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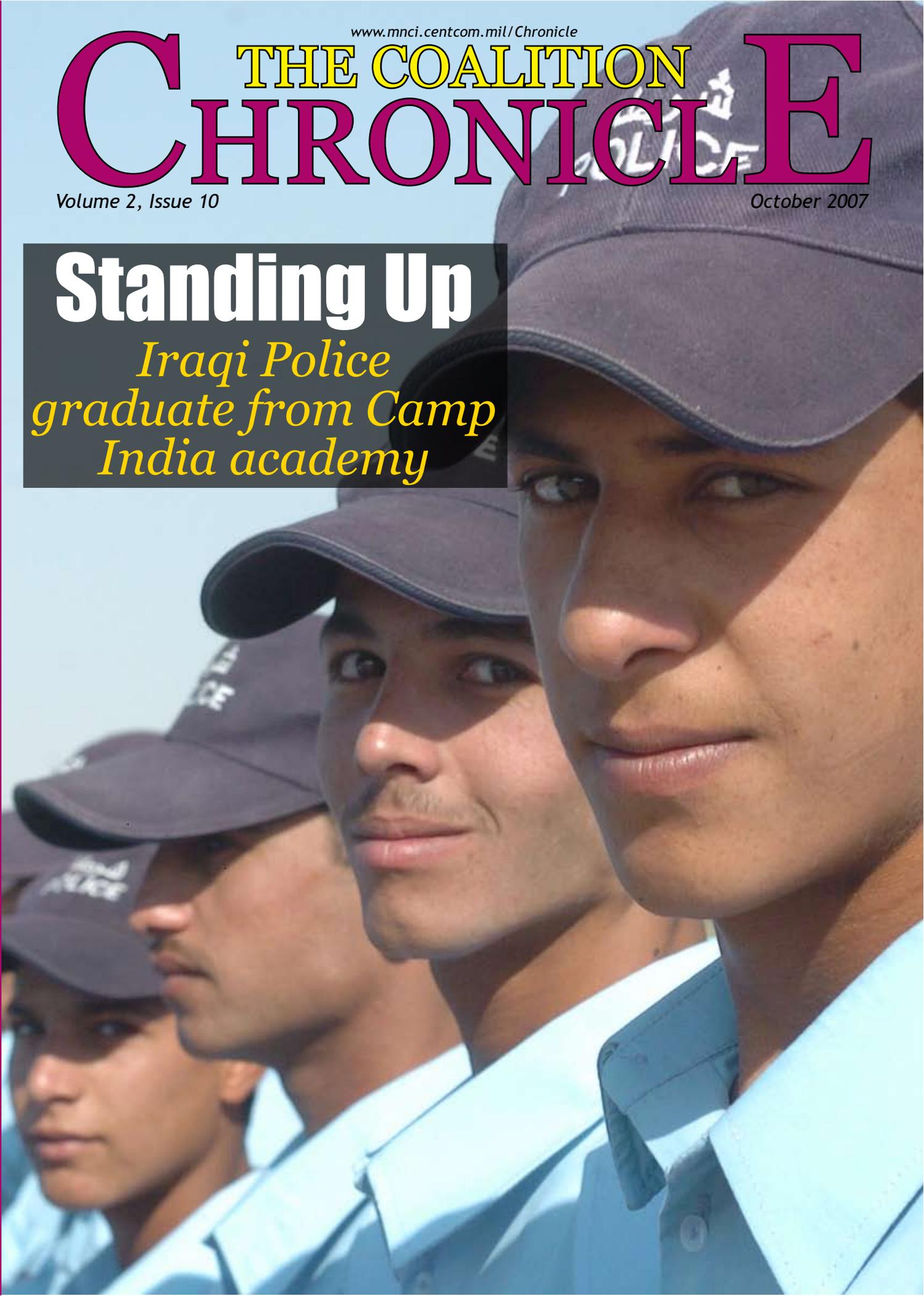
Volume 2, Issue 10

October 2007

Standing Up

*Iraqi Police
graduate from Camp
India academy*

Strykers confront insurgents • Helos help wounded



What's Inside

The First Step

More than 800 IPs graduate from Camp India academy

Page 5

King of Battle

Dragon artillery crews fire more than 4,700 rounds in combat

Page 18

Hope Flies

Aviators get Coalition, Iraqis to needed medical aid

Page 21

Help from Abroad

Iraqi children travel to South Korea for medical treatments

Page 23

'Game On!'

Stryker Soldiers send a message to East Rashid insurgents

Page 24

Departments

Commander's Voice
Page 1

CSM's Corner
Page 2

Coalition News Briefs
Page 3

Freedom's Focal Point
Page 8

In Remembrance
Page 28

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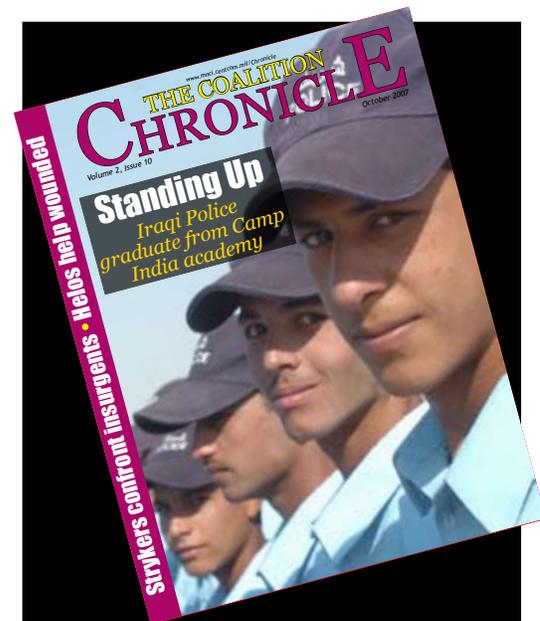
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This month's covers

Up front: Iraqi Police graduates stand in formation awaiting the start of their graduation ceremony at Iraq Army Camp India in Baghdad Sept. 25. Photo by Army Sgt. 1st Class Bryan Beach.

On the back: A Soldier with Company B, 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry, 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry toss a grenade during Operation Rock Hammer II Sept. 7. Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Dennis J. Henry Jr.

Questions, comments and concerns about The Coalition Chronicle can be addressed via email at jacob.boyer@iraq.centcom.mil. The Chronicle accepts articles, photos and letters for submission. Send submissions to veshannah.lovelace@iraq.centcom.mil. The Chronicle reserves the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, clarity and space.

COMMANDER'S VOICE

Since we began our mission here in Iraq, extremists have turned Ramadan, the holiest months on the Islamic calendar, into an excuse for violence. It is an observance commemorating the month when the Quran was said to have been revealed.

For the past three years in the weeks leading up to Ramadan, violence throughout the country rose exponentially. However, this negative trend has now been reversed. This year, Ramadan provided us with a perfect example of exactly how much security in Iraq has improved. Had trends of the past continued, violence would have reached unprecedented highs.

Instead, we saw the number of attacks throughout the country continue to fall as they have consistently since the surge forces were fully deployed. This is a clear success and one that can be attributed to a number of factors. The credit for this turnaround belongs to you: the men and women courageously serving here in Iraq.

Attacks on the whole have fallen to levels not seen since before the first bombing of the Golden Mosque in Samarra in February 2006. Violence remains at an unacceptable level, but our continued efforts will help protect the populace and stabilize Iraq over time.

Many of these positive trends can be traced back to the extraordinary developments that began in Anbar almost a year ago. A handful of tribes pledging to fight extremism turned into a popular uprising against al-Qaida's Taliban-like ideology and prompted the sons of Anbar to begin volunteering by the hundreds for the Iraqi Security Forces. The second al-Anbar Forum held last month



Lt. Gen. Ray Odierno
MNC-I Commander

underscored exactly how far this province has come.

The bullet-riddled façade of the al-Anbar Government Center where the forum was held pro-

vided a stark reminder of the violence that once engulfed the region. But as top officials from the government of Iraq, al-Anbar Province, and the Coalition sat to discuss the future of Anbar, it highlighted the better

future that is on the horizon for its citizens. The fact that this conference was held in Ramadi, a city AQI once claimed as its capital in Iraq, provides an ironic twist to the amazing turnaround al-Anbar province has undergone over the course of the last year.

Our progress in Anbar was also evident in a separate, more tragic event. Sheik Abdul Sattar Abu Resha was the charismatic leader

of the Anbar Awakening movement. His local influence and articulate, polished persona provided a perfect mechanism to get the grassroots movement off the ground. He was tragically killed last month, and his loss is indeed significant, but so was the response.

The very night of Sheik Sattar's murder, the Anbar Awakening Council met to vote for a new leader. Their movement did not crumble and their leaders did not run. In fact, the loss of their enigmatic leader had the exact opposite effect. It galvanized the local sheiks and focused them still more on the need to rid their country of extremist influence.

This year, Ramadan provided us with a perfect example of exactly how much security in Iraq has improved. Had trends continued, violence would have reached unprecedented highs.

The time is now for increased governance and economic impetus due to the improved security posture. This is critical to achieving sustainable security. Iraq's rich history of intellectual

achievement and abundance of natural resources is a source for much hope.

For solid improvement to really take hold, Iraqis must have the ability to find long-term employment, be able to depend on the government to provide essential services, and trust the government to enforce the laws it put in place. Without these fundamental needs fulfilled, it will matter little how much the security around the

country has improved. With no prospects for personal improvement, Iraqis could grow frustrated, leaving room for extremism to creep back into society. Thus, as we continue to move forward, we will also assist Iraqis with economics, governance and reconstruction.

In an unexpected and encouraging development following the outbreak of violence in Karbala, Muqtada al-Sadr made a pledge to suspend attacks. We welcome al-Sadr's announcement to cease attacks and have since seen a decline. However, we will continue to aggressively target criminal or extremist activity wherever it may arise.

These unexpected developments in no way marginalize the outstanding job each one of our men and women in uniform are doing. It is foolish to think much of the success we've experienced in tribal engagement, increased recruiting for the Iraqi Security Forces and many other recent developments had nothing to do with the fine

work of our nation's Armed Forces. You have been simultaneously aggressive, diplomatic and patient while operating in one of the most complicated combat environments imaginable.

Most of you have also been around to see for yourselves how far we have come. You witnessed the transformation of Ramadi from a lawless bastion for extremists to a community that was able to hold a 5k run for its citizens. You've seen Diyala change from a safe haven for AQI to a province that encouraged 18 tribal sheiks to sign a treaty pledging their support for fighting AQI and watched as 4,000 of its sons volunteered for the ISF. Signs of normalcy are also beginning to return to Baghdad. Soccer games are popping up in most of the city's empty lots, the stores and consumers are returning in impressive numbers to local markets, and with community pools and community parks re-opening across the city,

Baghdad is beginning to reclaim some of its past splendor.

As we move forward, I am confident we will continue toward achieving sustainable security. Take pride in what you have accomplished. Situations may differ from area to area, and gains may not be quite as obvious in some portions of Iraq as in others. We should also be encouraged by the steadfast strength of the Coalition.

This month, the Republic of Georgia deployed its 3rd Brigade into Wasit Province, and a company of Tongan Marines also arrived in-theater to augment our forces at Camp Victory. These additional forces will no doubt contribute a great deal to our success here in Iraq just as each of you have contributed in your own way to our greater gains. In closing, thank you for your dedicated service and hard work. It is because of your efforts that Iraq has improved to the degree it has over the last year, and you should be very proud of what you have accomplished. 

CSM's CORNER

This is the season and I'm not talking about the approach of the Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukah, etc. I'm refereeing to that time of year when we begin to "RIP" out most of the major formations in the Corps. That time of year when the temperature finally dips below 100 degrees comes with the realization that many will start heading back to the United States or their European duty stations.

This is the season when Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines begin to see the barn door, the momentum quickens and our humanity has a tendency to confront us. When we realize we are almost there. When some commands err on the side of caution and begin to reduce the presence of



**Command Sgt. Maj.
Neil Ciotola
MNC-I Command
Sergeant Major**

their troops on the street, or those that, when on those streets are inclined to race from one location to the next.

We've just finished another long, hot, debilitating summer where temperatures reached 130 degrees – if not higher – in some parts of the country. We've just finished a summer that saw us execute dozens of battalion-size or larger offensive operations. We've just finished a summer that saw us capture far more than we killed, repair more than we destroyed, and assist in the mending of far more than just fences. I've been witness to our youngest commanders and NCOs fostering a sense of mutual respect not only between the Coalition, but also among the various groups and factions of Iraqi society.

But sadly, we've just finished a summer that saw entirely too many service personnel killed as a result of our failure to protect them from themselves or others, and I'm not referring to the enemy. The intent of this article is not

to berate any individual or group. While protecting the force is one of our fundamental responsibilities, it is not my intention to elaborate on our accident rates and the rudimentary measures we need to apply in day-to-day operations to protect ourselves from ourselves.

I'm going to tell everyone what's on my holiday shopping list earlier than later in the hope that some will see the profound nature and windfall that can be rapt from my request. I'm going to ask everyone in theater — from team leader to corps commander — to fill out their wish list beginning now.

I'm asking that all put pen to paper and elaborate on their hopes for the future. Allow me to explain. Many, if not every, leader at every level has looked or will look back on this deployment and say to themselves "I wish I would have done this, that or the other thing." Many, if not most, will say at least once prior to redeployment, "I hope those that relieve us continue to do this, that or the other thing."

So here's my holiday wish: that each of you will write the same down!! That you'll capture the essence of every lesson learned and pass it on to those that replace you. That you'll posture them to kick start their efforts in theater to a greater extent than we did. That you'll provide those that we hand the baton to the insight we needed earlier on.

Many of us in theater have seen the progress that has been wrought by five years of Coalition presence and others have marveled at what we have achieved since we moved back into the urban centers. What is transparent is all the frustration, dialogue, failed attempts, and cajoling that went on to make progress a reality. What will be completely transparent to those who replace us are the losses, in both killed and wounded in action, that we endured to make progress a reality.

Have you developed a continuity book for those who will replace you? Have you elaborated on all the operating principals and TTPs that have worked for you in your area of operations during your tenure in country? I hear and see first hand the very thorough manner in which the corps, division, brigade and battalion headquarters plan and then execute the left seat/right

seat ride we speak of so often.

What I do not see enough of is as deliberate a process taking place at the company and platoon level.

Who has the best situational awareness of what personalities can, do and may affect a desired outcome in an area? Who has the best sense of past trends, present reality and what must be done in a given mulhalla?

If the answer to the question is a company commander, first sergeant, platoon leader or platoon sergeant, have you required them or yourself to record all you know?

How many of you have that troop that always seems to find the IED? Have you required him to record what he knows to pass on to those that will replace him? How many times have you employed EOF procedures in your area of responsibility?

If you're one of those junior leaders that has never had either yourself or your troopers use the same what do you attribute this too? Situational awareness? A sound sense of all the dynamics at play in your area? A set of TTPs that mitigates to near zero the requirement to employ the same?

What do you owe your success to outside of well led and trained troops? Have you captured those lessons learned?

I ask that every leader, regardless of the level at which he operates not only develop a continuity book for those that will relieve him, but also a wishlist at the back of the same.

What do you wish you had done earlier on or better? What do you hope your successor will pursue in your absence? If the people of this country — those in your particular area — are important to you, if the lives and future prospects of those that will replace you are important as well, then write it down, share it with all, and arm them with the situational awareness you were in search of upon your arrival.

If any of you is confronted with anyone who thinks that his being here in the past means he has no need of what you know, or they raise that hand and tell you to talk to the same do me a favor; smack that thing, tell them to shut up, sit down, open up a pad, pull out a pen, and prepare to take notes. Then help them save their own lives!

God bless you all. ☺

Many of us in theater have seen the progress that has been wrought by five years of Coalition presence and others have marveled at what we have achieved since we moved back into the urban centers.

COALITION NEWS BRIEFS



Sheik in Anbar killed in attack

RAMADI — A vehicle exploded three kilometers northwest of Ramadi Sept. 13, killing a prominent Sunni sheik.

Sheik Abdul Sattar Abu Resha, founder of the Sahawa al Anbar, was killed near his residence almost one year from the anniversary of the formation of the SAA on September 14, 2006. The exact circumstances surrounding his death are unknown at this time.

Sheik Sattar was prominent in forming the SAA, or Anbar Awakening, and taking a stance against Al Qaeda's radical interpretation of Islam and their murder and intimidation campaign targeting innocent men, women and children.

"I offer my most sincere condolences to the family, friends, and those dearest to Sheikh Abdul Sattar Abu Resha tribe," said Maj. Gen. W.E. Gaskin, commanding general, Multi National Force-West. "A true Son of Al Anbar, his courage, strength and vision contributed to the security and stability of the province. We will mourn his loss and continue to carry on his efforts to bring about peace and reconciliation in Iraq." ☺



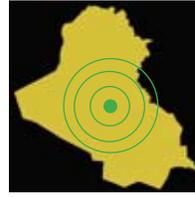
IA soldiers capture al-Qaida financier

MOSUL — Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Army Division captured a known key al-Qaida in Iraq financier in Nineveh Province and his associate Sept. 3 during an operation.

Both men were positively identified as al-Qaida in Iraq members by the 2-2-2 IA and one admitted to the arresting Soldiers that he was a key AQI financier and negotiated with families for the release of kidnap victims.

Found in the suspects' vehicle were funds totaling over 250 million Iraqi Dinar and multiple IDs.

"The capture of these men by the Iraqi Army and loss of the financing they provided will be felt by all those who profit from kidnapping and crimes against the people of Nineveh Province," said Lt. Col. Jeff Stewart, executive officer, 4th Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. "Our brothers in the Iraqi Security Forces have struck a blow directly against the terrorists and criminals who threaten Iraqi citizens and the rule of law." ☺



Iraq, MNF-I launch Ramadan releases

BAGHDAD — Operation Lion's Paw, the joint venture between the Government of Iraq and Multi-National Force-Iraq to expand detainee releases during Ramadan, began Sept. 13.

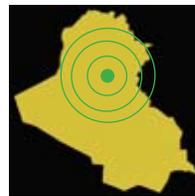
Task Force 134, the MNF-I organization responsible for detainee operations, expects to release between 50 and 80 detainees per day during the holy month.

Maj. Gen. Douglas Stone, commanding general of Task Force 134, said all detainees eligible for release would be reviewed by an impartial release board to determine suitability for release during this period.

"This will be a completely non-sectarian, non-political process," said Stone. "The detainees being released are only those whom MNF-I has determined no longer need to be detained for imperative reasons of security."

Operation Lion's Paw features Government of Iraq endorsement and support for several new initiatives launched by MNF-I Detainee Operations, who jointly developed new education, medical and judicial programs to ensure preparation of detainees for release and reintegration into society.

In support of this operation and in respect of the Ramadan observance, MNF-I increased the number of detainees normally released to allow them to be home for the upcoming celebration. Releases continued through the end of Ramadan, Oct. 13. ☺



Lightning Hammer II exposes VBIED factory

TIKRIT — Soldiers from 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, uncovered a VBIED factory in southern Diyala Province Sept. 11.

The VBIED complex consisted of six separate buildings, with 13 vehicles in different stages of preparation. All vehicles and the buildings were destroyed by air strikes.

"This mission will save countless lives in Iraq. The discovery and destruction of these VBIEDs, along with the production complex, prevents 13 vehicles and perhaps many more, from attacking our Soldiers and from terrorizing the Iraqi citizens of northern Iraq and Baghdad," said Col. Gary S. Patton, chief of staff, 25th Infantry Division. ☺

Time to Get Started

More than 800 new Iraqi Policemen hit the streets after Camp India graduation

Story, photos by
Army Sgt. 1st Class Bryan Beach
MND-B PAO

Gerian Mohamed is proud of many things in his life: his marriage and the birth of his children. But today is one of the proudest moments of his life.

Today he became a police officer.

A few short months ago he was a farmer, growing vegetables sold in Baghdad markets. The 30-year-old proudly declared he is ready to serve his country.

"The training was very difficult, harder than I imagined," Mohamed said through a translator. But he said he feels ready for what lies ahead.

Mohamed was one of 828
volunteers to

Iraqi Police graduates dance and wave flags after their graduation ceremony at Camp India Sept. 25. The 828 new police officers returned to their neighborhoods to help provide security.

graduate the Iraqi Police training program at Camp India Sept. 25. A separate class graduated from the Baghdad Police College Sept. 20. The goal is to expand the Iraqi Police force by 12,000 officers over the next six months throughout Iraq.

What lies ahead for Mohamed and the nearly 1,500 other volunteers from the Abu Ghraib area of western Baghdad, who will soon undergo the same training, is the opportunity to do their part in building a better and safe Iraq for themselves by starting in their own neighborhoods.

Mohamed said a few months ago he didn't have a lot of hope for the future

or his children's future. Extremists and terrorists had infiltrated the area where he lived and made life very dangerous. In what has been widely publicized, sheiks of Abu Ghraib formed an alliance with Coalition Forces and the government of Iraq, turning their backs on these extremist groups like al-Qaida in Iraq.

Sheik Talib Motlak Al Halous is one of them. For him, this graduation was a very important day.

"We must rid our country of the terrorist, and al-Qaida," he said through a translator. "Then we, all Iraqis, must work to put aside sectarian differences.

"This morning is a good morning, because today, we were able to put aside our sectarian differences and come together to start ridding

our country of terrorists. Today is a start. Today is a very proud day," Sheik Al Halous said.

For Lt. Omar Thamer, an Iraqi Police instructor, this day held special meaning as well. Immediately following the graduation, dozens of his former students surrounded him, taking turns hugging and kissing their teacher on his checks.

"We have to all work together to help make Iraq one," said Thamer.

"That's our jobs as police officers."

Mohamed, his pale green eyes looking up at his instructor, nods his head in agreement.

"He taught us a lot," Mohamed said. "I know I

learned a lot, and I feel ready to start doing my part for my home and my country. We have to all learn to work together."

Thamer explained he treated all the police candidates as human beings, showing them respect every step of the way.

"When you do that, you get respect back in return," he said.

Before the ceremony, a recruit came to the podium and read from the Quran, his voice rhythmically singing the words of the holy book, filling the air and floating on the breeze. He recited a Surah, or verse, which commands all true believers to not fight one another; that all Muslims should work together and always look for peace.

"You have undergone very good training," Iraqi Lt. Gen. Abud Qanbar, commanding general of the

"You know how to do your jobs now, and your first priority is to defeat the terrorists and help the Iraqi People."

***Iraqi Police Lt. Gen.
Abud Qanbar
Baghdad Operations Command***



An Iraqi Police graduate hugs Lt. Omar Thamer.

Baghdad Operations Command told the graduates. "You know how to do your jobs now, and your first priority is to defeat the terrorists and help the Iraqi people."

Abud went on to tell the graduates this was a very important first step for all of Iraq.

"You must enforce the law. You must work together to keep away sectarian violence. We must get all Iraqis to come together, as one people and one nation. We must stop the bloodshed," Abud said. "In order to do that, you have to treat all Iraqi people with respect. You have to follow the laws you uphold and represent. Remember your training, and always strive to improve yourself. Remember, it is Iraq first and last."



mer, his instructor, after the graduation ceremony at Camp India Sept. 25.

For Lt Col. Kurt Pinkerton, the difference between a few months ago and now is night and day. Pinkerton, from San Jose, Calif., is the commander of 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

He said what made the difference was the young men filling the parade field.

“Since we got here, we have been working with the tribes,” Pinkerton said. “Frankly, we have been reaching out to the people ... trying to find out what they were resisting; what their goals and objectives were.

“What we found was it was almost cultural. They didn’t have a purpose to resist. They did it, at

first, because it was the thing to do as a culture. And then after a while it just sort of sustained the fight. They didn’t like the government, they didn’t like the security forces and they were jobless,” Pinkerton explained.

“So they voiced their anger through resisting. Once we started finding them jobs, working with them, letting them secure their own areas, integrating them with the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police; they turned completely and have helped us for several months to fight al-Qaida,” Pinkerton said. “These guys all started out as volunteers, none of which got paid.”

Now that they have completed the 30 days of training, they are police officers and will return to their

own neighborhoods where they are expected to serve and protect.

“There are two big advantages to doing it this way,” said Pinkerton. “One, they know the people and the people know them, so there is already mutual respect and cooperation. The second key thing is its going to build a stronger local economy, with 1,500 jobs for the local population. That’s a significant boost to the local economy.”

“My confidence is high,” said Mohamed, surrounded by smiling classmates. “I see a good future for Iraq. I see a bright future for my children.

“Perhaps in a few years,” he said, “I can put away my uniform and my gun, and go back to farming.” ☪



Top left: Marines from II Marine Air Wing board a CH-47 at Camp Al Asad, Iraq. The Marines were traveling from Al Asad to Camp Korean Village Sept. 10. Photo by Marine Cpl. Shane S. Keller.

Top right: Australian soldiers from Combat Team Sabre pass messages to each other as they provide protection for members of Overwatch Battle Group (West)-3 during a visit to the village of Fadliyah in Dhi Qar province. Photo by Australian Navy Leading Seaman Phillip Cullinan.

Bottom right: Army Sgt. Christopher Thorne, Company, B, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, hands out a packet of crackers to some children in Ja'ara Village Sept. 13. Photo by Army Sgt. Timothy Kingston.

Bottom left: Army Spc. Bobby Rodriguez, Company G, 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery, 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, supervises Iraqi soldiers applying first aid during a class given by his unit in Hateen Sept. 21. Photo by Army Spc. Sharhonda McCoy.





Freedom's Focal Point

Freedom's Focal Point



President George W. Bush speaks to Marines and Soldiers at Al Asad Airbase Sept. 3. During a six-hour surprise visit to Al Asad, Bush, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates toured the base, visited troops and met with top leaders from the U.S. military and Iraqi government. The visit was Bush's first trip to Iraq since June 2006. Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Curt Cashour.



Freedom's Focal Point

Top left: An 8th Iraqi Army Division Special Forces soldier takes aim at a stationary target at the firing range on Camp Echo in Ad Diwaniyah Sept. 1. Photo by Army Spc. Gabriel Reza.

Far right: Iraqi Special Operations Forces soldiers prepare to breach a door as they conduct an operation to detain suspected leaders of an insurgent force Sept. 5 in Baghdad. Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Brett Cote.

Bottom center: A Soldier with 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 1st Infantry Division breaches the entryway of a residence during a cordon and search mission in the Sadiyah District of Baghdad Sept. 12. Photo by Army Pfc. Michael Hendrickson.

Bottom Left: Army Chaplain John Barkemeyer, 1-3 Brigade Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, holds mass for Soldiers in Ramadi Sept. 20. Photo by Army Spc. Kieran Cuddihy.



Freedom's Focal Point



Freedom's Focal Point



Freedom's Focal Point



Iraqi Police train at the Ramadi Training Center at Camp Ramadi Sept. 6. Training new police recruits is a necessity in securing peace and stability in the Ramadi area. Photo by Army Spc. Kieran Cuddihy.

Freedom's Focal Point





Top left: Capt. Kirk Olson, squadron surgeon, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, flushes the ear of an Iraqi girl Sept. 11 at the Al Doura Clinic. Photo by Army Spc. Ben Washburn.

Top right: Soldiers with Troop A, 27th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, run up the staircase of a building to set up overwatch positions during a good neighbor mission in Mosul Sept. 19. Photo by Air Force Airman 1st Class Christopher Hubenthal.

Bottom right: A Marine with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-466 helps install the main rotor on a CH-53E Super Stallion at Al Asad Air Base Sept 6. Photo by Marine Lance Cpl. James F. Cline III.

Bottom Left: Iraqi Police recruits enter a doorway during training to clear buildings, at the Police Training Academy at Camp India Sept 18. Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Andrew M. Rodier.



KING OF BATTLE

Dragon artillery crews fire more than 4,700 combat rounds

Story, photos by
Army Staff Sgt. Jon Cupp
MND-B PAO

Since arriving in theater a little more than 10 months ago, Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division have fired more than 4,700 rounds from their M109A6 Paladin howitzers in support of combat operations from Camp Taji.

For the month of August alone, the Dragon battalion's Paladins fired over 1,000 rounds — more than any other artillery unit in a given month in theater over the course of this rotation, according to Las Vegas native Capt. Ken Heebner, battalion fire directions officer, 1st Bn., 82nd FA Regt.

But only a select few Soldiers in the battalion have actually had the opportunity to do the job that they were trained for as artillerymen — firing the big guns as well as coordinating those fires.

"We have some hand-picked Soldiers here who are doing what they were trained to do in (Advanced Individual Training)," said Staff Sgt. Joshua Shackelford, a fire direction noncommissioned officer in the fire direction center. "The last time I was here I mainly did force protection for a whole year in a guard tower. I stayed professional by reading my manuals but it wasn't the same as actually doing the real field artillery job of shooting field artillery. The last time I was in theater, I only fired five rounds — but that was just for training.

"Here, we've fired more rounds in theater than any other Paladins in real combat operations," added Shackelford, a native of Charleston, S.C. "I'm ecstatic for our Soldiers and I tell them in their counseling that (here in combat in Iraq) they ought to be proud because they are making artillery history every day."

During their ten months on Taji, the battalion has supported everything from counterfire missions to suppressive fire missions as well as hitting pre-planned targets. They have cleared routes for combat missions along with providing security and standing guard in the towers located on the base camp here.

The battalion has also seen its share of firsts for the deployment, said Heebner, with being the first-ever hot gun battery in theater to fire the Excalibur precision munitions in combat along with being the first to use the Modular Artillery Charge System. Both, said Heebner, are new technologies that vastly improve



the accuracy of Paladin fires.

For about six months troops from Battery A, 1st Bn. 82nd FA Regt. fired the Paladins while troops from Battery B conducted force protection. Now the roles have been reversed with Battery B firing the Paladins and Battery A taking the base camp security role. Troops working from the Dragon fire direction center control Paladin fires by coordinating with

the Paladins on the firing line. In describing how each component operates, Heebner said the way the various elements function together is much like the organs of a body working in unison.

“I tell our Soldiers they ought to be proud because they are making artillery history every day.”

***Army Staff Sgt. Joshua Shackelford
assistant team chief***

“Everybody always wants to see the Paladins, the big guns and the big show, but we’re (the fire directions center is) the part of the team behind the scenes that serves

as the brain of the operation,” said Heebner, explaining that in comparison, the Paladin crews are much like the heart and soul of field artillery.

From the time the fire direction center receives a fire mission from a brigade to the time the howitzers fire can take as little time as 57 seconds to a couple of minutes, according to Staff Sgt. Walter Douglas, senior fire direction officer, 1/82 FA.

The fire direction center relays up to date target information from a brigade to the Paladin crews. It also ensures that elevation and altitudes have been verified and that things such as weather conditions are right for firing.

Once information has been sent to the Paladin crews, they read the information back to the fire directions center to ensure that



Smoke hangs in the air after field artillerymen from Battery B, 1st “Dragon” Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division fire their M109A6 Paladin howitzer.



Capt. Ken Heebner, fire directions officer, Spc. Andrew Krebs and Staff Sgt. Joshua Shackelford, fire direction NCO, verify targeting information for artillery fire during an operation.

they are both on the same page.

“Our guns are always ready to execute any live missions that come down,” said Douglas, a native of Honolulu. “We always check safety first and then fire on the guys who may be on the ground attacking our brethren.”

Currently, the Dragons support fires for battalions within both 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division and the 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division.

“We’re essentially supporting fires for two divisions,” said Heebner. “We’ve taken on missions where we were firing for 4/2 and the 1st BCT at the same time with the tubes of the Paladins pointing in two different directions.”

The Dragon’s hot gun battery has effectively assisted in minimizing both indirect fire threats

and improvised explosive devices, according to Douglas, while also explaining that being fired upon by a Paladin’s 155 mm rounds can be a very convincing deterrent.

“We’ve taken out a lot of mortar teams and it feels good knowing that those guys won’t be able to send mortars onto our camp,” Douglas said. “We’ve also been very effective at lessening improvised explosive devices by hitting insurgents while they were emplacing IEDs. Once we have the guns laid on them, we’ll take them out the best we can, and we know they won’t be doing it again.

“It’s very exhilarating and it’s good to know that we’re supporting the troops out there on patrols who are pounding the ground. I get excited every time I hear them say ‘we need your assistance and

we need it now.’”

Douglas said that the fire direction center’s success is due mainly to the fact that it is manned with a very capable crew.

“I couldn’t do this without my Soldiers,” he said. “Any one of them at any time could execute the missions on their own. They could step in and do my job if they had to.”

When it comes to firing the Paladins, Heebner said he believes the unit will break more milestones as the deployment continues.

“We can see ourselves quite easily reaching more than 6,500 rounds by the time we redeploy,” he said. “What we’ve seen here is that artillery still drives the battle field and is still the king of battle. It was always needed in the past and it will always be needed in the future.” ☺



Hope Flies

Aviators ensure Coalition, Iraqis get needed aid

Sgt. Reid Carpenter, a flight medic with Co. C, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division administers an I.V. to an Iraqi man who was struck by a car.

Story, photos by
Army Sgt. Ben Brody
MND-C PAO

To see its Soldiers sprawled across couches and recliners, watching movies and casually chatting, it's hard to see how disciplined and proficient the medical evacuation crews of 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division really are.

Then the call comes in on a loudspeaker, "MEDEVAC, MEDEVAC, MEDEVAC!"

In an instant, the troops vanish, as if into thin air. The wail of helicopter engines starting up drifts in from the tarmac, and they're off.

The crews are allowed 15 minutes to get into the air, but on the morning of Sept. 12, they were up in five.

An Iraqi man had been hit by a car in Mahmudi-

yah, and his family brought him to U.S. troops. With severe head injuries, Soldiers knew the man's best chance for survival was in the hands of American doctors.

"Sixty or 70 percent of the calls we get are for Iraqis – civilians, military, police, and a lot of kids," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Rick Mallick, an instructor pilot with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment.

Minutes later, the crew of the Black Hawk known as Medicine Man 42 touched down at FOB Mahmudiyah and loaded the injured man into the helicopter.

Sgt. Reid Carpenter, a flight medic with Co. C, immediately went to work, changing the man's IV and checking his vital

signs.

Carpenter, from Mauston, Wis., is on his first Iraq deployment after extensive training at Fort Rucker, Ala., and said he has found his calling.

The crews are allowed 15 minutes to get into the air, but on the morning of Sept. 12, they were up in five.



Spc. Joe Penhale (right), a flight medic with Company C, 2/3 Avn., leads a wounded Iraqi policeman to a MEDEVAC helicopter at Patrol Base Murray Sept. 13.

“It’s a huge rush going out,” he said. “The MEDEVAC call is something you hate to hear, but you’ve just got to get on the bird as fast as you can. When the helo is coming in and I can see the ground crew below, that’s when the excitement peaks – that’s when it’s my time.”

Tearing over the Tigris River valley toward Baghdad at 150 mph, the helicopters, which are not armed with machine guns in accordance with the Geneva Convention, carve a direct route to Taji Air Base.



Penhale shouts instructions to a medic at Patrol Base Murray during a MEDEVAC mission.

“When we land in unsecured areas, it’s more exciting, but also way more dangerous than landing on a FOB,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jerry Dickerson, a pilot with Co. C. “Other pilots plan their routes long in advance based on enemy threat. While we certainly take the threat into consideration, we also consider that there’s someone dying out there and we need to get there as fast as possible.”

Once back at Kalsu, the crew inspected their helicopters, replaced the flares that were fired and fueled up for the next mission. Votes were cast for the next movie to watch – “Reno: 911” won by a landslide.

It would be another 24 hours before another call came in, this time from Patrol Base Murray, where two injured Iraqi policemen waited for evacuation.

Though they were both conscious and walking, one of the policemen had been shot in the face and leg; the other had been struck in the head with a hammer.

After the pickup, crew members brought the two men to the Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad’s International Zone, where they would undergo immediate surgery.

Flight medic Spc. Joe Penhale, of Co. C, escorted the wounded men into the CSH, and discussed their condition with a surgeon.

“The guy who was shot lost over a quart of blood, but he’s going to survive because we got there in a hurry,” said Penhale, from Marquette, Mich. “It’s a great feeling.” 



A South Korean doctor discusses the trip to her home country with the family of a boy traveling there for treatment.



A South Korean doctor checks the health of an Iraqi girl preparing to travel to South Korea for medical treatment.

Help Abroad

Zaytun Division arranges medical care abroad for Iraqi children

Story, photos courtesy of
MND-NE PAO

South Korea's Zaytun Division made arrangements for two Iraqi children who lost their legs and arms through mine accidents and congenital disease including these two, along with three other youngsters, will get new hope because of internal medical workers.

The division, carrying out a reconstruction mission in north-eastern Iraq, is helping children suffering from wounds caused by war, terror, and congenital disorder by giving them regularly scheduled treatments and the opportunity to be treated in South Korea.

This treatment in Korea is arranged by Zaytun Division and supported by Foreign Exchange Bank's Dividing Foundation.

One of the patients, Tiwana K Muhammad, is a 17-year-old who lives with an artificial limb since he lost both of his legs in a mine accident when he was three years old.

Until now, economic difficulties and poor medical surroundings made her unable to get proper treatment.

Not able to get proper treatment, he still suffers from pain. Azheen Dilshad, a 6-year-old girl, lost one arm to a congenital deformity after she was born.

Until now, economic difficulty and poor medical surroundings made her unable to get proper treatment. Three other children with congenital heart disease have already had the chance for proper medical treatment in Korea.

Tiwana, who could not hide his excitement, said, "I thought it was my destiny when I couldn't run like others, so going to Korea and acquiring new legs is like a dream come true. After it's all over I want to study hard and become a great person."

Azheen's father, Dilshad fayeys Abdullah said, "We felt irritated as a parent not able to afford anything and to reduce her pain. So, we appreciate Zaytun Division's consideration for giving us such opportunity and thank everybody who is involved".

The youngsters traveled to South Korea Oct. 3, where they obtained suitable treatment for their new artificial limb in Saejong hospital which is located in Bucheon. They will return to Iraq in late October. ☺

'Game On!'

Stryker Soldiers send message to insurgents

Story, photos by
Army Spc. Jeffrey Ledesma
MND-B PAO

The essence of an insurgent-dominated neighborhood of Baghdad's East Rashid District is evident as Soldiers weave through the desolate, maze-like streets peppered with improvised explosive devices. Several doors and gates are painted with evidence of a fanatic Muslim stronghold.

"In the name of God, I take back this house from the non-Muslim," a Sunni interpreter reads from a gate. "Signed, al-Qaida in Iraq."

Despite the dangers that linger behind street corners and on rooftops, the Vilseck, Germany-based 3rd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, currently with Multi-National Division-Baghdad, wanted to send a clear message to the insurgency Sept. 20.

The Stryker Soldiers, who have been in the country for less than two months, are tackling their clearing mission one weapons cache, suspected insurgent and roadside bomb at a time in a fight that Staff Sgt. Jared Utter briefly described as possibly being "one of the biggest fights in Iraq right now."

Only a month into the unit's projected 15-month tour, Utter, a native of Columbus, S.C., and the a squad leader with Company G's 2nd Platoon, said his troops have seen more than a month's worth of experience now on their fifth back-to-back day out in this sector.

This particular day started off like all the others with the sun peeking above the horizon creating an orange backdrop behind the company's formation of eight-wheeled Stryker vehicles.

It took about an hour to get to the neighborhood and begin searching; a place where only six out of 36 houses were occupied.

The Soldiers with 2nd Platoon, led by 1st Lt. Eric Owens, discovered hand-made, highly-explosive materials in a house they had cleared out



Soldiers with Company G, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, cleared a house in the East Rashid district Sept. 20. The unit destroyed the building the day prior.

the day prior.

"This is not the first time we've seen (insurgents) come in behind us," said Owens, who hails from Richmond, Va. After an explosive ordnance disposal team detonated the explosive material, the company continued with the mission.

It was a little after 1 p.m. and the



nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, shoot to kill insurgents responsible for a complex attack against their unit in Baghdad's East Rashid building with an AT4, two javelins and one wire-guided missile.

company has been clearing homes all morning.

Behind a shield of white smoke, 3rd Squad maneuvered across 60th Street, a road with a direct view of an open field, when something exploded and rounds started to fly.

"I saw tracers hit the ground.

They opened up on us with PKCs (machine guns). We don't know if it was a mortar or (rocket-propelled grenade that exploded), but it couldn't have hit more than 20 feet away from us," said Spc. Eric Horvath of Mentor, Ohio, who later found pieces of shrapnel melted onto his gear.

"It all happened so fast. It was like I teleported to cover," he said.

While they continued to receive heavy machine gun fire from the second story of a building across the open field, Spc. J. Jacobs of Bloomington, Ind., fell face down onto the cement.

Jacobs said he felt the blast,

grabbed his neck, saw the blood and instinctively applied pressure to the wound, a piece of shrapnel in his neck.

"I felt loopy, was hot and dizzy, and fell," the 32-year-old said. "At some point, I must have lost consciousness."

"I heard the machine-gun fire and turned around and got blasted in the face with something. I went to the corner and didn't know he was down," said Spc. Jason "Doc" Kucharski, the squad's medic.

"I thought he was shot," Utter said. "I thought he took one."

Sgt. Michael Huffman said he saw his Soldier moving on the ground and then he stopped.

Three more smoke grenades were tossed out from different directions as rounds continued to fly over Jacobs. Pfc. Victor Flores who was the second Soldier in the file moving down the street rushed behind the cover of a building's corner and quickly laid down suppressive fire with his squad automatic weapon.

"The first thing that came to mind was to take cover and shoot back," said Flores of San Jose, Calif. "I saw someone in a white shirt, blue collar, black jeans about 16 to 18 years old run into the building right before the contact."

"We turn around and all we could see is Jacobs lying face first on the corner," said Horvath. "We weren't sure if he was dead or if he was shot. I thought he was shot and so did Hawkins (Spc. Michael Hawkins, an infantryman from Palm Springs, Calif.)"

"We have a man down," Owens echoed over the radio.

Huffman, a team leader, said he shot an M-203 grenade, as the rest of the company started to lay out suppressive fire.

"It took me about half a second to realize what was happening. You see bullets flying at you and that's all it takes," said Spc. Rich-



Staff Sgt. Jared Utter, squad leader, tries to keep Spc. J. Jacobs calm by holding his hand while he is assessed by medical personnel after being injured in the attack.

ard Main of Reno, Nev., "I was in the (vehicle commander's) hole in the truck manning my 50-caliber machine gun."

Main said knowing his buddy was down definitely made him fight that much harder. The infantryman fired more than 450 rounds at the enemy from the truck.

"Our main goal was to get him the (heck out of there)," Huffman said.

Still under enemy fire, Huffman and Kucharski grabbed the downed Soldier and pulled him into the closest courtyard.

"When we moved him, I saw

a blood spot right where his face was," said Kucharski. "He was struggling to breathe, but he was trying to."

"When I came to, I was disoriented. I saw the blood. I couldn't see or hear very well," Jacobs said. "My chest felt like it was hit by a sledge hammer. I had a hard time breathing and I started to panic because I didn't know what was going on."

With a combat life saver, a combat medic, a physician's assistant and his fellow Soldiers surrounding him, they assessed his wounds. He was quickly loaded onto a truck and medically evacuated.



Soldiers lift Jacobs into a Stryker vehicle to be evacuated out of the attack site. He was later deemed fit to return to duty.

“It was pretty much ‘game on’ after that. Everybody ran to the rooftop, started opening up on them (the insurgents). I dropped almost two mags at the building that was shooting at us,” Horvath said. “It’s like an ultimate feeling of safety to fire back. Every round they shoot at us, we shoot a hundred back.”

The company fired back with an AT4 (anti-tank rocket), two javelins and one wire-guided missile. They also support from attack aviation assets, both rotary and fixed-wing. Two hellfire missiles and a 500-pound bomb hit the structure.

“(The building) is nothing but the burnt skeleton of what once was a house,” said Hawkins as he pulled over watch on the rooftop.

Once the firefight came to an end, Utter told his Soldiers that they did a good job maneuvering. They went to their guy under fire

and pulled him out.

As they loaded up and headed back to their base, they knew they will be back at it again tomorrow. This is just the beginning of their 15-month deployment.

Tomorrow they’d see more desolate, maze-like streets peppered with improvised explosive de-

vices, discovering weapons caches, roadside bombs and more sporadic gunfire.

Jacobs, who suffered a concussion, a hairline fracture of the left cheek and sinus cavity, as well as the shrapnel wound in his neck, is recovering and is scheduled to be back out with his comrades in a week. ☺



Spc. Michael Hawkins watches the Baghdad skies over East Rashid while waiting for a helicopter to fire hellfire missiles at a building insurgents used to attack his unit.

IN MEM

NAMES OF COALITION SERVICE MEMBERS
OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM BETWEEN

**GREATER LOVE HATH NO
MAN THAN THIS: THAT A
MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE
FOR HIS FRIENDS.**

JOHN 15:13

August 16, 2007

Spc. Kamisha J. Block, 20
720th MP Bn., 89th MP Bde.
Staff Sgt. Paul B. Norris, 30
720th MP Bn., 89th MP Bde.
Staff Sgt. Robert R. Pirelli, 29
3rd Bn., 10th Special Opns Group
Cpl. Willare M. Powell, 21
4/9 Inf., 4th Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.

August 17, 2007

1st Lt. Jonathan W. Edds, 24
2/69 AR, 3rd Bde., 3rd Inf. Div.

August 19, 2007

Capt. Michael S. Fielder, 35
HHC, 44th MEDCOM

August 21, 2007

Staff Sgt. Sandy R. Britt, 30
1/325 PIR, 2nd Bde., 82nd Airborne Div.

August 22, 2007

Spc. Rickey L. Bell, 21
4/6 Air Cav. Regt.
Cpl. Jeremy P. Bouffard, 21
2/35 Inf., 3rd Bde., 25th Inf. Div.
Cpl. Phillip J. Brodnick, 25
2/35 Inf., 3rd Bde., 25th Inf. Div.
Pfc. Edgar E. Cardenas, 34
2/5 Cav., 1st Bde., 1st Inf. Div.
Capt. Derek A. Dobogai, 26
2/35 Inf., 3rd Bde., 25th Inf. Div.
Chief Warrant Officer Paul J. Flynn, 28
4/6 Air Cav. Regt.
Cpl. Joshua S. Harmon, 20
2/35 Inf., 3rd Bde., 25th Inf. Div.
Spc. Michael A. Hook, 25
2/35 Inf., 3rd Bde., 25th Inf. Div.
Cpl. Nathan C. Hubbard, 21
2/35 Inf., 3rd Bde., 25th Inf. Div.
Sgt. Garrett I. McLead, 23
2/35 Inf., 3rd Bde., 25th Inf. Div.
Staff Sgt. Jason L. Paton, 25
2/35 Inf., 3rd Bde., 25th Inf. Div.
Spc. Jessie G. Pollard, 22
2/35 Inf., 3rd Bde., 25th Inf. Div.
Spc. Tyler R. Seideman, 20
2/35 Inf., 3rd Bde., 25th Inf. Div.
Sgt. Matthew L. Tallman, 30
4/6 Air Cav. Regt.
Pfc. Omar E. Torres, 20
2/35 Inf., 3rd Bde., 25th Inf. Div.
Capt. Corry P. Tyler, 29
4/6 Air Cav. Regt.

August 23, 2007

Sgt, 1st Class Adrian M. Elizalde, 30
2nd Bn., 1st Special Forces Group
Sgt. 1st Class Michael J. Tully, 33
2nd Bn., 1st Special Forces Group

August 24, 2007

Sgt. 1st Class David A. Heringes, 36
1/505 PIR, 3rd Bde., 82nd Airborne Div.

August 25, 2007

Lance Cpl. Matthew S. Medicott, 21
1/1 Mar. Regt., 1st Mar. Div., 1st MEF

August 26, 2007

Sgt. Joshua L. Morley, 22
2/505 PIR, 3rd Bde., 82nd Airborne Div.
Lance Cpl. Rogelio A. Ramirez, 21
1/1 Mar. Regt., 1st Mar. Div., 1st MEF
Spc. Tracy C. Willis, 21
2/505 PIR, 3rd Bde., 82nd Airborne Div.

August 28, 2007

Sgt. James S. Colins Jr., 35
303rd MP Co., (Combat Support)

August 29, 2007

Spc. Edward L. Brooks, 25
1/77 AR, 2nd Bde., 1st Inf. Div.
Capt. Erick M. Foster, 29
1/73 Cav., 2nd Bde., 82nd Airborne Div.
Staff Sgt. Andrew P. Nelson, 22
1/73 Cav., 2nd Bde., 82nd Airborne Div.
Pvt. Justin P. Sanders, 22
2/8 Cav., 1st Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Cpl. John C. Tanner, 21
3rd AA Bn., 1st Mar. Div., 1st MEF

August 30, 2007

Staff Sgt. Jason M. Butkus, 34
1/28 Inf., 4th Bde., 1st Inf. Div.
Sgt. 1st Class Daniel E. Scheibner, 40
2/12 FA, 4th Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.
Spc. Travis M. Virgadamo, 19
3/7 Cav., 2nd Bde., 3rd Inf. Div.

MORIAM

MEMBERS WHO DIED WHILE SERVING IN
AUGUST 16 AND SEPTEMBER 15, 2007

August 31, 2007

Sgt. Kevin A. Gilbertson, 24
1/77 AR, 2nd Bde., 1st Inf. Div.

September 1, 2007

Spc. Christopher G. Patton, 21
2/5 Cav., 1st Bde., 1st Inf. Div.

September 2, 2007

Staff Sgt. Delmar White, 37
2/138 FA, Ky. Army Natl. Guard

September 4, 2007

Spc. Rodney J. Johnson, 20
1/4 Cav., 4th Bde., 1st Inf. Div.
Spc. David J. Lane, 20
2/16 Inf., 4th Bde., 1st Inf. Div.
Sgt. Joel L. Murray, 26
2/16 Inf., 4th Bde., 1st Inf. Div.
Pvt. Randol S. Shelton, 22
2/16 Inf., 4th Bde., 1st Inf. Div.

September 5, 2007

Pfc. Dane R. Balcon, 19
1/7 Cav., 3rd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Sgt. Eddie Collins
The Parachute Regiment
Spc. Keith A. Nurnberg, 26
2/69 AR, 3rd Bde., 3rd Inf. Div.
Cpl. Javier G. Paredes, 24
2/69 AR, 3rd Bde., 3rd Inf. Div.

September 6, 2007

Cpl. Christopher L. Poole Jr., 22
3rd AA Bn., 1st Mar. Div., 1st MEF
Cpl. Bryan J. Scripsick, 22
3rd AA Bn., 1st Mar. Div., 1st MEF
Staff Sgt. John C. Stock, 26
3rd AA Bn., 1st Mar. Div., 1st MEF
Sgt. Lee C. Wilson, 30
1/9 Cav., 4th Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Sgt. Michael J. Yarbrough, 24
3rd AA Bn., 1st Mar. Div., 1st MEF

September 7, 2007

Lance Cpl. Lance M. Clark, 21
1/1 Mar. Regt., 1st Mar. Div., 1st MEF
Spc. Jason J. Hernandez, 21
1/9 Cav., 4th Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Spc. Marisol Heredia, 19
15th BSB, 2nd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Capt. Drew N. Jensen, 27
5/20 Inf., 3rd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.

September 8, 2007

Cpl. Ryan A. Woodward, 22
1/73 Cav., 2nd Bde., 82nd Airborne Div.

September 9, 2007

Sgt. Alexander U. Gagalac, 28
2/27 Inf., 3rd Bde., 25th Inf. Div.
Staff Sgt. Courtney Hollinsworth, 26
1/4 Cav., 4th Bde., 1st Inf. Div.

September 10, 2007

Spc. Ari D. Brown-Weeks, 23
1/73 Cav., 2nd Bde., 82nd Airborne Div.
Spc. Steven R. Elrod, 20
1/73 Cav., 2nd Bde., 82nd Airborne Div.
Cpl. Carlos E. Gilorozco, 23
2/9 Mar. Regt., 2nd Mar. Div., 2nd MEF
Staff Sgt. Yance T. Gray, 26
1/73 Cav., 2nd Bde., 82nd Airborne Div.
Sgt. Michael C. Hardegree, 21
1/73 Cav., 2nd Bde., 82nd Airborne Div.
Lance Cpl. Jon T. Hicks Jr., 20
2/9 Mar. Regt., 2nd Mar. Div., 2nd MEF
Sgt. Omar L. Mora, 28
1/73 Cav., 2nd Bde., 82nd Airborne Div.
Sgt. Nicholas J. Patterson, 24
1/73 Cav., 2nd Bde., 82nd Airborne Div.
Pfc. Sammie E. Phillips, 19
2/138 FA, Ky. Army Natl. Guard
Staff Sgt. Gregory Rivera-Santiago, 26
1/73 Cav., 2nd Bde., 82nd Airborne Div.

September 14, 2007

Pvt. Christopher M. McCloud, 24
6/9 Cav., 3rd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Sgt. John Mele, 25
1/30 Inf., 2nd Bde., 3rd Inf. Div.
Spc. Todd A. Motley, 23
6/9 Cav., 3rd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Spc. Jonathan Rivadeneira, 22
6/9 Cav., 3rd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Pfc. Brandon T. Thorsen, 22
2/12 Cav., 4th Bde., 1st Cav. Div.
Staff Sgt. Terry D. Wagoner, 28
6/9 Cav., 3rd Bde., 1st Cav. Div.

September 15, 2007

Cpl. Terrence P. Allen, 21
1/2 Mar. Regt., 2nd Mar. Div., 2nd MEF

