

2nd Brigade Combat Team Forward
Camp Liberty, Iraq
OIF '05 - '07

Pfc. Antonio Espricuetavelaquez from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, attached to Task Force Conqueror, provides security on a street corner during a foot patrol in Tameem, Ramadi, Iraq. **Photo by TSgt. Jeremy Lock**

Quote of the Week
 "I am a Soldier, I fight where I am told and I win where I fight."
 - Gen. George S. Patton

Top Left: Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment conduct a foot march during a stress shoot competition in Kuwait. *Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey*
Top Right: (From left to right) Spc. Michael Mumford, Spc. Cameron Ray, Spc. Jerry Masaga, and Spc. Jon Capello of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, of Task Force Conqueror stack up and advance into a building during Military Operations in Urban Combat (MOUT) training. *Photo by Spc. Jeremy Neece*
Bottom Left: Soldiers from the 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment's Personnel Security Detachment team in front of the cross sabers in Baghdad, Iraq. *Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey*
Bottom Right: A Soldier from 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment guides a medical helicopter for a safe landing at a training range near Camp Buehring, Kuwait. *Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey*



A Word From the 2BCT Command Team



COL Robert E. Scurlock Jr.



CSM Jose A. Santos

Iron Families and Soldiers,

One year ago, just before Thanksgiving, the Iron Brigade deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07. Now, as our Iron Soldiers return home and reunite with their loved ones, I want to express my sincerest appreciation for all the hard work that our Soldiers and families have done since we left.

We arrived in Kuwait and were designated the CENTCOM Theater Reserve, the first of its kind for an Armored Brigade in Kuwait. We settled into Camp Buehring and began training in order to remain ready to deploy at a moment's notice. We set the conditions and maintained the fighting edge that allowed us to deploy Task Force 2-6 in March to support the seating of the Iraqi Government in Baghdad. In May, Task Force 1-6 and Task Force 1-35 joined with 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division to help secure Ramadi. The remainder of the Brigade deployed to Baghdad in July in support of Operation Together Forward.

In the last year, the Iron Brigade Soldiers accomplished many great things and deserve many accolades. As proud as I am of our Soldiers, I can not thank the families of the Iron Soldiers enough. You made it possible for your spouse, parent, and/or child to conduct his or her duties in combat without having to be concerned about things back home. The sacrifices you make daily may not always be realized by us, but know that you made a tremendous difference. You are an integral part of the Iron Brigade and a big reason for our success over the last year.

We accomplished a lot and have much of which to be proud, but I ask each of you to remember the families and loved ones of the 28 Germany-based Iron Soldiers, and the 14 Soldiers attached to the Iron Brigade, who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our nation in the fight for freedom this past year. We will forever be indebted to them for their service to our great country. They will not be forgotten.

With the return of the Iron Brigade, we realize that in the next few months many of the Iron Soldiers will

be leaving the brigade, and even the Army. Some of these Soldiers have been with the Iron Brigade for two tours in Iraq. I want to thank you for your service to our country and to the Iron Brigade.

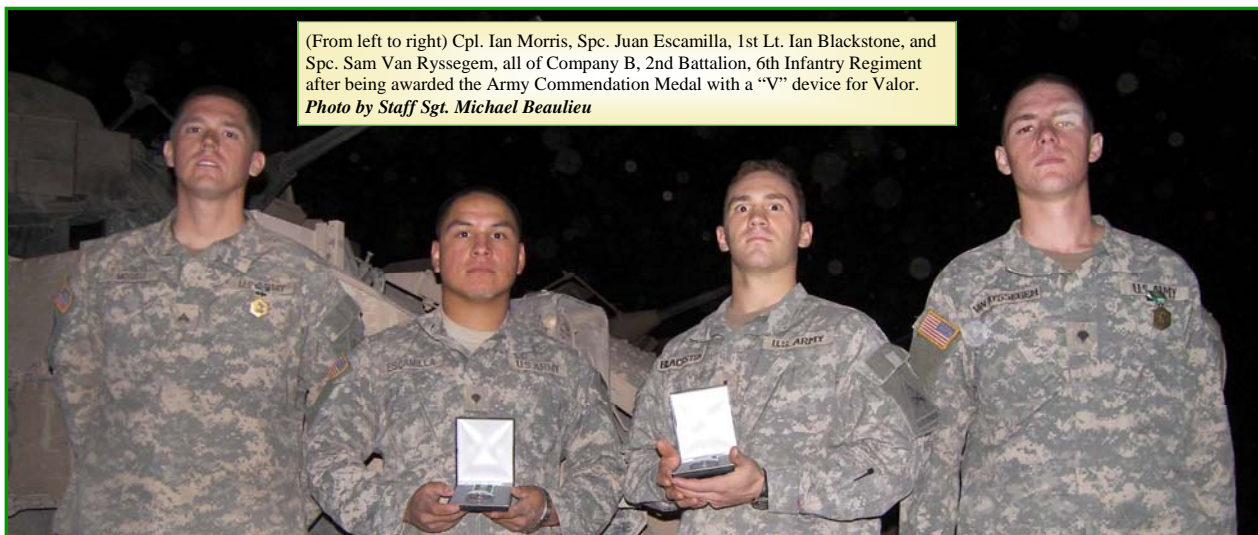
We will arrive in Germany after a year of being away and many things may have changed. I want each and every one of our Soldiers to enjoy being home, but I encourage you to remain vigilant. Keep a close eye on each other in Germany just as you kept an eye on each other in Iraq. We do not want to lose anyone to a preventable accident. If you or a fellow Soldier is having a hard time readjusting, please talk to your chain of command and we'll see to it that you receive the assistance you need. Thank you again for all you have done and will continue to do for each other and for our Nation.

Iron sharpens Iron as one Iron Soldier sharpens another.



(From left to right) Cpl. Ian Morris, Spc. Juan Escamilla, 1st Lt. Ian Blackstone, and Spc. Sam Van Rysseghem, all of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment after being awarded the Army Commendation Medal with a "V" device for Valor.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Beaulieu



Heroes Just Doing Their Jobs

Story by Capt. Eliot Thomasma

Since moving to Ramadi in late May, the Soldiers of Task Force Conqueror distinguished themselves daily with repeated acts of heroics and dedication. Whether it is the Support Platoon guarding the main entrance to Camp Ramadi, the mechanics performing constant maintenance, or the tankers and infantrymen on patrol, there is no shortage of willing, ready, and able "Conquerors" who work to improve security conditions in Ramadi. Within this team of extraordinary Soldiers, some members of the 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment were recognized with awards for valor after showing extreme courage under fire. Cpl. Ignacio Garza III, from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Bn., 35th Armored Regt., and Staff Sgt. Lee Rinehart, 1st Lt. Ian Blackstone, Spc. Richard Anderson, Cpl. Ian Morris, Spc. Juan Escamilla Jr., and Spc. Sam Van Rysseghem from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, all earned awards with a "V" device for valor because of their heroic actions in combat.

When Staff Sgt. Lee Rinehart and Cpl. Ignacio Garza volunteered to assist the 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 7th Iraqi Army Division, partnered with Task Force Conqueror, they understood that their new jobs were more demanding and inherently different than the original assignments they had with the Task Force. On the morning of June 4, four days after starting their new jobs, Staff Sgt. Rinehart and Cpl. Garza were baptized by fire into the life of an advisor to the Iraqi Army. While conducting routine daily operations securing a strategic entry control point in the south of Ta'meem, the Iraqi Army, supported by Task Force Conqueror Tanks, came under a complex attack beginning with heavy small arms and mortar fire, climaxing with a suicide dump truck bomb, and continuing with more small arms and sniper fire. In the middle of this chaotic scene and already injured, both Staff Sgt. Rinehart and Cpl. Garza took control of the situation and ran between the Iraqi Soldiers directing a coordinated defense,

treating casualties, extinguishing fires, and evacuating wounded. At one point late in the engagement, as Staff Sgt. Rinehart was preparing to be evacuated for his wounds, a shot from a sniper hit an already wounded Iraqi Soldier sitting next to him in the Medical Evacuation vehicle. Staff Sgt. Rinehart immediately jumped out of the vehicle, returned fire, and, despite his own wounds, helped load the additional casualties into the vehicle. Cpl. Garza, an experienced medic, was so focused on doing his job that he refused treatment of his own wounds so he could treat the rest of the casualties. Afterwards, Cpl. Garza described the entire episode as "Amazing". He was impressed with how well everyone on the Military Transition Team (MiTT) worked as a team. "We were all just doing what we were supposed to be doing", says Cpl. Garza, "Everyone on the team had a job to do and, as a medic, mine was to treat and evacuate the

Heroes- Continued on Page 5



THE STRIKER TORCH



Host Nation Events

Nov. 5 Shops open on Sunday in Kusel
 Nov. 5 Kusel fall market
 Nov. 10 St. Martin's parade, Kusel
 Nov. 10 St. Martin's parade, Baumholder
 Nov. 10 St. Martin's parade, Birkenfeld
 Nov. 10 St. Martin's parade, Berglangenbach
 Nov. 11 Church service, St. Martin's parade, Burg Lichtenberg
 Nov. 25 Advent Bazaar, Birkenfeld
 Nov. 26 Bazaar, Ruschberg, 2 p.m.
 Nov. Dec., Nativity Display, Catholic Church Baumholder

Dec. 2 St. Nicolas Ball, Baumholder, Brühlhalle
 Dec. 2 Christmas market, Berglangenbach
 Dec. 8 City of Baumholder tree lighting, 5 p.m.
 Dec. 8-9 Christmas market, Baumholder
 Dec. 9 Christmas market, Heimbach
 Dec. 10-12 Christmas market, Birkenfeld
 Dec. 12 Christmas Market, Reichenbach
 Dec. 16 1st AD Christmas concert in Baumholder
 Dec. 16 Christmas Concert, Frauenberg, Gemeindehaus 8 p.m.



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wounded". For heroically doing their jobs while reacting to multiple forms of enemy attack, both Staff Sgt. Rinehart and Cpl. Garza were awarded the Bronze Star Medal with a "V" device for Valor.

Just doing your job takes on an exceptional meaning for the Soldiers of Company B, 2nd Bn., 6th Inf. Regt. The Company B "Death Dealers" have been engaged in the highly contested Ta'meem district of Ramadi since they took over the area in May. On 18 July 2006, Co. B, 2nd Bn., 6th Inf. Regt. was attacked with small arms fire while conducting dismounted census operations in Ta'meem. During this incident Staff Sgt. Mike Muir was shot in the legs. 1st Lt. Ian Blackstone and Spc. Richard Anderson grabbed Staff Sgt. Muir and pulled him to a covered area while under fire and without regard for their own safety. Spc. Anderson, a medic, began medical treatment. 1st Lt. Blackstone maneuvered his elements to begin searching the house where the small arms fire potentially originated, but found nothing. For their selfless action 1st Lt. Ian Blackstone and Spc. Richard Anderson were awarded the Army Commendation Medal with a "V" device for Valor.

Cpl. Ian Morris, Spc. Juan Escamilla, and Spc. Sam Van Ryssegem of First Platoon, Co. B, 2nd Bn., 6th Inf. Regt. are not strangers to enemy contact and have become experts in the art of identifying potential threats. On September 18, 2006, this expertise saved many lives and foiled the plans of a suicide car bomber. While responding to an SVBIED attack on Al Horiya Iraqi Police Station, these three "Death Dealers" recognized a car suspiciously approaching their up-armored humvee. As it attempted to drive between their vehicle and the

Bradley in front of them, Cpl. Morris, the vehicle commander, and Spc. Van Ryssegem, the driver, quickly notified Spc. Escamilla, the gunner, of the threat and he began firing his machine gun at the car. "The biggest fear was that the car would hurt the Bradley and its crew" said Spc. Van Ryssegem. After multiple rounds from Spc. Escamilla impacted the target, the car, which was rigged as a car bomb, exploded into a giant fireball. "It all happened real quickly" said Spc. Escamilla. "After I knew everyone was alright, I thought it was the coolest thing I had ever seen." The quick reaction

of this truck crew prematurely aborted this suicide bomber's mission preventing any casualties. "It was really just about staying alive" said Cpl. Morris when describing their quick reaction. "This was a total truck effort. No one person did this; everyone worked together and things turned out well." Cpl. Ian Morris, Spc. Juan Escamilla, and Spc. Sam Van Ryssegem were awarded the Army Commendation Medal with a "V" device for Valor.

These seven Soldiers who were recognized for valor met the enemy head on and did their job brilliantly. During those intense moments, they performed above and beyond the incredible standard set and maintained everyday in Ramadi by the Soldiers of Task Force Conqueror. 1st Lt. Ian

Blackstone, Staff Sgt. Lee Rinehart, Cpl. Ignacio Garza, Cpl. Ian Morris, Spc. Juan Escamilla, and Spc. Sam Van Ryssegem, and Spc. Richard Anderson continue to work diligently with the first-hand knowledge that, at any time, they may be called upon again to act quickly and decisively in a life or death situation. On June 4, July 18, and September 18, they performed admirably confronting fear and selflessly protecting others. If asked about their actions, they all respond with variations on the same theme: they were simply doing their job.

(From left to right) 1st Lt. Ian Blackstone, Spc. Juan Escamilla, Sgt. Rossell Willis, Spc. Sam Van Ryssegem, and Cpl. Ian Morris, from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, after being awarded the Army Commendation Medal with a "V" device for Valor. *Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Beaulieu*





Modern Pioneers Live Up to Name

Story by Maj. John D. Kuenzli

What exactly is a Modern Pioneer? If you're into word origins, Merriam-Webster's dictionary provides the following: "Modern" from the Latin word, *Modo*, means - just now, and the word *Modus* meaning- measure. Further descriptions of the word "Modern" use the definition: "characteristic of the present or immediate past," and descriptive terms like Contemporary, and involving recent techniques, methods, or ideas-up-to-date.

The word Pioneer comes from the Old French Pioneer, meaning foot Soldier. After learning the word origin, Webster's provides the definition of Pioneer as, "a person or group that originates or helps open up a new line of thought or activity or a new method or technical development."

MODERN PIONEERS - Now you know. If you didn't have a good dictionary with you, you would need to look no further than the Soldiers of the 47th Forward Support Battalion, who are known as the Modern Pioneers.

This unit entered into Operation Iraqi Freedom, ready to take on any mission asked of them. The Modern Pioneer Soldiers, like the foot Soldiers of the word origin, (many of which are on their second combat tour in the Global War On Terrorism) adapted to each change in condition. They performed support operations out of storage

containers in the absence of shop vans, tents, or structures. They laid out every inherent capability to make a Forward Support Battalion become a deployment projection enabler. This allowed heavy task forces to deploy within 12 hours of notification, and move additional enablers from within the battalion with the deployers. The Modern Pioneers took on Detainee Operations in the absence of Military Police, and provided for the health, wellness, and medical readiness of the brigade Soldiers. They supported Task Forces foreign to the brigade combat team with new fleets and logistics requirements. This furthered recent thoughts around the Army that Combat Service Support Soldiers have to be Warriors and War fighters like the Infantry, Scouts, and Artillerymen.

The Modern Pioneers went so far as to establish support operations and support capabilities, provided by its flexible and supportive Soldiers, in Ramadi, Al Taqaddum, Camp Corregidor, Habanniya, Camp Liberty, Forward Operating Base (FOB) Justice, and FOB Falcon. How many other units in Iraq can lay claim to being in so many locations performing their mission to support war fighters? The Modern Pioneers are Soldiers that opened up new lines of thought with respect to performing missions you will not find in the Army's Combat Service Support doctrine.

When they fight alongside the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, they have no qualms about it.

The Modern Pioneers medical Soldiers and leaders provided first-class in the Tactical Combat Casualty Care and Emergency Medical Training with the incorporation of technical simulations and Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) site application. They conducted the Expert Field Medical Badge qualification course in Kuwait, and implemented new First Responder techniques into the Combat Life Saver program. In Iraq, they treated Coalition Soldiers, Iraqi Soldiers and security officials, and supported medical operations to improve the health and lives of Iraqis in their operating areas.

After leaving the 47th Forward Support Battalion supply warehouse in Baumholder, the Modern Pioneer supply Soldiers turned their supply skills towards Army Materiel Command at Camp Arifjan. They helped establish a repair parts warehouse for the Army Pre-Positioned Stocks-5 (APS-5) fleet in Arifjan. In May, they shipped out to Ar Ramadi and Al Taqaddum to run support operations in support of the 2BCT Task Forces deployed there, as well as all the Marines and other Army units in need of support in West Iraq.

The Modern Pioneers maintenance Soldiers performed direct support maintenance out of

Modern Pioneers- Continued on Page 7



Left: A Load Handling System Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck (HEMTT) prepares to leave Camp Liberty, Iraq with a payload of water on a Company B, 47th Forward Support Battalion, Combat Logistics Patrol.

Photo by 1st Sgt. William Bess
Right: The Battalion Commander of the 47th Forward Support Battalion, Lt. Col. Jeanne Hooper, leads an esprit-de-corps building battalion run at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. **Photo by Capt. Martin Reidy**





Modern Pioneers - Continued from Page 6

milvans and put their talents to work on equipment that belonged to 101st Airborne, 4th Infantry Division units during their Reception and Staging in Kuwait and during operations in Baghdad; 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division in Kuwait and in Ar Ramadi. Most notably, while taking care of everyone's maintenance needs, the company also ran continuous Combat Logistics Patrols to Abu Ghuraib Internment Facility, or distributed barriers through Baghdad, or other supplies around Victory Base Complex.

Finally, as previously mentioned, the remaining Soldiers not to be forgotten, championed the Brigade's call for a detention facility and re-opened the Camp Liberty Division Holding Area Annex to hold Brigade detainees; a first time mission for the Modern Pioneers, but proved to be well within the capabilities and flexibility of the Pioneer

Soldiers.

Ironically for the Modern Pioneers, they achieved their missions while being one of the last pre-transformation, or legacy, support battalions in the Army. Through it all and the course of a year in Kuwait and across Iraq, under the lead-

ership of Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Jeanne Smith Hooper, and Command Sgt. Major Lester Stephens, the Modern Pioneer Soldiers performed their missions with pride, honor, and high standards and provided an outstanding example for all to take notice of what it means to be a Modern

Pioneer. Through the year, the Modern Pioneers still found ways to honor the birthdays of the Ordnance and Quartermaster Corps, win Brigade Soldier and Non Commissioned of the Quarter in 3rd Quarter Fiscal Year 06, and conduct other special observances, such as the Battalion Birthday, the Army Birthday, a Patch Ceremony to present Soldiers their combat patches, and several organizational days to promote the esprit de corps of the Modern Pioneers.



The 47th Forward Support Battalion's Detainee Holding Area Annex team poses for a photo after completing a day of training on Camp Liberty, Iraq. *Photo by Capt. Mark Bednarczyk.*

How To Contact A Chaplain:

1. During duty hours, call your Unit Chaplain listed on the other side of this pamphlet.
2. After duty hours, on weekends or holidays, call the U.S. Army Garrison, Baumholder, Staff Duty Office at 485-6150 or 06783-6-6150 and request that the On Call Duty Chaplain call you.
3. Suicide prevention help is always available through your Chaplain or your unit. You can also call 485-8070 or 485-8080 and ask to speak to the appointment nurse. The suicide hotline is DSN 485-1988 or civ 06783-999-2977.

The Baumholder Catholic Community would like to welcome home our returning soldiers.

Each Sunday returning Soldiers will receive:

- **Fresh flower** presented from our Youth Group
- Message and presentation of a **medal** from a Parish Member
- **Special song** by Suzanne Martinez
- **Accompaniment** by our pianist Davina Gill
- **Welcome Home Blessing** by the priest

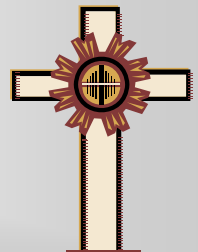
Mass times are:

9:00 a.m. – Strassburg Chapel

11:00 a.m. – Baumholder Chapel #2

For more information please contact:

Chris Strickland, Parish Coordinator at 06783-1850890





Thunder Odyssey

Story by Capt. Thomas Hasara

Most members of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, would agree that the past year deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07 has been extraordinary and quite different from what they expected. This is all the more so for the Soldiers of the Iron Thunder Battalion, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery. In addition to experiencing, along with the rest of the 2nd BCT, eight months in Kuwait as the first Multi-National Forces – Iraq (MNF-I) Call Forward Force, they also saw several changes to their training and operational focus as well as their task organization. This is their journey from a direct support Field Artillery battalion to “Task Force Thunder,” fulfilling a Coordinating Headquarters role for all Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) in the North West quarter of Baghdad, approximately 9,000 personnel.

The odyssey truly began with a summer rotation in Hohenfels, Germany, as part of the 2nd BCT’s Mission Readiness Exercise. There, two of the line companies were transformed into Motorized Rifle Companies (MRCs) and Batteries A and B became part of the task organization for 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment. Battery C remained with the battalion to provide a counter-fire capability against the enemy indirect fire threat. It was at Hohenfels that the first foreshadowing occurred of the Thunder Battalion working so closely with the ISF. A portion of the Battalion staff was given the role of assisting the Brigade staff in understanding and tracking all of the intricacies of the still-evolving ISF. “The idea seemed really unusual back then; almost an unlikely course of action. We’re a Field Artillery battalion, what do we know about Iraqi Security Forces? Well, we’re here now, and we’ve done it, and I can say that all the training and learning at Hohenfels was worth it in the long run,” said Spec. Ryan Yurchison of Battery C, 4th Bn., 27th FA. As the lessons learned from the exercise were compiled, no one realized the extent to which the experience would later return to affect



United States Army Europe and Seventh Army Commander, General David McKiernan meets with Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, during a visit to Germany-based Soldiers and leaders on September 23rd, 2006, in Baghdad. **Photo by Maj. Robert Foster**

the unit as it conducted operations in Baghdad.

Every unit moving into the Iraqi Theater of Operations spends some time in Kuwait training and becoming acclimated to the environment. Upon arrival in Kuwait, it became public knowledge that the 2nd BCT would be designated as the first Call Forward Force and would remain in Kuwait until needed in Iraq. The Thunder Battalion used that time to train and hone their skills. Batteries A and B continued to improve their training posture as Motorized Rifle Companies as Battery C trained for the dual skill sets of both Paladin operations and as a Motorized Rifle Company. “The Battalion has always adapted well to non-standard missions. This was too easy

after the operations we conducted during OIF I. With the formal training, and our well-versed leadership, I knew this Field Artillery battery was ready to hit the ground running as a Motorized Rifle Company,” said Sgt. Nikolas Rudolph of Battery A, 4th Bn., 27th FA. The Headquarters and Headquarters Battery became highly proficient in the conduct of Protective Service Detail (PSD) operations and worked closely with Service Battery at institutionalizing Combat Logistics Patrol (CLP) procedures.

By July of 2006, the Brigade Combat Team had committed all three of its maneuver task forces into Iraq to support specific combat operations there. In order to provide a responsive force

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THE STRIKER TORCH



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to support other contingencies in Iraq, the BCT reorganized the 4th Bn., 27th FA, as a Motorized Task Force and Task Force Thunder was formed. When the Government of Iraq and the 4th Infantry Division requested additional combat power in support of the second phase of Operation Together Forward, MNF-I called forward the motorized Task Force Thunder. Additionally, the Brigade headquarters was directed to assume command and control of other forces already committed on the battlefield. Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) played a crucial role in the future of Baghdad and Iraq, and Task Force Thunder was, designated to fulfill the vital role of a coordinating headquarters for the two brigades of Iraqi Army (IA), two brigades of National Police (NP), and twenty Iraqi Police (IP) Stations in the 2nd BCT area of operations. TF 4-27 manned the Combined Operations and Intelligence Center (COIC) which provided a critical link between Coalition Forces of the 2nd BCT and the ISF that shared battle space.

In order to accomplish this mission, Task Force Thunder pushed its base of operations out into the city to Forward Operating Base (FOB) Justice, located in north central Baghdad on the banks of the Tigris River. The COIC was collocated there with the 1st Bde., 6th IA Div., Tactical Operations Center (TOC). The COIC mission involved coordinating current and future operations with the partnered ISF units and the 2nd BCT headquarters in order to facilitate increased situational awareness across national, cultural, and language barriers. The COIC was additionally designed to facilitate increased mentorship and training of ISF by partnering with Coalition staff counterparts.

New units were assigned to Task Force Thunder, including Company B, 141st Signal Battalion to provide life support and force protection to the FOB. Additionally, the battalion received tactical control over the wide variety of Transition Teams that serve as mentors and advisors for the various Iraqi Security Forces, to include two full companies of Military Police (MPs), to coach, teach, and mentor their counterparts in the Iraqi Police.

"The relationship with the Transition Teams is an unusual and often a challenging one. We primarily provide support to them so they can accomplish their mission of training the ISF. We

also serve as their higher headquarters for reporting the current readiness of their Iraqi units, assessing their abilities to operate independently," said Maj. Robert Foster, Operations Officer for the 4th Bn., 27th FA. The support came in part from personnel augmentation from the Battalion's Headquarters and Headquarters Battery and Service Battery to the Military Transition Teams (MTTs) of the 1st Bde., 6th IA Div. These augmentees played a vital role in the training of ISF. The medics from HHB trained the medical platoons within the Iraqi Army battalions and provided oversight to real-world medical evacuations and urgent care. Similarly, the Battalion's mechanics worked closely to ensure the 1st Bde., 6th IA Div. MTTs' vehicles remained operational. In addition to the additional MTT vehicles they serviced, they also ensured the IA battalions received instruction on how to maintain their respective vehicle fleets while instilling a sense of operator ownership throughout the process.

One of the more spectacular of these transitions for Task Force Thunder was to exchange its three firing batteries for two Military Police companies and an additional MP platoon. These elements were placed under the tactical control of Task Force Thunder, adding nearly 300 personnel to the ranks. These military policemen provided mentorship and training to the 20 police stations in the BCT's area of responsibility. Developing the Iraqi Police was designated as the main effort for 2006 by the Commanding General in charge of all forces in Iraq, dubbing this "The Year of the Police." "This is a unique and challenging mission by any standard. Getting these guys up to speed is critical, when you think about it, it is the POLICE, not the ARMY that provides day to day security for the citizens of any successful nation," said Capt. Jay Avery, Commander of the 615th Military Police Company.

The Soldiers of the Iron Thunder Battalion filled additional roles outside of assisting work with ISF and their Transition Teams. The Stations of Service Battery, in addition to providing personnel for MTT augmentation, conducted Combat Logistics Patrols. "...weekly the Stallions travel through some of the most dangerous times of the night to get supplies to our troops. That's our job," said Spec. Joran Jackowski of Service Battery, 4th Bn., 27th FA. These CLPs routinely escorted civilian and military vehicles which departed Camp Liberty full of essential

supplies and material, and filled with maintenance parts, mail, and other critical items necessary for daily operations and the morale of the Soldiers who lived at FOB Justice.

The Headquarters and Headquarters Battery Soldiers of survey and other headquarters elements served as a Protective Service Detail (PSD). The heavy training regimen in Kuwait paid off as these Soldiers routinely escorted the Battalion Command Group throughout Western Baghdad. This included providing security for District Advisory Council meetings in the districts of Monsour and Khadamiyah regarding security concerns. The teams also transferred division detainees and escorted numerous contractors and Department of Justice employees to and from FOB Justice. They also performed time-sensitive crater analysis for indirect fire attacks which impacted the FOB, so that battle reporting of proper analysis could be accurate, timely, and useable.

By the end of the deployment, the Soldiers of the Iron Thunder Battalion realized that they had applied their combined strength and versatility to a unique task which will make a lasting impression to the future of Baghdad and Iraq. "There is only so much you can hope to accomplish in any deployment, but I believe that we deployed here at full speed, acted together as a team to throw our shoulders into the massive effort of 'ISF in the lead,' and it will be up to others to maintain the momentum we have toiled here to create," said Lt. Col. Robert Cheatham, Commander of the 4th Bn., 27th FA. This shared idea will be on the minds of the Battalion as they prepare to return home to their spouses, friends, and families that supported them throughout the deployment. They will inevitably reflect on the units that briefly made up Task Force Thunder, as those transition teams remain in Iraq to carry on the long-term project of a safe and secure Iraq. Lt. Col. Cheatham closed by saying, "The breadth and scope of this mission is extensive and it will take additional rotations working in concert with our Iraqi partners to achieve steady progress, but I can leave here knowing that for every stride forward the ISF have made working with us, we were there to support their advance toward their own victory in Iraq. Our time here has brought results that our Soldiers know has contributed directly to winning the Global War on Terrorism."

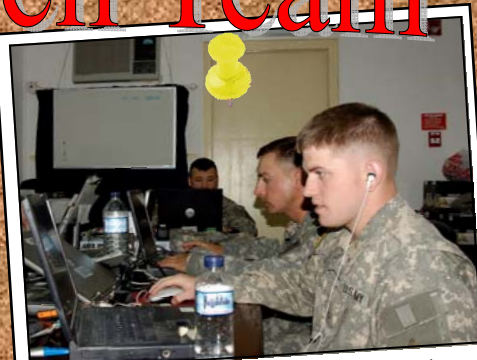
The Striker Torch Team



Sgt. Ben Seip takes video of Expert Infantryman Badge training at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Maj. Frederick Bower



Sgt. 1st Class David Dockett takes photos during the Expert Field Medical Badge training conducted at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Pfc. Evan Richardson



Capt. Thomas Hasara (background), Sgt. 1st Class Liviu Ivan (center) and Pfc. Jeremy Neece (left), process command information and prepare the Brigade's command information newspaper, the Striker Torch, at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey



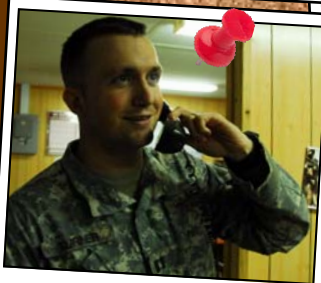
Maj. Fredrick Bower (center), with media members from CNN Stephen Turner (left), and Gabriel Ramirez (right) in Baghdad, Iraq. Photo by Sgt 1st Class Liviu Ivan



Capt. Thomas Hasara stands in the green zone in Baghdad, Iraq. Photo by 1st Sgt. Armaruel Peralta



Sgt. Raul Montano examines a photo he recently captured in Baghdad, Iraq. Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey



Capt. John Turner coordinates over the phone for future operations in Baghdad, Iraq. Photo by Spc. Jeremy Neece



Sgt. 1st Class Liviu Ivan (foreground) takes video of Soldiers training at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Spc. Joshua Ramey



Spc. Joshua Ramey records a training event in Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by Pfc. Evan Richardson



THE STRIKER TORCH



2BCT PAO, A Successful Year of Operations

Story by *Spc. Joshua Ramey*

To most Soldiers, "the media" is what is on T.V., what is printed in the Stars and Stripes, and what is heard from loved ones who pay attention to worldwide events. Soldiers rarely think about the process involved in telling their story to sources that are very interested in what they do, and how they do it. The entire world has eyes-on American Soldiers, and it is likely the high social esteem of being a U.S. Soldier comes, in part, from the dedicated work of public affairs offices attached to military units around the world.

"The media" cannot be defined by those two words. Many different journalists enter the Iraqi Theater with different agendas, different tendencies, and bring their own personal bias to the battlefield. The 2nd BCT Public Affairs Office was designed to facilitate the media's interaction with Soldiers and leaders, so they can publish and broadcast their stories as accurately as possible.

Early in the deployment, the 2nd BCT leadership showed interest in emphasizing public affairs operations for the Theater Reserve mission in Kuwait. Maj. Frederick Bower, the 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment's operations officer (and later, the battalion's executive officer) was appointed to guide the Public Affairs shop in a direction that would establish success. None of the members of the section were trained on journalism or photography, so necessary skills to do this mission came from individual motivation to learn different journalism styles, study how to operate professional camera equipment, and adapt to different requirements and standards from the division and corps levels.

In order to complement outside media's representation of the 2nd BCT, the Public Affairs section produced its own material so that the audience was able to observe the brigade in much more depth. The Striker Torch was the 2nd Brigade's weekly publication that served to highlight what Soldiers were currently doing throughout the deployment. Pictures and articles from the Striker Torch were distributed directly to the 1st Armored Division, and rear-detachment elements in Germany, Ft. Hood, Texas, and Ft. Lewis, Washington. From there, other media outlets commonly used material gathered by 2nd BCT public affairs, such as the Stars and Stripes, Ironsides Magazine, Desert Voice, Ivy Leaf, Herald Union, the 1st Armored Division Website, the V Corps website, the Pentagon website, and a host of other news-

distribution sources available on the Internet and print.

The Soldiers, NCOs, and officers dedicated to this mission spent much of their time split between writing, compiling, researching, and sorting information in the office, and spent the rest of their time in the field gathering material from the Task Forces. Since the beginning of the deployment, the Striker Torch staff edited and published over 190 stories, processed over 40,000 pictures, and took nearly 35,000 pictures. The processing of material is not as simple as it sounds. There are strict standards which much be met for a picture or an article to be published.

The Striker Torch staff checked every photo and article to ensure that Soldiers were adhering to the 2nd BCT's standards for uniform and

diers to read.

The staff writers were Sgt. Raul Montano, originally from Battery C, 4th Bn., 27th FA Regt., and Spc. Joshua Ramey from Company B, 40th Engineer Battalion. Their jobs included gathering and processing material, as well as preparing material submitted from battalions.

Spc. Jeremy Neece from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Bn., 27th FA Regt. selected stories and pictures to be used in the Striker Torch and assembled the publication.

Sgt. Ben Siep and Capt. Thomas Hasara of the 4th Bn., 27th FA Regt.'s intelligence shop, were the software experts who worked to train members of the office on how to use various computer programs that streamlined communication. They were also key players in the editing process and the production of several videos telling the brigade's story in Kuwait and Iraq.

The senior NCOs of the office, Sgt. 1st Class David Docket originally from 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, Sgt. 1st Class Armarel Peralta and Sgt. 1st Class Liviu Ivan, both from the 4th Bn., 27th FA Regt.'s intelligence shop, coordinated with different brigade elements, and helped facilitate operations in the field and in the office. The senior NCOs worked closely with battalion-level public affairs representatives.

Upon the 2nd Brigade Headquarters arrival to Baghdad in the end of July, Capt. Hasara, Sgt. Siep, and Sgt. 1st Class Peralta, moved to Forward Operating Base Justice to serve full-time in 4th Bn., 27th FA Regt.'s intelligence shop working with the Iraqi Security Forces in combined operations.

Maj. Bower and Capt. John Turner (recently moved from 4th Bn., 27th FA Regt., staff) became more closely involved with the public affairs operations after the brigade's movement to Baghdad. With help from Sgt. 1st Class Ivan, the three dealt with a barrage of embedded reporters from the Western media, organized press conferences, and ran day-to-day operations in the shop. They worked to coordinate at least 30 embedded reporters to units going on missions and made sure they stayed busy.

The OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM 05-07 rotation for the Public Affairs section has been a continuous and very interesting learning process. Monotony never set in and the office's success came largely from an ability to remain flexible, think outside of the box, and maintain a "can-do" attitude.



The 2nd Brigade Combat Team public affairs section with a CNN news crew who covered events in Ghazaliyah during Operation Together Forward at Camp Liberty, Iraq. Photo by Capt. Daniel Tower

safety. All Soldiers had to be identified, as well the photographer that took the picture. Large amounts of effort were expended coordinating with battalions and companies, ensuring that information in our products were accurate. Finally, a photo is combined with a "cut-line" that states who is doing what, when, and where. The group of pictures and cut-lines were then sent through the approval chain for changes and authorization to release.

Articles were formatted to the Associated Press standard for style, and proper abbreviation for units and ranks.

During the course of the deployment, the Public Affairs section made contact with the Herald Union and the Army Times who sent free copies of their publications to the 2nd BCT. The Public Affairs section distributed these publications to the task forces from Germany for Sol-



Gators Wrap up an Eventful Year

Story by Maj. Jeff Grable and Capt. Mike Cygan

The Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, or Task Force "Gators" experienced numerous successes over the past eleven months while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Task Force started its deployment as the Theater Reserve and closed out the challenging year controlling all of the west Rasheed district in southwest Baghdad—an area over 110 square kilometers and one million residents. The Task Force planned and executed a variety of operations and is now prepared to shift focus to redeploying Soldiers and equipment back to Germany.

Task Force Gators came together again in mid-December 2005 when the 2nd Brigade Combat Team organized into task forces, but trained as a Task Force as early as August 2005 at the Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany during gunnery. Combat elements of the Task Force consisted of Battery A, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, Battery B, 4th Bn., 27th FA Regt., Company B, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, Company B,

40th Engineer Battalion, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Bn., 6th Inf. Regt. Task Force Gators were also supported by maintenance teams from 47th Forward Support Battalion, and fire support teams from 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment.

Upon arrival at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, the Soldiers of the task force embarked on an aggressive training plan in preparation for possible deployment to Iraq. Commanders developed and executed weapons ranges, counter-IED training lanes, and urban training operations. The less glamorous, but still important, maintenance operations in

Gators Eventful Year - Continued on Page 13



Staff Sgt. Jeremy Billings, of Company B, 40th Engineer Battalion, of Task Force Gator, speaks with his interpreter about the recent events in Objective Risala that the locals reported. *Photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Williams*

OPSEC

- All paper will be shredded
- Must be crosscut shredding
- Units will burn all other paper shredding
- All classified documents must be burned.
- Addresses, stick pads, phone numbers, notes, hand receipts, personal letters, photos, junk mail, etc; all can be used by the enemy and must be burned.

THE GOOD



THE BAD



THE UGLY



THE STRIKER TORCH



Gators Eventful Year - Continued from Page 12

the motor pool continued nearly 24 hours a day to keep the Task Force's Humvees, M1A1 Tanks and M2A2 Fighting Vehicles, prepared for combat operations. During the four months in Kuwait, the task force overcame numerous challenges and emerged a better trained and prepared combat force ready for operations in Iraq.

With the increase of violence in Iraq, the Soldiers of Task Force Gator deployed to Baghdad in support of Operation Scales of Justice. The task force arrived at Forward Operating Base Falcon within 48 hours upon receipt of mission. The Soldiers conducted the transfer of authority on March 20 and quickly adapted to their new mission. The primary focus during the first 45 days was to aggressively patrol Route Jackson to ensure coalition freedom of movement. The task force conducted Operation Stallion Run and cleared 17 kilometers of Routes Irish and Jackson that benefited both Coalition Forces and the Iraqi populace by removing tons of debris scattered along the route.

In early May 2006, Task Force Gators increased its area of operations and began conducting framework operations in the Say-

diah, Bayaa, and Radwaniyah districts of Baghdad. Less than 30 days later, the 750 Soldiers of Task Force 2-6 assumed even more battlespace when they accepted responsibility of the Risallah, Shurta, and A'amel districts of Baghdad. Soon after the addition of increased battle space, the Task Force conducted Operation Together Forward to secure Baghdad. Conducting joint patrols and operations with the National Police, the Soldiers of the 2nd Bn., 6th Inf. Regt., made great strides during the operation. Everyday, the Soldiers conducted joint patrols with the Iraqi National Police in efforts to build the Iraqi Soldiers proficiency and foster confidence and trust with the Baghdad populace.

During seven months of combat operations in Baghdad, the Soldiers of the task force conducted over 3500 patrols, with almost half of those being combined with the Iraqi Security Forces. In addition to constantly patrolling the neighborhoods of southwest Baghdad, the task force has undertaken the project of rebuilding Iraq by completing five major projects totaling in excess of \$100,000. The rebuilding of Iraq helped foster relations between the civilian population and coalition forces. These projects also rebuilt Iraq's infrastructure system.

During operations in Baghdad, the Soldiers of Task Force Gators detained over 150 individuals, many of which were high value targets responsible for planning and executing acts of violence and terrorizing innocent Iraqi civilians. The task force's Operation Relentless Hunt made a huge impact and progress towards reducing sectarian acts and protecting the Iraqi populace. During the three day combined US and Iraqi



1st Lt. John Varvel, of Company B, 40th Engineer Battalion, of Task Force Gator, instructs national police through a local national interpreter on standards at a checkpoint. *Photo by Staff Sgt.. Brent Williams*

operation in Risallah, Soldiers confiscated numerous weapons and explosives by conducting house to house searches. After searching the area, concrete barriers were emplaced to encircle the cleared area to prevent weapons being moved back into the area. The task force has always known the center piece of winning the counter-insurgency fight in Baghdad is securing the populace and partnering with the security forces. This strategy, coupled with the hard work and determination of the task force Soldiers, has been the key to success.

Upon redeployment of the task force, they will have completed three months of training in Kuwait as the Theater Reserve and eight months of combat in Baghdad, Iraq. Their accomplishments are numerous and the accolades have come with their superb performance. Col. Michael Beech, the Commander of the 4th Brigade, 4th Infantry Division remarked "Task Force [Gator] is the premier IED defeat battalion in Multinational Division-Baghdad." This remark says a lot about Task Force Gators, they started the deployment as part of the reserve, and when they were called to the battlefield, they excelled beyond expectations.



Capt Andy Staiano (left) and Sgt. Willie Mace (left) of Company B, 40th Engineer Battalion, of Task Force Gator, during a patrol in Risala. *Photo by Staff Sgt.. Brent Williams*



Civil Military Operations in AO IRON

Story by Maj. Jason Kirk and Capt. Matthew Holbrook

Throughout 2nd Brigade Combat Team's deployment to Iraq, 40th Engineer Battalion, Task Force Ram, has assisted in several of the BCT's major operations including Civil Military Operations (CMO), Governance, and Essential Services. These efforts, enabled by the Security Operations and Iraqi Security Forces, are arguably the most vital of TF Ram's efforts in Operation Iraqi Freedom. It is certainly a rewarding endeavor as we work alongside our Iraqi partners, the District Representatives of Kadhimiya and Mansour, the public works officials from the Baghdad Provincial Council and the general contractors trying to make a living and improve the quality of life for their fellow citizens. With the addition of Company A, 412 Civil Affairs Battalion—Anvil—and a Special Functions Team from the 354th Civil Affairs Brigade, Task Force Ram has eagerly stepped into this important and difficult task of aiding the Government of Iraq (GoI) in rebuilding Baghdad's essential services and in further developing as a capable and credible democratic government.

The Civil Affairs (CA) Teams from Company A, known as CAT-As, move about daily in their Task Force areas of responsibility conducting Sewer, Water, Electricity, Trash, Academics, and Medical (SWEATM) assessments and checking the progress of U.S.-funded reconstruction projects. They also meet with local Iraqi leaders to plan further reconstruction efforts and discuss community issues. They engage with the locals during their movements, conducting market surveys and assessing "atmospherics" that help BCT and TF Ram leaders gauge the effectiveness of our efforts in the eyes of the Iraqi people. As with all units that regularly patrol, these efforts come with the risks of roadside bombs, car bombs, and small arms fire—all of which the CAT-A teams have faced. They—maybe more than other combat Soldiers—appreciate and know that the vast majority of the Iraqis out on the



Iraqis at work at the U.S.-funded Ghazaliya Sewer Collapse Repair project in southern Ghazaliya. **Photo by Maj. Jason Kirk**

streets of Baghdad and the agricultural fields of the Abu Ghraib Qada are peaceful and trying to move their country forward.

One of the most successful and high profile projects undertaken by the 2nd Brigade Combat Team during "surge CMO" efforts was the removal of trash and debris from the streets of western Baghdad, starting with the neighborhood of Ameriyah. Ameriyah, a former Sadaam loyalist stronghold, was one of the first neighborhoods to undergo a house to house clearance during Operation Together Forward. Within the first week of operations in Ameriyah, US Army Engineer's from the 68th Engineer Company and Iraqi civilian contractors removed an astonishing 2,500 tons of garbage and debris. American and Iraqi Army officials were impressed by the immediate effect such a clean-up had on the neighborhood's citizens as they began for the first time in nearly three years to assist clean up crews and clean-up their own shops and offices. A n o t h e r critical part of the CMO effort was the weekly

interaction of Brigade Combat Team and Task Force Ram leadership and the CMO staff with local government officials. The 40th Engineer leaders, Lt. Col. William Graham, Commander of the 40th Engineer Battalion; Maj. Jason Kirk, the 40th En. Bn. Executive Officer; Maj. Gary Callese, the 40th Engineer S-3; and Maj. Jon Culbertson, the CAT-A commander, met with Kadhimiya and Mansour District officials as well as U.S. Department of State representatives; Capt. Bailey of Company A, 412th CA and Lieutenant Commander Burnside of the 354th CA Brigade attended technical meetings and site visits with Iraqi public works engineers. As Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Graham has stated, "essential to where we are going with Iraq's future, is getting an Iraqi face out front. CMO engagement with local authorities is critical to what we are trying to do here. This interaction is vital to mission success and to the stability and future of Iraq."

Civil OPS - Continued on Page 17





Civil OPS - Continued from Page 16

The Striker CMO team has a dynamic "joint" staff make-up to match the dynamic, multi-agency, multi-cultural mission-set. Capt. Brian Luti, Capt. Michael Jakubson, and Chief Petty Officer Bernard Ben-Carew—in the "Essential Services Cell"—have the management of fifty-five different projects across Area of Operations IRON—ranging from a \$10,000 canal cleaning projects to a \$2.4 million electrical rehabilitation projects. Working behind the scenes in the "Governance Cell," Capt. Michael Said (U.S. Air Force), Commander James Prothro and Senior Chief Petty Officer Jeffery Carlock, all from the 354th CA Brigade, keep track of all of our government contacts and develop future engagement plans and strategies. This team is rounded out by our CAT-B Team of Captains Stacy Bare and Brad Gustafson, and our invaluable interpreters and cultural advisors, Shaan, Bani and Adel. Because relationships are so important to the CMO effort, the Striker Area of Operation will benefit from the off-

cycle rotation schedule that will keep the Company A, 412th CA Team and some of the 354th CA Brigade Team on station with our eventual Relief in Place Transfer of Authority unit well into 2007.

Time will be the measure of our CMO efforts here in western Baghdad and Abu Ghraib Qada. From the inquiring citizens at the Forward Operating Base Hawk Civil Military Operations Center, to the markets of Khandari and Shulla/Nur to the advocates at the District Advisory Council Hall in Mansour—in all of these locations, Striker BCT CMO efforts are truly on point for the nation.



Lieutenant Commander Phil Burnside and Chief Petty Officer Bernard Ben-Carew brief Lieutenant Colonel William Graham on the intricacies of the Shulla/Nur sewer system as they plan infrastructure upgrade projects. *Photo by Maj. Jason Kirk*

10 Rules of DPSEC which pertain to redeployment:

I'M COUNTING ON YOU!



DON'T

1. Discuss future destination
2. Discuss future operations or missions
3. Discuss movement dates
4. Discuss movement times
5. Discuss readiness issues and numbers
6. Discuss peoples' name and positions in conjunction with operations
7. Speculate about movements/operations
8. Spread rumors about movements/operations

Do

9. Assume the enemy is trying to collect information on you, your family and your unit
10. Be smart about DPSEC when using phones, email, or any type media transfer



Vehicle Registration

If you placed your vehicle in storage before you deployed, your vehicle registration documentation may have expired. If your vehicle was placed in storage, this is not a problem because your registration has been "frozen" during the deployment period, meaning that your registration is still valid when you get back to Germany.

This means if your vehicle was due to be registered two months after you deployed, your vehicle must be registered within two months after you return. This only applies if your vehicle

was placed in storage; if your vehicle was not in storage the registration of the vehicle has most likely expired and must be re-inspected and registered.

If your vehicle is not in storage and you have a spouse, family member, or other using your vehicle, encourage them to register your vehicle now if it is within the three month window to avoid the rush of redeployment.

Further information on vehicle registration at Baumholder can be found at the website:

<http://www.baumholder.army.mil/media/pmo/vehreg.html>



WAR TROPHIES

What kind of souvenirs can I take home from my time in Iraq? General Order #1 and Multi-National Corps - Iraq have clear guidelines that describe what you can and not take home with you.

MNCI FRAGO 076 to OPORD 05-01 on War souvenirs states the following are prohibited:

- All weaponry whether operational or non-operational, this includes triggers, barrels, shells, receivers, rockets, rocket components, grenades, explosives, munitions, shell casings, primers, and projectiles. Any club type weapons, brass knuckles, blackjacks, or numchucks.
- No Switchblade knives or gravity knives.
- No Iraqi privately owned articles such as rugs, china, silverware, goldware, linens, furniture, or fixtures unless you have a purchase receipt for them.
- No objects of art, science, archeological, religious, national, or historical value.
- No personal items such as letters, family pictures, dog tags, or ID cards.
- No sand, dirt, rocks, stones, or gravel.
- No plants or animals of any kind, whether dead or alive. This includes body parts of animals.

Though you may not take any of the above items back with you as a war souvenir, you may take the following items with a letter from your commander:

- Helmets and head coverings, bayonets, uniforms, and uniform items such as patches and insignia.
- Canteens, compasses, rucksacks, pouches, and load bearing equipment.
- Flags, military training manuals, books and pamphlets.
- Posters, placards, and photographs.

You must have a completed CFLC Form 603-1 in order to take any war souvenirs home with you. This form must be signed by your battalion commander and must accompany the item in question. If you have any questions as to whether or not you can take an item home with you please contact the legal NCOIC, Staff Sgt. Neal.





Top Left: A Bradley Fighting Vehicle from Company A, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, patrols the desert during a combined arms live-fire exercise. *Photo by 1st Lt. Wesley Brooks*

Top Right: Members from Scout Platoon, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment of Task Force Regulars prepare to clear a building during their Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) training. *Photo by 1st Lt. Bledy Taka*

Middle Left: Pfc. Cary Novailanda (left) and Pfc. Aaron Musgrove (right) of Scout Platoon, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, provide during Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) training. *Photo by 1st Lt. Bledy Taka*

Middle Center: Spc. George Kusel of Company C, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, charges ahead to engage targets as part of 1st Bn., 6th Inf. Regt's marksmanship competition. *Photo by Spc. Alberto Bretado*

Middle Right: Spc. Juan Lopez from Company C, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment fires his M240B at a target during the Squad Live Fire. *Photo by Spc. Alberto Bretado*

Bottom: Soldiers of Company C, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment maintain an aggressive speed while conducting a foot march to their next training event. *Photo by 1st Lt. Bledy Taka*

Task Force Regulars





Special Programs during Reintegration Process:

Every Sunday @ 1100 hrs Catholic Mass in Chapel 2 (St. Michael Chapel) welcomes returning soldiers with flowers, medal, songs and blessing.

Welcome Home Mass, @ 1800 hrs every Saturday

December 4th, Praise and Thanksgiving Celebration featuring "Building 429", contemporary Christian rock band concert at the Wagon Wheel Theater at 1800. Free admission.

December 10th, Baumholder Evangelische Kirche Christmas Choir Concert w/ singing groups from our congregations performing w/ the German choir. Tentative time is 1800.

January 8-12th, Spiritual Renewal Week; classes taught, light supper served, on premises watch care, praise/worship/preaching every night; Thursday night, 11 January, contemporary Christian concert w/ "Pierced".

Religious Support Plan

2nd Brigade Chaplain	
Chaplain (MAJ) Roetzel	485-6650
1-6 Infantry	
Chaplain (CPT) Brunson	485-6176
2-6 Infantry	
Chaplain (CPT) Krieder	485-7202
1-35 Armor	
Chaplain (CPT) Maxwell	485-7158
40th Engineer Battalion	
Chaplain (MAJ) Horton	485-6550
47th Forward Support Battalion	
Chaplain (CPT) White	485-7435
4-27 Field Artillery	
Chaplain (CPT) Park	485-7539

ARMY STRONG.™

LOYALTY – Bear true faith and allegiance to the United States Constitution, the Army, your Unit, and other Soldiers.

DUTY – Fulfill your obligations

RESPECT – Treat people as they should be treated.

SELFLESS SERVICE – Put the welfare of the nation, the Army, and your subordinates before your own.

HONOR – Live up to all the Army values.

INTEGRITY – Do what is right, legally and morally.

PERSONAL COURAGE – Face fear, danger, or adversity (physical and moral).





The Striker Torch Team would like to thank all the units for allowing us to tell their story and our readers for supporting our Soldiers.

We would also like to thank the leadership of the Iron Brigade, the Battalion Unit Public Affairs Representatives, and everyone who helped in any way for their support, guidance, and assistance throughout the year. Without you to tell the stories of the Iron Soldiers, we would have never been able to produce the Striker Torch.

What Do *YOU* Think?

“How Has This Deployment Changed *Your* Life?”



SSG Marvin McKay,
HHB, 4-27 FA

“I learned to communicate better with my wife and family.”



CPT Daniel Napolitano,
HHC, 40th EN

“I’ve learned that no matter where I am, I’ve got support from my family back home and that’s what means the most.”



SPC Daniel Barr,
HHC, 2BCT

“This deployment inspired me to be a leader, I think I can make a difference.”



SPC Maxwell Conrad,
HHB, 4-27 FA

“It has taught me that I am more capable than what I’ve given myself credit for in the past.”



PFC Douglas Yazzie,
HHC, 2BCT

“Take more advantage of time while we’re not deployed and I’ll appreciate things a lot more.”

The view of Camp Liberty, Iraq in the mirror of a Humvee. *Photo illustration by Spc. Joshua Ramey*



STRIKER TORCH NEWS TEAM

2nd BCT Commander
Col. Robert E. Scurlock Jr.

2nd BCT Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Jose A. Santos

2nd BCT Public Affairs Officer
Maj. Frederick K. Bower

Striker Torch Editor in Chief
Capt. John D. Turner

Striker Torch Editors
Sgt. 1st Class David R. Dockett
Sgt. 1st Class Liviu A. Ivan

Striker Torch Design Coordinator
Spc. Jeremy E. Neece

Striker Torch Staff Writers
Sgt. Raul L. Montano
Spc. Joshua P. Ramey

CONTACT US!

HQ, 2BCT, 1AD
ATTN: PAO
Camp Liberty
APO, AE 09344

frederick.bower@mnd-b.army.mil
david.r.dockett@us.army.mil

This Edition can also be found online at
<http://www.1ad.army.mil/2BCTNewsletters.htm>

**We are looking for any type of submissions to include:
letters, articles, comic strips or artwork, and photographs.**

If you would like a copy of this issue please contact your Battalion UPAR

1-22 IN: Capt. Robert Stoffel

47th FSB: Maj. John Kuenzli

1-6 IN: Capt. Herbert Flather

1-23 IN: 1st Lt. Marc Miller

40th EN: Capt. Matthew Holbrook

2-6 IN: Capt. Michael Cygan

8-10 CAV: Capt. Daniel Tower

4-27 FA: Capt. Thomas Hasara

1-35 AR: Capt. Matthew Husted

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