

Meet the ...



Hi, I'm the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle, but my friends call me MRAP, so you can too.

I'm also the new guy on the team joining my friends, Abrams, Bradley and Humvee. While I may be new, that doesn't mean I can be pushed around. Perhaps you've seen me ... I don't exactly order my parts from the junior miss department.

Size isn't all that's important to me. My favorite thing that I do is keep Soldiers safe. I can take a punch and I'll gladly help you deliver yours to those jerks who are foolish enough to try to hurt us.

You may also see that I'm pretty comfortable to ride in. I've got some special features that help keep you comfortable while maneuvering across the Iraqi landscape. Feel free to test out my soft, cushioned seats. Not to knock on my pal Humvee, but you'll be a lot more comfortable riding in me than you ever would sitting in those hard seats that he calls "pleasant."

Following is a question and answer segment with the MRAP.

Q: Other than MRAP, is there anything else that you'd like Soldiers to call you?

A: Well, I like Big Guy. That makes me smile. I've heard people call me tough skin, I don't quite understand that one, but it doesn't sound too bad. Just as long as they know to call on me when they want to be safe.

Q: MRAP, you're new to the Striker Brigade, what message do you want to convey to the troops?

A: Well, I'm pretty excited to show the folks what I can do. I've been through some pretty rough tests and come out better for it on the other side.

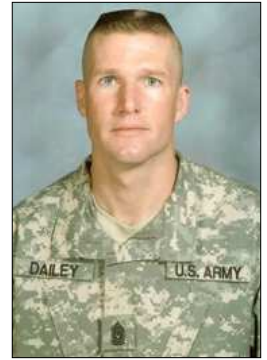
Q: Any last thoughts or comments?

A: Stay safe out there Strikers and let me help you do it, too.

Look for other spotlights on Striker vehicles in future editions of the *Striker Bolt*.



Dailey Droppings



Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel A. Dailey has been enjoying visiting with Soldiers and observing the missions being conducted across the 3rd Brigade Combat Team area of operations. Because of his constant movement across the battlefield and the surrounding area, he was unable to complete his column for the latest edition of the Striker Bolt. Because of this, allow me to add to the ever-popular, top-rated CSM Dailey Facts. Enjoy.

Top 10 CSM Dailey facts (for now)

10. The leading causes of death in the United States are 1. Heart Disease 2. CSM Dailey 3. Cancer (note: in Iraq, the number one cause of death is CSM Dailey.)

9. Outer space exists because it's afraid to be on the same planet as CSM Dailey.

8. CSM Dailey gave Mona Lisa that smile.

7. Remember the Soviet Union? They decided to quit after learning that CSM Dailey was joining the U.S. Army.

6. CSM Dailey can lead a horse to water AND make it drink.

5. CSM Dailey is the reason why Waldo is hiding.

4. In Pamplona, Spain, the people may be running from the bulls, but the bulls are running from CSM Dailey.

3. CSM Dailey uses pepper spray to spice up his steaks.

2. If you spell CSM Dailey in Scrabble, you win. FOREVER

1. Fool me once, shame on you. Fool CSM Dailey once and he will roundhouse kick you in the face.



Photo illustration by Sgt. Zach Mott

Global Warming, Schmobar Warming

Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel A. Dailey, the top enlisted Soldier of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, singlehandedly works to end global warming. This photo was actually taken in Iraq ... in July! Temperatures during that month routinely soar above 120 degrees. Note the look of determination on CSM Dailey's face as he allows the snow to land on his ground.

The microphone is a direct line to the snow clouds so that he can tell them when he's had enough of their tomfoolery.



**with Sgt.
Zach Mott**

Dear Sauce,

I'm currently stationed at Camp Taji and my boyfriend, who is in the Infantry with 1-8, is in Mosul. Can I take my mid-tour leave there so I can visit him?

Thanks,

Lonely Lady Lion

Dear Lonely Lady Lion,

The Sauce can sympathize with your plight. He too is away from the one he loves. Being separated from The Spoon isn't easy. That's

why The Sauce is taking his mid-tour and spending some quality time being scooped up. But I'll save that story for a different 'Forum.'

As for your question, Mosul is a lovely part of Iraq to visit but not recommended for leisure travel at the present time. However, if the Fighting Eagles kick enough bad guy booty up there, word is they're going to put in a ski resort there modeled after Aspen. Don't quote me on that, though.

You should probably plan on taking your mid-tour together to a different locale outside of Iraq. Perhaps someplace like Hawaii or Florida would be a better place to let your young love blossom.

The Sauce

Dear Sauce,

What suggestions do you have for a loyal reader for ways to

"accessorize" my Humvee?

Thanks,

Pimped Out Phoenix

Dear Pimped Out Phoenix,

There are a few things you can do. The Sauce is a big fan of ground effects and lift kits. Talk to your maintenance folks and see what kind of lift kits you can order through their system. Also, pick up a copy of low rider magazine. It's a little different approach that The Sauce usually takes with his rides, but you might be inspired by something you see there.

Keep your pimp hand strong.


The Sauce

Got a question you want The Sauce to answer? Send The Sauce and e-mail at

strikersauce@yahoo.com.

Most questions will be answered, eventually, when The Sauce gets to them..

Upcoming Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JAN 13	14	15	16	17	18 Spades Tournament @ Surge MWR	19
Tom Roeder and David Bitton in the area, be sure to say hi						
20	21	22 Texas Hold 'Em Tournament @ Surge MWR	23	24 Texas Hold 'Em Tournament @ Surge MWR	25 Dominos Tournament @ Surge MWR	26
They're still here, until the 23rd				30	31 FEB	1
27	28	29	30	31 Mail your goodies today		
3 Super Bowl Sunday	4 But the game is at 4 a.m. today	5	6	7	8	9
10 NFL Pro Bowl	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16

Chapter 16: *What have you done for history this month?*

Iraq a different place now

Commentary by
Sgt. Kevin Orick
1st CAB, 68th AR

As I hovered over a small portion of Baghdad a few nights back, I couldn't help but recall my last year spent here. I thought about the obvious changes that have occurred in the time passed. This war is ending right in front of my eyes. The times have changed and this place is not the same Iraq it was when I left almost three years ago.

I thought about the things I had done wrong then; mistakes made by myself and members of my platoon at the time. We were not working to end the war or to make peace in a torn nation, nor did we carry any consideration for the people of Iraq.

At the time, that was the direction we were pushed, but now, in a dark sky above, I see streets littered with traffic and commerce flowing freely on the streets, shops open and busy. A world prospering

compared to a bullet-riddled hell I knew before. I must face the music, that this piece of Baghdad I will call my own for the next year or so, must be looked after and taken care of, not pushed around and harassed. It is my time, to pass the torch and ensure that I keep my head straight and do the right thing, as well as lead my soldiers in the right path.

The last time, most of the fighting was with foreign fighters from Syria and Iran. Things really haven't changed there, but with Iraqis actually stepping up and pushing those people out and with the tightening of borders, we're seeing less and less of the outside problems. I can honestly say, there is progress. This is going to work. We just need everyone to know this and support it through to the end. It's going to take time ... probably a decade of a small force staying behind ... but a large pullout is imminent. My job will be to pro-



tect the people in my area from the few strands straggling around causing problems.

Problems are foreign and domestic in the form of Sadr militiamen ignoring Sadr's cease fire, which he is continuing to stabilize a good public and political spotlight while he pursues a career in the government field.

Places we were not able to enter at all before can be walked down by yours truly with no worry of gunfire or IEDs. My time in country has given me no explosions in the distance, no gun shots, not even tracers in the sky at night ... things that were common place before.

It's coming together guys, keep your fingers crossed. The fighting is slowing to a crawl and will disappear completely with time. The few left, I only have one thing for them ... 175 grain, FMJBT. I love you guys and I will see you all soon enough.



We have a winner!

The winning caption comes to us from Latricia Guzardo, the mother of Pvt. Deric Pinales from Company B, 1st CAB, 68th AR. Her submission: *What? The Giants made the playoffs?*

Look for your next opportunity to prove your worth as a caption writer in the next edition of the *Striker Beacon*, which is due to hit inboxes sometime in early February (subject to change due to mission, contractors or whatever other excuse I can think of.)

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