

Call of DLF

March 2009



Greetings to the Soldiers of the Arctic Wolves and to the entire Team here in Diyala Province of Iraq.

We are now in our sixth month of deployment and it is absolutely phenomenal what you all have accomplished. As a result of your efforts the citizens of Diyala have an incredible opportunity for continued growth and prosperity. Although our efforts often appear to be progressing at a snail's pace, there are daily improvements in the security and governance line of efforts. Many challenges await us but there is a strong undercurrent of hope and optimism as we transition the new governance in Diyala.

I caution all of us to stay focused on the task as re-

cent insurgent activities illustrate, **THE FIGHT IS NOT OVER.** We must continue to work with our Iraqi Security Force (ISF) partners to maintain the safe and secure environment Diyala is experiencing. Our partnership is even more critical now that our President has

announced an exit strategy. We must take our partners to the next level and time is of the essence.

I would ask that you all keep the families and friends of Corporals Michael Mayne, Micheal Alleman and Zachary Nordmeyer in your thoughts and prayers. On 23

February, these three great warriors from Animal Troop, 5th Squadron, 1st U.S. Cavalry Regiment were killed in action. They truly lived up to their unit motto of "Courageous and Faithful." They will be truly missed but never forgotten.

We all know that many challenges remain so we must all stay focused and keep up the momentum. I would ask that you all stay true to yourselves, to each other and to your work.

Again, I thank you all for your dedication and commitment. Please stay safe, take care of each other, fight hard and always serve with honor!



Command Sgt. Maj. Gabriel Cervantes and Col. Burt Thompson

The Wolf 

Greetings Arctic Wolves, Family members and Friends.

Recently, we have had several fallen heroes; Corporals Michael L. Mayne, Micheal B. Alleman, Zachary R. Nordmeyer and interpreter Bahrooz Abdul-Aziz Saleem "Bruce." I ask that we keep them and their Families in our prayers.

As we enter the warmer months we also enter the risk of heat injuries. We must increase our heat awareness through Heat Injury Prevention. Heat injuries are the greatest single preventable non-hostile medical threat to us here in Diyala Province during the sum-

mer months. Leaders have an inherent responsibility in taking care of Soldiers and we can never forget or compromise that responsibility.

Let's focus on the Battle Buddy responsibility to Heat Injury Prevention; we must know the risk and how to mitigate the risk. There are three variables that interact to cause heat injuries: climate, intensity and duration of physical exertion and increased individual risk factors.

Using the Battle Buddy system ensures adequate amounts of water are being consumed to stay properly hydrated at all times about 1.5 qt per hour. Do not use any diet supplements that contain ephedra or which are thermogenic.

Avoid prolonged exposure to the sun and ensure that exposed skin is protected by clothing, boonie cap and sun block lotion. Also maintaining a high level of fitness, eating a well balanced diet, minimizing consumption of caffeinated beverages and maintaining normal sleep patterns whenever possible will prevent heat injuries.

Leaders continue to enforce the Battle Buddy concept, educate Soldiers with the different types of hot weather injuries and how to prevent them. Continue to be safe, take care, enforce the Battle Buddy concept and may God bless all of you and your Loved ones.

Wolf 7

TMC

Command Team

CPT Gabriel Medley, BSMC Commander
LTC Michael Snyder, 25th BSB Commander
1SG Robert Moore, BSMC 1SG
CSM Robert Austin, 25th BSB CSM

Troop Medical Clinic

Brigade Support Medical Company, 25th Brigade Support Battalion provides Role I and II Force Health Protection (FHP) to all Coalition Forces within the 1st SBCT footprint to include Forward Operating Base Warhorse and the Diyala province of Iraq.

Sick Call:

Monday – Saturday
0800-1000 & 1500-1700
Sunday
0800-1000 only

On Call

Dental Clinic:

Monday – Saturday
0800-1000 & 1300-1700 by ap-
pointment only
Sunday
Closed

Lab Tech:

Monday – Saturday
0800-1700
Sunday
On Call

Pharmacy:

Monday – Saturday
0800-1700
Sunday
On Call

X-Ray Tech:

Monday – Saturday
1st Shift 0600-1400
2nd Shift 1400-2200
Sunday
0600-1000

Medications available 24/7
***Self-Care over the counter**
medications are available*

Physical Therapy:

Monday – Saturday
0800-1000 & 1300-1700 by ap-
pointment only
Sunday
Closed

Emergency Care: 24/7

Preventive Medicine:

Monday – Saturday
0900-1700
Sunday

Mental Health:

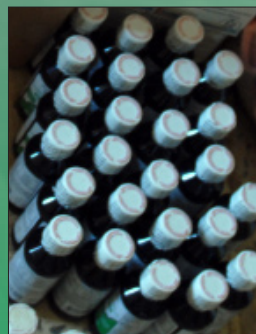
Monday – Saturday
0800-1100 & 1300-1700 by ap-
pointment only

Patient Administration:

SVOIP 770-6094

BSMC Command Post:

SVOIP 770-6094





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1/25 SBCT Commander
Col. Burdett Thompson


1/25 SBCT Command Sgt. Maj.
Command Sgt. Maj. Gabriel Cervantes

1/25 SBCT Public Affairs Office

Maj. Chris Hyde.....Public Affairs Officer/Editor
Staff Sgt. Christina Harwell.....NCOIC/Broadcast Journalist
Spc. Opal Vaughn.....Print Journalist/Design and Layout
Pfc. Alisha Nye.....Print Journalist
MC2 Walt Pels & Master Sgt. Troy Bouffard.....Contributors

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Spc. Daniel Morgan, crew chief and gunner, pulls security while in flight on a UH-60 Blackhawk, during a transport mission at Forward Operating Base Warhorse. (U.S. Army photo by Master Sgt. Troy Bouffard, PSYOP, Headquarters Headquarters Company, Brigade Troops Battalion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division)

On the Cover

Staff Sgt. Kavirazi German, squad leader, B Company, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, clears a canal while conducting missions in the Diyala province of Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Alisha Nye, 14th Public Affairs Detachment)



Fatmiya: the village that stands alone

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

An abandoned village once inhabited by Iraqi nationals, young and old alike, Fatmiya now stands alone, desolate and empty of life except for Iraqi Security Forces and U.S. troops passing through every so often.

Both forces are working together to ensure the safety and security of the village in order for the people to be able to return home.

“Several weeks back we cleared this village, Fatmiya, which is a suspected Al-Qaeda cell of snipers and IED emplacements,” said 1st Lt. John Belle, Company B, Task Force 3rd Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 172nd Infantry Brigade (Separate).

“We cleared a route; the ISF came behind us and cleared the

village,” Belle stated. “Now we’ve started to establish security around the whole area. All we do is just ensuring the ISF are building up proper defensive positions and that everything is straight, that they can defend themselves.”

Belle believes running security operations are important for ISF in order for them to one day run missions completely on their own.

“These types of operations are important to show the Iraqi’s although we can give them support like helicopters and all that good stuff, they can complete the mission by themselves, they can clear this whole town out and they can do this with the remaining villages in the area that are suspected of terrorist activities,” Belle stated.

Even though the village is uninhabited security is still vital in the return of the people to their homes.

“This area is important because

the ISF have had a lot of contact before,” said Staff Sgt. Nicholas Roha, squad leader, Company B, 3-66. “Supposedly there was an insurgent stronghold held up in this village so ISF have cleared the area. That way, the insurgents cannot use it to stage out of to attack the ISF.”

Working together creates a stronger force and ensures a presence remains in the village.

“We work closely with the 1-21 Battalion, Iraqi Army, directly. On missions they take the lead and out here they pull all the security, we park off and pull an outer perimeter security,” Roha stated. “If they need us, we’re here to advise them. I think they need more equipment, personally, but they can handle pretty anything thrown at them. Their soldiers seem really motivated.”

“The IA are really a force,” Roha stated, continuing, “they’re really making themselves a presence.”



Soldiers with Task Force 3rd Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 172nd Infantry Brigade (Separate), clear an abandoned village while on patrol in Fatmiya, Iraq

Partnership program to train Iraqi mechanics

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

Soldiers with 25th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, have begun training Iraqi Army Soldiers the delicate art of vehicular machinery at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, located in the Diyala Province of Iraq.

"We first started training them close to the end of the year, 2008," said Staff Sgt. Ramiro Carrasco, an automotive mechanic currently overseeing the training of the Iraqi Army soldiers involved with the program. "We have them, roughly, for about two weeks at a time."

The training was started as part of a partnership program between 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div., and the Iraqi Army in the area, said Carrasco.

Carrasco also explained that the program is designed around the knowledge base of the individu-



als going through it at the time. An Iraqi Army Soldier conducts maintenance on a high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle (HMMWV) after attending a two week training course at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, located in the Diyala Province of Iraq. The training is being conducted by Soldiers with 25th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

als going through it at the time.

"We do a knowledge assessment of what it is that they know and we actually base our curriculum (on) how much they know," the native of Dallas, Texas, said. "We've actually gotten some that are pretty proficient in different areas. The last crew...we had two of them who were electricians. When we got to the electrical portion of the training it became relatively easy just for the simple fact that they had some knowledge base."

Training these individuals serves a strong purpose, said Carrasco.

"They're going to have a lot of the same equipment that we currently have or that we've given them already," he said. "So it's best that we teach them how to use it and how to troubleshoot the problems."

So far, Carrasco said, that has been the chief element in training the Iraqi Army Soldiers on vehicle mechanics.

"A lot of it has to do with just

troubleshooting – just finding the right answers to the problem," he said. "Once we've gotten past that, then we just show them how maintain the equipment."

The most challenging part about the training, however, has been breaking old habits.

"We try and teach them the curriculum by the textbook itself," Carrasco said. "With these guys, it's almost like a shade-tree mechanic. They're just trying to get to it, versus trying to do it right."

The completed training is not done without avail. Carrasco assures that it is all for a greater purpose.

"At the end of every day they do a check on learning and it's not just something they're going through the motions with," he said. "We're trying to teach them something more advanced they can take back to their units with them. At the end of the day, they actually retain what it is they're doing."



An Iraqi Army Soldier attends his last day of automotive training at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, located in the Diyala Province of Iraq.

Homelandsecurity

BorderPatrol

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

Just as the United States have border patrol agents, so does Iraq. There are no fences, no drawn outlines or even a sign stating that the border is just up ahead, but it exists.

The only way of knowing the border is near is by the 100 or so checkpoints varying in distances along the imaginary line that makes up the border of Iraq. Each checkpoint is armed with Iraqi Border Transition Team personnel in place and ready to detain any one trying to cross over illegally.

In conjunction with the Iraqi BTT, U.S. Army Border Transition Team, 4312, also assists in keeping the borders safe.

“Our job is to track, confirm or deny illegal border access,” said MSgt. Michael Henle, a team sergeant with BTT, 4312. “We strictly work with the Iraqi BTT but we try to integrate the IA and the IP into the systems so they can work hand in hand, instead of operating unilaterally.”

The first efforts in border control dates as early as 1904, but

Maj. Mickey Thomas and Capt. Brian McCraine, both with Border Transition Team, 4312, reevaluate their course of action while out on mission in Diyala, Iraq.



then, the border patrolmen were called mounted watchmen. The men engaged in patrolling during that time period patrolled in an effort to prevent illegal crossings just as patrolmen do now. But the dangers of the job were not the same then as they are today.

“Our biggest threat is anti-tank mines along the border, IEDs - there’s not really a big push with a mass on mass fighting or ambush fighting - it’s more the IEDs and anti-tank mines that have been leftover from the Iran, Iraq war,” Henle stated. “We are making progress though.”

The border patrolmen of today’s generation still carry on some of the same traditions as the “mounted watchmen” but with a different twist, especially those patrolmen working in Iraq.

“A lot of our missions resemble U.S. border patrol mission,” said Capt. Eric Wagoner, with BTT, 4312. “There’s no way to block off a border - you’re more of a deterrent, you can’t put the fence up and expect everyone to stop coming across. Our job is to make sure the Iraqi BTT have good methods to sustaining their deterrence and force any possible movements in the areas across the border to move to locations that are easier to catch them.”

“Part of our objective about doing this job is to make sure the Iraqi BTT is there with us,” Wagoner stated. “We train our Iraqi counterparts even though they are very good at training themselves on their border tasks. They do not have the resources for or they do not have the experience in certain areas; those are the parts we are trying to train them in. A lot of these guys are experienced Kurdish fighters so they have experience with these types of things.”

Success of each mission is not just dependent upon the BTT

but it is also dependent upon the locals living in the area.

“Border villagers are the guys who live right there and see everything,” Wagoner stated. “When we go talk to the people, we want the Iraqi BTT to do it because we want to make sure the local people know that the Iraqi BTT are a legitimate force in the area and that they are recognized.”

Utilizing every resource, Wag-

oner stated, helps to have additional eyes out there. “We have the actual Iraqi BTT guys and their locations; but it’s just places we cannot get to that we need to have a couple more eyes out there. We also coordinate a lot of missions with 5-1 Cav. They support us if we need more bodies on a mission for security reasons. We cannot really pull them or task them, but they try to help us out whenever they can.



Staff Sgt. Ronnie Gonzalez with Border Transition Team, 4312, pulls security while on mission in Diyala, Iraq.



Soldiers with Border Transition Team, 4312, pause while awaiting an “all clear” of possible improvised explosive devices buried in a field, before taking another step forward while out on mission in Diyala, Iraq.

The *hunter*, the *hunted*

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

The hunt is on. An improvised explosive device detonates in the Diyala province of Iraq. No time for thinking or questioning, just training put into action. Without a second to lose Chapman calls his team to a halt, “turn it around,” he yells.

Sgt. 1st Class Brent Chapman, team leader, Thunder Troop, Company A, 5th Squadron, 1st U.S. Cavalry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division and his team are hungry. Not hungry in the sense that they need sustenance but they are hungry to find the whereabouts of an IED blast site.

There are hunters and then there are the hunted, and these Soldiers are hungry. Today’s menu includes one IED blast site and one battlefield damage assessment by Thunder Troop.

“We got word from the Iraqi army or Iraqi Police, I’m not sure which, that an IED went off and hit a civilian vehicle,” said Staff Sgt. Jeremy Bland, squad leader, Thunder, 5-1 Cav. “Even though the IA and IP are responsible for that - just to maintain situational awareness in our sector so that we have an accurate picture of what the threats are - we’ve sent an element to check it out and link up with the IP to find out what the deal is.”

Like a pack of wolves on the prowl, Thunder Troop whips their Strykers around and prepared to adjust fire toward the new mission.

“We roll out every single day. Something is bound to change while we’re out,” said Manassas, Va. native, Sgt. Jon Mycko, squad leader, Thunder, 5-1 Cav.

Making adjustments like this are quite common in military operations. An adjustment Thunder is trained and willing to do.

“Right now it’s not confirmed that someone, Coalition Forces or ISF, is actually at the blast site,” said Staff Sgt. Charles Marshall, squad leader, Thunder, 5-1 Cav. “So we’ll cordon the area and take some information down and try to develop the situation.”

One IP checkpoint after another, Thunder moves swiftly taking advantage of their close proximity to the blast site.

“The mission that we have today is taking precedence, so Navy EOD - that’s more of their specialty - is going to the blast site. That way, we can get the professionals on site which will allow us continue our first mission,” Bland stated. “Working with ISF, we’re required to link up with IA and IP officials. We have contacts that we link up with at each individual office to conduct joint missions in Mandeli and Katoon.”

“Link - up” missions conducted by CF are important for ISF to become more proactive in keeping their country safe.

“We’re trying to allow the ISF to take a more active role in the protection of their individual cities,” Bland said. “Mainly we just supplement their forces and try to let them take the lead. It’s good for the morale of the people in the village to actually see their own local security forces taking the lead on providing security for their AO as opposed to Americans just doing it for them; which is the way it has been.”

A safe distance from the blast site, several ground elements dismount, standing side by side with local IP’s pulling security at a main intersection.



Staff Sgt. Charles Marshall, squad leader, checks a bag for possible munitions while Spc. Carl Deuel, dismount patrolman, pulls security during a mission while in the Diyala Province of Iraq. Both Soldiers are with Thunder Troop, Company A, 5th Squadron, 1st U.S. Cavalry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

“I think we do have a purpose here,” said Stony Brook, N.Y. native, Spc. Stavros Stathakos, gunner, Thunder, 5-1 Cav. “We can definitely commit time and be sure that our job is done right to make sure that the ISF are well grounded and confident to pick up from where we leave off. This will assist them to further achieving the goal of having to sustain this country themselves.”

That’s what separates Thunder troop from the rest, their determination. They didn’t just get their name by sitting around, Mycko stated.

“This isn’t an egotistical remark,” Mycko began, “but this is by far the most versatile platoon within Alpha troop. Thunder is normally thunder or lightning which is used by a mortar section in our unit. When the rounds hit the ground, they go boom. A loud and thunderous boom - 120 millimeters of thunder,” Mycko stated with a grin.

MI: The Know-It-Alls of the battlefield

Story by Capt. Ryan Debonis
184th Military Intelligence Co., BTB

Military intelligence personnel who work for a brigade Analysis and Control Element have one of the most crucial jobs in a theater of war.

“The ACE provides the intelligence picture to support both the brigade staff, the battalions and other units that are attached to give them an understanding of what’s going on out there in the area of operations in order to support all operational decisions,” said 1st Lt. Georgiana White, brigade ACE chief, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

This is a job that, while it already doesn’t sound simple, takes much more coordination, time and patience than it sounds.

“To sum up what we do, we do a lot of the cross-boundary stuff,” said Capt. Ryan Debonis, commander, 184th Military Intelligence Company, Brigade Troops Battalion, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div. “The battalions are responsible for the specific threat within their AO. If threat activity starts crossing boundaries and going into other battalion or brigade AOs then that’s when we get involved and do an overall analysis combining activity across the borders. From that, we pull all the different reports from all the different intelligence disciplines and we summarize that into a cohesive product. That’s what we produce.”

The process begins with the collection management and dissemination section (CM&D). They receive all incoming reporting from division, corps and other outside agencies as well as reporting from within the brigade. Collecting information to make a report is something that requires the ef-

forts of 1st Lt. Gedaliah Scharold, brigade collection manager, 184th MI Co. In addition to the dissemination of reporting the CM&D section headed by Scharold is also responsible for the development of the brigade collection plan and allocation of intelligence collecting assets. Scharold’s job doesn’t end there, however.

“My section also develops a collection plan utilizing all our intelligence assets in order to best provide a clear picture of the battlefield for the brigade commander,” Scharold said. His section identifies named areas of interest (NAIs) and then places assets against them to collect on intelligence gaps.

“I do a lot of coordination with division, corps and above ensuring all the assets they provide us are being used at ground level and any products built by different agencies are provided to the end user. All requests for information come through my section.”

That information is then disseminated amongst the five other sections in the ACE. The fusion section is responsible for the development and fusion of all multi-source reporting. The Human Intelligence Analysis Cell (HAC), a mix of intelligence analysts and human intelligence collectors, receives and analyzes all human intelligence produced by the brigade’s organic human intelligence collection teams (HCTs) and from all other units and outside agencies. They produce daily human intelligence summaries of all reporting received in the 24 hour period. After information is collected and a report is made, that’s when the targeting section of the ACE gets involved.

The targeting section works with all other ACE sections and the brigade signals intelligence cell to develop the best possible intelligence

on people and places they are looking at recommending for targeting by Soldiers on the ground.

“My guys in the targeting section will spend their time just reading lines reports,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jack Ivy, targeting officer, 184th MI Co.

The goal of this? To find bad guys so units can go out and get them, of course.

“We’re doing tons and tons of reading and research so we can pass it on so they units can go out and action these guys,” Ivy said. “We’re trying to figure out who’s doing what, where.”

The geospatial intelligence (GEOINT) section provides imagery support to target packets and fusion section products. On a daily basis the section provides imagery support to the targeting section, answer imagery requests for information from battalions, and monitor UAS feeds.

Creating a report to begin with can be as difficult as it is tedious, according to DeBonis, due to the fact that MI personnel have to filter through any and all incoming information they receive and determine the relevance and fit that information into the intelligence picture.

“You take a bunch of information, you merge it together, you make an assessment and then it becomes intelligence,” said White.

With everything the sections of 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div.’s ACE does, the military intelligence personnel with the 184th MI Co. are effectively the brigade’s know-it-alls – a title much more easily given than earned.

“We’ll read through everything that we can so we can start building patterns,” White said.

“It’s like building a puzzle without having the box to look at,” Ivy said.



Spc. Troy Wingo with Company C, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, stares out the front gate of an Iraqi Police Station in the Diyala Province of Iraq while his noncommissioned officers meet with the IPs inside to discuss upcoming patrols.

THE BEGINNING OF THE END: a period of unrest among today's foot Soldiers

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



A Soldier with Company C, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, stares out at the sun off the rooftop of an Iraqi Police station while waiting for his non-commissioned officers to finish a meeting with the IPs inside.

Wars all end the same way in Hollywood. The hero in the combat flick brings battle to an abrupt conclusion in a blaze of glory after, quite possibly, having lost his best friend in a torrent of gunfire.

Real wars don't always end like that. Sometimes a transition takes place that winds violence down slowly and eventually brings it to a halt — without the climactic finale Hollywood so often depicts.

Endings like this are what cause a necessary unease to shroud foot Soldiers. It is such an ending that is currently taking place on the urban battlefields of Iraq, bringing a state of restlessness to many young infantry Soldiers.

"I don't mind things being quiet as a mouse and everyone

going home the same way they came," said Command Sgt. Maj. Kyle Crump, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division. "The younger guys, they want to get out there and be gung-ho and do all those things they see in the movies."

However, the war in Iraq is no movie and its ending is proving to be something less than sensational. U.S. forces are, overall, working toward transitioning the government of Iraq back to the Iraqis. Above all, explained Crump, this requires stable and capable security forces.

"Our biggest role here is being in more of a partnership with the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police, trying to get them to work together more

on missions and information flow, as it comes, and letting them handle it,” Crump, a native of Springfield, Ma., said. “We just coach, teach and mentor. As things are going, we won’t be here for much longer, so we’ve got to leave Iraq to the Iraqis. We’ve got to let go.”

This transition is leaving some infantry Soldiers on edge.

“An infantry Soldier is used to leading from the front,” Crump said. “But now it’s time to step back a little bit and observe to make sure Iraqi Security Forces are doing the right things.”

However, knowledge of this has done little to put the restless foot Soldiers at ease.

“We all have this mindset of what an infantryman would do in, say, World War II,” said Spc. Justin Howard, infantry Soldier, Company A, 3rd Bn., 21st Inf. Regt. “We have all these ideas from movies and historical facts.”

These ideas, as well as months of training on infantry tasks before deployment, are what have been causing the underlying restlessness, said Howard.

“Every day in the rear we would train to do our job – infantry skills, infantry tasks,” he said. “We got drilled every day. It was eat, sleep, drink, infantry stuff. Then we got here and we’re stepping back.”

Howard said he understands this transition needs to occur but infantry Soldiers are still somewhat disappointed in the role change they are experiencing.

“Stuff could happen,” he said. “But when it doesn’t, a lot of the lower enlisted, like me, get mad because we want our Combat Infantry Badge. Not because we want to get blown up or shot at, but because it’s the right of an infantryman.”

While the role foot Soldiers are playing is imperative to the mission of U.S. forces in Iraq, these soldiers still feel slighted of their glory.

“It’s disappointing to come

here and not have the opportunity to do what we trained to do and instead have to play the middlemen between Iraqi Security Forces,” Howard said.

Crump said, with time, Soldiers will completely understand the significance of the role they are filling.

“I think the Soldiers will see that they are playing a bigger role by stepping back and shadowing,” Crump said. “They can see the things that aren’t being done right and can help the IA a little bit more on the procedures and things they should be doing.”

Soldiers like Howard understand this already.

“We all signed up for the same cause and we’re working at it – whether it be by going out, getting in a trench and shooting or by playing the middleman,” Howard said. “We’re just going to get more restless until we all get it in our minds that this is what we do now.”

With patience and understanding, infantry Soldiers will soon put their ideas of Hollywood grandeur out of their heads because, as Crump describes it, the war in

Iraq is no place for the red carpet.

“They’re doing their missions,” he said. “They’re doing what they’re supposed to be do-

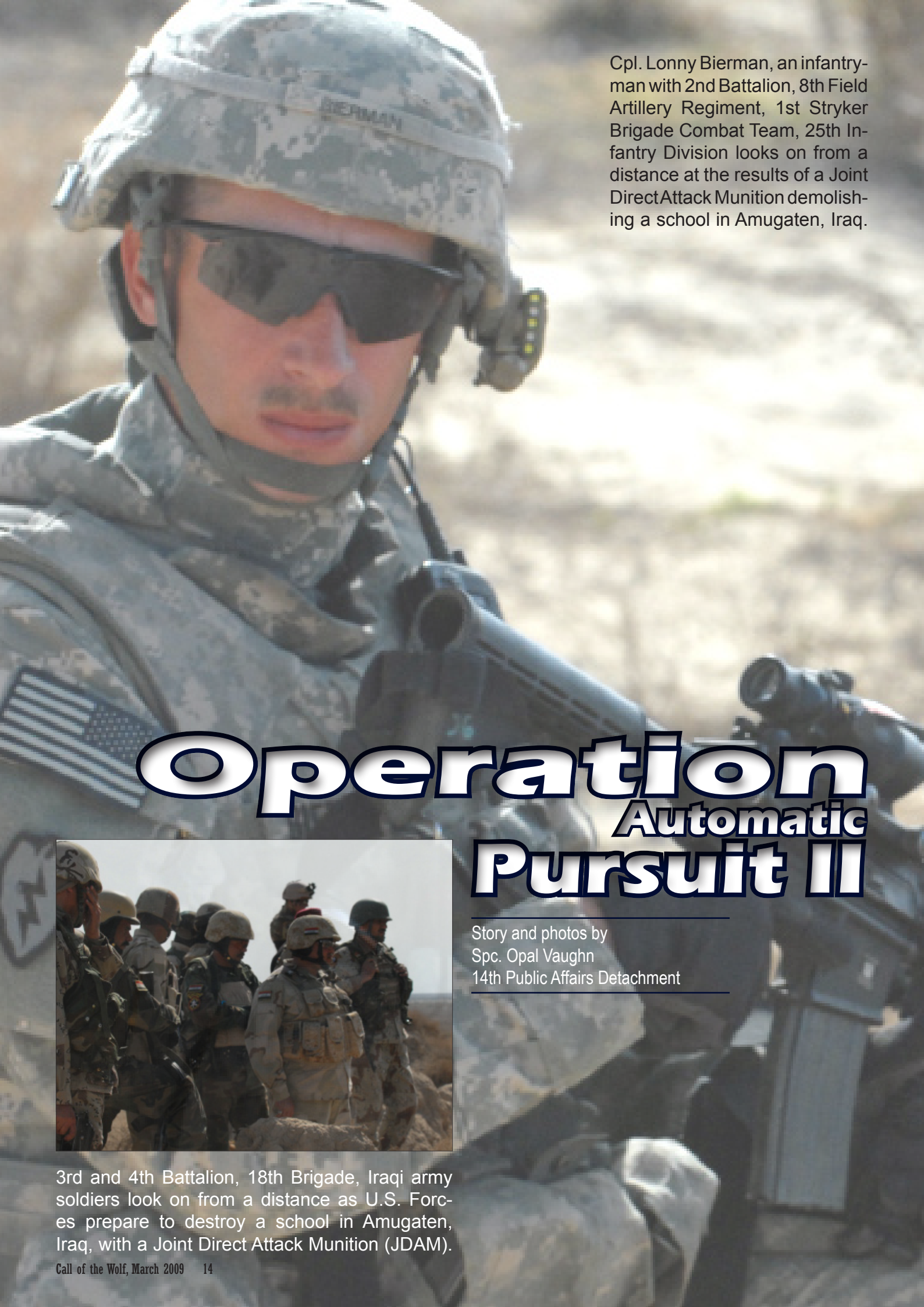
“We all signed up for the same cause and we’re working at it – whether it be by going out, getting in a trench and shooting or by playing the middleman. We’re just going to get more restless until we all get it in our minds that this is what we do now.”

-Spc. Howard

ing. They may not be running up and down the streets shooting or grabbing people, but, at the same time, that’s a good thing. They’re a little bit restless right now because things are calmer, but that’s what we came here for. We came here to make everything peaceful.”



Spc. Brandon Linderman with Company C, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, somberly pulls security on the rooftop of an Iraqi Police Station in the Diyala Province of Iraq while his noncommissioned officers meet with the IPs inside to discuss upcoming patrols.



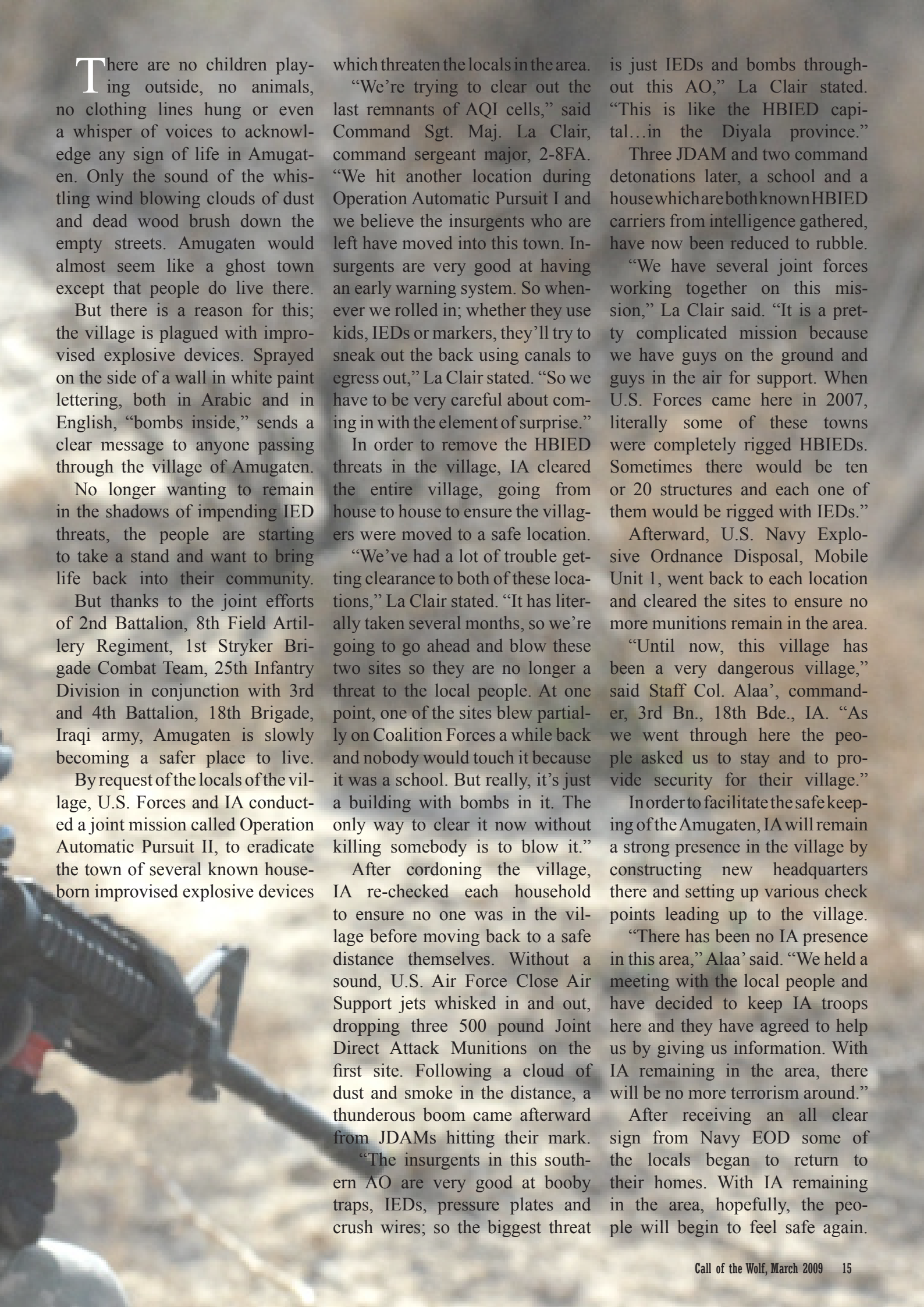
Cpl. Lonny Bierman, an infantryman with 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division looks on from a distance at the results of a Joint Direct Attack Munition demolishing a school in Amugaten, Iraq.

Operation Automatic Pursuit II

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



3rd and 4th Battalion, 18th Brigade, Iraqi army soldiers look on from a distance as U.S. Forces prepare to destroy a school in Amugaten, Iraq, with a Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM).



There are no children playing outside, no animals, no clothing lines hung or even a whisper of voices to acknowledge any sign of life in Amugaten. Only the sound of the whistling wind blowing clouds of dust and dead wood brush down the empty streets. Amugaten would almost seem like a ghost town except that people do live there.

But there is a reason for this; the village is plagued with improvised explosive devices. Sprayed on the side of a wall in white paint lettering, both in Arabic and in English, "bombs inside," sends a clear message to anyone passing through the village of Amugaten.

No longer wanting to remain in the shadows of impending IED threats, the people are starting to take a stand and want to bring life back into their community.

But thanks to the joint efforts of 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division in conjunction with 3rd and 4th Battalion, 18th Brigade, Iraqi army, Amugaten is slowly becoming a safer place to live.

By request of the locals of the village, U.S. Forces and IA conducted a joint mission called Operation Automatic Pursuit II, to eradicate the town of several known house-born improvised explosive devices

which threaten the locals in the area.

"We're trying to clear out the last remnants of AQI cells," said Command Sgt. Maj. La Clair, command sergeant major, 2-8FA. "We hit another location during Operation Automatic Pursuit I and we believe the insurgents who are left have moved into this town. Insurgents are very good at having an early warning system. So whenever we rolled in; whether they use kids, IEDs or markers, they'll try to sneak out the back using canals to egress out," La Clair stated. "So we have to be very careful about coming in with the element of surprise."

In order to remove the HBIED threats in the village, IA cleared the entire village, going from house to house to ensure the villagers were moved to a safe location.

"We've had a lot of trouble getting clearance to both of these locations," La Clair stated. "It has literally taken several months, so we're going to go ahead and blow these two sites so they are no longer a threat to the local people. At one point, one of the sites blew partially on Coalition Forces a while back and nobody would touch it because it was a school. But really, it's just a building with bombs in it. The only way to clear it now without killing somebody is to blow it."

After cordoning the village, IA re-checked each household to ensure no one was in the village before moving back to a safe distance themselves. Without a sound, U.S. Air Force Close Air Support jets whisked in and out, dropping three 500 pound Joint Direct Attack Munitions on the first site. Following a cloud of dust and smoke in the distance, a thunderous boom came afterward from JDAMs hitting their mark.

"The insurgents in this southern AO are very good at booby traps, IEDs, pressure plates and crush wires; so the biggest threat

is just IEDs and bombs throughout this AO," La Clair stated. "This is like the HBIED capital...in the Diyala province."

Three JDAM and two command detonations later, a school and a house which are both known HBIED carriers from intelligence gathered, have now been reduced to rubble.

"We have several joint forces working together on this mission," La Clair said. "It is a pretty complicated mission because we have guys on the ground and guys in the air for support. When U.S. Forces came here in 2007, literally some of these towns were completely rigged HBIEDs. Sometimes there would be ten or 20 structures and each one of them would be rigged with IEDs."

Afterward, U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Mobile Unit 1, went back to each location and cleared the sites to ensure no more munitions remain in the area.

"Until now, this village has been a very dangerous village," said Staff Col. Alaa', commander, 3rd Bn., 18th Bde., IA. "As we went through here the people asked us to stay and to provide security for their village."

In order to facilitate the safe keeping of the Amugaten, IA will remain a strong presence in the village by constructing new headquarters there and setting up various check points leading up to the village.

"There has been no IA presence in this area," Alaa' said. "We held a meeting with the local people and have decided to keep IA troops here and they have agreed to help us by giving us information. With IA remaining in the area, there will be no more terrorism around."

After receiving an all clear sign from Navy EOD some of the locals began to return to their homes. With IA remaining in the area, hopefully, the people will begin to feel safe again.

On the PROWL

"What improvements would you like done on the FOB/COP?"

AL Hayleyville—
"We need a beauty salon." - Staff Sgt. Christina Harwell, broadcaster, 14th Public Affairs Detachment, *FOB Warhorse*.

CO Pueblo — "I would like CHUs to live in." - Pvt. 1st Class Donald Zinger, gunner, Task Force 3rd Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 172nd Infantry Brigade (Separate), *FOB Caldwell*.

IN Munci — "Burger King, yeah, that's what we need." - Spc. Chris Bookout, FIS-TER, Company A, 5th Squadron, 1st U.S. Cavalry, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div., *FOB Caldwell*.

MI Richland—"Ease of access to cash withdrawals. There's too much paperwork just to get say, 40 bucks from the finance office. We need an ATM machine or something like that."

- Spc. Elizabeth Woodson, Headquarters Headquarters Company, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div., *FOB Warhorse*.

NC Fayetteville — "I'd like a PX." - Spc. Mitchell Johnson, infantryman, Task Force 3rd Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 172nd Infantry Brigade (Separate), *FOB Caldwell*.

NY Hicksville — "Definitely fix the roads because when it rains, it's messed up." - Spc. Argimd Mishra, administration, 4-18th Postal, 272nd Airborne, *FOB Warhorse*.

PUERTO RICO

Luquillo — "A pool, yes, I would like a pool."

- Spc. Omaira Ocasio, administration, 4-18th Postal, 82nd Airborne, *FOB Warhorse*.

SC Myrtle Beach — "First, we need some new basketball rims inside the gym."

Second, we need better internet in the CHUs if they're going to make us pay for it." - Sgt. Ezra Wallace, finance NCO, B-126th, Financial Management Company, 101st Forward Maintenance Company, 16th Special Troops Battalion, Sustainment Brigade, *FOB Warhorse*.

TX Abilene — "More food options in the chow hall or a Subway, oh and a



Pvt. 1st Class Michael Baker, a Stryker driver with Company A, 5th Squadron, 1st U.S. Cavalry Regiment, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div.



Spc. Dustin Brown, 176th Signal Company, Brigade Troops Battalion, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div.



Spc. Jordan Fassett and Spc. Camron Shaw, Company A, 5th Squadron, 1st U.S. Cavalry Regiment, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div.



Chaplain (Capt.) David Ditolla and Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, pose with an M777A2 howitzer while at Iman Man Sur.



Soldiers with Mortar Platoon, Headquarters Headquarters Company, Task Force 3rd Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 172nd Infantry Brigade (Separate), pose for a photo while at COP Mithak.

Whataburger.” – Pvt. 1st Class Michael Baker, gunner, Company A, 5th Squadron, 1st U.S. Cavalry, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div., FOB Caldwell.

TX Houston – “I would like to play basketball. We have a basketball court but we cannot play on it.” – Spc. Jordan Fassett, infantryman, Company A, 5th Squadron, 1st U.S. Cavalry, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div., FOB Caldwell.

TX McAllen – “More satellites. I’m paying 60 dollars a month for I-Café and it only works part of the time because there are so many people that are tapped into it. So if there are more receivers for us to actually tap into, we could have more people get on the internet. That’s what I’d want.”

– Spc. Dustin Brown, 176th Signal Company, Brigade Troops Battalion, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div., FOB Warhorse.



Staff Sgt. Jamal Gardley, PSD squad leader, Delta 52nd Inf., BTB, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div.



Spc. Chris Bookout, forward support with Company A, 5th Squadron, 1st U.S. Cavalry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.



Sgt. Arthur Sheble and Spc. Earl Boyce, both with Combat Wood & Sign Shop, Headquarters Headquarters Company, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, work hard painting a wall mural while at Forward Operating Base Warhorse. The mural was designed by Boyce.





Soldiers reach out: REBUILDING TORN COMMUNITIES

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

Local Iraqi Security Forces, in conjunction with 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division are working together to make Quba, Iraq, a safer place and to restore essential services to the region.

Deserted of any students because of much needed repairs, the school is scheduled to be renovated within the upcoming weeks.

Currently, the school remains a danger to students living in the area as the building is currently structurally unsafe. To facilitate the reconstruction of the school-house, U.S. forces and ISF have contracted several renovations

Lt. Col. Brian Reed, commander, 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division and his personal security detail, prepare to take a tour of the Quba Imam Boy's school by the school's headmaster, while in Quba, Iraq.

to take place in the near future, starting with the addition of clean running water and procedures set to make the site structurally safe for both students and teachers.

"Right now this school is in pretty bad shape," said Capt. Jeremiah Hurley, commander, Company Charlie, 1-24 Inf. "There's a lot of water damage, cracks in the ceilings and the walls, cracks in the roofs; so our first priority is get these the cracks filled to prevent further water damage, repaint the school - just general refurbishments so the kids can have somewhere to go to school."

The first step in reopening the school is to check the overall structure and appearance of the school.

"We wanted to go out and make sure there was a proper infra-

structure in place and that there are seats to sit in for the kids," said Staff Sgt. Kevin Smith, a squad leader with Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 1-24 Inf.

"We're out here to make sure things get taken care of. The standards that we as Americans have compared to the Iraqis are completely different. It is not for me to dictate how they should keep up their school because it's not something we are accustomed too. But what we can do for the school we will."

The Imam boys school is not the only project ISF and U.S. Forces are currently working on.

"I have a couple big water projects as well," Hurley stated. "It's really the lasting project that will benefit the area long term because some of these towns do not have wa-



ter. This project will consist of setting up water pumps to pump water from the canal; water purification, because it's also their sewage canal, and distribution to other locations."

Working together, ISF and Coalition Forces are on a mission to ensure structures in Quba are up to standard and in working order.



Lt. Col. Brian Reed, commander, 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division speaks with the Headmaster of the Quba Imam Boy's school about improvements to be made to the school in the upcoming weeks.

"We've identified several projects that need to be worked as well as the ISF, Iraqi government council members and some of the local Sheiks and Mukters in the area. They check their books and ensure there is proper funding for the projects and from there we coordinate with contractors to complete the work," Hurley stated.

Funding will always be an issue, Hurley stated, but putting in the work is well worth it.

"Getting hands on the money is usually the hardest part," Hurley said. "But you have to have a lot of patience and prioritize when it comes to this job. This school is the first project that we have been able to get funding for. I wish the process could have been a lot faster and there was more money but I'm sure that is every man's complaint, on every level."

Regardless of the process, helping the local people is what's important in the end, and building rapport

with the people also has its benefits.

"We do a lot of stuff with the IA and the IPs," Hurley smiled. "Little competitions with them in volleyball, European football and ping pong; I mean, they basically challenge us every time we come up here. It's pretty bad, too, because they're good."

Hurley continued, "We've only won a couple of volleyball games. The ISF have a whole company they pull guys from and actually formed a team. We roll up and we're just like, 'hey, you want to play some volleyball?' So we just throw some guys out there and hope that we'll play well. Now we're actually building a team so we can go out there and start winning games, because the reputation of the United States is suffering right now," Hurley grinned.

"It's always a good day to see the different projects come to a completion," Hurley stated. "It is very rewarding."

TRADITIONS LIVE ON

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

Traditions live on in memory, by an act, a custom or handing down a meaningful item.

Through the handing down of one particular rucksack, aptly named "True Blue Bobcat Cherry Lieutenant", 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment keeps the memory alive of the Soldiers who once served before them.

"I heard that 1/17 Inf. Reg. used a hat with horns and buffalo hair as their Lieutenant tradition," said 1st Lt. Sean Raleigh, officer in charge, S-1, 1-5 Inf., 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Regiment.

"I have heard of other traditions existing Army wide but only have knowledge of a few. There is evidence that this particular rucksack was first issued out in 1996, but the rucksack itself came with

no written history inside it," Raleigh stated. "It is possible that it is another version of an older rucksack that was retired or lost. The rucksack was found in a storage container late last year after the unit was deactivated."

Why a rucksack? Rucksacks are still used today by Soldiers just as they were when the Army was first established, June 1775.

"I would assume it goes along with the foot marching traditions of the Infantry," Raleigh stated. "A rucksack being a vessel to carry many different items inside over time, it's like a mobile time capsule."

Tan colored and covered in patches and pins from each Soldier who has carried it, the rucksack also has several relics housed inside from Soldiers as well.

"There is a rock with a piece of tape around it that says it is from Afghanistan, photo album, brick, some old unit shirts, an old pair of boots, some maps, old socks and

a Time magazine from September 26, 2001," Raleigh said, but the list goes on. "I cannot know for sure," said Raleigh, "but the assumption could be made that the pins and badges were placed there by Lieutenants who had earned those pins through deployments or schools."

Securing the rucksack and its contents is the first on the to do list for Raleigh.

"I plan to add a history log to it that will hopefully be maintained as it is passed on so that future LTs will be able to know for certain how long the tradition has been in place and what different holders have added to the rucksack," Raleigh said.

"I also plan to add a few pieces of history to the rucksack myself. Specifically my Airborne wings, AG Shield, expert Field Medic Badge, Air Assault Badge and Ranger tabs alongside the other branch insignias, as neither of those are on the front flap."

As the current cherry lieutenant with 1-5 Inf., Raleigh is honored.

"It is an honor to maintain care for and carry on a unit tradition," Raleigh stated. "I am happy I get to add a piece of my Army history to this unit's history. This particular tradition is a way to identify the new lieutenant in the unit and to allow them to feel they are a part of the unit's history right from the beginning of their military career."

For the lieutenant it becomes a lasting memory from their first unit.

"Traditions help us remember those before us and the sacrifices they made that brought us to where we stand now. They help us honor their memories," Raleigh stated. "The Bobcat is the unit mascot, true blue would assign authenticity to the fact that it the person carrying it was indeed the unit's cherry lieutenant."



1st Lt. Sean Raleigh, the S-1 officer-in-charge, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, empties the contents of the "True Blue Bobcat" rucksack which has been passed down to him as part of an ongoing tradition of initiating the youngest officer in the battalion.

13th Air Force 2008 Company Grade Officer of the Year

Story by Pfc. Alisha Nye
14th Public Affairs Detachment

“I ended up winning the 13th Air Force Company Grade Officer of the Year Award,” said Capt. Eric Sobecki, 1st Expeditionary Air Support Operations Squadron attached to 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division. “It’s a pretty good award – I had to win all the way down at the squadron level, then up to brigade and division and so on and so forth.”

Combinations of many different things are deliberated on when considering a nominee to win the award, said Sobecki.

“It goes into leadership, job performance, community and base

involvement and, also, self-improvement,” he said. “You have to be good at your job, be able to lead your guys well, accomplish the mission, improve upon yourself – whether that be through education or just physical fitness – and also, how well you’re involved with community service, base activities and things like that.”

Sobecki has accomplished numerous things in each of these categories within the last year.

“I took a group of my guys to Thailand and did a Thai air exercise – joint ops with the Thai Air Force,” Sobecki said. “I went to squadron officer school and got current in all job-related stuff and



Capt. Eric Sobecki, 1st Expeditionary Air Support Operations Squadron attached to 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

See Award, Page 22

Rapid Adaptation Initiative: communication with higher

Story by Pfc. Alisha Nye
14th Public Affairs Detachment

In the military it is not always easy for Soldiers to express ideas to individuals who outrank them. However, communication amongst troops of all ages and ranks, especially when someone has an idea that may save the lives of others, is an ideal that is important to key leaders of 25th Infantry Division units.

Both Brig. Gen. Robert Brown, deputy commanding general for support, 25th Inf. Div., and Col. Burt Thompson, commander, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Inf. Div., place a great deal of importance in open communications with their troops.

“They both value the receiving and sharing of information at the lowest rank level in order to save Soldier’s lives,” said Capt. Andre McCoy, Rapid Adaptation

Initiative coordinator, 1st SBCT.

This value is what is really at the heart of Rapid Adaptation Initiative, said McCoy.

“The origins of RAI are derived from Gen. Brown’s previous Operation Iraqi Freedom experiences when he lost Soldiers to house-borne improvised explosive devices,” McCoy said. “Various signs or signals could have been passed on and disseminated quickly if there was a better communication platform. That’s why we have this.”

Due to RAI and the miracle of modern technology, there are now two different ways for Soldiers to communicate their ideas, said McCoy.

“The first is the Soldier’s IdeaBlog and the second is Task Force Lightning Best Practices,” McCoy said of the two online services, both of which can be found at <http://taskforcelightning.id25.army.smil.mil>. “The blog works just like any other

online forum and can be found on the left hand side of the homepage.”

The TFL Best Practices happens to be a little more involved, McCoy admitted.

Any current practice a Soldier thinks is effective is eligible for upload to the portal,” McCoy said. “They can use a Microsoft Word document, PowerPoint slide, pictures and folders to transfer messages and lessons learned using Share Point.”

The point of the website is to get Soldiers to share the most potentially or actually impactful practices used to save Soldiers’ lives in a combat zone – a brutally important ideal McCoy and others are hopeful will spread.

“Colonel Sellin is the Task Force Lightning coordinator,” McCoy said. “He speculates something like this might be beneficial in the Afghanistan theater. We are hopeful that this will continue to grow.”

then spent a month going through Joint Terminal Attack Control qualification, which means I can control the aircraft and put bombs on target. I spun the whole squadron up and took them down to NTC in support of the brigade for the summertime then turned around and deployed all our guys over here. In the meantime, also, I was working the community service aspect.”

Sobecki’s laundry list of accomplishments that helped him win the award include, but are by no means limited to, volunteering to extend his assignment for three months in order to deploy, leading Airmen from three squadrons along

with over \$4 million of assets into a combat zone, facilitating in the capture of the number one high value individual in the Diyala Province of Iraq and coordinating his unit’s participation in local youth soccer, adoption centers and symphony benefits before deployment.

Despite Sobecki’s many achievements, he credits others for a job well done.

“When you’ve got a great group of Airmen and guys working for you, it helps,” he said. “It helps when you’ve got guys who do what you ask them and put 110 percent in. They make me look good as well as they make themselves and the squadron and the unit itself look good.”

Though Sobecki was the one recognized, he feels the award reflects the work of every person in his unit.

“We’ve been doing some good things. It lets me know we’re coming together and doing the job and the mission well.”

Sobecki said he couldn’t have done it without the work of everyone around him.

“Liking the job and the people I work with, like the brigade itself and the commander, when there’s a great staff and commander, it makes my job easier because we integrate well and work well together well,” Sobecki said and continued with a smile. “I can’t do it all myself. If I did it all myself, I’d probably have more gray hair.”

Surgeon recognized for valorous service

Story by Pfc. Alisha Nye
14th Public Affairs Detachment

The line between upholding a policy and saving a person’s life is one that medics and doctors with the 25th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division walk every day.

This line was embodied on the night of Jan. 23, when Maj. Mary Reed, brigade surgeon for 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div., and her team received a phone call from Baqubah General Hospital, located in the Diyala Province of Iraq, requesting assistance with an injured Iraqi Army Soldier.

“He was involved in a rollover accident and the report that we were receiving was that he was already at Baqubah General Hospital,” Reed said. “However, he had injuries that were exceeding their capabilities.”

The staff at the hospital was unable to control the Soldier’s bleeding and requested further assistance. Once the Soldier reached

Forward Operating Base Warhorse, medics and doctors there were able to provide the Soldier with the care he needed to stop the bleeding.

“He actually had a penetrating injury to his groin that was bleeding,” Reed said. “We packed it with combat gauze, we were able to stop the bleeding. Then we worked along with the flight medics to get him ready to transport to Balad.”

The commander of 5th Iraqi Army Division, Maj. Gen. Khalid Jawad Kathem, was appreciative of the medical care provided to his Soldier and chose to recognize Reed with an award.

“He presented me with a meritorious service medal,” Reed said. “It’s basically to commemorate a valorous service provided.”

Reed insists she did nothing more than her job and credits the medics and doctors at the Brigade Support Medical Center more than herself.

“It was a team effort with all the medics and docs over at the BSMC,” Reed said. “We were just doing our medical duty.”

This duty is one that can come into question with the specific policies set out by Multi-National Division-North as well as Multi-National Corps-Iraq.

“Technically, what we’re trying to do is establish the Iraqi medical system to be able to do this for themselves,” Reed said. “We do assist, however, we’re moving more and more toward letting the Iraqis try to progress in their own medical capabilities.”

In this case, Reed believes the right decision was made.

“Policies aside, I think the people on the ground did what they had to do. They saw someone in need and they addressed the issue, which was, ‘We need to save this person’s life.’”

Reed said the real credit for this “service” goes elsewhere..

“The medics and the docs over at the aid station are the real heroes because they do this every day,” she said. “I just happen to be able to work with them.”

Chaplain's Corner

Build People:

By this time everyone has a battle rhythm and is completely engaged in the mission. This may be a good time to remind ourselves to attend to our personal spiritual needs, as well as our families and those we lead. The spiritual, moral and attitudinal strength we have as Soldiers and as a unit will ultimately determine our success, both in the mission and in life.

During World War II, General George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff of the Army said, "I look upon the spiritual life of the Soldier as even more important than his physical equipment. The Soldier's heart, the Soldier's spirit and the Soldier's soul are everything. Unless the Soldier's soul sustains him he cannot be relied upon and will fail himself and his country in the end."

Here's a few challenging questions that will hopefully cause each of us to stop, reflect and make appropriate adjustments to our daily lives. What am I doing to strengthen my spiritual life and relationship with God? Is that enough? While I am deployed, what am I doing to strengthen or

facilitate the spiritual lives and relational health of my family, those around me and those I lead?

When we ask ourselves those questions it's easy to think, "Well, that's probably not my job." I have a strong personal belief that we should be "our brother's keeper" and always look after the welfare of those around us. John Maxwell asks the question, "Am I building people or building my dream and using people to do it?"

It's really not that hard to build people. Sometimes it's just a word of encouragement or expressing appreciation for a good effort or hard work--even if they're not in our family, squad or company. Perhaps in some way or another, we should all be "people builders." If we find that God has blessed us to a position of leadership, it is important to remember that what we say can carry a lot of weight (positive or negative), even if it's only a short phrase or expression.

Since my wife and I were first married, we have endeavored to live by the ethic to "build big people" in our family, our faith, and our community. We believe lives are changed and significant missions are accomplished when this is a main effort in the family and



Chaplain (Maj.) Roderick Mills

all other relationships in life. Dr. Jack Hayford once wrote, "People quickly ascertain whether we are building them or using them." This is probably a healthy question we should occasionally ask ourselves. Am I accomplishing the mission while building people; or am I more often using people to simply get the mission done?

During this busy time, let's remember to encourage those around us. Exhort them to pursue healthy relationships, fulfill their God-given destiny and build people.

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
CPL Michael Mayne, A Company, 5th Squadron, 1st U.S. Cavalry Regiment, 9 Oct 1987 - 23 Feb 2009
CPL Micheal Alleman, A Company, 5th Squadron, 1st U.S. Cavalry Regiment, 19 Jan 1978 - 23 Feb 2009
CPL Zachary Nordmeyer, A Company, 5th Squadron, 1st U.S. Cavalry Regiment, 5 Aug 1987 - 23 Feb 2009
Military Working Dog, Jok, Brigade Troops Battalion, 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 Wolf 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!

