

January 2009

# Call of the WOLF



Happy  
New  
Year!

Volume 1, Issue 3





## Arctic Wolves,

As 2008 draws to a close, you should all look back on the past year and on our entire lifecycle with pride on what you and your fellow Arctic Wolves have achieved.

You have trained in Denali and Yukon Training Areas and you have survived the frigid cold of Alaska. You have trained at Yakima, deployed to Australia, the Philippines, India, Hawaii and Korea, and now to Iraq.

Through it all, you have proven that you are well trained, discipline and equal to any task thrown at you. Every day, here in Diyala, you continually demonstrate your impressive ability to conduct any task from combat operations to stability operations all in an exceeding complex environment where the stakes are extremely high.

In just a few short months your accomplishments have given the citizens of Diyala a new sense of hope and confidence. Your actions have prompted many citizens to reject terror and confront those who practice it. It is critical that we take advantage of these improvements by looking beyond the security arena and helping Iraqi military and political leaders as they develop solutions to restore basic services, to create employment opportunities, to revitalize markets, to rebuild and refurbish schools, to spur the local economy and to keep locals involved in contributing to local security and progress.

It is certain that the New Year will bring many challenges as well as much change. We will continue to adapt to the security situation as it evolves. And in the midst of all

the change we and our Iraqi partners must strive to maintain the momentum, to press the fight and to pursue Diyala's enemies relentlessly.

I am convinced that the solutions to many of the tough problems we will face will be found at the Soldier level, together with local leaders and with your Iraqi Security Force partners, in company and battalion areas of operation and in individual neighborhoods and towns. I am certain that progress will continue, but the way ahead will not be easy, there will be tough days and unforeseen challenges that will emerge.

Over time we will see fewer bad days as the seeds of hope continue to germinate in the people of Diyala. I pray that we will see these seeds of hope blossom into a safe, secure, and prosperous Province.

As we look to the New Year we should all remember how far we have come as a Stryker Brigade Combat Team. You should all be proud of what you have accomplished as Stryker Soldiers both in Alaska and here in Diyala.

I thank you all for the dedication, professionalism, commitment and courage that you display on a daily basis. It remains my greatest honor to serve with each of you as we help shape the future of Diyala and Iraq.

Wishing you and your families a safe and Happy 2009!

The Wolf 



Col. Burt Thompson

## Arctic Wolves,

Happy New Year! 2008 has flown by since our departure from Alaska over three months ago and time keeps on flying by as we continue to keep ourselves busy. I ask that all of you take a moment to reflect on all that we have accomplished in the past year in the Diyala Province, Iraq.

As you reflect on these accomplishments remember to always keep safety first. Complacency and standards are directly linked to safety and we have an inherent responsibility to each other to stay vigilant. Do not allow yourself and those around us to relax those standards. Relaxing of standards

is the beginning stage of complacency. We, the Arctic Wolves, have an excellent Safety Standard Operating Procedures. I ask leaders to widely disseminate this SOP.

The second stanza of the NCO Creed states it best, "my two basic responsibilities will always be upmost in my mind—accomplishment of my mission and the welfare of my Soldiers." As leaders, we are responsible for Soldier welfare, which includes their safety. In the same way we recognize Heroes of the Week, the Safety SOP under "Safety Award Program," outlines the recognition of units and a Soldier's safe performance. To emphasize safety, I encourage anyone to nominate and recognize Soldiers

for their actions focusing on safety outlined under the Safety Award Program.

On behalf of myself and The Wolf, stay safe, enforce standards and do not become complacent. Happy New Year and may God bless all of you and your loved ones.

Wolf 7



Command Sgt. Maj. Gabriel Cervantes

# Equal Opportunity

*Army readiness begins with people. A healthy EO environment is a key factor in developing and sustaining readiness.*

## Purpose

The Equal Opportunity (EO) directs and sustains a comprehensive effort to maximize human potential to ensure fair treatment for all persons based solely on merit, fitness, and capability in support of readiness. EO philosophy is based on fairness, justice and equity. Commanders at all levels are responsible for sustaining a positive EO climate within their units. Specifically, the goals of the Army's (EO) program is to provide EO for military personnel, and family members, both on and off post and within the limits of the laws of localities, states, and host nations. Create and sustain effective units by eliminating discriminatory behaviors or practices that undermine teamwork, mutual respect, loyalty, and shared sacrifice of the men and women of America's Army.

## EO Policy

It is the policy of the U.S. Army to provide equal opportunity and treatment for uniformed members and their families, without regard to race, color, religion, gender or national origin, and to provide and environment free of sexual harassment.

- Applies both on or off post, during duty and non-duty hours

- Applies to soldiers working, living and recreational environment (including both on and off post housing)

Soldiers will not be assessed, classified, trained, assigned, promoted or be otherwise managed on the basis of race, color, religion, gender or national origin. The assignment and utilization of female Soldiers is governed by Federal law. AR 600-13 prescribes policies, procedures, responsibilities, and the position coding system for female Soldiers

## EO Principles

For any program to be effective it must have principles. The Army's EO Program has five basic principles. Commanders and leader must:

- Be Responsible for unit EO
- Promote harmony; do not Merely Avoid Disorder
- Support Individual and Cultural Diversity
- Ensure Discipline is not Compromised
- Provide Fair and Equal Treatment for all Soldiers and Employees

## How can my unit EO Leader (EOL) help?

The unit EOL assists commanders at battalion level or equivalent and below in carrying out the

EO program within their units. Soldiers who are appointed as unit EOLs receive training on a variety of EO subjects, and can advise and assist unit leaders in carrying out their EO responsibilities. The EOL will:

- Explain the EO complaint process to you
- Listen and help you identify your concerns
- Review your case objectively
- Discuss your concerns with those involved and with you
- Attempt informal resolution
- Answer your questions. When appropriate, the EOL will make recommendations for actions to the EO office should their involvement be needed

## Equal Opportunity Advisor

EO Advisors are assigned to fulltime duty positions at brigade and higher echelons. EOAs are proponents for cultural change and acts as the eyes and ears for the commander. Some duties and responsibilities of the EOA:

- Understand and articulate Department of Defense (DOD) and Army policies concerning EO

- Advise commanders on the Army's EO program, its policies, procedures, and issues that affect the EO climate.

- Recognize and assess indicators of institutional and individual discrimination in organizations

- Resolve complaints (formal and informal) IAW AR 600-20

- Conduct Staff Assistance Visits within 1/25th SBCT

- Continuously assess the command climate through formal surveys, interviews, and facilitation small group discussions

- Analyze and Interpret Command Climate Assessments

- Conduct Quarterly EO Leaders Course

- Train during Newcomers' Briefing, Mobilization briefs, and Pre-Command/ISG Course

- Coordinate and execute eight Ethnic Observances per year

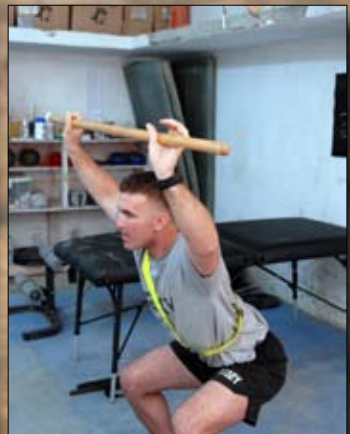
- Publish and post Command Policy statements for Equal Opportunity, Sexual Harassment, Complaint procedures

- Recognize sexual harassment in both overt and subtle forms



# Contents

Cash for Trash.....	Page 6
1-5 FAST Resupply.....	Page 8
1-24 Infantry Soldier.....	Page 9
2-8 FA Arch Angel.....	Page 10
BTB Route Clearance.....	Page 12
3-21 Battlefield Heroes.....	Page 16
1-10th ATK Tiger Sharks.....	Page 18
5-1 Cav. New Workforce.....	Page 20
Man of the Year.....	Page 21
Chaplain's Corner.....	Page 22
Fallen Wolves.....	Page 23



Soldiers with the 73rd Engineers Company, 25th Brigade Troops Battalion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, pull security while on a route clearance mission, while in the Southern Legion Area of Operations, Iraq, Dec. 21.



## On the Cover

Port Barre, LA native, Spc. Christopher Sylvester, a gunner with Alpha Troop, 5th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, pulls security while at a checkpoint in Diyala, Iraq, November 19. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Opal Vaughn, 14th Public Affairs Detachment)

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# Trash TURNED INTO CASH

Story and photos by  
Spc. Opal Vaughn  
14th Public Affairs Detachment

There is a popular saying, "One man's trash is another man's treasure." And it is as true today as it was yesterday.

At Forward Operating Base Warhorse, one unit is taking it to heart and really getting down and dirty for the good of the community as well as creating jobs and new opportunities for local nationals along the way. Since arriving to Warhorse, Forward Maintenance Company, 25th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, has been hastily staying busy by creating new job opportunities for young male local nationals looking for work, Dec. 16.

As part of their ongoing program

with Iraqi-Based Industrial Zone, Soldiers with FMC, 25th BSB, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div., have created several jobs to include filling recycled burlap bags with sand, construction work, plumbing and even scrap metal work at a dump site.

"The local nationals could possibly one day be able to take over some of the responsibilities of KBR," explained Fairbanks, Alaska native, Chief Warrant Officer three Anthony Neilko, the IBIZ Officer in Charge with FMC, 25th BSB, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div. "A lot of the skills the local nationals possess are a great asset," Neilko continued, "They are a fix-it kind of people. If they see something broken, they know who and how to fix the problem and get the job done."

According to Neilko, he believes the future of the IBIZ has a lot of potential to expand and this program is just the beginning of many

more to come. "We have a Turkish company which we've

hired to remove all of the scrap metal off the FOB as part of our land field operation," Neilko stated. "There is so much scrap and junk that has been building up over the years that people have just dumped, and it needed to get cleaned up. So IBIZ put together this contract and in turn, as per the contract, the Turkish company has hired all Iraqi's to do the work of removing the scrap metal."

"The local nationals then take the scrap metal to sell in the local communities and they are able to make a profit off of it," Neilko stated. "It's not a new program, it's just recycling. Recycling trash for cash is something we are more familiar with in the states."

To monitor the on goings of the land field program, FMC has crew of Soldiers to supervise the local Iraqi nationals as well as to maintain security.

"My crew manages the Iraqis when they come through our area," said Vanceboro, N.C. native, Sgt. Troy Waterman, waste management non-commissioned officer in charge with FMC, 25th BSB, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div. "We search their persons and their vehicles, and we go through all of the items they want to take off the FOB. All of this ensures they are not taking any hazardous or unauthorized materials into the local community."

Soldiers running the waste management point make sure the job

they are tasked with is done thoroughly. According to Waterman, each local national is searched by hand and removed of any material not authorized. This includes, but is not limited to any type of ammunition, military gear, weapons and digital media.

"One of the things we've noticed and have taken care of is the desire for copper," Neilko added. "The local nationals cannot take any copper off the FOB and there is a lot of copper here; the Iraqi's want to take it because it is worth a lot of money on the outside."

Getting this far in the program has not always been this easy for FMC. Along the road, FMC has encountered many problems including taking over for a previous unit, re-screening workers and maintaining security.

"When we first got here some of the contracts were already established and some of the workers did not have all of the proper clearances to work with us," Neilko stated. "Since we are hiring people out in the local community, a big part of our job is 'who do you trust?' So we went back and re-screened all of our workers. As far as their working ability, all of our workers are pretty honest people but this can be swayed by outside influences at any time."

Neilko explained more, "We don't want our workers going home and something happening to them on the outside because they work for us. We have had a really good working relationship here with the local nationals and

we would like to keep it that way."

Other aspects of IBIZs ongoing programs for local Iraqi nations include filling recycled burlap bags with sand, construction work and plumbing work.

"We also have an ongoing project which includes the need for sandbags," Neilko stated. "This used to be an old dump site for busted sandbags. We have the local nationals dump the old ones and refill new bags to be distributed about the post. The bags which are tattered or too busted to use are then recycled and reused at a later date. Meanwhile, it allows us to clean up the FOB as well," Neilko smiled.

Having an interpreter on hand at all times while dually learning basic Arabic phrases has eased the language barrier problems for FMC. "Any of my Soldiers can tell the local nationals to do something and they kind of understand each other enough to get the job done," Neilko said.

Neilko believes if his Soldiers, who supervise the work of the local nationals by pulling security, make a valid effort to communicate with the local nationals they are building a lasting relationship with. "The direction of the Army has changed to where we are no longer on a combat mission, now it's more we are trying to rebuild a nation. So communication has become that much more important not only for the U.S. but for the Iraqi people to stabilize their economy."

Neilko continued, "Once their economy gets up and running that means Soldiers won't have

to come out here. If we do a rotation, it won't be 100,000 Soldiers; it may be only a few thousand."

Starting with the basics to teach local nationals the correct way to do things is also an important aspect of the IBIZ program.

"It's important that we teach the Iraqis the correct way to do things," Neilko stated. "Recycling, I don't know if that will ever be in their nature, but you never know. It could be a possibility in their future. A lot of the waste the U.S. military produces, which is a lot, the Iraqi people use to make a living and that's very important to us."

With the success of the current contracts IBIZ has, FMC is already looking toward the future to create more programs. Plans to create a workers camp has already been in the planning stages.

"Instead of the Iraqis wasting gas to come here every morning - living on post for the duration of a week, allowing them to save more money," Neilko stated. "They can live on base; they might be able to work more hours. At least this way, they're not on the road as much and there is no impending danger to them. We treat each local national as if they were a Soldier themselves. So making sure they are safe is very important to us. We enjoy working with the locals and we would like to continue have a successful working relationship with them."



Vanceboro, N.C. native, Sgt. Troy Waterman and Las Vegas, Nevada native, Pvt. Eric Robinson, both Iraqi-Based Industrial Zone waste managers with Forward Maintenance Company, 25th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, search through a pile of scraps before local Iraqi nationals load the scraps on a truck to be recycled into cash while at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, located in Diyala, Iraq, Dec. 16.





# THE CHANGING ROLE OF AN INFANTRY SOLDIER

Story and photos by  
Pfc. Alisha Nye  
14th Public Affairs Detachment

Normally, the role an infantry Soldier plays can be summed up simply: infantry Soldiers are Soldiers who are primarily trained for fighting on foot. However, with ever-changing modern warfare and the enhancements made to the country of Iraq by the efforts of Coalition Forces and Iraqi Security Forces, the role of the infantry Soldier is undergoing changes of its own.

"It's changes from us, primarily, spearheading just about every operation," said Staff Sgt. Brian McDermott, weapons squad leader, 2nd Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division. "That's leveled off considerably and the majority of those responsibilities are falling on our counterparts here in Iraq – the Iraqi Police and the Iraqi Army."

McDermott explained that, although implemented differently, his responsibilities as an infantry Soldier in Afghanistan and during his first deployment to Iraq were the same.

"I was light infantry in Afghanistan, whereas, the first time in Iraq with this brigade, we were mounted on Strykers," McDermott said. "For me, the fight was different largely because we had the combat multiplier of the infantry carrier vehicle, but the overall mission was exactly the same."

While spearheading these operations, McDermott said, infantry Soldiers conducted clearing procedures, screening procedures, set up blocking positions and generally assisted in enhancing the security of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Now, in Iraq, at least, infantry soldiers have started to serve in a different capacity.

"Our focus is joint patrols," said McDermott. "We're working with the IA, IP and the Emergency Response Force. Our focus is to over watch our counterparts and provide assistance to them."

Infantry Soldiers have also started serving in a planning capacity. These soldiers have begun to plan operation considerations with higher ranking IA and IP forces as well as provide insight as to how the ISF should conduct operations on the ground, said McDermott.

The most influential change McDermott has seen as far as security forces are concerned, he said, is the formation of the Concerned Local Citizens.

"It's kind of a beefed-up neighborhood watch," McDermott explained. "The biggest change I have seen since we were last here in '06 has been in the CLC fashion. We were initially up in Mosul and while we were up there, our primary focus was on the IPs and the IA, who provided security for most of the major cities. CLC, that's completely different. It's more of a security measure for the surrounding villages and towns."

The assistance infantry Soldiers have begun to provide to ISF and, generally, the people of Iraq, is more diversified than just establishing security in the country, however. These soldiers serve in the unique role of assisting in the reestablishment of the Iraqi government.

"What we've provided is micro-grants," McDermott said. "Each one is about \$5,000. We use them to work with various projects – working different ways to distribute funds. It's a way to



Soldiers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, conduct a patrol through Khalis, Iraq, while heading to an Iraqi Army base to aid a young Iraqi man to join the IA and help improve the quality of life in his country.

try to better the communities and getting independent businesses up and running, which will help to start improving the economy."

Ultimately, these infantry Soldiers are aiding in a process which will, in the future, enable the Iraqi people to facilitate their country to prosper on their own.

"They will be able to provide security of their own borders and their own cities so they can get their economy squared away and roll on as a free, democratic society," McDermott said. "I think that's a good thing. It means from the time we came over here up until now, progress has been made. We are making a difference. And that is not a waste."

## FAS TEAM MAKES ROUNDS

Story and photos by  
Spc. Opal Vaughn  
14th Public Affairs Detachment

A vital role in today's military is logistical resupply for troops in the battlefield.

In Diyala province, there are several outposts scattered across the battle space which are not capable of housing or distributing supplies for themselves.

Having the manpower to push supplies out to troops on mission has become a priority of the Forward Area Support Team, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division. And in order to ensure all unit outposts have a constant supply of goods for the Soldiers, the FAS Team continues to make rounds every week.

"We are one of the main outlets; we support several locations including FOB Gabe, COB Old Baquba, COB Tarear and COB Khatoon, just to name a few," said Greensboro, N.C. native, 1st Lt. Karoline Hood, FAST Officer in Charge, 1-5 Inf. Regt. "We resupply the FOBs and COBs with food, water, fuel and even construction supplies."

"We pick up loads at Warhorse and then transfer these supplies to the FOBs and COBs on our route," Hood stated. "We are pretty much the middle man of the corps to get these supplies out."

Soldiers located at many of the

outposts the FAS Team resupplies continually go on missions which is why the FAS Team's job is such a vital role in Iraq is vital to ensure units are mission capable. "Our mission is still equally important because for them, we are their only source to send and receive supplies," Hood said.

But the duties of the FAS Team are never easy, Hood states, "Our job is not always as easy as it seems. Sometimes we're short on manpower and then there is the maintenance of the vehicles which transport the supplies," Hood continued.

"All of our vehicles are legacy vehicles," Hood stated. "The vehicles we use we inherited from past units so many of the vehicles have been in the battle from the beginning. So working along the conditions these vehicles came to us has been quite difficult," Hood smiled. "They are part of Iraq now."

Maintaining security is also an important aspect of transporting supplies. Alpha Company, 1-5 Inf., 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div. takes the lead in keeping the FAS Team safe while on

logistical resupply missions.

2nd Lt. Matt Kotlarski, platoon leader with Alpha Company, 1-5 Inf., 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div., explains, "We conduct a lot of various missions as a Stryker infantry platoon. Everything from raids, route clearance to security; we have to be ready to handle anything."

Supporting the FAS Team with security was the first on Alpha Company's agenda. "Even though this is just a resupply mission, there are still a lot of improvised explosive devices and suicide bombers in the area. Not as many as there used to be," Kotlarski added, "But they are still in the area and it's our job to ensure our team makes it to and from each location without incident."

Even the simple things can help make a Soldier smile, Kotlarski stated. "It's important to resupply because it makes the Soldiers' lives a lot better being so isolated. We've got hot showers, hot food and all that good stuff, these guys don't. It can get pretty busy at times in our line of work but the guys work hard," Kotlarski stated. "But it's definitely rewarding."



Sgt. Quarena Scott and Spc. Matthew Adam with Forward Area Support Team, 1st Battalion, 5th Inf. Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, readies a hose to refill a water tank while at Contingency Operating Base Khatoon, located in Diyala, Iraq, Dec. 18.





Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division and Iraqi Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 19th Brigade, 5th Division, detonate firebombs with the intention of burning the underbrush of a section of palm groves, Dec. 22. The joint clearing operation is part three of Operation Archangel Pursuit III in which this new searching technique is being tested. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Walt Pels, Joint Combat Camera, Fleet Combat Camera Group Pacific)

# ARCHANGEL

*Pursuit III*

Story by Pfc. Alisha Nye,  
14th Public Affairs Detachment  
Photos by Spc. Bobby Allen,  
982nd Combat Camera (Airborne)

In theology, an archangel is a heavenly being who is meant to protect humankind by serving in the army of God. Conserving and protecting the wellbeing of their fellow men is an ideal that Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, as well as their Iraqi Army counterparts,

took to heart during the appropriately named Operation Archangel Pursuit III.

“The purpose of the mission was to go into the town of Naqib and conserve it,” said 1st Sgt. Dean Johnson, Battery A, 2nd Bn., 8th Field Artillery Regt. “Enemy forces came in the area and forced the families who lived there out.”

The importance of saving this area is great. The town of Naqib, which is located in the Diyala Province of Iraq, is an agricultural area that once provided the



Soldiers from the 87th Engineers Company, prepare to detonate a barrel of gas for a controlled burn in the palm groves of Naqib, Iraq, during a joint clearing operation is part two of Operation Archangel Pursuit III.



A Soldier with the 87th Engineers Company, prepares to detonate a barrel of gas for a controlled burn in the palm groves of Naqib, Iraq, Dec. 19.

majority of the families in the vicinity with an income, Johnson explained.

“The area is a great farming area,” said the Detroit, Mich., native. “The palm groves produce oranges, pomegranates and grapes as well as dates. That’s how the families in the area made their money – made their living, by farming.”

However, where the palm groves once supplied the locals with a much needed livelihood, the underbrush of the palm groves now supply enemy forces with hiding spaces as well as a place to stash weapons.

“The problem with the palm groves is that they are overloaded with IEDs and booby traps,” Johnson said. “When Al Qaeda took the area over it had a real impact on the families.”

This is why Coalition Forces teamed up with key Iraqi Army leaders and decided to unleash havoc on the one thing displacing the families of Naqib and pre-

venting them from living normal lives. During Operation Archangel Pursuit III, the Soldiers of 2nd Bn., 8th Field Artillery Regt., with the assistance of their Iraqi Army counterparts, transformed the underbrush into an inferno.

“The initial explosions burned off a lot of the fuel, and what that did was burn off the underbrush,” Johnson said. “By clearing out the underbrush we can see straight through the palm groves so we can uncover and clear booby traps. We can clear out anything that may be in there – including bad guys.”

Burning the underbrush not only heightened visibility but it helped to keep Soldiers from going into the palm groves unharmed.

“Burning down the underbrush made it possible to go into the palm groves without injury to the IA or Coalition Forces,” Johnson said.

Now that the fire has burned out and threats have been found and destroyed, the main focus of

the mission in Naqib is security, said Johnson.

“The Iraqi Army is getting in there and securing the area so they can start bringing families back in,” he said.

Johnson is hopeful that this will be the start of a larger mission to clear the palm groves in the entire Diyala Province of threats to the families who reside there.

“Naqib is a small area, but it’s a start,” he said. “I’m hoping this will trickle throughout the province. It will help bring stability back.”

Though the mission was considered to be a success, Johnson said it could not have been done without the Iraqi Army spearheading the operation.

“They were the ones out front pulling security and patrolling,” he said. “They are what made the operation successful. They know the area and without them I don’t think we would have been as successful as we were. They are doing a tremendous job. They are ready for their country back.”



Staff Sgt. Richard Luciano and Staff Sgt. Aaron Betz, both with 87th Engineers Company of Fort Hood, Texas review a map of the area that is to go through a controlled burn in the palm groves in Naqib, Iraq, Dec. 19.



# WALKING THE LINE

Story and photos by  
Spc. Opal Vaughn  
14th Public Affairs Detachment

“Sergeant, line ‘em up,” yells Lt. Mark Herrmann, platoon leader, 73rd Engineers Company, Brigade Troops Battalion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, as he draws an imaginary line with his finger in the air.

“Roger sir. Line it up guys,” hollers Big Fork, Mich. native, Staff Sgt. Peter Johnson, a combat engineer squad leader with 73rd Eng. Co., BTB, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div. And just as quickly as the command is called, several engineer Soldiers form a line to sweep an open field of any possible improvised explosive devices in the Southern Legion Area of Operations during a route clearance mission, Dec. 21.

Slowly but surely the 73rd Engineers have been clearing the Southern Legion AO of IEDs and munitions threat in the area over the past months.

“The IED threat in our area is not that great, however, there is a



Johnsonburg, Pa. native, Sgt. Daniel Thorwart, a combat engineer patrolman with 73rd Engineers Company, Brigade Troops Battalion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, digs to extract any possible munitions, while in the Southern Legion Area of Operations, Iraq, Dec. 21.

lot of ordnance out and about and a lot of caches,” Herrmann stated. “Usually we go out on patrol and clear the roads but we are not limited to just that. We can and will do anything the brigade asks us to accomplish. In this case, we cleared an area in the Southern Legion AO and found some old munitions in the area so we went ahead and reduced the ordnance.”

The task of route clearance can be repetitive at times but in good reason; it is a vital role in the military’s mission toward cleaning up Iraq and a task the 73rd Eng. Co. is willing to take on.

“Recently, we’ve been conducting more and more searches in the area,” Johnson stated while directing some Soldiers to dig in a spot where the An/pss-12 Metal Detector his unit uses to find munitions, signaled as a possible threat. “One of our biggest jobs right now is to confirm or deny whether these caches exist. So the more we look, the better idea we can gauge on munitions in the area and deem



Long Island, N.Y. native, Spc. Jasper Jones, a route clearance patrolman with 73rd Engineers Company, Brigade Troops Battalion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, uses an An/pss-12 Metal Detector to clear an overgrown palm tree of any possible munitions, while in the Southern Legion Area of Operations, Iraq, Dec. 21.

them clear,” added Johnson.

According to Johnson, making sure insurgents are aware of the coalition forces, IP and IA presence is the most important aspect to ridding Iraq of possible munitions and ordnance threats. “We are showing a presence,” Johnson stated. “Our aggressive searches and clearing operations will deter any insurgents from going back to the areas we have cleared, from placing new munitions in the area.”

The hard work of the 73rd Eng. Co. has been paying off. Even when a large cache is not found, every little bit helps.

“Apparently, this area use to be an old battle field position,” said Fairmont, Minn. native, Sgt. 1st Class Chris Wolter, a platoon sergeant with 73rd Eng. Co., BTB, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div. “So far we’ve found fuses and recoilless rifle tail extensions. It may not seem like much but with just these few items, an insurgent can utilize the parts and pieces from the used munitions to make IEDs. So if I’m not familiar with something we find out here, then I call up EOD to dispose of or collect up the ordnance we find.”

When EOD is not hand,



Soldiers with the 73rd Engineers Company, Brigade Troops Battalion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, pull security while on a route clearance mission, while in the Southern Legion Area of Operations, Iraq, Dec. 21.

the responsibility of disposing of munitions falls into the hands of the 73rd Eng. Co.

“Another Soldier on our team and I are on hand and qualified to destroy any munitions found,” Wolter stated. “What determines destroying munitions is if it’s any type of factory made munitions found, I am authorized to destroy it. But if the munitions are man-made IEDs, VBIEDs, HBIEDs, or if it’s a large weapons cache find, then I will call up EOD to dispose of the ordnance,” Wolter added.

Engineers in the military are well known for rebuilding communities and construction projects. But according to Herrmann, there is a lot more to an engineer than meets the eye.

“There are several types of engineer jobs,” Herrmann said. “We are not construction engineers like some may think, we’re combat engineers. Right now, we have one engineer company which supports the entire brigade. Our mission title or our job title is basically route clearance.”

Even though the threat level is not as high, Herrmann keeps his



Atwood, Kan. native, Pvt. Tyler Knapp and Springfield, Ariz. native, Spc. Travis Pond, both route clearance patrolmen with the 73rd Engineers Company, Brigade Troops Battalion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, use an An/pss-12 Metal Detector to clear an overgrown palm tree of any possible munitions, while in the Southern Legion Area of Operations, Iraq, Dec. 21.

Soldiers vigilant at all times. “I like to mix things up quite frequently as not to get complacent on patrols,” Herrmann said. “Obviously, travelling the roads every day is still very dangerous. IEDs are still a threat toward forces on the roads even though we haven’t seen a high threat level in our AO. But we all know it’s there.”

Herrmann continued to explain, “When we’re on the ground, when we’re looking for these old caches, there have been a lot of defensive belts. This simply means the enemy is trying to protect their cache sites so they put up defensive IEDs; specifically in palm groves, they lace coke bottle IEDs with wire and target the single Soldier and attempt to wound them as much as possible,” Herrmann stated.

“So when we find these caches we disable them,” Herrmann added.

However long the road to purging Iraq of caches will take, Herrmann notes coalition and Iraqi forces are still making progress.

“A majority of the local nationals we come in contact with are pretty receptive to coalition force presence,” Herrmann stated. “But a lot of the areas we have been going into



Sultan, Wash. native, Pvt. Randon Soderstrom, a combat engineer security patrolman with 73rd Engineers Company, Brigade Troops Battalion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, pulls security while on a route clearance mission, while in the Southern Legion Area of Operations, Iraq, Dec. 21.

have not seen any coalition force presence at all so the people are still kind of weary and take a stand-off approach when we come through.”

Even with the little amount of coalition force contact, the local nations still continue to assist Iraqi and coalition forces in any way they can. Herrmann credits this to the increase in security in the local area.

“It’s amazing to see the Iraqi Police and Iraqi army presence in the area,” Herrmann stated. “The reason there is no imminent IED threat in our AO is because there are IP check points now, almost every 100 yards apart. What the IP and IA are doing is great; they are changing the whole fight as far as being capable and ready to take control at any minute’s notice.”



Fairmont, Minn. native, Sgt. 1st Class Chris Wolter, platoon sergeant, and Phoenix, Ariz. native, Spc. Todd Casham, a route clearance patrolman, both with 73rd Engineers Company, Brigade Troops Battalion, set up a 40lb. shape charge to destroy used munitions found in an open field, while in the Southern Legion Area of Operations, Iraq, Dec. 21.





## ALASKA

North Pole – Complete my bachelor's degree in education. - **Sgt. 1st Class Richard Enoch**, Headquarters Headquarters Troop, 5th Squadron, 1st U.S. Cavalry, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div.

**CA** San Diego - I want to make it home safely. - **Pfc. Elias Valdez**, Headquarters Headquarters Company, Brigade Troops Battalion, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div.



Taunton, Mass. native, Airman 1st Class Tyler Woodward with 3rd Air Support Operations Squadron, practices fly fishing while at FOB Warhorse.

**FL** Eastpoint - I want to keep up my exercise routine. I'm supposed to stay in shape anyway so I just want to keep up what I am doing. - **Capt. Michael Dolan**, 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div.

**GA** Atlanta - I think New Year's resolutions are cliché; they should be year round not just when January 1st rolls around. But, I would like to continue

what I am doing now and stay healthy. - **Pfc. Brett Hammons**, 176th Signal Company, Brigade Troops Battalion, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div.

**IL** Crystal Lake - I've been working on this vehicle for a while now so I would like to get this reconnaissance Stryker out of the bay. - **Spc. Cody Suttor** with Combat Readiness Team, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div.

**IL** Prophetstown - I would like to be friendlier to people and maintain a healthy lifestyle. - **Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class (AW/DV/PJ) Walt Pels**, Joint Combat Camera, Fleet Combat Camera Group Pacific.

**IN** Marion - I want to make E-6 before my NCO's do. - **Spc. Andrew Brown** with Combat Readiness Team, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st

SBCT, 25th Inf. Div.  
**LA** Baton Rouge - I would like to get promoted to staff sergeant. - **Sgt. Karl Augustus**, 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, Reconnaissance Platoon, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div.  
**ME** Bangor - I want to get a 300 on the physical fitness test. - **Pfc. Gary Chessap**, Headquarters Headquarters Troop, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div.



Spc. Keith Huckstep, a mechanic with CRT, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div.



1st Lt. Karoline Hood, FAST Officer in Charge, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div.



Sgt. Karl Augustus, 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, Reconnaissance Platoon, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div.

**MI** Flint - I would like to work out more and not get injured while I'm deployed. - **Spc. Keith Huckstep**, with Combat Readiness Team, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div.

**NC** Greensboro - I've never cooked before so I want to cook a turkey and a full Thanksgiving meal. - **1st Lt. Karoline Hood**, FAST Officer in Charge, 1st Battalion,



Spc. Cody Suttor, a mechanic with CRT, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div.



Sgt. Daniel Nannery, 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div.

5th Infantry Regiment, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div.

**NC** Hickory - I would like to make it back safely to my family and try not to do anything stupid while I'm here. - **Spc. James Utterback**, a mechanic with Combat Readiness Team, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div.

**NY** Brooklyn - I would like to lose a little weight. - **Sgt. Faiza Evans**, 2nd Battalion,

8th Field Artillery Regiment, FAST Team, water treatment NCO, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div.  
**TX** Houston - I would like to exercise more because I don't really do much exercising here. - **Spc. James Smith**, a mechanic with Combat Readiness Team, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div.  
**VA** Virginia Beach - Most people who know me know that I curse all the time so I would like to stop curs-

ing. - **Sgt. Daniel Nannery**, 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div.  
**VA** Port Republic - I want to go home debt-free at the end of our deployment so I am able to better buildup my family under God. - **1st Lt. Jack DeFabio**, Headquarters Headquarters Troops Battalion, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div.



Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div., play hacky sack during downtime while on a supply mission at FOB Gabe.







# COOL calm COLLECTED HEROES OF THE BATTLEFIELD

Story and Photos by  
Pfc. Alisha Nye  
14th Public Affairs Detachment

Every job has the potential to throw you a curve ball, especially those in the military. But jobs in the medical field come with their own unique set of plays that take a special type of player to maneuver.

Medics with 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division currently working at Forward Operating Base Normandy, located in the Diyala Province of Iraq, are no exception to this rule; they often work 12 or more hours a day partaking in an array of different functions.

"We've got the battalion aid station here for 3-21," said Capt.

Lt. Col. Werling with 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, assists a fellow Soldier while at the aid station at Forward Operating Base Normandy, Dec. 3.

Ted Stefani, family physician and battalion surgeon, 3rd Bn., 21st Inf. Regt., 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div. "But we also service several other transient units that are stationed on the FOB. We provide medical coverage to two field artillery units along with a military police company here. We also have the Ugandan guards and Kellogg, Brown and Root contractors. We see everybody."

While working at the aid station, one of the military medical professionals on call could see anything ranging from patients with head colds, patients needing physical therapy, to even a trauma patient.

"This clinic supports over 1,000 people that are on this FOB," said Staff Sgt. Charles W. Ruiz, treatment noncommissioned officer,

3rd Bn., 21st Inf. Regt., 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div. "In the surrounding areas, we have combat out posts, also, that we support. We do everything from field sanitation, to seeing interpreters and KBR workers that come in. We pretty much do everything here."

This is no small task for a level one clinic, Ruiz said.

"There are different echelons of care," he said. "There are levels one through five. Five would be like a major hospital in the United States. We're on the very first level of care. If anyone gets injured in this area, they come through us first. We'd have to stabilize that person long enough to get him to the next level of care."

Though the responsibilities of the medical team working in the FOB Normandy aid station are

many, these medics are not overwhelmed.

"We've pretty much adapted to the amount of patients we see a day," Ruiz said. "In a week we see, maybe, 150 patients ranging from having a cold or cough to having an injured back or more serious problem."

Even with the range of different problems filtering through the clinic, Ruiz has the highest confidence in his staff.

"My staff works really well," he said. "They've learned to adapt to the long hours of the day. Then I also have my platoon sergeant who over watches everything that is going on and puts in his two cents worth if anything needs to be done. We have a great battle rhythm. So, pretty much, my staff knows what to expect everyday... if it's a normal day."

On rare occasions, though, it is not a normal day. On some days, a trauma case comes in. Still, Ruiz said, the first time this happened, his staff proved to him they can

handle it.

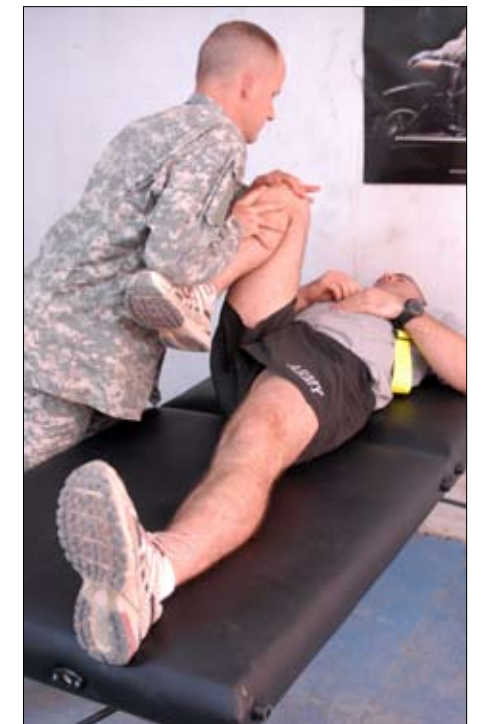
"Some of these guys were shocked at first, but their instincts did kick in," he said. "They stabilized the patient enough from here so that he was good to go on a helicopter from here to his next level of care. Even though it was their first trauma, my staff did very well."

The aid station isn't the only responsibility of the medics in 3rd Bn., 21st Inf. Regt. There are also those medics who are patrolling the streets of Iraq with infantry Soldiers every day. The level of stress felt by these medics is kicked up a notch from the level of stress felt by the medical staff working in the aid station, said Ruiz.

"When something happens, it happens on the ground," Ruiz said. "They're the first guys who see anything because it happens on the ground. Those are the more experienced medics, the ones who have to really be able to keep their cool and work under stress. It's a



Staff Sgt. Charles W. Ruiz, treatment noncommissioned officer, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, changes a patient's intravenous fluid bag during a routine day working at the aid station at Forward Operating Base Normandy, located in the Diyala Province of Iraq, Dec. 3.



A Soldier with 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, undergoes physical therapy at the aid station, Forward Operating Base Normandy, Iraq, Dec. 3.

bit more stressful on the line."

"They're kind of infantrymen/medics," he said. "They're doing the role of the infantry guy. They're out there on patrols doing everything an infantry guy does, but then they're also the medic, too. So, they have to work in two, kind of, combined fields. They have to be willing to adapt to new situations because there's a lot of stress with the job."

Both Stefani and Ruiz said working in the medical field, especially in the military, is a job that takes a special personality type – one that not only handles and works well under stress, but one of versatility and adaptability, as well. These are traits, they said, that describe their staff exactly.

"It could be a guy with a cold, but once you're done with that guy, you've got a guy with missing arms and legs. You just never know," Ruiz said.



# TIGER SHARKS:

## Aerial Attack force

Story and Photos by  
Spc. Opal Vaughn  
14th Public Affairs Detachment

A new attack force has arrived at Forward Operating Base Warhorse located in Diyala, Iraq, Dec. 11.

1-10th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, better known as the "Tiger Sharks," have already begun to take flight with their distinct Apache attack helicopters, but not without the assistance of their ground troops, who keep the mighty birds a flight.

"My unit handles any missions as far as the Forward Arming and Refuel Point is concerned," said 1st Lt. William Tveten, platoon leader for Echo Company, 1-10th ATK Recon. Bn. "But we are mainly an attack reconnaissance battalion in support of 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div. for air support. Our pilots go out and do reconnaissance missions, improvised explosive device detection and counter insurgency."

An Apache attack helicopter is the Army's primary attack helicopter which was first used in combat in 1989 in the U.S. military action in Panama. The AH-64 Apache, which is a successor to the AH-1 Cobra, is a versatile aircraft which can be maneuvered during the

day or night or in adverse weather conditions. The Apache also carries a healthy mixture of rockets and fixed armament on the outer body of the aircraft. So keeping this aircraft in flight is an important mission for the Tiger Sharks.

Running the FARP for Warhorse is not the only job the Tiger Sharks are tasked with, according to Escondido, Calif. native, Pfc. Kevin Dunn, a mechanic with Hammer Heads Company, 1-10th ATK Recon. Bn.

"I'm an Apache repairer," said Dunn. "I also inspect the Apache aircraft for flight operations and ensure they are mission capable. If an Apache helicopter is broken, then I fix it all up and make it fly again."

Dunn is just one of the many Tiger Sharks working hard to keep the Apache attack helicopters in flight. Spread across Iraq, each aviation brigade has been broken down into battalions in order to support the fight in Iraq. "Each aviation battalion has its own mission, dependent on the type of aircraft they support," said Olympia, Wash. native, Sgt. Willard Van Dalsen, the section sergeant aviation fueler with the Road Warriors Company, 1-10th ATK Recon. Bn.

"For us, we're an Apache bat-

talion so we're trained to focus on Apaches but we are cross-trained to handle several types of aircraft if need be," Dalsen continued. "We are a multinational attack force. We've worked on local Iraqi national aircraft, Black Hawks, Chinooks, any type of aircraft we can pretty much handle." There is a lot of history behind the Tiger Shark name which is the name of the battalion as a whole, according to Tveten and Dalsen. Based out of Hunter Army Airfield, located in Savannah, Ga., the Tiger Sharks derive from a long history dating back to the war in Vietnam.

"Our unit has been around since Vietnam," Tveten stated. "We've been called by many names, including the Flying Tigers, but the Tiger Sharks have always remained. We went from Bragg, to Stewart, to Hunter and now we will reside at Drum once we get done with this deployment and reassigned under 10th Mountain," Tveten stated.

Regardless of where the Tiger Sharks stand, Tveten is adamant about keeping with heritage. "Even though we will belong to 10th Mountain and have moved from our home in Georgia, we will still maintain our Tiger Shark heritage."



Omaha, Neb. native, Sgt. Daniel Ketchmark, an armament electrician with 1-10th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, "Tiger Sharks," out of Hunter Army Airfield, located in Savannah, Ga., carries a point detonate rocket to be loaded onto an Apache aircraft while at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, located in Diyala, Iraq, Dec. 11.



# NEW WORKFORCE OF THE ARMY

Story and photos by  
Spc. Opal Vaughn  
14th Public Affairs Detachment

Due to the demands of today's competitive workforce, many Soldiers have found themselves re-assigned from their trained military occupational specialty and tasked with new job responsibilities at Forward Operating Base Caldwell, located in Diyala, Iraq, Nov. 26.

But re-tasking is not something the Army has just recently begun.

Retraining in an unfamiliar MOS can either be done by a Soldier choosing to re-class or if there is a need for a Soldier to fill a job slot which is important for the needs of the Army. "Re-classing" may seem a bit drastic, but it allows many Soldiers an opportunity for advancement as well as the opportunity to become certified or trained in another specialty.

The numbers of dually-trained Soldiers are a growing trend in today's military. In fact, it is becoming even more popular in order for personnel to become more competitive in today's workforce.

Roy, Montana native, Staff Sgt. Shawn Komarek, an air liaison officer with 5th Squadron, 1st U.S. Cavalry, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, is one Soldier represents this growing trend, and reassignment needs of 5-1Cav.

"My original MOS is a scout," said Komarek. "I got to the unit right before we deployed and there was no slot available as a scout for me. As a scout, I did reconnaissance, found caches and conducted intelligence operations. Now I do all of the air movement and all

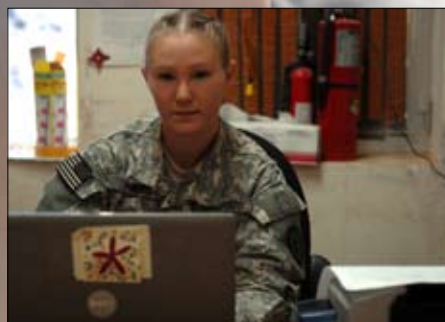
of the air movement requests."

"It is a very dedicated job," Komarek continued, "I go out and meet personnel at the flight line and make sure the landing zone is clear. If I do have birds on the ground, then I direct other birds in a direction I think they should land. Just in case there's an emergency though, I've already staged myself about an hour out from their landing time."

Also trained in another MOS to fill spots at the FOB is Albuquerque, New México native, Pfc. SierraLynn Harris, a mechanic with 5-1 Cav., reassigned to the mayor cell as a badge maker.

"Currently, I'm the only trained female mechanic to work in the motor pool," said Harris. "There were other females, but they ended up being sent to the other bases. Being the only female working in the motor pool my NCO felt I would be an asset in another area of work on the FOB."

Even though Harris is now tasked with a different job responsibility, she still feels the job she is doing now is vitally important to the Army's mission in Iraq. "I



Albuquerque, New México native, Pfc. SierraLynn Harris, a mechanic with 5-1 Cav., 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div., waits for a badge to print for a Soldier at Forward Operating Base Caldwell, Iraq, Nov. 25.



Staff Sgt. Shawn Komarek, an air liaison officer with 5th Squadron, 1st U.S. Cavalry, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, departs the flight deck after assisting several passengers catching a flight out of Forward Operating Base Caldwell located in Diyala, Iraq, Nov. 25. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. First Class Richard Enoch, Headquarters Headquarters Troop, 5th Squadron, 1st U.S. Cavalry, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division)

sort through all of the paperwork so that the KBR guys can focus on getting their jobs done, plus it saves them a lot of time," Harris stated.

The Soldiers at Caldwell stay vigilant as they all share the responsibilities of continuing to support missions throughout the Diyala province area.

"Right now, due to us not having the man power or personnel because we are such a small unit, it's very hard to get someone to fill this spot," Komarek stated. "If we take someone from another job to train in this job, then we're short handing another element."

## MAN OF THE YEAR

Story by Pfc. Alisha Nye  
14th Public Affairs Detachment

There are times when a mother will think to herself just how much her son doesn't know what is really good for him. The same thing can be said for some young Soldiers, only Mom isn't around to guide them anymore. This is why the Army has noncommissioned officers like Sgt. 1st Class Steven Schack.

Schack, a career counselor with 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division and winner of the Multi-National Corps-Iraq Career Counselor of the Year Board, knows his job and does it well.

"Every year, in the month of November, all the major commands hold the Career Counselor of the Year Board and the winner from each major command goes to the Secretary of the Army Career Counselor of the Year Board held at the Pentagon," Schack, who will be participating Jan. 27, said.

Soldiers participating in these unique boards are tested on their knowledge on retention specific questions, which all comes down to how well they know their job.

"I was extremely confident," said Schack. "I was extremely prepared for the board. Everybody who works in the office with me tested me and asked me questions – I was extremely prepared and confident. I think that's what set me apart."

With five years of experience in helping Soldiers do what is best for their careers, the first of which was spent as a retention NCO, it's no wonder he knows his job so well.

"At first, I had no idea what the job entailed other than trying to



Sgt. 1st Class Steven Schack, career counselor, 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, stands proud as he receives an award for winning the Multi-National Corps-Iraq Career Counselor of the Year Board.

get Soldiers to reenlist," Schack said. "Once I got comfortable doing the job, I realized how much I liked it – helping Soldiers out and accommodating their needs and their families' needs and matching them with the needs of the Army. I got a lot of job satisfaction out of doing it. That's when I was recommended by my chain of command to become a career counselor."

While it is a fulfilling and enjoyable job, being a career counselor comes with its challenges.

"There's always one or two guys in a platoon who are like, 'I hate the Army, I'm getting out,' and it rubs off on other Soldiers," said Schack. "Overcoming their objections of why they want to get out and trying to talk to them and convince them that it might not be the best idea for them to get out is the biggest challenge. A lot of these soldiers are young and married. They have children. They need a steady job in order to support their families."

Although staying in might be

a better option for some Soldiers, Schack said he also helps Soldiers who want to get out of the military.

"When it comes time for a Soldier to get out of the military, what we try to do is make sure he has a good, steady job so he can be a productive member of society," Schack said.

The best feeling for Schack, however, is when he can use his personal experiences to help a Soldier make the decision to keep serving his country.

"When a Soldier comes in and he plans on getting out of the Army, for me to be able to talk to that Soldier and share my experiences with him and get that soldier to change his mind and stay in – that's the best feeling for me."

That is precisely the feeling that keeps this Career Counselor of the Year guiding Soldiers in the right direction.

"This is the greatest thing that has happened for me," said Schack. "I wouldn't change anything."



## Chaplain's Corner

### Coach Wooden's Third Fundamental

In this article, we continue by looking at Coach John Wooden's third fundamental. As previously mentioned, Coach Wooden, the most successful basketball coach in history attributed more than forty years of victories to four things: 1) Knowing players. 2) Getting them to fulfill their roles as part of the team. 3) Paying attention to fundamentals and details. 4) Working well with others.

In the third fundamental, Coach Wooden emphasizes the importance of focused attention to fundamentals of the game as essential to a team's success on the court. Success in life and leadership are much like the game of basketball. They have fundamentals that cannot be neglected for the team to win. In many ways, it doesn't matter how successful we have been in the past. If we neglect the fundamentals, we set a course for failure.

There seem to be many distractions that hinder our attention to detail and respect for the fundamentals of life and relationships. Although there are many hindrances, perhaps the greatest hindrances are the lack of passion and vision. In the context of basketball, if you have an absolute passion for the game and an extreme vision for being the indisputable best, you give every ounce of attention to the fundamentals regardless of the hindrances or how hard it is. You don't just do it because you love the game. You do it because the game is in your blood. More than that, the game is in your heart.

You live, breathe, eat, and sleep the game of basketball. The people you know best are your team. You don't just play to win. You play because you love it, and you have loved it so long that the game

loves you. The team is your family. You love every intricate detail of the game. You love the fundamentals. You love becoming better than you were yesterday. You love learning something new and how it makes you better than you were before. No matter how hard it is, no matter how difficult it becomes, total exhaustion is fuel to your love for the game. Every ounce of your attention gives every detail the importance of the game itself because every detail of the game is the game. You love the small nuances of the game as much you love the big stuff because they make the game what it is.

The same is true in marriage. When the fires of passion between two people are fueled by an unceasing love that refuses to slow its giving, a relentless pursuit of an eternal flame ensues. Like currents of a river that carry its own energy, it's self-sustaining. The fundamentals cease to be fundamentals or details to be attended. The flame takes over and the fundamentals become fuel for the fire. The details of the relationship make the relationship what it is. They feed energy into love's furnace and the heat intensifies. The two people are no longer acting from obligation, but from spirit, the inner fountain of infinite giving.

In this giving, a vision for the relationship incubates, is birthed, and blossoms. And very soon, it becomes more than a relationship. It evolves into its own universe. At that point, it no longer matters who is on the outside or what the obstacles may be in front of them. They are completely given to the vision of their posterity. And every human who finds themselves in this condition will swear with absolute certainty that it is forever because the passion and the vision are eternal, alive and burning. Marriages like this delight in attention to the



Chaplain (Maj.) Roderick Mills

fundamentals because they are the expressions of love's energy.

Perhaps the greatest secrets for achieving Wooden's third fundamental lie in the heart more than the mind. No doubt, the mind must be engaged. But the heart must be very nearby and it must be healthy. Dr. Reggie McNeal says, "If a leader has heart blockage, those in the leader's constellation will have heart failure" because leadership is about relationships and relationships are "heart work."

Perhaps Tom Peters sums up this passion and complete energy toward the fundamentals when he said, "Leaders sweat the small stuff, the 'cultural giveaways' and quality of life. Some say it's only business, not personal. IT'S ALWAYS PERSONAL. Leaders love their work and their passion is infectious. Leaders have a kid alive in them. They ooze integrity and communicate relentlessly. They care. They serve. They are like the Rock of Gibraltar on roller blades."

This is Peters' description of people who are possessed by passion with heart, soul, and skill. People who love to lead because they love to serve. And that inner calling toward others demands of them a complete love for people that lives with an incessant focus on the details and fundamentals of that service. Their love and servant leader attitude give them the flexibility of a leader on roller blades and the stability of the Rock of Gibraltar.



1LT William Keith Jernigan

1st Stryker Brigade, 25th Infantry Division

Born 16 November, 1973, Doraville, GA

KIA 24 November, 2008 Diyala, Iraq

In 2008, Jernigan was assigned to the BDE S2, HHC, 1/25th SBCT. While serving as an Intelligence Officer, he distinguished himself in multiple Battalion and Brigade level exercises. In September 2008, he deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom to serve on a Military Transition Team. Jernigan's awards include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal and the Army Service Ribbon. 1/25th SBCT held a memorial service for Jernigan on 29 November 2008 at FOB Warhorse.

## FALLEN WOLVES

**SPC Heath Pickard**, C Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 18 Sept 1987 - 16 Oct 2008

**PFC Cody Eggleston**, C Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 17 Sept 1987 - 24 Oct 2008

**Military Working Dog, Jok**, Alpha Battery, 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, 14 Nov 2008



# The Arctic Warrior March

We conquer the mountains and the  
valleys!

We train in the winter's bitter cold!  
Alaska Soldiers! Arctic Warriors!  
Sentries of the North!

So pick up your weapons and your  
snowshoes!

We're ready to fight and to defend!  
The finest Soldiers! Arctic Warriors! From  
the last Frontier!

## The Stryker Creed

Strike fear into the enemy's hearts and  
minds; I am a lethal and skilled warfight-  
er with unmatched intestinal fortitude.  
Being disciplined, professional Soldier, I  
live the Army Values.

Committed to my fellow Soldiers, unit and  
country, I am ready to answer my na-  
tion's call -- NOW!

Tough, both physically and mentally, and  
instilled with warrior spirit, I can accom-  
plish my mission. Anytime. Anywhere.

Arctic Wolves!  
Arctic Tough!

