



Beacon's Light

Editor's Pen

We're 60 days into our deployment here and the reality of war hit home with the Striker Brigade hard recently. As I am typing this, five of our brothers in arms have made the ultimate sacrifice while working better the Iraqi Security Forces.

These men were all valued members of the Fighting Eagles team and are deeply missed. Nothing could ever replace them, but the best memorial will be to see this mission through to the end and to ensure the enemies behind this attack are brought to a swift and resolute justice.

Elsewhere across the Striker Brigade, operations in and around Baghdad have been stepped up as we continue to tend to the blossoming freedoms and growth in this once volatile region.

Keep up the good work, Strikers. I look forward to seeing each of you in my travels as we try to cover all of the units within the Brigade.

Thanks for reading,

Sgt. Zach Mott

3rd BCT Public Affairs NCOIC
zachary.mott@iraq.centcom.mil



Striker mechanics work long hours with few accolades for efforts.

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Medics open doors to treat all Striker Soldiers on Camp Taji aid station.

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UAV Platoon provides battlefield overwatch across MND-B area of operations.

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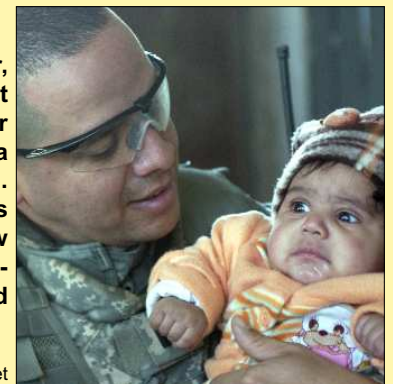
Villagers lined up for the chance to be screened by medical professionals from across the Striker Brigade.

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On the cover

Capt. Enardo Collazo, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment, comforts an Iraqi child during a Medical Civil Action Project in Al Bayrk, Iraq. Collazo has been leading operations in this region north of Baghdad for the past few weeks and the MEDCAP served as an opportunity to give back to the people he is charged with helping protect.

Photo by Maj. Byron Sarchet



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3rd BCT Commander
Col. John H. Hort

3rd BCT CSM
CSM Daniel A. Dailey

3rd BCT PAO
Maj. Michael Humphreys

3rd BCT Public Affairs NCOIC
Sgt. Zach Mott

Striker Beacon staff writer
Pfc. April Campbell

3rd BCT broadcaster
Spc. Michael Cox

HORT REPORT



Strikers,

It is with great sadness that I must start this letter by writing about the tragic death of five of our great heroes, Pvt. Joshua A. Young, Pfc. Brandon A. Meyer, Spc. Evan A. Marshall, Sgt. James E. Craig, and Staff Sgt Gary W. Jeffries.

They gave their lives for our nation and the Iraqi people fighting al Qaeda. We all still mourn that they are not here with us, but know that their legacy will always live in us. I ask that all of us pray for their families, friends, and loved ones they left behind.

The mission of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division must continue. We are now into our second month of operations in Iraq. We've already made great strides in the sleepy, rural district of Istaqlal, in the northern province of Baghdad. And now we're getting down to business in the influential municipal Baghdad district of Adhamiya.

The Brigade remains split with two of our battalions in central Baghdad, 4-10 Cav making strides with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division in Ameriya and 3-29 FA keeping Soldiers safe in the Joint Area Support Group at Camp Liberty, while

1-8 Inf is battling the remnants of Al Qaeda in Mosul with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. Here, 1-68 Armor, 3rd STB, and 64th BSB make up the organic elements of our operations in Istaqlal and Adhamiya, but we are joined by the 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, and the 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment.

This is an exciting time for the Striker Brigade. Our Soldiers are at the nucleus of an event horizon in northern Baghdad where some of the most powerful extra political forces in Iraq, formerly at war with each other, now reside in relative peace literally 16 inches of concrete apart.

Sunnis, many previously members of Al Qaeda in Iraq, are now giving up violence for security to form groups of Concerned Local Citizens combating the terror organization and other violent militias in the communities where they live. Next door in the previously volatile Sadr City, members of Muqtada al Sadr's militia have stood down their violent attacks and many of these Shia Iraqis are joining their Sunni brothers in CLCs to disrupt the movement and operations of terrorists and insurgents.

Our Soldiers are here working side by side with Iraqi Army, Police, CLCs, and the local government to capitalize on the decrease in violence to open markets, schools, hospitals and to develop essential services to reach the irreversible momentum that Gen Petraeus has charged us to do.

We are at a decisive point for our country and the nation of Iraq, and the Striker Brigade will have an enormous impact on that history. The recent deaths of our five fellow Strikers will serve to remind us that it remains a dangerous time and our Soldiers must remain vigilant. The professionalism, the commitment, the strength and resolve of our fallen heroes will serve as a guiding light for all of us and we will carry their memory in our hearts as we continue onward with the mission they began.

God bless.

STRIKERS!

**Steadfast and Loyal,
John H. Hort
COL, IN
Commanding**



Steadfast and Loyal



**Staff Sgt. Gary W. Jeffries
Company B**

**1st CAB, 8th Infantry Regiment
July 22, 1970 to January 28, 2008**

**Sgt. James E. Craig
Company B**

**1st CAB, 8th Infantry Regiment
December 27, 1981 to January 28, 2008**

**Spc. Evan A. Marshall
Company B**

**1st CAB, 8th Infantry
June 2, 1986 to January 28, 2008**

**Pfc. Brandon A. Meyer
Company B**

**1st CAB, 8th Infantry Regiment
February 3, 1987 to January 28, 2008**

**Pvt. Joshua A. Young
Company B**

**1st CAB, 8th Infantry Regiment
August 8, 1986 to January 28, 2008**

Mechanics keep Brigade moving

by Pfc. April Campbell

Striker Beacon staff writer

CAMP TAJI, Iraq -- Soldiers rely on their vehicles to be up to standard for both safety and mobility while conducting missions in the Baghdad operational area.

Mechanics in the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division have taken on the mission of repairing and maintaining the brigade's vehicles at Camp Taji to aid the Striker Soldiers in accomplishing their missions as well as to help ensure operational safety during those missions.

The brigade commander recently awarded Army Achievement Medals and coins to several of these Soldiers for the hard work and dedication they showed in repairing the vehicles given to the Striker Brigade upon its arrival here in mid-December.

Privates Charles Hill and Greg Hill Jr., both mechanics with 1st Platoon, Company B, 64th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., were two of the Soldiers who received coins from Col. John H. Hort, commander, 3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

"We've been working to sustain a

better level of maintenance on our vehicles that we received when we first got here," said Charles.

During the time the brigade has been in Iraq, he and his fellow mechanics have been working long hours to make the vehicles mission capable, said Greg.

"The (noncommissioned officers) on my team taught me a lot," he said. The team was able to bring the vehicles up to operational standard, so the Strikers can "can go on the road and do what they've got to do to get our mission accomplished."

Spc. Abraham Vargas, an M1-A1 Abrams tank systems maintainer with Company D, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment, 3rd BCT, was one of the mechanics awarded an Army Achievement Medal for his efforts in bringing the vehicles on line.

Soldiers maintaining operational standards on the vehicles in Iraq face some challenges that are not as prevalent at the motor pool in their home station. Driving on roads in Baghdad can cause additional wear and tear on vehicles with a significant amount of



Photos by Pfc. April Campbell

Pvt. Charles Hill, a mechanic with the 1st Platoon, Company B, 64th Brigade Support Battalion, works on a heater switch inside a Humvee at the 64th BSB motor pool at Camp Taji.

additional up-armor on them.

"We have to change out the suspension a lot, (including) the springs, shocks and ball joints," said Vargas.

While Soldiers generally do not see up-armored Humvees at posts in the United States, several of the mechanics working with Vargas have experience working on the vehicles from previous deployments, he added.

While maintaining combat-ready vehicles can be a challenge, the mechanics know their work impacts the Soldiers who depend upon the equipment they keep moving.

If a vehicle becomes inoperable during a mission outside of the wire, Soldiers lives can be in danger. Soldiers cannot simply get out and push these up-armored vehicles when they break down, Charles said.

"I have many people's lives in my hands, and they trust me to fix their vehicles," he added.



Pvt. Greg Hill Jr., a mechanic with the 1st Platoon, Company B, 64th Brigade Support Battalion, checks the undercarriage of an M-1088 Tractor for any leaks or missing bolts during a quality assurance/quality control check at the 64th BSB motor pool at Camp Taji. By regularly inspecting the vehicles, the mechanics can help prevent mission inhibiting breakdowns.

In-house care



Photo by Pfc. April Campbell

1st Lt. Darryl Sandberg, the battalion physician's assistant with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Special Troops Battalion, performs an abdominal exam on a Soldier during a practice exam at the Striker Aid Station.

by Pfc. April Campbell

Striker Beacon staff writer

CAMP TAJI, Iraq -- Providing proper healthcare for Soldiers while deployed is a challenge tackled by fellow Soldiers within the unit.

This is the case for deployed Soldiers of the 3rd Special Troops Battalion and the 64th Brigade Support Battalion. Medical professionals from both units currently work together at an aid station at Camp Taji to ensure proper medical treatment for the Soldiers here.

"Right now at Striker Village on Camp Taji, we're setting up a Level II aid station combined with 64th BSB. We'll cover down on each other's Soldiers for sick call and any trauma (patients) we have," said 1st Lt. Darryl Sandberg, battalion physician's assistant with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd STB.

Sandberg is one of three healthcare providers at the aid station. This combination of providers enables the clinic to

offer a higher quality of treatment to the Soldiers here.

Because Soldiers who attend sick call may be seen by any one of the three professionals, Sandberg and his colleagues split their schedule so someone is on call for 24 hours every three days.

"In those 48 hours (that we are not on call), we do some follow up (on our patients)," he said, "and see anyone from our own battalion who needs to be seen."

Combining the two healthcare units has also helped give Soldiers in the 3rd STB access to a more advanced facility.

Because 64th BSB has an full company of medical Soldiers, they have more people and equipment allowing them a Level II facility with a lab, an X-ray machine and physical therapy. The 3rd STB, alone, has only enough Soldiers to maintain a Level I facility, said Sandberg.

Combining the medics and doctors from the two battalions allows for more accessible healthcare. But, there are still unique challenges presented by a deployed environment the medical units must overcome to take care of the Soldiers' medical needs.

"In garrison you don't have the dust, the mud and the cold. You're not really going to see too many people come in with their IOTVs on or carrying their weapons, and we have to make allowances for that," said Pfc. Kelly Jones, combat medic with Co. C, 64th BSB.

Transporting sick or injured Soldiers is easier at the home station, added the Noonday, Texas, native.

Sometimes, when Soldiers become sick or injured, they need to be seen by a professional specializing in a certain type of medicine.

Sandberg, who is deployed as a physician's assistant for the first time, sent two Soldiers on a helicopter to see a specialist at a medical facility on another camp in Baghdad earlier this month. Sandberg previously deployed as an infantryman during Operation Desert Storm.

However, not every Soldier needs to be sent to see a specialist. Many Soldiers are treated at the facility here, often during normal sick call hours.

Spc. Rajbir Singh, a radio and telephone operator with the Command Security Detachment, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd BCT, said he attended sick call after experiencing cold symptoms.

"The care was expedient," he said. "The medic gave me a pre-made cold pack with medicine for congestion, sore throat and aches. I was able to return to duty that day."

As the 3rd BCT moves further into its deployment, the medical professionals will continue to overcome the challenges of providing quality medical care to fellow Soldiers.

Strikers earn 'IV' combat patch

by Pfc. April Campbell

Striker Beacon staff writer

CAMP TAJI, Iraq -- One manner, in which Soldiers identify themselves and their units', is by displaying a patch on their uniform sleeve.

While the insignia on the left sleeve represents the Soldier's current unit, the patch on the right sleeve tells the world which unit the Soldier has seen battle with.

While serving in Iraq, several Soldiers with the 3rd Special Troops Battalion and 64th Brigade Support Battalion continued that tradition as they officially earned their Ivy Division combat patches during separate ceremonies outside the battalion headquarters at Camp Taji.

The battalion, which arrived in Iraq in mid-December, is currently serving its second tour in Iraq. The 3rd STB

activated in 2004 when the 3rd Brigade Combat Team was transformed to a modular brigade. The 64th BSB also was redesignated from a forward support battalion under the modularization as well.

"The ceremony went off very well. It was a memorable moment in the battalion's short history," said Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald Kinloch, the top enlisted Soldier for the 3rd STB.

Each company chose five Soldiers to receive their patches at the separate ceremonies. The Soldiers chosen were serving their first tour in Iraq, Kinloch added.

With Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, the expectation of deployment for an incoming Soldier is increased.

"It has been a privilege for

me to serve with the (newer) Soldiers," Kinloch said, "because they volunteered to serve knowing they would likely be going into a combat zone."

One of the new Soldiers chosen to receive his patch at the ceremony was Pfc. Anthony Bower, a radio and telephone operator with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd STB.

"The patch ceremony strengthened the bond I have with the unit. I feel like I am a part of history and I am contributing to the unit," he said.

Bower said he is looking forward to carrying out the rest of his deployment and returning home a more experienced Soldier.

"My uniform is complete," said Bower.



Photo by Sgt. Zach Mott

Capt. Troy Fisher, commander, Company B, 64th Brigade Support Battalion, slaps on the shoulder sleeve insignia-former wartime Service, or combat patch, onto the right sleeve of Pfc. Luis Gongora, Company B, 64th BSB, during a ceremony at Camp Taji.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jesus Medina, 3rd Special Troops Battalion

Capt. Michael Poaletti, left, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, sports his new Ivy Division combat patch given to him by Lt. Col. Troy D. Otto, left, the 3rd Special Troops Battalion commander.

A bird's-eye view

by Pfc. April Campbell
Striker Beacon staff writer

CAMP TAJI, Iraq -- In the civilian world, sneaking a peak at an exam before taking it can earn a failing score. Sneaking a peak at the front lines before leaving the base for a mission, however, can save lives in the combat zone.

Soldiers with the Unmanned Aerial Systems Platoon, Company A, 3rd Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team help provide that sneak peak for Striker Brigade Soldiers as well as others in the Multi-National Division – Baghdad operational area. This group is responsible for operating and maintaining the Tactical Unmanned Aerial System for the RQ7B Shadow 200, an unmanned aerial vehicle.

While some UAS platoon members work at the 3rd BCT Tactical Operations Center, both flying and monitoring the video feed from the Shadow, approximately half of them are at the Launch and Recovery Site here attached to Company G, Task Force XII, said Staff Sgt. Robert Lilly, the UAS platoon sergeant.

3rd BCT Soldiers at the LRS, working as part of TF XII, work with Soldiers from other brigades in the Baghdad area of operations recovering and launching Shadows throughout the day. The Shadows launched and recovered by these Soldiers will not necessarily spend all of their flight time in any one brigade's AO, said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Antonio Mitchell, operations chief with

the UAS Platoon from the Striker Brigade which is attached to Co. G, TF XII at the LRS.

"What we are doing here is not a traditional UAS operation," said Mitchell, who has been working in the UAV field since 1997. "Normally a UAS platoon works directly for (its) brigade."

Because there are several brigades in Baghdad, which one gets to use the Shadow and for which missions is determined by MND-B, said Lilly.

The division grants the brigades airspace priority based on the danger and the amount of benefit it will provide in a certain area for a certain period of time, Mitchell said.

When a Shadow is in the Striker Brigade AO, UAS Platoon Soldiers in the brigade TOC monitor the video produced by it. Nearby, there are other brigade UAS Soldiers who remotely control the UAV, said Lilly.

Soldiers may be monitoring an area of interest for various reasons, including sweeping areas for improvised explosive devices as well as assisting Soldiers with specific operations, Lilly added.

"Before Soldiers go out on a mission, we can give them a better picture of the battlefield," Lilly said.

Having a bird's-eye view helps to keep Soldiers safe and allow them a greater success rate during their missions. With the Shadows giving them an up-to-date glimpse of their AO, Soldiers can have an even greater understanding of their surroundings.



Photo by Pfc. April Campbell

Spc. Mark Parrish, left, an unmanned aerial systems mechanic, and Staff Sgt. Terry Rust, maintenance NCOIC, both with the UAS platoon, Company A, 3rd Special Troops Battalion, prepare a RQ7B Shadow 200 to be launched at the Launch and Recovery Site at Camp Taji.



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Villagers receive 'Striker' treatment

by Sgt. Zach Mott

3rd Brigade Combat Team

Public Affairs NCOIC

AL BARYK, Iraq -- Villagers in this remote region on the outskirts of Baghdad flocked to a medical screening hosted by the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

"(We want) to show the Iraqi people that we care about them," said Sgt. 1st Class Francis Rose, the medical platoon leader with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment, 3rd BCT. "We're trying to establish some type of medical facilities being brought up to these areas and to help the Iraqis develop their own medical facilities."

More than 150 residents of Al Bayrk with maladies ranging from upper respiratory infections to skin rashes were treated at the Medical Civil Action Project or MEDCAP. This also served as a welcome break for some of the medics within the Striker Brigade who regularly treat Soldiers with combat-related injuries.

"It was pretty neat," said Pfc. Julie

West, a medic with HHC, 1st CAB, 68th AR. "I didn't know that we actually even did things like this. It was a good experience being able to go out there and help out."

West is on her first deployment to Iraq in her brief military career.

Rose, however, is on his third deployment to Iraq and has seen a steady increase in the medical proficiency in this budding nation.

"From OIF IV to this one I can see that it has helped," Rose said. "We can see that the Ministry of Health has been involved and they have established clinics in the areas. You see that the supply systems come in and are working."

Iraqi Army Soldiers were on site to serve as a security element for this mission. Their presence also helped the Iraqi people realize their military is there to support and defend them.

"They know that they have IA, (Iraqi Police) presence and that they'll be taken care of," Rose said.

Plans are already in place for

these missions to continue in the future.

"We're looking at one (MEDCAP) a month," Rose said. "This is just one company. Once the other companies get involved we might be doing two or three per month."

While treating as many citizens as possible, Rose said he hopes this will begin to foster a better relationship throughout the region.

"It makes me feel good," he said about helping the villagers. "The way I look at it, the more people we can help in Iraq. Hopefully, that's less people we've got to take care of on our own side. You create an atmosphere where everybody can get along and then we'll cut out on some of the patients that we see as far as casualties over here."



Photos by Staff Sgt. William Morehead, Company B, 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion
An Iraqi girl has her lungs checked by Lt. Col. Richard Ares, officer-in-charge of the battalion aid station with the Company C, 64th Brigade Support Battalion, at a Medical Civil Action Project in Al Bayrk, Iraq.



Capt. Terrance Anderson, battalion doctor for 1st Combined Arms Battalion, dictates medical instructions to an interpreter to translate to a father during a Medical Civil Action Project at Al Bayrk, Iraq. Anderson was part of a group of medical professionals who screened more than 150 civilians during the MEDCAP in this village north of Baghdad.

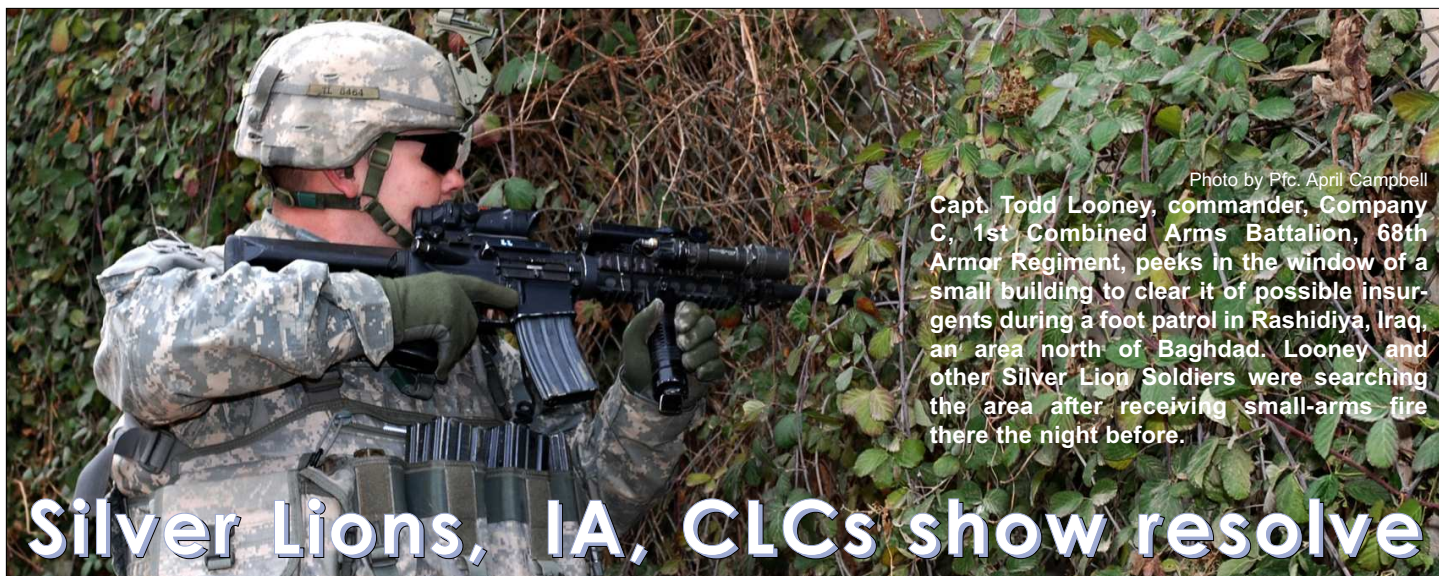


Photo by Pfc. April Campbell
Capt. Todd Looney, commander, Company C, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment, peeks in the window of a small building to clear it of possible insurgents during a foot patrol in Rashidiya, Iraq, an area north of Baghdad. Looney and other Silver Lion Soldiers were searching the area after receiving small-arms fire there the night before.

Silver Lions, IA, CLCs show resolve

by Pfc. April Campbell

Striker Beacon staff writer

RASHIDIYA, Iraq – Even in the glow of the early afternoon sunlight, the thick vegetation on the side of the road was nearly impossible to see through. But, the Soldiers knew it was necessary for them to step deeper into the greenery to find the object of their search.

Finding an opening in the brush, Capt. Todd Looney, commander, Company C, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, directed his Soldiers off the road and into the orange grove beyond the shrubs.

With an acute awareness, the troops made their way in the direction they heard shots firing the night before; they were looking for any sign of the shooters or their position.

Silver Lion Soldiers with both Company B and Company C, 1st CAB, 68th AR, conducted a foot patrol Jan. 22 to search for the firing positions and escape routes used by extremists who shot at both the Soldiers and members of the Concerned Local Citizens and the Iraqi Army in Rashidiya, Iraq, an rural area 15 miles north of Baghdad.

The CLC members and the Iraqi Army Soldiers were fired at by suspected extremists as they manned neighboring checkpoints in the area. Both of the groups stayed their ground and returned fire, said Looney, a Dallas native.

The CLC checkpoint was the first to be engaged with small-arms fire, said Sgt. 1st Class Sean Rinder, platoon sergeant, 2nd Platoon, Co. C, 1st CAM, 68th AR.

“They showed determination by defending themselves and not backing down,” said the Colorado Springs, Colo., native.

After notification of the shooting, Silver Lion Soldiers went to the CLC checkpoint. While there, Iraqi Army Soldiers at the checkpoint nearby were fired upon.

One group of Soldiers maneuvered on foot and with the aid of a Humvee to the Iraqi Army checkpoint. While en

route, those Soldiers were engaged from the same direction from which the CLCs and IAs received fire, said Rinder.

One of the Soldiers maneuvering on foot was Staff Sgt. Luis Hernandez, a section sergeant with the 2nd Platoon, Co. C, 1st CAB, 68th Armor Regt.

“The first couple of seconds after they began shooting at us seemed to go by in slow motion, but we responded quickly after the attack began,” said the Chicago native.

The deployment training conducted at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif., and at Fort Carson, Colo., proved to be useful for the Soldiers.

While only three of the Soldiers who were attacked had been in a fire fight before, each Soldier reacted according to their training, Rinder said.

“They used the Humvee for cover and returned fire,” he said. “After it was over, I checked to make sure they had all put their weapons on safe. All of the Soldiers had already done so out of habit.”

This event indicates the CLC and IA checkpoints are determined to rid this area of extremist attacks.

“The extremists attacked the checkpoints because they are denying freedom of movement throughout the area,” said Looney.

One of the reasons the CLCs are able to do their job well is because they are from the areas they defend. They know the people in those areas and the people know them.

“The CLCs are doing a great job because they are taking ownership of their area,” Looney said.

Iraqi citizens are also becoming an asset to Coalition Forces through these volunteer groups.

While these Silver Lion Soldiers were unable to find the exact routes or firing positions of the anti-Iraqi forces during their foot patrol the next day, they were able to become more familiar with the area landscape.

“We’ll continue to maintain our presence in the area,” said Looney.

Mountaineers making roads safe

by Pfc. April Campbell

Striker Beacon staff writer

ADHAMIYA, Iraq — For troops leaving their forward operating bases and going into their operational area, scanning for improvised explosive devices, which are often hidden or disguised, becomes second nature.

“If you’re driving outside the wire, you always look for IEDs,” said Staff Sgt. Angel Del Valle, a truck driver with Company A, 64th Brigade Support Battalion.

In order to diminish the threat of IEDs, Del Valle and other Mountaineers with Co. A, 64th BSB,

who were recently deployed to this region north of Baghdad, are conducting night missions to set up barriers along the routes in the Baghdad district of Adhamiya.

The missions are part of a larger operation to set up barriers along roads in this area, said 1st Lt. Patrick Conner, executive officer for Co. A, 64th BSB.

“We are continuing the mission that (the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Infantry Division) started to eliminate the enemy’s ability to effectively emplace IEDs,” said Conner.

Trash and debris often crowd many

of the roads in Iraq making travel difficult. Placing barriers closely along the routes reduces this impediment to the flow of traffic.

“Most of the trash will be behind the barriers,” said Del Valle. “There will be one less place to hide IEDs.”

Not only do the barriers seem to

reduce the emplacement of IEDs, but they can also protect convoys from IEDs that do detonate.

“If an IED explodes behind the barrier,” Del Valle said, “it’ll destroy the barrier, but it doesn’t harm the vehicle (or Soldiers.)”

While many of the convoys that the barriers will serve to protect will be driving through during the day, the Soldiers from Company A help set up the barriers in the darkness of night.

The missions are carried out at night to increase the safety of those unloading and placing the barriers, said Del Valle.

“It takes more time for us to accomplish the mission because it is more difficult to maneuver and ground-guide the trucks,” he said, “but it is safer.”

Conducting nighttime operations did not blindside these troops who have been training for this deployment.

“We’re adjusting well because we conducted (night-vision goggle) and nighttime driving training at (the National Training Center),” Del Valle said.

While these Soldiers recently began their deployment, these barrier-placing missions help keep them less focused on the months they will spend away from home and more focused on the mission at hand.

“We’re all keeping busy, doing something to make it safer for our convoys traveling these routes,” said Sgt. Michael Stombaugh, a truck driver with Co. A, 64th BSB.



Photo by Pfc. April Campbell

A crane prepares to unload barriers from a Heavy Equipment and Truck and Transport during a nighttime mission conducted by Soldiers from Company A, 64th Brigade Support Battalion, in the Baghdad district of Adhamiya. The barriers diminish the ability of terrorists to emplace improvised explosive devices in this region.

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a log on (anyone is eligible) and click on publications, scroll down to “Striker Beacon” (it’s in alphabetical order) and download a PDF version of the paper.

www.hood.army.mil/4ID/index.html

Information on the 4th ID and 3rd BCT is located in the news section.

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Use your log on infor-

mation obtained at the deployment fair or register for the 3rd BCT, 4th ID FRG and view all the latest information available on the Striker Brigade as well as events available locally.

WHY COMMUNITY MAKES A DIFFERENCE WORTH WHILE

Commentary by William C.

Nicholas, Jr.

3rd BCT Chaplain

Human history should teach us some truths. Human beings are by nature, social beings. Human beings desire social structure and seek to establish social order and social groups regardless the circumstances.

Not all communities have held together. Like William Butler Yeats poem "The Second Coming," things "fall apart; the center cannot hold." History is replete with great communities that have crumbled. There are powerful forces which desire to see our communities crumble. Such forces have been at work here in Iraq. Yet there is brighter hope than has been here in a very long time. But this has come at a cost that is dear to our country, and most dearly to our Striker Brigade Community.

We serving in Iraq are proud of you at home. But

few things make us more proud, grateful, humble and appreciative, than when you come together to support

one another at difficult circumstances – especially the loss of those we love. What has kept an Ancient Community together through thousands of years is expressed in your lives at this time. Keep those expressions burning brightly within our

Striker Community. An ancient writer wrote about it like this [and I place in bold italics what you are doing even now as I write]; "Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be filled with pride, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ***Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn,***" (Paul's Letter to the Romans, 12:14-17).

By being there for one another with this kind of love - you are being here, for us.

Peace of Mind

CAPTION THIS



Photo by Pfc. April Campbell

Caption This goes as such: I'll write some silly caption here and if you can come up with something better, while still remaining printable in a command information publication, I'll run the best one on the back page of the *Striker Bolt*. Think you're up for the challenge? Send your submissions to zachary.mott@iraq.centcom.mil.

When conducting a PMCS there are many ways to "check the oil"