

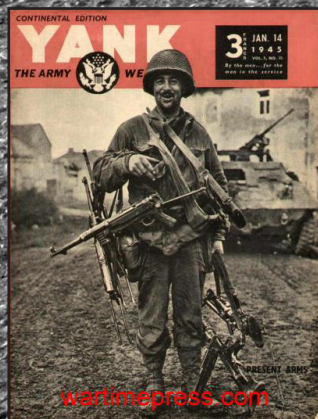
# YANK

THE SPARTAN 2 BI-LY



**F** JAN. 31  
**R** 2010  
**E** VOL. 1, NO. 3

*By the Soldiers... for the  
Soldiers in the service*



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## On the cover:



Photo Illustration By  
Pfc. Gregory Gieske

ON THE COVER: A Spartan Soldier is donned with several combat weapons including the M-4 rifle and the M-240B machine gun in recreation of the Jan. 14, 1945 issue of the Yank.

BACK COVER: Spartan Soldiers bring Super Bowl sensation with them to northern Iraq.



# Brigade Commander

**T**o all the Spartans: Here at the end of January we have thus far accomplished everything we have set out to do. We have taken over the most difficult area of northern Iraq and have re-established order and security. The level of discipline our Spartan Soldiers have exhibited as been phenomenal. You come by this discipline honestly. Sixty-six years ago this month, your forbearers landed on the beachhead of Anzio in Italy to establish lodgement areas behind the German's main line of resistance in order to divert the enemy's focus from U.S. forces approaching from the south. The 3rd Infantry Division landed, dug in and defended four months of enemy attacks. The enemy used everything they had available to them to push the 3rd Infantry and the 504th PIR back into the ocean, from tanks to airplanes to railway guns. Nothing the enemy could throw at those *dogfaces* could break or move the *Rock of the Marne*. Our heroes from Anzio of the Second War would be rightfully proud of you, today's *Blue and White Devils*, and of your



actions: the way you have dug-in at your CCPs and are holding the line against anything that can be thrown against you. Your fighting spirit and stubbornness as defenders is without question. Your actions have spoken louder than your words. The actions exhibited by Company A, 1st Battalion, 64th Armor on the evening of the 30th of January have proven your collective skill and expertise. This is seen in the actions of Staff Sergeant Arthur, Specialist Collins and their fellow *Marne men* in the Company's action to engage and destroy enemy forces that were attempting to kill their brothers in arms. Their quick, decisive, lethal action and the calmness they exhibited in contact is a credit to all those who have worn the Marne patch and is a testament to the quality of Soldiers we have in our ranks. I am blessed to be serving with you. **ROCK OF THE MARNE!** See you on the battlefield. . .

**SEND ME!  
Spartan 6**

## 2nd HBCT Commander

Col. Charles E.A. Sexton

## 2nd HBCT PAO OIC

Maj. Stephen Holt

[stephen.g.holt@us.army.mil](mailto:stephen.g.holt@us.army.mil)

## 2nd HBCT PAO NCOIC/Editor

Master Sgt. Duff E. McFadden

[duff.mcfadden@2bct3id.army.mil](mailto:duff.mcfadden@2bct3id.army.mil)

## 2nd HBCT Writer/Layout Design

Spc. Dustin Gautney

## 2nd HBCT Broadcaster

Spc. Crystal Witherspoon

## 2nd HBCT Writer/Layout Design

Spc. Crystal M. O'Neal

## Graphic Design/Photography

Pfc. Gregory Gieske

The *Spartan Newsletter* is published in the interest of the Soldiers, Families and friends of the 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. Contents of the *Spartan Newsletter* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or the 3rd Infantry Division. All editorial content of the *Spartan Newsletter* is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division Public Affairs Office.

# Command Sergeant Major

In preparation for the challenges that we may face in Ninewa Province during the upcoming months, I ask all Spartan Brigade Noncommissioned Officers to remain vigilant, and place significant emphasis on security and force protection. This must be emphasized in all of our daily activities, specifically during mission briefings and rehearsals. We must take a deliberate approach in all of our mission planning and execution. So far, our Soldiers have performed their duties in an extraordinary manner, which is attributed to the great leaders and Soldiers within the Spartan Brigade Combat Team. I ask that we remain focused on our mission while simultaneously looking out for the welfare of our Soldiers. Together, we will create our own prestigious history in Iraq as the modern-day Dogface Soldiers of the Spartan Brigade and the 3rd Infantry Division.



like our Soldiers to take advantage of training opportunities for MOS proficiency and to sharpen their warfighting skills. I would also like our Soldiers to focus on self-development through online military and civilian courses. Dedicate at least two hours per day toward physical training to achieve your fitness goals. The result of your hard work, initiative, and discipline will increase your survivability on the battlefield and enhance your chances for a brilliant Army career.

Valentine's Day is quickly approaching, and I highly encourage all Spartan Soldiers to send cards and flowers to their loved ones for Valentine's Day. Congratulations to SFC(P) Isaac Harris and SFC(P) Stephen Kulka of 26th BSB on their selection for promotion to MSG.

**SEND ME!  
Spartan 7**

During 2nd quarter fiscal year 2010, I would



## SEND ME...

Spartans case their colors in Oct. 2009 as they prepare to move out to Operation Iraqi Freedom VII.



Spartan Soldiers fire weapons at the range in Kuwait, gearing up for the forward push into Iraq early Nov. 2009.



3rd ID Soldiers receive their deployment patches during a ceremony after being on ground thirty days in northern Iraq.



A few days later, Spartans receive duffle bags securing essentials the warriors need to assume responsibility for their new area of operations.



2nd HBCT command team uncases 2nd HBCT, 3rd ID colors Dec. 2009, signifying the brigade's official change of responsibility of the Ninewa



Spartan Soldiers train with Iraqi Security Forces, carrying out their mission of assisting and supporting ISF and the Iraqi people Jan. 2009.





DAY 90

COMBAT

# **Spartans:** mission ready, mission focused

As 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division Spartan Soldiers progress into their deployment to northern Iraq, they are on their toes, assisting and training Iraqi Security Forces, in order to form a stronger and more stable Iraq.

# Iraqi Security Forces train along with Spartans as ISF prepares for elections



Story By 2nd Lt. Joseph G. Jankovich, 1-36th IN.  
Photos By Spc. Crystal M. O'Neal, 2nd HBCT, 3ID



**Colonel Charles E. A. Sexton, 2nd HBCT, 3ID commander awards American, Iraqi, and Peshmerga warriors that participated in Combined Check Point Training exercises during a graduation at Forward Operating Base Marez in northern Iraq in January 2010.**

Iraqi security took a huge step closer to being under a single, united government. Soldiers from the United States Army, Iraqi Army, Iraqi Police and Peshmerga recently began taking part in training exercises in preparation for combined checkpoint operations. These multinational forces will build, secure and operate checkpoints in support of Iraqi election security. With every uniformed Iraqi equally hoping for a peaceful election and return of Iraq to worldwide

prominence, these security forces cast aside cultural and political differences for a noble, common goal. They understand the true enemy are the ones the training they are undergoing, will help defeat.

Iraqi and United States military leaders designated several key locations for combined checkpoints to operate. These strategically placed locales will be fully operational and ensure Mosul's border security well before the March 7th elections.

This five-day training program prepares mul-

tinational Soldiers for numerous challenges they may encounter while inspecting vehicles entering and exiting Mosul. These troops learn personnel and vehicle search techniques and how to apply escalation of force measures properly. Instructors also demonstrate different firing techniques, how to secure dangerous locations and safekeeping responsibilities.

The majority of training occurs during the day, but the Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment say learning does not stop with the completion of daily training. Rather, Pfc. James Wilcox, a Combat Medic, proudly describes the skills learned that cross cultural and lingual boundaries as learning “to talk to each other without verbal communication.” The medic excelled to such a degree at these tasks that the 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division Commander, Col. Charles E. A. Sexton recognized Pfc. Wilcox for his exceptional performance during a training exercise. The young Soldier stated, “By the time graduation came up, we were all joking around.

“It’s about trying to show that Iraqi Forces, Peshmerga Forces and American Forces can cooperate in providing basic security for people around Mosul, in order to participate in free democratic elections,” said Lt. Col. Chris Connolly.

We learned some of their cultural dances and we even ended up teaching them how to sing, ‘Sweet Caroline.’ One of our guys even taught them how to dance hip-hop style!”

As formal training accomplishes the goal of multinational forces interacting via a common tactical language, a second critical goal of this project lies in creating unit cohesion between combined security forces—a crucial element in promoting safety and protecting the checkpoints, outlying towns and city that give Mosul its wondrous mystique.

While there are four uniforms in attendance, there is one unmistakable goal for these Soldiers wearing the uniforms: a peaceful democratic election

in Iraq. No ethnic background or political agenda supersedes that. Yet even with the serious goal and gravity of the legacy of Iraq on their shoulders, every American and Iraqi present has built stronger relationships and grown from their experiences. The band of Soldiers in training slowly begins to turn into a band of brothers.

“It’s about perceptions,” explains Lt. Col. Chris Connolly, 1-36 Infantry Commander. “It’s about trying to show that Iraqi Forces, Peshmerga Forces and American Forces can cooperate in providing basic security for people around Mosul in order to participate in free democratic elections.”



**Spartan Soldiers, along with an ISF member present American, Iraqi, and Spartan colors during the graduation ceremony held for ISF and American forces completing check point training held on Forward Operating Base Marez in northern Iraq.**



## Engineers keep routes safe

Story and Photos By 1st Lt Todd Gibson,  
2-3 BTB

**A**t 3 a.m. in the morning, long before the sun's first rays of light could be seen over Forward Operating Base Marez located in northern Iraq, 2nd Lt. Thaddeus Pickett addressed his platoon of engineers from Echo Company, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, now attached to the 2-3 Brigade Troops Battalion. The route was clarified, the mission plainly laid out, yet the tone remained that of stoic sobriety mixed with dry humor to ease the mood.

2nd Lt. Pickett commanded his Soldiers to mount their vehicles and within minutes, the engines were turned over and they were on the move.

The Buffalo Mine Protected Clearance Vehicle was the centerpiece of this patrol. Impressively armored, it has the capability to move to a possible improvised explosive device and interrogate it with its' hydraulic arm mounted to its hull. Once leaving the relative safety of the base, it was clear the engineers operated with a heightened sense of observation.

Staff Sergeant Matthew Ervin scanned up and down the road with his Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station (CROWS), using thermal imaging to pick up any traces of heat that could be an indicator of hidden explosives.

When asked about how frequently his platoon conducts their clearance missions, he calmly replied, "We are on the road constantly. For the first month it was sometimes 12 to 18 hours every day. Luckily, things have eased up some, but long missions on the road can still be grueling."

It was a statement of reality; there was no hint of frustration in his voice. Staff Sergeant Ervin

clearly understood the importance of his job: by ensuring these routes were free of roadside bombs or any other type of enemy activity, they are doing their part to save fellow Soldiers' lives.

As the patrol rumbled along the highway, the engineers passed Iraqi Army and police checkpoints dotted along the countryside. The guards would stand up and wave or nod their heads in acknowledgement. Children playing a small game of soccer stopped to run over and watch as the towering route clearance vehicles slowly drove by.

On occasion, a joke would be said, a short conversation had. The driver, Pfc. Timothy McCall, hummed a quiet tune to himself - but his eyes were always on the road.

Then a voice rang out on the radio "Did you see that?" were clearly heard by the crew of the Buffalo. The crew members in the lead vehicle had noticed a fresh dirt mound on the side of

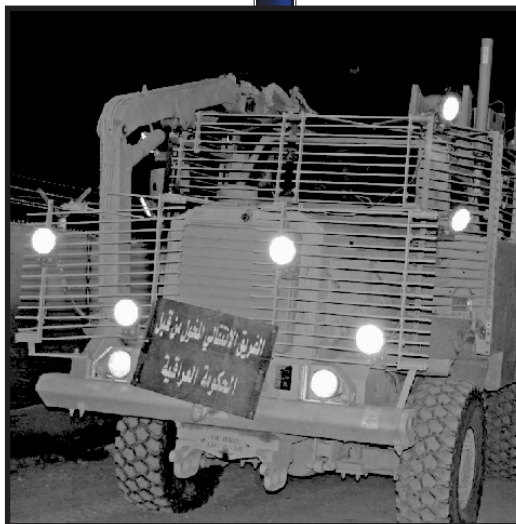
the street, and the order was given for Staff Sgt. Ervin's Buffalo to investigate.

After the Buffalo had driven within a few meters of the mound, Sgt. Jason Mawhinney took the controls of the hydraulic arm and slowly maneuvered it down. The arm's claw swept back and forth uncovering the pile of dirt but produced no suspicious material. This time it was clear, but with an ever-present threat, it was a necessary diversion from just continuing along the route.

Their patrols not only provide force protection to the constant convoys travelling the streets they clear, but the information compiled from these missions help uncover

patterns of enemy behavior, IED hot spots, and emplacement time windows.

They returned that day without any significant incidents, but the engineers of Echo Company understand this was just one day of many to come. These Soldiers will continue to ensure the safety of appointed routes until the last U.S. troops come home.



Spartan Soldiers use the Buffalo Mine Protected Clearance Vehicle to ensure safety of heavily traveled routes.



Story and Photos By  
1st Lt. David Seligman  
1-4 Cavalry

## Task Force Marne Soldiers step up to border challenge

After a four hour drive, the scouts of 3rd platoon Apache Troop have made the journey to the Syrian border. It's a three day on and three day off mission that serves the purpose of interdicting foreign facilitators and fighters who cross the border into Iraq. Like a lot of other Soldiers, many of these warriors are on their second or third tour and know what to expect on a border mission. For the new Soldiers assigned to protecting the border, however, they often find themselves mentally struggling with what they are doing.

Having grown up during a time of conflict, these new guys have only had the news as a reference of what Iraq might be like. Nineteen year old Pfc. Harrison Wood explains, "I thought everyday we would be walking down dusty urban streets, and getting in firefights. Not like spending a day driving out to the Syrian 13 and waiting for people to cross it at night."

The other Soldiers share his sentiment. Pfc. James Labrador, a 21- year-old New York City resident compares the mission on the border to being a security guard.

After their sister platoon interdicts a group of cigarette smugglers, spirits seem to rise. Now there is competition among the platoon and they all have a focused goal – catch more border crossers than the other platoon. The confusion that was in the new Soldiers is beginning to disappear. If nothing else, they don't want to lose.

All in all, the new Soldiers as well as the old are excited about life protecting the Syrian border.



Task Force Marne Soldiers check the identification of local nationals while on patrol on the Iraqi-Syrian border.



Local nationals share information and credentials with Task Force Marne Soldiers on patrol near the Iraqi-Syrian border.

# 1-64 Armor renovates Sanarik School



Story and Photo By  
1st Lt. Joe Stanger,  
26th BSB

The Desert Rogues have been actively involved in helping rebuild Iraq since arriving in Nov. 2009. One recent renovation, the reconstruction of the Sanarik Primary School, took place near the town of Hamam al Alil in Ninewa Province.

At the request of the local sheik and the approval of Mayor Saad, Charlie Company's "Wild Bunch" coordinated with the Civil Affairs Team attached to 1-64 AR and the Battalion's Engineer assets to ensure this project was funded and work was completed. The school is now set to open on January 22.

Prior to the renovation, the school was dilapidated and in desperate need of repairs. A raw sewage pit sat next to the school and the building itself had substandard wiring. The school was a hazardous and dismal learning environment for the children of Hamam al Alil.

However, through the hard work and coordination of Wild Bunch and the rest of the Desert Rogues, the school has improved to become unrecognizable. Along with extensive structural repairs, the electrical system has been completely rewired, a clean and healthy restroom has been constructed, and a large playground is now present. Well-lit classrooms replace the drab atmosphere that once

existed. The students of Sanarik School now have a more encouraging learning environment.

For Iraq to become fully stabilized, it will require a sense of local and national pride among its population. One key way to build that pride is to improve the infrastructure and build a positive environment for the children of Iraq. The Sanarik Primary School is a demonstration of the stabilizing affects that one building can have on a local population.

According to Capt. Mohamad from 1-64's Civil Affairs Team responsible for the project, "The school serves as a point of pride for the people of Sanarik. It will serve as a model for all future school renovation projects in northern Iraq."

As the population sees positive results in their town, they will want results to continue. This will build the people's faith in their national government and help diminish the destabilizing factors currently plaguing the nation.

A main part of the Desert Rogue's mission is to partner with the Iraqis so when U.S. Forces conduct a

responsible draw down, Iraq will be secure and stable. The many projects 1-64 AR is involved with are helping to ensure mission success.

While the Sanarik School project is only one of the many projects we are helping the Iraqis with, it will have a tremendous impact on the morale of the local populace. This will garner increased faith in the government of Iraq and it will help set the conditions necessary for 1-64 AR to withdraw from the region.



A spartan Soldier hammers a nail into a wall at Sanarik School during renovations lead by 1-64 Armored Regiment, 2nd HBCT, 3rd ID.



Story and Photo By  
2nd Lt. Tiffany Ackers  
1-9 FA

## IFP and 1-9 FA deliver school supplies

**B**ravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery Regiment (1-9 FA) recently partnered with the 3rd Iraqi Federal Police Division (3rd FP) to deliver school supplies and other items to children in west Mosul. The January 3, 2010 mission was part of a 3rd FP sponsored effort to enhance their burgeoning ability to execute Civil Military Operations (CMO) assisting citizens across western Mosul. The mission entailed 2nd Platoon, Bravo Battery, led by 1st Lt. Matt Gormley and Sgt. 1st Class David Simon, coordinating with the 2nd Battalion, "Knights Raid" Brigade of the 3rd FP in delivering backpacks, soccer balls and a variety of other supplies to students at a small school in the Al Jededa neighborhood of west Mosul. The partnered operation also included elements of the 3rd FP Transition Team as well as the Tactical Psychological Operations Detachment (TPD) supporting the Brigade Combat Team and 1-9 FA.

As the 3rd FP progress in securing western Mosul, they are at a point where greater interaction with Iraqi citizens, through CMO, will augment their ongoing security operations as well as enhance the positive image of Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) in western Mosul. In the post June 30, 2009 security environment, it is important that United States Forces (USF) advise and assist the ISF to take the lead on both planning and executing security operations as well as CMO operations.

In this mission, 2nd Platoon, Bravo Battery and the TPD played an important role by arranging for the acquisition of the supplies and assisting with synchronizing the eventual delivery of the items to the children. Bravo Battery also advised the 3rd FP on CMO tactics, techniques and procedures enabling the 3rd FP to be the lead agency responsible for



**Iraqi Police pass out supplies and toys to children in western Mosul during a joint mission with 1-9 FA, 2nd HBCT, 3rd ID.**

coordinating the majority of the operation.

The coordination for the school supply mission began well in advance of the delivery. Utilizing Key Leader Engagements (KLE) to advise and assist the 3rd FP, the school in Al Jededa was identified by the 2nd Battalion Knights Raid Brigade Commander as being in a critical location to make this initial effort at CMO in their area of operations. Once all the pieces to the operations were coordinated and synchronized, the stage was set for the delivery to the students and the mission was completed.

"The ISF commander and his shurta (police) were very professional in their interaction with the school administrators and the students," said 1st Lt. Gormley. A grand total of 75 backpacks filled with pens, pencils and notebooks, 700 comic/coloring books and 300-400 soccer balls were delivered to the students.

The Iraqi Federal Police Battalion Commander presented a positive image to the children as he delivered a message designed to mentor the children on being good citizens as well as encourage their parents to report illegal activities to the 3rd Federal Police.

1st Lt. Gormley also noted that the coloring books reinforced an image of the Federal Police as heroes and role models for the children of Iraq.



**Story By 1st Lt. Ryan Greer, 3-7 Cav.  
Photos By Pfc. Gregory Gieske**

**J**anuary 1st ushered in the dawn of a new year and with that, 3-7 CAV began the task of training checkpoint teams to occupy and run the Disputed Internal Boundary (DIBs) checkpoints.

The DIBs checkpoint training, a major focus of 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, brought together elements of Iraqi Security Forces, Kurdish Peshmerga, and Soldiers from the United States Army, and began the task of base-lining checkpoint skills between the three to build a cohesive and functional tri-party team.

What few people fail to realize is the amount of effort that has been made, and continues to be made behind the scenes to ensure training is ready and able to take place. 3-7 Cav. received the order to establish a combined checkpoint training regimen on Dec. 17, 2009. In order for the training to begin by the January 2010 deadline, 3-7 CAV needed a training venue, a mock checkpoint, a habitable living area, and a dedicated crew to maintain and administrate the training site. The teambuilding effort did not start with the checkpoint training; it started with the first shovels of dirt that eventually turned a barren, ordnance-filled dirt lot into a high-quality training venue.

The task of turning a wasteland into the premiere checkpoint training venue in the Ninewa Province fell on the shoulders of Capt. Greg Highstrom, the 3-7 CAV FSO and Engineer Coordinator, and the 113th Horizontal Engineer Company, Indiana National Guard, attached to 779th Engineer Battalion. In just over a week, the engineers cleared, graded and constructed a venue that would accom-

modate up to 300 personnel. Capt. Aaron Kuykendall, Havoc Troop Commander, simultaneously led the refurbishment and construction of the Mayor's Cell. Capt. Kuykendall turned degraded, nearly condemned Saddam-era Iraqi army barracks into a suitable administration center from which he managed all the logistical and administrative needs of the training site.

The actual training of the checkpoint teams was tasked to Crazyhorse Troop, 3-7 Cav., led by Capt. Mathew Moore. Capt. Moore and his Soldiers evaluated the site and began setting up training stations to help bring Soldiers closer as a team and show how combined strength of a unified team is much stronger than that of a piecemeal ad-hoc force acting as individuals. The training ranges from checkpoint operations to weapons familiarization and capabilities and patrolling techniques.

Another obstacle conquered by 3-7 Cav. was the planning and coordination of the checkpoint training program. Members of SABER Plans cell, Maj. Bryan Logan, Capt. Joe Byerly, Capt. Greg Highstrom, 1st Lt. Ryan Greer and 2nd Lt. Anthony Joyner put together a training program that supported the Brigade's overall scheme for the training.

SABER Plans worked the training schedule and leaned hard on SABER S4, Capt. Andrew Boyd for logistical support. Capt. Boyd coordinated with KBR contractors to supply AB Units and Porta-Johns to meet the site's hygiene requirements, generators to provide the site with power, and HVAC units to heat the living areas.

The effort made in working together produced a successful and beneficial training site.

## 3-7 Cav. makes combined checkpoint training possible



3-7 Cav. Soldiers give ISF personnel hands on training at the new combined checkpoint training site.



ISF personnel and 3-7 Cav. Soldiers practice airlifting a casualty at the combined checkpoint training site.

# Protecting the Border



*Story and Background Photo By 1st  
Lt. Edward Tucker  
3-73rd Cavalry*

**B**ravo Troop arrived at a unique chapter in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The majority of the organized insurgency have been detained, killed, or driven out of the country, many of them into Syria. Population-centric tactics have secured villages and towns, enabling the growth of the government sub-capacity.

Now, the upcoming provincial elections in March 2010 are not only underscored as the highest priority for senior USF commanders in theater but a critical hallmark of a democratic Iraq and the final turning point that will ultimately validate the hand off between US and Iraqi Forces.

The key, now, is to ensure the growing stability of the country so the elections are not hindered or derailed, and the current vulnerability that

requires one of the last decisive operations in theater is along the Iraqi/Syrian border.

At this key area of interest, Bravo Troop is tasked with working with Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) to reinforce the security of the border, an area considered to be a determinant in the level of foreign fighter activity throughout theater.

For years, locals have smuggled goods into Syria from Iraq due to a very porous border, making it possible for foreign fighters and insurgents to make their way back into Iraq. The border itself is marked

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## *3-73 Cav. teams with IBP to secure Iraq - Syria border*

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by a continuous line of dirt about roughly five to six feet tall; this meager line extends around the perimeter of Iraq. There are tank ditches about six to eight feet deep on the Iraqi side to further hinder movement, but they are sporadically placed and do not effectively halt illegal border crossings.

The Government of Iraq uses the Iraqi Border Patrol (IBP) to secure the border, locating them in numerous forts, spaced at two to seven KMs along the border. The spacing, however, does not bolster a stringently secure perimeter along the border; open ar-

eas and dead space plague the IBP as unabated illegal crossings occur routinely.

“The IBP is consistently [placed below the needs of] other military organizations,” said 1st Lt. Mahidi of the IBP. “The ministry of interior does not properly equip us to do our job. We consistently send up requests for equipment, fuel, and manpower but they are continually ignored.”

“Some of the border crossers even have their own night vision,” adds 1LT Mahidi. “They can see where we are at. Therefore they can easily move to a different location to cross.”

With US Soldiers also comes US Military assets, which reinforce the IPB’s capabilities exponentially. Bravo Troop provides the IPB with a Scout Weapons Team (2 x Apache helicopters) and unmanned aerial surveillance (UAS), which allow them to quickly locate and interdict cigarette smugglers in-place. Then there is also the simple common-sense task of reconnaissance to identify the likely routes for smuggling.

“If one simply walks along the border,” states Staff Sgt. Truax, Platoon Sergeant, 3rd Platoon, “commonly used paths are easy to identify. Continuous combined operations ensure that the IBP have simple but effective TTPs in place—and this puts a stranglehold on smuggling activity in the area instantly.”

1st Lt. Bond, platoon leader, 1st Platoon, articulates how the mission affects the threat level of the entire Iraqi theater. By partnering with the ISF for border interdiction, Bravo Troop is able to capitalize on population-centric tactics, using local nationals to pinpoint the individuals that facilitate foreign fighters moving into Iraq.

“We know these foreign fighters are coming across the border. It’s our job to identify who is helping them and how they are doing it—and to use GoI in the local towns,” said the staff sergeant. Efforts thus far have proved to be successful as Bravo Troop, along with ISF, recently detained a high value individual, which can turn out to be a multiplier in the hands of the foreign fighter exploitation teams. “This is one less individual who will try to topple the legitimacy of the Government of Iraq. The more of these guys we remove from this area, the safer the people of Iraq will be, and the sooner USF can come home,” said Staff. Sgt. Traux.

# Preparing for Iraq's Future

Story and Photo By Spc. Dustin Gautney

With combat operations coming to a close for U.S. Forces in Iraq, much of the focus for the Soldiers of 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division is on helping build a lasting foundation for the Iraqi people and government.

“The Ninewa Provincial Reconstruction Team--a U.S. interagency effort to bring about stability, prosperity, and improved governance in northern Iraq--is honored to serve with the professional soldiers of Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery,” said Patrick Murphy, PRT-Ninewa Team Leader.

With a mission set that includes anything from inspecting civil affairs projects, to the opening of new schools and other improvements throughout Ninewa province, the assistance of 1-9 Artillery has been a major asset, said Murphy.

“Basically we have dedicated a platoon to providing security and transportation for the PRT to assist in any mission they may need,” said Capt. Jeffrey Foisy, Bravo Battery Commander, 1-9 Field Artillery.

Captain Foisy also said, because of the complexity and flexibility required from the Bravo Battery, the platoon has been “beefed up” in size to accomplish the mission.

“With running missions six days a week, we recognized that the standard platoon size alone would not be adequate in assisting the PRT’s mission,” Capt. Foisy said.

With the assistance of 1-9 FA, the U.S. State Departments’ PRT has made strides in improving the quality of life for the Iraqi people living in Ninewa Province in northern Iraq.

“These talented and courageous Soldiers are instrumental in supporting over 60 professionals from the Departments of State, Defense, Justice, Agriculture and the U.S. Agency for International Development to conduct programming and implement projects in a very challenging environment. The ‘1-9’ battalion represents the best of American generosity and ingenuity,” Murphy said.



JANUARY 31, 2010





# *Spartans remember*

*Story By  
Master Sgt. Duff E. McFadden*

**I** say to you today, my friends, that in spite of the difficulties and frustrations of the moment, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal."

**-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

**Aug. 28, 1963, Washington, D.C.**

Monday, Feb. 18 proved to be an evening of commemoration and celebration, as Soldiers of the 2nd "Spartan" Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division met to remember the life and accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Currently deployed to Mosul, Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Fort Stewart-based unit took the opportunity to recognize the efforts of the man considered the spokesman for non-violent activism in the civil rights movement, protesting racial discrimination in federal and state law.

Sponsored by the Soldiers of the 26th Brigade Support Battalion, the hour-long remembrance,

"Share the dream...Live the reality," included historical references, anecdotes and poems, as well as soulful renditions of the songs, "Can't give up now," and "Never would have made it."

"Martin Luther King, Jr. Day" is celebrated annually, on the third Monday of January, on Dr. King's January 15th birthday. While President Ronald Reagan signed it into federal law in 1983, it wasn't actually observed until 1986.

"Dr. King did more than talk, he lived what he preached. I recall a story about the night his house was bombed in Montgomery," said Chaplain (Maj.) Sid A. Taylor, 2nd HBCT, and commemoration guest speaker. "His neighbors and friends gathered with sticks and bricks, eager for revenge and retaliation.

"Dr. King told them to go home. He reminded them that violence was not the way. He would not stoop to violence, even after his own family was attacked. He believed in non-violence, but was also wise enough to know violence was self-defeating," he said.

As Dr. King noted in his famous, "I have a dream," speech in Washington, D.C., "In the process of gaining our rightful place, we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds.

# his 'Dream'



Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred.”

Today’s military, like America itself, is a country unified and united in a common quest, as represented by the Spartan Soldiers.

Although African-Americans have participated in every major U.S. war and conflict, integration and recognition of the accomplishments of black soldiers has been a slow process.

The U.S. armed forces weren’t integrated until 1948, when President Harry S. Truman signed Executive Order 9981, which stated, “It is hereby declared to be the policy of the President that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin.”

“The difference is, back, many, many years ago,” said Sgt. 1st Class Rakeena Lipkins, 26th BSB, and one of the evening’s organizers, “this is not something you would have seen – a whole group of people of different races fighting together as one, as we do now. It’s a long way we’ve come, and it shows we’ve progressed from very far away.”

“And now, race doesn’t really matter. People are still combined together. You have different groups, and they have these bonds and these friendships that are phenomenal. And it doesn’t matter who they are, where they’re from, who their parents are, it’s just their true hearts coming out and showing that race doesn’t matter,” she said.

“Today, we must not take our freedoms for granted. We must be intentional about maintaining them for every citizen,” said Chap. Taylor. “We must not grow cold. Each of us should be participating in keeping America great!”

“Each of us has a role to play in the healing, the reconciliation, the redemption,” he said.

Or in the immortal words of Dr. King, “When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God’s children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, “Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!”

# Spartan Soldier keeps her eyes on the prize

Story By  
Master Sgt. Duff E. McFadden

While most 37-year old women are busy serving as soccer moms and chauffeurs for their children's busy lives, one Tampa, Fla. resident is more closely focused on keeping her Family "Army strong."

Specialist Jenniffer Davis, 37, joined the Army two years ago. An information technician, she currently works the S6 Help Desk for the 2nd HBCT, 3rd Infantry Division during its deployment to Mosul, Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

While the military has long been a Family tradition for Davis -- both her parents are retired Air Force, her mom after 30 years of service, her Dad with 20, and her sister currently serves in the Air Force -- she also wanted to wear the uniform.

But, as is often the case, life just happened to get in the way. As a mother of two young boys, she was told the military frowned upon allowing single mothers into their ranks.



Spartan Soldier, Spec. Jennifer Davis, HHC, 2nd HBCT, 3rd ID works to complete a task Jan. 26 at Forward Operating Base Marez in northern Iraq.

Still, she thought she'd wait until she was 27 to enlist. But, she was now a single mother of four. At the age of 28, she felt she was too old for the military and out of options.

Fortune then smiled upon her, as the military raised its maximum age limit and her two oldest boys turned 18.

No longer dependents, and with four years of Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) training under their belt, they joined the Army as private first classes, right out of high school.

When her oldest son, now a technician with the South Carolina Army National Guard, graduated from basic training, she said her second oldest had "that look in his eye. I told him, 'Baby, if you do it, I'll do it too.'"

Two weeks later, he enlisted at the Military Enlisted Processing Station. The following week, she had an appointment to take the ASVAB test.

"I'd been out of school for 17 years, so I wanted time to study. I got there and the recruiter told me to just go ahead and take the test. He called later and said, not only did I pass, but I had a higher test score than both of my boys.

"I still tease them about it," she

said.

According to Pfc. Tyler M. Davis, Co. D, 151st Aviation, South Carolina National Guard and Spec. Davis' oldest son, the military has been one of his mother's best decisions.

"After seeing my brother and I accomplish so much in so little time, a spark of hope and greatness shone in my mom's heart, compelling her to join the military. It was one of her dreams, because her mother and sister were also in the military. But she never had the chance to join, because of us.

"From the time she joined the military, my mom has become a more motivational and awe-inspiring person. If there's one person in this world who's my hero, it's her. You can say I get my competitiveness from her. Ever since she joined the Army, it's been a race to rank and titles. We are a cutting-edge family and we fight for what we want."

"He outranked me but, not for long," Spec. Davis said. "I told him, 'I'm going to get you and I'm going to pass you up.'"

She was promoted to E-3 and then received a waiver in October to become a specialist.

Spec. Jesse Davis, currently de-

ployed to Afghanistan with Co. C, 4th BSTB, 4th Brigade, 82nd Airborne Div. became a specialist one month later. At the end of February, she'll have the opportunity to go before the sergeant's promotion board.

"It's all been pretty fun. I have to stay one step ahead of my boys," she laughed.

"I truly believe my mother's joining the military is a blessing," Pfc. Davis said. "With it she can achieve so many of her childhood goals, as well as provide a better future for my younger brothers," he said.

"I'm very proud of my mother having a military career," said Spc. Jesse Davis, who also works at his unit's Help Desk. "My mother, as well as every deployed Soldier, endures not being with their families. She's left my younger two, most dependent, brothers behind, and faces the rough life of a deployed Soldier. The most contact she faces is probably indirect fire, mortars, rockets and such. Even with that, hard as it is, her work at the S6 help desk is a very demanding job that she seems to excel

at nevertheless."

After a 12-hour shift at the Brigade Help Desk, Davis then spends another four hours studying for the promotion board. After about six hours of sleep, it's off to work again.

"I keep as busy as possible studying, or doing correspondence courses. I'm lucky to have great NCOs, who give me the time to study when we have the down time."

The biggest asset for anyone contemplating a late start into the military, said Spc. Davis, is determination.

"You need to be determined, regardless of the physical pain, or the mental torment. At our age, we get a bit set in our ways, so it took some getting used to a new lifestyle, an entirely new way of life. You have to be open to it. Don't let anything stop you; you need to push on through it all. Stay determined and focus on where you're going."

Every step of the way, she's maintained a sharp focus on what she wanted to accomplish, even completing basic training, despite a broken hip. During AIT, her daughter-in-law

moved to Fort Gordon, bringing Spc. Davis' children with her. Every night, Spc. Davis and Spc. Jesse Davis would join his wife, her kids, and his brothers, from 6-9 p.m. They'd eat dinner, visit with the family, do some studying, and then return to the barracks.

"I knew I'd be here some day according to my goals. I wouldn't change anything in my life," she said. "It would change the outcome of who I am and where I'm at. I like where I am in my life."

Like many deployed Soldiers, Spc. Davis has set goals. The first, she said, is to become promotable. The second, is "to start my bachelors degree. I'm not sure if I'll go with information technology or move on to administration. In any case, I feel you're never too old to move on and learn something new.

Her plans also include enrollment in either the command's green to gold program or becoming a warrant officer. In any case, you wouldn't want to bet against her. She has her mind set on it. Just ask her family.

## BRIGADE SAFETY OFFICE

### EYE PROTECTION IS A MUST!!!

**•You never know when you will need protective eyewear. Protective eyewear can and will save your eyesight. We wear personal protective equipment (PPE) for hearing, hands, feet and our head. Our eyes are no different.**

**•Lessons learned from OIF and OEF have taught us that we can expect 10% of casualties to incur eye injuries. "Eye armor" has been provided to all Soldiers before deployment and it is imperative that leaders ensure proper wear of this protective eyewear.**

**•Leaders need to routinely check their Soldiers to ensure they possess approved protective eyewear. The most exposed parts of Soldiers riding in tactical vehicles are their head neck, upper torso, and arms. While ACH helmets and IBA provide a measure of protection against shrapnel, the Soldiers eyes are still exposed unless they are wearing their approved protective eyewear.**



## ANZIO 1944



***Anzio veterans look on during a pass and review ceremony held at Fort Stewart, Ga. in April 2009 when Spartans hosted the veterans during the veterans' annual Anzio Beachhead Reunion.***

Sixty-six years ago, Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division were part of an operation that became a major chapter in division history and helped in bringing an end to World War II. The invasion took place at Anzio, a fishing and resort community of 37,000 people, located on the west coast of Italy, approximately 30 miles south of Rome.

The Spartans hosted the veterans of the Anzio Beachhead invasion when they held their annual reunion in Savannah, Ga., in April 2009. They were given a tour of the 3rd Infantry Museum, observed a live fire demonstration, and took part in a pass and review ceremony as part of their visit to Fort Stewart, Ga.

More than six decades ago, it proved a deadly obstacle for 3rd Infantry Soldiers. For the four long months of "Operation Shingle," they etched out a tenuous foothold on Italy's shoreline, as the Germans counterattacked and fought a delaying action, all the while preparing defensive lines to the rear.

Virtually unopposed, the Sixth Corps under Gen. John Lucas landed British and American troops at Anzio and neighboring Nettuno on Jan. 22, 1944. On the southern flank, the 3rd Division quickly seized its initial objectives and pushed approximately seven miles inland against scattered but increasing German resistance.

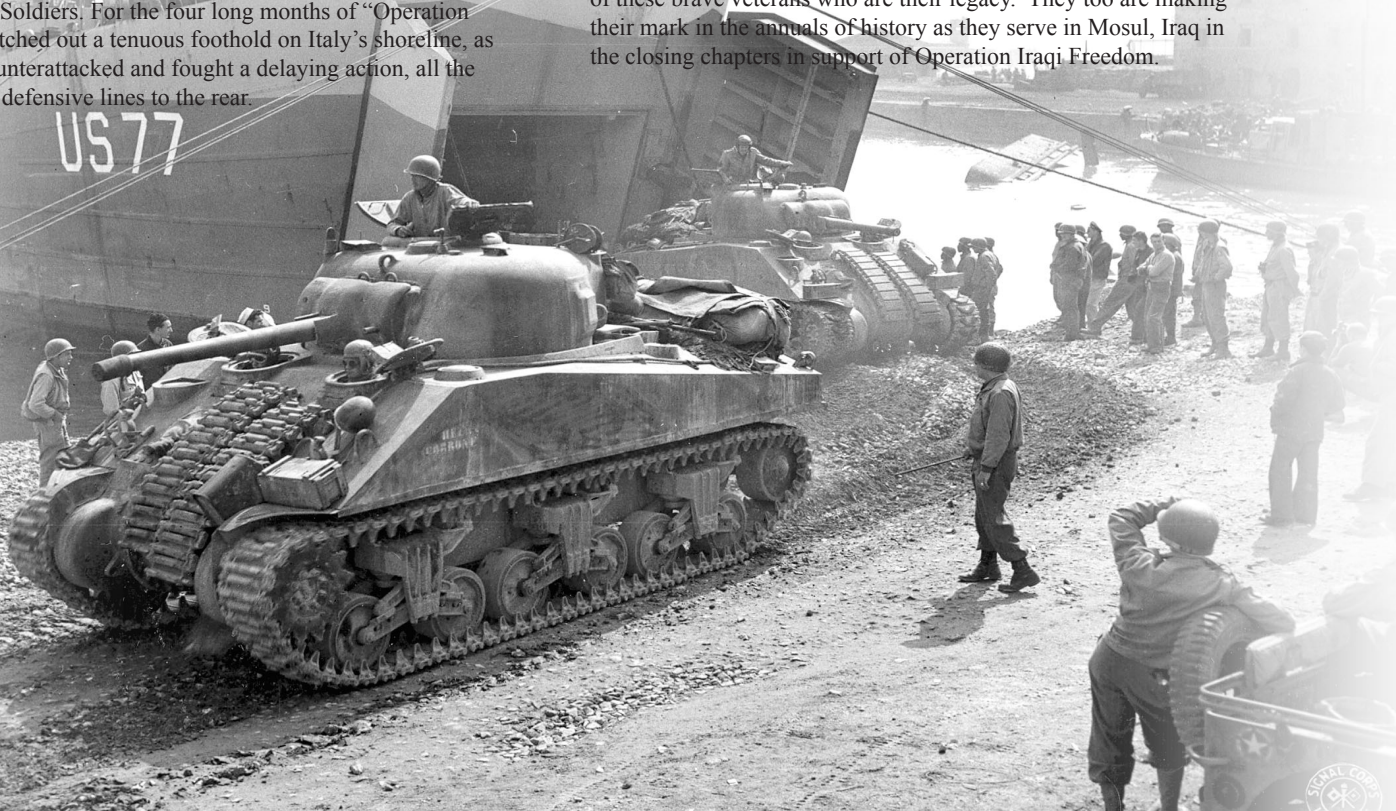
Mindful of the need for reinforcements, Lucas ordered ashore the rest of the 45th Infantry Division and remaining portions of the 1st Armored Division allotted to the Anzio operation, raising the total number of Allied Soldiers in the beachhead to 61,332, with 508 guns and 208 tanks. The Germans meanwhile had increased their defenses to 71,500 Soldiers.

On May 25, Cisterna finally fell to the 3rd Division, who, after conducting house-to-house operations, destroyed the German's 362nd Infantry, which had refused to withdraw. By the end of the day, the 3rd Infantry was pouring into the Velletri gap near Cori with elements of the 1st Armored Division traveling within three miles of Valmontone.

On June 2, the Caesar Line collapsed and the 14th Army commenced a fighting withdrawal through Rome. Over the next three days, German remnants were gradually overwhelmed and the victorious Americans entered Rome in the early hours of June 5th. During the four month Anzio Campaign, VI Corps suffered over 29,200 combat casualties with 4,400 killed, 18,000 wounded and 6,800 taken as prisoners or missing. Of the combat casualties, 16,200 were Americans while German combat losses were estimated at 27,500.

In one measure of the courage and sacrifice of those who fought there, 22 Americans were awarded the Medal of Honor, the most of any single battle of World War II. Eleven of those were Soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division.

Today, Spartan Soldiers of 2nd HBCT serve in the shadows of these brave veterans who are their legacy. They too are making their mark in the annals of history as they serve in Mosul, Iraq in the closing chapters in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



# Chaplain's Corner

## HUMILITY

Several emotional responses surface within Soldiers after we receive gifts or hear words of encouragement from fellow Americans back home. One of those emotions can be described as humility. We are humbled by the kindness and support from home. It makes us extremely proud. The words below provide fitting insights into the truth regarding our humility and our aspirations:

"I believe that the first test of a truly great man (or woman) is his HUMILITY. Really great men have a curious feeling that the greatness is not in them but through them. And they see something divine in every other man and are endlessly, incredibly merciful." John Ruskin (1819-1900)

O PEOPLE, the Lord has already told you what is good, and this is what He requires:

TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT,  
TO LOVE MERCY,  
and  
TO WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD. Micah 6:8



Send Me!  
CH (Maj.) Sid A. Taylor

## News from Home

BY: 1LT BRITTANY EDDS,  
2BCT REAR DETACHEMENT

As the 2nd Brigade Combat Team went to battle, there was never a question of "whom shall we send." History proves Spartan Soldiers have never hesitated to answer the call of their nation. Instead the question of whom shall we leave behind presented itself and the mission was accepted by the Rear Detachment Cadre. The 2nd Brigade Rear Detachment has welcomed the challenge of preparing Soldiers to join the Brigade in combat, providing support to the Spartan Soldiers forward deployed, and maintaining the footprint at Fort Stewart.

The Rear Detachment is dedicated to preparing Soldiers to enter the battlefield. Through the collaborative efforts of the rear detachment cadre, the IRT cadre, and the medical support teams on Fort Stewart, the Rear Detachment has pushed an average of 97 Soldiers per month forward to increase the strength of the Spartan Brigade in combat.

In addition to supporting the Soldiers in Iraq, the Rear Detachment has the unique mission of supporting the honorary members of the Spartan Brigade, the Family members of each deployed Soldier. Keeping Families connected, the rear detachment has set up rooms where Families can access the internet to contact their Soldier.

For families who do not live in the immediate area, the Brigade Family Readiness Group Advisor, Melody Sexton, has established a Facebook fan page to update these Family mem-

bers. After the holidays, one Soldier had to leave her rented home. The Soldier came to her chain of command for help. Within hours they organized a plan to move this Soldier and her children into on-post housing. Led by Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Chastain, the Rear Detachment Soldiers were able to move the Family in one day.

The key to the success of this mission did not come from one of the Soldiers on Rear Detachment but the help of a first sergeant from 1-30th Infantry Battalion downrange. Through coordination with the rear detachment, 1st Sgt. Juan Campos allowed the Rear Detachment to use his box truck to assist in the move. According to Sgt. 1st Class Chastain, "It was amazing that we could get that many resources together to help out." After reflecting on the day SFC Chastain humbly said, "It was just Soldiers helping Soldiers and it helps the younger Soldiers and shows them how the Army Family really works."

The bond that the Rear Detachment has developed with their comrades and their Families increases their compassion to those that are separated from their Families this holiday season. As the Rear Detachment embraces the New Year, they are thankful for all members of the Spartan Brigade and the sacrifice that each was willing to make over the holidays. Best wishes for the Brigade's continued success throughout the deployment.



**S U P E R  
B O W L**

**X L I V**

*the* **S P A R T A N** *way*