

Cavalry trooper survives Sadr City sniper

By Sgt. Jon Soles
MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD — Pfc. James Freed was pulling security by a brand-new soccer field near Sadr City on June 5, 2009. Like on other missions, his eyes were constantly darting from the streets to the buildings, the rooftops and the corners. And then it happened so fast he didn't hear the shot.

“I was down on a knee and I had just been scanning the rooftops and something caught my eye,” said Freed, a tanker assigned to Company A, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. “Right when I turned my head, that's when it hit me. It felt like someone [rifle] butt stroked me.”

At first, Freed thought one of his fellow Soldiers had slapped the back of his helmet as some kind of juvenile prank. But the orange flash he saw above his left eye and the ringing in his ears indicated it was no prank.

“I turned around and there was nobody behind me and that's when I realized I had been shot,” Freed said. “I dropped and found cover. I knew I had to get as low as I could.”

Suddenly, everything seemed to be in slow motion. Freed's training kicked in and as he sought cover, an incredulous thought went through his head.

“When I dropped down and started low crawling, I could feel the blood coming down everywhere,” Freed said. “I asked, ‘Am I crawling with a bullet in my head?’”

A medic rushed to Freed's aid

and stopped the bleeding with a bandage, while Freed's comrades – a mixture of infantrymen and tankers – scrambled to provide security.

Freed was rushed back to Joint Security Station Ur. The prognosis was good. The bullet that tore through Freed's helmet mowed down a path of flesh from his scalp, but did not cause any serious injury.

“They kept me up [at the first-aid station] overnight to make sure [the bullet] did not hit my skull,” said Freed, a native of Odon, Ind. “They looked it over and said it took the flesh off, but it never hit the skull.”

Freed only spent two weeks on the mend, during which time he was frustrated that he was not on patrol with his comrades in Co. A.

“I didn't feel right, just sitting around while everybody else was working,” said Freed, who is on his first deployment. “I was ready to go back out as soon as possible.”

Things returned to normal, as Freed got back into his routine of going out on patrols, helping to keep the Sadr City area safe and secure.

But he hasn't forgotten that day in June, and the spot where he was standing, which he often passes on patrols.

“I do know God had a hand in it that day,” Freed said. “I was looking up and then I turned and looked down at the same time as if the angel said, ‘Hey, look here.’”

Freed is due to receive the Purple Heart and Combat Action Badge for that day, but medals



Photo by Sgt. Jon Soles, MND-B PAO

Pfc. James Freed, of Odon, Ind., points to the exit hole a bullet made through his helmet when a sniper attacked him while on patrol in the Sadr City area in June. “It's still hard for me to fathom that it actually happened,” said Freed, who has been in the Army for 18 months. “I got shot in the head and walked away.”

don't mean much. Rather, his gauge of accomplishment is getting back on patrol, completing the mission. Freed also said the sniper attack has not spooked him.

“It doesn't really bother me,” he said, standing by the red, purple and yellow painted bleachers of the soccer stadium where the attack happened. “I actually

feel proud to go back there and stand.”

The sniper got away that day, but Freed said if he ever had a chance to meet the insurgent who tried to kill him, he would have just two words for him.

“It would be a fun thing for me to meet the guy who took the shot, face to face, and say, ‘You missed.’”

Cache search yields sweat, experience

Photos by Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell, MND-B PAO



BAGHDAD — After receiving a call about a suspected weapons cache, 1st Lt. Will Hargis (right), a platoon leader from Huntington, W. Va., and Staff Sgt. Daniel Smith (left), a cavalry scout from Baltimore, Md., check grid coordinates outside of their vehicles before starting on the search in southwestern Baghdad, Sept. 19. Both Soldiers are assigned to Troop B, 1st Battalion, 150th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team.



Staff Sgt. Daniel Smith (left), a cavalry scout who hails from Baltimore, Md., crosses a canal Sept. 19.



In order to get to a suspected weapons cache site, 1st Lt. Will Hargis, crosses over a water-filled canal on a two-foot wide pipe.



Staff Sgt. Daniel Smith (left), a cavalry scout from Baltimore, Md., is followed by Staff Sgt. Godmund Schick, also a cavalry scout and other Soldiers assigned to Troop B, 1st Battalion, 150th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron, 30th HBCT during a weapons cache search in southwestern Baghdad, Sept. 19. "Even if we didn't find anything, it was still good training," said Schick, a native of Washington, D.C.

Keep visibility high during rainy season

Spc. Howard Alperin
MND-B PAO

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq — A priority for mounted patrols is the ability to see clearly from inside a humvee and spot potential safety and security threats. Any obstruction to visibility is a hazard.

“Sight is very important, you’re trying to spot IEDs [improvised explosive devices] as you’re going down the side of the road. You need the glass to be clean,” said Spc. Edric Ashley, a light-wheel vehicle mechanic, from Houston. “There are lines and wires to look for, if it’s dirty, you can’t see.”

As the weather begins to change, clean windshields become a bigger issue. “Rainy season is coming; it’s going to get muddy. Vehicles in a convoy are going to be kicking up mud on the windshield. Make sure the wipers are good, the blades are good, and make sure to use windshield washer fluid,”

said Sgt. Michael Clark, quality control and assurance shop foreman, from Arlington, Texas, assigned to Division Special Troops Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division. “Water can create more mud sometimes. Windshield wiper fluid has an ammonia agent that cuts the mud and dissolves the dirt.”

A vehicle without wipers that function properly or without fluid is a safety issue. All kinds of things can go wrong and accidents can happen, said Clark. Windshield wipers and filling fluids should be dealt with daily by Soldiers using preventative maintenance checks and services, he added.

Clark also emphasized the importance of closing the front hood correctly without cutting the two hoses that lead to the nozzles that spray fluid onto the windshield. It’s an alignment issue, he said. The front hood, when closing, can extend itself and rub up against these hoses.



Photo by Spc. Howard Alperin, MND-B PAO

Spc. Edric Ashley, a light-wheel vehicle mechanic, from Houston, indicates where the motor to the windshield washer fluid is found under the hood of a humvee, here, Sept. 22. It is below the reservoir for windshield

Clark said he has seen 20 percent of humvees with these hoses disengaged.

If PMCS is not done correctly and fluids are not maintained properly, mechanics may have to order parts to replace ones that have become dysfunctional due to improper use. One example is the motor for the windshield

wiper.

“Using water instead of wiper fluid can rust the motor, windshield wiper fluid has rust inhibitor in it that stops the motor from rusting,” said Ashley, assigned to quality control, DSTB, 1st Cavalry Div. “Prior to a mission, to clean the windshields, [Soldiers] will drain the fluid from the reservoir and they drain it too low. If there is no fluid to pull, the motor is only sucking air. This damages the motor because it is made to pull fluid and not air,” he said.

Replacing a part means Soldiers have to come back to the mechanics again for service. But without a motor pumping fluid to the windshield wipers, the bigger issue is visibility while on patrol.

“It’s an inconvenience and a safety issue. I remember when I was on a mission and there was a dust storm; I needed it and I didn’t have it,” said Ashley.

Soldiers should be proactive in keeping windshield wipers functioning and the washer fluids full. It is also a good idea for Soldiers to carry reserve wiper washer fluid with them in their humvees. Extra fluid can be obtained through their mechanics shop.



Photo by Spc. Howard Alperin, MND-B PAO

Spc. Edric Ashley, a light-wheel vehicle mechanic, from Houston, assigned to quality control and assurance, Division Special Troops Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, demonstrates where a tube intersects a sprayer for fluid to exit onto the windshield, here, Sept. 22.

On This Day In History

September 24, 1789

The First Supreme Court

The Judiciary Act of 1789 is passed by Congress and



signed by President George Washington, establishing the Supreme Court of the United States as a tribunal made up of six justices who were to serve on the court until death or retirement. That day, President Washington nominated John Jay to preside as chief justice, and John Rutledge, William Cushing,

John Blair, Robert Harrison, and James Wilson to be associate justices. On September 26, all six appointments were confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

The U.S. Supreme Court was established by Article 3 of the U.S. Constitution. The Constitution granted the Supreme Court ultimate jurisdiction over all laws, especially those in which their constitutionality was at issue. The high court was also designated to oversee cases concerning treaties of the United States, foreign diplomats, admiralty practice, and maritime jurisdiction. On February 1, 1790, the first session of the U.S. Supreme Court was held in New York City's Royal Exchange Building.

The U.S. Supreme Court grew into the most important judicial body in the world in terms of its central place in the American political order. According to the Constitution, the size of the court is set by Congress, and the number of justices varied during the 19th century before stabilizing in 1869 at nine. In times of constitutional crisis, the nation's highest court has always played a definitive role in resolving, for better or worse, the great issues of the time.

FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



DID YOU KNOW?

Time waits for no man. Unless that man is Chuck Norris.

MND-B Pic of the day!



Photo by Sgt. Jon Soles, MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD — Pfc. Jesse Anderson, a combat engineer from Kirksville, Mo., scans his sector from a guard tower at Joint Security Station Ur, here, Sept. 20. Anderson's vantage point gives him a view of the Sadr City area, where he watches for any suspicious activity or breaches of the compound's walls. "You get to see how the people live day to day [from the guard tower]," said Anderson, who is assigned to Company E, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st BCT, 1st Cavalry Division.

Come Join Us for a celebration
of Hispanic Cultures...



Date: 9 Oct 09

Location: MWR Field House

Time: 1900 hrs

Quote For Today

“Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored.”

— Aldous Huxley —

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today
91° F | 68° F



Tomorrow
91° F | 68° F



Saturday
95° F | 66° F

TRIVIA TIME!!

Which person successfully led Nationalist armies against Loyalists in the 1930s Spanish Civil War, then ruled Spain until his death in 1975?

Last Issue's Answer: 825 yards.

Cav Round-Up radio newscast available

MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD — The Cav Round-Up is a three-minute radio newscast from Baghdad covering military units and events across Multi-National Division — Baghdad.

Today's Cav Round-Up # 161 was produced by SGT Lisa Heise, MND-B Public Affairs Office.

This newscast includes the following stories:

1. Providing joint security allows Army and Iraqi officials to enjoy a special evening of dining without unwanted interruption. SGT Nathan Jones, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cav Division, Multi-National Division - Baghdad, PAO.

Soldiers deter aggressive action by conducting presence patrols.

2. Troops transition from warrior fighter to warrior trainer as

soldier from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division train Iraqi NCO's how to be confident and effective trainers. The course is like WLC.

NIPR LINK: Cav Round-Up

SIPR LINK: Cav Round-Up

Check out more news at the 1st Cavalry Division's homepage:

www.hood.army.mil/1stcavdiv/

Trigger's Teasers

	6		5		1		9	
			2		7			
5				4				7
3		9	1		2	6		4
1								8
8		4	6		5	9		1
6				1				3
			8		9			
	4		3		6		7	

The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares in a game with the correct numbers. There are three very simple constraints to follow: **Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.**

Every Sudoku game begins with a number of squares already filled in, and the difficulty of each game is largely a function of how many squares are filled in. The more squares that are known, the easier it is to figure out which numbers go in the open squares. As you fill in squares correctly, options for the remaining squares are narrowed and it becomes easier to fill them in.

Yesterday's Answers

9	4	7	2	8	1	3	5	6
1	3	2	7	5	6	4	9	8
5	8	6	3	9	4	1	2	7
6	1	4	5	7	2	9	8	3
2	9	8	1	4	3	7	6	5
3	7	5	8	6	9	2	1	4
8	5	1	4	2	7	6	3	9
7	6	3	9	1	8	5	4	2
4	2	9	6	3	5	8	7	1



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