



# THE DESERT RAIDER

## **Stryker Troops keep pressure on al-Qaida**

Working with Iraq Army partners, Soldiers from 1-38th Infantry conduct successful operations to keep insurgents out of Diyala Province **Page 4**

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## Col. Jon S. Lehr Raider 6

### Raiders,

As you all know, the brigade is expanding its area of operations to include the entire Diyala Province and will eventually relinquish the 4-9th Inf. and 2-12th Field Artillery area of operations to other units from MND-North and MND-Baghdad.

For the next few months, the brigade will retain control of the areas around Tarmiyah, Mushada and Husseiniyah. However, this will only be temporary and the brigade's area of responsibility will eventually be limited to the boundaries of Diyala Province. This expansion will include the movement of the brigade headquarters and most of our units to FOB Warhorse.

Why is this significant? Our ability to refocus on and reposition to a

completely different area was made possible because of your hard work and great success in our current AO.

Across the brigade, significant acts of violence and insurgent activity have dropped dramatically. At our peak, we could count more than 200 incidents a week ranging from small arms fire to IED strikes and indirect fire attacks. For the last few weeks, it has dropped to less than 30 per week – that's across the entire brigade area!

Our lethal operations in and around Tarmiyah and Husseiniyah have had a devastating impact on the insurgents' leadership, cells, resources and above all, their base of support – the people. Iraqis now have the confidence to stand up against al-Qaida and other insurgent groups and participate in the security and governance of their communities. You are witnessing successful counterinsurgency operations! We defeat the enemy, the people gain the confidence to stand up for themselves, indigenous security forces assume more responsibility for security, and eventually the legal system will arrest and prosecute criminals instead of insurgents.

Our non-lethal operations have been just as effective. Not only providing resources and expertise to strengthen the infrastructure, government and essential services but, giving them the

skills to provide for themselves and depend less on us. For the first time, Shia and Sunni leaders are working together on a grand scale to improve the essential services and quality of life of the people. Your hard work and sacrifice allowed this to happen.

This move has an added bonus. Both 2-23rd Inf. and 1-38th Inf. are already conducting successful operations in Baqouba and Diyala Province – they will rejoin our brigade once the move is complete. It will be a welcome sight to see all seven of our battalions once again working side-by-side.

As I look to the future over the next nine months, I can promise you that Diyala Province will be just as challenging and complex. We must stay focused and committed to the Iraqis and to each other. The keys to success: leaders continue to rigorously enforce standards, and Soldiers continue to show the same determination, professionalism and compassion.

Every one of you remains in my thoughts and prayers. Both Command Sgt. Maj. Troxell and I look forward to seeing you on the battlefield.

### To the Objective! Raider 6

**4-2 SBCT Commander**  
Col. Jon S. Lehr

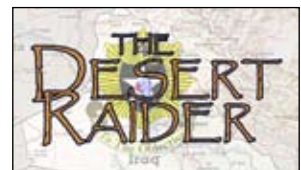
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On the Cover: Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment conduct missions with the Iraqi Army in and around Baqouba, Iraq. Successful operations have helped bring security to the former terrorist stronghold.

Photos by Pfc. Kirby Rider and 1st Lt. Richard Ybarra



## Command Sgt. Maj. John W. Troxell

### Raider 7

#### Greetings to all fellow Dragoon Raiders,

This month I want to discuss with you all something called “fighter management.”

This is a term normally used in aviation circles for maintaining peak operational efficiency of each and every Soldier.

Leaders, it is our responsibility to ensure that our Soldiers are prepared for every mission we perform, and we do that by conducting pre-combat checks and inspections of all fighters, weapons and equipment. We are also responsible for making sure that our Soldiers are prepared for the long haul of a 15-month combat tour by shaping their physical, mental, emotional and spiritual fitness level.

Each of us as individual Soldiers, from private to colonel, also have a personal responsibility to maintain our own fitness levels and to ensure we possess the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual stamina to accomplish any mission we are given or overcome any challenge we may face on the battlefield.

I want to talk about fitness and how it ties into fighter management. When we talk of physical fitness some think that if a soldier can pass the physical fitness test then he/she is physically fit. Nothing is further from the truth.

The PT test is a test of one's fitness level. Being physically fit means having the stamina to accomplish your combat mission and still have a reserve of stamina left. The operative words are combat mission. There is a big difference from sitting in an office on the FOB and thrashing the palm groves near the Tigris River. However a Soldier who normally works in an office at the FOB should still have the physical fitness level to patrol outside the wire in full kit for an extended

period. Another plus of having a high level of physical fitness is the body is able to absorb and handle more punishment inflicted on it and allows for faster recovery.

Mental fitness is as equally important as physical fitness. Being of sound mind is what each of us must be when the moment of truth happens and we are under fire from the enemy. We must be able to make split second, sound decisions that can save our buddies as well as our own lives.

As you all know, we will go through a whole gamut of emotions for this 15-month tour. Name an emotion and I am sure we will experience it here, both good and bad, everything from happy, sad, confused, irate and on and on. It is a function of combat. The key is how we handle our emotions and harness the bad emotions from affecting our mission and readiness.

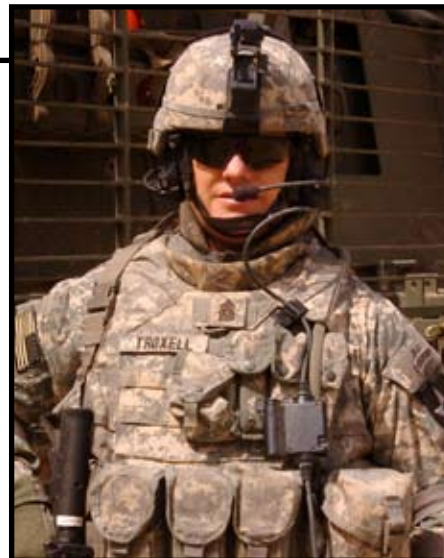
Being spiritually fit means believing in a higher being and using that higher being as an outlet to handle the stress of combat.

Now how does this tie into fighter management? The bottom line for us as leaders is to insure our Soldiers are all around fit and to insure that we get our Soldiers some personal time “off” in our battle rhythm.

Giving our Soldiers a programmed day to themselves that they can count on will go a long way in keeping them at peak efficiency. Every unit has a different battle rhythm but we have to plan in time to manage our fighters.

What can we do as Soldiers when we are given that time to ourselves? I fall back on the acronym REST: Read, Exercise, Sleep, Think. Read a good book, exercise your heart, mind, body and soul, and most importantly get some much needed rest!

Remember that fighter management is a personal responsibility just as much as a unit responsibility. Take



care of yourselves and each other everyday. Leaders, never lose focus on our most precious commodity: our Soldiers.

I thank each and every one of you for being the professionals that you are. God Bless you all! Col. Lehr and I will see each of you out on the battlefield.

#### To the Objective! Raider 7





# Fight it to the bone

## *1-38th helps the Iraqi army keep pressure on al-Qaida in Diyala*

**Story and photos by 1st Lt. Richard Ybarra**  
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

In a ten-day span, the 5th Iraqi Army Division, partnering with 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division put the squeeze on al-Qaida in Iraq in back-to-back operations on Oct. 5 and 15 in Diyala Province, Iraq.

The operations, titled “Rock Drill” and “Rock Bone Breaker” netted big cache finds for both the IA and the 1-38th Inf. Regt. The IA scored the first heavy blow against AQI when they found a large weapons cache in a cemetery north of Muradiyah during Operation Rock Drill.

The cache was discovered by 4th Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 5th IA Division, acting on information given by Concerned Local Citizens. It consisted of six automatic weapons, four two-way radios, two RPGs, two anti-tank mines, two rifles, large quantities of ammunition and both electronic and print al-Qaida in Iraq propaganda. In addition, two improvised explosive devices were discovered nearby the cemetery.

“The IA was definitely in control;



Spc. Sean Fowler and Sgt. Robert Treadway of 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment move down an alley in Baqouba, Iraq, during Operation Bone Breaker, which resulted in the discovery of a large weapons cache Oct. 15.



Iraqi Army Soldiers from 2nd Brigade, 5th IA Division clear the village of Muradiyah during Operation Rock Drill. IA soldiers discovered a cache consisting of weapons and al-Qaida in Iraq propaganda materials in the village cemetery south of Baqouba, Iraq Oct. 5.

they had the larger force and cleared all the culturally sensitive sites such as the mosque and the cemetery, finding the cache in the cemetery,” said Capt. Duane Bailey, 1-38th Infantry’s

Bayonet Company commander.

During the operation south of Muradiyah, a Stryker combat vehicle was struck by an IED, resulting in no injuries to the crew and minor damage

to the vehicle.

A command wire was discovered and traced, resulting in the detention of two individuals. Both men tested positive for traces of explosives on their hands and were subsequently turned over to the IA.

On Oct. 15, 4-2-5 IA again teamed up with 1-38th Inf. for Operation Rock Bone Breaker, targeting a peninsula encompassed by the Diyala River, which is known to local Iraqi citizens as “the bone” and a village locally known as “Mechanics Two.”

The mission was conceived by the 4-2-5 IA, then planned and undertaken jointly with 1-38th.

“This was a great mission, planned and executed with our partners from the 4-2-5 IA. It could not have been possible without the initiative of the IA,” stated Maj. Matt Moore, 1-38th operations officer.

Bone Breaker was the Stryker Soldiers’ opportunity to shine, as they

discovered one large weapons cache containing assorted weapons and ammunition as well as two smaller caches containing homemade explosives.

The larger weapons cache, found on the peninsula, contained 20 propane tanks, 34 blasting caps, 500 feet of detonation cord, 21 assorted demolition charges, equipment for an 82mm mortar team, including the tube, tripod, ammunition, fuses and range quadrant scale, three RPGs with rockets and various small arms ammunition.

“4-2-5 IA and 1-38th Inf. Regt continue to develop a strong working relationship in their combined operations area,” stated U.S. Army Maj. James A. Van Atta, team leader for the 4-2-5 Military Transition Team. “The IA is now able to take the lead in planning missions. Their development, their willingness to plan and then execute on the battlefield is encouraging.”

These successful operations did not

slow the 1-38th Soldiers and their IA partners as they continued to press the advantage.

Both units again joined forces Oct. 19 and 20 to hold a Combined Medical Engagement and Humanitarian Aid drop in the south Baqouba neighborhood of Khatoon.

“The success of 3-2 Stryker Brigade, who was here before us, set the conditions for the success of recent operations. The IA here are proactive, learning all the time and doing well,” said Capt. Victor Satterlund, Attack Company commander, 1-38th Inf. “Together, we have kept AQI off balance and kept them from getting a foothold back in Baqouba.”

“We have won the trust of the local population by providing security and working on projects such as water, medical aid, schools supplies and humanitarian aid,” Satterlund continued. “What you are seeing here is progress.”



**Pfc. Mario Sevilla of 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment smells the chamber of a Kalashnikov rifle he has disassembled for the smell of burned gunpowder, an indication of recent usage in Muradiyah, Iraq, Oct. 5.**



# 2-1 Cav. Soldiers, Iraqi Police reopen road to Mansuriyah

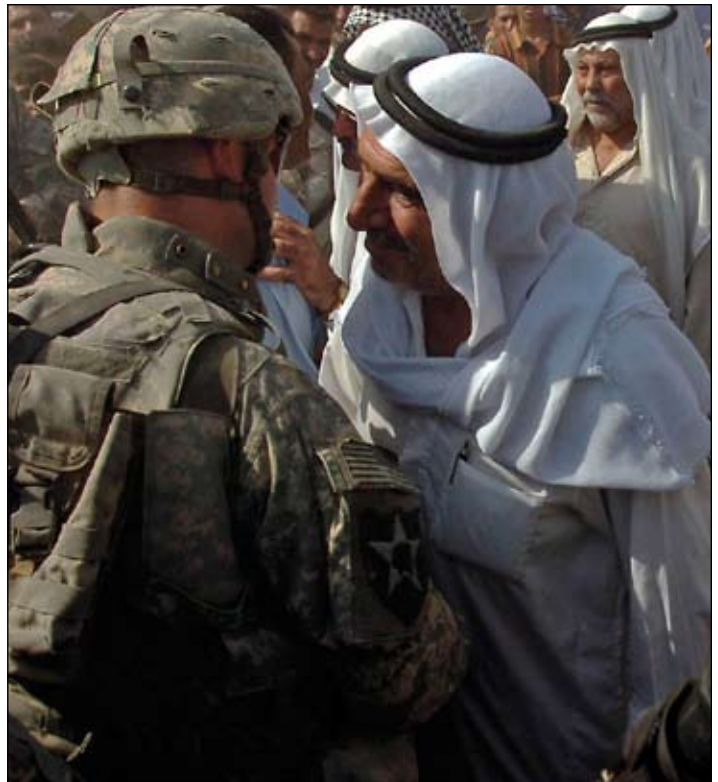
*Thousands of Iraqis cheer  
2-1 troops for reopening  
road previously closed due to  
IEDs and sectarian violence*

**Story and photos by Sgt. Patrick Lair**  
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Six weeks since the road leading to the village of Mansuriyah had been closed due to buried IEDs, U.S. Army Soldiers from 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division and Iraqi Police rolled into the dusty village center and dropped the ramps of their Stryker vehicles.

"We've had reports that large crowds are waiting for us here," said Staff Sgt. Christopher Bridges, a 2-1 Cav. vehicle commander. "Could be a little crazy."

Dismounting from their vehicles, the 2-1 troops were greeted by more than 1,000 local residents celebrating in the



A sheik in the village of Mansuriyah, along the Tigris River, in Iraq, greets Soldiers from 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment as they enter the town Sept. 26. More than 1,000 residents came out to cheer and greet Iraqi and American security forces when they cleared IEDs and reopened the road leading to town after it had been closed for six weeks.

street. Several large groups danced and chanted along with the music from a handheld radio. Iraqi citizens pushed in from all sides, shaking Soldiers' hands, saying hello and following them as they walked. The Soldiers crossed the blood of a freshly-sacrificed sheep, killed for good luck, as they moved toward a scheduled meeting in a nearby building.

Iraqi policemen ushered the Soldiers through the crowd and inside a meeting room, then fended off aggressive groups of citizens attempting to push inside the building. The outer door had to be locked and guarded by police. Children crowded in at the windows to the meeting room where Iraqi policemen, U.S. Soldiers and the village elders of Mansuriyah took seats in a large circle.

Sheik Abdi Jabar Mohammed sat at the head of the meeting and thanked the Soldiers for returning to his village. Platters of apples and bananas and cold cans of soda were passed around the circle. A long discussion then ensued about the future of Mansuriyah.

The elders wanted security from insurgents, an electrical generator and they wanted the city's water pump fixed.

"We will do our best to provide you with all these things," said Capt. Dustin Heumpreus. "But I warn you that these things take time. Everyone will have to work hard and work together in order to accomplish these things."



Iraqi Police and local workers begin to construct police stations on a road along the Tigris River in Diyala Province Sept. 30. The road, once closed due to IEDs and sectarian violence, was reopened when Soldiers from 2-1 Cav. helped Iraqi Police remove IEDs and secure the town of Mansuriyah from al-Qaida insurgents.



A 2-1 Cav. Soldier performs a shotgun breach on a locked gate in front of a pomegranate orchard suspected to be a hiding place of bomb-making materials Sept. 30. Iraqi and American security forces recently searched suspected weapons cache sites along the Tigris River near the village of Mansuriyah, in Diyala Province, Iraq.

Mansuriyah, a small farming village situated among thick lime and pomegranate orchards on the banks of the Tigris in southwestern Diyala, had only recently taken a turn for the worse.

"We used to patrol this area quite a bit. Then we got pulled away for other tasks and hadn't been able to get back here. That was about three months ago," said Capt. Joe Byerly of 2-1 Cav. "The sheik here made such an impression on me that I'd been wanting to get back."

After 2-1 Cav. left, the situation began to deteriorate. Sunni militants belonging to al-Qaida in Iraq began crossing the Tigris, raiding the village and fighting with Jaysh al-Mahdi forces, U.S. Soldiers said. Many homes along the route leading into town are now blackened, blown-up and deserted from the fighting.

Insurgents then buried multiple IEDs along the road leading into town, making it virtually impassable. The Shia villagers were unable to use Route 2, a nearby highway, because al-Qaida insurgents had been setting up fake check-



Two 2-1 Cav. Soldiers search a pomegranate orchard along the Tigris River for suspected weapons caches Sept. 30.

points and reportedly kidnapping or killing Shias found traveling along the route, Soldiers said.

The Iraqi Police came to the American Soldiers with the idea for this mission, requesting their help to restore security in the area, Byerly said.

After spending the morning of Sept. 30 slowly clearing buried IEDs from the road leading into Mansuriyah, police then set about establishing security checkpoints to prevent more booby-traps from being planted.

Policemen and local citizens drove a front-end loader up and down the route, filling in HESCO barriers and IED craters. At night, U.S. Soldiers parked their Stryker vehicles at strategic points on the route, pulling all night security along the river.

During the days, U.S. Soldiers also trudged through the surrounding orchards and palm groves, searching for hidden caches of weapons or bomb-making materials. A bag of homemade explosives, a spool of copper wire, two propane tanks, an oxygen tank with wires connected and an anti-tank mine attached to a crush wire were all found and destroyed.

On the afternoon on Oct. 1, Iraqi Police unloaded several truckloads of rice, flour, cooking oil, bottled water and other humanitarian aid in Mansuriyah, distributing it among the citizens, many of whom had suffered under the shortage of electricity and water.

At a meeting in his home later that day, Sheik Mohammed again treated U.S. Soldiers to a homegrown feast. Only this time it was platters of fried carp and fried chicken, plates of rice, lamb, flat bread, tomatoes and pitchers of freshly-squeezed pomegranate juice.

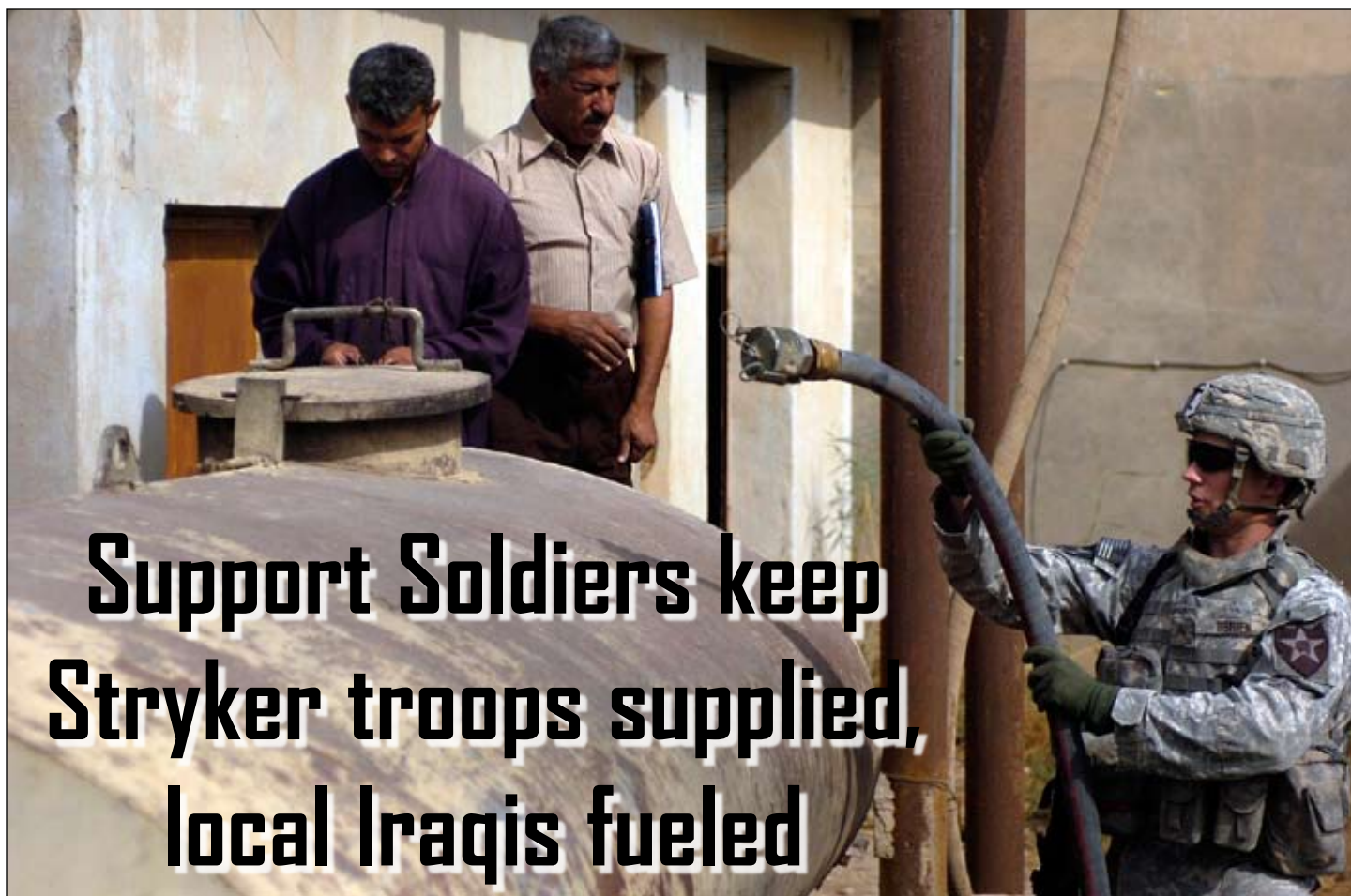
"I hope we can work together to improve Mansuriyah," the sheik said through an interpreter as he discussed his concerns about the village.

"We're going to work to provide security to your town, and keep you and your people safe," said Byerly.

"*Insh'allah*," the sheik replied. "God willing."







# Support Soldiers keep Stryker troops supplied, local Iraqis fueled

From right: Sgt. John O'Brien, squad leader with Hatchet Company, 202nd Brigade Support Battalion, hands a fuel hose to Hasam Sa'aeed Naseef, North Rashidiyah Pump Station manager, and Ra'ad Majeed Ahmad, local farmer, near Rashidiyah, Iraq, Oct. 16. Hatchet Company Soldiers regularly bring fuel to two pump stations in Rashidiyah to help local farmers irrigate their crops.

**Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Russell Bassett**  
*115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

Their job is not glamorous. It doesn't make headlines in newspapers and isn't featured on broadcast reports, but the job of support Soldiers is vital to the mission here in Iraq. Without them, there would not be the headline-grabbing captures of al-Qaida in Iraq operatives and stories of Iraqi citizens putting aside their sectarian differences to work towards peace and stability.

As the support unit for the Fort Lewis, Wash.-based 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, the 202nd Brigade Support Battalion supplies the brigade's forward-based combat units with the materials they need to conduct missions. This includes providing cooks and mechanics that live with these units, as well as conducting regular re-supply missions.

Hatchet Company, 202nd BSB supports 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery, and that unit's top noncommissioned officer described support Soldiers as heroes.

"They really are the unsung heroes in the background," 2-12 Command Sgt. Maj. Theodore Sutton said. "The support

guys are doing such a great job, but they typically don't get the accolades they deserve. We are always appreciative of what they are doing though."

On Oct. 16, Hatchet Company performed two of their regular missions: re-supply to Joint Security Station-East and fuel to the north and south Rashidiyah pump stations.

The first mission involved convoying from Taji, Iraq, where the brigade is located, to JSS-East, a combat outpost manned by Charlie Battery, 2-12 FA and Iraqi policemen. The Hatchet Soldiers delivered water, food and fuel to the station, as well as two flat-bed trucks full of materials to make barriers.

Capt. Charles Dotter, Hatchet commander, said deliveries such as this one is what makes his job rewarding.

"It's great when you show up to these guys living out here in these combat outposts, and you show up with all the food they don't normally get, and they are excited to see you," the commander said.

The 2-12 Soldiers seemed to appreciate the re-supply, as they eagerly helped unload the food.

"Hatchet has been critical to our mission, especially with running logistics back in forth on a regular basis to JSS-





Capt. Charles Dotter, commander, Hatchet Co., 202nd BSB, talks with Hasam Sa'aeed Naseef, North Rashidiyah Pump Station manager, Oct. 16. In addition to delivering fuel, the Soldiers gather intelligence on enemy activity in the area and listen to the concerns of the local populace.

East," Sutton said. "They probably have one of the tougher jobs, because they have to be ready to do anything. They are going out and doing re-supply missions, but at the same time they are incurring all the same hazards, so they have to be ready for anything, whether that is a complex attack or (improvised explosive device).

Since the Hatchet Company Soldiers spend so much time on the roads, IEDs present a real danger. Their convoys have been hit by IEDs on several occasions, but no Hatchet Soldiers have been seriously injured from the attacks.

"You never know what is going to happen," Dotter said. "You are driving down the road and there could be an explosion right in front of you or right underneath you. But if you stay alert and stay attentive, constantly scanning your sector, you can often keep the IED attacks from being successful ones."

After the Hatchet Soldiers downloaded the food and water at JSS-East, they then convoyed to the north and south Rashidiyah pump stations to deliver more than 2,000 gallons of fuel, which is used by local Iraqi farmers to irrigate crops and run farm equipment.

When the Soldiers arrived at the first pump station, Iraqi children ran up from all directions, clamoring for the Soldiers attention. The Soldiers laughed and joked with the kids, giving them candy and water.

"I love it when the whole town comes out to see us, and seeing the smiling faces of the kids and grownups," Dotter said. "We bring them fuel, which means they can run their pumps stations, which means they can irrigate their farm lands, which means they can harvest their crops."

"I am thankful for the U.S. Army helping the farmers and helping all Rashidiyah people," said

Hasam Sa'aeed Naseef, North Rashidiyah Pump Station manager through a translator. "Everybody I know, all the farmers, want to thank the U.S. Army."

Dotter talked at length with Naseef, asking him how the local community is fairing and if the station manager had seen or heard of any recent enemy activity.

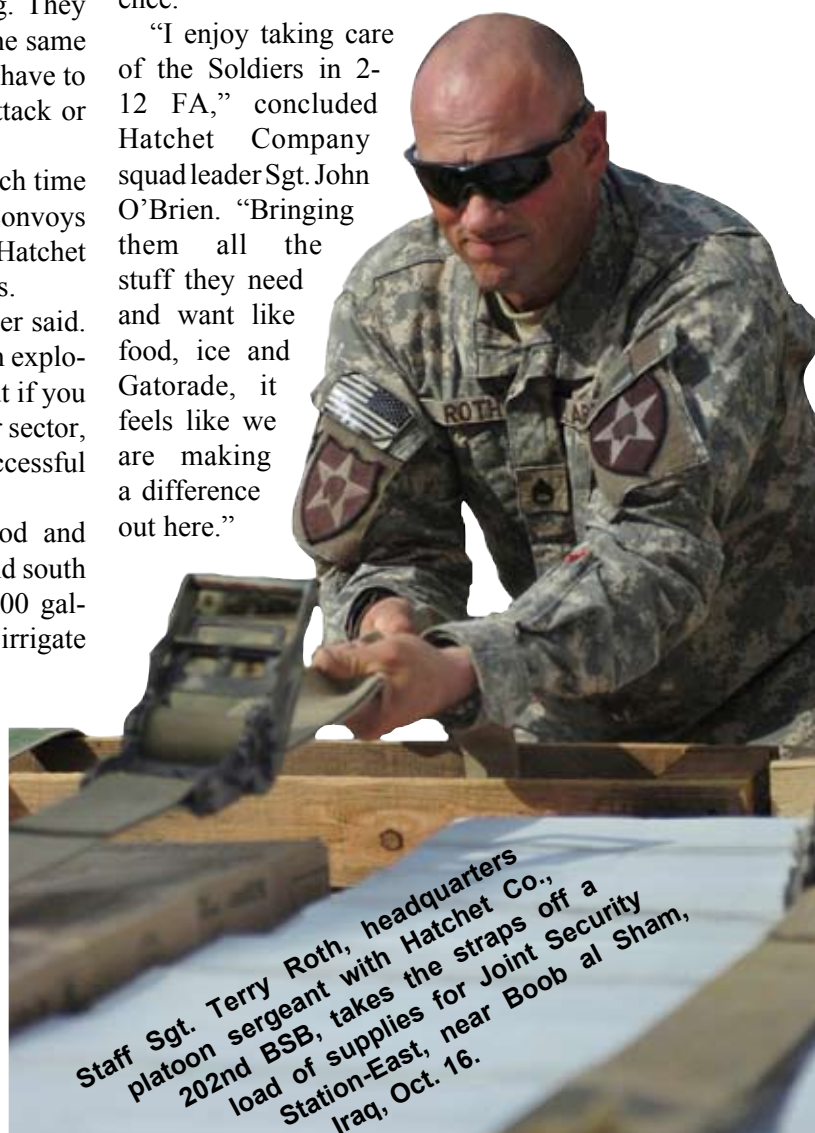
"I'm glad we can help you out," Dotter told Naseef, "but you are really the ones helping us out by keeping the bad guys out of here."

Hatchet Company used to make fuel deliveries to Rashidiyah twice a week, but recently they cut down to once a week.

"It's almost like tough love," Dotter explained. "You want to give them all this fuel and support their needs, but you also want them to be self-sufficient because eventually we are going to pull out of here, and they need to be able to function on their own."

After the fuel deliveries, the Hatchet troops returned to Taji to prepare for their next mission. Nothing glamorous about the day's work, but the Hatchet Soldiers don't seem concerned with making headlines, just making a difference.

"I enjoy taking care of the Soldiers in 2-12 FA," concluded Hatchet Company squad leader Sgt. John O'Brien. "Bringing them all the stuff they need and want like food, ice and Gatorade, it feels like we are making a difference out here."



Staff Sgt. Terry Roth, headquarters platoon sergeant with Hatchet Co., 202nd BSB, takes the straps off a load of supplies for Joint Security Station-East, near Boob al Sham, Iraq, Oct. 16.

# For the future of Iraq

## Stryker troops deliver school supplies, smiles to Iraqi children

Story, photos by Staff Sgt. Russell Bassett  
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Frustration showed clearly on Sgt. 1st Class Kristopher Macavoy's face as he tried to give school supplies to an Iraqi mother and her three small children Oct. 11 near Boob Al Sham, Iraq.

The children peered fearfully out from behind a door at the U.S. Soldiers who had just pulled up in front of their home. The engineer troops of 3rd Platoon, 38th Engineer Company, with their full body armor, weapons and Stryker combat vehicles, likely looked very foreign and scary to the young children as they clung to their mother.

"I have gifts for you," Macavoy said, holding up school supplies that 3rd Platoon had gathered for just this purpose. "Come on and get them," he said, adding with a cheerful smile and hearty laugh, "I won't hurt you."

Macavoy's frustration and the children's fear was quickly replaced with smiles and laughter, as the kids — cautiously at first, but then with exuberance — came out from their homes. The Soldiers handed them pencils, pens, notebooks, crayons, markers and other school supplies. Soon, more than 50 children were running up from all directions, and it was all the Soldiers could do to keep the kids in line.

Earlier this year, Macavoy, 3rd Platoon's acting platoon leader, came up with the idea to give school supplies



A young Iraqi girl and her older sister receive school supplies from Soldiers of 3rd Platoon, 38th Engineer Company, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division from Fort Lewis, Wash., near Boob Al Sham, Iraq, Oct. 11.

to Iraqi children. He broached the idea to his platoon mates, who embraced it. With the help of their families back home, the Soldiers gathered hundreds

Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division from Fort Lewis, Wash., the 38th has the tough job of clearing the brigade's routes of improvised explosive devices.

On a good day, they find the IEDs and dismantle them before they can do any damage. On a bad day, the IEDs blow up under them.

The 38th Engineer Co. deployed to Iraq in April, and since that time, has found 135 IEDs, but they have also had approximately

15 Soldiers injured and six vehicles severely damaged due to IEDs.

"Sometimes it's hard for me, doing what we do everyday here," Macavoy

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*"In a few years, when they are older, they will understand that we are actually here to help."*

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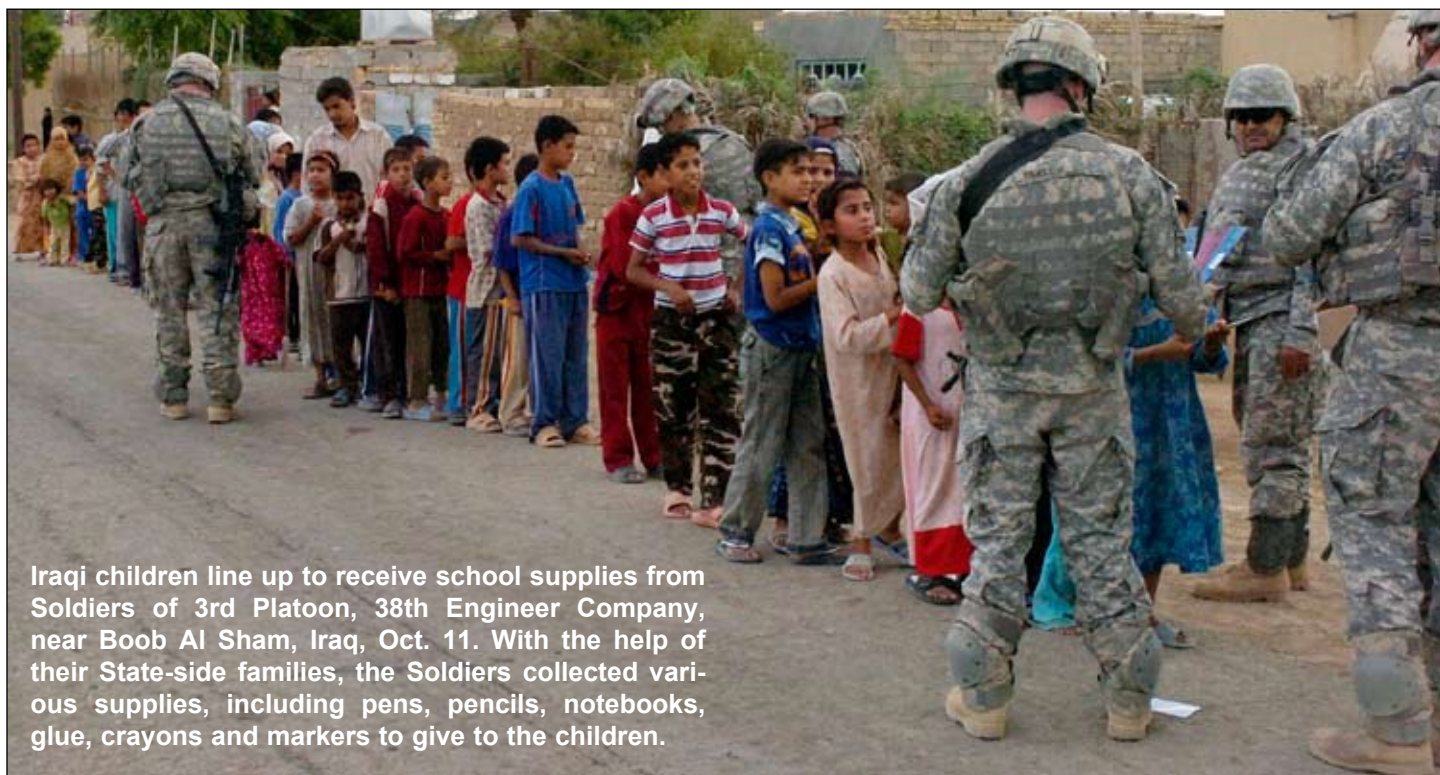
**Staff Sgt. Matthew Snyder**  
squad leader, 3rd Platoon, 38th Engineer Company

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of different supplies, waiting until the start of the Iraqi school year to hand them out.

As the only engineers of the 4th





**Iraqi children line up to receive school supplies from Soldiers of 3rd Platoon, 38th Engineer Company, near Boob Al Sham, Iraq, Oct. 11. With the help of their State-side families, the Soldiers collected various supplies, including pens, pencils, notebooks, glue, crayons and markers to give to the children.**



**An Iraqi child receives school supplies from Soldiers of 3rd Plt. 38th Eng. Co. Oct. 11.**



**Sgt. 1st Class Kristopher Macavoy, acting platoon leader of 3rd Platoon puts a T-shirt on a young Iraqi boy. The Soldiers gave various school supplies, shirts and candy to more than 50 Iraqi children.**

said, “but no matter how difficult it is, looking at those kids smile, I feel like I am doing something right. Making these kids happy makes it all worth it.”

Macavoy said the reason they decided to hand out school supplies rather than candy or food is to show that Soldiers care about the future of Iraq.

“Iraqi children are the future, the next generation,” he said. “Hopefully we can win the hearts ... of the Iraqi children. Hopefully, families will see

us helping these kids, and if they are emplacing IEDs out there, they will think, ‘The American people, they’re not that bad.’ That’s the main goal.”

Staff Sgt. Matthew Snyder, 3rd Platoon squad leader, noted that building rapport helps with gathering intelligence.

“We are building a rapport with the locals, so when we do a patrol through the area, they see us and they are more likely to talk with us and give us some information because we have that good

working relationship with them,” he said.

“I’ve always liked kids,” Snyder continued. “One of the hardest things of being over here is seeing the kids. With the poverty in this country, the kids are hurting, and it’s not their fault. If we can’t change the older adults that we are having a problem with, we can start with their kids. In a few years, when they are older, they will understand that we are actually here to help.”



Soldiers of 1st Platoon, Company F, 52nd Infantry Regiment demonstrate urban combat tactics for the Iraqi army at Forward Operating Base O'Ryan, Iraq, Sept. 30. Fierce Company Soldiers and Iraqi army soldiers train together and learn each others' tactics in order to understand how both elements work.



# Fierce



Capt. Troy Mills, Fierce Company commander, clears a room farm house room in the town of Sheik Jamil, Iraq, Sept. 29. Mills' company teamed up with combat engineers, explosive ordnance disposal teams, Air Force special operations and Iraqi army units to search for weapons caches in the town.



Photo by 1st Lt. Tyson Kampenhout

Acting on a tip from a Concerned Local Citizen, Soldiers from Company F, 52nd Infantry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division discovered a massive cache of mortar rounds Oct. 14 near 50 Dar, Iraq.

Photos by Spc. John Crosby  
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

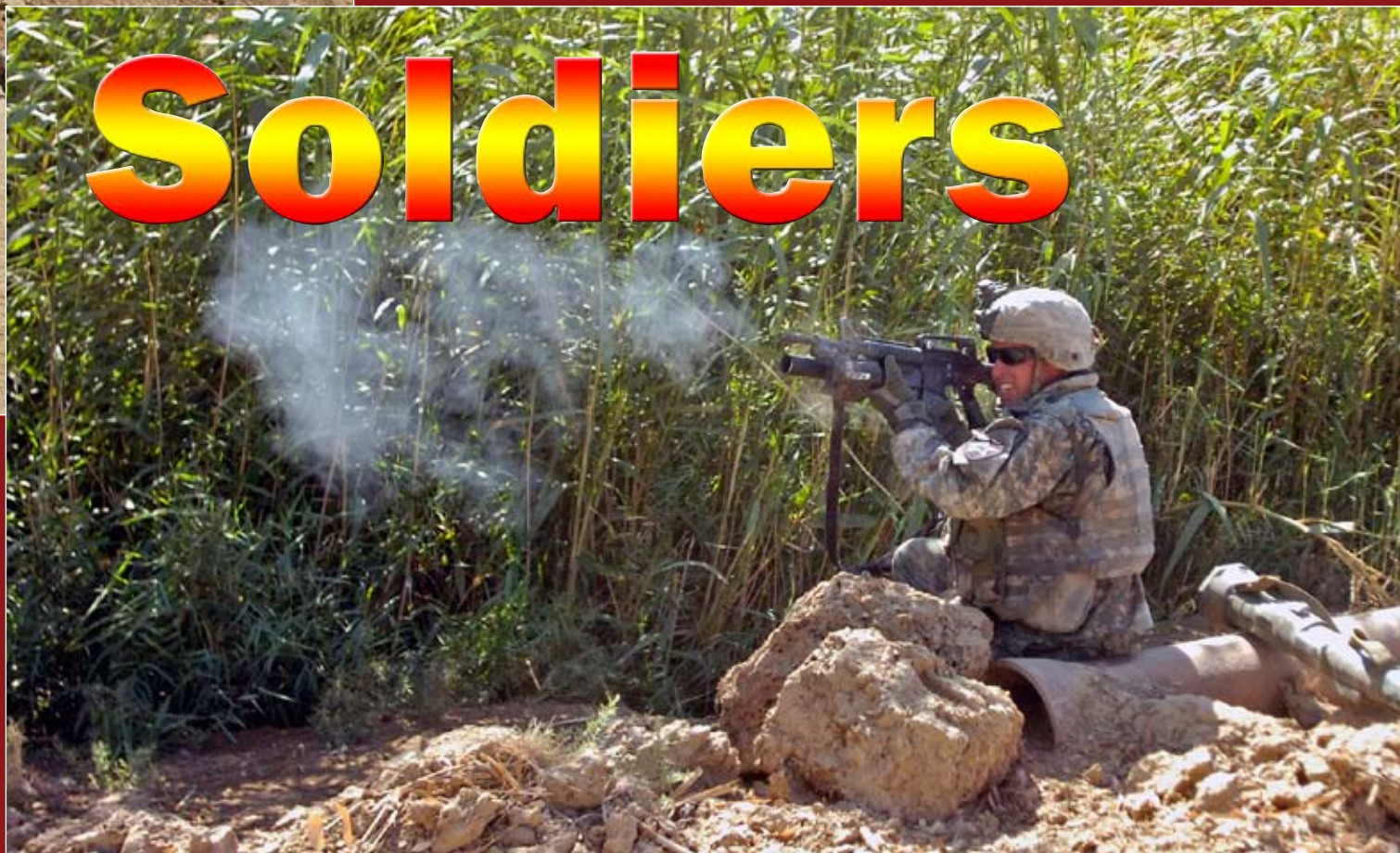


Staff Sgt. Travis Stearns, a squad leader in Fierce Company's 2nd Platoon pulls security from behind a wall in Rawad, Iraq, Oct. 1. Fierce Company and Iraqi army soldiers conducted a joint operation to clear the town of Rawad of insurgents.





# Soldiers



Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Johnson, 2nd platoon sergeant of Company F, 52nd Infantry Regiment, fires a round from his M203 grenade launcher at a vehicle used to transport explosives near Rawad, Iraq, Sept. 29.



A Fierce Company Stryker patrols through an Iraqi army check-point along a highway near Rawad, Iraq, Sept. 29. Fierce Company is deployed as part of the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, from Fort Lewis, Wash. The brigade is the first to deploy to combat with all 10 Stryker models, including this anti-tank guided missile carrier.





# From Sudan to Iraq Soldier overcomes many obstacles on his way to U.S. citizenship

By Spc. John Crosby

115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The men and women of today's all-volunteer force have many different reasons and motivations for joining. Whether it's money for college, patriotism or adventure, each individual's choice is unique.

Spc. Anderia Mayom, a linguist attached to the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division from Fort Lewis, Wash., has always dreamed of becoming an American Soldier. To achieve this goal however, he had to confront many personal challenges.

Mayom was born in Panrieng, Sudan, during a time of civil war and unrest. His family of three sisters and two brothers, one who fought in the war for the Sudan People's Liberation Army, were thrust into a chaotic world. Mayom's mother was lost to the war when he was only 2 years old and his father at age 8.

It was after his father's passing that Mayom left Sudan. He walked on foot with the International Committee of Red Cross for more than two months to reach the Panyuda refugee camp in Ethiopia.

Sadly, when civil war broke out in Ethiopia not long after his arrival, Mayom was again uprooted and forced to walk an addi-



**Spc. Anderia Mayom**

tional three months with a Red Cross escort to Kenya.

At 12 years old, death was no stranger to Mayom. He had seen people lost along the way to disease, malnourishment, war and even animal attacks.

Mayom felt a strong pull toward military service and wanted to join the same army his brother fought for, but was told he was too young to fight. Instead, he spent the next eight years of his life at the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya.

There he learned English and Arabic. He joined the Young Men of Sudan, a program that gives Sudanese refugees a chance to earn their American citizenship. On July 25, 2005, Mayom moved to Kansas City, Mo., where the Don Bosco Catholic

Church organization provided him living accommodations for three months until he could get on his feet.

Mayom never had a problem meeting new people. His first American friend, Richard Berry, showed him around

the city and taught him about American culture. Berry also introduced Mayom to his mother, father, sisters and a brother. They enjoyed family dinners together and talked about their plans for the future. Mayom told Berry and his family about his aspirations to become an American Soldier.

Within two months after arriving in the

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*"In this Army, it's not about what we can do to make America better. It's about what we can do to make the world a better place. It's the world's Army. It has all the races of the world in it."*

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**Spc. Andrea Mayom**

linguist, Recon Platoon, 4-9 Inf. Regt.





Photo by Staff Sgt. Russell Bassett

Spc. Anderia Mayom, an Arabic linguist attached to Recon Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment talks to a detainee during a night raid of a suspected al-Qaida member Sept. 20 near Abayachi, Iraq. Mayom, who was born in Sudan has been a U.S. resident since July 2001 and a Soldier since August 2005.

States, Mayom had a job on the kitchen staff of a hotel casino and found a three bedroom apartment he rented with four roommates. He enrolled at Penn Valley Community College part-time and studied English, psychology, politics and American history.

Mayom said several of his schoolmates were joining the Army Reserves and he decided to volunteer as well. He visited his local recruiter about enlisting as an infantryman.

Mayom's experience and knowledge helped shaped his future career in the Army. With the ability to speak English, Arabic, several dialects of Swahili and Dinka as his native tongue, he was encouraged to pursue a career as a linguist.

After completing basic combat training, Mayom attended the Defense Institute of Language in San Antonio, Texas. While there, he agreed to transfer to active duty from the reserves. He graduated in August 2006, and was assigned to the 111th Military Intelligence Brigade in Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

"It feels great to be with other people who have the same visions as I to be a Soldier," Mayom said. "It's great to complete something you think will be difficult, but you make it easy."

Mayom was then attached to the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division out of Fort Lewis, Wash., and deployed to Iraq in April. Today he works with Recon Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment.

"When Mayom first arrived I wasn't sure what to expect," Sgt. 1st Class Winfree Steele, Mayom's platoon sergeant, said. "I've worked with a couple interpreters before, but he is my first linguist. I wasn't sure of his skills ... (but) he not only speaks the language, he understands the culture as well."

"He is a regular Soldier," Steele continued. "He digs up weapons caches, conducts raids and clears houses with all of the other Soldiers. He doesn't wait around to interpret; he does what all the other Soldiers do."

Mayom recalled a question another Soldier asked him during an enemy mortar attack. The Soldier asked Mayom what he thought about the Army now and does he wish he would have joined the army in Africa instead.

Mayom replied that he is glad he joined the U.S. Army.

"If you have a love and a vision of freedom, you should be in this Army," Mayom said. "In this Army, it's not about what we

can do to make America better. It's about what we can do to make the world a better place. It's the world's Army. It has all the races of the world in it."

Mayom plans to continue his education after he redeploy. He has a passion to learn about other cultures and wants to pursue college courses studying international relationships after he redeploy. Mayom also received his U.S. citizenship in a ceremony at Balad Air Force Base, Iraq, Sept. 9. His hard work and commitment to duty have earned the respect from all who work with him.

"Mayom is one of the best Soldiers and linguists I have ever worked with," Steele said. "I'm glad he got his citizenship. He really deserves it."

Although each Soldier has their own story to tell, Mayom's story is one of perseverance, call to duty and personal courage. With a strong desire to serve and a hard road behind him, Mayom looks forward to a bright future serving in the Army he longed to be a part of.



# 4-9 Soldiers defend home turf from enemy attack

## *Local teacher helps troops track down insurgents*

**Story and photo by Spc. Matthew Mikolas**  
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Infantry Soldiers in and around Mushada, Iraq are working hard to make the area safer for the civilians in the village.

Troops from Company A, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division rotate between Camp Taji and Joint Security Station Mushada, located about ten kilometers to the northwest of Taji.

At Taji, the infantry Soldiers work to keep their area of operations clear of improvised explosive devices. Anytime a possible IED is reported in Able Company's territory, they assist an explosive ordnance disposal team to eliminate the threat.

At Joint Security Station Mushada, the Soldiers work with an Iraqi Police station. The infantry company shares it with the officers, using it as a springboard for security missions in the area around Mushada. Most days, troops from the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division's 543<sup>rd</sup> Military Police Company come out and work with the Iraqi Police, trying to increase the officer's level of productivity and skill.

"We have IPs work hand in hand with the MPs," said Fire Support Officer Capt. Adam Payne. "Our job is to assist them in that."



Spc. Sean Rukse of Company A, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment watches palm groves to the southwest of Joint Security Station Mushada, Iraq. Soldiers from Alpha Company repelled an attack from these palm groves Oct. 1.

Often the troops from 4-9 Infantry will go out into the village and talk with the civilians, asking them if they have seen any suspicious activity. The Soldiers frequently speak with a man named Abdullah, who is a high school teacher in Mushada.

"He's the voice of the town," said 1st Lt. Daniel Lowe, platoon leader for 3rd Platoon, Company A. "He doesn't hold an official position, but has a lot of pull with the people."

Abdullah grew up in the area and has a vested interest in seeing terrorism in the village come to an end. The English teacher lost his wife and almost lost his son in a sniper attack and mortar attack, respectively.

"I have sacrificed too much," Abdullah said. "Still, I will continue sacrificing for the New Iraq."

Abdullah's continued, open relationship with Coalition Forces opened the door for communication between the villagers and Soldiers. The people use Abdullah as a liaison between themselves and the Soldiers, informing him of possible threats in the area. Abdullah then relays the information to the troops.

The 48-year-old school teacher said if the area becomes secure, he will be proud of cooperating with the Soldiers.

Lowe, a platoon leader in Able Company, said civilians working with



Soldiers has reduced violence in the area.

The morning of Oct. 1 showed that there is still work yet to be done, as JSS Mushada came under attack from enemy fire.

Third Platoon's 3rd Squad, which was pulling guard on the rooftop of the Joint Security Station, started taking fire from the southeast. At the same time, a convoy was traveling on the road between JSS Mushada and the enemy attackers. Gunners from the convoy returned fire on the enemy position, until they passed through the attack point. The enemy fire stopped until the last convoy element passed. The enemy then fired their machine guns at the Joint Security Station rooftop from two different locations, from across the road to the southwest and from palm trees to the southeast.

"We were watching the convoy

come through and we watched them returning fire, so we could see where the fire was coming from," said Alpha Team, 3rd Squad, 3rd Platoon leader Sgt. George Wojtowicz. "Then they engaged us, and we engaged the palm groves. They started way out ... then they kept coming closer and closer, and pretty soon they were right in our backyard."

The sudden onslaught of heavy firepower pinned down the 3rd Squad Soldiers.

"The difference between us and them is they can't maintain that kind of firepower for very long. We can," said Spc. Josh Nichols, who was on the rooftop when the Soldiers started taking fire.

Staff Sgt. Bruce Bowlan, 3rd Platoon sergeant, sent 2nd Squad to the gate of JSS Mushada to make sure the enemy was not trying to make a run at the

security station. Simultaneously, 1st Squad ran upstairs, joining 3rd Squad to return fire on the enemy location with a volley of rifle, machine gun and grenade launcher fire.

"We fired about 1,800 rounds in a matter of just two minutes," Nichols said.

The sudden onset of heavy fire caused the enemy attackers to flee from their firing positions.

Nichols said the attack was unusually well-orchestrated for the type of enemy activity 3rd Platoon is used to seeing at JSS Mushada.

There is still a lot of work left to be done in Mushada to ensure the security of the village, Lowe said. However, he remains hopeful and believes that if people continue to step up and speak out against terrorists in the area, Mushada will become a permanently secure area.

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## THE GRIPE

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# Clear as mud

**By Spc. Matthew Mikolas**  
*115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

I'm sure you know the scene I'm about to describe. We've all seen it in the movies a hundred times. The hero, downtrodden and gloomy from a day Murphy's Law doesn't even cover, is standing on a sidewalk on a rainy day when a car comes speeding by right through a puddle, covering the person in mud and muck. I call it the "Wow my life sucks" scene.

I shared a similar experience the other day, and true to form, my life was sucking. I was walking back to my tent, after seemingly the worst day possible, and our lovely little watering truck rolls past, soaking me from the knees down. Thank you, water truck.

I thought after leaving the wonderful Pacific Northwest to deploy to Iraq, I would no longer be subject to getting soaked suddenly and randomly throughout my day. Guess I was wrong about that one.

As if that's not bad enough, every time that truck goes through, it turns Camp Taji into a huge mud pit. If I wanted

to go traipsing through the mud, I would have joined the Army football team. Not to say they couldn't use me, with their 3-5 record. I'm telling ya, my 6.4 second 40-yard dash would turn some heads. Slowly, but they would turn.

Can anybody explain the purpose of this water truck? It's hard enough to keep things clean around here when everything is dry, let alone when you have 4 inches of thick mud and rocks caked on the bottom of your boot like layers on Starr Jones' wedding cake.

Everyone has been telling me about this "rainy season" we're going to experience while we're out here. Luckily enough, knock on wood, the rain has been kept at bay. In reality, I think it is just too afraid to come out here. Not going to get a complaint from me. But since we've been lucky enough so far not to deal with the torrential downpours trying to follow us from the wet Northwest, I see no reason to duplicate the effect with hosing down the sand and dirt out here.

Instead, let's use that truck for a more constructive purpose, like a wet T-shirt contest. Now, THAT'S using your resources.



# Husseiniyah security and services improve – A combined effort success story

**By Capt. Kenneth Scattergood**  
2-12 FA

In August, Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 12<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery and IA forces lifted a joint cordon around Husseiniyah designed to break the grip of insurgent forces on the city. Their efforts to secure the town for an extended period of time did not go unnoticed by local or international media and government leaders, with the standoff ending in a negotiated peace and lifting of the cordon.

In return for cooperation with Coalition Forces and a re-opening of the city to coalition presence, Coalition Forces agreed to redouble efforts towards improving essential service in the city. Since that time, Coalition Forces in partnership with the local government have significantly improved both the security and essential services situation for the people of this northern Baghdad suburb.

Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces have experienced a 95 percent decrease in attacks since the negotiated agreement was signed along with a marked increase in tip line calls and detainment of high-level insurgents connected to this cooperation. Examples of this increased cooperation include Task Force Viking's recent capture of the Raider Brigade's #1 high-value target with no resistance from the population, and an informant coming forth to turn over information that led to the discovery of two large IED caches and an anti-aircraft gun. The increased

cooperation from the local population has signaled a change for the better in Husseiniyah as more and more citizens choose to support their government and help rid their neighborhoods of criminal insurgent activities.

Coalition Forces have also worked hard to better the lives of the citizenry through works projects and aid to governance.

A neighborhood clean-up project started immediately following the signing of the agreement where more than 500 local Iraqis were employed to help clean trash and debris from the streets, providing much needed employment and improving the sanitary and health conditions of the town.

Checkpoints established on the roads surrounding Husseiniyah provide added security against insurgent and criminal activity, which has met the approval of the majority of the population.

Medical assistance, a constant point of concern for a city of 650,000 with out a hospital with surgical capability, has also been delivered to the people of Husseiniyah.

Hundreds have been helped as needed medical supplies and medical expertise have aided the local populace. Two combined medical efforts executed in one of the local clinics will be followed up with increased assistance to get the Ministry of Health involved with increasing capacity and medical capabilities in the town.

Another recent project focused on improving governance is a project to refurbish the conference room of the governing body of Husseiniyah.

Capt. Brian Todd, the project manager, said, "2-12 FA is working hand in hand with the Husseiniyah Nahia to tackle the litany of problems that face their community. The first step in doing so is helping to provide them the proper tools to run an effective and self sustaining Nahia. By refurbishing the Husseiniyah Nahia building, Coalition Forces can ensure a productive and effective work environment



Courtesy photo

Iraqis work to cleanup the streets of Husseiniyah. Coalition Forces in partnership with the local government have significantly improved both security and essential services for the people of this northern Baghdad suburb.

for Husseiniyah's leaders."

Though much work is still needed in the city, it is clear that all involved parties desire a change for the better in essential services and security, and plans to make these desires a reality are off to a good start.

## Making it happen with Hatchet Co., 202nd BSB

**By Sgt John O'Brien**  
Co. H, 202nd BSB

Hatchet Forward Support Company is a small FSC with a big mission.

These Soldiers have had an impact in the Raider Brigade far greater than their small size. Their mission includes providing all of the transportation, fuel, food and maintenance that is needed by 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery.

The Combat Repair Team performs maintenance, services and recovery for the battalion's vehicles and weapons. Hatchet's Field Feeding Team is the only one in 4-2 SBCT that is using their skills as cooks, and provides artillerymen at the JSS-East with two hot meals every day. Lastly, the distribution section moves anything that is needed, from mattresses to repair parts to food and water, and supplies fuel to many locations in the Viking







Courtesy Photo

Soldiers from Company H, 202nd Brigade Support Battalion pose for a photograph with Iraqi children.

Battalion's area of operations. Each of these sections hardly knew the other before being deployed to Iraq, but have since come together as a team.

Hatchet regularly conducts combat logistics patrols to support JSS East and anywhere else that 2-12 FA needs fuel or supplies. These CLPs are often augmented by elements of other companies in the 202nd, and sometimes 2-12 FA as well. Hatchet Company played a major role behind the scenes in Operation Viking Casbah in July, emplacing barriers and providing water, ice and fuel to some of the checkpoints. Other missions have included moving broken vehicles back to Taji, emplacing checkpoints along routes, and even serving as part of a cordon during Operation Viking Clampdown.

"Every Hatchet CLP is unique," said Capt. Charles Dotter, Hatchet commander. "From the personnel make up to the supplies being pushed, I've never seen a repeat mission. They only thing constant that I can predict is that the CLP will be executed flawlessly, in the most professional manner, and that the mission will be accomplished."

On some missions, they stop to provide fuel to two pumping stations in Rashidiyah to ensure that the population can keep their land and crops irrigated. On other missions, with the support of Company B, 202nd BSB, they provide fuel to the Iraqi Police to enable them to perform their mission of policing the towns of Rashidiya, Boob Al-Sham and Husseiniyah.

The success of Hatchet Co. in their mission is shown by the appreciation of those they support.

"H Company has been a great asset to 2-12 FA," said Capt. Neil Oberlin, a platoon leader with Battery A, 2-12 FA. "Their attention to detail and mission preparation is unmatched by any other unit in our brigade. Every time I eat breakfast I think of our support company and their dedication to the soldiers they care for. I am proud and honored to have Hatchet supporting our unit."

## Quickstrike ensures safe passage of al-Sindiya bridge

**Sgt. Jeremiah L. Maranell**  
HHC, 202nd BSB

The Quickstrike Platoon of the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division departed Camp Taji to embark on a mission of great importance. The bridge of Al-Sindiya, which is the primary means of passage between LSA Anaconda and Camp Warhorse, must be secured and controlled.

Immediately after the QS Platoons' boots touched ground at the foot of the bridge, the platoon established security and began operations to control both military and civilian traffic. It was a relentless task that never slowed and always kept the Soldiers on their toes. The days were long and hard and required mentally and physically sound Soldiers. Motivation was definitely key, but not one of the worries for the QS Platoon.

Throughout the day, the Soldiers conducted well over 600 vehicle and personnel inspections. All inspections were done at random in order to prevent any familiarity with the proce-

dures at the checkpoint by possible enemies. Through the detailed inspections, the QS Platoon seized numerous illegal weapons. In fact, on one such occasion, over 22 weapons were confiscated from a convoy.

Along with inspections, the platoon accomplished many other tasks, one of which was the training of the Uganda and IA military forces. The QS Platoon worked tirelessly with the Ugandans so that they could support the daily operations side by side with QS, if necessary. Additionally, they provided security and escort for 2-1 Cavalry commanders to multiple meetings with local leaders of the town of Al-Khalis. In addition, they also provided the commanders with interpreters for translation purposes.

The interpreters assigned to the QS Platoon contributed greatly and played a vital role in the mission success. Both of the interpreters assigned to the 202nd BSB were recognized with a Certificate of Achievement from their battalion commander.

As expected, the mission was completed without any incident. Every Soldier came back home to Camp Taji with a head on their shoulders and a smile on their face, but they were not without a few close calls. On one occasion, AQI attempted to place a pressure plate IED a mere 300 meters west of the Al-Sindiya bridge. Thankfully, due to Quickstrike's newly established relationship with many of the locals in the neighboring villages, a local tipped off the QS Platoon and foiled any plan the enemy had. EOD was promptly called in and the IED was properly destroyed.

As planned, the QS Platoon was successful in their mission. They left the Al-Sindiya Bridge a secure site and in the hands of the IA. For their dedication and duty, every Soldier in the platoon was awarded the Combat Spur by the 2-1 Cavalry commander. The QS platoon was the last U.S. forces to control the bridge and will unquestionably leave a footprint in history.



## Easy Sudoku

Rules: Fill in the empty cells with the digits 1-9 so that no

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

by Chris Okasaki, Department of EE&CS, USMA

digit appears twice in the same row, column, or 3-by-3 box.

## SAFETY ALERT



FIC-SAFE

HEADQUARTERS  
MULTI-NATIONAL CORPS-IRAQ  
BAGHDAD, IRAQ  
APO AE 09342

08 OCT 07

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT Safe Handling of Grenade Type Ammunition

1. During a unit ammunition turn-in, a Soldier attempted to remove duct tape from around the fuze of a MK 141 MOD 0 "Flash Bang" (1375-DWBS). While removing the tape, the Soldier accidentally pulled the pin and the charge exploded taking part of the Soldier's arm off and causing severe shrapnel injuries to his leg and face. Two other Soldiers also sustained injuries.

2. As with any type of ammunition, grenades should always be handled with extreme caution. Personnel should never attempt to remove tape from any grenade type ammunition item. The MK 141 MOD 0 "Flash Bang" is restricted from use by all military services. Units must turn-in all MK 141 MOD 0 "Flash Bang" to their servicing Ammunition Supply Point. Personnel must remember the following when handling grenades:

- Do NOT tape the safety lever or safety pin!
- Do NOT bend, tamper, modify or otherwise alter the safety pins or safety levers.
- Grenade safety devices are designed as part of the grenade to keep YOU safe!

NEVER REMOVE TAPE CALL YOUR SUPPORTING QASAS OR EOD

MK 141 Flash Bang - Note the White Band



Grenade, Hand M67 - Taped



ENSURE WIDEST DISEMINATION AND POST ON BULLETIN BOARDS

*Signature*

RAYMOND T. ODIERNO  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:  
IAW MNC-I (SJS) Form 1853: A

SAFETY ALERT

## FATALITY ALERT



One Team,  
One Mission -  
Security for Iraq's People!

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
MULTI NATIONAL DIVISION NORTH  
CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, APO AE 09393



## GUNNER EJECTED IN ROLLOVER



MND-N has experienced another Up-Armored HMMVV fatal rollover accident. The gunner was ejected from the gunner's hatch during the rollover sequence. The accident is being investigated, but from all the preliminary indications, this fatality was preventable! The Army has an approved Gunner's restraint harness system, that if installed and used, would have prevented the Soldier from being ejected. This system is offered only as an enhancement, however, Commanders are highly encouraged to order it and install it on their UAH vehicles. The NSN for M1114 kits is 2540-01-542-7412; NSN for M1151 kits is 2540-01-542-1130.

Additionally, Commanders and Leaders at all levels must ensure that TCs are physically conducting rollover drills with their crews, and monitor and correct the driver's speed as necessary based on the tactical situation, road and environmental conditions.

Commanders, First Line Leaders and Soldiers must ensure these Lessons Learned are integrated and enforced!

GARY S. PATTON  
COL, GS  
Chief of Staff

ENSURE WIDEST DISEMINATION; BRIEF TO SOLDIERS & POST ON BULLETIN BOARDS!

You'll only be **SAFE** when **Standards** Are **Fully** **Enforced**!

## FATALITY ALERT

MND-N 07-05

## Hard Sudoku

Rules: Fill in the empty cells with the digits 1-9 so that no

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

by Chris Okasaki, Department of EE&CS, USMA

digit appears twice in the same row, column, or 3-by-3 box.





# Got RISK?

<https://cra.army.mil>

PLRS

**Preliminary  
LOSS REPORTS**  
for the week of September 13-19 2007

# 4

**U.S. SOLDIERS  
DIED IN  
ACCIDENTS**

- 8 Soldiers Injured
- 2 HMMVWs Damaged

## LOSSES

➔ A Soldier was killed in a negligent discharge accident Sept. 14 at approximately 0010 local in Iraq. The Soldier was handling a 9mm pistol when it discharged a round, striking him in the head.

**COST: 1 Soldier Killed**

➔ A Soldier was killed in a motorcycle accident Sept. 15 at approximately 2030 local in Seneca, Pa. The Soldier was operating his 2006 Yamaha R6, with another motorcyclist, when he collided into the back of a vehicle. He was operating his motorcycle on a day-only restricted license and had not completed an Army-approved Motorcycle Safety Foundation course. He was wearing all required personal protective equipment. Speed is reported as a contributing factor.

**COST: 1 Soldier Killed**

➔ A Soldier was killed and four others injured in a HMMVW rollover accident Sept. 18 at approximately 0238 local in Iraq. The Soldiers were in the M1114 HMMVW when the driver attempted to make a lane change and lost control of the vehicle. The gunner was ejected as the vehicle rolled.

**COST: 1 Soldier Killed  
4 Soldiers Injured  
1 HMMVW Damaged**

➔ A Soldier was killed and four others injured in a HMMVW rollover accident Sept. 19 at approximately 0751 local in Iraq. The Soldiers were in the M1151 HMMVW, traveling in a convoy, when the driver swerved to miss a pot hole and lost control of the vehicle.

**COST: 1 Soldier Killed  
4 Soldiers Injured  
1 HMMVW Damaged**



Interested in a long term  
relationship with 2<sup>nd</sup> ID?

Check out the 2ID Association's  
webpage for more information

<http://2ida.swiftsite.com/>



## Sudoku Answers

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

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

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

## Medium Sudoku

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

Rules: Fill in the empty cells with the digits 1-9 so that no

digit appears twice in the same row, column, or 3-by-3 box.

by Chris Okasaki, Department of EEE&CS, USMA





## The cure for deployment blues

**Maj. Scott Riedel**  
4-2 SBCT Chaplain

It is very difficult being over here when you are away from your loved ones.

Those of us that are married miss our wives or our husbands for their companionship and understanding. We miss our children and all the events that go on in their lives, from the moment they first walk to the time they walk across the stage to receive their diploma.

For our single Soldiers, it can feel as if time has stood still – a time that can feel like you are on a treadmill and not going anywhere with your life. You may feel robbed and know it. All your friends back home are doing something, while you whittle away time doing a mission that many back in the States are not thankful for.

Deployments are tough. They take a piece of you that you can never get back. They change you into a person you never knew. They change your loved ones into people you don't recognize upon return.

This is my third deployment in five years and I must say each one of them are quite painful. The "goodbyes"

are excruciatingly painful, the "hellos, I'm home" are awesome, but the sense of loss is always present. The loss of time. The loss of memories. The loss of fellow Soldiers ...

How do we adjust? Do we just go back to being the person we left? It never happens that way. You can never be that person again. All you can do is move on.

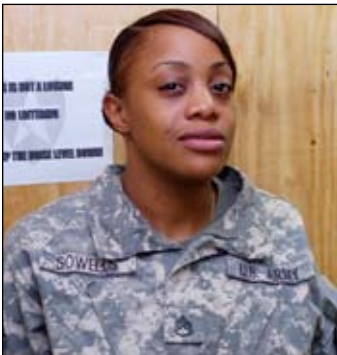
God tells us in Proverbs 3:5-6 that if you trust in Him with all your heart and not lean on what you see before you or what you feel within you, He will direct your path. I have found that true in my own life. After returning from deployment, I have found myself needing His guidance to give me purpose in life, a goal to pursue a career of ministry, and to rest my weary soul, my exhausted mind, and my tired body. Because when you trust in God, He takes care of it all.

Psalm 73:26 says it all: "My strength and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."

If you find yourself with "Deployment Blues" remember to trust in God and He will be your strength and portion that carries you through.

## SOUNDOFF!

### What traditions do you enjoy for Thanksgiving?



*"Eating all the cheese for the macaroni and cheese and my mama telling me to stop. Because she always tells me every year."*

**Staff Sgt. Ghana Sowells**  
Brigade Career Counselor  
HHC, 4-2 SBCT



*"My wife and I always go to my parents house in Virginia. My dad makes sweet potatoes, and my dad and I try to out-do each other at eating corn. My dad usually wins. Then, the family will get together and play board games. Go Virginia Tech."*

**Sgt. Joshua Jones**  
Squad Leader  
C Btry., 2-12 Field Artillery



*"I get up early that morning, and have some cold drinks. Then I cook traditional foods: greens and yams. Then the family comes over and we eat and play cards. I kick butt at cards."*

**Staff Sgt. Cassandra Knighton**  
Food Service Specialist  
A Co., 202nd BSB



*"A lot of cooking; all kinds of food. Always a turkey, but everything else is from the islands: ribs, chicken, and fish."*

**Capt. Richard Cruz**  
Commander  
472nd Signal Company



# FALLEN RAIDERS

## IN LOVING MEMORY...



*PFC Anthony J. Sausto*  
May 10, 2007  
Co. A, 1-38 IN

*PFC Aaron D. Gautier*  
May 17, 2007  
Co. B, 2-23 IN

*CPL Jonathan V. Hamm*  
May 17, 2007  
Co. B, 2-23 IN

*PFC Robert A. Worthington*  
May 22, 2007  
Co. B, 4-9 IN

*SSG Kristopher A. Higdon*  
May 22, 2007  
Co. B, 4-9 IN

*SSG David C. Kuehl*  
May 22, 2007  
Co. C, 4-9 IN

*SPC Mathew Philip LaForest*  
May 25, 2007  
Co. C, 4-9 IN

*PFC Junior Ceden Sanchez*  
May 28, 2007  
Co. B, 1-38 IN

*SSG Thomas M. McFall*  
May 28, 2007  
Co. B, 1-38 IN

*SPC William J. Crouch*  
June 2, 2007  
Trp. A, 2-1 CAV

*SGT Cory M. Endlich*  
June 9, 2007  
Trp. B, 2-1 CAV

*SGT Danny R. Soto*  
June 16, 2007  
Btry. C, 2-12 FA

*SPC Zachary A. Grass*  
June 16, 2007  
Btry. C, 2-12 FA

*SGT Joel A. Dahl*  
June 23, 2007  
HHC, 2-23 IN

*CPL Victor A. Garcia*  
July 1, 2007  
Co. B, 1-38 IN

*CPL Brandon M. Craig*  
July 19, 2007  
HHC, 4-2 SBCT

*SPC Rhett A. Butler*  
July 20, 2007  
Trp. B, 2-1 CAV

*PFC Shawn D. Hensel*  
Aug. 14, 2007  
Co. B, 2-23 IN

*PFC Willard M. Powell*  
Aug. 16, 2007  
Co. C, 4-9 IN

*SFC Daniel E. Scheibner*  
Aug. 29, 2007  
Btry. C, 2-12 FA

*SFC David A. Cooper Jr.*  
Sept. 5, 2007  
Co. B, 2-23 IN

*SPC Joseph N. Landry III*  
Sept. 18, 2007  
Co. A, 2-23 IN

*SPC Nicholas P. Olson*  
Sept. 18, 2007  
Co. A, 2-23 IN

*SPC Donald E. Valentine III*  
Sept. 18, 2007  
Co. A, 2-23 IN

*SPC Graham M. McMahon*  
Sept. 19, 2007  
Co. B, 4-9 IN

*CPL Luigi Marciante Jr.*  
Sept. 20, 2007  
Co. A, 2-23 IN

*CPL David L. Watson*  
Sept. 22, 2007  
HHC, 2-23 IN





# THE MONEY Shot



Soldiers gather explosively formed projectiles found in a home in Sa'ada Village, Iraq, Oct. 23. Working off a tip from a Concerned Local Citizen, Soldiers from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 1st Cavalry Regiment discovered a massive weapons cache in hidden room behind a fake wall, which included the most EFPs ever found in Iraq at one location. The Soldiers cache included 124 fully-assembled explosively formed projectiles, 159 copper disks of four different sizes used in making EFPs, 600-plus pounds of C4 and other explosive materials, 100 mortar rounds of various caliber, 31 107mm rockets, two mortar tubes and 20 claymore-type mines. The cache owner was detained by 2-1 Cav.

*Photos by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Dennis J. Henry Jr.  
1st Combat Camera Squadron*