

# STRIKER BEACON

August 2008

Published for the Soldiers, Families and friends of the 3rd BCT, 4th ID

Volume I, Issue 7



**Mingling  
with the  
people**

# Beacon's Light

## Editor's Pen

This past month has seen great change in our Operational Environment. We bid farewell to 1st Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment as they were called to another mission further north.

We welcomed back a part of the Pacesetters as elements of the 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery Regiment returned to OE Striker from their mission in central Baghdad. Don't worry Pacesetters, we're coming to cover your operations soon. Your presence on these pages has long been needed.

We bid farewell to the Istaqlal district of northern Baghdad and shifted focus to Adhamiyah and Sadr City.

The grind continues as we've pushed through the halfway mark of this deployment. The light at the end of the tunnel will now begin to get brighter.

Continue to conduct missions as safely and effectively as possible and I look forward to seeing you on the battlefield and telling your story.

Thanks for reading,

**SGT Zach Mott**

*3rd BCT Public Affairs NCOIC  
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Fighting Eagles Soldiers in northern Iraq re-enlist to continue their Army service.

See Pages 4



Mountaineer medics treat more than 700 Ur residents in two-days of medical missions.

See Page 6



Iraqi Army begins erecting wall in Sadr City to protect residents and keep Special Groups elements from entering.

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Hot shots from the cameras of Striker Brigade photographers.

See Page 11

## On the Cover

**Staff Sgt. Roberto Martinez patrols through the Fish Market in northern Baghdad. Martinez is a squad leader with the Command Security Detachment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad.**

Photo by Sgt. Zach Mott



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**3rd BCT Public Affairs Officer**  
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*SGT Philip Klein*

**3rd BCT Broadcaster**  
*SPC Michael Cox*



# Dailey's Monthly



**Strikers,**

We are nine months into the fight and Col. Hort and I could not be more proud of all of the hard work and dedication every member of the Striker Team puts forth each and every day.

The nine month mark is the historical time when units tend to see a spike in safety related incidents. I charge all leaders and Soldiers within Task Force Striker to maintain the standards during every mission like it was your first.

Our success has caused the security situation to greatly improve within our area of operations. This is the time to remain vigilant and fight complacency. Although we have been here nine months, there are five more to go. Use the Iron Horse Big Eight and Striker Big Eleven prior to every mission. Safety is the responsibility of every Soldier every day. From clearing weapons to moving around the battlefield or working in the motor pool, we must remain safety conscious. Anticipate the next accident and do

what is right to prevent it. Maintain the standards, accomplish the mission and bring everyone home safe!

I would like to congratulate both the NCO and the Soldier of the Quarter and their families for winning the 3rd Brigade Combat Team Soldier and NCO of the Quarter Board for third quarter 2008. Congratulations to SPC Willie Ray Fout, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd STB, and his wife Thanom for winning the Soldier of the Quarter and SGT Timothy Paddock-Chappell, Company C, 1-68 Armor, and his wife Christina and daughter Lorelei. Both of these outstanding Soldiers received an Army Commendation Medal from Col. Hort, a four-day pass to Freedom Rest, a trophy, a \$50 savings bond and a three-day and four-day pass to be used when we re-deploy. Great Job!

I would also like to thank all of the families back at Fort Carson. The Soldiers greatly appreciate all of the support and all of the packages that we receive. Our mission would be a

lot harder without the excellent continuous support of the families back home. My wife constantly reminds me to thank the FRSA's and Family Readiness Group members for the phenomenal job they do supporting all of the Soldiers forward and families back at Fort Carson. Thank you, we would be truly lost without your help and support.

Strikers, the entire team is doing an outstanding job, despite being spread out to the four winds. My hat goes off to the Silver Lions, Mountaineers, Phoenix, and Regulars working here with the Brigade on the East side of Baghdad. Both the Pacesetters and Blackjack are doing a phenomenal job working with 2-101 on the West side of Baghdad. We can't forget about the Fighting Eagles who continue to set and maintain the standards far off in Mosul.

Excellent Job Team! Keep up the great work.

**"STRIKERS"**  
S7



**Sgt. Timothy Paddock-Chappell**  
*Company C, 1-68 Armor*



**Spc. Willie Ray Fout**  
*Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd STB*



Photos by Pfc. Adam Blazak, 11th Public Affairs Detachment

**Seven Soldiers from Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, re-enlisted at Combat Outpost Fortitude, July 29. The Soldiers were accompanied by Iraqi Police who were eager to learn our process of re-enlisting.**



**1st Lt. Francisco Hernandez, executive officer, Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, hands out re-enlistment certificate after seven Soldiers re-enlisted at COP Fortitude in northern Iraq.**



**Seven Soldiers with Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, pose for the camera at Combat Outpost Fortitude.**

## Fighting Eagles rock vote, Iraq style

by Pfc. Adam Carl Blazak

*11th Public Affairs Detachment*

**MOSUL, Iraq** – This fall, the city of Mosul will hold local elections. The elections will test the improved security throughout the city. In order for the elections to be free and fair, voting registration centers must be secured, providing potential voters with a sense of safety as they sign up to participate. Helping to make sure this process runs smoothly, Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, has been working hand-in-hand with the Iraqi Army in the Al Ba'ath neighborhood to ensure the voting registration sites are equipped with the appropriate amount of security and supplies needed.

The Soldiers of Co. B have become a familiar face in the neighborhood. The unit regularly patrols there and speaks with residents.

“We go out there to make sure they’re in their planning process,” said 1st Lt. Francisco Hernandez, the executive officer for Co. B. “We go and talk face-to-face and ask questions to make sure they are prepared.”

In the Al Ba'ath neighborhood, four schools have been leased by the government to act as voting registration sites for the area. Voting registration will take place through mid-August with the elections slated for this fall, Hernandez added.

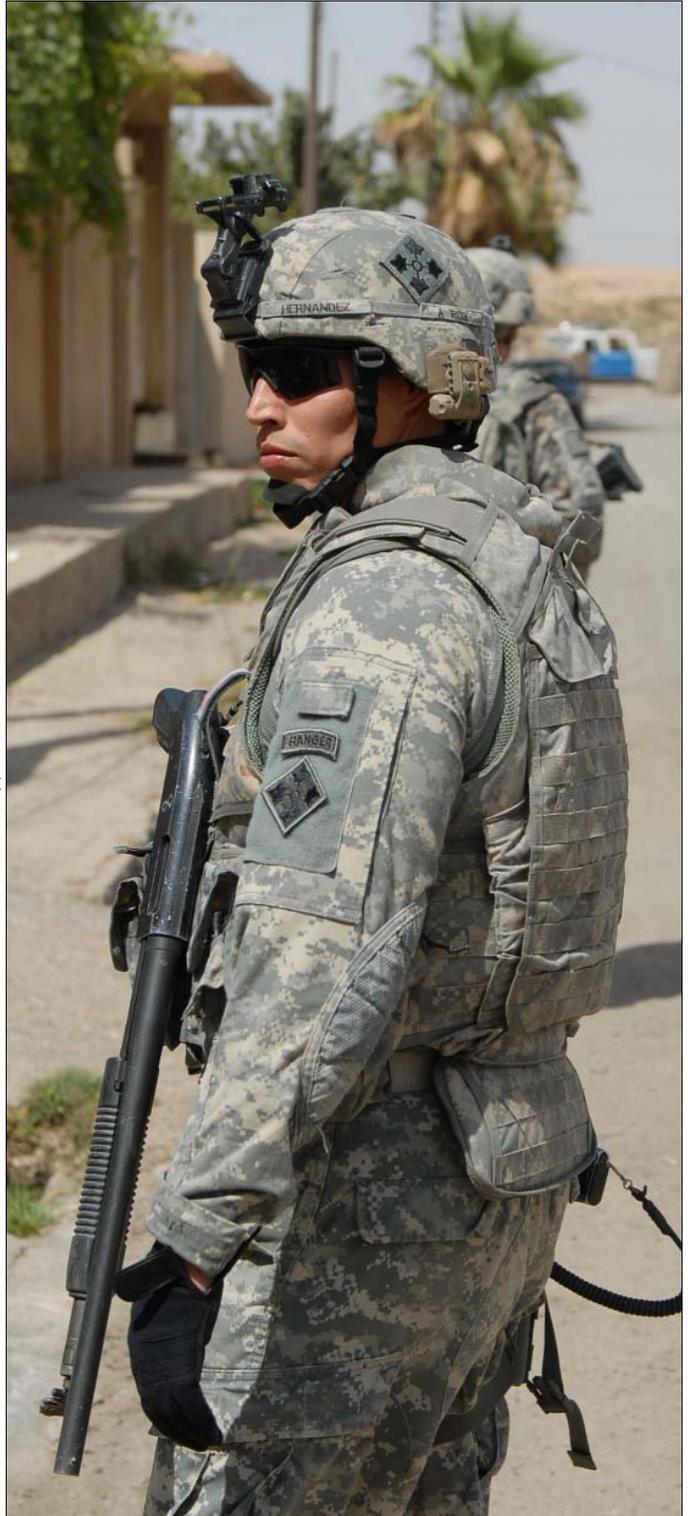
“They are doing this on their own,” he said. “This is Iraqi army lead and Iraqi army driven.”

All of this is needed to enhance force protection at the sites to limit the chance of an attack.

“The police in our area of operation are more receptive to us as far as how we coach, mentor them,” Hernandez mentioned. “They are more apt to come to us if they need help.”

As the voting registration process continues, Co. B will continue to maintain their support role in this IA planned and executed voting process.

“Success will be met (with the registration), then they will have a successful election this fall,” Hernandez said.



Speaking with Iraqi Army Soldiers, 1st Lt. Francisco Hernandez, executive officer with Company B, finds out more information for a voting registration site in the Al Ba'ath neighborhood of Mosul, Iraq.

Photos by Pfc. Adam Blazak

Observing the situation on the ground, 1st Lt. Francisco Hernandez, executive officer with Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, waits for the local Iraqi Army unit to discuss a voting registration location in Mosul, Iraq.



## Mountaineer Medics treat Iraqi civilians

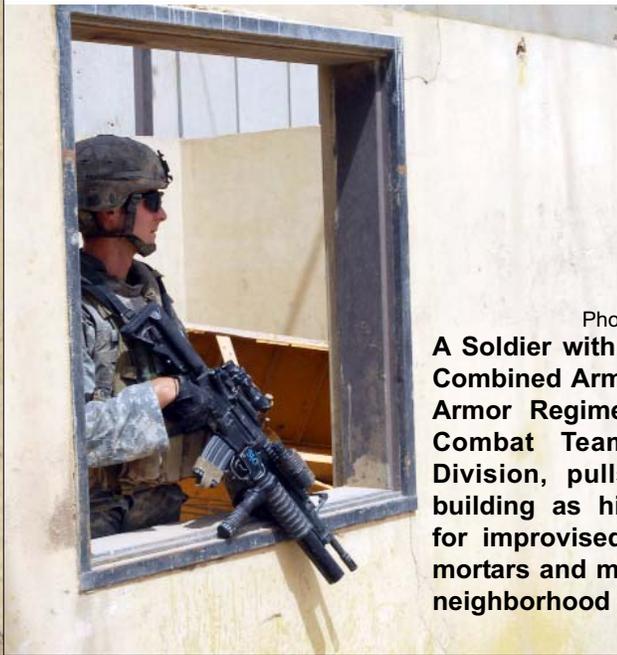
Photos provided by Capt. Johnpaul Kelly, 64th Brigade Support Battalion

Spc. Andrea Reed prepares to take the blood pressure of an Iraqi woman during a medical screening in the northern Baghdad neighborhood of Ur. Reed, along with other members of Company C, 64th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, treated more than 350 residents during the day-long event.

INSET: Spc. Andrea Reed holds an Iraqi baby.

RIGHT: Capt. Bart Gillum speaks with an interpreter to better treat an Iraqi man who attended a cooperative medical engagement in the Ur neighborhood of the Adhamiyah district in northern Baghdad. More than 350 patients were seen during the day-long screening. Gillum serves with Company C, 64th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad.





Photos by Sgt. Philip Klein  
**A Soldier with Company A, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, pulls security in a building as his unit searches for improvised-rocket assisted mortars and materials in the Ur neighborhood of Baghdad.**

## Silver Lions patrol Ur streets

by Sgt. Philip Klein

*Striker Beacon staff writer*

**JOINT SECURITY STATION**

**UR, Iraq – Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers conducted a presence patrol in north-west Baghdad to disrupt the manufacturing of improvised-rocket assisted mortars and engaging the local population to provide humanitarian assistance and security.**

Soldiers with Company A, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, searched and cleared a warehouse facility adjacent to the Sadr City district of Baghdad looking for materials used in the construction of IRAMs.

An equally important aspect to this patrol was to continue to

establish relations with the local community and assessing their needs and concerns.

“There are lots of displaced families in this area who fled the violence and oppression inflicted upon them by Special Group criminals in Sadr City,” said 1st Lt. Matthew George, a platoon leader for 1st CAB, 68th Armor Regiment.

George said that in addition to providing security for the people of this community, getting to know their needs and concerns are also crucial to achieving success in Iraq.

“These are very poor people and they have fled what was their home and, like us, all they want is a better life for themselves and their families, so we come out here to learn about them and provide

what assistance we can,” he said.

The search for illegal weapons is also crucial to the mission’s success. The patrol looks for any material that could be used in the building of IRAMs such as the equipment used to put the weapon together.

Sgt. Thomas Artes, a team leader with 1st CAB, 68th AR., w says that security efforts are not always productive but the presence of Soldiers encourages locals who are concerned about their safety and discourages criminals from coming back to the area.

“The people are receptive to us and we are welcomed in the neighborhood though they are still fearful of criminal reprisals, they are very friendly but they are concerned about their future and for their families,” said Artes.

## Adhamiyah residents welcome shop opening

by Sgt. Zach Mott  
*Striker Beacon editor*

**ADHAMIYAH, Iraq** – Omar Abdul Aziz Street was the scene of some of the fiercest fighting in the months that followed the initial surge of Coalition Forces into Iraq’s capital in the summer of 2007.

But now, one year later, residents of the Adhamiyah district welcomed a new shop to the area – one that will cater to less essential needs. The Adhamiyah Market Council Mall will help the fashion-conscious Iraqi stay hip.

“It is literally like walking into the Gap,” said 1st Lt. Rosita Rodriguez, a team leader with Company C, 404th Civil Affairs Battalion, which is currently attached to 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

While other projects in the area have focused on returning vital marketplaces to a functioning capacity in order to provide residents with food, power and other essential needs, this one illustrates just how far the area has come in such a short period of time.

“The revitalization of this major street in Adhamiyah is a sign of growing and better times,” said Staff Sgt. Andrew Leiser, a team sergeant with Co. C, 404th CA Bn.

As you walk into the shop, which is less than one-half

mile from the famous Abu Hanifa Mosque, men’s clothes line one side and women’s on the other. During the opening festivities, the shop was filled with eager customers looking to see what the new shop had to offer.

“When we went in there (recently), there were people purchasing stuff,” said Rodriguez, a native of Morristown, N.J. “General comments were that they were happy to have a new store in the area.”

The project, which was begun prior to Rodriguez’ team’s arrival, was hand-picked by the Adhamiyah Market Council and spearheaded by Sheik Dulami, the shop’s owner. The council was given the liberty to choose how it wanted to begin revitalization efforts for the district.

“What we did was minimal,” Rodriguez said. “Sheik Dulami did a lot of work on his end.”

“This was the first step on a local/national level,” added Leiser, a native of Philadelphia, Pa.

Much of that work was focused on the interior of the building and stocking the shelves. The \$200,000 project went toward replacing blown out glass, repairing the broken concrete edifice of the building and repainting.

“It’s a really nice store. There’s a café on the outside and sometimes there will be live music outside,” Rodriguez said.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Leiser,  
404th Civil Affairs Battalion

**Adhamiyah residents look at the clothing being sold at the Adhamiyah Market Council Mall at the once-violent Omar Abdul Aziz Street in the northern Baghdad district of Adhamiyah Aug. 7.**



Photos by Sgt. Philip Klein

**INSET RIGHT:** Faleh Jasim Hasan, who runs the Tiger Mart, the barber shop and Internet café awaits his next customer.

**MAIN:** Faleh Jasim Hasan makes a sale to a Soldier at the Tiger Mart.

**INSET LEFT:** Capt. Darrick Wright, the operations officer for the 926th Engineer Brigade's Task Force Gold, gets in a cardio work in the physical training facility.

## JSS Sadr City improves after IRAM attack

by Sgt. Philip Klein

*Striker Beacon staff writer*

**JOINT SECURITY STATION SADR CITY, Iraq** – Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers have worked hard to improve the conditions at this outpost in northeastern Baghdad. New Soldier support facilities have supplemented the existing facilities designed to help Soldiers relax and provide needed amenities.

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, and the 46th Engineer Battalion and the 926th Engineer Brigade, supporting the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, have added many improvements to Joint Security Station Sadr City, all of which have added to the comfort and well-being of the servicemembers stationed here.

The improvements, which are still ongoing, include a gym, dining facili-

ty and shower trailer. Twenty new containerized housing units are scheduled to be installed and the Civil Military Operations Center is being expanded to provide more office space and a new Iraqi Assistance Center.

“The expansion of the CMOC and improvements to living conditions are high on our priorities list,” said Capt. Darrick Wright, the operations officer for the 926th Eng. Brigade’s Task Force Gold.

The CMOC expansion will free up space to continue adding improved living spaces for Soldiers. In addition, the helicopter landing zone is nearly complete and is operational, said Wright.

The gym is also a popular area for Soldiers who, prior to its construction, were limited to a makeshift space set up outside. Wright said he hopes to get a treadmill in the gym soon to supplement the range of physical

training available to Soldiers.

Besides the new shower trailer, the most popular addition is the Tiger Mart and Internet café. Owned and operated by Iraqi citizens, it is a popular place for Soldiers to get movies, video games, candy and other creature comforts that allow Soldiers to unwind after a long days work.

“Our friendly forces come in here to buy candy and the latest movies, pick up electronics that they need or need to replace and sometimes they just hangout and talk,” said Faleh Jasim Hasan, who runs the Tiger Mart, the barber shop and Internet café.

Faleh says the Internet café is also a popular spot for Soldiers, especially when the Morale, Welfare and Recreation facility is full.

“We have six computers now, and we hope to add more in the next few weeks,” added Faleh.

# Iraqi Army secures, builds wall in Sadr City

by Sgt. Zach Mott

*Striker Beacon editor*

**SADR CITY, Iraq** – Iraq is a country dominated by dichotomy. Whether it is rural versus city, war versus peace or prosperity versus suffering, rarely does one thing resemble the other.

Sadr City, despite the estimated 1.5 million people who call it home, illustrates this point on an almost continuous basis. The much publicized wall that went up along Jamilla/Al Quds Road in the southern portion of the city was fiercely contested by Special Groups members. Each six-foot wide slab of concrete that went down was met with numerous rounds of small arms fire and countless improvised explosive devices.

Now, a much less publicized wall is being erected along the northwestern edge of the city. In a project that began in early August, the 4.5 kilometer wall is being emplaced by Soldiers from the Iraqi Army's 11th Division and has met little resistance thus far.

"We are here emplacing those barriers and we are helping the Coalition Forces while we're here," said Iraqi Lt. Col. Abdul Allah, the 11th IA Division engineer.

The operation is run at night so as not to disrupt the normally busy street. Each night, barriers are brought in by elements of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

"We bring in roughly 80 barriers a night and they can emplace as many as 100 per night," said Maj. Timothy

Beck, brigade engineer for 3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. "The Iraqi Army is very fast."

Part of what Beck attributes the relatively calm nights emplacing barriers is the Iraqi Army's increased security presence.

"We haven't been able to put forces on the other side of barriers and that's what the IA does," Beck said.

While Coalition Forces manned nearby guard points by the barrier-loaded trucks and cranes, elements of the 11th Iraqi Army Division were conducting disruption patrols to keep criminal elements from stopping the progress at the wall.

The barriers are part of a continued plan to disrupt the flow of Special Groups members and other criminal elements in and out of the northeastern Baghdad district.

"The idea of emplacing those barriers is to isolate the hot (neighborhoods) from the safe (neighborhoods)," Abdul said.

"This is a joint mission between the IA and MND-Baghdad to help isolate Sadr City from the criminal elements seeking refuge in Sadr City and maneuvering out" Beck said.

When this mission is complete, Beck said there are several other projects planned throughout the Striker Brigade's operational environment.

"We have barrier missions planned throughout the remainder of our deployment," he said. "We still have thousands ordered that have yet to come in."

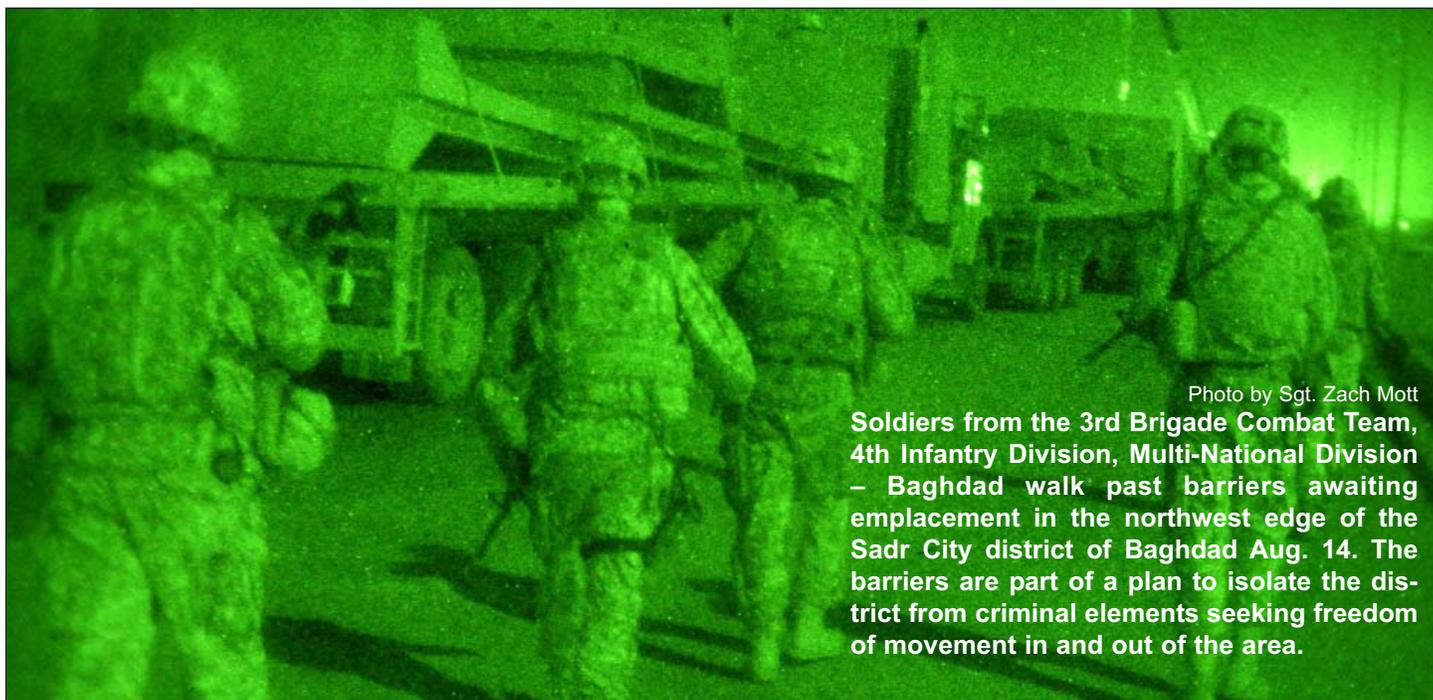


Photo by Sgt. Zach Mott

**Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad walk past barriers awaiting emplacement in the northwest edge of the Sadr City district of Baghdad Aug. 14. The barriers are part of a plan to isolate the district from criminal elements seeking freedom of movement in and out of the area.**



Photo by Sgt. Philip Klein  
Congressman Jim Marshall, the representative for Georgia's 8th Congressional district, and Lt. Col. Brian Eifler, commander of 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, which is based out of Baumholder, Germany, and is currently attached to the 3rd BCT, 4th Infantry Division, discuss the progress of reconstruction programs during a visit to the Jamilla Market.

Photo by Maj. Michael Humphreys  
Spc. Samuel Whitman takes a knee in the shade while providing security for a patrol from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad. Whitman is an infantryman with Company A, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, which is currently attached to 3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.



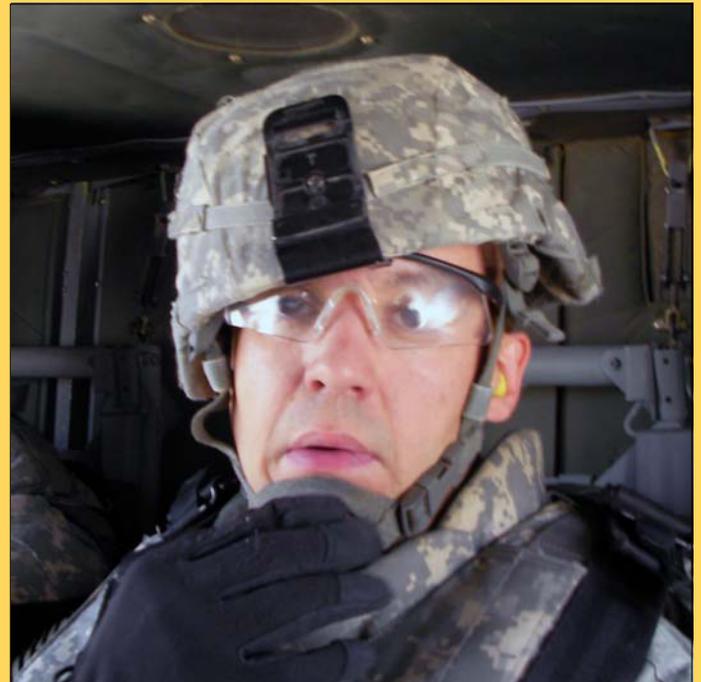
Photo by Maj. Michael Humphreys  
Sgt. Thomas Dwyer provides security to a contingent of Soldiers from Multi-National Division – Baghdad and 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, as they visit a water treatment facility in Adhamiyah in northern Baghdad. Dwyer is a communication NCO with the Command Security Detachment, 3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

**Eyes of a nation**  
 An Iraqi boy peers out the window at American troops while he waits for his mother to finish in the beauty salon in the Adhamiyah Fish Market in northern Baghdad.

Photo by Sgt. Zach Mott



## CAPTION THIS!



We have a new entrant to the "Caption This" contest. Maj. Geoffrey Greene, executive officer for 1-68 Armor. His submission is below. As always: if you think you've got something more clever than what's printed below, send your submissions to: [zachary.mott@3bct4id.army.mil](mailto:zachary.mott@3bct4id.army.mil)

**Maj. Greene's submission:** *"Separated at birth?"*