mission, but with the realism of the course if the real thing ever happens I will be ready.”

“A month ago with a casualty from Charlie Company, the medic didn’t put on the tourniquet that saved (the casualties) life; a combat lifesaver put on the tourniquet that saved his life. And he didn’t learn that from reading a manual or watching a television show; he learned that from sitting in a class with somebody teaching him the benefits of it and what he needs to do in order to correctly apply it. And the guy that taught him is the guy that saved that Paratrooper’s life,” said Hitchcock.



Photo by Sgt. Joshua R. Ford/3BCT, 82nd Abn Div PAO

Staff Sgt. Clark Hitchcock, a treatment noncommissioned officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, oversees a Paratrooper place a catheter June 1 during a combat life savers course at Contingency Operations Base Speicher, Iraq.

# Tikrit U celebrates opening of new facilities

*Sgt. Joshua R. Ford*  
*3BCT, 82nd Abn Div PAO*

**TIKRIT, Iraq**—Lt. Col. Barry DiRuzza, commander, 1st Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, met with Hamed Hamoud Shekti, governor of the Salah ad Din province, and other Iraqi government officials at the Tikrit University June 30 to celebrate the completion of several projects the school and coalition forces have been working on for more than two years.

Projects included the construction of a research center, a facility for a dental school, 34 housing units, an extension to the Tikrit Women's College, repair and construction of roads, a facility for a law school, an extension to the pharmaceutical college, and more.

The construction project cost more than \$4.5 million.

Hamed gave DiRuzza a tour of one of the facilities and then had a meeting where school employees and government officials thanked and gave gifts to all of the Soldiers involved in the construction of the new facilities.

"Thank you for inviting me to this great school on this special day," DiRuzza said during the meeting. "I am honored to be here and take part in what is to be an important piece of the university's history."

Governor Hamed then thanked the people of Salah ad Din province for their support during the construction of the different projects.

Members from each educational department agreed the construction of the buildings will make it easier to educate Iraqis and make the country an overall better place.

"The role of this university is very big, very important, and very honorable. I cannot express my gratitude for continuing their work during these hard times," DiRuzza said to the school board members. "All the hard work merits them appreciation and praise. And it is strengthening the infrastructure of this province that we



*Photo by Sgt. Joshua R. Ford/3BCT, 82nd Abn Div PAO*

**Hamed Hamoud Shekti, governor of the Salah ad Din province (left), gives Lt. Col. Barry DiRuzza, commander, 1st Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, a tour of one of Tikrit University's new buildings June 30.**

are living in. The graduates of this university are the future leaders of Iraq."

It is good to invest in the future, said DiRuzza. Education is key when fighting the insurgency.

*IN HONOR OF THOSE WHO MADE  
THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE ...*



**CPL ROBERTO CAUSOR  
KIA, 2-PANTHER  
SAMARRA, IRAQ  
FEB 10, 1986 - JULY 07, 2007**



**EOD C PATRICK WADE  
KIA, NAVY EOD  
SAMARRA, IRAQ  
AUG 13, 1968 - JULY 17, 2007**



**EOD 1 JEFFREY CHANEY  
KIA, NAVY EOD  
SAMARRA, IRAQ  
OCT 26, 1971 - JULY 17, 2007**

# 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment 82nd Airborne Division



**All the Way!!**  
**H-Minus!!**

