

A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY THROUGH MND-S

# THE SANDSTORM

عاصفة رملية

THE SANDSTORM

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AUGUST 2009



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# BEHIND THE COVER PHOTOGRAPHS

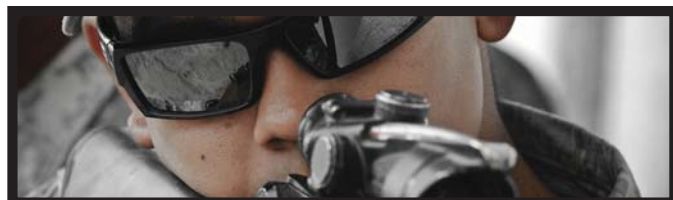
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SPC. DARRYL MONTGOMERY



THE SOLE SOURCE OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE IRAQ BORDER POLICE STATIONED AT A SMALL OUTPOST NEAR THE IRAQ AND IRAN BORDER.



IRAQI BORDER POLICE LISTEN TO THE INSTRUCTION FOR THE DAYS TRAINING. AMERICAN SOLDIERS TRAINED THE POLICE EVERYDAY OF THE WEEK, EXCEPT FRIDAY, TO RECOGNIZE THE MUSLIM HOLY DAY AND GOMAAH PRAYER.



AN AMERICAN SOLDIER TAKES AIM DURING A DEMONSTRATION FOR HIS IRAQI COUNTERPARTS AT A SMALL OUTPOST NEAR THE IRAQ AND IRAN BORDER.

# MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

The Sandstorm is now in its second month of publication. Every month the editorial staff of the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division public affairs showcases the very best professional and amateur photographers in Multi-National Division-South, that is to say the units who send us photos for consideration. All of the units in MND-S have excellent photographers, and we urge you to submit your best work. Vanity often runs high in the field of public affairs; we will accept all the glory if you let us.

As always, The Sandstorm will allow a degree of photo manipulation to include hue and saturation, dodging and burning, contrast, clarity and custom white balance in order to achieve the photographer's vision. The original content of the photo will not be altered; however liberal adjustment will be authorized. Any photo which

does not accurately depict the originally captured subject will be labeled photo illustration.

This month's photo essay will take a look at the life of men training to become border police on the Iraq/Iran border as seen through the lens of Spc. Darryl Montgomery.

This month's photo contest challenges photographers to use leading lines to guide the viewers' eyes to the focal point, or subject, of their photo. The origin of photo submissions will not be taken into account when selecting photographs for publication. In short, only the best will be selected, regardless of who the photographer may be.

Please enjoy The Sandstorm and make any comments or recommendations to Sandstorm@TheRedBulls.org.

"I wish that all of nature's magnificence, the emotion of the land, the living energy of place could be photographed."

- Annie Leibovitz

# SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS TO THE SANDSTORM!

- Any individual in MND-S may submit photos taken within MND-S to The Sandstorm.
- Photos must be submitted in the largest file size possible.
- If photos have been edited, submit an edited and an unedited version of the photo.
- Ensure photos don't contain classified or secret information. Consult your Public Affairs section if unsure.
- Rename photos as such: rank-first name-last name-sequence#  
Example: Sgt-John-Smith-001, Sgt-John-Smith-002
- Submissions can be made one of two ways:
  - CD or DVD brought by the PAO section in Division HQ  
Label CD's/DVD's as follows: ATTN: Sgt. Eric Jungels  
Rank, first and last name
  - E-mail photos to Sandstorm@TheRedBulls.org
- Advanced photographers using DSLR's are asked to take and submit photos in RAW format.

A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY THROUGH MND-S

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41ST FIRES BRIGADE  
343RD MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT  
193RD MILITARY POLICE BATTALION  
TASK FORCE 28  
SPECIAL TROOPS BATTALION, 34TH INF. DIV.  
450TH CIVIL AFFAIRS BATTALION (AIRBORNE)



# BORDER POLICE

PHOTO ESSAY

PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
SPC. DARRYL MONTGOMERY

# FEATURED PHOTO ESSAY: BORDER POLICE

(RIGHT) AMERICAN SOLDIERS DEMONSTRATE THE PROPER WAY TO STACK ON A WALL FOR ROOM CLEARING TO THEIR IRAQI COUNTERPARTS. (BELOW) AN AK-47, THE WEAPON OF THE IRAQI BORDER POLICE, RESTS IN THE BACK OF A TRUCK DURING A BREAK FROM TRAINING. THE AK-47 IS A RUSSIAN DEVELOPED WEAPON FROM THE 1940S AND FIRES A 7.62MM ROUND.



(ABOVE) THE IRAQI BORDER POLICE COPY WHAT THEIR AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS HAVE TAUGHT THEM BY STACKING ON A WALL TO CLEAR A ROOM. (LEFT) UNITED STATES BORDER PATROL PERSONNEL PARTICIPATE IN TRAINING THE IRAQI BORDER POLICE STATIONED NEAR THE IRAQ AND IRAN BORDER, BUT SAID THE BORDERS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE ENTIRELY DIFFERENT THE TERMS OF WHAT THEY ARE GUARDING FROM.

FEATURED PHOTO ESSAY: BORDER POLICE



IRAQI BORDER  
POLICE REST  
AGAINST THE SIDE  
OF A TRUCK DURING  
A BREAK FROM A  
LONG DAY OF WORK.

# FEATURED PHOTO ESSAY: BORDER POLICE

(RIGHT) AN AMERICAN SOLDIER TAKES AIM DURING A DEMONSTRATION FOR HIS IRAQI COUNTERPARTS AT A SMALL OUTPOST NEAR THE IRAQ AND IRAN BORDER.

(BELOW) AN IRAQI BORDER POLICEMAN PRACTICES TARGET ACQUISITION DURING BATTLE-DRILL TRAINING WITH SOLDIERS FROM THE BTT 10613 RECENTLY AT AN OUTPOST NEAR THE IRAQI BORDER. THE SOLDIERS TRAIN WITH THE IRAQIS SIX DAYS A WEEK.



(ABOVE) AMERICAN SOLDIERS SPENT NUMEROUS WEEKS TRAINING THE IRAQI BORDER POLICE STATIONED NEAR THE IRAQ AND IRAN BORDER ON HOW TO BE ABLE TO BETTER CUT DOWN ON THE SMUGGLING OF ILLEGAL ITEMS ACROSS THE BORDER.

(LEFT) AT ATTENTION, THE IRAQI BORDER POLICE LISTEN TO THE INSTRUCTION FOR THE DAYS TRAINING. AMERICAN SOLDIERS TRAINED THE POLICE EVERYDAY OF THE WEEK, EXCEPT FRIDAY, TO RECOGNIZE THE MUSLIM HOLY DAY, GOMAAH PRAYER.

# DHI QAR

PHOTOGRAPHY AND STORY BY  
STAFF SGT. DEREK M. SMTIH

ON A DUSTY STRETCH OF ROAD JUST OUTSIDE CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, RESTS THIS OLD TRUCK.

AT LEAST, AT SOME POINT IN THE NOT-SO-DISTANT PAST IT WAS A TRUCK. NOW IT IS LITTLE MORE THAN A PILE OF METAL IN THE SHAPE OF A TRUCK.

THE VEHICLE SITS ABANDONED, STRIPPED OF ITS PAINT, ITS INSTRUMENTS AND ANYTHING OF ANY REMOTE USE. WITH ITS PARTS REMOVED, SO IS ITS PURPOSE.

IT'S MIDMORNING AND THE SUN HAS ALREADY STARTED POUNDING ONCE AGAIN UPON ITS HULL. DULLED, SAND-BLASTED AND SUN-BAKED, IT LAY SLIGHTLY TILTED IN THE FIELD NEXT TO A PILE OF OLD METAL POLES. THEY ARE ITS ONLY COMPANIONS.

THERE IS AN AIR OF SADNESS HERE THAT ISN'T EASILY EXPLAINED. IT SEEMS AS THOUGH IT KNOWS THE DAYS AHEAD ARE FEWER THAN THOSE BEHIND.

HOW DID THIS TRUCK FINALLY FIND THIS SPOT TO REST? IT'S IMBEDDED IN THE GROUND UP TO ITS CHASSIS AS IF IT PLANTED ROOTS. IT'S AS IF IT SAID, "ENOUGH ALREADY. THIS IS WHERE I'M STAYING."

ONE CAN ALMOST SENSE WARINESS FROM THE OLD GIRL UPON APPROACH. CURIOSITY HAS GOTTEN THE BETTER OF ME. I CAN'T RESIST. THE AREA IS SECURE AND MY REASON FOR BEING HERE IS A BIT OF A BUST ANYWAY.

CAMERA IN HAND, I APPROACH HER AND ASK IF IT'S ALL RIGHT IF I LOOK AROUND. I DON'T GET A RESPONSE, NOT A DISCERNABLE ONE ANYWAY.

THE CAMERA LOVES HER. THE ELEMENTS HAVE WORN AWAY ALL GLAMOUR AND FLAIR SHE ONCE HAD. THERE IS ONLY THE CORE OF WHAT SHE WAS. I LOOK CLOSER.

THE SEATS ARE GONE. SHE HAS NO ENGINE. EVEN THE INSTRUMENTS AND STEERING WHEEL ARE GONE. I FIGURE THEY WERE PUT TO GOOD USE ELSEWHERE, BUT I WILL NEVER KNOW. THE OBLIGING ORGAN DONOR BIDS ME A BIT

CLOSER. I REACH OUT.

THE METAL IS HOT AND ROUGH. THE SUN AND WIND HAVE CERTAINLY TAKEN THEIR TOLL, BUT THE CORE IS SOUND. IT DOES NOT GIVE.

I LEAN IN AND GAZE THROUGH THE WINDSHIELD, OR LACK THEREOF. I'M LOOKING THROUGH HER EYES, SO TO SPEAK.

SHE WATCHES OVER A BARREN FIELD TO A DISTANT SITE WHERE IRAQI-BASED INDUSTRIAL ZONE WORKERS HAVE STAKED THEIR CLAIM AND SET UP SHOP BY COB ADDER. IT'S AS IF SHE'S WATCHING OVER THEM.

IS THERE HOPE IN THE CAB OF THIS OLD TRUCK?

SHE'S A RELIC OF THE PAST, ABANDONED FOR WHATEVER REASON UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH I MAY NEVER KNOW. SHE SITS ON THIS SPOT KEEPING VIGIL OVER A PROSPECT FOR THE FUTURE. IS THIS IRONY WITHIN AN IRON CHASSIS?

THERE IS A KINSHIP HERE THAT I REGRETFULLY ACCEPT. I HAD RESIGNED MYSELF TO THE REALITY THAT I WASN'T GETTING ANY YOUNGER. MY PAST HAS TAKEN A TOLL ON ME AND ALL I REALLY HAVE TO COUNT ON IS THE CORE OF WHO I AM.

THE WIND HAS PICKED UP A BIT AND STINGS MY EYES. THEY WATER AND I WIPE THEM QUICKLY ON MY SLEEVE. IT WAS JUST THE WIND . . . REALLY.

A TRUCK PULLS UP. IT'S A LOT NEWER AND STILL HAS YEARS OF LIFE BEFORE IT. MY COMPATRIOTS ARE WAITING FOR ME TO LEAVE. I DON'T WANT TO, BUT EVEN I REALIZE THAT THE PAST IS THE PAST FOR A REASON. IT'S NOT NOW.

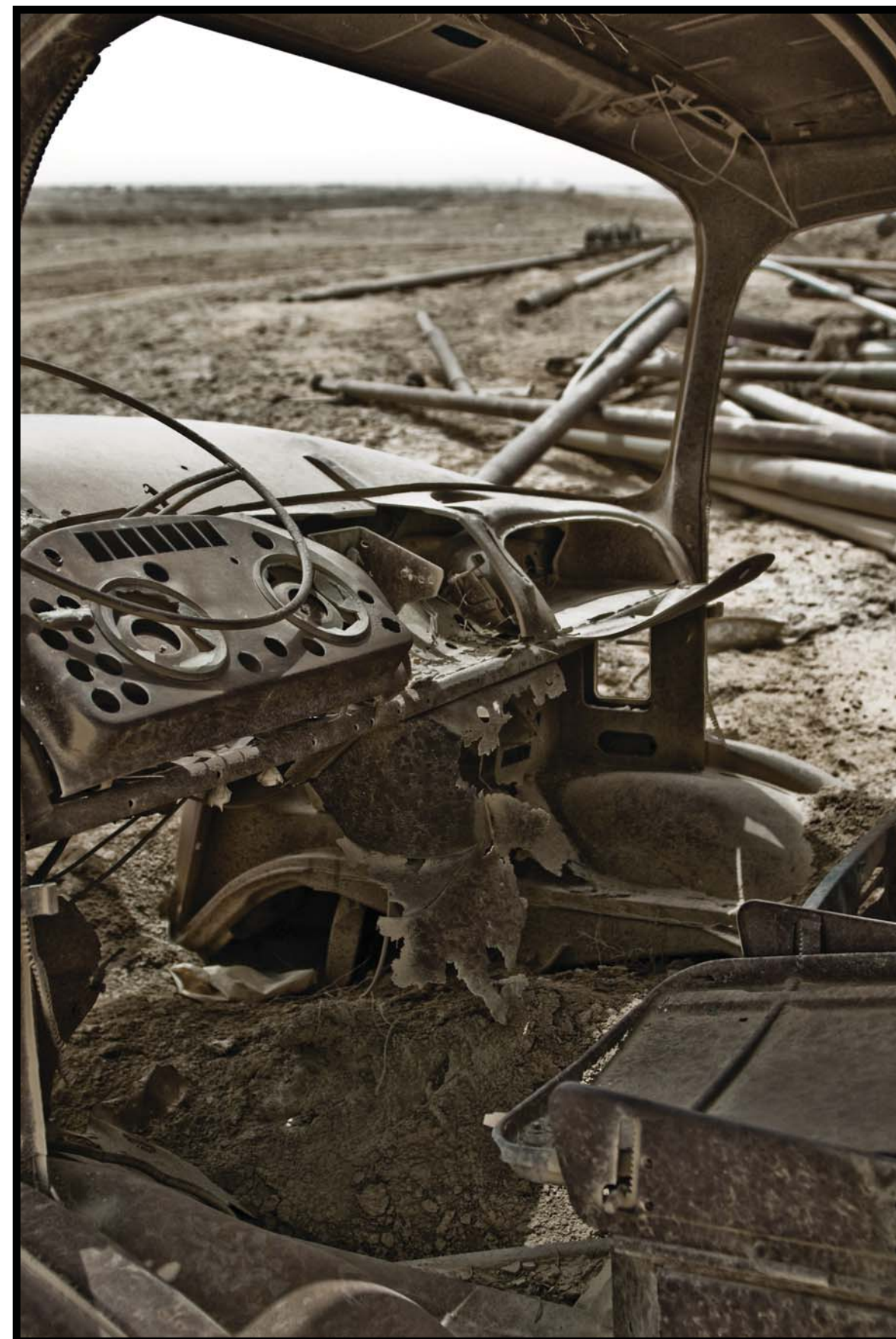
I CLIMB INTO THE SHINY SILVER PICK-UP AND SHUT THE DOOR. I TAKE ONE LAST LOOK BACK AT THE OLD GIRL AND SMILE.

I FELT SHE HAD NO PURPOSE ANYMORE. NOW, I'M NOT SO SURE. SHE RESUMES HER VIGIL OVER THE FIELD AS WE START TO PULL AWAY.

I TOO, HAVE A FIELD TO WATCH OVER AND I NEED TO GET BACK SOON.

I COULD SWEAR THAT TRUCK IS SMILING BACK AT ME.

I MAY HAVE BEEN OUT IN THE SUN TOO LONG.



BASRAH  
البصرة

PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
SPC. TYLER MAULDING



AN IRAQI WORKER, ASSEMBLING  
A NEW WATER TANK AT A  
TREATMENT FACILITY UNDERGOING  
MAJOR RENOVATIONS UNDER A  
STATE DEPARTMENT PROJECT,  
TAKES A MOMENT TO SURVEY THE  
DAYS PROGRESS





PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
SPC. TYLER MAULDING

AN AMERICAN SOLDIER KEEPS A  
WATCHFUL EYE WHILE GUARDING A  
TOUR THROUGH A WATER TREATMENT  
FACILITY UNDERGOING RENOVATIONS,  
NEAR COB BASRA.

# BASRAH

البصرة

PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
SPC. TYLER MAULDING



AN IRAQI WORKER  
ASSEMBLES A WATER TANK  
DURING RENOVATIONS OF A  
WATER TREATMENT FACILITY  
JUST OUTSIDE OF BASRA,  
IRAQ.



SPC. THOMAS  
MARES, 1ST  
BATTALION,  
2ND INFANTRY  
REGIMENT, E  
CORNER OF A  
BUILDING TO PULL  
SECURITY DURING  
A MILITARY  
OPERATIONS  
ON URBANIZED  
TERRAIN TRAINING  
EXERCISE.

# BASRAH **البصرة**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
SPC. STEPHANIE CASSINOS



A HORSE DRAWN CARRIAGE ADDS A BUSTLE OF COMMERCE TO THE LITTERED STREETS OF AL QUERNA. IN MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION SOUTH, AGRICULTURE IS IMPERATIVE TO THE ECONOMIC GROWTH OF IRAQ, WITH A WORK FORCE THAT IS APPROXIMATELY 70 PERCENT FEMALE.

# BASRAH البصرة

PHOTOGRAPY BY  
CHEIF WARRENT OFFICER  
MATHEW ROWLEY



TWO MARINE CORPS AH-1W SUPER COBRAS ON THEIR FINAL APPROACH TO WASHINGTON PAD IN BAGDAD, IRAQ. THE BELL AH-1W SUPER COBRA IS A TWIN-ENGINE ATTACK HELICOPTER BASED ON THE US ARMY'S AH-1 COBRA. THE AH-1W IS CONSIDERED THE BACKBONE OF THE U.S. MARINE CORPS ATTACH HELICOPTER FLEET.



(LEFT) A EUROPEAN MADE FIRE EXTINGUISHER LEFT BY BRITISH AIRMEN IN FRONT OF A EMPTY WATER POINT AT THE BASRA FORWARD ARMING AND REFUELING POINT. (BELOW) M240D MACHINE GUN SHELLS KICKED OUT OF A UH-60 BLACK HAWK HELICOPTER AFTER A WEAPONS FUNCTION TEST. THE M240D IS AN AIRCRAFT CONFIGURED VERSION OF THE M240B USED BY THE U.S. ARMY AND MARINE CORPS. BOTH WEAPONS FIRE 7.62MM ROUNDS.



# BASRAH

البصرة

PHOTOGRAPY BY  
CHEIF WARRENT OFFICER  
MATHEW ROWLEY



SGT. JUSTIN THOMPSON PERFORMS A DAILY INSPECTION AS THE SUN SINKS IN THE WEST. EVERY EVENING, AFTER AN AIRCRAFT COMPLETES ITS MISSION, SOLDIERS INSPECT THE VEHICLE FOR POTENTIAL MAINTENANCE ISSUES.



WITH VISIBILITY BELOW HALF A MILE THE BASRA AIRPORT CONTROL TOWER AND A BLACK HAWK HELICOPTER WAIT DURING A DUST STORM AT 5 A.M.

# PHOTO WORKSHOP

One of the things separating the Army Reserve and National Guard from the active Army is that Reserve and Guard Soldiers tend to have full time jobs outside the military.

This is no different in the realm of public affairs. Though there are truck drivers and accountants among its ranks, there are also a few professional photographers.

The photo workshops instituted by the 343rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment are intended to further the skills of its military photojournalists as well as its professional photographers. However, the workshops are open to anyone wishing to

further their photography skills.

The subject for the first photo workshop held in May was high and low-key lighting.

For this month's photography workshop, the focus was inanimate objects. Photographers set out in search of interesting patterns, textures, shapes and lighting.

Several photographers expressed an interest in capturing the stunning sun rises with their beautiful colors the desert is blessed with.

Leaving at 4 A.M. the photographers set out to see what there was to be seen and hopefully come back with some equally beautiful images to share.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
STAFF SGT. KRISTEN KING



PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
STAFF SGT. KRISTEN KING

These images by Staff Sgt. Kristen King, a MND-S PAO broadcaster, capture the elegant curves and sharp angular corners of a stack of roofing sheet-metal.

King shot a series of shots from every angle she could manage, looking for a pleasing composition. Her diligence in photographing the roofing material from different sides, angles, distances and heights was rewarded with two contrasting captures of the same object.

The photograph on the opposing page features the harsh edges and corners of the razor sharp material as well as the menacing curls that form the joints.

Converting the image to black and white and increasing mid-tone contrast accentuates the sharp edges and the harsh early morning

lighting.

The image above highlights gentle curves lots of texture and soft lighting.

King achieved this look by carefully composing the shot so the early morning sun rests just below the top of the stack, giving the photograph a beautiful glow near the top, while the rest of the image is illuminated by soft light reflecting off the surrounding area. The curves and ribs of the metal direct the viewer's eye through the entire image ultimately landing on the glow of the sun at the top on the image.

Reminiscent of the sun setting behind a rolling hillside, King's image perfectly demonstrates how careful, thoughtful composition can produce a photograph that brings a completely inanimate object to life.

# PHOTO WORKSHOP

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SPC. TYLER MAULDING



LAUNDRY FROM IRAQI WORKERS, WHO BUILD THE CONCRETE BARRIERS PRESENT ON EVERY COALITION BASE TO PROTECT FROM INDIRECT FIRE, HANGS ON A FENCE TO DRY.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY STAFF SGT. KRISTEN KING



A MERCEDES BENZ EMBLEM ON THE GRILL OF A TRUCK.



BAGS OF 'CAMEL BRAND' CEMENT STACKED NEAR A CONSTRUCTION SITE ON COB BASRA





