

Serving Task Force Marne and MND-Center

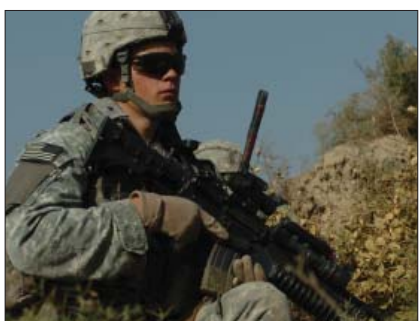
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## For 90 years of service, President Bush thanks 3rd Inf. Div. Soldiers

**A letter from the Commander in Chief**

I send greetings to those celebrating the 90th anniversary of the 3rd Infantry Division of the United States Army.

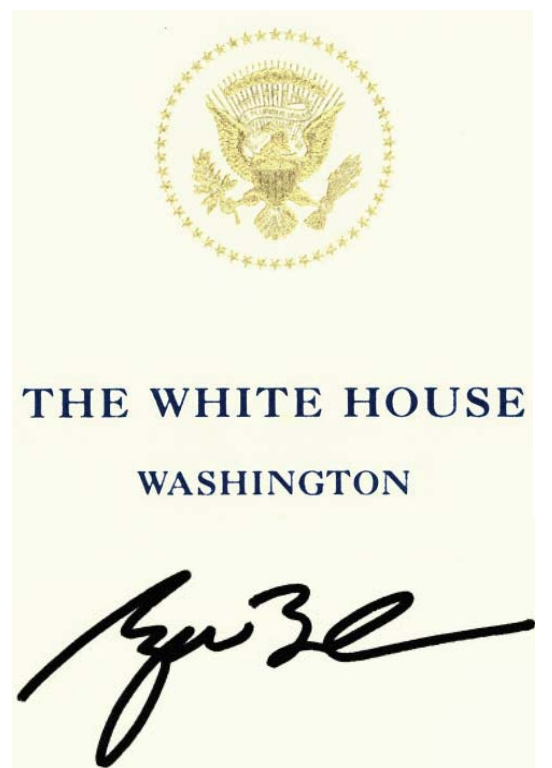
Since the founding of our republic, every generation of Americans has produced proud patriots willing to sacrifice for the liberty and security of our Nation. These heroes have demonstrated that freedom is the mightiest force on Earth and set a standard of idealism and courage for the world. Since World War I, the "Rock of the Marne" has defended the



United States in times of need and established a lasting heritage of service to our country. From the banks of the Marne to the Tigris River, the 3rd Infantry Division has proudly upheld the noble tradition of duty, honor, and love of country. All of us who live in liberty live in their debt, and we will never forget their sacrifice.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I thank all members of the 3rd Infantry Division, both past and present, for protecting our citizens and laying a foundation of peace for generations to come. This event is an opportunity to renew the strong bonds of friendship you forged in adversity and celebrate the proud history and achievements of the "Dog Face Soldiers." Your continued commitment to each other and our country is an inspiration.

Laura and I send our best wishes on this special occasion. May God bless you, may God bless our troops, and may God bless America.



## Rakkasans kick off Op. Marne Courageous

**Suspected al-Qaeda safe haven taken out, combat engineers bridge Euphrates**

By **Sgt. 1st Class Kerensa Hardy**  
3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Div. (AASLT)

**CAMP STRIKER** – For some, a wake-up call came in the form of a B-1b bomber dropping its load on a suspected insurgent safe haven in the pre-dawn hours Nov. 16.

Components from the Iraqi army and Rakkasans kicked off Operation Marne Courageous when 4,000 pounds of explosives were dropped on an island in the middle of the Euphrates River at 3:50 a.m.

The island that was targeted was located in the Euphrates River between Owasat and Al Beta. The objective was to deny insurgents



Staff Sgt. Tony M. Lindback / MND-C Public Affairs

Soldiers from the 502nd Engineer Company pulled floating bridge bays in place and locked them together for ferrying vehicles and heavy equipment across the Euphrates River in support of Operation Marne Courageous Nov. 16.

the opportunity to use the island as an asylum, said Air Force Capt. Craig Barham, 15th Expeditionary Air Support Operations Squadron, supporting the Rakkasans.

Marne Courageous, headed by the Rak-

kasans of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), is aimed at securing the population of Owasat and Al Beta,

**See COURAGEOUS, page 9**

Like the stories you've seen in the Marne Focus?

THE MARNE FORWARD

Search for "Marne Forward" on [www.dvidshub.net](http://www.dvidshub.net) or watch on the Pentagon Channel every other weekend:  
 Sat. - 1:30 p.m. (EST)  
 - 9:30 p.m. (Baghdad)  
 Sun. - 11:30 p.m. (EST)  
 - 7:30 a.m. (Baghdad)



**Marne 6 sends**

**'I'm most thankful for my Army family'**

Attacks in AO way down from 20 to 5 per day

**T**oday's Thanksgiving in Iraq may be the first for some Soldiers and the second or third for others. As Soldiers, it's hard to be thankful when we are so far from our Families and the ones we love. However, this Thanksgiving 300 million Americans are thankful for you.

You are serving on freedom's frontier and protecting their way of life. As they all sit down to give thanks today, many of them will give thanks for you, and the sacrifices of your Families.

Many of you have accomplished in 20 years, what typical Americans do not accomplish during their lifetime. Every day you take the fight to the enemy to protect the American way of

life. We fight terrorism here so our children and their children do not have to fight it at home.

Yesterday over 300 of you re-enlisted under General Petraeus in a magnificent ceremony celebrating the Division's 90th Birthday. For 90 years, Dog Face Soldiers have fought our Nation's wars because America called upon us.

The Division's history is rich, and Soldiers like you are the ones making history every day.

I am so thankful for each of you. Eight months ago when the 3rd Infantry Division deployed to Iraq to help with the southern Baghdad belts and the southern provinces, there were more than 20 attacks every day. Now attacks are down to less

*"This Thanksgiving 300 million American are thankful for you"*



Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch  
Task Force Marne Commander

I am also thankful for the leaders across this formation. Team leaders and squad leaders are ensuring Soldiers are doing the things right, and platoon leaders and company commanders are ensuring Soldiers are doing the right things. Today's fight is fought at the company level, and across the Division, Soldiers who are living at patrol bases among the Iraqi population are winning not only the hearts and minds of the Iraqis, but keeping the insurgents out of key places.

As I look across this battlefield I am very thankful for everything you do. Today, our thoughts turn to our Families, but I am most thankful for my Army family and all of the Soldiers in Task Force Marne.

**ROCK OF THE MARNE!**

than five per day.

You all developed the Concerned Local Citizens program – that was a grassroots project you started because the Iraqis felt comfortable with you. Iraqis wanted to join your crusade to protect their neighborhoods and keep al-Qaeda away from their families.

**Marne 6 holiday safety message ...**

Hi folks, Marne 6 here. I want to take a minute to address holiday safety. If you will be home for leave during this holiday season follow these safety guidelines. Or if you will be here, remind your families of them.

- Inspect your car before taking a road trip – check your gas, your tire pressure, your windshield wipers, and your brakes.

- Do not drive long distances on little sleep – It's better to reach your friends and family safely than risk an accident.

- Do not drink and drive.
- Do not leave Christmas lights on when you are sleeping or you are not home.

- Ensure you water your Christmas tree.

- If you leave town for a prolonged

amount of time, have a neighbor check on your house and collect your mail and newspapers so you do not draw attention to an empty house.

The holidays can be a very stressful time of the year – give yourself enough time to shop rather than hurry through a list of errands. And remember to take time for yourself so you can enjoy the holidays as well.



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 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)  
 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division  
 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade  
 214th Fires Brigade  
 7th Sustainment Brigade  
 720th Military Police Battalion  
 Mobile Unit 3 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Battalion  
 875th Engineering Battalion

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# Happy Birthday Marne Division

## Truscott Trot 5K commemorates 3rd ID, WWII general's legacy

BY STAFF SGT. CARLOS LAZO  
MND-C Public Affairs

**CAMP VICTORY** — The “Truscott Trot” five kilometer run was held at the Multi-National Division-Center Headquarters Nov. 17.

More than 200 people participated in the event, organized by the 3rd Infantry Division. Participants included Soldiers from Multi-National Forces – Iraq and other residents of Camp Victory. This is the first fun-run organized by the division during this deployment. The event was organized by Cpt. Valerie K. Foddrill, G1 planner. This was her first time planning such an event.

“It was so easy and turned out great,” she said.

Upon completing the run, participants received free T-shirts from Foddrill and fellow volunteers. The T-shirts were provided by the mayor cell.

Maj. Shawn D. Smith, MNF-I Staff Judge Advocate, was the first to finish.

The run was held to celebrate the memory and contributions of Gen. Lucian K. Truscott, Jr., commanding general of the 3rd Inf. Div. during World War II from March 1943 to January 1944.

Lucian King Truscott, Jr., was one of seven generals who commanded the 3rd Infantry Division during World War II.



Video image/Spc. Rebecka Reyes/MND-C Public Affairs  
More than 200 runners came out Nov. 17 for the Truscott Trot 5K fun-run.

Truscott took command of the 3rd Inf. Div. in March 1943, and oversaw preparations for the invasion of Sicily. He led the division in the assault on Sicily in July 1943.

He was known as a very tough trainer, bringing the division up to a very high standard. During the assault on Sicily, his training paid off when the division covered great distances in the mountainous terrain at high speed. The famous “Truscott trot” was a marching pace of five miles per hour over the first mile, thence four miles per hour, much faster than the usual standard of two and a half miles per hour. He also saw to it that infantry and artillery worked closely together and

**See TRUSCOTT, page 8**

## 3rd ID Soldiers re-enlist, talk about carrying on tradition

BY RENANAH MILES  
MND-C Public Affairs

**CAMP VICTORY** — The decision to join the military at any point in time demonstrates a willingness to serve. The decision to remain in the military in wartime, faced with the reality of multiple deployments, has deeper implications.

Two Soldiers shared their stories about why they have chosen to stay Army.

When Sgt. Patricia Daniels, S-1, Headquarters and Headquarters Support Company, Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, re-enlisted during Operation Iraqi Freedom III, she didn't know the significance of the date.

“Last time I was in Iraq, OIF III, I re-enlisted on the 21st of November, not realizing it was the 3rd ID birthday,” she said.

This year, Daniels' choice to recommit to the Army on the Division's 90th birthday is intentional.

Still, Daniels, a native of Miami, said the decision is bittersweet. While she loves her job, the separation from her husband and four children is hard.

“I like the camaraderie, I like the teamwork,” she said of the Army. “I don't like to deploy every other year.”

This year, with the ceremony falling

the day before Thanksgiving, Daniels will have home on her mind. She said Thanksgiving trumps Christmas in her family, and she has begged her husband and children to carry on the elaborate food preparation and holiday traditions.

Despite the sacrificed holiday, her conviction to serve remains unshaken.

There will be future wars and future demands on America's military to uphold its duty to the country, Daniels explained.

“I'm re-enlisting for the needs of the Army,” she said.

Spc. Heidi McNeely, also with S-1, HHSC, STB, 3rd Inf. Div., re-enlisted in July. Her husband, food service specialist John McNeely, re-enlisted in a private ceremony last week.

On Nov. 21, John will join with other Multi-National Division – Center Soldiers and affirm his commitment to the Army during a mass re-enlistment ceremony at Camp Victory's Al-Faw Palace.

“He's excited about it,” McNeely said. “He's looking forward to being able to be a part of it.”

Husband and wife, both from New Orleans, joined the Army for similar reasons.

**See RE-ENLIST, page 8**

## Celebrating 90 years of service: History of Division's beginnings in 1917

Ninety years ago this week on Nov. 21, 1917 the 3rd Division, now the 3rd Infantry Division, was officially born at Camp Greene, N.C., just west of Charlotte.

It was new in almost every way. It was being organized and trained at a brand new 6,000-acre installation. It was becoming part of an Army that for the first time in 1917 had been authorized by the War Department to establish permanent infantry divisions. Its subordinate units were being organized according to the new “square” configuration and staffed according to a new Table of Organization of Aug. 8, 1917 which authorized 27,120 soldiers in a fully manned division. And on November 28, it got a commander, Maj. Gen. Joseph Dickman, who had just received his second star in August 1917.

From the very beginning, the 3rd Division learned to deal with problems and hardship. Camp Greene (named for Revolutionary War General Nathaniel Greene) provided both. Secretary of War Newton Baker had decided that, as winters in the south were not severe, camps there did not need permanent buildings. So Camp Greene had been built as a tent city to save money.



Camp Greene, N.C., where the 3rd Division conducted its first training in 1917.

Unfortunately, the winter of 1917-18 in Charlotte was “cold, rainy and muddy. Men, animals and machines got stuck in the mud” because the camp, constructed in only 90 days, had few paved roads. As Maj. Gen. Dickman later wrote, “The training of the 3rd Division was started at Camp Greene, N.C., under a serious climatic handicap.”

Another problem was 3rd Division subordinate units could not assemble and train together: There was not enough room for them all at Camp Greene. (The 41st Division, a National Guard unit, was already training at Camp Greene when the 3rd Division was organized.) The Infantry Brigades formed and trained at Greene.

The 3rd Field Artillery Brigade, how-

ever, had its headquarters at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and regiments training elsewhere in Texas, in Arizona, and in Mississippi.

The Trains were equally scattered: The HQ and MPs and Ammunition Train were formed and trained at Chicamauga Park, Ga. The Supply Train was organized at Fort Sam Houston and the Sanitary Train, which was comprised of Ambulance and Hospital Sections, was formed at other Texas sites.

The 6th Engineer Regiment was in Washington, D.C., and left for Europe in early December as the other units were just coming into existence.

Still, Maj. Gen. Dickman was generally satisfied with the training the Division had at Camp Greene in the three months

through February 1918.

“Conducted principally along the lines of the traditional doctrine of American infantry...the work gave early indications of good results.” “The offensive and skill with the rifle were inculcated rather than the defensive with grenades and trench warfare.”

Training continued when most of the Division's subordinate units finally got together in the training area of Chateau-Villain in the Department of Haute Marne, France, in May 1918.

Dickman's opinion would soon be validated. By the time the 3rd Division celebrated its first anniversary as part of the Army of Occupation in Germany, it had become the “Rock of the Marne” and created a heritage that is remembered today.

# Veterans Day naturalization biggest ever in Iraq

## 2nd BCT, 3rd ID Soldiers become citizens, Chertoff leads ceremony

By SGT. JASMINE CHOPRA  
302nd MPAD  
(Special to MND-C Public Affairs)

LSA ANACONDA – In thick Arabic, Spanish, and other foreign accents, the words, “I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic,” were declared at LSA Anaconda Nov. 11 in the largest naturalization ceremony to date in Iraq. Secretary of Homeland Security, Michael Chertoff, led candidates in the Oath of Allegiance.

“So help me God,” said Spc. Yasser Afffi, a linguist with 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. A smile appeared on his face upon completing the last clause of the Oath of Allegiance, the declaration all candidates for naturalization recite, marking their passage into U.S. citizenship.

Excited about his naturalization ceremony, Afffi brought his very own American flag.

“Before, I was an Egyptian serving in the U.S. Army. Now, I am an American serving my country,” Afffi said.

The ceremony was held on Veterans Day at the Sustainer

Theater at LSA Anaconda, under the auspices of the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) (ESC).

“Not too many years ago this theater was the site of entertainment and events under a different kind of regime led by a brutal dictator. That we can transform this space into a hallowed place in which the oath of freedom and citizenship is administered, is a true illustration of the transformative power of the kind of work that you do in carrying the torch of freedom,” Chertoff said.

One new citizen, who understands well what life under brutal conditions is like, is Spc. Lamine Toure, a supply specialist with 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. Three years ago, living in the devastated Ivory Coast, Toure never imagined he would be serving in Iraq.

“This day means everything to me. All my life I have wished to become an American. It is the best feeling for me and my family,” Toure said.

Toure’s wife, Nan Aissata, and their 4-month-old twin boys, Muhame Lamine and El Hadjah, live in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.



Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra / 302nd MPAD

Spc. Yasser Afffi, a linguist with 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., stands with Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch, 316th ESC commander, and Michael Chertoff, Secretary of Homeland Security.

Toure hopes to bring his family to the U.S. as soon as possible.

“The situation in Ivory Coast is too difficult. I want a better future for my wife and babies. I think we will have this in America,” he said.

Toure, a practicing Muslim, said his company has made every effort to help him practice his faith.

It’s easy to assume all U.S. Soldiers are American, but in fact more than 40,000 servicemembers are not, according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. These foreign-born men and women have pledged commitment to the U.S. Constitution by serving in the

military, and many are availing themselves of a July 2002 executive order making members of the Armed Forces immediately eligible to apply for citizenship.

“I can’t think of people who are more deserving of citizenship than those who are fighting to defend the country even before they are citizens,” added Chertoff. “They understand that freedoms don’t come free, and they are willing to make sacrifices even before they reap the benefits of citizenship.”

Making sacrifices is common for Spc. Erwin Salvan, a patient administration specialist with Company B, 26th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf.

Div., who has helped support his siblings in the Philippines since joining the Army.

“I’m single, so I am sending my eldest brother to nursing school. Serving in the Army has given me the ability to financially support my family in the Philippines,” he said. “Many people back home want American citizenship. It doesn’t make sense to serve in the U.S. Army and stay a Filipino citizen, so there is no sadness letting go of it,” he said.

Emilio T. González, director, USCIS, himself an Army veteran, presented each recent citizen with a certificate of naturalization. Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch, 316th ESC Commanding General, congratulated each new American citizen-veteran.

“It is fitting that these wonderful warriors be granted citizenship on Veteran’s Day,” Couch said.

Naturalized servicemembers also received a U.S. flag from the 316th ESC senior enlisted leader, Command Sgt. Maj. Stacey E. Davis.

Approximately 4,000 servicemembers have earned U.S. citizenship while serving abroad since 2004.

For more information on becoming a U.S. Citizen: <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis> and contact your battalion S1.

# 2 warrant officers receive Air Medal

## After enemy fire, forced landing, pilots repair, fly Apache once again

By PFC. MONICA K. SMITH  
3rd CAB, 3rd Inf. Div. Public Affairs

BAGHDAD – Two warrant officers received Air Medals Nov 12 for their actions in the safe recovery of a damaged Apache.

During a reconnaissance mission Sept 26, an Apache received enemy fire and was forced to land at Contingency Operating Base Cahill southwest of Baghdad. Chief Warrant Officer Curt Harcus, maintenance test pilot with Company B, 603rd Aviation Support Battalion, and Chief Warrant Officer Marty Caulkins, pilot with Co. D, 1st Battalion, 3rd Avn. Regiment, were sent to assess the damage of the aircraft. After evaluating the extent of the damage, Harcus and Caulkins decided to repair the aircraft and to fly it back to Baghdad International Airport.

With the help of maintenance Soldiers with Co. B, 603rd ASB, Harcus and Caulkins worked

from Sept. 27-29 to remove the gun turret and replace the aircraft’s three landing struts and one damaged main rotor blade.

Both were awarded the Air Medal by Col. Daniel Ball, commander of 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, at the 3rd CAB flight line in Baghdad. By choosing to fly the Apache back to BIAP, the officers saved Soldiers from having to retrieve the aircraft through a convoy on dangerous roads, Ball said.

“(The award) was unexpected,” Caulkins said. “I was just doing my job. You never expect awards for doing your job.”

Both officers gave credit to the maintenance crew who worked on the aircraft, who were given Army Commendation Medals for their part in the recovery of the damaged Apache.

“I’m glad for the award but I’m happier to see my mechanics receive awards,” Harcus said. “The mechanics made the repairs so I could fly back.”



Chief Warrant Officer Marty Caulkins (foreground left), a pilot with Co. D, 1-3 Avn. Regt., and Chief Warrant Officer Curt Harcus, a pilot with Co. B, 603rd ASB, receive the Air Medal from Daniel Ball, commander of 3rd CAB, Nov. 12 at the 3rd CAB flight line in Baghdad.

Photo:  
Pfc. Monica K. Smith

# Odierno visits community of Hawr Rajab

## Once embattled streets lend way for MNC-I commander

By SGT. LUIS DELGADILLO  
2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. Public Affairs

FOB KALSU – Lt. Gen. Raymond T. Odierno bought a bag of sweet bread from a young boy in Hawr Rajab as he walked through the town Nov. 8.

Just 90 days prior, Odierno, commander of Multi-National Corps - Iraq, would never have been able to brave the streets of this rustic farming community.

The goodwill visit to the area marked significant steps achieved by Paratroopers of 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division.

Through dialogue and partnerships with community leaders of Hawr Rajab, the Paratroopers, operationally assigned to 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga., have seen a sharp decline of attacks in the area.

“Soldiers have poured their hearts and souls into this area for the last fifteen months, and to see it improve this substantially is beyond even our greatest expectations,” said Capt. Chad Klascius commander of Troop A, 1-40th Cav. Regt.

Though much of this success can be attributed to Coalition efforts, the model for future security opera-

tions seems to be taking shape with an unprecedented partnership between Iraqi army troops and Concerned Local Citizens.

While touring the town, Odierno received a glimpse of what many hope will be an increasingly fruitful partnership.

Shops all around were open. Iraqi troops stood ready at their checkpoints while the CLCs roved their community making sure all remained calm.

Every seat in the large meeting room inside the CLC headquarters was filled as Odierno met with the leaders of Hawr Rajab. Leaders from all around the area had come to thank Coalition leadership.

“We will continue to drive support down here to build the economic infrastructure. We will continue to work with the government of Iraq to get salaries paid,” Odierno said.

“We’re going to really put a large effort toward that,” he said. “This is a partnership that we must have to be successful, and I know that this partnership will be successful.”

Aside from the educational experience for Odierno, Klascius said the visit was a chance for leaders in the community to see that U.S. Forces believed the developing security situation in Hawr Rajab was a vital step in the right direction.



Lt. Gen. Raymond T. Odierno (above), commander of MNC-I, meets the leader of the Concerned Local Citizens in Hawr Rajab. Odierno walked through the city and met with CLC leadership in an effort to bolster support for the grassroots security organization. A Paratrooper (left) stands guard at an Iraqi army checkpoint in Hawr Rajab during Odierno's visit.

Photos: Sgt. Luis Delgadillo

# Clinic remodel project a step in right direction

By SPC. EMILY J. WILSONCROFT  
MND-C Public Affairs

CAMP VICTORY – Healthy people are happy people, as the saying goes, and with Operation Marne Hawks, Task Force Marne has taken on the job of helping the Iraqi people get healthy.

The humanitarian effort, named after a 3rd Infantry Division medic, Medal of Honor recipient Lloyd Hawks, is a push to prepare 10 Baghdad-area medical clinics to meet the needs of the people.

The operation was the brainchild of Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, Multi-National Division – Center commander, said Maj. Martine Kidd, 3rd Inf. Div. logistics planner.

Lynch noticed that the facilities were not sufficient when he was out on battlefield circulation, she said.

The plan to improve the Iraqi clinics was put into action in late August, Kidd said.



Courtesy photo

Soldiers work with an Iraqi man on a clinic reconstruction in Al Wahida.

“All the units in the brigades did assessments of the status of clinics in their areas, and they found a lot of things wrong,” she said.

Kidd said the clinics selected for refurbishment were chosen based on their need.

“This operation has targeted 10 clinics in small towns, some in remote areas,” she said. “There are a lot of people

who can't make it to the city clinics, so we have to make sure that they can get proper care in their area.”

Work on the clinics began in late October, and improvements are already noticeable in some places, said Sgt. 1st Class Chuck Cutler, the TF Marne civil affairs public health NCO, who has been tracking the project's progress.

The work on some of the clinics is in full swing, Cutler said, and some seem to be about finished.

“From what I gather,” he said, “the (brigade combat teams) are pleased with how things are going.”

The benefits reaped from Marne Hawks won't be exclusively medical, he said.

Iraqi contractors are doing the reconstruction work, and the completion of the clinics will, in some areas, increase job availability for local residents, with less assistance needed from Coalition Forces.

“The Iraqis are in charge of their clinics,” Cutler said. “We're just there to

monitor the work and provide guidance as needed.”

In addition to providing jobs, Kidd said she believes the operation is going to impact Iraqi communities on a much larger scale.

“This is a prelude to the division's new campaign plan, which is not to let down security, but to put more of an emphasis on governance, economics and rule of law,” she said.

There haven't been any specific security threats on the clinics so far, Cutler said.

“The Iraqis are looking for assistance to take care of the people in their areas,” he said. “They're welcoming the assistance; they're trying to get the local government involved and get the bad guys out.”

That goal may not be attained immediately, but until then – thanks to Marne Hawks – at least the Iraqi people will have their health.

# Paratroopers check up on CLC checkpoint

## Saddam-era colonel turned CLC leader breaks bread, sips warm soda with troops

By SGT. LUIS DELGADILLO  
2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. Public Affairs

FOB KALSU – The Paratroopers' five-kilometer walk through Adwaniyah Nov. 10 was uneventful. For the Paratroopers of 1st platoon, Troop B, that calm made Operation Boundary a success.

The mission for 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division Paratroopers was to check on the new Concerned Local Citizens checkpoints and meet with their leader.

Along with a squad-size group of specially trained Iraqi army scouts, the Paratroopers met with the leader of the CLCs in Adwaniyah.

The IA soldiers received scout training from Paratroopers of Troop B more than two months ago. Since then, the IA scouts had been putting their skills to the test by accompanying 1-40th Cav. Regt. Paratroopers on various missions.

As they walked toward the CLCs leader's house, many of the Paratroopers recalled the dangers they had faced there not more than three months before. The main threat came from improvised explosive devices planted by insurgents, who at one point were tolerated by local residents.

Many of the troops remarked about the number of local residents who came out to greet them as they walked. Other troops just strolled, quietly scanning the adjacent palm groves.

1st Lt. Robert T. Hamilton, platoon leader of 1st platoon, said that about a month and a half ago the community leaders of Adwaniyah began coming to their forward operating base to discuss ways they could become involved in the



Photos: Sgt. Luis Delgadillo

Staff Sgt. Mike Pershell, a senior scout in 1st Plt., Trp. B, 1-40th Cav. Regt. waves vehicles past him while providing security on a road in Adwaniyah.

protection of their community.

Adwaniyah, like many communities south of Baghdad, had become a thoroughfare for insurgents transporting weapons and accelerants of violence into the capital. The expansive agricultural region was rife with insurgents and al-Qaeda's heavy-handed influence.

Hamilton mentioned one of Adwaniyah's community members, who – at his own family's peril – had taken upon himself to work with Coalition Forces, recruit local residents for a CLC group, and rid his community of anti-Iraqi forces.

That same individual, a Saddam-era Iraqi army colonel, had a special treat for the Paratroopers. Upon arriving at his home, Troop B's 1st platoon and the IA

scouts were presented with a large feast of lamb, rice, fresh cucumber and tomato salad and tangy, reddish okra soup.

During the meal, Hamilton, his Paratroopers, IA soldiers, and CLCs ate and discussed the area's security.

Since the organization of the CLCs, Hamilton is greatly impressed with the freedom of maneuver he and his fellow Paratroopers now enjoy.

"They believe in what's happening," Hamilton said of the CLCs in Adwaniyah. "They understand that whatever transpires because of the information they give you, they are accountable for it."

Hamilton said that though the group of concerned citizens is only two weeks old and has less than a hundred members, it

has the potential to gain momentum and grow further, a growth that has manifested itself in terms of security checkpoints.

Having had their fill of food, conversation and warm soda, the Paratroopers continued with their mission to inspect the checkpoints.

As they walked to the next checkpoint, the sun began to set and the only sign of aggression in the neighborhood was the incessant barking of dogs.

On the roof of a well-kept two story home surrounded by long mud huts housing chickens, the Paratroopers found a group of men armed and ready to defend Adwaniyah from insurgents.

The citizens gave a situational report. Their only item to report was of a vehicle seen earlier, which they suspected of being used by a known insurgent to carry out attacks against their checkpoint.

The checkpoints were constructed and manned two days ago and since then have already been drawing machine gun and mortar fire from insurgent fighters a few kilometers away.

While the 1-40th Cav. Regt. troops were on the rooftop, the sun set, darkening the landscape and leaving an unexpected calm on the area, a calm that Staff Sgt. Mike Pershell, senior scout with 1st Platoon, was thankful for.

Pershell said the residents have had issues with availability of power and water, and that Soldiers have stressed the need for security first. Now, Pershell said, residents are working toward security so development and reconstruction can occur.

Under cover of night, the troops made their way back to their vehicle drop-off site. They accomplished their day's mission and mounted up for their return trip back to the base.

Among thorn bushes, Spc. Jon Joseph Belajac, Trp. B, 1-40th Cav. Regt., scans the horizon at a CLC checkpoint in Adwaniyah. Belajac, of Pittsburgh, and other members of 1st platoon conduct their last mission checking new CLC checkpoints.



Staff Sgt. Mike Pershell, senior scout, 1st Plt., Trp. B, 1-40th Cav. Regt., walks through a field en route to visit a newly established CLC checkpoint in Adwaniyah. Pershell is from Bridgman, Mich.

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# 'Duking it out' with help from Guard MPs

Potential Iraqi policemen learn fighting techniques, much more at training

By **Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky**  
2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. Public Affairs

FOB KALSU – A year ago, the courtyard was home to insurgent weapon caches designed to inflict destruction and chaos in the Arab Jabour region. In a dramatic transformation, the same courtyard has become a training ground for a group of potential Iraqi policemen who want to help bring order to their community.

On Nov. 13, Soldiers of the 153rd Military Police Company, Delaware City, Del., National Guard, currently attached to 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, gave 25 Arab Jabour Concerned Local Citizens training.

The Guardsmen, most of whom are policemen in their communities back home, instructed the Iraqis in tactics and techniques that police find useful on the job.

The training included how to search vehicles and people, check identification, establish checkpoints, administer first aid, react to violence in the community and hand-to-hand combat.

First Lt. Daniel DeFlavis, a Delaware state trooper, said his Soldiers were



Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

Spc. Rawmean Davis, 3rd Plt., 153rd MP Co., Delaware City, Del., National Guard, corrects the hand position of a potential police recruit in Arab Jabour.

able to bring a large amount of policing knowledge to the classroom.

"We have a lot of police officers in our unit – Wilmington officers, New Castle County officers, probation and patrol and customs control," DeFlavis said. "We have a wide variety of different police and policing style. That's what we bring to the table."

The policemen attempted to impart less tangible lessons to the citizens in addition to the training.

"We want to impart on the trainees to take pride in their uniform and service to their community," said Staff Sgt. John French, a Wilmington, Del., probation and parole officer.

Such pride and sense of responsibility

is important in creating a respected police force in an area which has never had its own internal police force, DeFlavis said.

One stigma left over from Saddam Hussein's rule was corruption in the police force, DeFlavis said. By getting future policemen from citizens within the community who have proven their dedication to its security by being Concerned Local Citizens, DeFlavis said he hopes to create a model police force in the area.

"I think it is a great honor to start this mission from the ground up," French added of the opportunity to impart his wisdom on the recruits.

Although not all individuals trained today may go on to become Iraqi policemen, the MPs hope their training will help give those who do a push to success.

Sheikh Tomah Al Juburi, a prominent local area sheikh who has taken an active role in rebuilding the infrastructure of Arab Jabour, said involvement and partnership with the central government by integrating local security would add even more pride to the community.

"They fought the terrorists and are proud of it; no more insurgents come and shoot at their families and animals," he said through an interpreter. "They feel proud of their community and want the officials of Iraq to come and help build up the country."

## EO Leaders course trains NCOs to listen, teach

By **Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft**  
MND-C Public Affairs

The Equal Opportunity Leaders course was held Nov. 6-11 in a classroom at the Camp Liberty education center, led by Master Sgts. Rufus Lewis and Delanor Nurse and Sgt. 1st Class Edwin Reyes, Multi-National Division-Center EO advisers.

The course is designed to train NCOs in 3rd Infantry Division's battalions and companies how to identify and prevent discrimination and sexual harassment in the command.

"We teach NCOs the normal complaint procedures regarding sexual harassment, racism and sexism," Reyes said "We train them on how to educate Soldiers about EO."

The EOLC is a method of grooming NCOs in small group settings in the ways of propagating the idea that it is not right for Soldiers to offend one another, and to do so in small group settings.

Reyes said in the five-day, 60-hour class, the newly-appointed EOLs learn the regulations governing the EO program.

Often, this means drilling previously-formed "misconceptions" out of the students' heads.

"Some EOLs, when they go to the course, have their own ideas, behaviors and attitudes," Reyes, who was an EOL himself for five years before becoming an EOA in May, said. "By the end, they have gotten to know themselves much better."

He emphasized that the NCOs, who were hand-picked by their battalions and companies to "match Army-wide demographics," were also taught to give equal attention to all Soldiers' complaints without get-

ting personally involved with any one issue.

"We teach them how to be tough, how to have the responsibility of EOLs," Reyes said. "They're just going to sit down and listen. They are not trying to meet a quota."

In the event that a Soldier's problem is determined to be worthy of further investigation, he said the EOLs are instructed to refer the Soldier to an EOA or other division agency, such as the inspector general's office.

Reyes urged commanders, first sergeants and section leaders to send their NCOs and officers holding the rank of sergeant through first lieutenant to the course.

"The more trained people we have, the smoother the transition of all our quarterly (mandatory EO) classes is going to be, as well as the EO climate," he said.

The class graduated 21 NCOs Nov. 11 – 21 more NCOs who, armed with regulations, are now prepared to go forth and teach Soldiers.

**The EO program also highlights and increases awareness of all ethnic groups.**

**Upcoming Observances:**

**November:** Native American Indian Heritage Month

**January:** Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday

**February:** African American History Month

**March:** Women's History Month



Courtesy photos

Students of the MND-C EOL course practice conducting a small group facilitation, where they are challenged to deal with many types of behaviors.



Lt. Col. James Woods receives a gift from Master Sgt. Rufus Lewis, MND-C Deputy EO Program Manager, for being the guest speaker at graduation.

# MRAP moves in with Infantrymen

## New vehicle makes Task Force Marne debut

By **Sgt. Michael Connors**  
Editor, *Marne Focus*  
MND-C Public Affairs

**CAMP VICTORY** – Approximately 75 Soldiers were the first in Task Force Marne to receive Mine Resistant and Ambush Protected vehicles when they completed MRAP training at Camp Liberty in the beginning of November.

The bulk of the Soldiers are from 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. The group was also comprised of Soldiers from other units within 2nd BCT including 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment.

After the Soldiers received MRAP training, they returned to their respective bases with the new vehicles. In all, 20 MRAPs were fielded. Fielding will continue steadily, and the plan is for 2nd BCT to complete fielding by February, said Sgt 1st Class Jabari Williams, the 2nd BCT MRAP fielding NCOIC. MRAP fielding across the entire task force will continue until redeployment, added Williams.

MRAPs come in two categories. Category one holds up to six Soldiers and will replace the Humvee. Category two is a longer version, which can hold a crew of 10 Soldiers.

**NOT YOUR EVERYDAY DIPSTICK:** Staff Sgt. Steve Stutzman, Co. A, 1-30th Inf. Regt., checks fluid levels on a brand new Mine Resistant and Ambush Protected vehicle during MRAP training at Camp Liberty. Stutzman is from Nappanee, Ind.



“It’s a good opportunity for us,” said Sgt. David Ipock of Co. A, 1-30th Inf. Regt., in regard to the MRAP training. “Anytime we get a new vehicle with more protection, it’s a good thing.”

The Soldiers received five days of training on how to operate, drive and maintain the MRAPs. The training included classroom instruction and on- and off-road driving. This training also introduced the Soldiers to some new features the Humvee lacked, like a pneumatic rear ramp and a shock-absorbing seating system with four-point seat belts.

“The bomb protection with the seats – I think that might help a lot,” said Ipock. “Everything’s just more advanced – the switches and gauges – things like that.”

Spc. Daniel Lopez with Co. B, 1-30th Inf. Regt. also weighed in with what he liked about the new vehicle.

“It’s a big, new toy to replace the 1151 (Humvee) – a lot more room,” he said. “I feel more secure in it than the 1151.”

The training not only familiarized Soldiers with the vehicles, but it built confidence as well by giving Soldiers the opportunity to drive the vehicles over steep hills and through tight turns.

“As far as the suspension and handling, I was fairly impressed with it,” said Staff Sgt. Steve Stutzman of Co. A, 1-30th Inf.



Photos: Sgt. Michael Connors

**MONSTER TRUCK RALLY?** Soldiers from 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division conduct off-road drivers training in a brand new Mine Resistant and Ambush Protected vehicle at Camp Liberty.

Regt. “I went down a 60-degree hill and hit the brakes, nose first, and we just sat there – the vehicle has really good air brakes.”

MRAPs are designed to be both safe and effective for Soldiers conducting patrols, convoy security and missions throughout Iraq. The goal is for each

platoon to eventually have four MRAPs, Williams added.

Although the Humvee is not expected to be phased out anytime soon, the MRAP will begin to take its place as the new standard Army vehicle.

(Sgt. Mark B. Matthews, 27th Public Affairs Detachment, contributed.)



**‘I THINK I’LL TAKE IT’:** Pfc. Jeremy Shelton, Co. B, 1-30th Inf. Regt., kicks the tire of his brand new Mine Resistant and Ambush Protected vehicle at MRAP training at Camp Liberty. Shelton is from Monticello, Ga.

## TRUSCOTT: fun-run part of 3rd ID’s birthday celebration

From page 3

that battle simulations used live mortars, machine guns and ammunition. The 3rd Infantry Division was considered by many the best-trained, best-led division in the Seventh Army.

In mid-September 1943, nine days after the initial Allied landings, he led the division ashore at Salerno on the Italian mainland, where it fought its way up the peninsula.

His son, Lucian K. Truscott III served during the Korean War as a rifle company commander. Truscott once told his son, “Let me tell you something, and don’t ever forget it. You play games to win, not lose. And you fight wars to win.”

## RE-ENLIST, from Page 3

“The biggest motivation was stability,” McNeely said. “That’s what keeps me and him going.”

But being deployed simultaneously is a mixed blessing.

“It’s nice ... comforting,” McNeely said. “But kind of scary because we have two kids.”

John’s parents are taking care of the children while mom and dad are deployed. Their oldest daughter, 8 years old, is aware enough to wonder where her parents are and why they went away. McNeely said she gave her children a simple explanation.

“I told them (it’s) because there

were people who needed help from us,” McNeely explained. “I didn’t go any further than that. She didn’t question it. The only thing she questioned was if something was going to happen to me.”

“I told her that God gave her to me,” McNeely continued. “I’m not done taking care of her yet.”

Whatever the motivation to re-enlist – both Daniels and McNeely say options for school are a factor for their decision.

On Nov. 21, more than 300 Soldiers from across MND-C will re-enlist or affirm their re-enlistment in a mass ceremony on Camp Victory. The re-enlistment corresponds with the 3rd Inf. Div.’s

90th birthday – a reminder of the rich heritage of the Division, and a celebration of its Soldiers.

Gen. David Petraeus, commander of Multi-National Force – Iraq, will administer the Oath of Enlistment.

Falling a day before Thanksgiving, the ceremony comes as a poignant reminder of the tradition and duty that lie at the heart of Task Force Marne Soldiers’ choice to serve their country.

While the decision to re-enlist is never made lightly, McNeely said she has never regretted it.

“There wasn’t really a discussion,” she said. “That’s what I wanted to do.”



Staff Sgt. Tony M. Lindback

Soldiers from the 502nd Engineer Company ferry heavy equipment from Patrol Base Dragon to the west bank of the Euphrates River for Operation Marne Courageous.

## COURAGEOUS: Search for missing Soldiers continues

### From Front page

former insurgent sanctuary areas, by establishing a permanent presence on the west side of the Euphrates River.

"In addition to that we're going to exploit any intelligence that could lead us to the missing or captured Soldiers from 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division," said Maj. Curtis Crum, 3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Div. (AASLT), operations officer. The two Soldiers, Spc. Alex Jiminez and Pvt. Byron Fouty went missing May 12.

"The goal of this joint effort with the Iraqi army and U.S. Soldiers is to defeat any remaining extremists or al-Qaeda in Iraq operatives on the western side of the Euphrates River in our zone," Crum said.

The operation has three phases: intelligence-gathering, establishing security and maintaining a presence.

Phase two began with the bombing and air assault, where units went into Owesat and Al Betra, knocking on doors and trying to identify anti-coalition forces and al-Qaeda, as well as looking for information that might lead to the whereabouts of Jiminez and Fouty.

The second and third phases overlapped. While troops on the ground established security after the air assault, a float bridge unit out of Hanau, Germany, 502nd Engineer Company, began emplacement of a bridge that extends from Patrol Base Dragon across the Euphrates to extend the lines of communication.

"The movement of forces to clear the objective, since it is somewhat permissive, is going very smooth, so we were able to employ the bridge immediately," said Col. Dominic Caraccilo, commander of 3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Div. (AASLT), adding that a good portion of the bridge was emplaced in the first day.

Also a part of the third phase is the construction of Patrol Base Kemple, where Company A, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Div. (AASLT) will be based. The patrol base will be operational by mid-December.

The patrol base is named after Cpl. Andrew Kemple who was deployed to Iraq with Co. A, 3-187th Inf. Regt. when he was killed Feb. 12, 2006.

From the timing of the bombing to boots on the ground, the commander of the Rakkasans said everything was on point, and he is pleased with what has happened so far.

"We expected nothing less than perfection when you do an air assault because the risk associated ... is so high that you can't accept anything (else)," Caraccilo said. "Tactically, for us to be able to employ like this is pretty significant – that was exceptional."

"To be able to get on aircraft with pilots we've never really trained with shows that the Army truly is modular," he added. Referring to assets from Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Caraccilo said, "That we can plug into another division and use their combat multipliers and be successful is another confirmation that the Army transformation worked."



Photos: Pfc. Monica K. Smith

Members of Co. C, 2-3 Avn. Regt. perform a preflight check on the Black Hawk the team will use for the day. The preflight inspection begins at 6 a.m. each morning to ensure the aircraft is ready to go when the medical evacuation company receives a call.

## When time matters most

### 2-3 Avn. Regt. Medevac stands ready, is up in air in minutes

By Pfc. MONICA K. SMITH  
3rd CAB, 3rd Inf. Div. Public Affairs

CAMP STRIKER — "Medevac! Medevac! 2nd Up..." As the call comes over the radio, the living room of the pilots, crew chiefs and medics of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment springs to life.

Soldiers scramble to grab their gear and run to the Black Hawks that will carry them to the site where a patient waits for a lift to the 25th Combat Surgical Hospital in Baghdad.

Speed is key to the Soldiers of Co. C, 2-3 Avn. Regt., the medical evacuation company whose sole mission is to transfer patients to medical facilities at Baghdad and Balad.

"Time is the most important (element)," said Chief Warrant Officer Travis Powell, pilot in Co. C. "We take pride in trying to be the fastest aircraft off the ground."

The medevac company is allotted 15 minutes from the initial call to when the aircraft is off the ground, but for Co. C the time from the call to wheels up is less than 10 minutes, said Sgt. Reid Carpenter, flight medic with Co. C. Patients are usually picked up within 40 minutes depending on the pickup site, Ried said.

The medevac company picks up three classes of patients: Urgent, priority and routine. Urgent patients are typically gunshot wounds, and the pilots have no more than an hour to move the patients to a medical facility.

Priority patients have four hours to be moved but have the potential to become urgent. Routine patients are those whose circumstances are not life threatening, such as a doctor's appointment. The majority of patients are urgent and priority from gun shot wounds, or a Humvee rolling over an improvised explosive device, Powell said.

In order to conserve lifesaving time, the company prepares the aircraft and gear in advance. A preflight

run-up of the aircraft begins at 6 a.m. daily where a health indicator test is performed on the engines, radios are set, equipment is loaded and gear is sitting ready in the cockpit.

"We have a dedicated phone for medevac calls," said Capt. Shane Miller, Co. C, 2-3 Avn. Regt. "When the call comes, the PI and crew chief go directly to the aircraft to run-up the aircraft, while the other pilot gets information on the patients and where to pick them up. Then it's 'Go! Go! Go!'"

The ground units also assist in speeding the process of transporting patients. Ground units provide a pinpoint eight-digit grid and mark landing areas to signal pilots so the units are not searching for a place to land.

"We fly as fast as the aircraft will go," Powell said. "It's pretty exciting. Speed is the essence."



Staff Sgt. Julio Lobato, Co. C, 2-3 Avn. Regt., quickly puts on his flight gear before a medical evacuation flight Nov. 1 at FOB Kalsu.

# 'Improving the foxhole' at Marne Headqtrs.

## HHOC Soldiers make constant upgrades to building

By **Sgt. Michael Connors**  
Editor, *Marne Focus*  
MND-C Public Affairs

**CAMP VICTORY** – Their work ranges from the mundane to the eye-catching as they make constant improvements to the Task Force Marne Headquarters building. For the most part, they toil in anonymity, occasionally earning a coin for their work. But for these Soldiers, the real reward is working with their hands – a chance to break away from their day-to-day desk jobs.

"I think it's great," said Spc. Kyle Hughes, who's with the division engineer section, Headquarters and Headquarters Operations Company. "It's better than doing admin work all day; it helps pass the time."

Hughes is one of five Soldiers in the division engineer section who do improvement work at headquarters. The other Soldiers are Spcs. Bobby Lansdon and Pfc. Raymond Mollison, Jason Ratay and Benjamin Piatt. All five are trained combat engineers, but are helping out at headquarters instead.

The projects are managed by Capt. Jeffrey Li, commander of HHOC. In addition to the Soldiers from the division engineer section, Soldiers in Li's section work on the improvements too. They are Cpl. Matthew Clayton and Spcs. Donald Sears, Dominic Sementelli and Dylan Brenner. The Soldiers in both sections have various administrative jobs at headquarters that normally keep them in their cubicles.

"My guys like the manual labor because it's giving them a chance to actually work with their hands and actually construct something," said Li, who's from Boston. "Whether it's painting the stairwell or putting up walls or installing carpet or whatever they might be doing, it's a satisfying feeling."

The most high-profile job completed by the Soldiers was painting the big, bold Task Force Marne sign on the T-walls at the headquarters entrance, which was completed in September. The Soldiers were coined by Task Force Marne Command Sgt. Major Jesse L. Andrews, Jr. for their efforts.

One of the main improvements the Soldiers have been working on is finishing interior wood-frame walls of individual offices at headquarters. They cut plywood panels, nail them to the frame, and rewire electrical outlets. Their latest wall project was completed Nov. 16.

"We do all this work so that people can have more comfortable work areas and have a better work experience, so it's nice when people recognize it for what it is," said Li.

Many of the Soldiers noted, however, that the work they do hasn't always been received with praise. They have, on a few occasions, met overly critical types or those who can't deal with the temporary annoyance of loud power tools. Yet, the Soldiers aren't easily de-motivated.

"Overall people are very thankful for what we're doing," said Hughes, who's from Lawrenceville, Pa. "Some of the offices we work on coin us for it. Our work is making the headquarters look a lot better."

Hughes' buddy agreed.

"A lot of people enjoy what we're doing," said Lansdon, who's from Perry, Fla., and on his third Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment. "A lot of people are appreciative."

Lansdon, at 24 years old, has emerged as one of the leaders of the younger Soldiers. He has been working in carpentry and construction since age 10, when his father, a contractor, started teaching him the trade, so the headquarters improvements are

second nature to him.

After completing this deployment, Lansdon plans on joining the National Guard so he can spend more time with his young son. During his first two tours he was with 2nd Brigade Combat Team, working within his military occupational specialty as a combat engineer disposing of weapons caches and conducting route clearance, among other missions. He also provided security during Iraq's historic elections.

"I commend Spc. Lansdon," said Mollison, who's from Gainesville, Fla. "I admire him for being down-line for two years, and I'd kinda like to be there to earn my medal. But you know, if I have to earn my medal up here (at headquarters), I have a bunch of great guys to work with that will get the job done."

*"Overall people are very thankful for what we're doing. Our work is making the headquarters look a lot better."*

— Spc. Kyle Hughes  
Division Engineer section  
HHOC



With sawdust flying, Spc. Bobby Lansdon (above) uses a circular saw to cut plywood for finishing interior walls of offices within Task Force Marne Headquarters. This is Lansdon's third Operation Iraqi Freedom tour. Pfc. Raymond Mollison (left) measures a piece of plywood before cutting. All three Soldiers pictured here are combat engineers by trade but are currently working at task force headquarters.

Photos: Sgt. Michael Connors



Spc. Kyle Hughes nails a plywood wall in place.





Pfc. Monica K. Smith

Spc. Travonte Edison (left) and Sgt. Joseph Steel, HHC, 2-3 Avn. Regt., flip a tire across a parking area during the Knighthawk Stakes at Camp Striker.

## Strongmen declared

By Pfc. Monica K. Smith  
3rd CAB, 3rd Inf. Div. Public Affairs

CAMP STRIKER – The two victors of a battalion strength and skills competition were declared at Camp Striker Nov. 10.

Capt. David Guida and Spc. Terrance Haupt, both of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment were named winners of the Knighthawk Stakes, a 2-3 Avn. Regt. competition that took place Nov. 4.

“The top three were all within a fraction of a few points of each other,” said Guida, commander of Co. E. “I knew we’d be competitive, we put a 100 percent into it, but I didn’t necessarily think we’d win the whole thing. I was surprised.”

The Knighthawk Stakes took place at the 2-3 Avn. Regt. headquarters and included 19 two-man teams who were graded on their ability to complete 10 challenges.

“The companies were tasked to provide three teams if stationed at (Camp Striker) and two if stationed at Forward Operating Base Kalsu or Taji,” said Sgt. Maj. William Gammon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-3 Avn. Regt. “The whole brigade was involved.”

The challenges tested the Soldiers physically with the two-minute push-ups and sit-ups portion, the bench press, and flipping a heavy expanded mobile tactical truck tire. The competition also graded the teams on their military knowledge in areas such as first aid, land navigation, and their ability to reassemble an M16A2 rifle, M9 pistol and M249 squad automatic weapon, in addition to reassembling an M16A2 rifle while blindfolded. However, not all the challenges were military in nature.

“We mixed (military) tasks with fun events like the muffin and pop-tart eating competition,” Gammon said.

The Soldiers had to eat as many as they could in two minutes. With all the muffins the brigade has on hand, someone should be reasonably good at eating those things by now, Gammon added.



Sgt. John Chase, Co. C, 2-3 Avn. Regt., reassembles an M16A2 rifle blindfolded in 1 minute, 18 seconds.

The Soldiers also had to recite the Soldier’s creed and the Dog Face Soldier Song. The Soldiers were given freedom to perform each in a manner that would inspire and motivate the listener. Some Soldiers performed at the traditional position of attention, while others invoked a spirit of theater and performed the Dog Face Soldier Song, complete with “jazz hands.”

Prior to deployment, the 2-3 Avn. Regt. had a similar event where Soldiers participated in events dealing with shooting, communication, first aid and also Iraqi culture. The same concept was brought to the Knighthawk Stakes.

“This was our first competition (in Iraq),” Gammon said. We wanted to provide an opportunity for one company to have bragging rights.”

For the first Knighthawk Stakes, Co. E has taken the title.

“The competition brought morale up a lot,” said Haupt, orderly room clerk, Co. E. “It was fun. It was a good thing for the battalion to do. I think they should do it again.”

## Photo Contest Winner: Sgt. 1st Class David Eddy



Sgt. 1st Class Eddy submitted this photo of a door gunner in a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter. Eddy is the first sergeant of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Civil Affairs Battalion.

## Photo Contest Get Published!



### Want to be famous?

Email your best photo to the editor: michael.connors@iraq.centcom.mil. A photo will be chosen for the next edition of the *Marne Focus*. Include your rank, full name, job title, unit, photo date and a brief caption with rank, full name, job title and unit of each Soldier in the photo.

## PVT MURPHY'S LAW



# Recalling Thanksgiving family traditions

Family won't have Soldier at dinner table, but distance won't stop them from seeing each other

MND-C Public Affairs

CAMP VICTORY – A bustling home filled with family, friends and an aroma circulating the air that makes your stomach growl, can be anyone's Thanksgiving memory. But the sound of people splashing in a pool makes one Florida native's memories stand out.

"My family is very close, and what I miss most about Thanksgiving is just not being there," said Pvt. Justin Schindler, a 3rd Infantry Division supply specialist from Palm Coast, Fla.

And there for Schindler is a home packed with laughter, food and football. With a huge smile, the blueish-gray-eyed, 21-year-old, reminisced about how the girls in his family would hang out on one side of the house, and how the boys would congregate in front of the TV watching "America's favorite sport," he said.

Every holiday season there are Soldiers and their loved ones who have to experience their very first separation.

Schindler's mom is one of several hundred thousand moms who miss their children and will be thinking about them as they cook all of their favorite dishes.

"I will be cooking the usual meal – all his favorites: Cheesy beans, ham, turkey, and yes his all time 'fav' mashed potatoes and gravy, and of course lots of pies," Dawn Schindler said.

Missing at the Schindler's kitchen table however, will be a healthy appetite and the life of the party.

"Well the holidays are sure going to be quiet without Justin," his mom said. "He loves to talk and I will miss that most of all. Hearing him talk; well, it's amazing what you take for granted."

His sister Brooke misses him the most – his energy and jokes, Dawn said. He and his brother Bobby would go back and forth all the time, and then his Dad would join in as well, she added.

This holiday season is one of more to come without their eldest son, said Schindler, who works in the division's Headquarters and Headquarters Opera-

## Florida native to miss swimming on Thanksgiving



Courtesy photo

The Schindler family. They will be spending this Thanksgiving apart, but family traditions and communication will continue. Pvt. Justin Schindler plans on spending time with his family via webcam.

tion Company. He plans on re-enlisting in the Army and one day getting his pilot's license and becoming a warrant officer.

With less than two years in the Army, he has already learned how to adjust to his

environment and make the best of what's available. When asked how he plans on spending his Thanksgiving, Schindler said, "Talking to my family through a webcam and watching football."

## Get on the Radio



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14. EFP  
17. AMR  
18. IA  
19. CAB (award)  
20. IBA

**Down**

1. CAB (unit)  
2. FOB  
3. PAO  
4. ACU  
5. COP  
6. AQI  
7. SAW  
8. PCIs  
9. BCT  
11. BIAP  
12. CLCs  
13. ROE  
16. ISF

# Army Acronym Crossword

By Sgt. Michael Connors