

**Stryker
troops
thrash
through
obstacles
to a stable
Diyala**



THE DESERT RAIDER

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Col. Jon S. Lehr

Raider 6

Raiders,

I've just returned from R&R leave and as much as I enjoyed the time back home, I am thrilled to be back with you in Diyala. I couldn't be more pleased with the great things your units and leaders accomplished while I was gone.

It is hard to believe we are beginning our 12th month in Iraq. How far we have all come and how hard you have all worked to get here. It seems like only yesterday we unfurled our new brigade colors on the parade field at Fort Lewis – colors that had no history just the potential for greatness. Now, look at the history you have all helped write.

There has never been a 4th Brigade

of the 2nd Infantry Division – now, no one will ever forget that one fought so valiantly here!

In 12 months, you have liberated cities from the grip of criminals and extremists like al-Qaida. Your units have destroyed hundreds of caches and captured or killed just as many individuals that threatened the safety of your fellow Soldiers, the Iraqi Security Forces and Iraqi civilians. You have brought hope to tens of thousands of people who have never known it – or who have lived in fear so long that they had forgotten it.

I wish such great accomplishments were not so costly. As of Feb. 17, forty-seven of our fellow Raiders have given their lives in this endeavor. They, too, helped right the history of our proud brigade – the part that reminds us of the burden a Soldier must sometimes bear.

My heart aches for their families and I often think of them in my prayers.

It is just as important to recognize the nearly 400 Soldiers in this brigade that have been wounded in our fight since arriving last April – over 90 were injured so severely that they have been evacuated from theater. As I travelled back to Iraq from R&R, I stopped to visit with our Soldiers still

receiving treatment at Walter Reed, Brooke Army Medical Center and in the Fort Lewis area. It was truly inspiring to see men so young with such high spirits though their bodies appeared so broken.

To the man, they voiced a deep desire to rejoin their fellow Soldiers and continue the fight in the place that had changed them forever. What commitment, what courage ... what honor.

And now it is in front of us – the last 90 days. It is now where we will become most vulnerable not to the enemy but to ourselves. Complacency, overconfidence, fatigue – these will be the things that seriously injure or kill our Soldiers over the next three months.

We must look after ourselves and our buddies. I expect our non-commissioned officers to re-energize their attention to detail and brutal enforcement of standards – our Soldiers lives depend on it.

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

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On the Cover: Spc. Charles Fitak, radio operator with Company A, 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, negotiates his way over a wall during Operation Rock Thrasher in Al-Saiyid, Iraq, Feb. 8.



Command Sgt. Maj. John W. Troxell

Raider 7

Greetings to all fellow Raiders!

I have just returned from R&R leave and also made TDY trips to Walter Reed hospital and Brook Army Medical Center to visit our wounded Raiders. Additionally, I also visited all of our wounded warriors back at Madigan and Fort Lewis as well.

The visits to our wounded were some of the most inspirational events I have ever been apart of. I will tell you that to a Soldier all of our wounded are doing well and are focusing on getting healthy and long to be back with their buddies here in Iraq. They are not wallowing in self pity because of the wounds they have suffered. They are motivated, proud warriors who are working hard to overcome their injuries. It was truly an honor to visit them all and something I will never forget.

The topic of my article this month may probably seem ridiculous to some, but after this deployment is over a lot of you will understand what I am trying to say in this article. We

have about three to four months left in this deployment here in Iraq.

As I circulate throughout our battle space and talk to Soldiers, the message I have been sending is that with only three to four months left you have to “enjoy it while it lasts.” Now as soon as I say that to Soldiers I get all kinds of different looks at me like I should be committed to a rubber room and a straitjacket. Let me clarify what I mean when I say “enjoy it while it lasts.”

Right now as an organization we are at our peak as a combat unit. We have been conducting combat operations for 11 months and we are doing very well in all areas. We maneuver well. We close with and destroy the enemy very well. We conduct combat support very well. We clearly understand the complex battlefield that we operate in, and we conduct graduate level counterinsurgency operations very well. A lot of our being good at what we do is through sheer repetition day in and day out, night in and night out. All things considered, we may never be this close to military greatness again in our entire careers or lives.

Now, once we redeploy (and don't get me wrong, we all cannot wait to get back home to our loved ones) we will not see our weapons, equipment and vehicles for probably two months and will probably not wear our combat gear for close to three months. A lot of the bonds we have formed with our fellow brother and sister warriors will be severed through PCS and ETS moves. Some of the



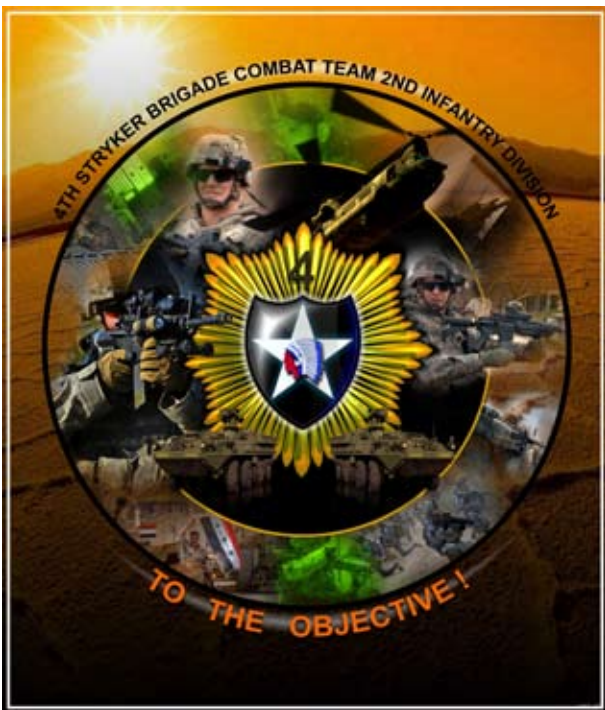
people we have fought next to for 15 months we may never see again for the rest of our lives because of movements. Our skills as warriors will erode to a certain extent because of sheer lack of repetition and because we will be focusing on things like reintegration with our families and enjoying the simpler things in life like our children's sporting events, a backyard cookout or a new car.

As far as our battle rhythm, our normal raids and ambushes and combat repair missions will be replaced initially by classroom instruction and motor pool work and basic skills training. This is all part of the process of redeployment. Now through the Army Force Generation model we eventually will go from the reset phase, through the ready and on to the available phase for another deployment. But that will be about a two-year process to get to that level.

So as I said before “enjoy this deployment while it lasts.” That includes your comrades, your fighting abilities, your organization and your performance.

Col. Lehr and I are extremely proud of all of you and look forward to seeing you all out on the battlefield. God bless you all!

**“To the Objective”
Raider 7**



Fierce Thrasher helps displaced families return home



A former displaced family stands in front of their house after Soldiers from Company F, 52nd Infantry Regiment and Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division helped 39 families return to the town after the threat of terrorist attacks forced them out six to nine months ago. One hundred more families are scheduled to return.

Partnering with IA and SolIs, Co. F, 52nd Inf. Regt. helps Iraqis displaced by AQI move back to Durah

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

Families displaced from a town near Baqubah, Iraq, were escorted back to their homes by the Iraqi army and Coalition Force Soldiers, Feb. 13 during Operation Fierce Thrasher.

Soldiers from Company F, 52nd Infantry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division from Fort Lewis, Wash., helped 39 families dislocated due to fear of terrorist attacks return to their homes in the town of Durah, Iraq.

"Today's mission was to secure the village of Durah to allow the repatriation of the Sunnis into the village," said Capt. Troy Mills, commander of Company F.

The Coalition troops were assisted by Soldiers from the Iraqi army's 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 5th IA Division to clear the town of insurgents and improvised explosive devices.

After the clearing was completed, the Iraqi army kept the



Pfc. Javier Saucedo from Company F, 52nd Infantry Regiment uses binoculars to look over a field from a rooftop during Operation Fierce Thrasher in Durah, Iraq Feb. 13.

town secured while the Iraqi Police and CF Soldiers helped displaced citizens move back to the village. They also helped create a new Sons of Iraq program and set up five checkpoints for the SoIs to operate in the town.

The 52 Sons of Iraq lived in the village at one time and are bringing their families back in the near future, said 1st Lt. Tyson Kampenhout, platoon leader in Company F.

Although more than 40 percent of the town was destroyed or looted by terrorists, the villagers were very happy to come back to their homes, and they said they were willing to work with ISF and CF to keep al-Qaida in Iraq fighters from reentering the town. The villagers also committed to rebuilding essential services like water treatment, electricity and schools.

“The essential services are pretty low. If anything was already setup, it is not currently operating,” Mills said. “Over the next few weeks, Civil Affairs and I will be going back into the town to reassess the essential services ... and see what we can do to get them running again.”

After the joint forces vowed to help rebuild essential programs and keep the town safe from AQI and sectarian violence, more than 100 displaced families pledged to return

to the town in the next three weeks. Some of the families have been living as far south as Baghdad, and had not been back to the town in six to nine months.

The operation lasted eight hours and accomplished three major tasks: al-Qaida in Iraq was pushed out of the area, a Sons of Iraq program was established and villagers returned to their homes.



Above: First Lt. Carlos Alvarez, platoon leader in Company F, 52nd Infantry Regiment talks with Sons of Iraq during Operation Fierce Thrasher in Durah, Iraq, Feb 13. Fierce Thrasher created an Sol program in the area.

Top Right: First Lt. Carlos Alvarez, platoon leader in Company F, 52nd Inf., looks over a map of the area with a first lieutenant from the Iraqi army's 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 5th Division in Durah, Iraq, Feb. 13. The Iraqi army helped Coalition Force Soldiers clear the area of al-Qaida in Iraq operatives and house-borne IEDs.

IA frees 2 kidnap victims, CF kills 3 AQI during Tomahawk Thrasher

By Staff Sgt. Russell Bassett
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The Iraqi army found two kidnap victims and Coalition Forces killed three al-Qaida in Iraq operatives and detained seven suspected AQI during Operation Tomahawk Thrasher near Qubah, approximately four miles northeast of Zaganiyah, Iraq, Feb. 7.

During the joint operation – which involved the Iraqi army, Iraqi Police and Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment – Coalition Forces detained seven suspected AQI during village clearing operations. One AQI was killed by an air weapons team and two more were killed in a firefight with CF in palm groves directly west of Qubah.

One hour after the firefight, Iraqi army soldiers discovered the two kidnapped victims approximately 1 km away in the same palm grove. CF officials believe the kidnappers fled the area and left the victims when they heard CF helicopters, and then were killed in the process of fleeing.

The victims had been kidnapped three days prior in Zaganiyah, and said they were beaten and tortured by their captors. The liberated prisoners identified the enemy killed in action as the people who had kidnapped and tortured them.

“This is the first time we have done a big operation like this with the IP and IA together,” said Charlie Company, 2-23 Inf. 1st Sgt. William Linares. “They did an awesome job. They moved with a sense of urgency, and they knew what they were doing.

“As a whole, we are making a huge impact in this area, especially working with IA and IP,” Linares continued.



Courtesy photos

Two former AQI kidnapped victims stand next to one of the Iraqi army soldiers that liberated them Feb. 7 near Qubah, Iraq.

“Now we are getting so much more support from the local population. They are actually engaging the enemy themselves when they come in town.

That was unheard of before. They see the IA and IP, and (the local citizens) get more confident. They used to be terrified of the insurgents.”



Spc. James Powell, infantry scout with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment stands next to an AQI underground bunker that was used as a prison and torture chamber for kidnapped victims. The Iraqi army freed two kidnapped victims Feb. 7 near the bunker, which is located in the palm groves just west of Qubah, Iraq.



Iraqi army soldiers stand next to a 14.5mm machine gun discovered in Hussein al Hamadi, Iraq, Feb. 12 during Operation Lions Attack. Numerous weapons and explosives were found in the former al-Qaida in Iraq stronghold.

Courtesy photo

2-1 Cav. helps IA clear AQI strongholds

By Staff Sgt. Russell Bassett
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The Iraqi army with minimal support from their Coalition partners cleared two former al-Qaida in Iraq stronghold villages south of Baqubah, Iraq, Feb. 10-13.

Soldiers from the 3rd and 4th Battalions, 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division with support from Troop B, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division cleared the villages of Arab Jabar and Hussein al Hamadi during Operations Lions Attack and Bandog Rodeo.

During the operations, the Iraqi Soldiers discovered and cleared 35 improvised explosive devices, 10 vehicle-borne IEDs, four house-borne IEDs and seven weapons caches. One enemy combatant was killed, two were wounded and 16 suspected insurgents were detained.

Weapons confiscated during the operations included 36 mortar and rocket rounds, 11 Katusha rocket launchers, 27 rocket propelled grenade launchers, 42 RPG rounds, 10 AK-47 rifles, one 14.5mm heavy machine gun, 400 pounds of homemade explosives, numerous small arms rounds, other

military equipment and enemy propaganda.

One Iraqi army soldier was killed during the fighting and six Iraqi army soldiers were injured. Two CF Soldiers were injured along with one interpreter during an exchange of gunfire with enemy fighters. The Soldiers are in stable condition and will be returned to duty.

This is the third operation in these two villages in the past six months. IA and CF conducted air assaults into the villages in October and January, but this is the first time a large force has gone into the area to include route clearance vehicles and explosive ordinance disposal.

Hundreds of Sons of Iraq (formerly Concerned Local Citizens) have volunteered to ensure AQI is unable to retake the area.

"The Iraqi army did outstanding," said Capt. Brett Gambacorta, Troop B executive officer. "The improvements we have seen in the IA since May have been amazing. This operation was completely Iraqi led, Iraqi planned and Iraqi executed. All we did was assist them with some logistical aspects and some Coalition Force enablers. The IA is taking the fight to the enemy regardless of sect. They are hunting down AQI and taking care of business."

Rock Thrasher clears Saiyid, Windiyah

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

The early morning mission conducted by Iraqi army and Coalition Forces Feb. 8 brought them into an area that was believed to be a former al-Qaida in Iraq stronghold to look for weapon caches and to kill or capture any remaining AQI.

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division from Fort Lewis, Wash., working side-by-side with Iraqi army soldiers cleared the towns of Big and Small Windiyah along with al-Saiyid, Iraq, a village to the south.

"We went into al-Saiyid as part of a battalion operation called Operation Rock Thrasher. My platoon was to clear the town," said Staff Sgt. Eric Breeden, platoon sergeant in Company A, 1-38th Inf. "We cleared the area with the Iraqi army's help."

The Iraqi army was able to talk to the citizens and in many cases convince them to give up information on weapons caches or AQI operatives in the area.



Spc. Bradley Crittenden, a rifleman in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment provides security for fellow squad members while preparing to clear Al-Saiyid, Iraq, Feb. 8.

By the end of the operation, the Soldiers detained seven individuals who were accused of emplacing IEDs or having illegal firearms, found 10 AK-47 assault rifles, two hand-held machine guns, two carbine rifles, one bolt-action rifle, one 14.5mm heavy machine gun, one .50 cal machine gun and two anti-aircraft guns, which had been converted to fire on ground personnel.

"The (anti-aircraft guns) were big finds; we normally don't find those types of things in towns," said Capt. Michael Herbeck, executive officer of Company A.

The citizens were very open with the Soldiers and there was very little resistance. After talking to the local villagers, the troops were able to gather information and discovered that the area was relatively safe.

"From what we were told by the people living in the town, it is a very quiet and safe area with little AQI presence," Herbeck said. "They have had sporadic encounters with snipers. For the most part though, the threat was not as great as what we thought it was before we got there."



Soldiers from Co. A, 1-38th Inf. work together to climb over a wall in Al-Saiyid, Iraq, Feb. 8. High walls surrounding houses and canals made clearing the town challenging.

Even though the citizens were very helpful, the Soldiers still looked to the sheiks and the tribal leaders for the most reliable information and to get a good idea about what the towns are facing when Coalition Forces are not in the area, whether it is attacks from AQI, electrical problems or lack of water.

“We would get the best information by talking to the locals or the key leaders,” Herbeck said. “They look out for the best interest for the people of the town. If they have any issues, they bring them to us because they know we can help them.”

Even after the Soldiers learned the threat wasn’t as bad as they thought,

they still remained very cautious due to the many obstacles they had to overcome to complete the mission. High walls and large debris piles created multiple obstructions that the Soldiers had to work through. Crossing canals was a common theme, as the Soldiers reached out to each other to stop from falling into the cold water.

The Soldiers continued to push through the town until every house and car was completely searched. The Soldiers then moved into the next phase of their operation, setting up a Sons of Iraq (formerly known as Concerned Local Citizens) program in the town of Windiyah.

“When we went into Windiyah, we

discovered there was already a significant presence of (people providing for their own security) in the area,” Herbeck said. “They were already capable of holding the area for themselves. ... It really helped us out.”

When the Soldiers finished registering the Sons of Iraq, they loaded their equipment and the weapons they found onto their Strykers and drove back to Forward Operating Base Warhorse.

“The day was long, but we did our job. The Soldiers of 3rd Platoon and the non-commissioned officers did a good job finding the caches,” Breeden said. “They were very professional and that made the job a lot easier out there.”



Above: Spc. Seth Epperson, a rifleman in Co. A, 1-38th Inf. moves debris and hay out of his way while looking for a weapons caches at a farm in Al-Saiyid, Iraq, Feb. 8.

Right: First Lt. Rodney Jackson, platoon leader in Co. B, 1-38th Inf. discusses a plan off attack with an Iraqi army squad leader in Al-Saiyid, Iraq, Feb. 8. The Iraqi army and Coalition Force Soldiers worked together to clear the town of weapons.

2-3 ACR works with IA to clear village near Turki

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

Coalition Force Soldiers recently worked with Iraqi army soldiers to coordinate and execute a mission near Balad Ruz, Iraq, Feb. 17.

Iraqi army soldiers from 4th Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division stationed at Turki Patrol Base were helped by Soldiers from Troop G, 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment to conduct a reconnaissance mission to gather intelligence about the area and people wanted for questioning.

“We are looking for terrorist weapons caches, people who were kidnapped and suicide vests,” said Capt. Robert Green, Grim Troop commanding officer. “Pretty much anything the terrorist can use. We are trying to make the country safer.”

Even though the mission began on the 17th, coordination began on Feb. 16, when Soldiers from Grim Troop met with commanders of 4/3/1/5 IA Division at PB Turki to talk about problem areas and what CF could do to help.

The Iraqi army commanders were grateful for Grim



Soldiers from Troop G, 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment enter a house during a clearing operation near Turki, Iraq, Feb. 17.

Troop’s request to help and gladly told them which towns they had received mortar and small-arms attacks from. The leaders sat down and discussed what equipment was available and what CF would need to provide.



Sgt. Bryan Lofton, a squad leader in Troop G, 2-3 ACR looks through the window of a mud hut during a clearing operation near Turki, Iraq, Feb. 17.

The IA’s vehicles were in need of repair after hitting multiple IEDs the previous week on the roadways leading into the town. CF agreed to transport the Iraqi army soldiers to and from the town, as well as take the damaged vehicles back to the combat outpost later in the week.

When the Soldiers returned to Forward Operating Base Caldwell on Feb. 16, they were released to prepare for the next morning’s operation which included extensive pre-combat inspections, where non-commissioned officers checked to ensure equipment is working properly and the lower-enlisted Soldiers have the proper gear, and preparing the vehicles for the mission ahead of them.

After the equipment was packed, the Soldiers went back to their



Soldiers from Troop G, 2-3 ACR talk with Iraqi army soldiers before a clearing operation near Turki, Iraq, Feb. 17.

tents to rest. The following afternoon, Feb. 17, the Soldiers convoyed to where they met Iraqi army soldiers and traveled into the town to capture or kill any AQI.

When the Soldiers began searching, they found several tunnels in the walls of the canals surrounding the area. The tunnels were thought to hide weapons caches and possibly could act as fighting positions. The Soldiers also found three AK-47 magazines buried in a barn. The legal limit for Iraqi civilians is one AK-47 assault rifle and one magazine per male adult in the household.

When homeowners were questioned about AQI operatives and weapon caches in the area, most were very helpful and didn't interfere with the Soldiers searching their property.

"Most of the people don't mind us being there," said 1st Lt. Michael Medders, executive officer for Grim Troop. "This is the fifth year of the war and they have gotten accustomed to us being here."

After all of the houses were searched and most of the citizens were questioned, the Soldiers were able to recover ammunition and weapon magazines that could be used against Iraqi army or Coalition Forces, gain valuable information on caches and AQI safe houses, and the people of the town were able to express their concerns to the Iraqi army about water treatment problems and the short supply of electricity and fuel.



Sgt. Bryan Lofton from Troop G, 2-3 ACR pulls another Grim Troop Soldier out of a tunnel after searching for weapon caches in the canal wall near Turki, Iraq, Feb 17.

Right: Spc. Kyle Wagner and Sgt. 1st Class Keneti Pauulu of 3rd Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment pull security during Operation Chaos Thrasher Feb. 19 in Aswad, Iraq.

Below: A Soldier in Co. C, 1-38th Inf. talks with Iraqi children in Aswad, Iraq, Feb. 19 during Operation Chaos Thrasher. The operation was designed to not only clear the village of any remaining al-Qaida in Iraq, but to also build rapport with the local populace.



Chaos

Cpl. Keith Raymond, infantryman in Co. C, 1-38th Inf. and Iraqi police-men search a palm grove for weapons caches Feb. 19 in Aswad, Iraq, during Operation Chaos Thrasher.





Left: Pfc. Toby Obrien navigates over a wall as Cpl. Keith Raymond watches Feb. 19 in Aswad, Iraq. The 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment Soldiers worked side-by-side with Iraqi policemen to clear the town and surrounding areas of possible enemy insurgents.

Below: Capt. Shaun Reass, platoon leader, and Staff Sgt. William Houdeshell, squad leader of 3rd Plt., Co. C, 1-38th Inf., discuss movement into the village of Aswad, Iraq, Feb. 19 during Operation Chaos Thrasher.

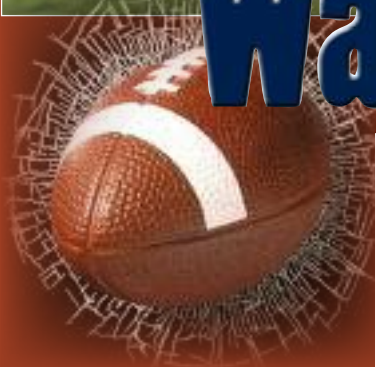
Photos by Staff Sgt. Russell Bassett

Thrasher



Minnesota Vikings cheerleaders Leanne Piette (right) and Nicole Bonniwell sign autographs at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq, Feb. 3.

Warhorse Super Bowl



Photos by Staff Sgt. Russell Bassett



Above left: Minnesota Vikings cheerleaders Nicole Bonniwell (left) and Leanne Piette promote Spc. James Dix of the 202nd Military Police Company at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq, Feb. 3.

Above right: From right: Former Oakland Raider and Minnesota Viking linebacker Greg Biekert, Current Buffalo Bills linebacker Paul Posluszny, and former Carolina Panthers safety Mike Minter pose for a photograph at FOB Warhorse, Iraq, Jan. 3. The football stars signed autographs, gave away prizes and watched the Superbowl with the troops.

Left: Former Carolina Panthers and Nebraska Cornhuskers football star Mike Minter gives a game jersey to Command Sgt. Maj. John Troxell, top noncommissioned officer of 4-2 SBCT, at FOB Warhorse, Iraq, Feb. 3.



2-12 FA works with ISF to secure villages during Viking Rodeo

By Capt. Ken Scattergood
HHC, 2-12 FA

Recently, Sons of Iraq and Soldiers from Battery A and B of 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment conducted a multi-echelon operation to clear IEDs placed by al-Qaida forces and provide humanitarian aid to the local population of an area south of Baqubah. For more than a year, the villages of Duwebb and Abu Jamil had been plagued with hostile forces terrorizing the citizens and making it nearly impossible for Coalition and Iraqi forces to help the people of those villages. IED placement became rampant and shooting engagements with Iraqi and Coalition Forces occurred daily. Local citizens were frequently kidnapped and even killed if they resisted helping the AQI forces in the area.

The initial sweep into the villages began in the early morning hours of Feb. 10. Supported by Coalition Forces from Battery A and B, the SoIs rolled into the villages looking for IEDs and any Iraqi insurgents. Coalition forces air assaulted into flanking positions to cover and clear areas outside the villages. Six IEDs were discovered and removed without incident, however one IED detonated, killing one SoI member. A cache was also discovered in the area containing two 75mm rockets and one 122mm artillery round which were destroyed on site. Though no AQI forces were directly engaged during the operation, it was later discovered that they had retreated from the area prior to Coalition and SoI forces pushing into the villages.



Courtesy photo

An Iraq army soldier helps bring food and supplies to the local citizens of Abu Jamil during 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery's Operation Viking Rodeo.

The following morning, Coalition Forces from Battery B, 2-12 FA and Iraqi army forces returned to the villages to offer humanitarian assistance to the people. They brought with them food and medical supplies. The people in the village were receptive and very appreciative of the aid provided and were glad to see security returning to their villages. Coalition forces wanted the people to know they were there to support and help them.

"I feel that the people will see us in a more positive light and as a friendlier presence in the area," said Spc. Jeremy Cashwell of Battery B.

Capt. Kevin James, Battery B commander, summarized why these types of missions are so important.

"They are important not just for the citizens of the local villages ... they also allow the Soldiers to see how the war is affecting the average everyday Iraqi," he said. "It allows the Soldiers to see first hand the benefits of our presence here."

Coalition Forces also took note of the issues the people had, including a lack of electricity, fuel for vehicles, and only one water source for the population. Once the area is better

secured, Coalition and Iraqi forces can begin projects to improve and fix the problems of the village. In the past, this area had not received much attention from security forces due to the presence of AQI. Now that these enemies of the people are cleared out, Coalition and Iraqi forces will be able to attend to the needs of the citizens of these areas.

"It's refreshing to go on the move in an effort to help secure as much of Iraq as we can for the Iraqi people in the time that we are here," said Cpl. Noah Mutrie of Battery B.

The operation achieved several key things: The villages, now clear of AQI, will be able to receive much needed security in the form of more Coalition and SoI patrols and checkpoints as well as infrastructure such as police and fire stations. Future developments could include new schools, better water treatment and delivery systems and even government centers. Now that Coalition and Iraqi forces can travel into and out of the villages easily, working with the local populations will enable them to keep their villages free of insurgents and maintain a peaceful atmosphere for the population.





Pfc. Michael Japak of Grim Troop 2-3 ACR mans a blocking position outside the Iraqi village of Mansuriyat al Jabal, Iraq.

Courtesy photo

Sons of Iraq help 2-3 ACR take a bite out of AQI

By Capt. David French
HHT, 2-3 ACR

Rarely do investments pay immediate dividends, but on Feb. 8 Fox Troop, 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment's investment of time and effort into enrolling new Sons of Iraq paid off immediately — for Fox and for the SoIs. In the space of a few hours, two new Sons of Iraq were enrolled who immediately provided information (along with a local sheik) regarding a local AQI meeting place, and then rode with Fox Troop to positively identify the house and its occupants. Within the span of just a few hours, these new SoIs and their sheik helped Fox deal a massive blow to AQI in the Al Nidah region of AO Sabre.

As Fox rolled up on the suspected AQI meeting place, several individuals ran out of the house and jumped into a truck outfitted with a machine gun. Fox Bradley's fired warning shots, and the AQI extremists responded by dismounting and engaging the Bradleys with small arms and rocket propelled

grenades. The Bradleys returned fire with their main guns, immediately destroying the truck and targeting the extremists in the fields around the house.

The ensuing firefight left six AQI members dead with one detained. The dead AQI included one of its primary leaders in Al Nidah, a man who ran illegal checkpoints, funded and emplaced IEDs, conducted kidnappings and terrorized the local population. Most of his cell perished with him, and the detainee was also a highly placed AQI leader.

Since Feb. 8, Fox has followed up its success with the new Sons of Iraq by detaining several additional individuals suspected of AQI involvement. Fox Troop's commander, Capt. Torre Mallard, credited the local sheik and the SoIs for much of the success.

"This would not have happened had we not had a good working relationship with the local sheik and his people in the area," Mallard said.

And that good working relationship is being rewarded, because the AQI leader killed in the firefight was among the most-wanted AQI extremists in the region, the sheik and the SoIs now stand to receive a considerable reward — funds substantially greater than the typical SoI salary.

Since the conclusion of Operation Raider Harvest, 2-3 ACR's Fox and Grim Troops continue to enroll Sons

of Iraq in AO Sabre — the first SoIs in the region. Even as its troopers work to improve the security situation, 2-3 ACR has taken the lead in multiple civil projects, ranging from clinic construction, to water plant completion, to town clean-up operations.

The combination of an ever-improving ISF, new Sons of Iraq filling security gaps and continued civil improvements is leaving AQI with diminishing safe havens in AO Sabre and providing greater security for the local population. The message — as a sheik and two local citizens learned — is clear: it can sometimes pay quite well to do the right thing.

2-23 Inf. works with SoIs to keep pressure on AQI

By Capt. Victor Jaffett
HHC, 2-23 Inf.

In the month of February, Aztec and Blackfoot Companies of 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment focused on non-lethal operations and upholding the security that the Sons of Iraq have brought to Muqdadiyah. Both companies conducted daily SoI engagements and patrols in the neighborhoods and markets. By getting out amongst the people, the companies have been able establish trust with the locals, gain intelligence on enemy activities and establish an understanding on the status of essential services. Both Aztec and Blackfoot have been working hard with the SoIs, ensuring that the neighborhood security groups are not being infiltrated by insurgents and mitigating the growing sectarian tensions in the area.

The SoIs have been essential to driving out the insurgents and maintaining the security, however, the companies

continue to help them pursue other options of employment and remind them that the SoIs are only a temporary fix until security can be provided by the Iraqi Security Forces.

On a patrol through Nowfal on Feb. 7, 3rd Platoon, Company A, 2-23 Inf. found a significant cache hidden in a house consisting of four body armor vests, two grenades, multiple magazines, a crowd control helmet and a PT belt (used to distinguish SoIs).

Easy Forward Support Company continues to support the Tomahawks of 2nd Battalion 23rd Infantry Regiment wherever they operate. Easy Company Soldiers have moved humanitarian assistance to the towns of Abu Saydah, Muqdadiah, and Zaganiyah, provided the Iraqi army materials to construct a combat outpost near Five Bridges, and continue to improve Joint Combat Outpost Zaganiyah.

Crazyhorse Company and the Scouts have been conducting Operation Tomahawk Trasher in the middle Diyala River Valley (DRV) in order to clear the palm groves west of the town of Qubbah and the villages east of Zaganiyah. While clearing the dense palm groves on Feb. 7, they encountered a well constructed tunnel network containing large caches, insurgent bed down locations and two hostages that had been kidnapped from the village of Zaganiyah. The two rescued hostages were taken to the nearest IA location and provided valuable intelligence on the enemy forces in the area. The tunnel system was destroyed by 2,000 pound bombs, rendering the tunnels unusable and destroying the caches. The operations around Qubbah yielded three enemy KIAs and seven detainees.

On Feb. 17, the Scouts air assaulted into the village of Bodija to conduct clearance operations with the Iraqi army scouts. Eight to ten enemy fighters were seen fleeing the village as soon as they landed. Upon the completion of the clearance, the Scouts searched for the squirters and were drawn into an enemy ambush. Sadly, two of the

scouts, Cpl. Chad Groepper and Cpl. Luke Runyan, were killed in the small arms engagement. They served with honor and distinction in the Tomahawk Battalion and the memory of these brave and dedicated young men will live on with the rest of us. Our deepest condolences go out to their families and loved ones.

202nd BSB's vehicle recovery ops kept Raider Harvest moving

*By Capt. Stacy Mumm and
Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Bellin
202nd BSB*

The vehicle recovery team from the 202nd Brigade Support Battalion played a vital role during Operation Raider Harvest. The team was critical in 4-2 SBCT's ability to conduct continuous combat operations despite unfavorable road conditions and vehicle damage due to IEDs and other enemy threats.

In addition to the M984 HEMTT Wreckers organic to 202nd BSB, the unit was outfitted with new equipment in theatre to assist with heavy vehicle recovery missions in the Brigade's AO, such as the M88 Tracked Recovery Vehicle and the Heavy Equipment Trailer. Soldiers were trained on this new equipment while at Camp Taji and these skills were put to the test on several recovery missions once they arrived at FOB Warhorse. During mission analysis, it was determined that the recovery capabilities at FOB Normandy would have to be increased, so a team of 202nd BSB Soldiers was established for this purpose.

Sgt. Durham, Sgt. Walkup, Sgt. Atchinson, Spc. Olano, Spc. Davis, Spc. Trejo, Pfc. Thiewes and Pvt. Walker from Company B, 202nd BSB



Courtesy photo

Soldiers of 202nd BSB recover a downed Stryker during Operation Raider Harvest.

arrived with the BSB TAC at FOB Normandy in late December. Over the following month of Operation Raider Harvest, these Soldiers successfully completed 14 vehicle recovery missions which included the recovery of M1151, Buffalo, RG-31 and Stryker vehicles. The missions ranged from vehicles stuck in the deep, unforgiving mud of narrow canal roads or bridge collapse, to vehicles experiencing mechanical problems or were vehicles severely damaged by IEDs.

Although the primary mission of this team was to be on a one-hour recall status, 24 hours a day, seven days a week for vehicle recovery, these Soldiers also performed the secondary missions their MOSs required, such as maintenance operations to assist the increased workload of the Combat Repair Team. On several occasions, these Soldiers spent the majority of the day working on NMC vehicles, only to be called upon for a recovery mission, which could last anywhere from two to 21 hours. The team could spin up their assets and be on the road to the recovery site in less than 30 minutes. Despite the uncertainty of mission duration, the Soldiers never complained and were always eager to help their comrades continue mission.

Without this team of highly-trained vehicle-recovery specialists, operations would have come to a screeching halt on many occasions during Raider Harvest. These Soldiers recovered mission-essential equipment, enabling the brigade to concentrate on the tactical mission at hand.

Raider Support!





Yassmin Khudair, a policewoman in the Diyala Iraqi Police force, searches Spc. Stephanie Beachley of the 202nd Military Police Company during female search training Feb. 16 at the Iraqi Police headquarters, Baqubah, Iraq. Since late November, there have been four suicide bomb attacks carried out by females in Baqubah, and Diyala is adding more female officers to help combat the issue.

MPs train female IPs on searches

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



An Iraqi policewoman watches as Sgt. Kari Golden (left) and Spc. Stephanie Beachley, both of the 202nd MP Co., demonstrate how to secure a person's hands during a search for weapons and explosives at the Diyala province Iraqi Police headquarters, Baqubah, Iraq, Feb. 16.

The enemy in Iraq has shown no qualms about using females to conduct attacks. In Diyala province alone there have been four female suicide bomb attacks since late November.

To help combat this threat, military policewomen with the 202nd Military Police Company conducted search-technique training with Iraqi policewomen Feb. 16 at the Iraqi Police headquarters in Baqubah, Iraq.

"One of the biggest issues we face is the cultural difference between the women here and the women in the States," explained Capt. Mary Newell, 202nd commander. "It is inappropriate for a male to search a female, or for a male to ask a female to lift her clothing up to look for weapons. In Baqubah, female suicide bombers are a new tactic of choice, and they have been targeting police and emergency response

teams. Having female IPs to do the searches will help the situation and it also maintains the dignity of the females being searched.”

The MPs taught their fellow female law enforcement agents how to properly search a female to find weapons or explosives, how to properly use a search wand, and how to react if something is found.

“I learned a lot from the training,” said Sgt. Nahida Latif Aziz, a three-year IP veteran, through a translator. “I learned how to use the wand and how to put someone against the wall. I’ve never put someone on the ground and searched them before. We had never done that before in our training.”

Col. Ali Sadon, Diyala director of IP training, said the Diyala IP chief wants to hire more females.

“We want to have female IPs at all the government buildings in Diyala,” he said through a translator. “We use them

to investigate houses where the only residents are female. We also use the female IPs to search females because the men cannot do those searches. They are also valuable at the prisons for when females come to visit their husbands and sons who have been detained. It’s a good step in the right direction to train the IP females to help us.”

One of the issues brought up during the training was that the female IPs do not have weapons.

“We should have weapons just like the men,” Aziz said.

Sadon responded by noting that the Iraqi Ministry of the Interior recently reversed a decision made earlier this year that female IPs were not allowed to carry weapons, and the Diyala IP females will soon be issued firearms.

Throughout Iraq, there are approximately 78,000 IPs, around 1,000 of which are female.

In Diyala province, there are approximately 17,500 IPs, of which 30 are female.



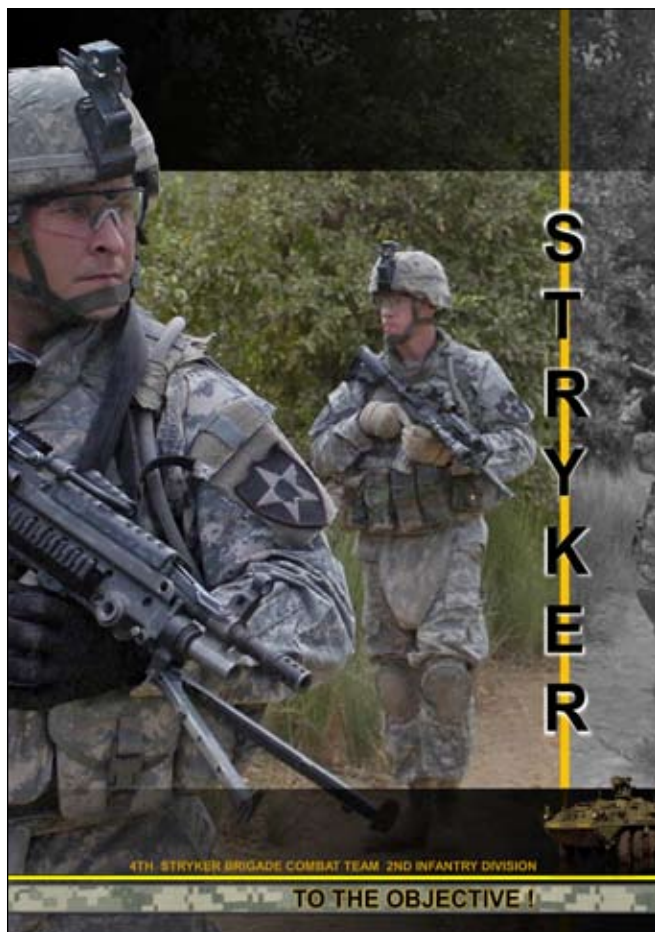
Sgt. Kari Golden, team leader with the 202nd Military Police Company, helps as an Iraqi policewoman searches a fellow MP Feb. 16 at the Diyala province Iraqi Police headquarters, Baqubah, Iraq. Of the 17,500 IPs in Diyala, 30 are female.



Female Iraqi Police officers pose for a photograph Feb. 16 after completing female search training. The Muslim culture does not allow the searching of females by males, so female Iraqi Police are used to search Iraqi women.



Spc. Catherine Duffy of the 202nd MP Co. shows an Iraqi policewoman how to properly search a female at the Diyala province IP headquarters, Baqubah, Iraq, Feb. 16.



Easy Sudoku

by Chris Okasaki, Department of EE&CS, USMA

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

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

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

Medium Sudoku

by Chris Okasaki, Department of EE&CS, USMA

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

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

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

SAFETY ALERT

SAFETY ALERT

IRON 6 SENDS

M2 Browning .50 Caliber Machine Gun Headspace & Timing

PURPOSE: To **RE-EMPHASIZE** the hazards of firing the M2 .50 Caliber machine gun without properly setting the headspace & timing adjustments and to **FURTHER REINFORCE** prevention measures.

SITUATION: During the period October 2007-January 2008, TF Iron has had numerous incidents of damaged M2 machine guns turned-in to Direct Support Maintenance. The Maintenance Technicians' findings were all linked to improper headspace and timing. Failure to properly set the headspace and timing will cause injuries to Soldiers and damage to the M2 machine gun. Screwing the barrel into the receiver and backing off two clicks is not the approved solution. You must perform all the steps on the M2 Smart Card prior to firing.

Leaders and Gunners must verify Headspace & Timing:

- After assembling the weapon
- After replacing the barrel or receiver group

Leaders supervise and verify:

- Weapon assemblage
- Function checks
- Headspace and timing

• **Enforce the use of the M2 Headspace & Timing Smart Card (GTA 09-06-045)**

• Perform Composite Risk Management



Broken Feed
Tray Cover

MARK P. HERTLING
Major General, USA
Commanding

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

SAFETY ALERT

MND-N 08-03





Hard Sudoku

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

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

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

by Chris Okasaki, Department of EE&CS, USMA

Sudoku Answers

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

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

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

GTA 09-06-045

M2 MG - HEADSPACE ADJUSTMENT

WARNING - Weapon may explode if not properly headspaced!

Note: Ensure charging handle is retracted before inserting barrel.

Note: Headspace and timing must be performed each time the barrel is installed

Note: Ensure barrel is a lined barrel (PN 7266131).

1. Raise cover all the way up, retract bolt to align barrel locking spring lug with 3/8" hole in right side of receiver.
 2. With bolt retracted, screw barrel completely into barrel extension; then unscrew barrel two clicks. Allow bolt to go forward; barrel should not rotate.
 3. Charge the weapon and allow the bolt to go forward. (Do not slam)
 4. Retract the bolt until the barrel extension begins to separate (but not more than 1/16 inch) from the trunnion block. **(DO NOT INSERT ANY OBJECT BETWEEN THE BARREL EXTENSION AND TRUNNION BLOCK).** Hold in this position until gage check is completed.
 5. Raise cartridge extractor; Push in on alignment guide to insert gage. (Apply slight pressure on gage). Attempt to insert "GO" end of headspace gage in the T-slot between the face of bolt and rear of barrel all the way up to the ring. If "GO" end of headspace gage enters down to the ring, attempt to insert the "NO GO" end of headspace gage; if "NO GO" end does not enter, **headspace is set**. If "NO GO" end enters T-slot or "GO" end does not enter, retract bolt to align barrel locking spring lug with 3/8" hole in right side of receiver.
 6. Screw barrel in one click at a time (if "NO GO" end enters slot) or one click out at a time (if GO end does not enter) rechecking after each click starting from **Step 4** above.
 7. Repeat until "GO" end can enter T-slot and "NO GO" will not enter T-slot.
- CAUTION** - Do not unscrew barrel more than a total of seven clicks. If condition occurs, turn in machine gun for next echelon inspection.

GTA 09-06-045

M2 MG - TIMING ADJUSTMENT

WARNING - Never charge gun with back plate off. Do not stand directly behind gun while removing backplate.

NOTE: Gun must be in single shot mode before removing backplate.

NOTE: Ensure proper headspace is set before attempting to adjust timing. Barrel must be installed. Each Time the back plate is removed, remove gage.

1. Raise cover all the way up. (Do not hold barrel while charging weapon). Charge the weapon and allow the bolt to go forward. (Do not slam).
2. Retract bolt just enough to insert "FIRE" gage with beveled edge against barrel notches.
3. Remove backplate (pull backplate latch lock straight back, while lifting up on backplate latch. Raise backplate assembly straight up and remove from receiver).
4. Turn timing adjustment nut all the way down (to the left), but not completely off the timing stud.
5. Retract bolt just enough to remove "Fire" Gage. Reinstall backplate. Retract bolt just enough to insert "Fire Gage" and attempt to fire by pressing butterfly trigger; gun should not fire (firing pin not released).
6. Retract bolt just enough to remove "Fire" Gage. Remove backplate, screw nut one click at a time. Reinstall backplate. Retract bolt just enough to insert "Fire" Gage and attempt to fire by pressing on butterfly trigger (repeat procedure until the gun fires-firing pin releases).
7. After the gun fires, remove backplate, turn nut up two more clicks. Reinstall backplate, charge the weapon and allow the bolt to go forward. (Do not slam)
8. Retract bolt just enough to insert "NO FIRE" gage with beveled edge against barrel notches. Attempt to fire by pushing on the butterfly trigger; machine gun should not fire.
9. Retract bolt just enough to remove "NO FIRE" gage and insert "FIRE" gage with beveled edge against barrel notches. Attempt to fire by pushing on butterfly trigger; machine gun should fire. (Remove fire gage). **Timing adjustment is complete.**

Reference: TM 9-1005-213-10 (WP0005) (<https://aeps2.ria.army.mil/aepsHOME.cfm>)



Election Overload

By Pfc. Kirby Rider

115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Anyone who has picked up a newspaper or watched TV lately can not doubt that election season is here.

Every time I am in the chow hall trying to eat I am interrupted from my thoughts by a loud roaring crowd on TV screaming for their candidate to talk more about their promises when they get into office.

Every news network is playing the presidential race like it is going out of style.

It is great that we have the first black man and the first woman running for the presidency, but I do not want to hear about it 24/7. Everyday there is more news worthy stuff that is getting bumped so the networks can play the same section of a candidate's speech over and over again.

Everyday there is something good that happens, even if it is as simple as a homeless shelter opening. But no one ever sees that, the only thing that people ever see now is how Barack Obama just pulled ahead of Hillary Clinton, only for Clinton to pull ahead five minutes later.

I do not see how primary elections are that exciting. It's not even the real deal yet. Why all this pre-election hype?

The news networks are competing so much for viewers they are losing sight of the facts. You can look at CNN, MSNBC and Fox News and all three of them are showing different results. One shows Clinton is way ahead of Obama, another one shows they are even, and the last one shows Obama is way ahead.

The networks need to wait until the vote is counted in that state then say who the winner is, not predicting it way in advance and sometimes getting it completely wrong.

Here is a solution: What if the information is held on to until it is confirmed then released at once at a large news conference. That way everyone has the same information, it is accurate, and there is not a huge competition to get one step ahead of another network.

I understand that everyone needs to make money, but isn't the truth more important than the money?

The news corporations act like there isn't a care in the world if they get something completely wrong, just as long as it makes them some money in the long run.

It is time as American citizens that we stand up and tell the news corporations that enough is enough, that we are tired of hearing about the elections over and again, and that we want election results not election predictions.



SOUNDOFF!

What is your favorite thing about spring?



"When I was a kid, getting out of school for a week."

Capt. Chris Atkins
Fire Support Officer
Company F, 52nd Inf.



"I like it when the ice starts to melt and it warms up."

Cpl. Jessica Cole
Medical Assistant
Co. C, 202nd BSB



"Its not cold anymore."

1st Lt. Michael Kee
Assistant S-4/BMO
HHC, 1-38 Inf.



"I like watching my niece and nephews do Easter egg hunts."

Sgt. David Sanders
SOG
202nd BSB

F A L L E N

RAIDERS

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

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

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

CPT Thomas Casey
Jan. 1, 2008
1-1-5 MiTT, 2-3 ACR

PFC Aaron Gautier
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 Jason Lemke
Jan. 5, 2008
Co. A, 2-23 IN

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

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

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

SGT Christopher Sanders
Jan. 09, 2008
HHC, 3-2 SCR

PFC Robert Worthington
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 Jonathan Dozier
Jan. 09, 2008
HHC, 3-2 SCR

SSG Kristopher Higdon
May 22, 2007
Co. B, 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

SSG Sean Gaul
Jan. 09, 2008
HHC, 3-2 SCR

SSG David Kuehl
May 22, 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

SGT Zachary McBride
Jan. 09, 2008
HHC, 3-2 SCR

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

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

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

SFC Matthew Pionk
Jan. 09, 2008
HHC, 3-2 SCR

PFC Junior Cedeno Sanchez
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

CPL Todd Davis
Jan. 09, 2008
HHC, 3-2 SCR

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

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

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

SGT Corey Spates
Feb. 10, 2008
Trp. G, 2-3 ACR

SPC William Crouch
June 2, 2007
Trp. A, 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

CPL Chad Groepper
Feb. 17, 2008
HHC, 2-23 IN

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

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

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

CPL Luke Runyan
Feb. 17, 2008
HHC, 2-23 IN

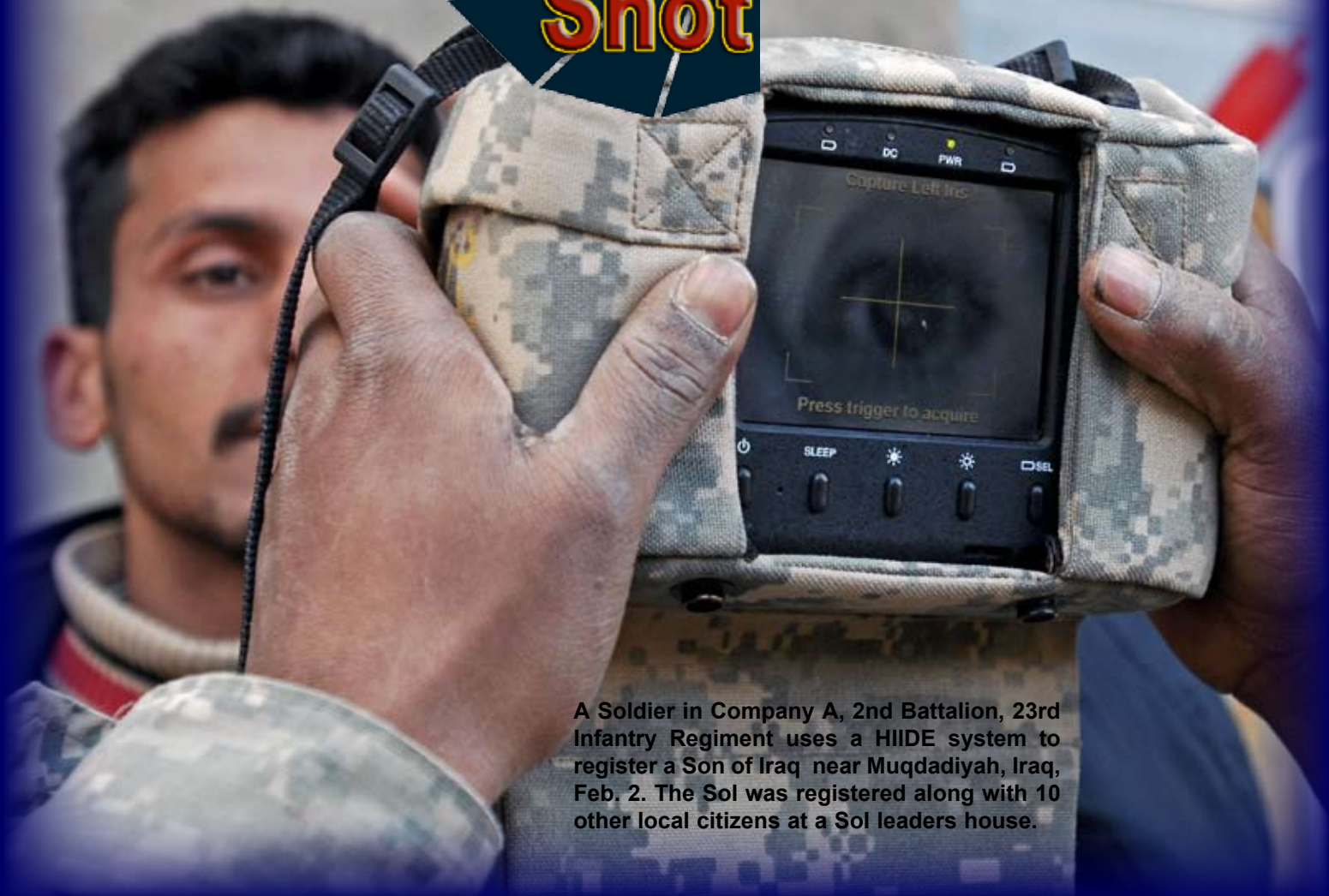
SGT Danny Soto
June 16, 2007
Btry. C, 2-12 FA

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

MAJ Andrew Olmsted
Jan. 1, 2008
1-1-5 MiTT, 2-3 ACR



The Final Shot



A Soldier in Company A, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment uses a HiIDE system to register a Son of Iraq near Muqdadiah, Iraq, Feb. 2. The Sol was registered along with 10 other local citizens at a Sol leaders house.



Pfc. William Small and Sgt. Mervin Narito (seen in glass), both of Company A, 2-23 Inf. search a vehicle, with a Son of Iraq for weapons and explosives at a hasty checkpoint setup in Muqdadiah, Iraq, Feb. 2. Sols have played an important role in helping to bring peace and security to Diyala province.