

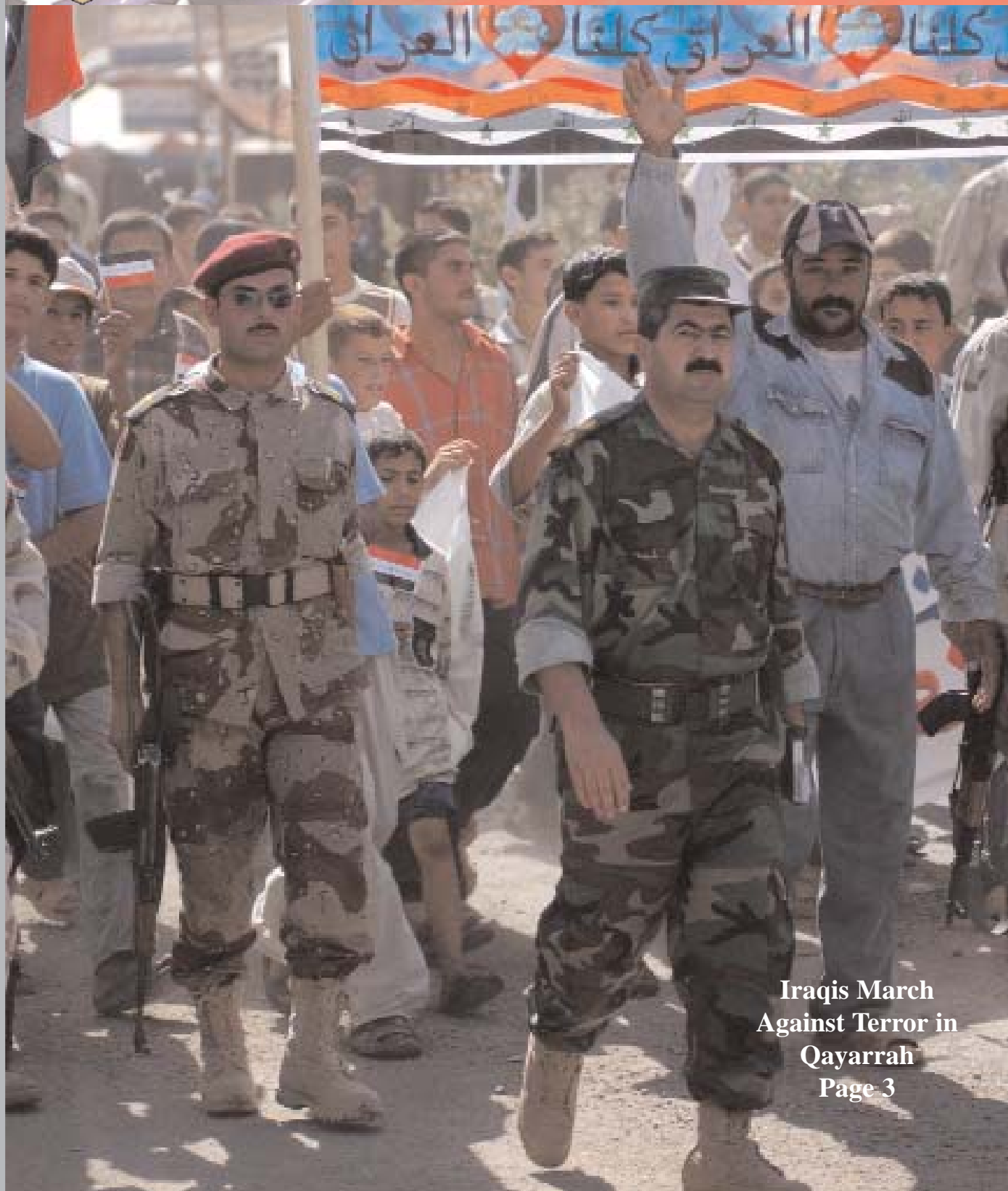
# The Freedom Post

*Published for Task Force Freedom Soldiers Serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom III*

July 11, 2005

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Volume 2: Issue 16



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## Quote of the Week

*The Tree of Liberty must be  
refreshed from time to time with  
the blood of patriots and tyrants.*

*- Thomas Jefferson*

*Please join us at the Chapel for  
FOB Courage Religious Services:*

Catholic Mass	1100	Saturday
Latter-Day Saints	0830	Sunday
Protestant	1100	Sunday
Protestant	2000	Sunday
Protestant	1930	Wednesday
Gospel	1300	Sunday

## The Freedom Post Staff

### Commanding General

Maj. Gen. David M. Rodriguez

### Task Force Freedom PAO

Lt. Col. André L. Hance, Sr.

### Layout Editor

Sgt. Daniel W. Lucas

### Deputy Commanding General

Brig. Gen. Kevin J. Bergner

### 366 MPAD Commander/Editor

Maj. David G. Cruse

### Staff Journalists

Staff Sgt. Michele A. Uitermarkt  
Sgt. Richard W. Way  
Sgt. John H. Franzen  
Spc. Ashly E. Mitchell  
Spc. David J. Nunn

### Command Sgt. Maj.

Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Pring

### 366th MPAD 1st Sgt.

Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery S. Welch

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# Iraqi citizens March Against Terror

*Story and Photo by Spc. David J. Nunn*

QAYARRAH, Iraq – Iraqi citizens of the city of Qayarraah and the surrounding rural villages gathered to make history. They held the first March Against Terror to recognize the Iraqi Forces' improvement as they take back their province in support of a free and safe Iraq in defiance of the weakening Anti-Iraqi Forces.

The Freedom March boasted over 1,000 citizens including many influential political figures, doctors, teachers and children. They were watched over by members of the Iraqi Army and Police Forces ensuring the rally happened without incident. Arabs and Kurds alike joined together to show their desire to move forward after the first Iraqi democratic elections in January.

Following the successful march, many of the participants joined together near a school and continued to demonstrate further resolve while the organizers participated in post-march interviews with an abundance of Iraqi and International media.

The March Against Terror is only the first of a series of marches to be conducted in Northern Iraq. It was formed by Iraqi government officials during the regional security meetings as a statement of the citizens' will to stand up against the terrorists.

Mosul Governor Kashmoula has voiced his strong support for such events and encouraged other cities and villages in Ninewah Province to band together and voice their protest against terrorism in a similar manner.



Iraqi Citizens gather to demonstrate their support for a safe Iraq during a march in the southern city of Qayarraah.



Dear Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Dedicated Civilians of Task Force Freedom,

Independence Day is a time for us to celebrate that which we must fight for... Freedom. For 200 years Americans have sacrificed their very lives for a cause greater than themselves. With their lives, they paid for a great gift - the gift of Freedom. Now the people of Iraq are engaged in the same struggle to establish Freedom.

As this country enters a new chapter in its re-birth, we are seeing true patriots, like the Iraqi Security Forces, sign their names to the pursuit of Freedom. Let this be a reminder to all of us that Americans once experienced this in the growth of our nation. Americans too were oppressed. We too yearned for Freedom. Our history parallels the ideals we now fight for alongside the citizens of Iraq.

While we celebrate American Freedom on Independence Day, we continue to fight alongside the Iraqis who fight for their Freedom. We fight for it for our children as well as theirs. Our cause is noble, and our cause is just. Stopping the plague of Terrorism in this country is the heart of accomplishing our mission, a mission which will help maintain the Freedom in America we celebrate today.

It is a great honor to lead the Brave Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Dedicated Civilians who are carrying on this fight. I am humbled by the sacrifices that everyone has made here and proud of what will be accomplished. Your sacrifices today will enable your sons and daughters to continue to grow up in a free society. Iraqi sacrifices partnered alongside you, will enable Iraqi sons and daughters to grow up in a free society in the future!

Sincerely,  
David M. Rodriguez  
Major General, US Army  
Commanding



# 2-14 Cavalry Returns to FOB Marez

Story by Sgt. Rick W. Way, Photo by Spc. David J. Nunn



A Stryker rolls through town during a typical patrol the 2-14 performed at Tal Afar and will continue to do at FOB Marez.

ing: small arms rounds, rocket-propelled grenade heads and launchers, 155 rounds, and anti-personnel rockets. They also uncovered an Anti-Iraqi Force propaganda center (a high value target) along with financiers and millions of Iraqi dinars.”

The elections were successful due to the 2-14 protecting the citizens during the voting process. A mission that helped build a safe and secure environment

FOB MAREZ, Iraq – Soldiers from 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, “Charger” Troop were ordered to report back to Forward Operating Base (FOB) Marez by the Commander of Task Force Freedom in June after working in Tal Afar and the surrounding area for seven months.

“We’re ready to take on new things, we’re here to help in any way possible,” said 2nd Lt. Derek Szmyt, Platoon Leader, 2nd Platoon, C Company, 2-14 Cav.

1st Sgt. Frank Belonus, First Sergeant of C Co. 2-14, was anxious to roll up his sleeves and get to work in his new Area of Operations. “We’re eager to get right back at it and look forward to working this area,” said Belonus. “It goes hand in hand with transitioning the Iraqi Army, supporting their efforts out here and allowing

them to pick up the fight. You can’t help but be excited with the success of the Iraqi Army and the Coalition Forces.”

Belonus plays a very active role in the daily missions. “He’s not the type to send people out on a mission and not go along,” said Staff Sgt. David Glover, Fire Support Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge. “Most likely he’ll be right there with you, that’s the kind of guy he is.”

The 2-14 has high expectations for its new mission in Mosul. Successful missions in Tal Afar were abundant. “Basically, we were in charge of the entire city and helped secure the city during the elections. We had a great deal of success in Tal Afar,” said Szmyt. “Charger Troop was directly responsible for finding seven large ammo caches includ-

for the budding democracy in Iraq.

“People were actually running through the areas where we were fighting the insurgents on their way to vote. Some were seen crawling to avoid being shot by the terrorists,” said Belonus. “After the elections, the tip lines lit up, the people realized who the enemy is. If you want to measure the success of our mission, look into the children’s eyes. When we first got here, they were afraid to be seen waving at us. Now they greet us in the streets.”

The Squadron is no stranger to FOB Marez. Upon being deployed with 1st Brigade to Mosul in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III in October of 2004, the 2-14 took up residence at Marez and performed operations for a month prior to moving to FOB Sykes.

# TFF Celebrates the Fourth of July

*Story and Photos by Staff Sgt. Michele A. Uitermarkt*

Task Force Freedom Soldiers stationed at Mosul Air Field had the opportunity to compete in the Mosul Desert Challenge during the Fourth of July weekend.

The unit competition consisted of a soccer tournament, volleyball tournament, darts, talent competition, 5k run and relay race, miniature golf, and Karoke.

Based on participation and place, each unit was awarded points toward an overall competition.

Congratulations to the 228th CSH for winning the Mosul Desert Challenge.



# Training the Iraqi Soldiers of Tomorrow

Soldiers of Task Force Freedom Assist the New Iraqi Army with Valuable Training

*Story and Photos by Spc. David J. Nunn*

MNF-NW, Iraq – Members of Task Force Freedom continue to remain key in the Coalition Force's mission to transfer authority of this country to the Iraqi people, which began earlier last year for the first time since Saddam Hussein's take over.

During their deployment, those Soldiers who have directly advised the training of the Iraqi Army have been contributing unique hands-on training, reinforcing the Iraqi people's ability to one day provide for their country.

"I think the biggest success we've had so far during this deployment is training [the Iraqi Army] to be operational in the field, they are actually out there doing their own missions," said 1st Sgt. Gilbert Suarez, First Sergeant of the 98th Division, a reserve command based out of New England, currently stationed at Al-Kasik. "They have a tough fight in front of them. But for the first time in many of their lives, they are starting to feel safe."

To their credit, the United States presence here has led the way in aiding the people of this region in rebuilding their country and tempering their Security Forces into a strong unified body that currently enforces an environment of safety and order that many Iraqis have never known.

"With our help, the [Iraqis] who we work with are taking back their villages from the insurgents," said Suarez. "Since Fallujah the area has become much more hostile. The Iraqi Army is

aggressively taking back their ground from the insurgency."

The Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery (FA), Headquarters and Headquarters



An Iraqi Soldier conducts rifle marksmanship during the second phase of the NCO Academy at Q-West.

***Continued on Page 7***

## The Stallion Report

See Soldiers from your area on the news!

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Company, have aided the Iraqi government in rebuilding their security forces with the creation of a Non-Commissioned Officer Training (NCO) Academy. A place where U.S. Cadre work alongside their Iraqi counterparts to teach them the importance of the NCO corps.

A goal of the academy is to eventually replace all the U.S. Instructors with the finest of the academy's Iraqi graduates so the training will be run completely without U.S. presence, according to Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Martinez, Command Sergeant Major for the 2-8 FA.

"The NCO education system that we have in our Army plays a big role in our development," said Martinez. "It is my hope that in the future we can train more sergeants to go through this training and take it back to their units."



Iraqi Soldiers of the 107th IA stack during a room clearing exercise as a part of their training.



Iraqi Soldiers present their colors during the NCO Academy graduation held at the 107th IA Headquarters at Q-West.

The approximately 30 Iraqi Army Soldiers who graduated the first two-week long course were instructed in 16 different subjects, to include marksmanship, first aid, physical training, and drill and ceremonies. The primary focus of the NCO Academy is to instill the duties and leadership responsibilities of the NCO, according to Martinez.

"They have adapted very well, they are very eager to learn and they took the training to heart," said Martinez. "This experience is giving them a lot of confidence to lead their Soldiers, to fight the War on Terrorism and to help develop a safe environment for their families and children."

According to Martinez, much of the work done this past year was directly due to the efforts of the Iraqi people, many of whom lost loved ones and colleagues during the struggle for a free Iraq. "Iraqi's do more without our presence everyday, sometimes one of the hardest things was to sit back and let them do it their own way," said Suarez. "At the end of all of this, credit goes to those brave Iraqi's that are willing to step up and bravely lead their country."

# ISF Cell Builds Bases for Iraqis, by Iraqis

*Story by Sgt. Daniel W. Lucas, Photo by Spc. David J. Nunn*

HAMMAN AL ALIL, Iraq – The 10th Battalion, 2nd Division Iraqi Army (IA) has a new home in the town of Hamman Al Alil. Before they moved in, Soldiers from the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) cell moved in ahead to make sure they had everything they needed to be successful in their new base of operations.

“As we work to get the [IA] in place to better provide security for the citizens of Iraq, we realized units needed to be moved to different locations to better support the Iraqi control of Iraq,” said Maj. Timothy Pike, Deputy Commander, ISF cell, Task Force Freedom. “We made sure the infrastructure was there for them.”

Before an IA unit moves to a new location, it has to have all of the bare necessities: electricity, plumbing, phone lines, and safe buildings. Soldiers of the ISF move one step ahead of the incoming IA units to make sure the site has everything they need to be successful.

“What my team does is go to where an (IA) unit will be stationed and make sure everything is there for them to move in,” said Pike. “If they need buildings built or renovated, we find contractors to complete the mission. Whatever the needs are, we find the people that can sustain them.”

The ISF cell takes the issues they find and heads out to the local economy to find vendors and contractors. They then work with the incoming units to correct the issues and get the contracts written so everything can be in place for the incoming unit.

“We recognize problems, like Force Protection, with the site and its buildings,” said Capt. Guillermo Guillen, member of the ISF cell. “After it is brought up as an issue, interpreters will seek out different contractors to compete for the job.”

The competition between contractors helps build the local economy and grants lower prices for projects needed by the Iraqi's and Coalition Forces. “Once we have a bid we like, we bring the contracting officer in and start working on the paperwork,” said Guillen. “Once it is awarded, the local nationals deploy the materials; furniture, wiring, running phone lines, whatever the contract's needs are.”

“The idea is when the [IA] moves in; they have a

place to eat, sleep and train,” said Pike. “We help to build them ranges to train on, beds to sleep in, and dining facilities to eat out of. Whatever their need, we try and make it happen.”

Soldiers of the ISF cell don't just set up the contracts; they train the Iraqi leadership on how to do the contracts on their own. So when the Coalition Forces leave, they know how to go through the whole process independently and successfully.

“The training is going on with the entire 2nd [IA] Division,” said Pike. “We have already gotten the contracts written and the Iraqi leadership trained on how to implement them at their new home.”

“There will be a point when the Iraqis are setting up their own contracts,” said Guillen. “They will build a self-governing country and a self-sustaining Army. That is the Coalition Forces' end goal.”



An Iraqi Soldier stands guard by his country's flag.



# 401st CA Joins TFF at FOB Courage

*Story and Photos by Spc. Ashly E. Mitchell*



**Top:** The Color Guard stands in formation in front of the 426th and the 401st awaiting their next order in the ceremony.

**Bottom Right:** The colors of the 426th Civil Affairs Battalion are presented while the National Anthem plays at the Transfer of Authority Ceremony. **Below:** 401st unfurl their flag for the first time in Mosul.



FOB COURAGE, Iraq - Soldiers of the 426th Civil Affairs (CA) Battalion passed the torch to the 401st CA Battalion June 24, in a Transfer of Authority Ceremony here.

Both units stood and watched as the colors of the 426th were rolled up and cased and the colors of the 401st waved in Mosul for the first time.

"We celebrate your arrival with our team here in Mosul," said Col. Peter Bayer, Chief of Staff for Task Force Freedom. "An incredible number of accomplishments have been achieved over the past few months by the 426th."

Col. Al Kalin, Commander of the 426th, spoke about the great Soldiers in his Battalion. He also focused on the nine functioning Public Health Teams, three Civilian Military Operations Centers (CMOCs), and over 300 projects in Mosul. Kalin welcomed the 401st to Forward Operating Base (FOB) Courage.

The CMOC on FOB Courage is named after Maj. Charles "Rob" Soltes, one of the officers of the 426th who lost his life while serving in Iraq.

"Your efforts in the next few months will be to continue on with the mission," said Lt. Col. Harry Pecotte, Commander of the 401st. "The sacrifices and blood spilled here will not be forgotten."

After the retiring of the colors and the playing of the Army song, all guests were invited to a reception to bid farewell to the 426th and welcome the 401st.



# Five Cs simplify improvised explosive device fight

*By Staff Sgt. Mark St. Clair*

*Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs Office*

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq – Five potentially life-saving words are being driven home to Coalition Service Members and civilians throughout the Operation Iraqi Freedom theater.

Confirm, clear, call, cordon, and control are the “Five Cs” that represent a simple set of guidelines that Coalition Forces can and should use when encountering a suspected improvised explosive device (IED). “The reason we teach the Five Cs is because they make an easy to remember guide for [Service Members] to follow if they suspect or find an IED,” said Alex Szigedi, operations officer, Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Task Force (JIEDDTF), Camp Victory.

Using methods like the Five Cs simplifies IED awareness and “helps in the decision-making process, helping it become second-nature. They’re also on the IED Smart Card,” said Lt. Col. Ted Martin, chief, JIEDDTF. The IED Smart Card is produced by the Victory-based IED Working Group.

The IED Working Group, led by British Maj. Gen. Mark Mans, MNC-I deputy commander, meets weekly. Liaisons from major subordinate ground units, information operations delegates, ordnance-destruction contractors and others come together to discuss advances being made in the IED fight, changes in insurgent tactics and the most important issue: how to get valuable information down to where it matters — the troops on the ground.

“We’d never encountered anything like [IEDs] on the battlefield, and we’re not shy about going to people with expertise,” said Martin. Some of the “people with expertise” have been Coalition Soldiers in the British army, who have been dealing with IEDs in theaters like Northern Ireland for years. According to Martin, the British used a Four-C model to counter IEDs in the past, and Coalition Forces in Iraq used that as a framework and adapted it to the present fight.

## **Confirm**

The first step when encountering a suspected IED is confirming its existence. If Service Members suspect an IED while performing 5- and 25-meter searches of their positions, they should act like it could detonate at any moment,

even if the suspected IED turns out to be a false alarm. Using as few people as possible, troops should begin looking for telltale signs of IEDs – like wires or pieces of ordnance sticking out of the ground. As Martin said, “There’s no place like Iraq when it comes to ammunition on the ground.” So what looks like an IED may be a piece of unexploded ordnance but it should be treated like an IED until it is determined that it’s not.

While searching, troops should try to stay as safe as possible, using anything available for protection. If a better view is needed while searching, soldiers should move as safely as possible while maintaining as much distance as they can from the suspected IED to continue searching. Rifle scopes, binoculars and even cameras can be used to search from a safer distance. It also may be helpful to ask local Iraqis for information, but troops should never ask them to search too. Personnel should never try to touch a suspected IED and should never try to do the job explosive ordnance disposal technicians are specially trained to do.

## **Clear**

If an IED has been confirmed, the next step is to clear the area. The safe distance is determined by several factors: the tactical situation, avoiding being predictable and moving several hundred meters away from the IED. Everyone within the safe distance

*Continued on Page 11*



Explosive ordnance disposal technicians, such as those pictured here, are called in to deal with improvised explosive device threats throughout Iraq.

**Continued from Page 10**

should be evacuated. If more room is needed, such as when the IED is vehicle-borne, soldiers should clear a wider area and constantly direct people out of the danger area. The only people going near the IED should be those who are there to diffuse it, such as EOD personnel. While clearing the area, soldiers should constantly be on the lookout for secondary IEDs. If any such devices are found, they should reposition to a safe area and report the find to the ranking service member on the scene. Soldiers should try not to set patterns while performing clearing procedures, so the enemy will not be able to learn from our tactics and techniques. By not setting patterns and monitoring non-Coalition personnel watching the situation, troops are better protected.

**Call**

While the area surrounding the IED is being cleared, a nine-line IED/UXO report should be called in. The report is much like the nine-line report used for medically evacuating casualties, and includes the necessary information for the unit's Tactical Operations Center to assess the situation and prepare an appropriate response to clear the IED as the threat.

**Cordon**

After the area has been cleared and the IED has been called in, Soldiers should establish blocking positions around the area to prevent vehicle and foot traffic from approaching the IED; make sure the safe area is truly safe by checking for secondary IEDs; and make use of all available cover. The effected area's entire perimeter should be secured and dominated by all available personnel, and any available obstacles should be used to block vehicle approach routes.

Troops should scan both near and far and look for an enemy who may be watching and waiting to detonate the IED. Insurgents often hide in locations where they can see the device and ascertain the right moment to detonate. Personnel should randomly check people leaving the area to deter attacks, again avoiding setting patterns. Establishing obstacles to control approaches to security positions is another tactic the JIEDDTF stresses, since insurgents may try to attack local security forces using a vehicle-borne IED.

**Control**

Since the distance of all personnel from the IED directly affects their safety, service members

should control the site to prevent someone from straying dangerously close to the IED until it is cleared. The task force stresses that no one should leave the area until EOD gives the "all clear." While controlling the site, make sure all the troops in the area know what to do if attacked with small arms or rocket-propelled grenades.

If troops are a part of a patrol or convoy that finds an IED, they should remember the Five Cs in order to deal with the situation as quickly and safely as possible. An IED that is found is still an IED attack, said the JIEDDTF. By finding the IED, it's the enemy's attack that has been disrupted.

"[The Five Cs] reinforce IED awareness and training. It's a checklist that helps you think; it's a common-sense thing ... to help people remember the proper steps when encountering an IED, said Szigedi.

*(Editor's note: Information in this article was provided by the Joint IED Defeat Task Force.)*



Robots, such as this one, are used to minimize the risk to trained service members dealing with IED threats.

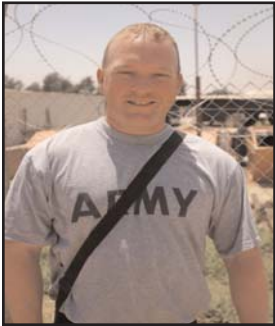


When an improvised explosive device has been found and trained personnel have been called in to manage the situation, troops on the scene should cordon and control all access routes to the danger area.



# WHAT DO YOU THINK?

**You know you've been here too long when...**



"I've missed 50% of my kids' births."  
Staff Sgt. Chris McClanahan  
2/101 Aviation  
Supply Sergeant.



"You can sit in 120 degree weather and be comfortable."  
Spc. Amana Swyer  
448th AG Postal Co.  
Postal Specialist



"You know the food on the DFAC menu by the day of the week."  
Staff Sgt. Joseph Sablan  
Fox Co. 1-58th Aviation  
Air Traffic Controller



"When you get excited about a better quality of plasticware at the DFAC"  
Sgt. Shelaine Tuytschaevers  
366th MPAD  
Broadcast Journalist



## Medical Matters

### Anthrax Program Reinstated

Anthrax vaccinations will resume for all MNC-I U.S. military, DOD personnel in Iraqi on a voluntary basis. MNC-I contractors are authorized to receive the vaccine provided they are U.S. citizens and the vaccine and related care are authorized by the provisions of related contracts. By making the vaccinations voluntary, CENTOM has balanced the need for Force Protection with individual Soldier's concerns regarding potential health risks. The military is committed to providing the best possible healthcare to deployed personnel. This vaccine is FDA approved for military use. Health hazards associated with the Anthrax vaccine are minimal. Soldiers who decline the vaccination will not suffer any penalty, punishment, or adverse action. We are also committed to providing vaccination opportunity to all Soldiers who desire the protection this vaccine offers. The threat of an Anthrax attack can't be quantified. However, early vaccination remains the most effective countermeasure for our personnel.

**Secure the incident site.**

**A second device could be waiting for you.**

