

Dark Horse troops keep eye on FOB Prosperity

By Spc. Alexis Harrison
2-1 Cav. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE PROSPERITY, Iraq - In order for Soldiers and civilians on the base to sleep soundly, someone needs to stay up all hours of the night to make sure

no one gets in who shouldn't. In order to keep peace and safety in the International Zone, someone needs to control all the traffic.

Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, Soldiers from 4th Squadron, 9 Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade

Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, keep watch over the base and every single entry point into the IZ. They know it isn't glamorous, but they know it's as vital as any other mission the "Black Jack" Brigade performs.

At all hours of the day and

night, someone is watching traffic and pedestrians from atop a guard tower. That someone is a trooper like Pfc. Estanislado Bella from Miami.

Bella, who is a part of Troop A, 4-9 Cav., said that if he and his friends weren't in the towers, there's no telling what might happen.

"It's one of those jobs that if it's not done, somebody's life could be at risk," Bella said. "We see a lot from up here [in the tower]. It's also a good opportunity to get to know your fellow Soldiers. It helps with the cohesiveness of the unit."

Staying up all night isn't the easiest thing to accomplish, but Spc. Yosef Spell from Philadelphia, also a part of Troop A, said working as a team can help you get through those cold Iraqi nights.

"It's a lot like a football team," he said. "You have to work together to get things



(Photo by Spc. Alexis Harrison, 2-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

Pvt. Sean Goodman, an infantry man from Louisville, Ky., scans the horizon during his shift atop a guard tower on Forward Operating Base Prosperity Jan. 7.

See Eye Page 3

Provincial Joint Coordination Center provides Mosul citizens with assistance

By Maj. Roderick Cunningham
4-1 Cav. Public Affairs Officer

MOSUL, Iraq - The 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division's brigade operational legal team, and the 403rd Civil Affairs Detachment conducted civil military operations center activities at the Provincial Joint Coordination Center Jan. 12.

"The PJCC provides an easy and safe means for the local citizens of Mosul to submit claims for damage to their property

or persons. This process has been in place on the military installation for more than a year," said Maj. John Hodge, commander Alpha Company, 403rd Civil Affairs Battalion, of Huntington, West Virginia.

"The purpose of the PJCC is to receive claims from Iraqi citizens who have been involved in accidents or escalation of force incidents with the Coalition Forces," he continued.

"The residents of Mosul conveyed to the district and provincial government that they did not feel comfortable entering U.S.

military installations because of possible observation by anti-Iraqi forces and potential for extortion or bodily harm", said Hodge.

As a result of these comments Hodge explained, Coalition Forces and the Iraqi government worked together to find a location in the city that will provide the citizens what they require, thus the PJCC was established. The benefits of this location to

See PJCC, Page 2

PJCC makes efforts to lessen burden of loss for Iraqis

PJCC

From Page 1

the Iraqi people are accessibility and security.

"Coalition Forces are more than willing to accommodate the local populace in an effort to ensure that legitimate claims are handled in a timely, efficient, and accurate manner,"

said Hodge. "Recently the PJCC handled 23 cases involving new filings, additional evidence, payments and denials and disbursed approximately \$23,500", he added.

When Iraqis make claims for damages or injury caused by Coalition Forces, the legal team must investigate their claim. "Each week we gather

new claims from Iraqis who claim they have been injured or have had their property damaged by Coalition Forces," said Capt. Carol Brewer, brigade judge advocate, 4th BCT, 1 CD, of Long Island, N.Y. "The BOLT team gathers evidence to support or deny these claims. If they find support in our records to verify the claim, they can recommend payment, and if it is approved, they will make a payment to the Iraqi to compensate them for the damage we caused," she continued.

"When we can not show that the damage was caused by non-combat related actions we (Coalition Forces) must deny the claim," said Brewer.

"These Iraqis are referred to the Mosul Provincial Hall for the Iraqi government officials to address," Brewer added. "This is a tool for the command to show the Iraqi people that we are here to help them and make it right when we do cause some injury or

damage."

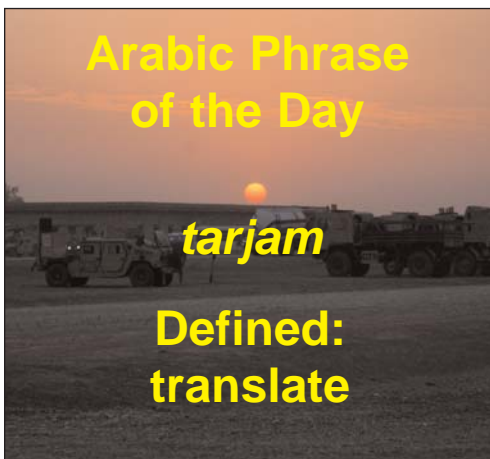
An example of a claim is when a man was unintentionally shot during an escalation of force, said Hodge. "Coalition Forces were patrolling when anti-Iraqi forces detonated an improvised explosive device attacking the convoy, they also began firing at them. Coalition forces returned fire and in the ensuing firefight a local national was shot and killed by a stray bullet," said Hodge.

"Even though there was no way to determine whether the local national was shot by Coalition forces or anti-Iraqi forces, Coalition forces desired to offer a condolence payment to the family of the deceased. A payment of 3,700,000 Iraqi Dinar (\$2500 US) was paid to the widow. This payment is not an admission of guilt," Hodge explained, "but rather a gift of money in an effort to lessen the burden of lost income, funeral expenses, and somewhat pain and suffering for the loss."



(Photo by Maj. Roderick Cunningham, 4-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

Maj. John Hodge, A Company commander, 403rd Civil Affairs Battalion reviews documentation to reimburse an Iraqi citizen for damages as Navy Lt. James Leineweber and Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Turner (left) provide legal guidance and assistance.



Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

High: 58
Low: 36



Tomorrow

High: 60
Low: 39



Sunday

High: 53
Low: 37

Commanding General: Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil, Jr.
Public Affairs Officer: Lt. Col. Scott Bleichwehl
Command Information Supervisor: Master Sgt. Dave Larsen
NCOIC, Print Production: Staff Sgt. Mary Rose
Editor: Sgt. Michael Garrett
Staff Writers: Sgt. Nicole Kojetin, Spc. L.B. Edgar, Spc. Shea Butler Pfc. Jeffrey Ledesma, Pfc. Ben Gable, Pfc. William Hatton
Contributing Writers: Maj. Roderick Cunningham, Spc. Alexis Harrison

Contact the *Daily Charge* at VOIP 242-4093, DSN 318-847-2855 or e-mail david.j.larsen@mnd-b.army.mil.

The Daily Charge is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the *Daily Charge* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 1st Cavalry Division. All editorial content of the *Daily Charge* is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs Office.

Baghdad in Brief

12 suspects detained by troops in east Baghdad

FORWARD OPERATING BASE LOYALTY, Iraq - Multi-National Division - Baghdad troops detained 12 suspected insurgents during a security operation in eastern Baghdad Jan. 17.

Soldiers with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division seized the suspects as part of Operation Amherst, which aimed at assisting Iraqi security forces establish security in eastern Baghdad.

The suspects are being held for further questioning.

Iraqi NP, coalition forces free hostage after blast

BAGHDAD - A joint patrol by coalition forces and Iraqi national policemen found and released an Iraqi civilian held hostage in the Al-Rashid district of the Iraqi capital Jan. 17.

After roadside bomb exploded near the patrol, Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment and Iraqi national police officers were able to track the insurgents to a nearby house. There, they discovered weapons and an Iraqi civilian being held hostage.

The insurgent suspects escaped, but the hostage was freed.

Iraqi Army patrol turns the tables on insurgent ambush

BAGHDAD-An Iraqi Army patrol thwarted an ambush by a group of armed insurgents in western Baghdad Jan. 17.

While conducting a routine patrol in Baghdad's Fahhama neighborhood, an element of the 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army was ambushed by a group of insurgents. The patrol immediately returned fire.

Two insurgents were killed and four others wounded in the fire fight. After treating their wounds, the four wounded insurgents were taken into custody.



(Photo by Spc. Alexis Harrison, 2-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

Sgt. Joe Daugherty from Casper, Wy., checks a man's identification card before the man comes into the International Zone in Baghdad Jan. 7. Daugherty, along with his fellow troopers from 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, man the entry control points on the roads leading into the IZ.

Soldiers watch over IZ, FOB Prosperity

Eye

From Page 1

done."

Spell recently helped out a friend in a big way. His friend is married to another Soldier in the 13th Sustainment Command out of Fort Hood, Texas. In order for the two to see each other on their mid-tour leave, Spell volunteered his slot, so his buddy could be with his wife.

"A lot of us are really close, but we work together no matter what," Spell said.

Outside the base, on the outskirts of the IZ, there are Soldiers manning check-points at every possible entry route. These Soldiers don't sit inside a guard tower and wait for something to happen. They get a hands-on view of every vehicle and person that comes inside the gates.

Soldiers from Troop B, 4-9 Cav., pay attention to the little details while doing their jobs. Some search people, some search cars and trucks, and some pull security while watching the ebb and flow of Iraqis coming and going.

The several steps of security aren't meant to frustrate incoming persons or impede traffic. The Soldiers from the "Blackhawk" Troop check, check and recheck for anything on the "bolo" list. Things that are on the "do not try to bring into the IZ" list.

Cpl. Karl Sweeting, a medic from Houston, is on his second tour to Iraq. He's been busy manning the gates into the IZ. Although, he hasn't had to perform many medical duties while working, he said he still feels a sense of accomplishment after every day at work.

Pfc. Nicholas Jefferson works alongside Sweeting at one of the northern check-points. The Van Buren, Ark., native said he's not in the thick of things like a cavalry scout should be, but he knows what his mission is.

"I wish there was something more we could be doing," he said. "But, I know that this is our mission, so we're going to do the best we can to keep all the important people and people who want to make this place better from getting hurt."

Iraqi Army, National Police, lead search of mosque

By Spc. L.B. Edgar,
7th MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq - The green glow of Soldiers' night vision goggles dot the otherwise pitch-black night while bolt cutters provide entry to the early morning objective - a mosque.

However, after the lock is cut the Soldiers stand fast in the gateway, continue to provide area security and let the Iraqi national police (NP) and Iraqi Army (IA) soldiers take control of the operation.

NPs and IAs searched the interior while Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, spent the early morning hours of Jan. 16 securing the exterior of a mosque in the Hardar neighborhood of Al-Doura, Baghdad.

Soldiers rely on their Iraqi counterparts to ensure mosques do not become safe havens for insurgents or storage space for weapon caches said Gustwiller, a native of Holgate, Ohio.

Yet some mosques are known to harbor terrorists. In such cases, the gathering of intelligence often leads to a search by Iraqi security forces, said Staff Sgt. Nick Crosby, a squad leader with Company A.

"They know that we can't go in there, so it's a good place (for them) to hide stuff," said the native of Tucson, Ariz.

Since the mission of searching a mosque is always joint in nature, Soldiers



(Photos by Spc. L.B. Edgar, 7th MPAD)

Soldiers of 3rd Inf. Reg., 3rd BCT, 2nd Inf. Div., and Iraqi NP watch over weapons and body armor removed from a mosque in the Hardar area of Baghdad Jan. 16.

and Iraqi security forces coordinate and share information to ensure the operation succeeds, Gustwiller said.


"We have to work together with them," Gustwiller said.

Working together, the Soldiers and Iraqi forces located multiple AK-47s, some ammunition and body armor.


The weapons and ammunition were


authorized for protection, but the body armor was prohibited and therefore confiscated by the Iraqi forces, Gustwiller said.

"The personnel who are taking care of the mosque are not a special protection force. They're caretakers. That's it," Gustwiller said. "So they're not allowed to have body armor. We'll just keep the body armor and that will be it."



**OPERATION IRAQI
FREEDOM**





Stop before you act, don't rush into a situation or mission without considering the risks against the benefits.

Think about what you are about to do, what is the right way to safely accomplish the task.

Observe the situation and surrounding environment. What are the Risks? How can I reduce them?

Plan. Develop your plan to reduce the risks and decide how to best implement the plan.

Proceed with Safety. Supervise continuously and Constantly look for ways to improve.

YOUR EAGLE CASH CARD



DON'T LEAVE YOUR
TRAILER WITHOUT IT!

Is there life after death or The Matrix?

Go ahead and ask yourself, "Is there life after 'The Matrix'?" I know I've asked the question before, and I'm pretty sure Laurence Fishburne and Carrie-Ann Moss have asked the same question.

Ask Mark Hamill or Carrie Fisher if there was life after the Star Wars trilogy. The answer is no, Return of the Jedi was the death of both actors. We will always remember them for the great work they did, but there was no glory afterward. No booming success in films.

One person that is asking himself if there is success after the Matrix is Keanu Reeves. Right now, Reeves is sitting on a fence of success on one side and disaster on the other. Will he continue on like Harrison Ford? If he doesn't make the right career choices, he could be just as washed out as Luke Skywalker.

Since finishing the Matrix Trilogy, Reeves has made about half a dozen movies including Constantine, a comic book-based movie about a war of evil and good with Reeves caught in the middle of it all, and the Lake House, a real tear-jerker romance flick co-starring Sandra Bullock. Neither movie was exceptional, but they weren't horrible either.

Both movies did mediocre in the box office, with the Lake House bringing in \$52 million and Constantine bringing in \$75.5 million, according to the Internet Movie Database website.

With all that said, I feel there is one Reeves movie (recently out on DVD) that

DVD Hunt

Pfc. William Hatton



was overlooked in many ways. The movie is A Scanner Darkly, a sci-fi drama mixed with a little bit of comedy and mystery.

Although the movie did poor in the box office, only bringing in \$8 million, I feel that it is still worth watching.

A Scanner Darkly is a regular film turned to cartoon style movie set in the not-to-distant future where drugs are running ferociously throughout Los Angeles. Bob Arcter (Reaves), is an undercover detective on a mission to stop the distributor of a very addictive drug known simply as "D." One of the many side effects of the drug is schizophrenia and multiple personality disorder. What Arcter doesn't know is the very individual he is trying to stop might be himself.

With a pretty decent cast of big-name actors, including Robert Downy, Jr., Woody Harrelson and Winona Ryder, the movie made me laugh but at the same time it made me try to figure out how everything throughout the movie was going to tie together.

With a bunch of interesting characters all in their own little world from excessive

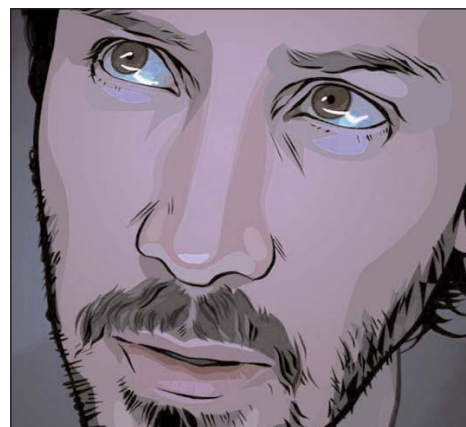
drug use, this movie really reminded me of a little bit of "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas" and "Spun."

If you liked both those movies, you'd probably like this one.

All and all, if Reaves keeps making movies like this, his career is safe, but who am I to say he has security in his job. If he keeps making movies like the Lake House, his fan base might drop.

I give this film four out of five golden spurs.

Check out next week when I review The Last Kiss starring Zack Braff and tell you whether it's worth standing in line at the PX, or not.



(Warner Brothers Pictures)

Keanu Reeves stars in A Scanner Darkly, as a quasi-cartoon character.

TELEVISION



	8:00p.m.	8:30p.m.	9:00p.m.	9:30p.m.	10:00p.m.	10:30p.m.	11:00p.m.
	Sports Center		NFL Live	NBA Fastbreak (9:20)	College Gamenight (9:40)	Inside the NFL	Men's College Basketball
	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy!	Headline News	ATS/Regional News	Deal or No Deal	I vs 100	
	MSNBC Live		MSNBC Live		MSNBC Live		Fox News Live