

# Marne Focus

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Serving Task Force Marne and MND-Center



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Photo by Pvt. Christopher McKenna

Staff Sgt. James Lutz, platoon sergeant for 1st Platoon, 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Div. (AASLT), hands out candy to students in the Uthman School in High al-Jaza'ir, April 17.

## Mahmudiyah school renovations under way

Pvt. Christopher McKenna  
3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Div. (AASLT)

### FOB MAHMUDIYAH –

In conjunction with Operation Marne Piledriver, two Mahmudiyah schools are being refurbished with the help of U.S. Soldiers.

The Red Knight Rakkasans of 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), coordinated the funding needed to improve the schools.

The Uthman School in High al-Jaza'ir and the Omah al-

*"The people involved with the schools are very excited about the new opportunities in education for the younger generation of Iraqis."*

— Capt. Benjamin Torpy, 3-320th FA

Mukhtar Girls' School in the Qadasiyah Apartments were selected for refurbishment.

"These are the schools identified by the Iraqi Ministry of Education and the Mayor of Mahmudiyah as most in need for improvements," said Capt. David Howald, Commander's Emergency Response Program project manager for 3-320th FA.

Improving the schools shows that education has once again become a priority for the people in the area, said Capt. Benjamin Torpy, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 3-320th FA.

Renovations are expected to be complete within two months and will include fresh paint jobs, refurbished classrooms,

new desks, windows and exterior walls to provide more space in each classroom. The changes will eliminate overcrowding that led to unsanitary conditions for students and teachers.

"The people involved with the schools are very excited about the new opportunities in education for the younger generation of Iraqis in the area," Torpy said.

Marne Piledriver is an Iraqi Army-led operation largely focused on capacity-building projects throughout the Rakkasans' operating environment.



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Marne 6 sends

## MND-C focuses on transition

With improved security, effort shifts to help Iraqis build capacity

In the past there was a large emphasis on transition in Iraq. As you all deployed in support of this rotation, you saw a new idea – securing the population.

This counterinsurgency fight can only be won by the Iraqi people. In order for them to step up and take control for their own security, governance, and economics, they had to be secure – you did that for them.

Under Task Force Marne, you have conducted over 10 Division-named operations, and during each you've cleared the enemy of his safe haven and established a patrol base.

You went into the worst areas with the worst insurgents, killed them, and then stayed to live with the Iraqi people. Once you began living there, the Iraqis wanted to help. They brought you intelligence and caches, they stood up Sons of Iraq programs, and they began to develop democracy from

the grassroots level. You enabled that.

Now the pendulum is beginning to shift back toward transition. The conversation is no longer about security, but about stability. It's about creating sustainable jobs, economic growth, and allowing the upcoming elections to foster true Iraqi democracy.

We're beginning to see an increase in the capacity of the Iraqi government and a noticeable increase in the capability of the Iraqi Army.

Our Division-named operations are no longer about building new patrol bases for ourselves, but about building patrol bases for the Iraqi Army. Right now, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) is building a patrol base for the 25th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division as part of Marne Piledriver. An infantry platoon occupied the patrol base in order to provide a

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Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch  
Task Force Marne Commander

Military Transition Team, and is constructing it for the Iraqi Army to enable them to secure their own population.

Across Multi-National Division – Center, the Iraqi Police are getting better every day. The 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, Iraqi National Police in Jisr Diyala "re-blued" and are being led by one of the most capable Iraqi leaders, Col. Emad. He rightfully policed his own leaders during the increase of Shia violence at the end of March and even fired one of his battalion commanders for acting more like an extremist than a military leader.

The IP are continuing to grow from Sons of Iraq transition, and as their numbers grow, so does their confidence. But they still need our help. Over the upcoming weeks we are going to work harder to partner with the IP through Police Transition Teams. Our Military Police Soldiers are doing a tremendous job partnering with the IP, but they can only affect one-third of the Task Force's police stations. Mentoring and coaching the police to support an effective rule of law is the key to a democratic society, and we are going to do whatever we can to support this.

Finally, we are going to formalize all of the relationships between our brigade support battalions and all of our logistics partnerships as we work to help the Iraqis understand their logistics systems. Everything is about capacity building, and the capacity of the Iraqi Security Forces is growing every day.

**ROCK OF  
THE MARNE!**



**Marne Focus**

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Far left: Spc. Simon Nbenye, an Arabic interpreter with Co. D, 1-30th Inf. Regt., admires his American flag and certificate of naturalization April 12 at al-Faw Palace on Camp Victory during the largest American naturalization ceremony to date in Iraq. Nbenye, a former citizen of war-torn Sudan, entered the U.S. in 2001 under refugee status. Left: Two hundred fifty-nine foreign-born U.S. troops currently serving throughout Iraq became American citizens at al-Faw Palace on Camp Victory April 12, in the largest naturalization ceremony to date in Iraq.

Photos by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

## Largest citizenship ceremony in Iraq naturalizes troops

By SGT. JASMINE CHOPRA  
MND-C PAO

**CAMP VICTORY** – Two hundred fifty-nine foreign-born U.S. troops currently serving throughout Iraq became American citizens at al-Faw Palace here April 12, in the largest naturalization ceremony to date in Iraq.

Among the newest citizens were several Soldiers who entered the United States as refugees from war-torn nations, including Spc. Simon Nbenye, an Arabic interpreter with Company D, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

Born in war-ravaged Sudan, a place where youth are sometimes snatched from their homes and forced to fight as child soldiers in a bloody civil war, Nbenye and his family faced religious and

racial persecution from the Arab-Islamic government.

“The situation was terrible for my family,” Nbenye said. “No jobs, no finances and too, too much violence.”

Part of the Nbenye family, including Simon, moved to the Sudanese capital, while other family members stayed south in the town of Maridi. Fearing his son would be forced to become a soldier, Nbenye’s father urged his son to flee Sudan.

“They go to your home, knock on your door and ask your father where you are. If he refuses to get you, they kill him, get you and put you in the army. There is no guarantee you’ll ever make it back home alive and they send you down to kill your own people,” Nbenye said. “I had friends from school who were captured, sent to fight and I have never seen them again.”

Travelling illegally through several countries in Africa including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia and Egypt, Nbenye finally connected with the United Nations office in Cairo and gained refugee status. He entered the United States legally in 2001.

“When they granted me refugee status, it gave me so much hope,” Nbenye said. “It meant for me a chance to start a new life in a safe place.”

In 2006, upon hearing the Army needed Arabic speakers to help with the Global War on Terrorism, Nbenye, fluent in Arabic, enlisted.

“America did something good for my life and my family by accepting me, so I decided I want to do something for the American people, to show them I am grateful,” Nbenye said.

Until he came to the United States, he had never truly experienced freedom,

Nbenye said. “My whole life, there is war in my country. No peace, never knowing for sure if you go out, you’ll come back home. In America things are different. I feel safe.”

Now that he is a citizen, Nbenye hopes to get a better job, visit his family in Sudan and help them become American citizens too.

More than 40,000 service members are not American citizens, according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). These foreign-born men and women have pledged commitment to the U.S. Constitution by serving in the military and many are availing themselves of a July 2002 executive order making members of the Armed Forces immediately eligible to apply for citizenship.

Nearly 5,000 service members have earned U.S. citizenship while serving abroad since 2004.

## Therapist connects with alma mater, informs students

By CAPT. CONSTANCE QUINLAN  
4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO

**FOB KALSU** – Capt. Chris Remillard took hometown recruiting to a whole new level when he gave a live guest lecture to Ithaca College, N.Y., April 2 from the Public Affairs broadcast studio at FOB Kalsu. Remillard, an officer in Company C, 703rd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, is the Vanguard Brigade’s resident physical therapist. A month prior, he received an invitation from a former Vietnam-era Army physical therapist, Dr. Michael Pagliarulo, chair of the Ithaca College Physical Therapy Department. Pagliarulo asked the 2004 graduate to speak to his class about the unique opportunities afforded physical therapists in the Army.

“A civilian PT can’t order things like X-Rays, bone scans, MRIs. He has to send patients back

to a primary care doctor. Not only can I order tests, I can prescribe medicine and refer Soldiers to other specialists,” said Remillard, a native of Syracuse, N.Y. “It’s really designed to expedite the process for Soldiers, especially in this type of environment.”

Remillard was commissioned into the Medical Service Corps through the Cornell University Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program in 2004 with a degree in physical therapy from Ithaca College.

Several students expressed interest in joining the ROTC after the hour-long question and answer session, attended by roughly 40 students and faculty members. Remillard has already made plans to conduct another session with Ithaca’s next class of PT students.

“It’s nice to promote my field and bring new people in,” he said. “It puts everything I do into perspective ... keeping Soldiers in the fight.”



Courtesy photo

Dr. Michael Pagliarulo, chair of the Physical Therapy Department at Ithaca College, N.Y., talks to some of his students there about opportunities to become an Army physical therapist. On the screen in the background is Capt. Chris Remillard, an alumni of the college.



# MND-C launches major capacity-building operation

From clean water to cell phone towers, Coalition to help Iraqis make sweeping improvements

By SGT. MICHAEL CONNORS  
MND-C PAO

**CAMP VICTORY** – Multi-National Division – Center kicked off the main phase of its first major operation devoted primarily to capacity building – expanding governance, economics and infrastructure – April 15 in communities south of Baghdad in the Baghdad Province.

Operation Marne Piledriver is taking place in the area of operations of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). While the focus of the operation is on capacity building, Iraqi Security Forces will simultaneously target remaining insurgent pockets with the help of Coalition forces.

Patrol Base Yates, which will house Iraqi and Coalition forces, is currently under construction as a base of operations to bring the fight to the insurgent holdouts. It is named in honor of Cpl. Nyle Yates III, who died in combat in Bayji, Iraq, in 2006 while serving in Company B, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Div. (AASLT).

“Marne Piledriver will not only display Iraqi Security Forces-led operations, but also the establishment of a Joint Security Station at Yusifiyah, the development of Iraqi-run radio stations, the injection of funding by the Government of Iraq to refurbish two major water treatment plants and the infusion of funds and expertise into the poultry and agricultural industries,” said Col. Dominic J. Caraccilo,

commander of 3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Div. (AASLT).

Providing training to Government of Iraq officials in the area is another key component of the operation. They will learn how to navigate a democratic, free-market economy after decades of a state-run system under Saddam Hussein. The U.S. Agency for International Development is providing the training.

Maj. T.J. Johnson, one of the main MND-C planners of Marne Piledriver, emphasized the synergy created from the U.S. military and USAID working together.

“It’s a great way of illustrating how our government and our military have to work hand in hand,” he said. “We have to identify what’s important together so that we can go ahead and find a way forward.”

Governance, however, will go beyond the classroom during Marne Piledriver. Local GoI officials will lead the establishment of a major water pipeline into Mahmudiyah, which has seen a shortage in potable water, said Johnson. The contract will be put out to bid in the Iraqi economy, with local leaders overseeing the process and construction.

“If you can bring fresh water into Mahmudiyah – potable water – you eliminate sanitation problems,” Johnson said. “That would be a huge win for the Government of Iraq because then everybody in Mahmudiyah is going to know, ‘Hey, the government made this thing happen.’”



By Sgt. Michael Connors

Pfc. Kristen George, from Needles, Calif., tactical assault command, HHC, 3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Div. (AASLT), provides security for key leaders visiting Yusifiyah April 10. Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, commander of MND-C, was in Yusifiyah to discuss plans for Operation Marne Piledriver, the division’s first major operation devoted primarily to capacity building.

Another major project is the revitalization of the poultry industry. Poultry farms in the area will receive 35,000 eggs. The chickens will be raised and processed for consumption. It is estimated that poultry industry revitalization alone will create 1,000 jobs, Johnson said.

Marne Piledriver is a comprehensive operation spanning several months. Other improvements include upgrading the Yusifiyah market, renovating fish farms, and erecting cell phone towers and billboards.

When all is said and done, Johnson hopes this operation will serve as a blueprint for what’s possible in Iraq moving forward.

“This is really a test-bed for how successful capacity-building operations can be,” he said. “After spending a lot of the tour focused on lethal operations, the conditions are such that we can really begin to say, ‘OK what do the people need that we can impact in a real positive manner.’”

## Congressmen visit Yusifiyah, connect with locals, Soldiers



By Staff Sgt. Tony M. Lindback

Maine Congressman Michael Michaud shakes hands with an Iraqi boy while walking the streets of Yusifiyah to see progress being made in Iraq April 13. The boy lost his legs in an explosion and received a wheelchair March 27 donated by the family of Sgt. Nathan Barnes, a Soldier killed in action who served in the area.



By Staff Sgt. Tony M. Lindback

Pennsylvania Congressman Todd Platts walks the streets of Yusifiyah with his arm around Capt. Michael Starz, commander of Company C, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), next to Massachusetts Congressman Stephen Lynch and Lt. Col. Andrew Rohling, commander of 3-187th Inf. Regt., while conducting a visit to see progress being made in Iraq April 13.



# Sol lead Coalition forces to weapons cache

By SPC. BEN HUTTO  
3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO

**FOB HAMMER** – Sons of Iraq led Soldiers from Troop C, 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, and Policemen with 3rd Brigade, 1st National Police Division to a large weapons cache in Tameem, a town east of Baghdad, April 14.

The cache was buried approximately 500 meters from the NP headquarters in Tameem.

“The cache had been in the ground a long time,” said 1st Lt. Andrew Ellison, from Coleman, Ala., a squad leader in Troop C. “EOD (explosive ordnance disposal) Soldiers estimated that the munitions had been buried for over a year based on their condition.”

The cache contained 389 82 mm mortar rounds, 96 125 mm tank rounds, 172 57 mm anti-aircraft rounds, 38 60 mm mortar rounds, 30 130 mm artillery rounds, 17 122 mm mortar rounds, 15 100 mm rockets, seven 155 artillery rounds, five 100 kg aircraft bombs and four 120 mm mortar rounds.

“When we first found it, we weren’t expecting it to be that large,” Ellison said. “We started digging and we started finding mortars at three feet deep. We actually hit the water table before we found the bottom of the cache. When we finished digging we had a hole about seven feet deep.”

Ellison said the SoI and NP were key parts of the operation.

“The sheikh in charge of the Sons of



Iraq actually brought a front-end loader to help us dig up the cache,” Ellison said. “It was a big help. Of course, if it wasn’t for his informant, we would have never known about the cache. The Policemen provided security while they brought a truck so we could transport the cache back to (Combat Outpost Cashe). After we had finished transporting the cache, they stood guard over it the whole night. They were extremely helpful.”

Soldiers of Troop C, Ellison said, are happy to remove the threat of munitions to harm citizens or Coalition forces.

“Even though many of the munitions were badly degraded, they could have still been used to make IEDs (improvised explosive devices),” he said. “We are extremely happy to help interdict these accelerants here.”

The 3-1st Cav. Regt. is assigned to the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, from Fort Benning, Ga., and has been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since March 2007. The 789th Ordnance Company (EOD) is from Ft. Benning, Ga., and is currently assigned to the 3rd HBCT.

Left: Soldiers assigned to Troop C, 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, remove part of a large cache in Tameem, Iraq, April 14. The Sons of Iraq led Troop C to the buried cache, which included hundreds of mortar rounds. Below: A Soldier assigned to Troop C, 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, removes debris covering a cache in Tameem, Iraq, April 14. The Sons of Iraq led Troop C to the buried cache, which included hundreds of mortar rounds.

Photos by Spc. Ben Hutto



# Iraqi CID collects evidence against AQI

1-30TH INF. REGT.,  
2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO

**FOB KALSU** – The Iraqi Criminal Investigation Department visited Arab Jabour April 14 to investigate and confiscate cars that were stolen by al-Qaeda in Iraq to plan and commit terrorist activities. It is believed that AQI stored the vehicles so they could be used to build vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices or be sold to finance AQI operations. Using four flatbed trucks and a crane, 26 cars were loaded and taken to CID headquarters in Dora for investigation.

The cars were at a house in the village of Bayija, used by AQI since early 2007 as a meeting and storage area.

Company A, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Iraqi Police and Sons of Iraq assisted Iraqi CID in Arab Jabour. Members of the SoI helped the CID agents load the cars onto the flatbed while others provided

security.

“Iraqi CID brought all the tools needed and were remarkably efficient,” said Capt. Neil Hollenbeck, Company A commander, from Louisville, Ky. “We expected the mission to take two days and it was completed in three hours.”

Maj. Eric Weis, 1-30th Inf. Regt. operations officer, said the mission was a tremendous success.

“We’re confident that this combined operation with the Sons of Iraq, Iraqi CID and Coalition forces set the foundation for future cooperation, intelligence and information sharing and showed the emerging Government of Iraq involvement in greater Arab Jabour,” said Weis, a native of Silverthorne, Colo.

Iraqi CID is a department of the Ministry of Interior. They are a new department tasked with investigating cases associated with interrogation, terrorism, kidnapping and forensic evidence collection.



Courtesy Photo  
Cars stolen by al-Qaeda in Iraq litter the yard of a house in Bayija. The cars were taken by the Iraqi Criminal Investigation Department April 14 to be used as evidence against members of AQI.



# El Salvadorans deliver wheelchairs, hope

By Sgt. 1st Class Stacy Niles  
214 FB PAO

**FOB DELTA** - The El Salvador Cuscatlán Battalion X rotation distributed 125 wheelchairs to disabled children and adults at the al-Rhama Disabled Association in al-Kut, Iraq, April 18.

"I was shocked by the large number of children," said Col. Walter Arévalo, commander of the Cuscatlán Battalion. Many of the wheelchair recipients suffer from conditions such as epilepsy, heart disease, migraines and eye and skin disorders, said Arévalo.

Hussein Kase, a 12-year-old who received a wheelchair, is mute and suffers

from a skin condition in addition to being paralyzed. The chair will give him mobility, said his father Kas Salaman.

"I'm very happy about this gift," Salaman said. "It will help him move and be able to play with the other children."

More resources are needed to increase the quality of life for these individuals, said Arévalo. People had traveled from as far away as Basra, he said, to receive assistance.

"It is important for us to run this type of activity," Arévalo said. "We like to be able to give hope to the people."

In addition to the wheelchairs, the Salvadoran Soldiers distributed 125 packets of food and school supply kits.



By Sgt. 1st Class Stacy Niles

Salvadoran Soldiers from the Cuscatlán Battalion X rotation distributed 125 wheelchairs, food packets and school supply kits at the al-Rhama Disabled Association in al-Kut April 18.



By Sgt. 1st Class Stacy Niles

Salvadoran Col. Walter Arévalo, commander of the Cuscatlán Battalion X rotation, holds Hussein Kase, a 12-year-old, during a wheelchair distribution at al-Rhama Disabled Association in al-Kut April 18. Kase is unable to talk and suffers from a skin condition in addition to being paralyzed.

## THIS WEEK IN MARNE HISTORY

PROVIDED BY DR. JUDITH F. BROWN  
Historian, 3rd Inf. Div.

In this week in April occurred two events that bracket a very lengthy and significant period in the history of the 3rd Infantry Division: its service during the Cold War. On April 23, 1958, the 3rd Inf. Div. replaced the 10th Inf. Div. in Germany, establishing its Headquarters at Würzburg and placing its battle groups in surrounding towns and in Bavaria. Almost 40 years later, with the Cold War over, the 3rd Inf. Div. returned to the United States, replacing the 24th Inf. Div. in a reflagging ceremony April 23, 1996 at Fort Stewart, where its Headquarters remains today.

By 1958 Western Europe was definitely in what was now called the Cold War between the Communists led by the USSR and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) led by the U.S. Having been divided after World War II into two States, the boundary between Russian-dominated East Germany and the America's ally, West Germany, was where any new conflict would start, most likely by Russian invasion through the Fulda Gap in East Germany. There had already been serious crises over the desire of the Soviet Union to extend the Communist system: In 1948 with the Berlin blockade; in 1953 with an

East German uprising against Russian domination; and most recently in 1956 with the failed Hungarian Revolution. The acquisition of nuclear weapons by the USSR in the early 1950s made the dangers of conflict in Germany even greater. The U.S. and its allies needed enough capable soldiers in West Germany to hopefully deter the USSR from launching any invasion and so prevent the Cold War from escalating into a nuclear hot war. If that was unsuccessful, they were to hold the line against the enemy until reinforcements could arrive from other NATO countries. So the Army called on the Rock of the Marne to be a rock in the allied line in Germany.

The 3rd Inf. Div. performed this function magnificently for more than 30 years, through a succession of crises in Europe and the rest of the world: The Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962, the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, the Vietnam War in the later 60s and 70s, the Soviet-Afghan War in the 1980s, and finally the Czech velvet revolution and the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, and the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. The work was often not exciting, but it was absolutely necessary, and the 3rd Inf. Div. was always there, ready for any emergency.

With the end of the Cold War, however, the United

See HISTORY, Page 8

## MARNE JUSTICE COURTS MARTIAL RESULTS

The following Courts-Martial concluded recently:

In *United States v. Harris*, Sgt. Harris, with Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division was convicted of five specifications for use of cocaine, one violation of exporting cocaine and one specification of violating General Order #1. Harris was sentenced to be reduced to Private (E-1), to be confined for six months, to forfeit \$500 per month, and a Bad-Conduct Discharge.

In a separate court-martial of *United States v. Kozinski*, Pvt. Kozinski, with 4th Brigade Combat, 3rd Infantry Division, was convicted of leaving his guard without authority, aggravated assault, and adultery. Kozinski was sentenced to be confined for six months and a Bad-Conduct Discharge.





# 203rd BSB takes on Eagle Challenge

By SGT. 1ST CLASS SCOTT MAYNARD  
3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO

**FOB HAMMER** – At 5:30 a.m. on April 6, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team Soldiers throughout the brigade's area of operations were working hard to do their part in the war on terror.

At FOB Hammer, Soldiers from 203rd Brigade Support Battalion were busy building the team through a series of physical and mental tests known as the "Eagle Challenge."

The challenge tested physical endurance with a one-mile run with their rifles; a four- and a half-mile foot-march, which included stops to test their general Soldiering knowledge and unit history; a 30-minute physical fitness and agility session; and four testing stations which evaluated Soldiers' ability to treat a casualty; disassemble and assemble a rifle, perform a functions check then load; and fill a radio to make a radio check.

"It's not all Soldiers' common task training in the challenge," said 1st Lt. Natassia Fay, from Youngstown, Ohio, the battalion logistician. "There are rules that must be followed as well."

The rules stipulated that contestants could compete as individuals or teams, there was no use of rank during the challenge, no disputes with the cadre and a positive attitude must be maintained.

The entire 203rd BSB could not participate due to mission tempo, but 48 out of 250 available Soldiers prequalified and took on the team building event.

Lt. Col. Kelly J. Lawler, from Monticello, N.Y., commander of the 203rd BSB, addressed the 48 203rd Soldiers, known as "Crows," prior to the start.

"Thank you for participating in the Eagle Challenge," Lawler said. "Right now you are a 'Crow' but by the end of the day some of you will be 'Eagles'. You are the reason for this battalion's success and for that I thank you ... I have my buckle. I want you to have yours."

The sign of an "Eagle" is a brass belt buckle with the head of an eagle wrapped in the words, "203rd Brigade Support Battalion, Eagle Challenge, Support and Defend, 3rd Infantry Division."

"You will be proud to wear your belt buckle after today's

challenge," Lawler said. "Other Soldiers will ask where you earned it, and you can tell them FOB Hammer, Iraq."

The Crows were herded off to have their rucksacks inventoried and the challenge began.

"Hurry up crows, get those rucks emptied out," barked Capt. Fenicia L. Jackson, from Hartsville, S.C., the battalion operations officer. "Crows! You are not moving fast enough, front-leaning rest position, move!"

After the Soldiers warmed up for the one-mile run with Jackson, she inventoried the gear, had them load it up in the truck and moved them to the starting line.

Lawler was there waiting for the group.

"Are you warmed up, Crows?" Lawler asked. "Maybe another warm-up exercise will get you ready! The side straddle hop, ready, exercise one, two, three!"

After the exhausted Soldiers finished the exercises, Lawler sent them running into the sun. Some left with smiles, some with frowns and many with a set jaw and determined look.

Once the run was complete the contestants put on their rucksacks and moved on to the foot march. Sgt. Michael Decker, from Columbus, Ga., was in the lead with Spc. Clinton Biddle, from Paris, Ky., close behind. They were followed by team "Wolfpack," which consisted of Sgt. Paul Zadzura, from Sturges, Pa.; Spc. Mark Shaheer, from Chicago; and Spc. Louis Pinault, from Fitchburg, Maine.

After the march, the leader board remained the same. Decker stayed out in front, Biddle a close second and Staff Sgt. Willie Farris, of Pinebluff, Ark., in third place for the singles competition. Team Wolfpack led in the team category; the leader board remained the same for the rest of the events.

The march was followed by a mandatory rest period at the home station.

However no one got any rest.

Behind the break area lurked a giant water truck. They were soon both drenched and covered in mud.

"I didn't see that coming," said Sgt. 1st Class Perry Flournoy, of Columbus, Ga. "It felt good at first. I was hot and sweaty after moving out with that ruck on. Next thing I know, we were covered in mud."



By Sgt. 1st Class Scott Maynard  
First Sgt. Kenya Berry, from Milledgeville, Ga., Company C, 203rd Brigade Support Battalion, puts on her war face while high crawling in the mud, during the Eagle Challenge on FOB Hammer, Iraq, April 6.

The 30-minute 'mandatory break' turned into an exercise in discipline, dedication and motivation where Soldiers had to demonstrate low- and high-crawl techniques.

"At that point we were half way through. I have never been a quitter - I wasn't going to start then," Flournoy said who was elected the event's Most Valuable Player by the cadre. "By the time the break was over, I needed a break. My eye-pro was covered in mud, which meant I was covered in mud."

After the break, contestants were released to the testing stations according to the time they came in to home station.

Wet and dripping with mud, the Crows took their score sheets and were directed from station to station by the cadre.

At each station, they dried out a little more, until they finished the challenge.

"I knew this team had what it takes to win," said Zadzura, whose team, Wolfpack finished in 1st place. "We pushed each other hard ... We won together."

The day capped off with a banquet to award the Soldiers their belt buckles and recognize the



By Sgt. 1st Class Scott Maynard  
Members of Team Wolfpack, including Spc. Louis Pinault, from Fitchburg, Mass., and Sgt. Paul Zadzura, from Sturges, Pa., lead after the foot march portion of the Eagle Challenge April 6 on FOB Hammer, Iraq.

**See CHALLENGE, Page 10**



# Soldiers distribute school supplies

By Sgt. 1st Class Tami Hillis  
4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO

**FOB KALSU** — A convoy rolls up to a small school in the Monsouri area of Iraq, just outside FOB Kalsu, and at first glance the school looks abandoned. Then small faces start appearing and heads lean out the windows.

Moments later, Soldiers with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 76th Field Artillery, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, and the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion, from Kalamazoo, Mich., currently assigned to 1-76th FA, are surrounded by helpful faculty and eager students, waiting to see what has been brought.

The Soldiers delivered backpacks filled with school supplies, soccer balls and notebooks April 14 to the al-Raqhaa School, for primary and secondary students, and the Abu Shear School, for primary students. Each school has approximately 800 students.

"A lot of the missions we're doing right now are school improvements and this mission helps the kids get the materials they need in order to get an education," said Cpl. Markbradley Vincze, a father of one from Lufkin, Texas.

Spc. Christopher Ryder, a Lake Charles, La., native and three-year veteran, said they try to put a smile on the kids' faces.

"It makes me feel like I am actually making a difference," Ryder said. "It shows the kids that we're good people."

Over time the goal is to get a backpack and supplies to each student.

"Right now we're using a systematic way of distributing our generosity throughout our (area of operation)," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Robert Green, target acquisition platoon leader. "So we started with these two schools and we're kind of going in a clockwise motion around our AO with school drops."

There are approximately 10 schools in the unit's AO.

"We've gotten to know the people in our AO and it feels nice doing something good for them," said Spc. Joseph Carroll, a one-year veteran from South Bend, Ind.

"It also gives the Army a positive im-



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Tami Hillis

Cpl. Markbradley Vincze, from Lufkin, Texas, gives students from al-Raqhaa School backpacks April 14 in the Monsouri area of Iraq. Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1-76th FA, 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., delivered backpacks, soccer balls and notebooks to students there.

age."

This type of mission helps build relationship between Coalition forces and Iraqi residents.

"It shows the people that we're not just here for ourselves; we're going to work for the community, work for the children," said Green, a father of three and St. Louis, Mo., native. "I think if you win the children, you win the adults. They're kids just like our kids, they just have less."

The unit plans to work with the CA team on a continuous basis until each school has supplies for every student, said Green.

"Hopefully the young ones remember American Soldiers as helpful, so maybe our kids won't have to be here in 20 years," said Pfc. Agustin Aguilar Jr., a one-year veteran from Tucson, Ariz. "They are grateful for anything and they don't look at us and run away - they know we're friendly to them."



A student from Abu Shear School takes an arm full of backpacks back to the classroom April 14 in the Monsouri area of Iraq.

**THERE'S STRONG AND  
THEN THERE'S ARMY STRONG**

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DEDICATED AND MOST RESPECTED  
SOLDIERS IN THE WORLD.  
CHECK WITH YOUR RETENTION  
COUNSELOR FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

## HISTORY

### From Page 6

States, as it usually did after the end of a war, began to downsize its military. The question then was: Which divisions should be retained in the smaller Army? The U.S. Army Center of Military History was asked to help determine the priority of divisions to be retained. Using the criteria

of the age of the division, the number of campaigns in which it had participated, and the number of unit decorations it had received, there was no question about it. Of the 21 divisions in the Army in the early 90s, only the 1st Inf. Div. and the 1st Cavalry Division, both of which had served in Vietnam, had a higher retention priority than the 3rd Inf. Div. The 3rd Inf. Div. would remain a proud part of the Army.



# CAB medics support combat surgical hospital

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

**CAMP STRIKER** – When the 25th Combat Surgical Hospital in Baghdad redeployed after their tour, they turned their hospital over to the incoming unit, the 86th CSH. Needing more manpower, the CSH looked to medics of the 3rd Infantry Division's Combat Aviation Brigade to help relieve pressure on the understaffed hospital.

"They were short on medics so we helped them out," said Spc. Andrew Milone, Headquarters and Support Company, 603rd Aviation Support Battalion. "Since they took over in November, we've sent over two Soldiers a month to help them."

For many of the medics, the 86th CSH was their first experience working on severely injured patients. This was the case for Sgt. Erick Garcia, a combat medic with HSC, 603rd ASB.

"We never know what's coming in," said Garcia, a native of Phoenix. "There were days when we wouldn't get anything serious and then days when we'd get four people all at once from an IED (improvised explosive device) attack with lacerations from shrapnel, an amputation or steel beads all throughout their body."



By Pfc. Monica K. Smith

Spc. Andrew Milone, a medic with HHC, 603rd ASB, conducts a knee exam April 12 at the Camp Striker Troop Medical Clinic, Baghdad.

The Soldiers work 12-hour shifts which, Garcia said, seem much shorter due to the amount of work performed.

"It's really fast-paced and you use a lot of energy running back and forth to get equipment to treat patients," Garcia said. "(At the Camp Striker Troop Medical

Clinic) things are slower but at the CSH everything is going 100 miles-per-hour when you have a serious patient. At one point we had more than 50 people coming in at one day, most were trauma injuries like gunshot wounds or shrapnel."

Typically, medics at the Camp Striker

TMC perform patient care responding to illnesses and injuries such as coughs and sprained ankles. When not performing patient care, the medics train, give immunizations, perform flight physicals for pilots and crew chiefs and maintain the aid station.

"Out there you're actually saving people's lives," Milone said. "Sick call is so routine. You feel so needed at the CSH. You feel a sense of accomplishment ... That's where you're really doing your job."

Garcia says the experiences he encountered are unlike what medics see at a TMC and he took his time at the CSH as a training experience.

"We just don't see that here," Garcia said. "It's very rare we get a patient like that. The one time I saw anything like that was when a Soldier was dropped off by a convoy and they didn't know where else to go."

After spending a month at the hospital, Garcia says the TMC medics have a new sense of appreciation for the CSH medics.

"I have a lot of respect for them," Garcia said. "They do this every day. I think our medics are just as capable given the opportunity but it's a whole different environment there."

# Women's sewing center opens in Muafiqiyah

By Staff Sgt. Carlos J. Lazo  
214th FB PAO

**AL KUT** – A women's sewing center officially opened in Muafiqiyah April 10, providing both employment and training for female residents.

The center will serve as a means for local women to earn income to support their families, said Sgt. Amanda E. Timmer, head of the Women's Initiatives program for the Wasit Provincial Reconstruction Team.

The center employs 11 women from the village, one for each sewing machine. Eventually these women will take apprentices, doubling the workforce, said Timmer.

"The plan is not only to employ women, but to train them, provide them a skill," Timmer said.

Selection for the initial group was specifically aimed at single mothers whose spouses had died and who had no other means to provide for their families, said Timmer.

This is the first project in Muafiqiyah the PRT has under-

taken, said Timmer, and was used to establish a relationship with the village.

The project resulted from collaboration between local leaders in the village, the PRT and the Wasit Provincial Council.

The initial assessment took place in early March, after Hadi al-Yasiri, a member of the council and a contractor the PRT had worked with before, asked the PRT to visit Muafiqiyah, his hometown.

The sewing center was nothing more than an empty building next to the mayor's office, said Lt. Col. Robert Jones, PRT deputy team leader. After the assessment, a complete refurbishment of the center was conducted over the course of ten days by al-Yasiri.

Timmer said the sewing center will be overseen and run by Ahmad Nouri Ali al-Yasiri, head of the Muafiqiyah local council.

All the materials currently at the center where provided by the council and will be used by the women to create clothing, she said.



By Staff Sgt. Carlos J. Lazo

Sgt. Amanda E. Timmer, head of the Women's Initiative for the Wasit Provincial Reconstruction Team, speaks with an Iraqi woman with the help of an interpreter at the new women's sewing center at Muafiqiyah, Iraq April. 10.

The clothing produced by the women will be sold locally and - if there is a demand - at the al-Kut markets, said al-Yasiri. The council will oversee sales,

with part of the profits going to maintain the center, fund operations and purchase materials.

The remaining income will be handed over to the women

to support their families. In this way, Timmer said, the center not only supports the women, but allows them to contribute to the community.



## CHALLENGE

From page 7

winners with Army Achievement Medals.

The event started with 48 Crows and finished with 48 Eagles earning their right of passage - an Eagle Challenge belt buckle.

The day was best described by Capt. Emanuel Velez, from Quebradillas, Puerto Rico, and the commander of Company A.

"For a few moments today; I forgot I was in Iraq, he said.

The 203rd BSB is assigned to the 3rd HBCT, 3rd Infantry Division from Fort Benning, Ga., and has been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since March 2007.

## New road links Hajjan Alu to highway

By SGT. 1ST CLASS STACY NILES  
214th FB PAO

**FOB DELTA** - El Salvador's Cuscatlán Battalion handed over a 2-kilometer stretch of compacted gravel road to the village of Hajjan Alu March 12.

The road allows villagers unfettered access to a main highway. Before having the road graveled, villagers had a hard time getting to the main roadway by foot or vehicle when it rained, said Lt. Col. Mario Murcia, Cuscatlán Battalion civilian military coop-

eration team chief.

The road addition benefits 750 people in the area around a Coalition checkpoint and helps increase goodwill among the residents, said Murcia.

Many of the roads leading to villages in Wasit province are difficult to traverse when it rains.

In the villages surrounding one checkpoint, two deaths were attributed to impassable roads during the rainy season. Coalition forces provided funds for two roads to connect those villages to main highways in February.



By Sgt. 1st Class Stacy Niles

Salvadoran Col. Walter Arévalo, Cuscatlán Battalion commander, cuts the ribbon transferring a road project to Hamza Hmad Hamadi, the sheikh for the village of Hajjan Alu.

## Female bodybuilders find strength in deployment

By SGT. KEVIN STABINSKY  
2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO

**FOB KALSU** - When not busy in their daily missions, 1st Lt. Charmain Lett and Sgt. Jennifer Alvery are most likely building better bodies.

Although pumping iron in the gym is typically associated with men, these two women are serving as an inspiration to other females in their units to reach their physical fitness potential.

"Lots of Soldiers come up to ask to work out with me," said Alvery, a member of the Top Flite security detail, 26th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

Much of the pair's fame comes from photos of their accomplishments, like winning their respective weight classes in bench press competitions, which hang on the walls of the FOB Kalsu gym.

Their original motivation came from a desire to self-improve. Both said they were heavily involved in sports and working out enhanced their talents. Lett, assistant supply and logistics officer and property book officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., said lifting helped her swimming. She earned an athletic scholarship to the University of Florida for her skill.

Avery said she began lifting in high school. "I had weightlifting as a regular class - weightlifting for athletes," said the Navarre, Fla., native. "You need strength in every sport. It helps tremendously."

A competitive lifter for the past seven years, Lett, from Pensacola, Fla., is aiming to gain an International Federation of Bodybuilding and Fitness card, allowing her to compete in professional bodybuilding and fitness events. She has already competed in one event and plans to compete again in the Show of Strength Oct. 8 in Atlanta.

"I got into fitness from watching shows," said Lett, who took 2nd place overall in the women's heavyweight division in a June 2006 Southern Isles bodybuilding competition. She also credits her three older brothers and three older sisters, all athletes in their own right, for motivating her.

"You (women) don't need to be scared about bulking up," Alvery said. "Most people don't realize how hard those guys (in fitness magazines) work at it."

Lett agreed, stating much of a person's result tends to reflect their body type. Most people will never gain the large amounts of muscles seen on the covers of fitness



By Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

Sgt. Jennifer Alvery, Top Flite security detail, 26th BSB, 2nd BCT, prepare to lift weights in an attempt to join the 500-pound club. To join, a Soldier has to lift a total of 500 pounds combined in the bench press, dead lift and squat.

magazines. Body type excluded, they said all people can benefit from hitting the weights.

"I wish more women would get into weightlifting," Alvery said.

For those looking to slim down and tone up, weightlifting is very helpful, as muscle burns more calories than fat. By utilizing a system of light weights and high repetitions, Lett said a person can tone up. For her own toning, Lett uses a system of four sets of 15 - 20 repetitions.

Using light weights can also be beneficial as lifting

weights that are too heavy can cause joint and muscle injuries, Lett said.

Alvery said a great way to learn how to use machines, weights and exercises is to find a mentor. She found a mentor in fellow 26th BSB Soldier Sgt. Chris Johnson, and in turn tries to mentor others who ask to work out with her.

Besides having someone to help you through lifting sessions and teach new exercises, a mentor can also serve as an accountability partner, Alvery said, motivating you to work out.

For both Lett and Alvery, working out is an almost daily activity. Lett said she works out Monday through Saturday, twice a day, devoting two hours in the morning to lifting and another hour at night for cardio.

She normally focuses on one body part a day during weight lifting, utilizing supersets three times a day. A superset is when you work two opposing muscles back to back, such as biceps and triceps or quadriceps and hamstrings in order to better stimulate blood flow to the area and promote growth. Her cardio consists of running every other day, with alternate days divided into three 16-minute bursts on the treadmill, stationary bicycle and stepper machine.

Alvery exercises slightly less, training five times a week, with each training session averaging 90 minutes. Each session focuses on one muscle group - biceps and triceps; shoulders; chest; back; or legs - with abdominal and cardio mixed in.

Besides exercising her body, such sessions are also therapeutic for Alvery, "If I'm having a bad day or problems, my mind deals with it better when I work out."

Alvery said it's also a good way to improve one's physical fitness score.

"Any exercise you do helps with the PT test," Alvery said, even those not necessarily similar to the push-up and sit-up events. For example, Alvery said any exercise for arms also helps a Soldier do push-ups.

The two also agree that eating right is an important part of maintaining those skills. Alvery said Soldiers can eat well in theater despite limited food choices by following three pieces of advice: limiting food from the short-order line, adding a lot of color to one's plate with vegetables and fruit and maintaining portion control. Although a tough order to fill, it is one that creates a recipe for healthy living and is well worth the investment, as both Alvery and Lett hope their accomplishments show.





By Spc. Amanda McBride

Leaders from the 3rd Infantry Division, Iraqi Security Forces and local officials sit during the ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the official opening of the Jurf as Sahkr Town Hall April 15 in Jurf as Sahkr, Iraq.

## Jurf as Sahkr Town Hall opens

By Spc. AMANDA MCBRIDE  
4TH BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO

**FOB KALSU** — Approximately 500 people gathered to commemorate the grand opening of the Jurf as Sahkr Town Hall April 15 in Jurf as Sahkr, Iraq.

Leaders from the 3rd Infantry Division, Iraqi Security Forces and local officials were present for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

"The opening of the Jurf town hall is just another indicator of the progress that continues to occur in the area," said Col. Timothy Newsome, commander of 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Inf. Div. "An area that this time last year was, in fact, a staging base for (al-Qaeda in Iraq) operations in the middle of the Euphrates River Valley."

Many buildings had been destroyed in the area due to insurgent violence. Local leaders were forced to use other locations

throughout town to hold meetings and conduct government functions.

Sheikh Sabbah al-Janabi, a sheikh in the Janabi tribe and leader of Jurf as Sahkr, said there had been no suitable building since the violence. "With help from (Coalition forces), we have been able to build this building in limited time."

Through partnership with the civil affairs team attached to 3-7th Inf. Regt., residents of Jurf as Sahkr came together to build the town hall.

With funding provided by 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., local contractors constructed the hall in four months.

The new building provides a place where all the city government branches can come together and have a permanent structure to work from.

The four-room building will house the town's public works branch, including trash collection, sanitation and water, along with an office for Sheikh Sabbah.

## DoI welcomed

By CAPT. MIKE STARZ  
3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Div. (AASLT)

**YUSIFIYAH** — The organization known as Sons of Iraq, which has brought peace to much of Iraq, is taking a bold step in its evolution with the addition of Daughters of Iraq (DoI).

On April 17, Col. Aman, commander of 4th Battalion, 25th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division met with leaders from Company C, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) to discuss the creation of the first DoI program. These women would be able to search other females at security checkpoints, expanding the capabilities of the SoI currently manning the checkpoints. Steve Martinez, a law enforcement professional attached to 3-187th Inf. Regt., said integrating women into security roles was necessitated by insurgents utilizing females to carry out suicide attacks against Iraqis and Coalition forces. Employing women, Martinez said, would "provide a complete and thorough search of suspect females with the utmost respect for the individual and local customs without compromising the safety of others."

The DoI will search other women in and around Yusifiyah to help prevent trafficking of weapons, explosives and dangerous materials.

In addition to the significant security gains that these women will bring to the checkpoints, there are other advantages.

"The Daughters of Iraq will facilitate female empowerment and the creation of the group represents a significant step towards a properly functioning democratic society," said Sgt. Jason G. George, Company C intelligence non-commissioned officer. "While the group may face criticism from traditionalists, ultimately, their success will demonstrate their value to the populace."

Another benefit of the creation of DoI is the opportunity for some of the more disadvantaged women to receive benefits, most of whom have been specifically targeted to join the program.

"We have been working to assist the impoverished women and, particularly, the widows in the area. There are limited employment opportunities for women widowed by insurgent violence and burdened with supporting their children," said 1st Lt. Chris Hafner, Company C intelligence officer. "This program is ideal for these women."

The details for DoI contracts are being finalized and will start with 30 women.

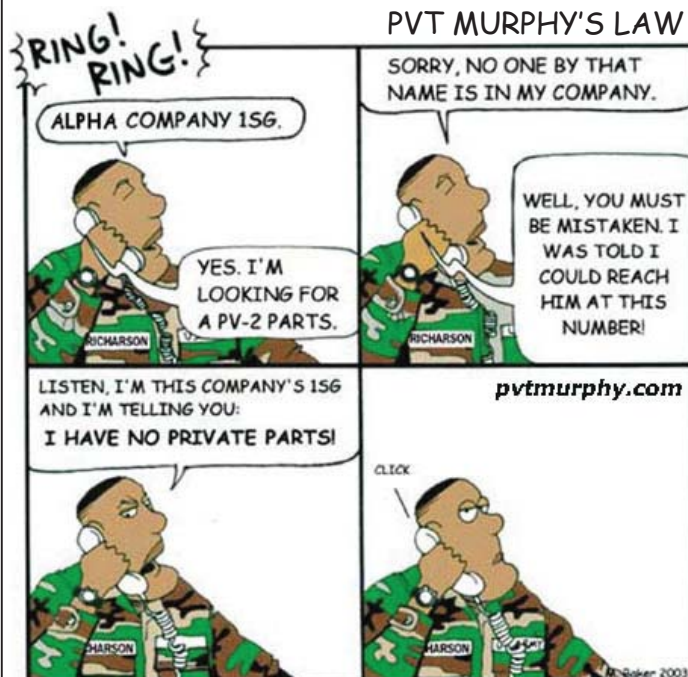
"Integrating patriotic Iraqi women into the Daughters of Iraq is a huge step in the right direction of freedom for the Iraqi people," said Staff Sgt. Thai A. Starkovich, military transition team noncommissioned officer in charge. "With the cooperation of the Iraqi Army and the Sons and Daughters of Iraq, the safety of Iraqis is a goal that is now visible on the horizon."

Not all of our enemies are outside the FOB...

# OPERATIONAL SECURITY

...some have disguised themselves as one of us. Report suspicious activities immediately.

**...IT'S EVERYONE'S JOB.**





# CAB supports Camp Bucca transport needs

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

**CAMP STRIKER** – The distance between Camp Buehring, Kuwait and Camp Bucca, Iraq is less than 50 miles. However, due to the condition of roads and the high threat of improvised explosive devices, the time to travel by ground convoy is more than four hours.

"Everybody in this country knows the safest way to travel is by air," said Chief Warrant Officer Jerry Emmons, Company A., 4th Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment.

Each week 4-3rd Avn. Regt., sends a company to do the "Bucca Mission." The company sends three Black Hawks to Camp Buehring, and for three days their entire mission consists of transporting people to and from Camp Bucca and Camp Buehring.

"It's faster to fly and we can move a lot more people in a lot less time," said Lt. Dan Morse, Co. A, 4-3rd Avn. Regt., who served as the team's officer in charge.

"We fly to keep those guys off the roads so they don't get hit by IEDs," added Chief Warrant Officer Alford Grey, also with Company A.

The six pilots and six crew chiefs fly seven trips a day between the two locations carrying 33 people each trip; they potentially move more than 400 people a day.

Typically flights begin at 8 a.m. sometimes earlier, said Sgt. Dennis Hart, Co. A, 4-3rd Avn. Regt. "We get done at 5 p.m. but when we land we have an hour's worth of maintenance to do on the aircraft – sometimes two. We won't usually leave the aircraft till 6 or 6:30 p.m."



Photos by Pfc. Monica K. Smith

(Above) Soldiers with Co. A, 4-3rd Avn. Regt., load passengers onto a Black Hawk helicopter at Camp Bucca, April 15, Iraq. (Below) Three Black Hawk helicopters from Co. A, 4-3rd Avn. Regt., fly from Camp Buehring, Kuwait, taking passengers to Camp Bucca, Iraq, April 15.

Grey, a maintenance officer with Company A, has come to Bucca on every mission. He is the company's direct adviser to the battalion command, said Hart.

"A maintenance officer and a (technical inspector) come on each trip in case we have to do anything with the aircraft," Hart said. "If something happens and the aircraft needs to be worked on and test flown, we can do that here."

The Soldiers enjoy their mission; though the hours are long, everyone who serves on the Bucca mission volunteers to go.



## Iraqi Ministry of Tourism visits Salman Pak



Above: Sgt. Richard Ray, from Fayetteville, N.C., Company C, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, provides security at the Arch of Ctesiphon in Salman Pak, Iraq, during a visit by the Iraqi Ministry of Tourism, April 15. Left: Sgt. Brian Busby, from Lucedale, Miss., Headquarters Troop, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, provides security at the Arch of Ctesiphon in Salman Pak, Iraq, April 15. The crack in the wall behind him happened more than 1,800 years ago.



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Scott Maynard/3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO

Col. Ryan J. Kuhn, from Clarks, Neb., the deputy commander of the 3rd HBCT, thanks Nasser Ghanem, Deputy General of Tourism, for visiting Salman Pak and committing the ministry to restoring the city as Iraq's center of tourism, April 15.