



The Striker Torch

Edition Thirty - Five

October 15, 2006

Sgt. Scott Shefferd, Battery C, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, secures the entrance of a school building in western Baghdad during an operation to supply children with supplies.
Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey



What's Inside?	Generous with Generators	New Stallions Keep the Battalion on the Move	The Light at the End of the Tunnel	Hellfighters Change Command	The Third Time's a Charm	College Instructor Patrols the Streets of Iraq	Army Strong!
	Page 3	Page 6	Page 7	Page 9	Page 10	Page 13	Page 14

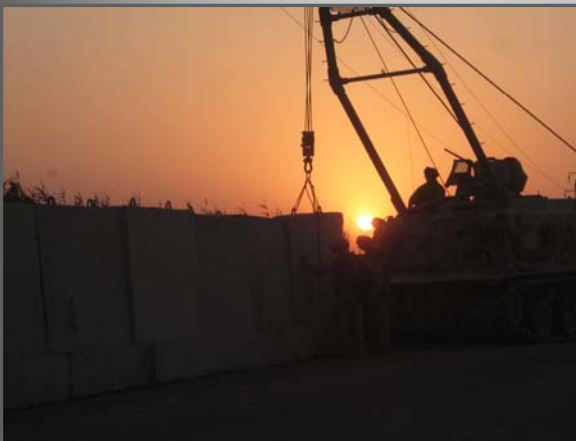


Front Page

Left: Lt. Brian Johnson of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment talks with school children during a patrol outside Baghdad in the village of Isasha in October, 2006. *Photo by Sgt. Raul Montano*

Middle: Spc. Dean Barney of Company E, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment prepares for a convoy at Camp Liberty, Iraq. *Photo By 1st Lt. Allan Hughes*

Right: Spc. Tyler Karrick from Service Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, checks for oil leaks on a Humvee. *Photo by 1st Lt. Phidel Hun*



Top Left: Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment emplace barriers for a vehicle check point outside of Ramadi, Iraq. *Photo by Capt. Patrick Webinger*

Top Right: Two Armored Combat Earthmovers from Company C, 40th Engineer Battalion are escorted by M1A1 Abrams Tanks from Company C, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, into Ta'meem, Iraq to clear rubble and trash from the sides of the road. *Photo by Capt. Patrick Webinger*

Bottom Left: Spc. Ian Putnam, a mechanic in Troop B, 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, works on the engine of a Humvee at Camp Liberty, Iraq. *Photo by 1st Lt. Shawn Wiley*

Bottom Right: Staff Sgt. James Diehl Troop B, 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, and members of Iraqi Security Forces talk with a local woman, while on patrol in Baghdad, Iraq. *Photo by 1st Lt. Shawn Wiley*

Quote of the Week:
- Dwight D. Eisenhower

"Neither a wise nor a brave man lies down on the tracks of history to wait for the train of the future to run over him."





Generosity with Generators

Story by 1st Lt. David T. Chapman

Local elementary students who return to school this semester will notice a pleasant change: electricity. Local elementary school's old dilapidated generators were replaced with brand new generators recently during "Operation Rainbow." The operation came to fruition by the combined efforts of the Ghazaliyah Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC), 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 6th Division of the Iraqi Army, the Ghazaliyah Iraqi Police (IP's), numerous school masters and mistresses located in Ghazaliyah, and 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment.

"The Ghazaliyah NAC was crucial in making this operation a success," said Capt. Robert Callaghan, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment's Battalion Fire Support Officer. "The NAC contacted the local schools about the status of their generators—most were in pretty rough shape." Most of the old generators could only be run for a few hours a day. Generator electricity is crucial during the summer when temperatures can reach over one hundred degrees. They are also important during the winter—in which they are used to power ceramic heaters that keep

the students warm during school hours. Besides the poor condition of most of the school's generators, fuel is hard to get. "What's great about the generator packages the schools in Ghazaliyah are receiving [today] is that they come with a nine month supply of fuel," said Capt. Sean McGuire, Task Force Tomahawk's Civil Affairs Officer. "This will prevent schools from seeking money from parents to run the school's generators."

Neither the schools, nor the parents will have to worry about maintenance for the generators, because they come with a one-

Generosity Generators- Continued on Page 4

The Chaplain's Corner

Know how to walk like an Egyptian? Better yet, try walking like a pigeon.

Back in the olden days, a traveling minister once rode his horse past a man working his field. "Great day isn't it?" the minister called out. "Great for you", the man replied, "All you do is ride around on your horse thinking about God, but I work my field all day then walk home afterward. Your job's easy, mine's hard."

"On the contrary", the minister answered, "thinking about God is one of the hardest jobs you can do. To prove it, I'll give you my horse if you can think about God and nothing else for one minute."

"You're on," the man said and

immediately he sat down in silence. Thirty seconds later, though, he looked up at the minister, and said, "Does that include the saddle?"

Keeping a fixed focus on God is hard work. If you've ever tried to



pray for any length of time you know how quickly solemn words can turn to into mental meandering.

As author John Stott once confessed, "The thing I know will give me the deepest joy -- to be alone and unhurried in the presence of God... is

often the thing I least want to do."

Maybe it'd be easier if we tried walking like a pigeon. In order to see where it's going, a pigeon has to completely stop between steps to refocus. We often have the same problem. The stress and busyness of life can often distract our focus away from God. That's why we need to periodically stop to pray and refocus. When you do, it becomes clear who you are and where God wants you to go. Only then can you walk steady.

Wishing you the very best, I'm Chaplain Anthony Horton.

Generosity Generators - Continued from Page 3

year, maintenance free warranty. "Because the generators run so frequently, they tend to breakdown," Capt. McGuire said.

Mrs. Aduhalla, who works at the school, was very appreciative of the support received from the Iraqi Army (IA) and Iraqi Police (IP). Mrs. Abuhalla said, "I did not have a car big enough to transport the new generators to the school, but the IA and IP's put my generators in their trucks and brought them to the school. They even helped me bring the generators into the school. I would not have been able to do it myself!" The generators weighed over two hundred pounds.

At the end of the day, nearly fifty generators went to the local schools. The generators will give the students in Ghazaliyah the opportunity to learn in a better environment, and help to educate the future citizens of Baghdad.



Mr. Muhammed Kassem (far right), the Ghazaliyah Essential Services Chairman, helps school masters sign for generators that will help power local Ghazaliyah school houses.
Photo by 1st Lt. David Chapman



SCORPION MWR

All events start at 2000 hours, and are located in the Scorpion MWR recreation tent.

Monday, 16 October:
Tuesday, 17 October:
Wednesday, 18 October:
Thursday, 19 October:
Friday, 20 October:
Saturday, 21 October:
Sunday, 22 October:

Ping Pong Tournament
Madden 2006 Tournament
Texas Hold'em Tournament
Karaoke, Spades and Dominoes Tournaments
8 Ball Billiards Tournament
Old school Jam Night
Salsa Night and Air Hockey Tournament



Top Left: Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment emplace concrete barriers for a vehicle check point in Ta'meem, Iraq. *Photo by Capt. Patrick Webinger*

Top Center: Sgt. Eric Sutton, of Battery C, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, scans his sector while on guard at Fire Base Courage outside western Baghdad in October, 2006. *Photo by Sgt. Raul Montano*

Top Right: Sgt. Joseph Ingalls of Company B, 141st Signal Battalion qualifies on the M249. *Photo by Sgt. Matthew Downs*

Bottom Left: Sgt. Damion Lewis (right) from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment provides security while Spc. Christopher Whipple (left) operates an M-88 recovery vehicle to move concrete barriers for a vehicle check point near an Iraqi Highway Patrol Station outside of Ramadi, Iraq. *Photo by Capt. Patrick Webinger*

Bottom Right: Capt. Christopher Eastburg (left) reenlists (from left to right) Spc. Joel Moreno, Spc. Roy Upchurch, and Spc. Robert Sickles in a ceremony at Camp Liberty, Iraq, while Spc. Jason Coles holds the flag. All are from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 40th Engineer Battalion. *Photo by Sgt. First Class Juan Padilla*



New Stallions keep the Battalion on the Move

Story by 1st Lt. Phidel Hun

As an Artillery Battalion, we are fortunate enough to have Direct Support Maintenance assets that are added to our organizational teams. These assets are the Maintenance Support Team, or MST, that deployed with the Service Battery "Stallions," 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment. The MST originally hails from the 47th Forward Support Battalion (FSB). The team that has joined the Iron Thunder Battalion is special in many ways. As a traditional Artillery Battalion, each firing Battery knows exactly what they need to do to deliver fires. The Headquarters Battery provides the Command and Control and Service

Battery provides the backbone of all the logistical needs of the Battalion. However, during our deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07, the Iron Thunder Battalion was anything but traditional. The battalion's newly acquired mission caused Service Battery to adapt and modify the way it provides support; the MST also has had to modify the way they do business.



Spc. Eugene Goeopf from the Maintenance Support Team, attached to Service Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, changes a tire on a Humvee. *Photo by 1st Lt. Phidel Hun*

In the past if a vehicle went down, the operator would assess the fault, and the organizational level maintenance would verify that fault. If it was something that the higher level, Direct Support, would have to fix, we would ship it off to the FSB and wait for its return. Here in Iraq, we do not have that luxury. Instead, we call upon the technical skills of the MST. There are 12 personnel in the MST and those Soldiers are led by Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Blockmon. The MST provides the Iron Thunder Battalion with its Direct Support Maintenance wherever we go, whether that is on our primary FOB or to a satellite FOB.

Whenever a vehicle in the battalion is broken, malfunctioning, and is beyond the skill level of battalion maintenance, then it is up to MST to come in and repair that vehicle. Each member is highly skilled in his own specialty, but each Soldier is also cross-trained in each others



Sgt. Eddie King from the Maintenance Support Team, attached to Service Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, checks a generator circuit. *Photo by 1st Lt. Phidel Hun*

skills. Spc. Eugene Goeopf believes, "We are the hardest and the best working maintenance team within the battalion because we work on the job until the job is completed. Also our team chief demands nothing but the best." MST allows for the Battalion to continue with their mission without delay.

The team is very successful because under the leadership of their team chief, Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Blockmon, the team has developed a unique bond. Spc. Cody Nonnenmacher says, "One of the biggest reasons that our team is so proficient is our ability to get along with our fellow mechanics. We have without a doubt, the closest group of Soldiers and NCO's. When we work together, we like to joke around but we are able to quickly get any vehicle 'up,' regardless of the fault." They ensure that the Battalion is never held back from a mission because of its maintenance needs.





The Light at the End of the Tunnel

Story by 1st Lt. Travis Hacker

Troop A, as well as the rest of the 8th Squadron, 10th US Cavalry Regiment, has been deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom for the past ten months. During this time the Troop has conducted both combat and humanitarian operations in some of the most dangerous and challenging areas of western Baghdad. While the unit continues to move forward with its operations, Soldiers are also beginning to look forward to quieter days after returning to the Squadron's home base at Fort Hood, Texas.

Later this month the first phase in the Squadron's eventual redeployment to the United States will take place with the departure of the unit's advanced party. Among this first wave of returning troops is Troop A's supply clerk, Spc. Brendan Sass. Spc. Sass will be responsible for making all the necessary preparations for the Troop's arrival, including signing for the Troop's office space, preparing Soldier billets, and establishing initial essential supplies for the unit. Thanks to Spc. Sass' hard work and preparation, the rest of the unit will be able to take a well-deserved rest upon returning to their home station. Spc. Sass will be staying with the 4th Infantry Division after re-deploying and moving to the Division's 1st Brigade.

Soldiers throughout the unit are beginning to make preparations for their return and thinking about what

they will do with their free time. When asked what he wanted to do after re-deployment, Spc. Jonathan Waite, a twenty year old member of the Troop's maintenance team and a Kittanning, Pennsylvania native, stated that his first project, after visiting his home and family on leave, would be to fix up his 1998 Pontiac Grand Am. Spc. Waite anticipates returning to Iraq at the end of next year with 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division.

Another Troop A Soldier, Pfc. Abdul Joseph, of Austin, Texas, is looking forward to spending time with his wife and children when he gets home. Pfc. Joseph is one of the few Soldiers who joined the unit in Iraq, two months into its deployment. Pfc. Joseph joined the Army to gain experience for a career in law enforcement. He hopes to complete several courses toward a degree in Criminal Justice before he deploys to Iraq once again with 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division.

While each Soldier in the unit understands that there is much work yet to be done before they return to their homes and families, they are all anxiously awaiting the day that they can hand off this responsibility to another group of fine American Soldiers. For the time being however, the Soldiers of Apache Troop remain vigilant and focused on the tasks before them and their ultimate goal of returning home.



Top: Spc. Brendan Sass (right) passes out mail to Spc. Matthew Kuhl (left). Both are from Troop A, 8th Battalion, 10th Cavalry Regiment.

Photo by 1st Lt. Travis Hacker

Middle: Spc. Jonathan Waite from Troop A, 8th Battalion, 10th Cavalry Regiment, prepares to transport equipment in a Humvee at Camp Liberty, Iraq. **Photo by 1st Lt. Travis Hacker**

Bottom: Spc. Brendan Sass from Troop A, 8th Battalion, 10th Cavalry Regiment, monitors the Troop command post radios and tracking systems at Camp Liberty, in Baghdad, Iraq. **Photo by 1st Lt. Aaron Reid**

Top Left: Pfc. Randolph Lee of Company E, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, stands ready in his personal protective gear for inspection at Camp Liberty, Iraq.

Photo by 1st Lt. Allan Hughes

Top Right: Members of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, congratulate newly promoted comrades during a ceremony held at Camp Liberty, Iraq.

Photo by Capt. Dan Tower

Middle Left: 1st Sgt. Marcus Morrison (center) and Staff Sgt. Wesley Nelsen (right), assist in the promotion of Josue Nunez (left) to Specialist at Camp Liberty, Iraq.

All are of Troop D, 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment. *Photo by 1st Lt. Shawn Robertson*

Middle Right: 1st Lt. Brian Johnson and Staff Sgt. Brandon Walker, both of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment search the area for weapons caches during a patrol outside western Baghdad in October, 2006. *Photo by Sgt. Raul Montano*

Bottom Left: Spec. Meegis Stringer of Battery C, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment plays guitar between guard shifts at Fire Base Courage outside western Baghdad in October, 2006. *Photo by Sgt. Raul Montano*

Bottom Right: An M2A2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle, from Troop B, 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry, leads an evening patrol through Baghdad, Iraq. *Photo by 1st Lt. Shawn Wiley*





Hellfighters Change Command

Story by Maj. John Kuenzli

On 11 October 2006, the Hellfighters of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 47th Forward Support Battalion said farewell to their commander, Capt. Mark Bednarczyk, and welcomed in their new commander, Capt. Sarah Marsh Read.

The change of command is a special ceremony for everyone involved, including the Soldiers of the unit. The change of command is symbolized by the passing of the unit guidon, which has significant battlefield history as marking the position of the commander in battle and serving as a rallying point for the troops. When the guidon is passed from one commander to another, it symbolizes the transfer of responsibility for command of the unit. The Hellfighters' change of command continued that tradition with the passing of their guidon in the Hellfighters' motorpool, located at Camp Liberty, Iraq. The Soldiers of HHD, 47th were in attendance, along with many other members the 47th FSB and Soldiers from different units within the 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

The Hellfighters are a small group of Soldiers with a big mission; an often untold, unrecognized mission. Their mis-

sion, is to keep the Modern Pioneers' battalion headquarters and operations running in order to support the commander and staff, along with the companies of 47th FSB so they, in turn, can support the 2nd Brigade Combat Team. They are the solid foundation the rest of the battalion stands and leans on for direction, directives, resources, and support - and they are great at what they do.

Lt. Col Jeanne Hooper, 47th FSB Battalion Commander, referred to the changing of the guidon and transfer of authority in her speech, noting, "Today is a bittersweet day for the detachment as we farewell one great Modern Pioneer and welcome another." Capt. Bednarczyk commanded for nearly two years and experienced everything in command from training exercises in Germany to commanding a unit during combat operations. Capt. Read assumed command following a litany of jobs at the company, battalion, and division levels while striving for her chance to command.

Both the outgoing commander and the new commander will most definitely be a part of the long standing tradition and history of the Hellfighters, and the Modern Pioneers.



Top: Lt. Col. Jeanne Hooper, commander of the 47th Forward Support Battalion, passes the company guidon to Capt. Sarah Marsh Read to symbolize the passing of command from Capt. Mark Bednarczyk to Capt. Read. *Photo by Maj. Alex Greenwich*

Middle: Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 47th Forward Support Battalion, stand tall and look good for the change of command ceremony between Capt. Mark Bednarczyk and Capt. Sarah Marsh Read, held at Camp Liberty, Iraq. *Photo by Maj. Alex Greenwich*

Bottom: Capt. Sarah Marsh Read, the new commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 47th Forward Support Battalion, addresses her Soldiers during her change of command speech. *Photo by Maj. Alex Green-*



The Third Time's a Charm

Story by Capt. Chuck Cogger

After two attempts to deliver desks to primary schools in the West Rasheed District of Baghdad, the "Bears" of Battery B, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment were successful on their third try when they delivered the desks and school supplies to the Ishtar Primary School in Risalah, Baghdad. The desk project was originally submitted to the battalion by the late Capt. Doug Diczno, former Commander of Company C, 2nd Battalion 6th Infantry Regiment in April

2006. He said that it was one of his focus areas because he believed that the children were the one thing he could make the most impact on while here in Iraq.

The first attempt at the delivery started out well. The Bears patrol had visited the school's headmasters prior to delivery to ensure the school would be open, and gave general times



(From left to right) Soldiers Sgt. 1st Class Ricky Darby, Capt. Chuck Cogger, and Staff Sgt. Kristopher Westergard of Battery B, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, Task Force Gator, stand behind the students at the Ishtar Primary school after delivering school desks to the children. *Photo by Sgt. Christopher Palmer*

Third Times A Charm - Continued on Page 11

FIRE SAFETY

As the Brigade returns in the early portion of the winter season, remember that your home needs maintenance, just like the equipment you use in the Army every day. Be sure to check your heaters, smoke detectors and fires extinguishers so that everything is working for the coming winter months.

Heaters are a necessity during the winter months. Check to ensure that the heaters and radiators are working properly in your housing units, and call in work orders to have repairs performed if needed. If you on the German economy, be sure that your landlord has had your oil heater inspected. This is an annual requirement under German law, and measures Carbon Monoxide levels produced from burning fossil fuels and mechanical function of the equipment. This helps to ensure your family's safety when using a house heater.

While units were away, there is a

possibility that smoke detectors batteries were not changed. The manufacturer's recommendation for battery replacement is every 6 months. Also, check your fire extinguisher to ensure that it still has adequate pressure; during a fire is not the time to discover that it needed replacement or recharging.

Some general housekeeping may also be required. Dust build-up on stoves and other electrical cooking implements can ignite initiating a larger fire. A little initial work upon your return from deployment can save you major headaches this winter season and protect your life, your family's life, and your property from fire danger.



Soldiers of Battery B, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, Task Force Gator, unload school desks for the students at the Ishtar Primary school as they eagerly await. *Photo by Sgt. Christopher Palmer*



Third Times A Charm - Continued from Page 10

when the desks may be delivered. As the patrol moved into zone, it encountered an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attack that damaged two of the vehicles. Fortunately, no one was injured and all damage vehicles were recovered. While the maintenance operations continued, it was determined that the patrol would accomplish the mission and deliver the desks to the students in the Radwaniyah countryside. Unfortunately, five minutes into the second movement, the patrol was hit once again with another IED which damaged the lead vehicle of the patrol. Battle hardened from 6 months of combat patrols prior and some good old American engineering on the Up-Armored

Humvees, the vehicle crew came out unscathed.

Finally, a week later, success was achieved in making a lasting impression with some of the children of Iraq. The Soldiers linked up with Mr. Abdul Kareem Dawood, Headmaster of the Ishtar Primary School in Risalah, to deliver the desks. The patrol dropped off thirty-four desks to help start off the new school year. Many of the children were excited to see the Soldiers and were very eager to help. The Bears couldn't work fast enough to unload the desks because the students were greatly excited as they carried the desks to the classrooms. Mr. Abdul was very grateful for the assistance and stated that, "even though the school needs many

other things, the desks are a big help." The Soldiers were excited as well to finally complete the mission on hand. The patrol leader, Staff Sergeant Krystopher Westergard, explained that the patrol was more than just a desk delivery, but it "symbolizes a willingness to learn new ways to reach all of Iraq for a better tomorrow."

Undaunted, the Bears completed the task and were filled with pride. It is always rewarding when you can help out others in need, especially when it can make a lasting impression on the youth of Iraq. Through thick and thin, no matter what, the Bears of Battery B remain vigilant in helping rebuild and providing security to the people of Iraq!

Hints From The S6 Shop For An Easy Transition

Backing Up Data: It is the responsibility of individual computer users to back up critical data on their hard drives. In addition, if you plan on taking your classified (SECRET) hard drive or anything classified back to Baumholder, coordinate with your section's courier to ensure they have the proper paperwork and space for your information. Think ahead and plan the back-up of critical data for your classified and unclassified hard drives.

CAC Pin: Upon returning to Baumholder, all computer users will be required to log onto computers using their Common Access Card (CAC) readers. YOU NEED TO KNOW YOUR CAC PIN. If you have forgotten your CAC pin, you can reset your pin at the PSB (near finance) before we return to Germany. Knowing your pin will save you time in the near future.

You can see the archive of the Striker Torch Newsletters here!
<http://www.1ad.army.mil/2BCTNewsletters.htm>

Operational Security

- ❖ According to AR 350-1 OPSEC is a *process* of identifying critical information and subsequently analyzing friendly actions attendant to military operations and other activities to identify those actions that can be observed by adversary intelligence systems.
- ❖ Implement OPSEC measures to protect sensitive and critical information from unauthorized disclosure.
- ❖ All individuals should also understand and apply the OPSEC process every day.
- ❖ Remember, OPSEC should still be maintained even after redeployment back to Germany.

OPSEC is an Individual Responsibility.





College Instructor Patrols the Streets of Iraq

Story by 2nd Lt. Kellen Blythe

One of the US Army's great strengths is the diversity and assortment of experiences its Soldiers bring with them upon enlistment. Any given unit contains a unique cross section of Americans and patriots encompassing many walks of life. Soldiers come from various types of families, climates, and educational experience. Many Soldiers join the Army right out of high school and others join after finishing several years of college. Spc. Michael McGuigan of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, took a rare path to becoming a Soldier, postponing his Doctoral Dissertation defense to enlist in the United States Army.

Spc. McGuigan comes from the classrooms of Miami Dade College and Barry and St. Francis Universities in Miami, Florida, where he taught a variety of history courses including American History, African History, African-American History and Latin American History. Spc. McGuigan got his bachelors degree from Georgia State University and then continued on to The University of Miami for his masters, studying Latin American History. He then decided to continue his academic progression and get his Doctorate, focusing his thesis on Economics in 20th Century Latin America. All the while he was instructing college history at local universities. "I liked to emphasize the importance of human rights during my instruction. [What] I taught in my lectures is the premier reason I became a Soldier. To ensure those rights to people who have had them taken away."

Some would look at this Soldier's success in the civilian world and question why he would give up such a successful career to join the Army. Spc. McGuigan has grown accustomed to such questions and responds, "I wanted to be a part of something bigger than myself. I feel that the United States has a duty to defend and spread freedom and human rights." He saw the importance of the mission



Spc. Michael McGuigan from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment stands next to the Company B mural in their command post located in Ar Ramadi, Iraq. *Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Beaulieu*

loves the chance to interact with the Iraqi people that being a dismount Soldier allows.

On 4 September, 2006, while on a mounted combat patrol in Tameem, the patrol was attacked with Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPGs). The patrol established positive identification of nine insurgents getting into three vehicles and fleeing the area. The patrol followed the insurgents to a local mosque. Spc. McGuigan was dismounting a M1114 when a hand grenade was thrown under the truck and exploded. Spc McGuigan received shrapnel

sniper pillow, three 15 round boxes of 7.62mmx39mm ammunition, four belts of 7.62mm machine gun ammunition, one full ammo can for a machine gun, two video cameras, two tapes, two power cords, two batteries for cameras, and seven rice bags. One of the video tapes shows Anti-Iraqi Forces loading a RPG and then firing it at an M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle.

In the future, Spc. McGuigan anticipates contributing in other ways. He has been an advocate for human rights as a college profes-

"I wanted to be a part of something bigger then myself. I feel that the United States has a duty to defend and spread freedom and human rights."

in Iraq and wanted to contribute to something that he holds dear. For this reason, Spc. McGuigan wanted to be the "tip of the spear" as an Infantry Soldier. He felt that his knowledge as a college professor could contribute to the success of the mission and to the nation of Iraq. While serving as an Infantry Soldier in Iraq, he has been "hit by everything" but he

wounds to his right leg, but still fired at the four insurgents. At least two insurgents were wounded while fleeing and one was detained. The unit searched the three vehicles and confiscated; four RPG launchers, one RPG sight, three machine guns, one 9mm pistol, one loaded 9mm pistol magazine, three ski masks, one AK47, five loaded AK47 magazines, one

sor; he acted on his convictions as a Soldier in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and in the future he would like to pursue a seat in Congress as a Representative from Florida. Protection of human rights has been his prime motivation as a Professor, a Soldier, and possibly in the future as Representative McGuigan.

-Spc. Michael McGuigan
Co. B, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment



“Army Strong”

Story by Sgt. 1st Class David R. Dockett

The U.S. Army is beginning a new advertising campaign in support of recruiting new Soldiers early next month, replacing the 5 year old “Army of One” campaign. The slogan driving the ad campaign will be “Army Strong,” which will begin to appear on television, radio, internet, and in print magazines beginning on the 9th of November.

The advertising campaign is a key component in its recruiting efforts, and is inspired by Soldiers. “Army Strong” explains that Soldiers display a unique brand of strength, one that is mental, emotional and physical, and is unique to those that wear the Army Uniform; past, present, and future.

Secretary of the Army, the honorable Francis J. Harvey,

spoke of the ideas behind the campaign at the Association of the United States Army annual meeting that was held recently in Washington, D.C.

“Army Strong stands for a big idea. It speaks to the truth about the U.S.

Army - that Soldiers develop mental, emotional, and physical strength forged through shared values, teamwork, experience and training... that by making the decision to join the Army, an individual is choosing to recognize potential strength within him or herself and develop it further... that an individual Soldier is choosing to take charge of his or her future and career... that Soldiers actively choose to make a difference in their lives,

their families, their communities and for their nation.”

The “Army Strong” advertising campaign will portray only actual Soldiers. Studies have shown that when Soldiers discuss their own experiences, views, and motivations, it makes a compelling impact on prospective recruits. All Soldiers are encouraged to tell people about the story of their experiences, and ask potential recruits to visit goarmy.com

More information about the “Army Strong” advertising campaign can be found on Army Knowledge Online, including a video that represents the essence of the ad campaign.



Army Secretary Dr. Francis J. Harvey unveiled the effort to tell the Army about the “Army Strong” campaign, a key component of the Army’s recruiting efforts, during an opening ceremony for the 2006 Association of the U.S. Army Annual Meeting Oct. 9 in Washington, D.C. *Photo by Betsy Weiner*

The new Army ad campaign, “Army Strong” that will take the place of the five year old ad campaign, “Army of One.”



ARMY STRONG.™



What's in a Patch?

4th Infantry Division

Description: On a light khaki square, each side two inches in width overall and with one angle up, four green ivy leaves arranged per cross issuing from a small open circle (one leaf in each angle of the square and the vertical and horizontal axis each 2 11/32 inches in length).

Symbolism: The four leaves allude to the numerical designation of the Division while the word "IVY" as pro-



nounced, suggests the characters used in the formation of the Roman numeral "IV." Ivy leaves are also symbolic of fidelity and tenacity.

Background: The shoulder sleeve insignia was originally approved on October 30, 1918 for the 4th Division without any background specified for the ivy leaf design. The design was embroidered on a square olive background (color of the uniform). On July 2, 1958, the design was changed to reflect the light khaki color background. It was re-designated for the 4th Infantry Division effective August 4, 1943.

What Do *YOU* Think?

"How Well Do *YOU* Think The Media Portrays The Environment In Iraq?"



SPC Ron Hanner ,
Co. C, 1-22 IN

"The media does not do a very good job of portraying the environment here in Iraq because they only focus on the negative things."



CPT Doug Hague
HHC, 1-23 IN

"The environment here in Iraq is far more complex than a thousand word story."



SGT Zackery Rose,
Co. A, 1-12 IN

"Generally I think the mainstream media is fair and balanced. But unfortunately, what makes headlines is violence, so one would get the wrong conclusion of the total picture of Iraq."



SSG Curtis James,
HHC, 1-23 IN

"No matter what we say, the media will portray it the way they want it to be."



SPC Brandon Bosley,
HHT, 8-10 CAV

"The media takes things to the extreme. They need to see what combat is all about."

Next Week: "What Is The Most Important Thing *YOU* Have Learned Since *YOU* Were Deployed To Iraq?"

Sgt. Gary Cooper from Company D, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, during a patrol in Baghdad, Iraq. *Photo by 1st Lt. Robert Murray*



STRIKER TORCH NEWS TEAM

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Col. Robert E. Scurlock Jr.

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