

THE MOUNTED RIFLEMAN



164 YEARS OF "BRAVE RIFLES" HISTORY LEADS HERE...

I am a Mounted Rifleman. I am part of an elite unit, the nation's only armored cavalry regiment. I stand shoulder to shoulder with the best fighting Soldiers in the United States Army. As the sun sets on 164 years of brave service to the nation, I rise to a New Dawn. Through my Actions,

I daily honor the historic motto: "Brave Rifles! Veterans!" Baptized in fire and blood, I have come out steel. I am a Mounted Rifleman.



DIRECTED BY
73rd Colonel of the Regiment and
XVIII Regimental Command Sergeant Major



facebook.com/3dACR



THE MOUNTED RIFLEMAN

3d Armored Cavalry Regiment Magazine

73d Colonel of the Regiment:
Col. Reginald Allen

XVIIIth Regimental CSM:
Command Sgt. Maj.
Jonathan J. Hunt

Public Affairs Officer:
Maj. Jason Billington

Editor-in-chief:
Maj. Jason Billington

Public Affairs Journalists:
Staff Sgt. Mark Albright
Staff Sgt. Garrett Ralston
Pfc. Adam Hefner



The Mounted Rifleman is published by the Public Affairs Office to provide information on Soldiers and Families of the 3d ACR. Views and opinions are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.

Send electronic submissions to:

jason.billington@us.army.mil

mark.albright2@us.army.mil

Digital photos should be at least 300 dpi and stories should be in Word format.

Or call the Regimental Public Affairs Office at 254-287-3903.

Visit the 3d ACR online at:

www.hood.army.mil/3d_acr

www.dvidshub.net/units/3ACR

www.youtube.com/3darmcavreg

or join the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment Facebook page.

www.facebook.com/3dacr



Soldiers of Crazyhorse Troop, 1st Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, depart from Patrol local Iraqi Army Nov. 30, 2010. Members of 3rd Platoon "G.I. Joe," conduct patrols with Iraqi Soldiers to advise and assist mission in Iraq. (US Army photo by Pfc. Adam J. Hefner)

Features

08 212 "Veterans" Reenlist

11 Keeping family ties

15 Game On!

20 Whats the buzz?

22 Iraqi Pumping Station rebuilt

EVENTS



Base Hamiyah on a joint patrol with the Security Forces as part of the Regiment's

ABOUT THIS

ISSUE

The Brave Rifles are halfway through a deployment in support of Operation New Dawn in southern Iraq. Through advising, training, and assisting Iraqi Security Forces, the Regiment is making history as the U.S. military mission in Iraq draws to a close. Through close ties with our Iraqi counterparts and the hard work of our Troopers, the Regiment continues the tradition of excellence patterned by the Mounted Rifleman over the last 164 years.

- The Editor

Columns

- 04 73rd Regimental Commander
- 06 XVIIIth Regimental Command Sgt. Maj.
- 10 Remington Headquarters Troop
- 12 Tiger 1st Squadron
- 14 Sabre 2nd Squadron
- 16 Thunder 3rd Squadron
- 18 Muleskinner Support Squadron
- 21 Chaplain
- 24 Family Readiness Group
- 26 Safety
- 28 History



PAGE 08



PAGE 13



PAGE 20

Coverpage



COL Reginald Allen cuts a ribbon signifying the opening of a new security facility at the Iranian border.



73d
Regimental
Commander

Col. Reginald Allen



Greetings from southern Iraq! Nearly six months into our deployment, the Brave Rifles are witnesses to history in the heart of the New Dawn of this country. While we are witnessing a new day for Iraq, we are laying the foundations of a strategic partnership between our two great nations through the tremendous efforts of our Troopers. As I travel extensively across the Regiment's five provinces of southern Iraq, a common theme emerges. Whether I'm witnessing the hard work of busy Troopers of the Brave Rifles or speaking with Iraqi leaders on progress being made in the country, I recognize that Iraqis and Americans are much the same. While popular culture pumps the stark contrasts of our cultures into living rooms across the United States on a daily basis, the truth lies in the benefit of personal interactions with our Iraqi brothers here. We share many of the same values, the same love for family and

country. In my many interactions with civilian and military leaders in Iraq, I have caught a glimpse of the heart of the Iraqi people. They are intent on seeing the rise of a strong and free Iraq for the benefit of their children and their children's children.

Mark Twain once said, "History does not repeat itself, but it does rhyme." The progress of this post-dictatorship country seems to hit many harmonious notes with the forging of an American democracy centuries ago. Progress of this kind does not come easy, and there are fringe elements who wish to halt the march toward a stable, self-reliant, sovereign Iraq. And in this critical time in history, the Brave Rifles are standing in the gap along with our Iraqi brothers to ensure that freedom prevails over injustice in this country. With every effort of our hands, we realize that we toil on the very terrain where many brave Americans gave their fullest measure of devotion to see this mission succeed. As President Abraham Lincoln relayed in his

Gettysburg Address, "It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced." Indeed, much great work has been done here through the blood, sweat and tears of the Regiment of Mounted Rifleman. In honor of their sacrifices and the sacrifices of many American families, we will carry the baton proudly toward the finish line.

The mission is a challenging one, with dangers still present at every turn. But, the Brave Rifles will prevail, as we have done at numerous critical junctures in our nation's past. America has called upon the Regiment of Mounted Rifleman to set the conditions for the closure of the U.S. military mission in Iraq. We are meeting the rigors of this vital mission as only an armored cavalry regiment can. Brave Rifles Troopers and Families, be proud of what we are accomplishing here. Along with our Iraqi partners, we are the architects of a new dawn for this once-oppressed country. Blood and Steel!



COL Reginald E. Allen visits with Soldiers on Patrol Base Shocker during the holiday season.



COL Reginald E. Allen visits with his counterpart, 8th Iraqi Army commander, LTG Othman Ghanimi on Contingency Operating Base Echo.



COL Reginald E. Allen, serves food to Troopers during the Holidays on Forward Operating Base Delta.

*Are you on Facebook?
Become a fan of the
3d Armored Cavalry Regiment
today!
Together as a team we can
communicate current info on
the Regiment*

www.facebook.com/3daer

*Further the reach of the
Regiment's fine Troopers and
our mission*



 **XVIIIth**
RCSM 
Command Sgt. Maj.
Jonathan J. Hunt

Troopers and Families of the Regiment, we are constantly moving forward and making ground during Operation New Dawn. The Regiment is accomplishing great things every day in Iraq, and we are surely making our Army and our Nation proud. As we near the middle of our tour, we are beginning to see the fruits of our hard work and dedication.

Since the Regiment assumed responsibility of our operational environment, we have seen the progress of literally dozens of civil projects including schools, agricultural improvements, and some major projects like the Al Kut Library and Babil Ruins Museum. These projects are the result of the dedication and professionalism of our Troopers. Their flawless efforts have provided a secure environment for our Provincial Reconstruction Teams to execute these projects. As we conduct our

missions here, we need to be mindful of safety at all times and ensure we execute every task by our standard, the Brave Rifles standard. I expect my NCOs to enforce this at all levels and ensure that we keep our Troopers safe. This will ensure the ultimate success of our mission.

I would like to congratulate all of those promoted in the senior NCO category across the Regiment. I charge you to apply your experience and leadership to ensure the success of your subordinates. They will look to you to set the example they will live by.

We all must maintain communication with our loved ones at home. They are the support network that keeps us motivated and concentrated on the mission we all have to do. We also have our Website, Facebook and YouTube accounts set up to inform them about our mission and progress in Iraq. Tell your friends and family to become fans of our Facebook site (www.facebook.com/3dacr) and to check our YouTube (www.youtube.com/3darmcavreg) and Website (www.hood.army.mil/3d_acr). God bless all of our Troopers and their Families. BRAVE RIFLES!!!



CSM Jonathan J. Hunt talks to a Soldier during a battlefield circulation on Contingency Operating Base Kalsu.



CSM Jonathan J. Hunt communicates with an Iraqi Army captain through his interpreter.



CSM Jonathan J. Hunt suits up for a demonstration of x-ray procedures during a visit with Medical Troop at Contingency Operating Base Kalsu.



CSM Jonathan J. Hunt speaks to soldiers from Crazyhorse Troop, 11ger Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment at Contingency Operating Site Kalsu

Congratulations to all of our newly promoted Non Commissioned Officers

SGT VANWINKLE BRIAN EDWARD
SGT BELIN CURTIS DARNELL SIMMON
SGT BONA CHRISTOPHER SAHR
SGT CAIRNS KATELIN KYUNG KLUSSE
SGT CORTEZ SOFIA MARIE
SGT HAYES RAYMOND BRIAN
SGT VIAN DUSTIN CARL
SGT BALLARD KENNETH EUGENE
SGT CLARK KEVIN LANE
SGT ESTOCK LEVI DALTON
SGT GARCIA JON CHARLES
SGT JOHNSON GREGORY ADRIAN
SGT PERKINS SAMUEL LOUIS
SGT RODSETH JEFFREY ALLEN
SGT SABLAN JULIAN RAYDUENAS
SGT WILLIAMS WHITTNEY SIMONE
SSG WOMACK ROBERT EUGENE

SSG BUTTERFIELD PATRICK ROBERT
SSG PRESTON DANIEL KEITH
SSG WYSS JAMES NICHOLAS
SSG GABRIEL CHRISTOPHER CHAD
SSG KECK DAVID SEAN
SSG SEVILLALLOZADA ELIEZER
SFC HOFF BENJAMIN BRUCE
SFC RIVERA JEFFERY P
SFC COPISKEY RANDALL LEE
SFC LIPHAM CHRISTOPHER ROY
SFC MONTGOMERY WILLIAM KEYS
SFC RUSSELL KAI FABIAN
MSG FLOWERS SHAUNA U
MSG COCKRELL JERRY DALE
MSG PIZZI MATTHEW PHILLIP
MSG VASQUEZ OSCAR

The Regiment has a new Youtube page! Log in and view our latest "Rifles' Reflection" and other videos.

www.youtube.com/3darmcavreg



Youtube



MG Vincent K. Brooks, United States Division-South commander, administers the Oath of Enlistment to reenlistees at Contingency Operating Site Kalsu Nov. 11, 2010. The ceremony was part of a mass reenlistment held to honor Veterans Day. (US Army photo by SSG Garrett Ralston)

212 “Veterans” Reenlist on Veterans Day



SGT Susana Saenz, a signal support specialist, and SPC Daniel Saenz, a light wheel mechanic, a married couple both of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, stand together after reenlisting on Contingency Operating Site Kalsu Nov. 11, 2010. Both were part of a mass reenlistment ceremony held to honor Veterans Day. Pictured from left are COL Reginald E. Allen, 3d ACR commander, MG Vincent K. Brooks, United States Division-South commander, SGT Susana Saenz, SPC Daniel Saenz, CSM Jim Champagne, USD-S command sergeant major, and CSM Jonathan J. Hunt, 3d ACR command sergeant major. (US Army photo by SSG Garrett Ralston)

Story By SSG Garrett Ralston 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment Public Affairs Office

The 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, currently deployed in support of Operation New Dawn, conducted a mass reenlistment ceremony across its area of operation on Veterans Day.

Simultaneous ceremonies were held on three contingency operating sites. Separated by hundreds of miles, 212 Soldiers raised their right hands and recited the time-honored oath of enlistment.

“These Troopers have volunteered to reenlist in a time of war to protect the freedoms we all enjoy,” said MSG Mike Walker, Senior Career Counselor for the regiment. “Many of them are staying



Reenlistees of the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment raise their hands to recite the Oath of Enlistment administered by MG Vincent K. Brooks, United States Division-South commander on Contingency Operating Site Kalsu Nov. 11, 2010. A mass reenlistment ceremony that spanned all three of the regiment's bases was conducted to honor Veterans Day. (US Army photo by PFC Adam Hefner)

with the regiment and reenlisted simply because they want to continue to serve their country."

MG Vincent K. Brooks, commander of both the 1st Infantry Division and U.S. Division-South in Iraq, administered the oath of enlistment to Soldiers re-enlisting at Contingency Operating Site Kalsu.

"It's a great day to spend time with some of the world's greatest warriors," said Brooks.

Brooks thanked the Soldiers for their initial willingness to join the Army while commending their leaders for inspiring them to continue to serve.

"The regiment is one month into the fiscal year and half its retention goals have been met," said Brooks. "If that's not 'Brave Rifles' style, I don't know what is."

The 1st Inf. Div. deputy commanding generals, BG Ricky Gibbs and BG Randal Dragon, administered oaths at Contingency Operating Site Echo in Diwanayah and Contingency Operating Site Delta in Wasit. The division's

support for the regiment's Soldiers across southern Iraq made the event a success.

The 212 reenlistees pledged to continue their service to the Army and to write the next pages in the chronicles of an already storied regiment.

The history of the 3d ACR dates back to 1846 when it was enacted by Congress to establish military stations on the route to Oregon. The regiment saw service in ten of the nations' major campaigns and conflicts. It was during the Mexican-American War that Gen. Winfield Scott, upon seeing his men bloodied from battle, proclaimed "Brave Rifles! Veterans! You have been baptized in fire and blood and have come out steel!" From then on, the moniker "Veterans" stayed with the unit.

Of the 212 reenlistees, two are a married couple serving alongside each other.

SPC Daniel L. Saenz, a light wheel mechanic from Abilene, Kansas, and SGT Susana A. Saenz, a signal support specialist from El Centro, Calif., both of

Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, stood together and recited the oath.

"We chose to stay because we enjoy serving in the Army," said Susana. "Veterans Day is a great day to do it because it honors the sacrifices of us all and those who came before us."

As part of the ceremony on Kalsu, every reenlistee passed before Brooks and received a coin and a handshake.

"These veterans who raised their hands today exemplify the ardent spirit of the American Soldier and demonstrate the commitment of this regiment to a stable Iraq," said COL Reginald E. Allen, commander of the 3d ACR. "We owe such dedication and resolve to the thousands of American Soldiers who left their homes to fight for freedom in this land and, more importantly, to the thousands of American warriors who did not come back home."

REMINGTON

HEADQUARTERS TROOP, 3d ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT



By CPT Reinaldo Rivera
Remington Commander

While continuing to provide security and training advice to the Iraqi Security Forces in southern Iraq, the Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Troop closed last year with celebrations that brought our Soldiers together during the holidays. Soldiers from all sections took part in the Thanksgiving feast and the Christmas tree lighting ceremony on COS Kalsu, bringing a bit of home to all the Soldiers here.

Our S4 section took the lead in providing our Soldiers at Kalsu with a familiar scene during Thanksgiving. They transformed the COS Kalsu Dining Facility into a scene straight from "The Wizard of Oz," complete with a yellow brick road and characters such as Dorothy, the Scarecrow and the Tin Man. Soldiers also enjoyed a delicious meal with their friends in a very welcoming environment provided by the Soldiers of S4. The III Corps Commander and Command Sergeant Major, LTG Cone and CSM Coleman visited us that day and shared a Thanksgiving meal with the Troopers. They also recognized many of our Soldiers for their contributions and sacrifices to the Nation and the Army.

In the month of December, COS



SFC Raymond Collins, Regimental Equal Opportunity NCO, leads a Sexual Assault seminar for Troopers on COS Kalsu December 10, 2010. (US Army photo by PFC Adam Hefner)

Kalsu shed its normally drab looks and dark nights to make room for Holiday decorations on doors, walls, and even vehicles. The S1 and S6 shops made some great contributions to the "Christmas spirit" by completely decorating their offices with Christmas trees, gifts, and lights. Part of the COS Kalsu decorations included a live Christmas tree decorated by Soldiers from across RHHT and lit as part of a ceremony led by the Regimental Commander, COL Reginald Allen. During the ceremony, Soldiers sang carols and shared each other's company in a good, old fashioned holiday tradition. The holiday celebrations did not stop operations, though. The Soldiers of Remington maintained normal operations, providing all required services to their

fellow Soldiers and the rest of the Regiment.

Our Families back home also celebrated the holidays together. On December 10, the Family Readiness Group hosted a Christmas Party for our families in the village of Salado. Over 80 spouses, children, and Troopers showed up to the party and took part in the fun and gift giving. This party was a total success thanks to the efforts of Casey Lazo and our superb FRG team!

The Regiment continues to work tirelessly setting the conditions for the successful withdrawal of all U.S. forces from Iraq. The efforts of our Troopers and our Families both here and in the United States ensure that the Army's mission in Iraq will be complete by the next holiday season.

Base in southern Iraq hosts Austin Marathon



Runners flow out of the start point of the Livestrong Austin Marathon and Half Marathon "shadow run", held on Contingency Operating Site Kalsu Sunday. Over 100 runners participated in the 13.1-mile race that took them three laps over gravel and mud covered roads. The race is sponsored by the central Texas based Marathon, and is one of many similar events that are held in support of deployed servicemembers. US Army photo by Staff Sgt. Garrett Ralston

**Story by
Staff Sgt. Garrett Ralston**

Over 100 Soldiers, Airmen, and civilians gathered Sunday on Contingency Operating Site Kalsu in southern Iraq, to participate in the Austin, Texas, based Livestrong Marathon and Half Marathon "shadow run".

The race was organized to bring participants on the base a taste of the central Texas annual marathon and provide those involved with a fun, challenging outlet from daily business.

Inspired by stories of similar events in the past, Staff Sgt. Mario A. Gomez, the Senior Fire and Effects non-commissioned officer in charge, of Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, and a native of McAllen, Texas, coordinated the days event.

"I contacted personnel from one of my favorite running related

publications," said Gomez. "They directed me to contact folks with the Austin Marathon for support. Austin Marathon happily provided us with logoed shirts, medals, and a finish line tape for our runners here."

With support in place, the 13.1-mile race was began at 7:00 a.m. on Kalsu. This would coincide as nearly as possible with the race back in Austin.

The course the runners took in Iraq is in stark contrast from the green, tree lined streets of Austin. Tall trees, grass, and paved roads were exchanged for concrete barriers, mud puddles, and a lot of gravel. Despite the conditions, runners were excited and enthusiastic.

"I was really excited to participate because Austin is where I attended college," said Spc. Colleen E. Cobb, a geospatial engineer for 3rd ACR, originally from San Antonio. "I didn't train very hard for it but I feel I did



Spc. Christopher Mwita, of Regimental Support Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, crosses the finish line of the Livestrong Austin Marathon and Half Marathon "shadow run", held on Contingency Operating Site Kalsu Sunday. Mwita completed the run in first place, with a time of just 1 hour 32 minutes, two full minutes faster than the Soldier behind him. The central Texas sponsored race was an opportunity for runners to compete, have fun, and get a change from their daily routines. US Army photo by Pfc. Maksim Shchekoturov

pretty good. I finished and that's good."

All the runners remained determined through the three wind blown laps around the base, smiling and waving as onlookers cheered them forward.

The first competitor to cross the finish line, Spc. Christopher Mwita, Regimental Support Squadron, glided past the finish line at 1 hour, 32 minutes, closely followed by 1st Lt. Justin Messenger of 1st Squadron, both 3rd ACR.

According to an Austin Marathon press release, John Conley, race director for Livestrong Austin Marathon and Half Marathon said, "The Austin Marathon remains dedicated to producing these 'shadow races' year after year. Overcoming the tough conditions is a testament to these dedicated athletes, and to the importance of providing a way for our Troops to have some sense of normalcy and leisure time during their service."



**By LTC David Athey
Tiger Commander**

This is how I would define the first six months of deployment for Tiger Squadron: when I think of our success, I see you, our families, friends, and FRGs who continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers. CSM Taylor and I tip our Stetsons to you, because you didn't forget about our Troopers during the holiday season. The cards and gifts you sent were a fine example of your love and support to us.

I wish I could say that our success has come easy. It hasn't. Someone once said, *"Some people dream of success. . . while others wake up and work*

hard at it." We've been successful because our troopers wake up every day and work hard. Tiger Squadron has been assigned the task of protecting Contingency Operating Station (COS) Kalsu from indirect fire 24/7. Bandit, Dragon and King are successfully prowling the canal roads, village streets and highway roads day and night, throwing the enemy off their game. Roughrider troop successfully keeps the supply line operating to our outlying Patrol Bases. The 43rd Engineers

successfully keep the roads safe by ensuring that the enemy cannot place their Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and continually execute engineer required base camp improvements. The 253d Military Police Company is successfully escorting the Stability Transition Teams (STTs) and assisting us in counter indirect fire patrols.

Apache and Crazyhorse wake up and work hard every day in their efforts to gain the confidence and support of the local populace. Both troops successfully distributed 16,500 humanitarian aid bags to Muslim pilgrims traveling long distance during the Ashura holiday. Apache troop

tank crews, eighteen Bradley crews and three mortar crews did what they know best: locked onto a target downrange and engaged it successfully. An Ai-yee-ah! shout out to Crazyhorse troop for coming away with top tank and top Bradley award.

We wouldn't know success if we relied only on Commissioned Officers. The Non-Commissioned Officer is the backbone of all we do. Without them, we would certainly fail. Several of these new NCO's were recently introduced during the first ever NCO Induction Ceremony for the Squadron. CSM and I want to make this ceremony a tradition of Tiger Squadron because

it is paramount that new NCO's know the weighty responsibility they have been given.

Finally, we want to say goodbye to two people who've made Tiger Squadron successful. MAJ McNew, Squadron Executive Officer, is now the Regimental planner. 1SG Bradshaw of

Roughrider Troop will be making his way back to the States in preparation for the Sergeant Major Academy. We welcome MAJ Due, the new S3; 1SG Byrd, the new 1SG for Roughrider Troop and 1SG Torresgarza, the new 1SG of Bandit Troop.

"The toughest thing about success", said Irving Berlin, "is that you've got to keep on being successful." Rest assured, we will keep being successful so long as we keep waking up and working hard.

"The NonCommissioned Officer is the backbone of all we do"

successfully completed business grants for three businesses: a female salon, a barber shop and a photshop. As I write this, Crazyhorse is in the process of stocking a library for a local school.

Gunnery isn't just for garrison. Since it had been at least a year since our Troopers were able to hone their skills and sharpen our sabers with tanks, Bradleys and mortars, I charged SGM Lujan to set up Gunnery lanes at COS Hammer. It was a success! Twenty-four

Game On!

Children's Youth Center upgraded, opens doors

Story and Photos By
SSG Garrett Ralston
3d Armored Cavalry Regiment
Public Affairs Office

The Karbala Provincial Reconstruction Team assisted by Troop A, 1st Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, celebrated the completion of a renovation project on the Husayniyah Youth Center Sunday.

The Youth Center is one of eleven Good Neighbor projects the PRT has finished in recent months and provides local Iraqi children with a place to enjoy their favorite sporting activities. Many neighborhood children were present for the ceremony that was held on the basketball court.

"The condition of the center when we first came to look it over was pretty poor," said LTC Vince Rice, deputy team leader for the PRT. "We came at the request of the Mayor to see what could be done to make it better for the kids."

"The PRT has been proactive in trying to get this project done and it's gone very smoothly"

After visiting the center the PRT walked away with plans for the project that would result in an almost completely restored facility. The basketball court received a fresh coat of paint and netting for the hoops. The center's boxing ring was replaced and the ceiling above the ring was torn out and rebuilt.

Before the ceremony began children were finishing a game of soccer on the field that was also part of the renovation.

The upgraded field featured new goals and the once bare concrete is now covered in a bright green artificial turf.

After the ribbon cutting the kids and members of Troop A moved inside the center where a large donation of shoes was handed out. All the children present received shoes and shirts and moved back outside to resume their soccer game while others began a game of basketball.

"We are extremely pleased with all the work that has been done here," said Isam Al Masoudi, the youth center director. "The children are very happy and thankful for all you have done for them."

"The PRT has been proactive in trying to get this project done and it's gone very smoothly," said Rice. "We do our best to provide these things for the children because in the end they are the future of Iraq."



CPT James Reilly, Apache Troop commander, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, hands a pair of shoes to an Iraqi boy Oct. 31, 2010. The shoes were handed out as an addition to the opening of the local youth center. The center was refurbished in a project organized by the Karbala Provincial Reconstruction Team providing local children with a place to enjoy their favorite recreational activities.



LTC Vince Rice, deputy team leader for the Karbala Provincial Reconstruction Team, opens the local youth center in a ribbon cutting ceremony Oct. 31, 2010. The youth center was refurbished to provide local children with new recreational opportunities.



By LTC J. Bryan Mullins
Sabre Commander

Okay, bear with me; it might get a bit corny this month. Christmas made me think about what a great deal the Army is and why I have stuck around and enjoyed my career. As I read the paper and watched the news, the theme was continued jobless rates, tight finances, and consumers saving money rather than spending extravagantly for the holidays. In contrast, I was surrounded by people that had no fear about getting fired next week, the unemployment checks running out, or where food, shelter, and medical care were coming from. When asked what they would like for Christmas, the most common answer was “nothing I don’t already have.” I asked that question of dozens of people and almost always got the same answer, which is pretty amazing.

What have I enjoyed about the Army in a twenty year career? I get paid well, and I know the Army has my back when it comes to housing and medical care. You cannot afford to live in a palace, and on post housing is often just short of nasty in some locations, but you are warm and dry, and sometimes it is great. My house at Hood is new, big, and nice, and I have excellent neighbors that I trust and who don’t cause trouble. Our apartment in Germany was really nice and in the middle of the culture, almost forcing us to embrace the great

experience of living overseas. Yes, you have to wait for dentist appointments, doctor appointments, and prescriptions, but you know you will eventually get treated by professionals. Unless you are very wealthy, you are not going to get better health care than what you get in the Army, and you would pay dearly for that care. With a bit of persistence, I have always managed to get whatever ails me taken care of in garrison, and care in a deployed theater is incredible. The Army footed the \$250,000 medical bill associated with the birth of my daughter, and I think we paid back about \$40 total – a pretty good deal.

**“I am glad you joined
the Army; you are
on a good team”**

America respects our profession and understands how hard we work (sometimes) and the sacrifice we periodically make to accomplish our duty. When not deployed, the Army has done a decent job balancing the work load – we get a lot of four day weekends and thirty days leave guaranteed a year. Yes, there are tough weeks, but in the aggregate, I don’t think anyone is a slave without some of that being self-inflicted. Generally, the work is interesting, rewarding, and varied. If you have a bad boss or job, wait a year and you or he will

move. If you get tired of your narrow MOS focus, the Army has chances to try other areas. You can live and visit places all over the world, opportunities most of us could not afford any other way. When we lived in Germany it was easy to drive or catch a train to Berlin, Vienna, or Paris for a long weekend, and a flight to Greece or Britain was affordable. I have traveled on official business to Las Vegas, Florida, the capital of Macedonia, Williamsburg VA, Hamburg, and more battlefields than you can imagine. Sometimes the travel location is not so pleasant (NTC, Ranger School), but that comes with the package deal.

I work with great people that I trust and respect. 90% of the team is just that, a team. They know what they signed up for and are committed. They are professionals and live the Army values and have an internal code of ethics. My superiors care as much about the team as their own career, and my peers are not going to stab me in the back to make themselves look good. My fellow Soldiers can be trusted not to lie, to work hard, and put the mission above their selfish concerns. We are all focused on making the organization and the people in it better. We do fun stuff all the time, as long as you think firing weapons, blowing crap up, and running around like crazy people is fun. We play interactive computer games and get paid for it, and fight mock battles with the best technology money can buy. A lack of resources

never seems to get in the way of accomplishing the mission; if you need it, the Army (eventually) provides.

This is all great and truly how I feel about the Army (must be to stick around 19 years), but it is a two way street. You have to commit. If you are the guy that is only in 50%, you are going to struggle. If you bring bad habits from the civilian world, it will cause problems. If you ignore our values or think some of the rules don't apply, you are going to have a less pleasant experience. The folks that troop through my office for Article 15s are usually the ones that joined the Army to get away from a bad environment but unfortunately bring some of that environment with them. They enter the Army but don't really join the team. The second challenge is the transition from follower to leader; some folks don't get this part of the equation. They want the pay and prestige but

are not willing to accept responsibility for their charges and the extra work required to develop themselves and their subordinates. You have to know the standard, live the standard, and enforce the standard – a code some people are not ready to live even after accepting NCO or officer rank.

I am glad you joined the Army; you are on a good team. When you hear people complain about the unit or the Army in general, I suggest they don't have a civilian point of reference or they have not committed wholeheartedly to the program. Those of us that have understand that with any job, bad comes with the good, but the good far outweighs the bad. I am blessed to have served in the Army for 19 years and am glad that at Christmas I basically have nothing else that I need or want, in contrast to so many other Americans.



WASIT, Iraq – A Soldier from Battery L, 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, leads Iraqi Army Soldiers in a squad drill on Contingency Operating Base Delta Wednesday. Lion Battery is working with local IA on basic squad and platoon level exercises to improve their cohesion and readiness. US Army photo by Staff Sgt. Garrett Ralston (110216-A-8856R-001)

The mission of the CFC is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, cost-efficient, and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all.



www.opm.gov/cfc

AER is a private nonprofit organization incorporated in 1942 by the Secretary of War and the Army Chief of Staff. AER's sole mission is to help soldiers and their dependents.

AER is the Army's own emergency financial assistance organization and is dedicated to "Helping the Army Take Care of Its Own". AER provides commanders a valuable asset in accomplishing their basic command responsibility for the morale and welfare of soldiers.

AER funds are made available to commanders having AER Sections to provide emergency financial assistance to soldiers - active & retired - and their dependents when there is a valid need.

AER funds made available to commanders are not limited and are constrained only by the requirement of valid need.

For these reasons, the AER assistance program is conducted within the Army structure by major commanders and their installation/organization commanders through AER sections and other related organizations.

www.aerhq.org



By LTC Scott Gerber
Thunder Commander

Greetings from Diwaniyah, Najaf and Babil Provinces! Thunder Squadron Troopers continue to perform exceptionally in their missions to enable Provincial Reconstruction Teams helping the government and to advise and assist their Iraqi counterparts and improve the daily quality of life for the Iraqi people throughout OE Thunder.

As the holiday season drew to a close in January, Thunder Squadron found itself firmly in the heart of another celebration as the Iraqi people began the Arba'een commemoration. Arba'een commemorates the 40th day after the death of the Imam Hussein, the day his family was released from captivity and allowed to return to Karbala. Shias celebrate this commemoration by walking to Karbala as his family did. Thunder Squadron Troopers witnessed what very few others in Iraq get to see, as millions of pilgrims passed through our area walking to Najaf and Karbala. Some walked from as far away as Basrah and Qom, Iran. None of us will forget the site of a stream of people that literally stretched hundreds of kilometers from South and East of Diwaniyah up to Najaf and beyond to Karbala.

With their IA and IP counterparts planning and coordinating security plans for the holiday, Thunder Squadron continued their advise and assist mission as the Iraqis took the lead in securing vital pilgrimage routes.

As the heart of the Squadron, Havoc Troop, continued to support

the Squadron's operations, they welcomed a new command team into the troop. We regretfully bid farewell to Dave Dixon as he departs command and moves on with his family to new adventures. Fortunately, a great officer, Larry Steward, has picked up the guidon and will continue to lead the most diverse troop in the Squadron.

Though they are far from the Thunder Squadron flagpole, Ghost Rider Company has continued its mission to provide ISR to the Squadron via its fleet of UAVs and other assets. The men and women of this troop allow continuous eyes on the OE and help the Regiment and the ISF in their efforts to protect pilgrims traveling to Najaf and Karbala for Arba'een. They have found time for a few fun events, and when I was last up visiting, the hot debate was whether or not the "Officer" volleyball team could include warrant officers. Sounds like someone is afraid up there...

Killer Troop continued to build and foster relationships with its Iraqi counterparts as they secure a portion of the province that has traditionally seen a great deal of insurgent activity. Working with the Iraqi Army (IA), Killer Troop developed training programs to foster IA NCO development and improve their overall mission readiness. At the same time, Killer has executed a large number of micro-grant projects, to include bee hives and trash projects, providing much needed support to farmers and small businessmen in central Diwaniyah Province. As the Arba'een commemoration ramped up in OE Thunder, Killer Troop continued to cultivate lasting relationships with Iraqi leaders and citizens as they conducted joint patrols with the 4/30th IA to secure Diwaniyah and the many

travelers it hosted.

Across the street in Lightning Troop's AO, Troopers worked closely with the Diwaniyah Anti-Terrorism Unit (ATU) to share information vital to interdicting possible attacks on USF, ISF and Iraqi citizens. Lightning has found a group of people at the ATU who are interested in securing the province and will to listen, learn and share their knowledge and expertise. At the same time, Lightning Troop worked with the Diwaniyah Police and provided them with video feeds from unmanned aerial vehicles, allowing both USF and ISF to analyze and focus security on key routes and intersections into Diwaniyah. This concentrated effort by Lightning strengthened security and allowed the Iraqis to take the lead as they secured the thousands of pilgrims traveling through Diwaniyah.

Regulator Battery continued to allow Thunder Squadron freedom of movement while guaranteeing the safe passage of hundreds of thousands of pilgrims as they moved through OE Thunder to the holy cities of Najaf and Karbala. Regulator's vital route clearance mission may often-times go unnoticed. However, their success is the reason why many USF patrols and Iraqi citizens travel the roads of OE Thunder with hardly a thought about the dangers they used to face on that route. At the same time, Regulator also worked with the 1/30th IA to plan and coordinate the security plan for the commemoration. Like Lightning and Killer, Regulator is supporting a wide scale of micro-grant projects, helping to bring anything from greenhouses to furniture stores to the towns of Afak and Sumer. Again, your troopers are reaching out and helping the poor farmers and merchants of this province

and receiving untold thanks and gratitude in the process.

Maddog Company found itself at the very heart of the Arba'een holiday as it conducted operations in and around the holy city of Najaf. With Najaf being a major milestone where many of the thousands of pilgrims stop and celebrate before moving on to Karbala, Maddog saw the Arba'een holiday at its front doorstep. Hundreds of tents adorned with shining lights, miniature replicas of the Imam Ali and Imam Hussein Shrines and thousands of chairs sprang up over night in their AO. Maddog continued its work with the PRT as they helped improve a handful of major vehicular and pedestrian bridges throughout the city – completing a project worth over 1.5 million dollars. As the Arba'een holiday approached, Maddog worked closely with the 3/30th IA to provide security for the routes that thousands of pilgrims used to travel into Najaf during this culturally sensitive time. And with the holiday season, Maddog saw its former commander, CPT Larry Steward, say

farewell to the company and welcomed in its new commander, CPT David Griffith.

Last, but certainly not least, Ironhawk is packing and counting and making the final preparations before they join us in theater. By the time you read this, Ironhawk will be deeply involved in support of the operations of the Diwaniyah Provincial Reconstruction Team and helping build a better, more transparent government for the people in OE Thunder. So give the Ironhawk crew a strong send off, and we'll get them here and into the fight.

As we continue operations into the sixth month of Operation New Dawn, the hard work and sacrifices made by Thunder Squadron Troopers is beginning to materialize in both the improved security situation of OE Thunder and some positive growth in the economy and government. Your troopers have executed over a thousand patrols, scores of training events and over two million dollars in projects to help the people of Diwaniyah and Najaf stand on their own. Our battle

here is not the quick paced action of a few years ago, when we counted the number of terrorists arrested or IEDs found and cleared. Our targets now are helping the Iraqi Security Forces gain true independence, bringing projects to the people who need them and helping the Iraq Government stand on its own two feet. While the mission remains dangerous, rest assured your troopers are ready for the challenges they face and continue to demonstrate why the United States Cavalry is the most flexible and agile force.

Let me close by thanking you – the Families and friends of Thunder Squadron – for all that you do. Many of you are on third, fourth and fifth tours. Yet, you are in there every day, fighting the hardest fight – taking care of kids, dealing with lonely nights and whatever else breaks. Hang in there – by the time you read this, we will be past the six month mark. Thank you for all you do to support us. Don't forget – thank a FRG volunteer when you see them!

Brave Rifles!

ASV ROLLOVER PREVENTION IS ALL ABOUT CONTROL:

Crew Coordination. Driver, senior occupant, gunner and passengers know their responsibilities; remain vigilant; identify and communicate potential hazards.

Observe your surroundings. Be aware of bridge limitations, low hanging power lines, soft-shouldered roads, and the presence of culverts, canals, and ditches.

Never drive the vehicle beyond its limitations. Avoid abrupt steering, excessive acceleration, and panic braking.

Training. Conduct mission briefings, rollover drills, and crew coordination refreshers prior to every mission.

Reduce speed in turns and on wet or unimproved surfaces.

Organize all equipment. Ensure everything is securely stored and tied-down to avoid projectile hazards in the event of an accident or rollover.

Leaders ensure only properly trained, qualified, and licensed personnel operate vehicles and equipment! Insist that all personnel wear seatbelts / gunner restraints.

ENGAGED LEADERS MAKE A
DIFFERENCE!



ARMY SAFE
IS ARMY STRONG

Don't Lose Control



LTC Timothy D. Luedecking
RSS Commander

The Support Operations Office, commonly referred to as the SPO shop, is the center of sustainment operations for the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment. The SPO shop is responsible for forecasting, coordinating, and executing the mission of supporting the Regiment. There is a quote that is attributed to several generals throughout World War II, "I don't know much about this thing called logistics; all I know is that I want some." The SPO office ensures that the Troopers of 3d ACR never have to ask for support; it has already been provided to them.

The Officer in Charge of SPO is MAJ Charles McPhail. His primary role is to interact with Regimental Headquarters on planning for upcoming missions and then pass the job of execution off to the appropriate section. He is also responsible for mentoring the officers in SPO, passing on his knowledge to future logisticians. MAJ McPhail is assisted by MSG Trequiela Carter, the Noncommissioned Officer in Charge. MSG Carter works directly with the NCOICs of the eight sections, which are described below, on maintaining an overall view of logistical operations and on caring for and assisting the Soldiers of the SPO shop with both personal and professional development.

The SPO Transportation Section's mission is to plan for the transportation of all commodities coordinated for by

the various sections of SPO to the various locations in which 3d ACR operates. Most often, this consists of moving all the food, fuel, ammunition, and repair parts to the line Squadrons of the 3d ACR, allowing them to successfully conduct their assigned missions. In addition, SPO Trans works with the 80th Movement Control Team (MCT), also from Fort Hood, to transport various shipments of equipment and supplies anywhere in theater. This mission is accomplished

"The SPO office ensures that the Troopers of 3d ACR never have to ask for support; it has already been provided to them"

by SSG Roddy Alford, who works every day to coordinate for these items to be picked up and delivered for our customers. SSG Alford works closely with SSG Tirso Sepulveda, who takes all of the supply requests processed by the other sections of SPO, as well as the movement requests from SSG Alford, and creates the mission plans and instructions that our convoys need to make their missions successful. Overseeing the SPO Trans shop is 1LT Zach Rand, who monitors the processes used by SSG Alford and

SSG Sepulveda, and coordinates any non-standard missions that arise, to ensure that the 3d ACR receives exactly what it needs to be successful. Since 21 September 2010, over 120 RSS convoys have successfully delivered supplies and equipment to the 3d ACR.

The GSO, General Supply Office, is responsible for ensuring that all 3d ACR bases have the food, water, ice, MREs, and fuel needed to accomplish their missions. The NCOIC, SFC Demetris James, is responsible for mentoring all of the Soldiers in the section while focusing on bulk fuel and logistics reporting from across the Regiment. She works closely with SSG Nicole Bonhomme for logistics reporting status and the status of fuel at Kalsu. SFC Christina Oliver is responsible for all food, water, ice, and MREs moving through the Rifles Operational Environment. She deals with everything from fresh food for the DFACs to ensuring that every base has ice on hand for missions. SGT Francisco Alfaro is in charge of night operations for the entire SPO shop. He is responsible for everything from tracking parts to notifying the appropriate personnel of after-hours emergencies. SSG William Smith is the liaison to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. He tracks all personnel and equipment moves from Iraq to Kuwait, as well as assisting with high priority parts to get them to the end user in an efficient manner. The GSO OIC, 1LT Sarah Barron, oversees all GSO operations and deals primarily with coordinating movement of commodities with the Trans Section and the line Squadron S4s.

The SPO Ammo section consists of four personnel: WO1 Jamale Morrow, SFC Tychicus Best, SSG Derrick Snoddy, and SGT Jesse Garcia. The mission of the section is to process all Regimental paperwork concerning ammunition. This consists of issue and turn in requests, basic load increases, and all amnesty boxes on Kalsu. This section is also responsible for the daily operation of the Basic Load Ammunition Holding Area, where all of the Regiment's ammunition is stored, as well as the Safe Haven yard for ammunition moving across the Iraqi Theater. The Ammo section is also responsible for loading, blocking, bracing, and shipping ammunition containers and for ensuring the proper destruction of unserviceable ammunition. Without this dedicated section, the Regiment would not have the ammunition necessary to protect the force and perform its mission.

The SPO Maintenance Office, or MATO, is charged with tracking the maintenance status of all Regimental equipment, and facilitating the repair of that equipment, whether through working with various warehouses to expedite the delivery of parts, coordinating with the Field Support Representatives (FSRs) for specific equipment repairs, or providing expert maintenance knowledge and advice thanks to CW4 Cornelius Harris, the Regimental Senior Maintenance Technician. Mr. Harris works closely with the various units of the 3d ACR to ensure that the equipment needed to accomplish the mission is ready whenever commanders may need it. Mr. Harris is assisted by his team of three NCOs: SFC Oliver Hardin, SFC Robbie Williams, and SGT Isabel Ruiz. All three work tirelessly to ensure that the repair parts needed by the Regiment are received quickly by the customer units.

The Troopers of CSSAMMO are responsible for maintaining the STAMIS network. This is a separate, secure network that runs off of V-SATs and is used to track all maintenance, parts, medical records, and medical supplies in the Regiment. CW2 Louis Coleman is the OIC, and SSG Brian Freeman is the NCOIC. They have three Soldiers,

SPC Ashley Arnold, PFC Wayne Poole, and PV2 Alex Arguelles. These five work tirelessly to ensure that all computers and connections on seven different bases remain operational. They have also traveled to COB Adder, to the 224th Sustainment Brigade, to assist them with their STAMIS network and connectivity. Without this section



maintenance would not be tracked, parts could not be ordered, medical records would not be updated, and medical supplies would not come in. They are a vital part of the Regiment's sustainment mission.

The medical section is made up of the SPO Medical Planner and the Mortuary Affairs NCOIC. In addition to her duties as the GSO OIC, 1LT Sarah Barron is also the medical planner. She is responsible for ensuring all sustainment operations include a plan for MEDEVAC and medical resupply. She also tracks the medical readiness of the Squadron and ensures all Troopers are up to date on vaccines. SGT Ronny Williams is the 3d ACR Mortuary Affairs NCOIC. It is his job to coordinate training for all Troops in the Regiment on the proper procedures for handling fallen Soldiers with dignity and respect. He is also responsible for overseeing the handling of all personal effects to ensure that they are returned to the family. He is the subject matter expert to whom the Regiment turns in all matters concerning a fallen Soldier. SFC Twanna Baines is the liaison for the SPO Medical section the Joint Base Balad. She tracks the movement of all 3d ACR Troopers being evacuated from theater. Through her efforts, all commanders maintain accountability of their Soldiers. CPT Bobbi Snowden, the Environmental Science Officer, is a new

addition to the SPO shop. She ensures that all bases within the 3d ACR have healthy food and water, sanitary living conditions, and are maintaining proper environmental procedures. It's a very busy job, and she travels to each base at least once a month to conduct a site survey, therefore maintaining healthy living conditions for the Troopers of 3d ACR.

The Garrison Operations Cell consists of two sections: the Mayor's Cell under 1LT Antonia Carreon and the LOGCAP section under 1LT Christina Yarber. The Mayor's Cell is in charge of all life support assets on the COS. They house all permanent and transient personnel and take care of all work orders that go through KBR. Mayor's Cell is in charge of emplacing T-walls around structures and emplacing bunkers around the COS and covering them with sandbags. Currently the Mayor's Cell is teamed up with the civilian base closure team (BOS-I) in working to gradually close down the COS by the given base closure date. 1LT Carreon has four NCOs and three Soldiers from different troops who work with her in the Mayor's Cell. The LOGCAP section consists of 1LT Yarber and SSG Princess Gibbs. They work closely with KBR dealing with new projects around the COS. Currently they are working on de-scoping buildings around in support of the drawdown of forces. Any new project that begins or ends on the COS goes through the LOGCAP office for approval and tracking.

The SPO Shop's forward element at COB Adder, or "SPO-South," is charged with acting as the liaison between the 3d ACR and the various units located at COB Adder, a large logistics hub. This element consists of CW4 Andre Charlton, WO1 Summer Skeete, SFC(P) Ronnie Adlao, and SFC Edward Walker. In addition to enabling communication between the 3d ACR and the units at COB Adder, these personnel work diligently to verify the enormous amount of supplies that the 3d ACR receives at our hub, COS Kalsu. SPO-South is on the front line of the sustainment effort, ensuring that the SPO shop at Kalsu receives everything it needs to support the Regiment.

What's the Buzz? Aircraft's noise part of effect

*Story and Photos By
SSG Garrett Ralston
3d Armored Cavalry Regiment
Public Affairs Office*

Many times each day on Contingency Operating Station Kalsu, the normal sounds Soldiers hear and tune out is overridden by one that is not so easily ignored. The sound begins as a low hum and after a moment becomes a high buzzing that can be heard all over the COS. In as much time as it takes to identify the sound and its direction a glance toward the horizon reveals its origin. A smallish gray object can be seen climbing into the air, screaming toward the sky, disappearing into the distance.

Across the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment's area of responsibility Unmanned Aircraft Systems are employed to conduct surveillance missions that support Soldiers and their Iraqi partners on the ground.

Two platoons of the 66th Military Intelligence Company, 3d ACR are responsible for the UAS program that operates 8 aircraft across much of southern Iraq.

"Our aircraft provide near real time surveillance imagery which assists units on the ground during missions," said SGT Timothy Gaudet, a Standardization Operator from New Orleans. "They also track the origin of suspected indirect fire locations and scan for insurgents emplacing IED's."

The aircraft used is the RQ-7B Shadow. The tactically diverse, lightweight system uses its capabilities to provide a commander with a clear picture of what is happening in a specific location.

The Shadow's equipment package, the

Plug-in Optronic Payload 300, combines two instruments that perform precise functions. The camera serves as the main feature capable of recording images in two modes. The camera can survey the ground both day and night and can operate in an infrared mode for easier identification of infrared lights and equipment on the

"We provide real assets for Soldiers who can't necessarily see everything going on around them"

ground.

The Shadow also uses a high intensity laser that highlights targets on the ground and can be used to direct ground forces. Lastly, the Shadow has the ability to use its advanced communication system to relay radio transmissions between forces that are out of reach of each other.

"We provide real assets for Soldiers

who can't necessarily see everything going on around them," said SPC Joshua Barnes, an Instructor Operator from Midway, GA.

The daily flight operations are complex and take a great deal of coordination between all Soldiers involved. Another constant facet of the Shadow's flight is its maintenance operations on the ground.

"I conduct regular inspections of the bird before and after each flight," said SPC Derek Nistler from Bemidji, MN. "I'm checking for the condition of the prop, any damage to the airframe and also that each system is functioning properly."

The eight aircraft totaled are capable of flying 36 hours in a 24-hour period. This is calculated by all the combined hours flown when individual missions overlap. That means that at any hour day or night an insurgent on the ground stands a good chance of being watched as he works.

"The mission of the Shadow is much different now," said Gaudet. "Its main purpose used to be to find enemy targets. Now it's up there to keep watch and even though insurgents can't see it they can always hear it and that's an awesome deterrent."



A RQ-7B Shadow Unmanned Aircraft System is loaded onto a launch rail Oct. 28, 2010. The Shadow aircraft is capable of providing several hours of nearly real time imagery across hundreds of square miles in a single mission.

Chaplain's Column

By MAJ C. Wayne Brittian
Regimental Chaplain

Hello from Iraq and we miss all of you (or as we say in Texas, Y'all). I want to encourage each of you to pray for the Regiment, the Squadrons and your loved ones' soon return. While you await our return, keep improving your relationships by taking advantage of the numerous resources available to you. For those who are married, consider this statement from *Faith of the Mounted Rifleman*:

"One of the most discouraging statistics commonly voiced by the media is that 50% of all marriages will end in divorce. Despite the dominance of this claim and the dismal portrayal of married life in the movies and TV, this claim has been thoroughly refuted by veteran pollster Louis Harris.

He writes: The idea that half of American marriages are doomed is one of the most specious pieces of statistical nonsense ever perpetuated in modern times.

This all began when the Census Bureau noted that during one year (in 1981, when divorce reached an all-time high) there were 2.4 million marriages and 1.2 million divorces. Someone did the math without calculating the 54 million marriages already in existence, and presto, a ridiculous but quotable statistic was born.

Harris concludes, only one out of eight marriages will end in divorce. In any single year, only about 2 percent of marriages will break up. One author notes in his book, *Inside America*, that Harris reports the shocking news; our best numbers show that only 10 percent of all ever-married men and 13 percent of all ever-married women have ever been divorced. He concludes, 90 percent of all marriages survive.

Harris polls also indicate that most married couples are extremely satisfied with their marriages. For example, 85% of all husbands stated that they would remarry their wives if they had to do it all over again.

Other studies on sexuality in America (Chicago University and Stony Brook University) indicate that those who have sex most frequently and are most satisfied with their sex life are monogamous, heterosexual couples. Remember your marriage does not have to be a statistic; you are not doomed to divorce.

Use these five ingredients to better your relationship (adapted from Drs. Les & Leslie Parrott):

- 1. Commitment.** Are you committed to each other and/or are you committed to the principles of loving each other in spite of the challenges you will face? Remember what brought you together and build on that foundation!
- 2. Ownership.** Take responsibility for your part in the relationship. Owning mistakes reveal to your loved ones that this is a shared journey. Blaming and criticizing can destroy the possibility of a wonderful relationship.
- 3. Forgiveness.** In every relationship

someone has to be an adult. Most conflicts are the result of misunderstandings and not deliberate intent. Let go of the past so that you can move forward with your future.

- 4. Hope** allows for planning and visualizing the future together. It is the seed that we plant today and cultivate into the fruit that feeds us tomorrow. It is our dream, our preparation, our plan and our love.
- 5. Empathy** allows us to be with our loved ones during their time of hurt and fear. All of us are different and we express our emotions differently, but we have a common need for our loved ones to care about us in our time of sorrow.

Remember, your relationship can be as good as you want it to be or as bad as you allow it to get. A garden unkempt dies of inattentiveness but can be brought back to life by the loving care of a master gardener. Tend to your garden!!!



Iraqi Pumping Station rebuilt

Farmers improve production flow

Story and Photos By
SSG Garrett Ralston
3d Armored Cavalry Regiment
Public Affairs Office

The Wasit Provincial Reconstruction Team, escorted by members of Company H, 2nd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment held a meeting with local farmers in the Numaniyah area Nov. 14 2010.

The farmers recently received new water pumps that pull water from a nearby river into a canal to irrigate local farmland. The meeting was an opportunity for PRT members and US Forces to see the pumps in action and also discuss future management of the pump station.

"The operation of this pumping station has been on and off since 2003," said Armand Lanier, a PRT agricultural advisor from the United States Agency for International Development. "The station has pumped water through four antiquated

further into the river allowing for greater pressure and more water. The canal now flows at the limit of it banks.

"The PRT plans to meet monthly with the farmers' Water User Association," said Lanier. "We want to teach them to be more water conscious which will increase production for them."

The Soldiers of Company H have an essential piece of the development of the area as well.

"Our responsibility is to enable the PRT by getting them out here and making sure they have a safe environment to operate in," said SFC Jeremy Hubacek, a platoon sergeant in Company H. "We also spend a lot of time with ISF (Iraqi Security Forces) and try to maintain positive relationships with them."

Hubacek says it is important for USF to be engaged with these processes of Iraqi reconstruction.

"We really want to train the farmers to be better users of their water and agricultural resources," said Lanier. "We want them to be effective on their own because that's the aim of these projects."

"We want to teach them to be more water conscious which will increase production for them"

pumps that have needed constant maintenance."

In recent years the station has struggled to pump enough water to supply the 1500 area farms and was costly to keep up. With nobody officially responsible for the station it seemed it would remain out of service. Now with the new pumps and discussions developing between the farmers the station is on its way to effective production once again.

After the PRT assessment, funds were appropriated for two new heavy capacity generators to provide power for the pumps. The new pumps pull water horizontally from tubes that reach out



Workers make adjustments to a pump shaft at a station in Numaniyah Nov. 14, 2010. The pumping station in Numaniyah recently received upgrades to its old pumps and new pumping equipment to increase its water flow into local farmland.



Armand Lanier, an agricultural advisor to the Wasit Provincial Reconstruction Team and CPT David VanCamp, commander of Heavy Company, 2nd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, talk with a local Iraqi farmer Nov. 14, 2010. Lanier, escorted by members of Heavy Company, met with local farmers to discuss responsible water use and future agricultural production.

3rd ACR, Iraqi Army practice basic combat skills

**Story and Photos By
SSG Garrett Ralston
3d Armored Cavalry Regiment
Public Affairs Office**

Iraqi Army Soldiers in Wasit province are continuing to make progress toward being a capable security force for their nation. Regularly working with United States Forces, the IA is retaining vital skills that will serve them well in the future.

With guidance from the Soldiers of Battery L, 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, local IA Soldiers are currently conducting basic squad level drills on Contingency Operating Base Delta, to hone their ability to operate in small groups.

"These guys really enjoy getting out here and training like this," said 1st Lt. Jason Yankee, officer in charge of the training, originally from Orlando, Fla.

Lion Battery Soldiers and their Iraqi counterparts spent a recent day covering basic movement techniques. This involved moving in a file, spreading out in a wedge formation, and stacking in a close quarter security formation.

The IA Soldiers split into three separate groups, each with two or three Lion Soldiers, and worked their way through the drills repeating the processes several times.

"I like training with these guys and trying to get them proficient," said Spc. Matthew Christopher, a small group trainer with Battery L. "There are some obstacles with our language barrier, but the interpreters make sure it doesn't effect the training too much."

Between iterations, both Iraqi and American Soldiers took breaks together, drinking water, smoking cigarettes, and sharing some laughs too.

During each phase of the training, initially, a Lion Soldier would take the lead, and his group would slowly go through the motions. After one dry run,

an Iraqi Soldier would take over as squad leader, and run through the exercise a few more times. This was the process throughout the day, until all felt confident in that particular drill.

Soldiers finished their training with bounding forward, and falling back from an objective, aggressively running from

one point to another, diving deliberately into the gravel, just as they would during actual combat.

After observing the days work, Yankee said he believes the IA Soldiers will now have valuable tools to take back to their peers, and are becoming be a successful security force for Iraq.



A Soldier from Battery L, 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, leads Iraqi Army Soldiers in a squad drill on Contingency Operating Base Delta Wednesday. Lion Battery is working with local IA on basic squad and platoon level exercises to improve their cohesion and readiness.



Local Iraqi Army Soldiers attack an objective during bounding exercises, alongside Soldiers of Battery L, 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, on Contingency Operating Base Delta Wednesday. The IA Soldiers conducted single-file, wedge, and stack drills in addition to bounding forward and rearward. Both local IA, and members of Lion battery, are scheduled to conduct an entire week of training on COB Delta.





3d ACR Family Readiness

By Amanda Rosener
3d ACR, FRSA

The Tiger Squadron Rear Detachment is an ongoing effort by every man and woman who was left behind. The Soldiers and NCOs on Rear Detachment continue to produce. Our Rear Detachment remains strong but only because of the success of the FRGs on the home front. Our FRG Leaders have been more successful than anyone could have imagined. Each FRG continues to support its families with friendship and events. They exercise, have coffee groups, play games, have dinner, go to movies, share information on community events, and provide outlets for emotional distress. They are relentless and provide our Soldiers the opportunity to focus on the mission at hand.

Our Soldiers have proven their resiliency; they continue to deploy and protect our country on foreign fields. Our Soldiers have been trained to do that; it is their mission. The families of our deployed Soldiers are not trained for deployments. They don't go to Army Schools to learn how to cope with deployments. They don't have men and women in uniform to their right and left to lean on when they need someone. Our FRGs have provided the camaraderie and the knowledge for many of the spouses left behind. Our families are amazing. They are steadfast and unwavering. They have encountered their problems and dealt with the overwhelming emotions of their loved ones deploying. Our heroes are overseas, but our other heroes are at home, feeding their children, and waiting for their spouse to return from combat. I am proud of our FRGs, our

volunteers who lead those FRGs, and of every family member who carries the burden of a loved one deployed. Our families, our FRGs, and the Rear Detachment are committed to those who are deployed and will continue to support the Squadron and the Regiment until the last Brave Rifle returns.

The FRGs in Sabre Squadron have been busy during the first 4 months of this deployment. They are doing a fantastic job getting families involved in unit events, from the Kid's Spur Ride in October to our "First Friday" potlucks, the FRG Leaders are truly some of the best. From stuffing stockings full of goodies for the Soldiers, to having

once a month craft night, the FRGs are not only keeping our families informed; they are keeping them involved. With the holidays here, they are having Christmas parties full of holiday cheer

and planning for the New Year, with fundraisers oh so near. So a Happy New Year to all and thank you to

the Families of Sabre Squadron for supporting our FRG Leaders.

Thunder Squadron's FRGs are in full swing since deployment. Our Squadron day at Sweet Berry Farm was a huge success. Families picked pumpkins, drank cider and wandered through the corn maze. Ironhawk troop FRG did a fabulous job organizing this year's Squadron Trunk or Treat in the

"Each FRG continues to support its families with friendship and events"



Squadron Parking lot. We had our Squadron Thanksgiving Potluck in the 1st Cavalry Soldier Family Readiness Center on the 18th of November. Starting in late November, R&R flights began, giving some of our families the opportunity to spend Thanksgiving with their Soldiers. Since Thanksgiving, Maddog, Killer and HHT have been working hard to send holiday care packages full of cookies, Santa hats and stockings.

Muleskinner Family Readiness Groups had great success with the Oktoberfest and Rock the Hood events; they were able to raise \$1,400 between both events. Muleskinner recently had a Thanksgiving potluck at the Braves Rifles Family Readiness Center. Here the families mingled, enjoyed food and a slide show from down range. Melissa Snapp, who serves as the Maintenance Troop FRG Leader was recognized at the Regiment Town hall as the Muleskinner Volunteer of the Month. Wonderful volunteers are a regular occurrence with Muleskinners, as proven by Mrs. Snapp, who was also recently recognized at the Hood Hero's Ceremony as the Volunteer of the Quarter for the Regiment during the first quarter. Muleskinner Family



Readiness Groups are preparing to provide a great Christmas party on December 11 at Oveta Culp. This party will include food, activities, door prizes and much more.

Remington Troop Family Readiness Group has been active during the first part of this deployment. The members have come together to learn Coping Skills for Deployment and relationship enrichment at recent meetings. Our amazing volunteers make it a great success. Ms. Tammy Hillard, the RHHT Secretary, was recently recognized

as the RHHT Volunteer of the Month and Regiment Volunteer of Merit. Her dedication to the betterment of the lives of soldiers and families of the Troop has been a great benefit to the Troop as a whole, and we Thank Tammy and all of our magnificent volunteers. The annual Holiday Party just held in our sponsor city of Salado at the Civic Center was an enormous success. Over 90 family members came out to take pleasure in camaraderie, food and fun. The children enjoyed a visit with Santa as well presents and crafts. Bingo was a big hit with all the adults who participated; winners received wonderful gift cards.

Retention has been a huge benefit to the families of the entire Regiment, providing beautiful Christmas Ornaments for the families of our deployed Soldiers as well as fabulous "I Miss You" cards. Thank you for all you do for the families and Troopers of the Regiment. Have a wonderful and safe Holiday Season and a very Happy New Year!



Personal Deployment Safety Message



By Mr. Pete Higgins
3d ACR, Safety Officer

It has been six months since the Regiment arrived in Iraq. At this point in time, we are doing very well in all areas, to include keeping our accident and injury rate below the norm. This, in itself, is a great accomplishment; however, SAFETY can never take a break. We are entering the time of our deployment known as "mid-tour complacency." This is the time, when many units deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan experience a sudden increase in accidents. Most are caused simply by the repetitive nature of day to day life as we are lulled into a false sense of security and begin to think "I got it; I know what I am doing." Simply, the same things that could get you hurt, or worse, at the beginning of the deployment, are the same that can hurt you through the entire deployment.

Of all the things that can harm you or

cause a trip back to CONUS for serious medical treatment, sports injuries lead the way, with the highest numbers of Soldiers needing advanced medical treatment. Since arrival in country, the Regiment has multiple instances of fractures (pick a bone), dislocations, concussions and lacerations, all of which required treatment beyond first aid and, in several cases, also required medical evacuation to the States for orthopedic surgery. Organized sports activities are a great way to build morale, teamwork and esprit de corps. However, as in any other activity, the participants must take adequate precautions before beginning. As in any athletic event warm up, before beginning, know what sport you are participating in, know the rules, use the proper facilities and do not tolerate over-aggressive or unsportsmanlike conduct!

The next biggest cause of severe injury to Soldiers in theater is the same as the highest injury cause within the home: slips, trips and falls! Just the simple act of walking down the steps at a shower CHU, climbing on a MRAP to clean a window or up a ladder to adjust an antenna can have severe consequences if you slip, trip or fall. In all instances be aware of your surroundings, know what you are doing and use the buddy system. Currently, it seems we have mud and water everywhere we go. Watch where you step. If you are climbing on a vehicle, maintain three points of contact. If you are going up a ladder, keep a firm grip on it. Simple measures such as these can prevent a sudden visit to the medics and an often embarrassing

explanation of how you got hurt.

The accidents which are potentially the most deadly involve the vehicles that we operate each and every day both on and off our bases. In calendar year 2010 there were 60 vehicle rollovers, seven of which involved fatalities in the Iraq theater of operations! The number one cause of these accidents was excessive speed, closely followed by overconfidence in the ability to drive a vehicle beyond its safe limits. Ways to prevent vehicle accidents are well known and mainly common sense. It is important to SLOW DOWN and drive within the limits of the particular vehicle for the conditions. Always obey the rules of the road and modify your driving habits to meet the current conditions. It is better to arrive late with all vehicles and personnel than not to arrive at all. Lastly, always wear your seatbelt or gunner's restraint harness!

Another cause of preventable injuries that is on the rise theater wide is negligent discharges! All of us handle a variety of different weapons on a daily basis. Follow your training and use correct procedures for clearing all weapons. Use the two person rule when clearing all weapons after a mission. Place the selector switch on "safe" until you are going to fire, and never place your finger on the trigger until you are going to fire. Always maintain proper muzzle discipline and always, always treat your weapon as if it is loaded. Take your time and do it right!

In the coming months, we are going to be very busy. We still have a mission to perform, and it will take all of us to be successful.

JOIN THE



3d U. S. CAVALRY ASSOCIATION

CONTINUE TO SERVE BY JOINING THE FRATERNAL
ORDER OF THE REGIMENT OF MOUNTED RIFLEMAN.
PRESERVE AND SHARE OUR HISTORY, HONOR THOSE
COMRADES IN ARMS WHO HAVE SERVED, SUPPORT
THE SOLDIERS AND FAMILIES OF THE REGIMENT,
SUPPORT THE 3d ACR MUSEUM.

ACT NOW!

STAND WITH THE BRAVE RIFLES
TO PROTECT THE NATION!

Members Benefits

- 3d ACR sticker
- 3d ACR lapel pin
- 10% off in gift store
- Association ID card
- Membership Certificate



www.braverifles.org

Membership is open to any member or former member of the
Regiment, Spouses, and Friends of the Regiment.



DID YOU KNOW???



3d Armored Cavalry History

On 7 August 1990, the Regiment was alerted to move overseas in defense of Saudi Arabia as part of Operation Desert Shield. In September 1990, the Regiment arrived in country as part of the XVIII Airborne Corps and moved into defensive positions south of the Kuwaiti border. On 22 January 1991, elements of I Troop led by the 63rd Colonel, Colonel Starr, engaged in the first ground combat of the XVIII Airborne Corps in Operation Desert Storm. On 22 February, F Troop led the Regiment across the berm into Iraq. In 100 hours, the Regiment moved over 300 kilometers, and left remnants of 3 Iraqi Republican Guard Divisions in its wake. As quickly as they deployed, the Regiment deployed back to the U.S., arriving 5 April 1991.

In April of 1996, the Regiment completed its move to its new home at Fort Carson, Colorado.

The 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment became the newest unit to join the Fort Carson family. The 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment was the largest tactical unit assigned to Fort Carson. It was a combined arms unit composed at the time of three cavalry squadrons, an aviation squadron, and a support squadron. The Regiment was designed to operate independently over wide areas as a highly mobile force, capable of conducting reconnaissance, security, offensive, and defensive operations. It had over 320 armored vehicles including M1A1 Abrams tanks and M3A2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles, along with over 80 aircraft, including the AH-64 Apache Attack Helicopter. The Regiment had a total strength of over 4,700 soldiers. The 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment was part of the US Army's contingency force and could rapidly deploy in emergency situations.

-globalsecurity.org



SGT Timothy Reinemann and SGT Ryan Smith, B CO 63rd ESB, performs generator maintenance that supplies power to a Satellite Transportable Terminal on COS Kalsu. The STT ensures that COS Kalsu has network communications such as internet and telephones. (US Army photo by PFC William Bailey)



Soldiers from the 75th EOD discuss final preparations before executing a controlled detonation at COS Kalsu. EOD's main missions are to continually sweep roads for IEDs and dispose of any ordinance that the IA turn over to American forces. (US Army photo by PFC Adam Hefner)



1LT Kendall, 3rd Platoon Leader, poses with Iraqi Army Soldiers before a counter indirect fire mission at COS kalsu. The 253rd Military Police Company conducts joint missions with the IA in support of Operation New Dawn. These patrols help provide security for the local area and build relations between American forces and IA. (Courtesy photo)

BRAVE RIFLES! VETERANS!



**YOU HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED IN
FIRE AND BLOOD
AND HAVE COME OUT STEEL**