

SERVING THE 4TH STRYKER BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM, 2ND INFANTRY DIVISION COMMUNITY

THE DESERT RAIDER

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Vol. 1, Issue 8 January 2008



Col. Jon S. Lehr Raider 6

Raiders,

First, I want to wish you all a Happy New Year! January 2008 marks the beginning of our tenth month in Iraq, and this year promises to be a challenging one.

We continue to make great strides in our new area of operations. Diyala province is vast and has already proven to be challenging. You have all done a fantastic job of adjusting to this new environment!

In the past month, your units have conducted numerous combat operations in support of Operation Raider Reaper. These efforts were for the most part aimed at the area we know as the Iron Triangle to the northwest of Baqouba. Many of the recent suicide

attacks against our Soldiers and our Iraqi partners were planned, resourced and executed from this area.

The great success you achieved during Raider Reaper continues to exemplify the Raider Brigade motto – To The Objective! Your ability to initiate contact with the enemy, finish decisively and effortlessly transition to non-lethal operations is awe inspiring. I am so very proud of all of you.

Now, as I write this, we are on the eve of our next major combat operation – Raider Harvest. The purpose of both of these operations can be summed up in three words – DENY, HOLD, BUILD. We must DENY safe haven to al-Qaida and other insurgents throughout our area of responsibility wherever they hope to find it. We must set the conditions for Iraqi Security Forces to HOLD these hard fought areas so they don't slip back into the enemy's hands. We must assist the Government of Iraq to BUILD the economic, governance and essential services infrastructures in these areas. I believe these three words will guide us through all of

our operations until our tour here is done.

In the last month, al-Qaida has become more desperate to regain their slipping hold on the people of Diyala. This desperation has manifested itself in the form of suicide attacks against the Iraqi Security Forces and horrible atrocities against several of our Concerned Local Citizen volunteers. We must reassure both the ISF and the CLCs that our dedication to them is unwavering, and our response to their attackers will be swift and lethal.

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

STAY FOUR DEUCE

This check could be yours



DRAGOON RAIDERS RETENTION TEAM

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Stop by and see your Career Counselor today for more information.

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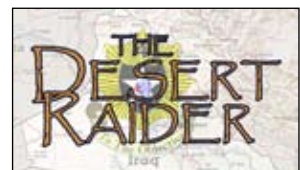
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On the Cover: A machine gunner in 1st Platoon, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment patrols through the village of Hibhib, Diyala Province, Iraq, Dec. 15, in support of Operation Blackhawk Reaper.

Photo by Spc. John Crosby

Command Sgt. Maj. John W. Troxell

Raider 7

Raiders,

I hope all of you enjoyed the holiday season in your own little way despite the circumstances of being deployed. January marks the tenth month of our deployment and things are going well across the brigade.

I want to welcome two great organizations to the Raider Team, the 3rd Squadron of the 2nd SCR (The Wolfpack), and the 2nd Squadron of the 3rd ACR (The Sabres).

The Sabres bring along with them the 1st Squadron, 3rd ACR howitzer battery (King Battery). I am sure you hear the sounds of freedom from their guns every night. All of these organizations are quality units and we are lucky to have them as members of the brigade.

So far since we have taken over all of Diyala province, we have been getting after the enemy and bringing essential services to the Iraqi citizens, as well as partnering with Iraqi Security Forces to better the security situation. Because of the success we have achieved so far, the enemy has had a tougher time coordinating attacks against us with their weapon of choice: the improvised explosive device.

The enemy is a resilient one though. As my No. 4 of my Big 5 says "Never underestimate the enemy's ability to adapt to our TTPs." Well, the enemy has adapted, and his latest weapon of choice is the suicide vest bomber.

Doctrinal manuals on insurgencies tell us that the use of the suicide vest can mean several things, and I believe they all apply to us in our environment. First, it is an effective tool for the insurgent to separate the population from the counterinsurgent, meaning us. In keeping with that thought, it is also a weapon that can cause us to separate ourselves from the popula-

tion. As a terrorist weapon it is very effective in creating terror among the population and governmental leaders. Lastly, it could mean that the enemy is resorting to these kinds of attacks because of desperation. In our area, all of these reasons are true in some form or another.

The enemy has chosen not only to attack Coalition Forces with this weapon, but they have also carried out attacks on Iraqi leaders and security forces, as well as the general population. Additionally, the face of the suicide vest bomber is not that of the normal insurgent. We have seen women and young children as well as older men conduct these attacks.

As resilient as the enemy is in using this weapon, we must be equally resilient in continuing our mission. We must recognize that this is a serious threat and that at any time and in any place of our AO these attacks can occur. We must stay focused and disciplined as we conduct our dismounted patrols and be fully aware at all times of what is happening around us.

Several of our units have come up with effective TTPs to guard against these attacks. I encourage leaders of all units to share these TTPs with other leaders in the brigade to better prepare ourselves for these types of attacks. We must insure that every Soldier down to the lowest ranking private is educated on the possibility of this threat and is trained to combat the possibility of a suicide vest attack.

The most important thing we can train our Soldiers on is to be suspiciously alert at all times of what is going on in the environment and to not let their guard down. Always remember the enemy is watching and studying us at all times.

The enemy is determined to drive a



wedge between us and the Iraqi population. We cannot allow this to happen or all of our work here would have been for naught. We must remain vigilant in our duties and continue to get to the objective in our mission here.

The brigade commander and I are proud of all the work all of you have done so far. We are making a profound impact on the province of Diyala and we will continue to do so.

May God bless you all. I will see you all out on the battlefield.

**To the Objective!
Raider 7**



Operation Raider Reaper

4-2 clears the Iron Triangle of insurgents



Spc. Randy Stevens, a cavalry scout in 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, patrols through the palm groves of Hibhib, Diyala province, Iraq, Dec. 15, shortly after air assaulting into the area in support of Operation Blackhawk Reaper.

Story and photos by Spc. John Crosby
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Helmets fixed with night vision devices roving left and right are silhouetted against the glow of night through the circular windows of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter. The high pitched screams of engines are heard over the rhythmic beating of the rotors, vibrating and shaking the helicopter during flight.

A crew member flicks on the soft blue light, and Soldier yells "One Minute!" The Soldiers shift their weight conducting last minute checks of gear, night vision and weapons.

As the helicopter hits the ground the rear door lowers and a Gator tractor vehicle carrying ammunition, food and water tears out ahead, followed by 23 Soldiers of 1st Platoon, Troop C, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment and six Iraqi army soldiers. Static electricity glistens on the Chinook's dual blades as they beat hot wind down onto the Soldiers sprinting from the aircraft.

Within seconds the troops exit the bird and form a large circle, weapons oriented outward, providing 360-degree security. Riflemen take a knee scanning their sectors as machine gunners lay on their stomachs. The Soldiers over-

watch the village of Hibhib, Diyala province, Iraq, from the surrounding farmland as the Chinooks take off into the darkness. They are gone as quickly as they landed, dropping their cargo into position and leaving in under a minute. It is H-hour on Landing Zone Grimlock. Operation Blackhawk Reaper has begun.

Cobra Troop takes a 30-second tactical pause after exiting the birds before moving into the village. A squad moves up silently using hand-and-arm signals to communicate while staying in the shadows, using the natural concealment of night to stay undetected.

They find their target house. They have spent hours studying maps, preparing for this moment. They are looking for one man, an alleged al-Qaida weapons smuggler on the unit's high value target list. The squad moves into position outside the front gate, while the rest of Red Platoon keep their weapons trained on the doors and windows of the house.

The squad, including six Iraqi army soldiers, kicks the gate open. The Soldiers keep their muzzles pointed in each direction as they move to the left, right and straight into the main complex.

"Get on the ground! Hands up!" the Soldiers order.

A family of five women, a man and a 15-year-old boy are pulled out of the house. The women are separated from the men and everyone is searched for weapons and explosives.

The rest of Red Platoon moves in providing additional security. The clearing squad moves out tactically, breaching into the surrounding houses in the small village.

Intelligence received by the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, from Fort Lewis, Wash., led Coalition Forces to believe that an al-Qaida weapons smuggler was taking refuge in this particular house.

Spc. Randy Stevens, a cavalry scout in Red Plt., Troop C, 2-1 Cav., began tactical questioning the two males of the target house while a thorough search of the home and surrounding yard was conducted.

Upon questioning, the cavalry scout's suspicions were confirmed. The older male's name was on the 4th Stryker Brigade's high value target list.

"We found seven forms of ID in the house," Stevens said, "Including old Iraqi army I.D. cards, confirming the man's identity – we know him to be a suspected weapons runner."

The man is zip-cuffed and detained. With their objective cleared and secured, the Cobra Troop Soldiers were ready to conduct the next phase of their mission. They set up rooftop overwatch security emplacements and provided blocking positions for sister units conducting air assaults in the area.

"The air assault went well," said Cobra Troop commander Al Bangura. "No hiccups or delays getting off the bird. The junior leaders did their part and led their men well. Everyone is okay and we were successful in securing Hibhib for the rest of the units to complete their missions."

Operation Blackhawk Reaper was a part of several oper-

ations that were conducted simultaneously. It was designed to clear an area of three villages, Hibhib, Al Hudayd and Khalis, known as the "Iron Triangle." The operation included Concerned Local Citizens, an Iraqi police emergency reaction force and three companies of Iraqi army working with 2-1 Cav., 1-38 Inf. and Special Forces elements.

This joint effort was dubbed Raider Reaper. Objectives were to clear the Iron Triangle of AQI presence, weapons caches and improvised explosive devices and leave the Iraqi Police and Concerned Local Citizens in control of the area.

The mission was a success.

Three weapons caches were found containing mortars and mortar tubes of various sizes, suicide vests, anti-tank mines and bomb-making materials. Three possible car bombs were found and destroyed. Several IEDs were found and control-detonated safely.

After securing the Iron Triangle, Soldiers began construction of six checkpoints, giving the Iraqi security forces a foothold in the villages to keep presence and control of the area.

"The citizens are tired of the local militias, al-Qaida and insurgents coming through their town attacking them, shooting at them and kidnapping them," said Sgt. Jeremy Reynolds, a team leader in 2nd Plt., Troop A, 2-1 Cav. "They set up these checkpoints so they can provide their own security without having to depend on Coalition Forces and Iraqi security forces."

Soldiers of Troop A, 2-1 Cav. registered and processed 91 Iraqi volunteers in the area for the Concerned Local Citizens program.

See REAPER, Page 15



Soldiers of 1st Platoon, Troop C, 2-1 Cav, clear a house pulling security for each other while moving tactically up a staircase during Operation Black Reaper in Hibhib, Diyala province, Iraq, Dec. 15. The Soldiers cleared the house and used it as an overwatch position, providing security for sister battalions conducting operations in the area.

Rock Reaper

1-38th sweeps al-Qaida from stronghold west of Baquba

Story and photos by Pfc. Kirby Rider
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

A dim blue light pierced the darkness as someone yelled "one-minute out," but the voice was drowned out by noise from the rotating blades of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter.

The helicopter, carrying Soldiers from Company B, 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, approached its landing zone near the town of Hadid, 65 miles northwest of Baghdad.

As the light went out, the Soldiers braced themselves for a hard landing. Threats of anti-aircraft guns hidden in the palm groves surrounding the landing zone forced the helicopter pilots to land faster than they normally prefer to land.

Once the helicopter was on the ground, the Soldiers immediately dismounted and the helicopter began its return trip to pick up more Soldiers.

In a single, silent motion after the

dust in the air settled, the Soldiers stood up from where they were lying in the field and began moving towards their first objective, securing a palm grove just outside of the town.

"It was a tough mission. Bayonet Co. had the main effort of the assault," said Capt. Duane Bailey, commander of Company B, 1-38th Inf. "We cleared the town and really focused on target houses, looking for al-Qaida operatives."

The Soldiers had already begun clearing the palm groves by the time the sun appeared over the horizon. They looked for improvised explosive devices and weapon caches. By the time the sun was completely in the sky, the Bayonet Company Soldiers were ready to assault their first target house, looking for a man accused of placing IEDs on the near-by roadways.

After the Soldiers completed a thorough search of the house, they determined the man wasn't there and no

weapons were found. The Soldiers were given five minutes to rest before moving to the next house down the road where they searched for another man wanted for placing IEDs.

The Soldiers were greeted kindly by local citizens as they went from house-to-house through the village of Hadid. The men of the houses constantly offered to make chai tea and cook flat bread for the Soldiers who found refuge from the heat in their living rooms and on their patios.

After a short break, the Soldiers continued with their mission of capturing wanted individuals and removing weapons from the town.

"It was nice to be greeted so nicely; the children are friendly and everyone is smiling and waving," said Sgt. Johnny Walker, a team leader in Bayonet Company. "Normally the citizens aren't happy and occasionally they are afraid when we come into a town."



Spc. William Bolt, an infantryman in Company B, 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, leads a detainee wanted for questioning down a street during clearing operation Rock Reaper in Hadid, Iraq, just west of Baquba, Dec. 14. Bayonet Company took dozens of detainees during the three-day operation.



Capt. Joshua Wiles, a platoon leader with Company B, 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment confirms his location on a map before entering a “target house” during clearing operation Rock Reaper in Hadid, Iraq, Dec. 14. Target houses are buildings that house individuals wanted for questioning by Coalition Forces.

The Soldiers continued moving from house-to-house looking for weapons, contraband and IED making materials, only taking breaks if they finished clearing their room before their counterparts.

Towards the end of the day, the Soldiers returned to a central meeting location to give their detainees to the military police officials. The MPs verified the identities of the detainees and transported them to a secure holding area on Forward Operating Base Warhorse.

After the detainees were dropped off, an informant from the town offered to help the Soldiers find wanted men who used fake identification cards and to find weapons that may have been missed.

The Soldiers went house-to-house again with the informant, who pointed

out the men that were wanted. The informant also gave information on a possible weapon cache.

After the informant was done giving information, the Soldiers took the newly captured detainees to the MPs for identity verification and transportation to FOB Warhorse.

While the detainees were being processed, the Soldiers started looking for a place to sleep, some of the Soldiers found refuge in a near-by house while others slept outside in Stryker vehicles and wood lines keeping watch for their fellow team members.

After a short rest, the sun started looming over the horizon and the Soldiers packed up their gear to load it onto the Strykers that were parked in front of their sleeping areas.



Soldiers from 1-38th Inf. negotiate a wall during Operation Rock Reaper Dec. 14 in Hadid, Iraq.

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Iraqi army conducts first large-scale air assault mission in Diyala province

Assault captures three operatives, destroys two IEDs

By Pfc. Kirby Rider
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The black starless night on an early December morning was quiet except for the soft humming of running engines from Stryker vehicles and the light crunch of twigs and leaves under Soldiers' feet as they made their way across an open field.

Visibility for the Soldiers of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment was limited to the green and black silhouettes provided by their night vision devices and their infrared flashlights that lit the way.

The Soldiers of Charlie Company were clearing the area of improvised explosive devices and weapons caches in preparation for an Iraqi army-led air assault into the town of Bodija, 60 miles north of Baghdad. Once the Soldiers exited the field, they moved to blocking positions on major roadways leading out of the town. The signal was then given for two helicopters carrying 60 Iraqi army soldiers to land.

As the helicopters landed and the Iraqi army soldiers unloaded their gear, they made their first major step in moving away from a defensive to offensive



Photo by Spc. LaRayne Hurd

A Soldier from 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment pulls guard on occupants of a home so the rest of his squad can search the grounds during a night mission in Muqdadiyah on Dec. 13. Soldiers from Company C cleared houses, roadways and fields surrounding the area that was going to be used as a landing zone for Iraqi army soldiers who air assaulted into the town.

fighting force. They have requested and received specialized training from Coalition Forces.

The Iraqi army is starting to organize missions which will take them to the front lines of the fight, assisting Coalition Forces in clearing al-Qaida in Iraq.

"It is great to see the Iraqi army stepping up and coordinating missions," said Capt. Pedro Gomes, first platoon leader of Charlie Co. "This is a huge success for everyone."

The only part of the mission the Soldiers of Charlie Co. needed to contribute was to clear the landing zone and

provide blocking positions in order to catch any AQI operatives that tried to escape from the town. The Soldiers on the blocking positions held a dual role, acting as a quick reaction force, in the event the Iraqi army needed assistance.

"It was nice to sit back and watch the Iraqi army complete the mission. They went into the town and accomplished everything without our help," Gomes said.



Photo by Spc. LaRayne Hurd

A Soldier from 2nd Battalion 23rd Infantry Regiment pulls security on the rooftop of a building on an Iraqi compound while the remainder of the platoon works on the ground Dec.12 near Muqdadiyah.



Photo by Spc. LaRayne Hurd

A Soldier from 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment sits next to a fire on a Combat Operation Post outside of Muqdadiyah, Iraq on Dec. 11.

Quick reaction forces weren't needed and a huge success came from the frontlines of the battlefield. The Iraqi army soldiers planned and coordinated their first large-scale air assault operation in the Diyala region.

It took weeks of coordination by the Iraqi army's leadership to organize this mission, but it went off without any problems, said Marine Sgt. Jonathan Swift, a trainer with the 1st Division Military Transition Team.

The operation continued for another week. During that time, the Iraqi army continued to clear the town of IED cells and set up a Concerned Local Citizen program.

Concerned Local Citizens are local civilians who have taken an interest in the security and the defense their towns and cities.

Many civilians will join CLC organizations before applying to become an Iraqi police officer or a soldier in the Iraqi army. After the CLC groups were setup the Iraqi army built checkpoints for them in hopes the CLCs will continue to keep contraband and AQI operatives from entering the city.

"It will help the citizens take control of their town and prevent al-Qaida (operatives) from coming back," Gomes said.

The Iraqi army has been transitioning from a defensive army to an army that coordinates and conducts missions to

remove AQI from their country. The mission was a huge step for the Iraqi army in continuing the transformation process that started earlier in the year.

"The Iraqi army has started coming to the MiTT, asking them for specialized training in different fields," Swift said. "It is great to see the Iraqis taking charge and turning their country around."

"Since I arrived in Iraq last May, the Iraqi army has come a very long way," Gomes said. "The citizens are now coming to the Iraqi army with their concerns rather than coming to the American forces."

"The Iraqi army is committed to its mission and has matured greatly in the past months. It is a huge step in the right direction," he said.

During the clearing operation, the Iraqi army found three al-Qaida operatives hiding in the village and discovered two IEDs emplaced along roadways going into the city. The IEDs were disposed of safely through a joint effort between Coalition Forces and Iraqi army explosive ordinance disposal teams.

The Iraqi army also found two small weapons caches after talking with local citizens in the area.

"The Iraqi army did a great job of organizing this mission," Swift said. "They interacted greatly with the civilians and gained the trust of the citizens in Bodija."

Soldiers provide humanitarian aid for Iraqis in need

2-1 Cav. assists Concerned Local Citizens of northern Hashmiyat

Story and photos by Spc. John Crosby
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The Soldiers of 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division from Fort Lewis, Wash., have seen their share of combat since deploying to Iraq in April. Raids, clearing operations and air assaults are what these combat Soldiers have prepared for and are executing daily in their new area of operation, Diyala province, Iraq.

But the Soldiers of 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment played a different role Dec. 11 at Forward Operating Base Warhorse during a humanitarian aid mission to assist the citizens of northern Hashmiyat.

"This was the first humanitarian mission my platoon has run," said Sgt. 1st Class Keith Sekishiro, 2nd Platoon sergeant, Troop C, 2-1 Cav. "We have been doing a lot of



A Soldier in 2nd Platoon, Troop C, 2-1 Cav. helps Iraqis from northern Hashmiyat load bags of flour and rice during a humanitarian aid mission at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq, Dec. 11.

missions lately with the Iraqi army and Iraqi Police; not necessarily humanitarian missions, but assisting them in providing their own security in their towns and villages."

Northern Hashmiyat was recently controlled by al-Qaida. Troop C kept a heavy presence in the area, but since 4th Stryker Brigade's move into Diyala, the AQI presence in Hashmiyat has been diminishing.

Concerned Local Citizens groups began taking over responsibility of the security in the area. CLC checkpoints arose around the villages.

"We used to provide a heavy presence there," Sekishiro said. "But the CLCs have been successful at providing their own security for the past month."

On Dec. 11, 2nd Platoon escorted a convoy of CLC trucks from the village of Hashmiyat back to FOB Warhorse. Once back on Warhorse, the CLC trucks were loaded with 10,000 pounds of rice, 10,000 pounds of flour and 180 liters of cooking oil.

"The CLC checkpoints in northern Hashmiyat will distribute the food to the local villages in the area," Sekishiro said.

"It's common for Iraqis to make bread every morning," said Ali Mustafa Abu Asah, a leader in the CLC organization of Hashmiyat. "The rice will help nourish our people and we will use the oil over the rice."

Working side by side with the Iraqis helped build relationships, as well.



Concerned Local Citizens of northern Hashmiyat and Soldiers of 2nd Platoon, Troop C, 2-1 Cav. work side by side, caked white in flour, during a humanitarian aid drop at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq, Dec. 11.

"We had fun doing it," said Spc. Christopher Nollenberg of 2nd Platoon. "We taught them a few English words and they taught us a few Iraqi words."

"Relationships are key when working with the CLCs," he added. "If we don't have good relations, they aren't going to give us information in order for us to do our job."

"We are very grateful to the Coalition Forces for this food," Abu Asah said. "We are trying to work with Coalition Forces in order to keep our villages and roads secure from al-Qaida."

Although a change from the daily combat operations, missions like these could prove to be just as fruitful.

"Hopefully, they will see that we are trying to help them, and hopefully they will try to help us," Nollenberg said. "This is my first HA (humanitarian assistance) drop. It's a good change of pace. We can't be out there chasing the bad guys all of the time. Sometimes, we have to help the people in other ways. Hopefully, they will see that we are trying to help them and they will help us catch more bad guys."



Soldiers of 2nd Plt., Troop C, 2-1 Cav. assist Iraqis in loading 10,000 pounds of flour, 10,000 pounds of rice, and 180 liters of cooking oil during a humanitarian aid mission at FOB Warhorse, Iraq, Dec. 11.

Participating in Freedom

By Spc. Myra Gavin
HHC, 202nd BSB

A great part of the mission we are striving to achieve in Iraq is to bring democracy to its people. It's easy to forget, as we carry out the underpinnings of that mission, that democracy is fundamental thriving in our own country, and we are a part of it.

The Iowa Caucus, which is the first formal event of the presidential election, will be held on Jan. 3, and marks the beginning of a manifestation of one thing we fight for: the political process of the United States of America. Those new to politics may be unfamiliar with it, but the importance of events like this one are not to be minimized.

Each state will have either a caucus or primary election where voters cast ballots in favor of the candidate they most desire to represent their party; Iowa holds the first of these. This "polling of the American people" very heavily influences each party's convention, at which time their official

president and vice president teams are decided. According to the Constitution, to be eligible to vote in any state, you must have full citizenship and be over the age of 18. Other restrictions vary by state and can exclude citizens who meet federal standards but have been convicted of certain crimes, especially felonies. If you are eligible to vote, but aren't registered in the state of Washington, you can still vote in the Presidential Election via absentee. In 1986, Congress enacted the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act. It requires the states to allow service members and their families to register and vote absentee in elections for federal offices.

In addition to that legislation, the Department of Defense Directive 1344.10 came into effect in 2004. It outlines what role we, as service members, can play in the political arena. While on active duty, we may vote, make monetary contributions to campaigns, express our opinions on candidates and issues both verbally and in writing (though not in any public forum), join political clubs and attend meetings or rallies, sign petitions or put bumper stickers on our privately owned vehicles. However, taking part in these activities in uniform or in any

manner suggesting representation, in part or in whole, of the Armed Services is not allowed.

There are other activities that are wholly prohibited. While on active duty, we are not allowed to serve in any public or official capacity on behalf of a specific candidate or political party such as managing a campaign, soliciting or receiving contributions, marching or riding in parades and selling tickets for or speaking at dinners, rallies or any other fundraising events. We are also prohibited for running for public office ourselves while on active duty.

If you meet federal requirements and wish to register to vote, go to www.fvap.gov or www.register-to-vote.us to find forms and additional information for your state of legal residence. If you wish to learn more about politics but don't know where to start, go to www.myelectionchoices.com to learn about all the big issues and where the candidates stand on them. If you want to read more about what DODD 1344.10 says regarding our political involvement as service members, you can find the directive at www.dtic.mil/whs/directives.

Remember: We fight for freedom; we are not independent of it.





Staff Sgt. Adam Laurent, an infantryman in 3rd Platoon, Company C (Chaos Co.), 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, watches for enemy after several fires ignite on the streets of Sufeit, a village in Diyala province, Iraq, Nov. 30. The battalion cleared the village during Operation Rock Jackhammer.

CHAOS

Soldiers of 1st Platoon, Company C, 1-38th Inf. scan the area during a security halt in the village of Sufeit, Diyala province Iraq, Nov. 30.



Photos by Spc. John Crosby



Soldiers of 1st Platoon, Company C, 1-38th Inf. walk the streets of Sufeit, Diyala province, Iraq, Nov. 30, clearing house-to-house in Operation Jackhammer.

Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment load into CH-47 Chinook helicopters at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq, Nov. 30, in support of Operation Rock Jackhammer. The air assault took these Soldiers on a clearing mission in the village of Sufeit in Diyala province.



STORMS SUFEIT



A Soldier waves a chem. light signaling to inbound helicopters on their way to pick up Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment during air assault Operation Jackhammer in the village of Sufeit, Diyala province, Iraq, Nov. 30.



Spc. Barry Combs, a tanker in 1st Platoon, Company C, 1-38th Inf. pulls security in front of a house in the village of Sufeit, Diyala province, Iraq, Nov. 30.

Joining together for Iraq's future

Iraqi army holds co-operative medical exercise

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

Hundreds of smiling children received care for their sneezes and sniffles recently at their school in Baquba, Iraq, Dec. 6, when soldiers from the 5th Iraqi army Division conducted a co-operative medical exercise (CME), directed at providing care for the town's youth.

The students lined up, about 20 at a time, to a table to be looked at by an Iraqi medic. Those diagnosed with an illness or ailment were moved on to the next table to get medication prescribed to them. Then, all the children, sick and well, moved through the line to the last table, where they were given school supplies and toys.

The CME was one of many projects that 5th Iraqi army Division Civil Affairs Officer Lt. Col. Abdullah Wa'il is heading in Baquba, in order to improve the city.

Wa'il said he remains optimistic that future projects will be as successful as the CME.

"We have many projects coming up in the future," Wa'il said through an interpreter. "There will be service projects as well. Some schools are damaged completely, like this."

Wa'il added that some of the projects will address various needs in the town such as renovations to schools, clinics and the Baquba water pump, as well as street repairs.

Capt. Jamie Bazdaric, from the 5th Iraqi Division Military Transition Team (MiTT), works hand in hand with Wa'il as his advisor, and said that the Iraqi civil affairs officer has been very active in getting the Iraqi army involved in the community.

"What Col. Wa'il wanted to do was



An Iraqi army medic inspects the health of a girl at a school in Baquba, Iraq, Dec. 6 during a cooperative medical engagement with Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment and the Iraqi army.

start putting the Iraqi army to work out here, putting them in the front," Bazdaric said during the CME. "He put this together so the Coalition Forces could step back on this one and watch him do his work, and it worked out great as you can see from the results. Everybody showed up, everything's going great."

Wa'il has focused on the education system, putting the children at the top of his priority list, Bazdaric added.

"You can see some of the damages to the schools here in Baquba," Bazdaric said. "We have projects identified across the city, and he really wants to take this on. He's been working directly with the Department of Education and he's really going forward with this and many other projects."

"He's worked directly with Coalition Forces and the brigade combat team to help identify the projects for water and

for sewer," Bazdaric continued. "He's also identified many electric problems. He's provided security for many of the departmental agencies in conjunction with the governor and the mayor here, not only in Baquba, but across Diyala province."

While the Iraqi army did most of the work for the CME, Coalition Forces did have medics on hand to help with the visit. Iraqis taking the lead on missions like this have been a growing trend.

"What I've seen is it's something they've taken ownership of and something they've shown a personal interest in," said Staff Sgt. Krista Englert, of the 401st Civil Affairs Company, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. "Our purpose is to just provide support where they need it. They're assuming more responsibility for these types of exercises and they're taking an interest in it."



REAPER, From Page 5

The CLC program allows Iraqis, many with prior military or law enforcement experience, to stand up for their neighborhoods and protect their families and homes from insurgent activity.

"They want to rid their town of these terrorists," Reynolds said. "It shows that they want to make their city safe and have a sense of independence."

Arrow Troop also conducted humanitarian aid drops in the area, providing local citizens with 10,000 pounds of rice, 10,000 pounds of flour and 180 liters of cooking oil.

Between the two operations, more than 60 detainees were taken by Coalition Forces and Iraqi security forces, at least 22 of which were taken by the Iraqi army.

"The IA leaders did well today," Bangura said. "These guys are very good, very competent and are respect-

ful to the civilians. They weren't just along for the ride today."

No casualties were suffered during either operation.

"They performed well," said Sgt. David Boker, a team leader in 1st Platoon, Cobra Troop, 2-1 Cav. "The mission wasn't quite as active as some of the other missions 2-1 Cav. has conducted recently, but that puts us in a position to focus on proper security and other areas."

According to Boker, this mission is one of eight air assaults that 2-1 Cav. has conducted in the last three months to rid the small villages and towns of weapons caches, limit AQI presence and end their operations from the Diyala River straight south into Baghdad.

With the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division's new home in Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Diyala province can expect more of the same.



A Soldier of 1st Plt., 2-1 Cav. pulls security overwatch from an Iraqi rooftop after clearing the village of Hibhib, Diyala province, Iraq, Dec. 15.



A Soldier of 1st Platoon, 2-1 Cav. keeps security on two Iraqi males outside of a house in the village of Hibhib, Diyala province, Iraq, Dec. 15. One of the Iraqi males is a suspected weapons smuggler on the units High Value Target list.



Staff Sgt. Luis Falcon, a platoon sergeant with Company B, 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment provides security for fellow members of his platoon while moving through a field before conducting a clearing operation in Hadid, Iraq, just west of Baquba, Dec. 14. The clearing operation involved 1-38th Inf. and 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment. The two units cleared an area northwest of Baquba known as the "Iron Triangle," a suspected al-Qaida hot spot.



Spc. William Bolt, an infantryman with Company B, 1-38th Inf., helps a fellow Soldier over a gate during clearing operation Rock Reaper in Hadid, Iraq, Dec. 14.

ROCK REAPER, From Page 7

Once their gear was loaded, the Soldiers linked up with Iraqi army soldiers, who helped the exhausted Soldiers clear the remaining part of Hadid.

On the second day of the mission, an al-Qaida in Iraq training camp was found.

While searching the camp, Company B Soldiers found two suicide vests that were completely made and ready to be put on, grid coordinates of Iraqi police stations in the area, grid coordinates of Coalition Force bases and combat outposts in the area, 18 large-caliber mortar shells filled with explosives and three fire extinguishers filled with explosives.

The Soldiers also found five potential car bombs in the town of Hadid and took in a total of 13 detainees.

"The mission was a huge success, several IEDs were taken off of the roadways and there were no casualties on the Iraqi side and on our side," Bailey said. "The mission will be a bigger success when the Iraqi Police force and the Iraqi army can setup fighting positions to keep the town secure."

Soldier nap shots



To submit your own Soldier Snap Shots e-mail The Desert Raider at russell.bassett@4bct2id.army.mil. Include full name of the photographer, rank and contact information, as well as a description of the photo, to include full names of the people in it, and the date it was taken.

Top: Soldiers from Company C, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment meet with Concerned Local Citizens that are manning a checkpoint in the town of Tarmiyah, Iraq

Above: A Soldier from the Diyala Provincial Reconstruction Team greets children outside of a school near Baquba, Iraq.

Top Left: Soldiers from 4-9 Infantry's RECCE Platoon collect improvised rocket tubes from a cache North of Sheikh Hamed Village. CLCs provided the location of where the tube was.

Left: A Soldier from 4-9's RECCE Platoon pulls security during a search for a cache of improvised rocket launchers North of Sheikh Hamed Village.



Courtesy photos

All in a 202nd Brigade Support Battalion day's work

By Spc. Jacqueline Luurtsema
FSC G, 202nd BSB

The Brigade Support Battalion has always played a major part in any unit in the United States Army. Yes, we are the little people behind the scenes that make sure the mission is completed. We are the juice that gets you going in the right direction. Simply stated, there are so many pieces of the puzzle within the BSB that many are not aware of, but we are definitely the heart of the unit's operations.

Within transportation, you have your 92Fs (Fuelers), which is a risky MOS. How would you like to drive around in a giant bomb? Let's just say that the adrenaline rush kicks in and you remain on your toes for most, if not the entire mission. The 88Ms, better known as the truck drivers, deliver all supplies from Class I to Porta-Potties to Reefer Vans. No matter what the hour, how large the load, or how dangerous the route, the missions never stop and neither will the 88Ms.

Then there's the CRT, the mechanics. These guys deserve plenty of credit. For them, a day off is few and far between. The shop is always open with all types of vehicles lined up waiting to get repaired. But don't think because they work in the mechanics bay that they don't leave the wire. No, they service vehicles and generators in safe and combat situations with or without their kit on depending on the situation. They rotate staying out at the Joint Service Stations (JSSs) to



Courtesy Photo

Soldiers from FSC D, 202nd BSB use a wrecker to unload Jersey barriers to create blocking positions along a canal road during Operation Raider Isolate.

provide their expertise for the men that are required to live out there. If you're having trouble with a piece of equipment by flight or truck they'll be there. Some will even boost your moral and give you some motivation to keep up the good work. From card tricks to spades games they will get the job done with a smile.

Ah the cooks, everyone asks what does a cook do? Well, my friends, the cooks are everywhere. If you are a 92G (Food Service Specialist) in Forward Support Company D or H, 202nd Brigade Support Battalion, you will have the privilege of doing your job. As for all the other FSC's in the BSB, you will be tasked out doing anything and everything possible under the sun. A 92G being cross-trained as a 92F (Fueler), 88M (Truck Driver), 42A (Administrative Specialist) or even 50 cal. machine gunner is not an unfamiliar sight. All the last minute details that have to be accomplished will more than likely be tasked to a 92G.

The 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team has infantry battalions, field

artillery batteries and a cavalry squadron who hold the Combat MOSs. They know what they are required to do everyday, from conducting missions around Baghdad and its surrounding towns to house raids, tracking down the bad guys, training the new Iraqi army, and doing what is necessary to accomplish the mission.

Finally you have the BSB which is broken down into FSCs (Forward Support Companies) who are required to support all taskings and details, such as tower guard, female search, escort guard, barrier guard, coordinating class I, running the dining facility and the list goes on ...

In addition to these taskings and details, each FSC is required to support their assigned battalion. They go on Combat Logistic Patrols to resupply the JSSs to ensure that these infantry or field artillery men can accomplish their mission with all equipment and/or supplies needed. So don't think this is a battalion left in the shadows, we will support you at all costs.

Without warning the missions come



Courtesy Photo

Soldiers from FSC D, 202nd BSB unload a Jersey barrier to create blocking positions along a canal road during Operation Raider Isolate.

in and BAM! There is no room for bickering or arguing. You may be sick, you may have a profile, you may be dehydrated, but the mission must go on so.... SUCK IT UP AND DRIVE ON!

Combat Repair Team

By Sgt. Karl Duckett
FSC F, 202nd BSB

Each morning is no different than the next, or the last, however you want to look at it. On any given morning, I could tell you exactly what is going to happen throughout the day. I might have minor details wrong, but for the most part I could hit it right on.

I am one of about 20 people who are part of the Combat Repair Team that is attached to the 1-38th Infantry Battalion.

As I was sitting, waiting for the day to come to an end, I was unexpectedly asked to write about what the CRT does. How does the CRT support the battalion?

I pondered the question for several minutes and came up with several answers. While I was thinking, I thought of the obvious tasks that we do such as fixing the Strykers, trucks,

weapons, generators and pretty much anything else that 1-38th asks us to fix. We work hard to ensure that all the Soldiers' equipment and vehicles are fully mission capable and up to safety standards. We are a team of mechanics prepared to do any job, at any time. The work we do prevents unnecessary hazards and injuries. We have potentially saved lives and it's a great satisfaction knowing that maybe our work on any given day might have helped to save someone's life.

I asked myself a question before I came up with my conclusion to the original question. Would a battalion of Soldiers be capable of accomplishing any mission with broken vehicles or broken weapons? I didn't think so. So, my conclusion to how we support the battalion is that we don't support the battalion. We are part of the battalion.

We know that we are technically only OPCON to 1-38th to support them, but we feel like we are part of them. If you look at NASCAR, the driver wouldn't be able to win a race if it wasn't for the people in the pit, the driver's crew. And you wouldn't tell the crew that they are not part of the team, that they are just supporting the driver. We are 1-38's crew and without us the battalion would not be able to win.



Courtesy Photo

Soldiers from 3rd CRT, FSC F, 202nd BSB operate a wrecker to conduct a recovery mission during Operation Arrowhead Ripper.

Bounty Hunters are on the job 24/7

Story by Spc. Samantha K. Nichols
FSC. B, 202nd BSB

There are some that might say being in a support battalion is "sham city," but be assured that there is no time for goofing around in Bravo Company, 202nd Brigade Support Battalion.

231 Soldiers in nine different sections work constantly to make sure the rest of the brigade has all it needs to complete its missions. Conducting 24-hour operations to consistently support the brigade is just the beginning.

The Bounty Hunters provide maintenance on equipment such as generators, weapons, electronics and all kinds of vehicles as well as running the Brigade Detainee Holding Area and transferring detainees twice a week.

The Transportation Platoon runs an average of five missions per week with only 13 total personnel.

SSA Warehouse processes thousands of dollars worth of supplies and equipment everyday. They maintain and distribute every kind of ammunition we use to the entire brigade.

Not to mention our Fuel Platoon pushing thousands of gallons of JP8 out daily to all Raiders in and outside the wire.

Every task is important and each Soldier appreciates that fact. Our leaders prioritize everything to maximize efficiency.

As one staff sergeant put it, "We are very adaptive to the brigade's ever changing needs."

No matter where the mission takes us, when it is or how it has to be done, we are ready to do our duty as support Soldiers.



MEDICAL ALERT



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

FCIC-MD

28 NOV 07

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Preventive Measures Against Seasonal Influenza

1. **PURPOSE.** To provide Commanders and leaders with awareness of the upcoming influenza season and emphasize the enforcement of preventive measures to reduce the risk of influenza and other respiratory illnesses.

2. **BACKGROUND.** Influenza, also known as the flu, is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. It is different from a cold and can cause mild to severe illness, even death. Flu season can begin as early as October and last as late as May. The viruses are spread mainly from person to person through coughing or sneezing, or by touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching the mouth or nose. People may be able to infect others beginning 1 day before showing symptoms and up to 5 days after becoming sick. Influenza usually comes on suddenly and may include these symptoms: fever, headache, fatigue (can be extreme), dry cough, sore throat, nasal congestion, and muscle/body aches. The flu usually lasts 3-7 days for most people, but some symptoms can last up to 2 weeks.

3. **DISCUSSION.** The best force protection measure against influenza is to get a flu vaccination each year, because the flu viruses can change from year to year. There are two types of vaccines: the flu shot, containing a killed virus that is given with a needle; and the nasal-spray flu vaccine, made with live, weakened flu viruses that do not cause the flu. Both types are available in theater.

4. **PREVENTIVE MEASURES.** In addition to vaccination, Commanders must emphasize the following basic but effective hygiene practices to help prevent influenza:

- Avoid close contact (within 3 feet) with people who are sick.
- Cover the mouth and nose with a sleeve or tissue when sneezing or coughing, put all used tissues in the waste basket.
- Wash hands often with soap and warm water or alcohol based gels.
- Avoid touching the eyes, nose or mouth.
- Seek medical care in case of fever, chills or persistent cough.
- Use head-to-foot sleeping patterns in tents or buildings.

5. Additional information can be found at the following website:
<https://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/news/influenzaWebsite/index.htm>

6. Point of contact for this alert is the MNC-I Surgeon Force Health Protection Officer 822-7972; email: mailto:DLNMNC-ISURGEONFHP@iraq.centcom.mil

ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION AND POST ON BULLETIN BOARDS

Signature
RAYMOND T. ODIERNO
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

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

MEDICAL ALERT 07-07

MEDICAL ALERT

Easy Sudoku

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

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

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

by Chris Okasaki, Department of EE&CS, USMA

Sudoku Answers

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

Solution to Easy Sudoku

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

Solution to Medium Sudoku

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

Solution to Hard Sudoku

Medium Sudoku

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

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

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

by Chris Okasaki, Department of EE&CS, USMA

Hard Sudoku

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

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

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

by Chris Okasaki, Department of EE&CS, USMA



Lies, exaggerations and plain talking out your rear

By Spc. John Crosby
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

"I'm probably going Special Forces after this deployment."

Really? Wow! Well, first of all if you were really planning on going SF, why do you feel the need to talk about it to anyone willing to lend a listening ear? Secondly, if you were going to go SF why didn't you take up a combat MOS when you enlisted in the first place? Unless, of course, you planned on being a high speed combat meteorologist.

The hot wind of BS doesn't stop there. We all may be guilty of telling tall tales, but some are taller than others. Have you heard this one yet?

"I went to SFAS, but I hurt my ankle."

I'm sorry but to me that sounds like, "I couldn't hack it."

Isn't it funny that you've never met anyone who quit a high-school sport, but you've probably met plenty who "got hurt." Failure is not something I personally would feel compelled to discuss with

my co-workers, at least not in an attempt to impress them.

"If I had stayed in the Army with out taking a break in service, I could've been a staff sergeant by now."

Hmm? But instead you did, and now you're taking orders from someone ten years younger than you with half the time in service.

Don't get me wrong, I applaud anyone for re-enlisting, break in service or not. And anyone with the intestinal fortitude to go Special Forces has earned respect in my book. But talking about these failures or short comings in some feeble attempt to gain respect is pathetic at best. I call it talking out of your rear, and nobody likes an rear talker. As Southern-white-rapper Bubba Sparx would say, "Shut up with all that booty chatter."

Some of you may be reading this and thinking, what does

this young specialist know about anything – or this guy might be full of BS, too!

To you, I say, "Touché man, sir or sergeant."

Now you're beginning to understand my point of view. If it looks, smells or sounds like doo-doo, you might want to call it BS. It can be extremely liberating.

Be careful though, not every situation warrants this kind of honesty.

Here is an example of a wrong time to call BS:

"Pvt. Snuffy, fill these 500 sandbags by 1700."

"No can do 1st Sergeant, that's some BS!"

Wrong answer!

Now, the flipside to this coin:

"Man, I was so cold in my CHU last night, the heater stopped working."

Tell this to the infantryman or cavalry scout who air assaulted into some village he can't pronounce and slept in the palm groves with his body armor to keep him warm. I guarantee he will press the BS button.

I guess my point is that after a few months in the desert listening to anyone's and every-

one's story, I think I am at the point where I am able to separate some of the truth from the BS.

I have definitely reached the point where I am sick of hearing people complain and moan about what they volunteered to do, and how it's so hard for them. I'm sick of listening to people come up with crazy circumstantial stories about how much better they are than what they appear to be.

To these people I say shut up and drive on, quite your complaining and stop directing your hot, garbage breath at me because I don't buy a second of it. Sell your story somewhere else because here in the Public Affairs Office we are about telling the true, Soldier's story.

Remember, no one likes a BS-er, and talking out your rear stinks.





1-38th lays the Rock Hammer down on Mujema

Photos by Pfc. Kirby Rider

Above: Staff Sgt. Chris Sterling and Spc. Nicholas Muhar of Company C, 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment provide security for Spc. Scott Coleman, also of Company C, while clearing an apartment complex in Mujema, Iraq, just north of Baquba, Nov. 26.

Left: Spc. Scott Coleman of Company C, 1-38th Inf. kicks in a door during Operation Rock Hammer V in Mujema, Iraq, just north of Baquba, Nov. 26.



SOUND OFF!

What is your New Year's resolution?



"To come home will all of my guys at the end of the deployment."

1st Sgt. Cliff Gocha
C Co., 1-38 IN



"To be a better boyfriend and show more love to family and friends."

Capt. Roland Minex
Battalion S-5
HHC, 1-38 IN



"I am going to quit smoking."

Spc. Anthony Stroip
Human Resource Spc.
HHT, 2-1 Cav



"I want to quit !#\$%#@ swearing."

Sgt. Jessi Tseng
Command Group Aide
HHC, 4-2 SBCT



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SGT Joel Dahl
June 23, 2007
HHC, 2-23 IN

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

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

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

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

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

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

SGT Christopher Kruse
Nov. 13, 2007
HHC, 2-23 IN

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

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

CPL Peter Schmidt
Nov. 13, 2007
Co. C, 2-23 IN

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

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

SGT Kenneth Booker
Nov. 14, 2007
Co. C, 2-23 IN

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

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

PFC Marius Ferrer
Nov. 18, 2007
Co. B, 1-38 IN

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

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

CPL Christopher Nelson
Nov. 18, 2007
Co. B, 1-38 IN

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

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

CPL Jason Lee
Nov. 18, 2007
Co. B, 1-38 IN

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

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

SGT Blair Emery
Nov. 30, 2007
571 MP Co. 97 MP BN

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

1LT Jeremy Ray
Dec. 20, 2007
How. Bat., 1-3 ACR



THE MONEY SHOT



Soldiers of Company F, 52nd Infantry Regiment in-place their gunners in blocking positions during operation Able Night Train in Diyala Province, Iraq, Dec. 9. Fierce Co. worked with 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment to clear palm groves near the village of Chibernet.

Insert: Soldiers of Company F, 52nd Infantry Regiment wait to execute their next move while moving through the fields outside of Chibernet, Diyala province, Iraq, Dec. 9.



Spc. Donald Rocci, a sniper in HHC, 4-9 Inf., scans the area from a rooftop, providing security overwatch for members of his company during Operation Able Night Train Dec. 9. An Apache attack helicopter hovers overhead, providing security from the air.



A machine gunner from Company F, 52nd Infantry Regiment, pulls security in a field near the village of Chibernet, Diyala province, Iraq, Dec. 9.

Photos by Spc. John Crosby