



Scouts provide outer cordon support for Soldiers searching for illegal weapons.

Page 3

All in the Family: a look at some Cav. families serving together in Baghdad.

Page 14

478th Civil Affairs encounters an IED.

Page 8-9



# Cav Country

Volume 1, Issue 2

"Telling the First Team's Story"

May 14, 2004

## 1-8 Cav. Brings in Suspected RPG Team

By Cpl. Bill Putnam  
122nd MPAD

CAMP FERRIN-HUGGINS-- They arrived at a small, sleepy village along the banks of the Tigris River by helicopter and ground convoy just after dawn April 24 to arrest two men suspected of firing rockets into the city and find their caches of rockets.

The Soldiers of Company D, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment didn't find the rockets. They did find the men.

The suspects' targets were "mostly of American camps in Baghdad and the Green Zone," the site of the Coalition Provisional Authority headquarters, explained Capt. Rex Blair, commander of Delta Company, 1-8 Cav.

Later, after the men, who happen to be brothers, were taken into custody, they proved positive for recent exposure to TNT, a battalion official said.

Earlier in the week, an informant tipped off Blair that the

two brothers were storing and firing rockets from an island behind their village. He went to work and drew up the plan to search the village and island.

The company's initial search came up empty-handed. The suspects didn't live in the homes and nothing indicating caches or launch sites were found on the island.

Just as they were ready to go back to Camp Ferrin-Huggins, another informant told Blair the targets lived down the street. However, they had to be very careful. The Soldiers would pass a local funeral rite.

"We have to be very touchy-feely here," Blair said.

"Yeah, maybe there will be some additional jackpot" in finding these guys, said Capt. Jason Whiteley, the Battalion's civil affairs officer.

A group of Soldiers walked the house and past the funeral. They waved hello to locals as they walked up the road, the heat and humidity making their body armor seem heavier. The locals at



By Cpl. Bill Putnam, 122nd MPAD

**Soldiers from Company D, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, prepare to enter a home during the April 24 search in a village along the Tigris River.**

the rite, a tent with plastic chairs and a stereo hooked up to a public-address system, simply waved back nonchalantly.

The funeral music added a surreal aspect to the search when it could be heard. A couple of

Soldiers commented that it sounded like something from the movie "Black Hawk Down." Another said it sounded like a Clint Eastwood spaghetti western soundtrack.

With the music providing

background noise, the house was found and the Soldiers moved in. The man they wanted was home. The second, his brother, was home next door.

"These guys do look a little

**Continued on Page 12**

## 1st Cav. Div. Soldiers Find Brief Relief Through EML

By Spc. Andy Miller  
122nd MPAD

Leave Iraq. Go home. Get away for a while. Go see family and friends in Texas, or take time to visit an exotic locale of your choice.

The 1st Cavalry Division's Environmental Morale Leave (EML) program allows Soldiers a break from the combat zone. Those who go are authorized 15 days

starting when they reach their destination. Soldiers began taking leave in April, and the program will continue until January 2005.

"Many Soldiers will be given the opportunity to go somewhere on leave, but not everyone," Capt. Indera Lalbachan, plans officer with the personnel directorate said. "We estimate that approximately 60 percent of a unit will be granted leave over the next nine months."

Each brigade will be given a certain number of slots based on strength reports, and then the brigades will divide those slots up between their subordinate units, Lalbachan continued.

"Even with the approved allocations, a unit must remain at 90% strength. You can't send everyone on leave all at once," she said.

The Soldiers who qualify must have been in Iraq for more than 90 days and less than 10 months to qualify. The 15 days leave are chargeable, but transportation is provided to Frankfurt, Atlanta and Dallas.

Some Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team (BCT) have already left for leave. The Brigade was here in January, so most of these Soldiers meet the 90-day requirement.

Sgt. Gregory Gonzales, a signal support supervisor with the 15th Forward Service Battalion (FSB), recently took leave to see his family in Newcaney, Texas. His wife had twins in March, so he was

given a higher priority to take leave.

"It was pretty exhilarating, because I had two children to go home and see," Gonzales said. "I was overjoyed. I had a sense of relief to see them. They were here, finally."

The 2nd BCT has four categories by which Soldiers are prioritized eligibility for leave. The first three include unusual circumstances like the birth of a child, or a family crisis that doesn't qualify the Soldier for emergency leave. Each brigade has discretion as to how they want to handle leave priorities. 2nd BCT Soldiers slated for leave who fall into category four were picked during a lottery held by each battalion.

Other Black Jack Soldiers, like Spc. James Galvez, a combat engineer with B Company, 91st Engineer Battalion, will take leave May 3. He plans to head back to Fort Hood where his wife and two children live. Galvez wasn't given a higher priority, but he considers himself lucky to have this chance.

He said his battalion divided itself by company and literally drew names out of hats to determine who would go.

Galvez said he feels bad for the Soldiers who didn't get picked in the lottery, but he's happy to have the chance to see his family again.

"They're happy when I call them, and when I tell them I'm coming home, they're even happier. I'm looking forward to it," Galvez said.

So far, the environmental leave program has worked well for the 2nd BCT, according to Command Sgt. Maj. Ira Dickerson of the 15th FSB. Soon the other brigades will begin sending their Soldiers off on leave as well.

"I think the morale is already high because of the great living conditions, and just the overall command team in the 2nd BCT, but I think the environmental leave just took us up to a new level," Dickerson said. "I could see it in the Soldier's eyes as they came back. I could see their excitement when they got ready to leave."



By Spc. Andy Miller, 122nd MPAD

**An Air Force C-130 prepares to leave Baghdad International Airport on its way to Kuwait. In Kuwait, passengers will transfer to other Aircraft heading to EML destinations like Dallas, or the popular weekend R&R spot in Qatar.**

## Welcome to the Cav Country Newspaper

I would like to introduce you to our newspaper, written for Soldiers, by Soldiers. The Cav Country will be published twice a month and will be available for your reading pleasure in the forward operating bases throughout the Baghdad area.

In the coming months, our goal is to delight and astound our readers, and leave you wanting more. You have already seen our first issue for the year and we would like to know what you think. Feel free to write and tell us your opinion. You could help us with story ideas or even provide stories that we could publish in upcoming editions.

Some of the areas that we will cover in our paper will be: the latest news from all the FOB's, the many and varied acts of heroism that are happening daily all around us, news from Killeen, sports standings and game scores at the national level.

You can also expect to read about: tributes to our fallen troopers, future projects aimed toward helping the Iraqi people build a better life and individual Soldiers that are doing outstanding work in their day-to-day jobs.

We will keep everyone up to date using our *Science and Technology* page, give tips on staying battle ready on our *Health and Fitness* page and give information that may help you with money and managing future investments on the *Finance and Money* page.

SGT Merrion LaSonde



Editor

The command sergeant major will impart advice and guidance in the *Stable Call* section; the division chaplains will share words of encouragement; we will give you Arabic translations of some useful phrases; we will provide you with pictures of the beauty that surrounds us but is often overlooked and show you some outstanding photos taken by our staff.

News is happening all around you and our journalists are on the ground and in the air, getting the information. You are out there risking your lives in this war on terrorism and we are right beside you, ready to tell your tale. We are looking forward to an exciting year with you.

I will leave you with advice from a Soldier who has gone before us: "Don't forget nothing. Have your musket clean as a whistle, hatchet scoured, sixty rounds powder and ball, and be ready to march at a minute's warning. When you're on the march act the way you would if you was sneaking up on a deer. See the enemy first." (Major Robert Rogers, 1759, Ranger Handbook).

Contact us at: david.j.larsen@us.army.mil.

## Pegasus 6 Sends: Soldiers' Safety is the Primary Concern of 1st Cavalry Division Leaders

It's been nearly a month since the First Team took over the Baghdad area of operation from the 1st Armored Division. In that short time, more American military members were wounded or killed in Iraq than at any other time, including the war months last year.

It is crystal clear to me the fine job that our Soldiers have done since taking on this assignment. It is, likewise, clear to me that we can do more as leaders to help our troops weather the rigors of operations within Baghdad.

No Soldier within this division moved north from Kuwait and into Iraq without SAPI plates in their Outer Tactical Vest (OTV). The 1st Armored Division learned that having these plates saves lives, and not having them can cost us dearly. We took the necessary steps to help save the lives of our troopers.

We also learned from the efforts of our advance team, the Black Jack Brigade Combat Team, that ballistic goggles and hearing protection can, and will save our Soldiers' sight and hearing from temporary and permanent damage.

Here's what bothers me: when I travel from unit to unit, I do not see all of our Soldiers using the issued items that will save

Maj. Gen. Peter Chiarelli



CG 1CD

them from potentially permanent disabilities. Leaders need to ensure that we are looking after our Soldiers' best interests, and require the use of goggles and hearing protection on each and every mission.

Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) have been the number one cause of battlefield wounds. Many of those wounds could have been prevented, with one simple step: when the situation permits, tuck the gunner down into the turret of the vehicle.

Gunners are the most exposed member of a patrol, and as such, have taken the brunt of the wounds inflicted by IEDs. My recommendation to all commanders is to bring the gunner down into a "neck defilade" position during the majority of movements throughout Baghdad. I understand that by doing so, vehicle commanders lose some visibility on the move. However, many times IED incidents are followed with small-arms fire or rocket-propelled grenade attacks from insurgents. With your gunner already out of commission, the

patrol is more likely to take additional casualties from the follow-on fight.

To date (at the time of this writing), 30 First Team troopers have made the ultimate sacrifice for their nation - for us. Many more have been wounded in this fight for the freedom of the Iraqi people. I am in awe of the courage, valor and professionalism of our Soldiers. As leaders, we owe it to our fine troops to provide them with the utmost measure of protection as they conduct an important mission in this hostile environment. First Team leaders: I charge you all to do everything humanly possible to protect our Soldiers' sight, their hearing and their very lives. Ensure that your troops are taking every precaution against injury, or fatality. Simply stated, this is leaders' business. We will fail unless our great NCO Corps makes the necessary correction that will save a Soldiers' sight, hearing or life.

We have our mission ahead of us, and it will at times take us into harm's way. We will prevail, and more importantly, we will prevail and ensure our Soldiers maintain a safety posture that is driven by the realities of the battlefield. As leaders, we owe that to our troopers.

First Team!

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## Spur & The Moment

### What do you do in your spare time (if you have any)?

Photos by Spc. Marie Whitney, 122nd MPAD

I try to exercise as much as I can.



CPT David Minaschek, 3-82 FA

I use the Internet, watch movies and write letters home.



CPL Christy Gerken, HDC 15 FSB

I'm taking a college course right now. So I study or read.



SGT Leslie Butler, 56 PSB

I read the paper. I do crossword puzzles. I also try to see as much as I can while I'm over here.



SSG Iris Burns, 1 CD Band

I watch DVDs and write home. I try to fish every now and then.



SFC Jimmy Temples, ACE

I would sleep if I had free time.



SGT Nick Scales, 545 MP

# Hit the Streets

May 14, 2004

Page 3

## 2-12 Cav. 'Stalkers' Cordon Abu Ghraib

By Spc. Bryan Kinkade  
1st Cav. Div. PAO

The stench of rotting animal carcasses and decaying garbage filled the air as truckloads of "Thunder Horse" Soldiers rolled into the dark, desolate district of Abu Ghraib. Insurgents with mortars, AK-47s and rocket-propelled grenades ambushed these Soldiers nearly a week ago.

Now they were back.

Before the sun rose, the "Stalkers" of Scout Platoon, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, were out the gate and on the road to Abu Ghraib. They drove with headlights off and only night vision goggles illuminating the dark and dusty roads. The convoy hit the highway and cruised up to their destination, uneventfully.

"I break down the missions into small steps," Staff Sgt. Jerry Helton, the Stalker's platoon sergeant said. "One step is getting out of the gate and getting to our mission safely."

Their mission was to provide outer cordon security in Abu Ghraib and White Gold Village while elements of 1-5 Cav. searched the buildings for weapons, ammunition and insurgents. Although they found very little, to these Soldiers, their mission was still a successful one.

"I could care less if we search for 20 hours and don't even find an [AK-47] round, as long as we come back [safe]," Helton said.



Photos by Spc. Bryan Kinkade, 1st Cav. Div. PAO

**Spc. Adrian Barajas monitors the radio while manning his Mark-19 automatic grenade launcher on top of his humvee.**

As they pulled into the vil-

lage, the pungent odor of animal manure was so strong they could almost taste it. Thousands of flies swarmed the air, feeding off a giant pile of feces nearby.

The first job the scouts had when they arrived in the dangerous neighborhood was to cordon off the area with concertina wire. This prevents movement within the search area, and enables checks for possible Improvised Explosive Devices or hostile forces.

Next, they pulled security. These Soldiers have seen plenty of action around Abu Ghraib and were not hesitant to take action if something came down. Pfc. Merrick Barnes, the scout platoon's medic, remembers when all was quiet and the next thing he knew, everything seemed to be blowing up.

"You'd just be sitting here [one minute], quiet as dead, and then boom," he said.

After the search teams finished their job, the Stalkers were ready to jump into their vehicles and get underway to their next objective: White Gold Village.

"We call it [manure] road," Spc. K.C. Kolesnick, one of the Stalker's scouts, said on the way to the village.

In this farm village, the Stalkers didn't expect much contact, if any at all.

"This town is usually quiet," Kolesnick said. "We don't usually have problems with them. We'd be lucky to find anything here."

The Stalkers sat patiently in the smelly town. They kept alert and looked for anyone who

would try to escape the search. After two hours, the search teams were once again ready to go.

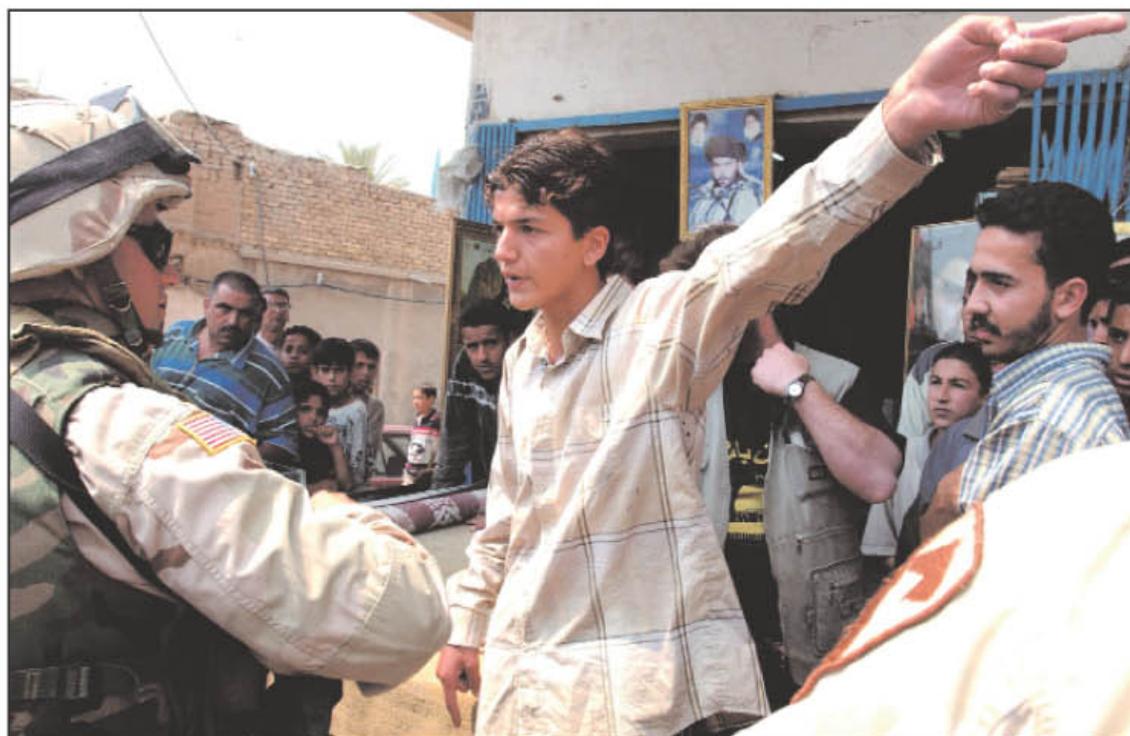
"It's better being bored than getting shot at," Kolesnick said.

It had been more than 11 hours since they left Camp Blackjack. On the ride back, the Stalkers changed their focus from looking for insurgents to watching for IEDs. Once they arrived safely in the gate, the exhausted Soldiers let out a sigh of relief, but were a little upset they didn't find much.

"It was quiet [all day]," Kolesnick said disappointedly. "The only thing we found was an unexploded ordnance."



**While cordoning part of Abu Ghraib, Spc. Adrian Barajas, a scout with the 2-12 Cav. Scout Platoon, watches for any possible threats in the area.**



**A Washash resident directs 1st Lt. Bryan Schonfeld, leader of 1st Platoon, C company of the 91st Engineer Battalion, away from a shop selling images of anti-Coalition leader Muqtada Al-Sadr to additional anti-Coalition propaganda down the street.**

By Spc. Jan Critchfield, 122nd MPAD

## 91st Engineers Remove Al-Sadr Photos, Posters

By Spc. Jan Critchfield  
122nd MPAD

Routine patrols through the Washash district of Baghdad are just that: routine. During a daily swing through the area, though, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Brian Schonfeld and his troopers found something a little surprising: posters and photographs promoting the anti-Coalition cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

Schonfeld, a platoon leader with 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, Charlie Company of the 91<sup>st</sup> Engineer Battalion, found these posters in apartments and some shop windows. He said he hadn't noticed anything to suggest al-Sadr's influence in the neighborhood prior to this patrol.

After the initial dismounted patrol discovered the propaganda, Schonfeld received orders to reenter Washash and remove the posters. These posters are considered illegal because of al-Sadr's extremist anti-Coalition stance.

The first few posters were confiscated with ease. On public display, they did not appear to belong to anyone in particular and no resistance was given.

However, a few yards down the crowded market road, Schonfeld and his platoon came upon a shop selling framed prints. The lieutenant tried to explain to the owner of the shop that anti-Coalition propaganda is illegal, and that the prints

**Continued on Page 12**

# Back Home

Page 4

May 14, 2004

## First Team Soldier deploys to Iraq...

### Stork Arrives at Fort Hood Hours Later

By Tam Cummings  
The Sentinel

There was no way. No way in the world her Soldier would be deployed and she wouldn't be there to hug him, kiss him and tell him goodbye. Not heaven or hell or even labor would stop her. Labor? She was not kidding.

"No way I was not going to say goodbye to him," Sylvia Gonzales said.

She was serious. After the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, along with her husband Sgt. Victor Gonzales, deployed from Starker Gym March 17, Sylvia gave birth to their second child.

Sylvia is telling the story at the home she and Victor have in Killeen. The mantel above the fireplace is decorated with photographs of the young family. Victor and Sylvia at a military ball. Victor and Sylvia with their first child Kaya. Victor holding Kaya. Victor in his uniform.

Sylvia met Victor in El Paso four years ago. She was a high school senior working at a video

rental store and he was a 19-year-old Soldier home on leave, renting a movie.

Naturally their first date was at the movies. And their first kiss was like a scene from a movie.

"About three weeks into January, he was getting ready to leave because his time was up," Sylvia said. "We sat in the car and talked from midnight to five in the morning. After we finished talking he said 'Sylvia, can I ask you one thing? Can I kiss you good night?'" She was hooked. "I fell in love with him for being a gentleman."

Victor returned to Fort Benning, Ga. and the couple began corresponding. By June they had married and a few months later she moved to Fort Benning. Army life was an adjustment for Sylvia. "I had no clue about the military," she said. "Fort Bliss is in El Paso and I had never run into any military, never."

After their birthday dinner, the young couple went walking at an area mall. Sylvia was now eight days past her due date. "This lady was selling organic lotions

and here is this big 'ol pregnant girl," the four foot, eleven inch mother laughed. "She said 'Come let me massage your hands with this lavender lotion and it will induce labor. Later that night, I started having pains. By 12:30 the pains were stronger and

more often."

Victor and Sylvia began to plan what to do.

"We sat down to talk and the contractions were 30 to 45 minutes apart. Victor wanted to take me to the hospital and I knew they would admit me and Victor would have to leave (for Iraq). Finally we agreed I would try to sleep, but at 3:30 a.m. Victor had to do a weapons draw and I had to take him," she describes the night.

Sylvia then came home and slept for a few hours. "Then I started getting ready to go to the

gym. The pains were about 15 to 20 minutes apart." She and Victor found each other at the gym and stood together talking quietly.

"Victor came out and we are saying our goodbyes. I kept closing my eyes and putting my head down. Victor asked what's wrong and I told him I wasn't even timing the contractions any more. He asked if I wanted to go to the hospital and I said, 'no'."

"Now they are putting them on the buses and I'm crying and saying goodbye and Dad asked if I want to go eat. 'Dad, I think I should probably go to Darnall and have this baby'," she said. Victor and Sylvia didn't tell her father she was in labor.

At the hospital she was checked in and the nurses told her she had dilated to five centimeters and her contractions were five minutes apart.

"They asked me if I needed to call my husband and I said my husband just left for Iraq. They were thinking I was crazy." Kiahna was born several hours later.

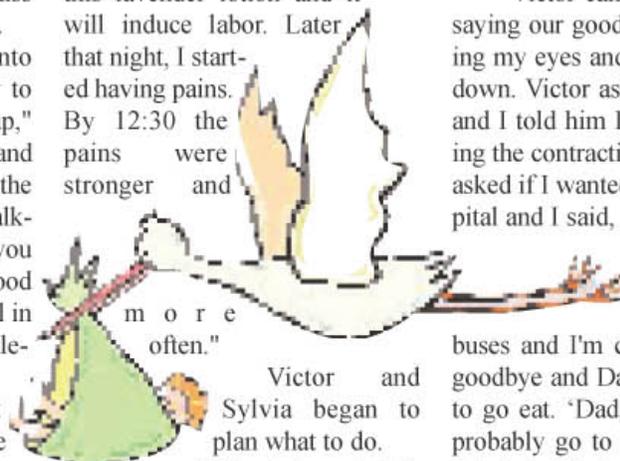
The Gonzales' already had one child, 2-year-old Kaya, when Victor deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"He is very protective of her," Sylvia said. "She has him wrapped around her finger. He wanted a girl."

Having two little girls and being far from her family is hard Sylvia admits.

"Victor worries about Kaya a lot," she said. "Kaya will walk around calling 'Dad Dad' and she waits at the door for him to come home." Because her family is nine hours away, Sylvia started getting more involved with her FRG. "I knew I would need help with Kaya and the new baby," she said. "And the wives have been very supportive."

Victor has been able to hear his new daughter cry and Sylvia has saved two messages from him on the answering machine to play for the girls. Using the DVD equipment donated to the 2-7 Cav., she has started recording a message for Victor which will allow him to see his new daughter.



## Actor Wins Big on 'Price is Right'

By Rodney Hart  
Quincy Herald-Whig

Aspiring actor Tad Hilgenbrink says nobody in his family back home in Quincy believes he won the Showcase Showdown on the Price is Right last month.

The Hilgenbrinks were huddled around the television this morning to watch Tad, 22, in all his game-show glory. He won \$28,000 worth of prizes on the showdown, got ridiculed by famous host Bob Barker and stunned his family in Quincy when he called to tell them the news.

"I've never heard my mother giggle so much as when I called her and told her," said Hilgenbrink in a phone inter-

view from his home in Beverly Hills, Calif. "No one believed me. My grandma still won't believe it until she sees it on TV."

Hilgenbrink, a son of Deena and Steve Hilgenbrink, is a 1999 Quincy High School grad and 2003 graduate of Millikin University in Decatur who went to California last September to become an actor. One of his roommates is a "huge" Price is Right fan and convinced Hilgenbrink to come along for a taping of the famous CBS game show.

"I walked into the studio and part of my childhood came back to me," Hilgenbrink said. "I was so intimidated, saying 'Please don't call me.' All the people and crazy fans, the lights going off and on, and then Bob Barker comes out."

The show features contestants picked from the audience bidding on items. Hilgenbrink got picked fourth but didn't have much luck trying to get on the stage.

"When we were off-camera he (Barker) was making fun of me because I was missing so bad," Hilgenbrink said. "He's so old, but he's an icon and so funny. The guy has mouth. He's

not dirty but really witty and entertaining."

Finally on the last chance to get on the stage, Hilgenbrink won a trip to Jamaica and qualified for the wheel spin. The person getting closest to \$1 on the wheel qualifies for the final Showcase Showdown, and Hilgenbrink's spin of 85 cents was a winner.

Then it was on to the showcase showdown. Hilgenbrink said he was so nervous "he doesn't remember a thing" even when the comely female models known as "Barker's Beauties" tried to talk with him.

Hilgenbrink matched wits with a "sorority girl" in the Showcase Showdown. The girl passed on the first showcase, which featured a six-person spa, a Buick Century, a washer and dryer and a recliner.

After he bid \$23,000, the girl bid on another showcase and was \$10,000 too low. Hilgenbrink's winning bid was only \$5,000 too low.

He plans to sell most of the items to pay off the taxes, but he's keeping the car and the trip to Jamaica.

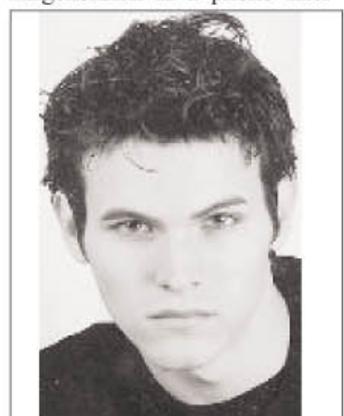
"I just hope I don't look like an idiot when I watch it," he said.

## Wow! It's so big!



Temple Daily Telegram

Complete with rain parka and beret, Chandler Comacho, 4, peers up into an airplane at the Central Texas Air Show in Temple, Texas April 30. A portion of the weekend's proceeds will go to Fort Hood's Morale, Welfare and Recreation program in support of families who have lost loved ones in Iraq.



# FIRST TEAM

# Bowie Brigade

May 14, 2004

Page 5

## A Soldier's Story...

**Hospitalized with a disabling wound, Oregon National Guard Sgt. Lucas Michael Wilson of Hermiston tells the story of his brief but brutal tour of duty in Iraq, how his convoy ran a gauntlet of fire into Baghdad, where an insurgent's projectile found its mark.**

By Jeff Kosseff  
The Oregonian

All of our Oregon guardsmen had bedded down on cots by our vehicles, at a camp south of Baghdad.

Semi-trucks filled with all kinds of bullet holes pulled into camp that night. That's when we knew tomorrow was game time.

One truck had a huge hole through the middle, where a rocket-propelled grenade had entered. The driver said the attack happened six kilometers north of us. We were headed north.

Our adrenaline was going. The truck was embedded in everyone's minds. I don't think any of us slept that night.

We got up the next day and put away the cots and all of our bags. I jumped in the back of the Humvee with Steven Baldwin and Andres Molero, also in the Oregon Guard. We arranged our bags in the back of the vehicle to give us a little extra protection.

After we rolled out in the morning, our convoy got just 45 minutes up the road and ran into an improvised explosive device.

The troops ahead of us saw it before it exploded. They stopped everybody and called the bomb squad in. They disposed of it. It took two to three hours.

Our convoy continued toward Baghdad. Just as soon as



By Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns, 39th BCT PAO

**Sgt Lucas Wilson of Hermiston, OR lost his leg when his platoon was ambushed while in convoy in downtown Baghdad. Wilson said, "The RPG impacted the vehicle, came through my leg and went through the other side of the vehicle. I knew they were going to have to amputate my leg. It just got in my head. It was gone."**

we moved out, the convoy in front of us, our guys, came under fire. We could hear the mortar impact them. We kept moving for hours. We didn't receive any fire or anything. I was really, really glad there.

We just kept moving.

It was turning night at the time, so I had the guys get out their night vision goggles. As they're getting their briefings, the convoy in front of us was taking fire.

Our convoy was two miles long, Humvees, tanks, all kinds of vehicles. As we started rolling,

a 1st Armored Division guy starts running up and down the convoy yelling.

"Keep moving! Move out of the kill zone!"

I was kinda nervous after hearing that.

Everything got quiet for a while as we entered Baghdad. It was dark by that time, and the locals there, their facial expressions -- they surprised me. This one guy walking, carrying a grocery bag, he looked at us like, "What the hell are you guys doing here at this time of night?"

**Continued on Page 6**

## 39th BCT Soldiers Keep Up the Fight

By Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns  
39th Brigade Combat Team

CAMP COOKE-- "Let them know he wanted to keep on fighting," said the intense 22-year-old Pvt. Andrew Molero of Roseburg, Ore., as he sat restlessly smoking a cigarette.

It was the same situation Molero had trained for in Fort Polk, La., at the Joint Readiness Training Center a month earlier. During a mock battle at Fort Polk, a fellow Soldier had lost a leg and Molero was the combat lifesaver.

The two Soldiers and their platoon from Company A of the 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry found themselves ambushed on an overpass in downtown Baghdad while providing convoy security for the Headquarters and Headquarters Company of Arkansas' 39th Brigade Combat Team.

The convoy came to an alarming halt as the two Bradley's leading the convoy took hits; the first with an improvised explosive device (IED) and the second with a rocket propelled grenade (RPG).

"There was some machine gun and small arms fire that initiated it," said 1st Lt. Dewayne Jones, of Medford, Ore.

Jones, commander of a vehicle hit in the ambush, said, "I saw a flash to my rear and thought it was an IED. I radioed it in and then heard screaming from the back."

An RPG had hit their vehicle above the back wheel launching Molero to the other side of the vehicle. The hit also took the leg of the same fellow Soldier that Molero performed first aid on in the Fort Polk battle.

As fighting continued, the Soldier tried to get up but fell across the side of the vehicle.

"He wanted to keep on fighting," said Molero. "He wanted us to keep on fighting."

Molero and Baldwin tied a tourniquet on the Soldier's leg using a belt and a bayonet cover to stop the bleeding.

Baldwin yelled forward to let Jones know the Soldier was hurt.

"It was hard to communicate," said Jones. "At first I thought they said he had a broken leg but Baldwin said, 'You don't understand, his leg is gone.'"

Getting on the radio, Jones reported there was a casualty and they needed to get to a medical facility. Seven-and-a-half minutes later they arrived at the facility.

The injured Soldiers spirits were good as he joked with the medics, "I guess I won't be doing anymore three legged races."

## IEDs Become Target of Bowie Brigade

By Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns  
39th BCT PAO

CAMP COOKE-- It's not the usual hunt, but neither is the prey. Members of the 1st Cavalry Division's 39th Brigade Combat Team found that out when they went on a right-seat-ride with the 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 1st Armored Division to learn the lay of the land.

The 501st Support Battalion, IBCT and the 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry of the 39th BCT, 1st Cav. Div., teamed up during

the recent transition period to hunt improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

With the recent upswing of violence across Iraq, Soldiers are hunting to keep supply routes and people safe.

Soldiers gear up several times a day to patrol streets and bridges, driving at an agonizing ten mph.

"Someone has to do it," said Pfc. Reggie Parker, 19, of Coos Bay, Ore. "It has to be done."

If an IED is found, there is always the possibility of a hidden triggerman. It may sound a little more than risky, but Spc. Travis

Griffin, 28, of Medford, Ore., finds the sweeps to be advantageous to Soldiers despite the menacing hazards.

"It keeps Soldiers, kids and innocent civilians alive," he said. "We need to look out for the [surrounding] population."

The Oregon-based 2nd Battalion is taking a specific interest in this hunt, because one of their Soldiers was recently injured by an IED placed under a bridge.

"It makes us want to go out [even] more," Parker said. "We want to keep it from happening again."



By Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns, 39th BCT PAO

**Iraqi schoolchildren greet Soldiers of the 39th Brigade Combat Team as the Soldiers work to keep the streets safe for everyone that pass through.**

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## BCCA Aims to Better Soldiers' lives

By Pfc. Erik LeDrew  
122nd MPAD

Whether it's designing a master plan for an entire camp, figuring out how to implement power and water lines, or surveying a construction site, the Base Camp Construction Authority (BCCA) with the 353rd Engineering Group Headquarters (Construction), 1st Cavalry Division, has been there.

"If someone has need of an infrastructure facility, then that project comes to us," said Col. William Hagood, commanding officer, 353rd Eng. Grp. "We're like a one-stop planning, design and building firm because that's exactly what our engineering group does."

Hagood said the 353rd's general duties include things such as engineer planning, civil engineering, construction management, design, electrical engineering, site inspections, construction materials testing, and the management of any non-military construction contracts such as Iraqi contractors and any construction contracts with Kellogg, Brown and Root.

"We do this for Camp Victory and all of the forward operating bases (FOBs) in the 1st Cav. Div.'s area of operations," Hagood said.

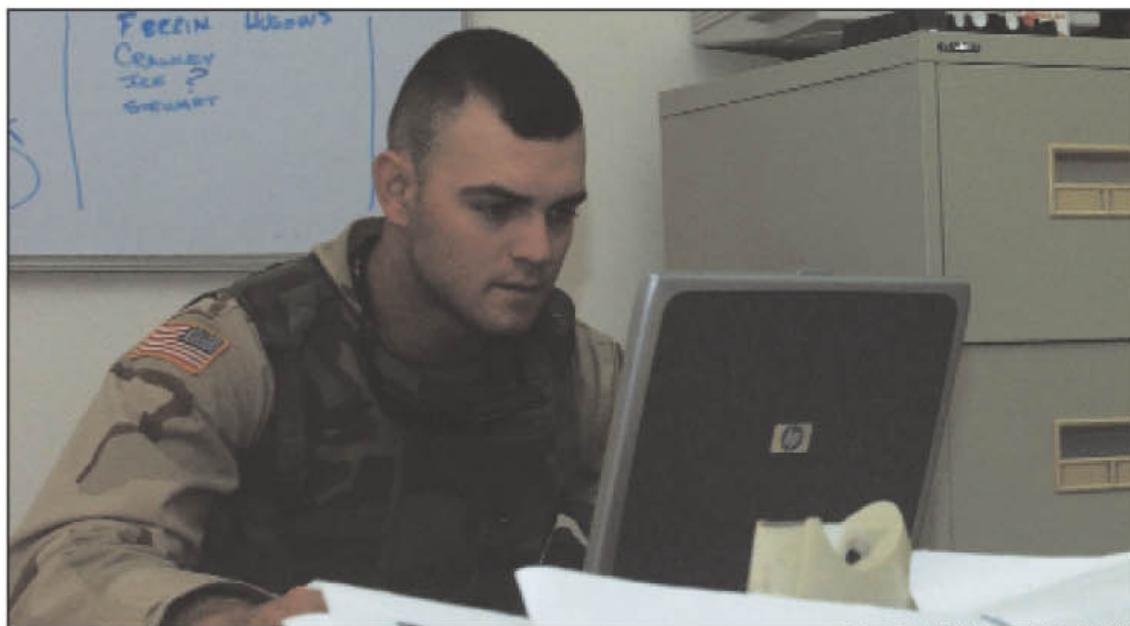
"Sometimes we get repair tasks as well," he added. "If a building we were involved with develops a problem, then we'll inspect it and see what we can do to fix it."

His unit does only the managerial duties involved in construction, Hagood said, but that there are units under him who have construction capabilities.

"We do the planning, and our subordinate units do the construction," he said. "We're responsible for the design of all conventional construction."

Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Ice, noncommissioned officer in charge of planning for the 353rd Eng. Grp.'s Design Management Section said, they simply assumed the reins of the various projects from the 1st Armored Division and have continued to carry-out and expound upon their projects.

"We took what they had left for us and oversaw the final phases of project completion," Ice said. "Since being here, we've completed the barracks construction at FOB War Eagle, provided designs for battalion headquarters and company headquarters buildings at [Camp Victory], administered contracts for trailer installations at Camp Cooke, and also



By Pfc. Erik LeDrew, 122nd MPAD

**"If we can't do it, one of our subordinate units can," said Staff Sgt. Robert Johnson, design team, HHC, 353rd Eng. Grp., 1st Cav. Div. Johnson's team is a part of the Base Camp Construction Authority, an Engineering component in charge of designing and planning construction projects that fall within the 1st Cav.'s area of operations. Above, amidst an assortment of maps, Johnson updates the Camp Victory "Master Design Plan" on his computer.**

completed the Army Post Office at Victory."

Hagood said, the 353rd's projects here have only just begun.

"Right now we're tracking well over 100 projects," he said. "Paving roads, waste management, water purification utilities, landfills, power-lines, water-pipes, waste water, and drainage ditches.

"Basically, everything a city

would need, because that's our design approach to these camps: just as if they were a small city back home."

Some of the 353rd's current projects include finishing the construction of barracks at FOB Ferrin-Huggins and building a 'Soldier Support Center' at Camp Victory said Ice.

"The Soldier Support Center will have a shoppette, phone cen-

ter, laundry point, Chapel, and a stage for concerts and movies," he said.

Hagood said, there's a reason most of the 353rd BCCA's projects are 'quality of life'-type projects.

"Everything we do is for one reason: to take care of Soldiers," Hagood said. "So hopefully some of these things help make soldiers lives a little better here."

## Soldier Loses Leg When Convoy Runs Insurgent Gauntlet

Continued from Page 5

We got to a bridge to cross over the river. It was probably a perfect setup.

From the far side, they could see us coming up the bridge. We started coming down the other side, and that's when we got ambushed. The Humvee's bay was open, and we all had our weapons out, guarding the convoy.

We're just sitting there talking, and all of a sudden this huge explosion goes off. A rocket-propelled grenade had hit a tank in front of us. It was like throwing a spit wad at the thing. It just kept rolling.

We got into the kill zone, and all hell broke loose from the buildings on the right. We opened fire. I couldn't see anybody, but I saw shadows. I'd see the muzzle flashes of AK-47s firing at us. I'd shoot right

there.

From the time we opened fire on the buildings to the time we got past them, both buildings were probably a little bit shorter and more messed up. We opened up with everything we had on them. I had been on my knee on a sandbag, firing at the buildings.

Then all of a sudden I saw this white flash from between the two buildings. Everything just turned pure white.

That second, I felt my leg was gone.

The RPG impacted the vehicle, came through my leg and went through the other side of the vehicle. I knew they were going to have to amputate my leg. It just got in my head. It was gone.

The enemy forgot to arm the RPG. It was just basically a projectile. If it would have exploded, I wouldn't be here.

The Humvee kept moving. Once we were out of there, I was

**"I'd gladly give my right leg to go back over with those guys"**

**- Sgt. Lucas Wilson, 39th BCT**

calm and casual. I was like, "Hey, guys, my leg's gone. I'm hit."

Baldwin and Molero each grabbed a shoulder and my belt and laid me down on my bench. I gave them combat lifesavers training last fall, and we had prepared for a situation just like this.

Baldwin started the initial assessment to see how bad the wound was. Molero got some cord out of his bag. I was still yelling at them to keep on security. They said, "No, we need to take care of you."

They wrapped cord around my leg to form a tourniquet. They couldn't find a stick or anything to tighten it down, so they improvised and used the sheath of a bayonet.

God, the tourniquet hurt so damn bad. At first when the RPG hit, everything was numb. But as we started driving down, I could start feeling it. It was like every bump just killed.

Fortunately, we were near the medical camp. They took me there, and then they threw me on a Black Hawk and took me to Baghdad hospital.

There's doctors running around and needles everywhere. They knocked me out.

The next thing I remember is waking up the next morning and the doctor coming and saying they had to amputate my left leg above the knee. I already knew that.

After they amputated it, I didn't look at it for two or three

days. Now I can look at it, but I don't want to look at it without the dressings on yet. It's probably going to be a while.

In Baghdad they had to add six pints of blood to me. The human body only has eight. If it wasn't for Baldwin and Molero, I'd be dead.

I haven't seen them since they rushed me into the medical camp. I hugged Baldwin, gave him a kiss on the cheek and said I'd see him later. And then I kind of slapped Molero on the face and said to take care of himself. And that's the last time I saw the two.

I want to see them as soon as I can.

One of the biggest things I was worried about after they amputated was, I want to stay in the military. I was real adamant about that.

I'd gladly give my right leg to go back over with those guys.

## Making Engines Roar for War

By Pfc. Al Barrus  
122nd MPAD

While the troops of 1st Cavalry Division take to the streets of Baghdad and use new urban warfare techniques, they use their tactical vehicles in ways they weren't built to be used. They modify them with heavy armor to accomplish the mission. The additional weight of the armor does a number to the vehicles, so it's up to the mechanics to keep the vehicles battle-ready.

The Soldiers in the organizational maintenance section of Bravo Battery 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 82<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade 1<sup>st</sup> Cav. Div., are known to do an exemplary job of keeping their battery's vehicles tip-top. One particular Soldier in the unit has such outstanding skills in his profession, he has been recognized by the Division commanding officer for being all that he can be when it comes to doing his job.

"This guy right here is one of the best mechanics I have ever seen, and he's a private," said Staff Sgt. Gary Linard, battery motor sergeant, commenting on his Soldier Pfc. Clinton Thompson, a light-wheeled mechanic for the organizational maintenance section of B Battery 3-82 Field Artillery.

"As a mechanic, he has the mentality to do things right the first time, every time," Linard said. "I have yet to come across something he's done that, two

or three days down the road, we had to re-do."

Thompson has been commended multiple times by his senior officers and non-commissioned officers for his superior abilities that help keep his unit operational. His skills as an auto mechanic root from his civilian experience.

"I have been interested in the way things work ever since I got my first remote control car; I tore that thing up," laughed Thompson.

He began fiddling with auto mechanics at the age of 11 beside his father, Greg Thompson, who owns a shop near their hometown of De Leon, Texas.

Now 23, Thompson started working as a mechanic professionally at 16. After high school he went to Nashville Auto Diesel College in Nashville, Tenn., for two years, and just one year ago he enlisted in the Army.

Thompson was not looking for professional experience when he enlisted. His father was a Marine, so he had always been interested in the military and researched all the different armed services.

"I have a family, and the Army seemed to offer the most time around family since you're not spending half your career at sea," said Thompson who has a wife and four-month-old son at home in Texas.

Even though he finds himself away from home now, he

doesn't regret it. He admits it was hard to leave, but he was excited to see another part of the world.

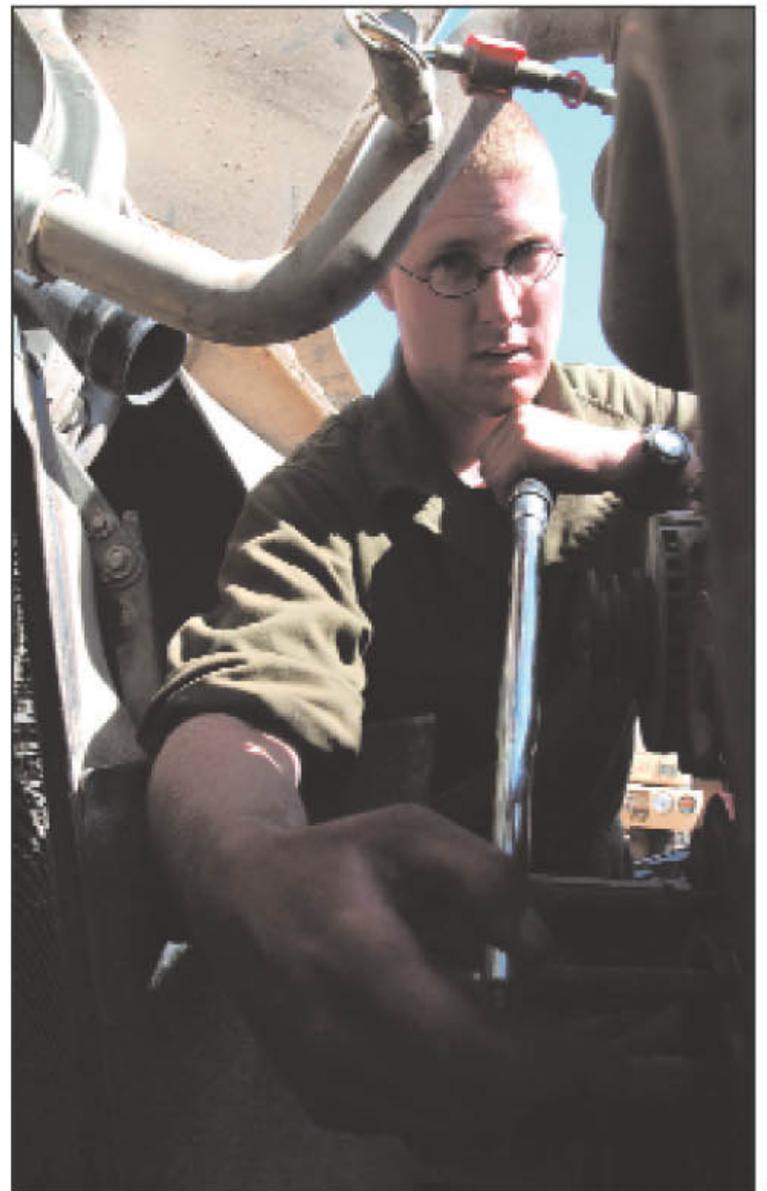
Excitement is what he found, especially in a unit that works hard and doesn't quit until the job is done.

"We start our day at 6:30 a.m. and were supposed to be done around 6 p.m. but some nights we are out here until midnight, even if we had really hard physical training that morning," Thompson said. "The day's done when the job's done."

Thompson's unit usually has about three vehicles on their deadline report whereas other units may have anywhere from five to ten, which shows that their extra hours and hard work pay off, Linard said.

"If he wasn't assigned to me I think we would have a much rougher time trying to keep up with keeping the vehicles in such good shape," Linard said. "People are always looking to him for advice, and he's great at working with the Soldiers and being a mentor."

"I like this job because I get to do what I like doing most, and help out other guys with the knowledge and experience that I have learned ... and it's good to be out here," Thompson said. "It was hard leaving a new-born kid at home," he admitted, "but I didn't join to stay stateside my whole enlistment."



By Pfc. Al Barrus, 122nd MPAD

**Pfc. Clinton Thompson, a light-wheeled mechanic for Bravo Battery 3-82 Field Artillery adjusts bolts onto the front main seal on the engine of a Light Medium Tactical Vehicle. A professional mechanic since he was 16, Thompson first began working on cars at age 11. His crew keeps the Division's vehicles battle ready.**

## 'Cash for Guns' Program Yields Rewards for 2-12 Cavalry

By Spc. Andy Miller  
122nd MPAD

FORWARD OPERATING BASE THUNDER-- 7 .76mm small arms, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades are popular weapons in Iraq. Anti-Coalition insurgents collect them for use,

and Coalition forces collect them for destruction. Everyday, weapons are confiscated from potential enemies during Coalition raids conducted in the Baghdad area.

Iraqi's however, don't have to wait until a raid comes to their neighborhood to give up the weapons to authorities. A

program that exchanges money for weapons and information was started by the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division at FOB Thunder last year, and has been continued by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division.

Iraqi civilians are allowed to have one registered weapon. Anything more is illegal, and can lead to arrest. Because of the exchange program, however, Iraqi's can provide illegal weapons to Soldier's at FOB Thunder during set times and dates with amnesty. In fact, certain weapons, like SA-7's and information that leads to the arrest of a person responsible for attacking Coalition forces, entitles the civilian to a monetary reward.

"I think it's [a] very important [program]. Since I've been here, we've had people bring in grenades, RPGs, and mortars," Staff Sgt. James Seginak, an intelligence analyst with the 2-

12 Cav. said, "That right there is a lot less weapons that are being fired at Coalition forces."

The program is intended to work for both the Iraqi's and for Soldiers. Basically, when the insurgents don't have access to weapons, there is less potential for violence in Iraqi streets.

"It's safer for their country, for their neighborhood and for their kids. [There is also the] possibility of getting a reward for whatever type of weapon they bring in," Seginak said.

Though the program is working well, it is not without risk, according to Seginak. The local Iraqi's who come of their own free will to provide information or weapons face the possibility that they will become targeted by the insurgents. Likewise, the Soldiers at FOB Thunder face the possibility that an enemy will use the program as a disguise for an attack.

"We're very cautious about



By Spc. Andy Miller, 122nd MPAD

**Staff Sgt. Jacob Thomas, HHC 2-12 Cav. (S-3), arrests a suspected anti-coalition insurgent at FOB Thunder.**

when people bring things in, to make sure they are not handling the weapons. Usually they are carrying them in a bag or a vehicle, and they just show them to us. We'll get them out, or we'll meet them up the road, outside the checkpoint," Seginak said.



By Spc. Andy Miller, 122nd MPAD

**Cpt. Joseph Pace and Staff Sgt. James Seginak from the 2-12 Cav question a suspected anti-coalition insurgent at FOB Thunder. The 2-12 Cav uses FOB Thunder as an interface between Soldier's and local Iraqi's.**

# Under Attack: 478th Civil



Photos by Pfc. Erik LeDrew, 122nd MPAD



(above) **Capt. Brian Donnelly, HHC, 1st Bde., 1st Cav. Div.,** stands guard with the rest of his unit while their convoy waited on the overpass for EOD to clear the road ahead.

(left) As gray smoke mushroomed into the air from the controlled detonation of the IED, the convoy re-mounted their vehicles and prepared to drive on with the mission.

By Sgt. Dan Purcell, 122nd MPAD

# Civil Affairs Encounters IED

By Sgt. Dan Purcell  
122nd MPAD

AL THAWRA DISTRICT-- After 35 years of decay under Saddam Hussein's regime, there are no quick fixes to the many problems that plague areas like the Al Thawra district in northwestern Baghdad. But that just makes the job more challenging for Alpha Company, 478th Civil Affairs Battalion of Miami, Fla.

Sgt. 1st Class Joel Pitallano, noncommissioned officer in charge, Alpha Co., 478th CA, said the battalion falls under the 1st Cavalry Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team. They are responsible for a variety of "beautification" projects throughout the Al Thawra district. Beautification includes cleaning up garbage and helping the Iraqis establish a stable infrastructure.

The mission of civil

affairs here is to work two specific issues: Iraqi infrastructure and government.

"[We work on] matters concerning the infrastructure and assessments, like water, sewer, garbage, schools and hospitals, and determine what kind of problems and shortages they are having and where the Coalition can step in and provide assistance," Capt. Brian Donnelly, 1 BCT, 1st Cav. Div., said.

"The second thing that [the battalion is] doing on a local level is interacting with the leadership and helping to set up advisory councils so as to provide feedback to the brigade on how these councils are proceeding, what's on their minds and what their issues are," Donnelly said. "The councils give the local citizens a voice in the emerging Iraqi government and the CA teams play a big part in helping the Iraqi people under-



By Pfc. Erik LeDrew, 122nd MPAD

stand how the process works."

There are five CA teams; four of which are at Camp War Eagle. These teams have to go out into the community and interact with the locals, which is sometimes risky, said Pitallano.

"Unlike other units, we have more interaction with the Iraqi people and we are not as heavily

armed, Donnelly said. "However, because the mission of CA is primarily humanitarian, we have to be out there with the people."

Since every project requires funds, the CA team makes a weekly convoy to Camp Victory's finance office to draw from the money allotted for their various projects. Although many convoys travel from the Ironhorse area to Victory every day, it's never a safe ride.

One such convoy was stopped by a strip of concertina wire strewn across the road by an explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) team. While the convoy idled in the middle of an overpass, the EOD team ahead detonated the improvised explosive device (IED) that had been spotted

alongside the road.

Immediately following the resounding 'boom' and puff of gray smoke caused by the controlled blast, a second, undetected, IED detonated underneath the overpass the CA team was stopped on.

Donnelly said, despite the current eruption of hostilities and ever-present IEDs, civil affairs is planning for when security stabilizes. The ultimate goal is to get help out to those areas most affected and set up emergency relief programs.

"When we first got here we were very well received by the Iraqi people," Pitallano said. "We provide funding and our expertise to help the Iraqi people help themselves."

**(above) When exiting the overpass, the convoy passed wreckage of a car that had been blown apart by another recent IED blast.**

**(left) Sgt. Dees, Alpha Team, 478 Civil Affairs Batt., watches an overpass as his unit's convoy passes underneath it en route to Dragoon Forward Operating Base, located in the Al Thawra District.**

**(below) The convoy was stopped upon encountering an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team who were preparing to detonate an IED found along a major thoroughfare in Baghdad.**



By Pfc. Erik LeDrew, 122nd MPAD



By Pfc. Erik LeDrew, 122nd MPAD

# Force Protection

Page 10

May 14, 2004

## Operation Establishes American Presence In Taji

By Cpl Benjamin Cossel  
122nd MPAD

AL-RASHIDA-- Located northeast of Baghdad, the presidential island retreat of Al-Rashida has proven a strategic firing point for attacks on Camp Cooke. On the morning of April 23, an operation was started to deny the enemy this key launching site.

Combining elements of the 39th and 4th Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 1st Cavalry Division as well as Macedonian Special Forces, the operation was conceived in response to intelligence indicating many of the recent mortar and rocket attacks on Camp Cooke originated from the island.

"Some of the fire we've taken (on Camp Cooke) has originated from this location (Al-Rashida)," explained Capt. Brian Mills, S-2, Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 2-7 Cavalry, 39th BCT, 1st CD. "Our objective is to find anti-Coalition weapons caches, to deny the enemy this location and show the enemy we are able to conduct operations to get anti-Coalition forces."

Assaulting Al-Rashida pre-



By Cpl. Benjamin Cossel, 122nd MPAD

**2nd Lt. Gregory Aaders, platoon commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-7 Cavalry, 39th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division watches his troopers maintain an inner cordon outside the Presidential Palace of Al-Rashida, April 23.**

sented commanders with many logistical challenges, said Sgt. 1st Class Michael McClellan, brigade battle non-commissioned officer, 39th BCT, 1st CD.

First in operational plans was the establishment of an outer cordon preventing entry or exit of the location. Before the outer cordon could be established, E Troop, 151st Cavalry, 39th BCT, 1st CD had to travel several miles along a

narrow stretch of road known as Route Crush. Densely populated villages to the west dotted the route potentially housing enemy forces.

Once the outer cordon was established, an inner cordon was needed to provide security around the presidential palace where evidence of squatters having taken residence existed. Hindering the Operation's ability to establish the

inner cordon was a one foot reinforced concrete wall surrounding the presidential compound. Once on the other side of the wall, forces had to navigate one hundred yards down a slim dirt path with tall, dense vegetation one each side before reaching the palace grounds.

Limiting access to the island, a single bridge spanned the gap between the palace grounds and the island. Securing the bridge was essential before Macedonian Special Forces could cross and begin searching the northwest area of the island.

With a large area of land to be covered and access limited to a single point, Task Force (TF) Attack, 2nd of the 227th, 4th BCT, 1st CD used Blackhawk helicopters to perform an aerial assault delivering two platoons of B Company, 2nd of the 162nd, 39th BCT, 1st CD to the southeast area of the island.

"Intelligence is telling us that potentially, there is a large concentration of enemy forces and weapons caches located on Al-Rashida. It is important that we maintain a high numerical superiority when conducting these oper-

ations," said McClellan when asked about the size of forces being used to conduct the Operation.

With equipment and personnel staged at Baghdad Island and Camp Thunder the night prior, The operation was set to begin at 6:00 A.M., April 23. Grounding air assets, an unseasonable electrical storm delayed operational start time until 8:00 A.M.

Departing their locations, Coalition forces arrived to the palace grounds at 9:25 A.M. smashing through the concrete barrier using M-1 Abrams Main

**Continued on Page 11**



By Cpl. Benjamin Cossel, 122nd MPAD

**Pfc. Luke Finely, medic, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-7 Cavalry, 39th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division treats the injured toe of a little boy during a cordon and search operation April 23.**

## EOD Soldiers Make Short Work of IEDs

By Pfc. LeDrew, 122nd MPAD

FORWARD OPERATING BASE IRONHORSE-- Improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and unexploded ordnance (UXO) have caused countless casualties to both Coalition forces and the Iraqi civilian population, but were it not for the skilled explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams operating in the region, there would be considerably more injuries.

"As EOD, our task is to render safe and dispose of any IEDs and UXO," said Staff Sgt. Linda Wooten, of the 752nd Ordnance Co., attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, (BCT), 1st Cavalry Division, and

stationed at Ironhorse Forward Operating Base (FOB).

"We're trained to deal with every explosive from small pyrotechnics to nukes," said Sgt. 1st Class Lowel B. Clements, non-commissioned officer in charge of the Ironhorse EOD team, added. "Basically, anything that could go boom."

Clements area of operations includes not only Ironhorse's sector, but Cuervo FOB's and Eagle FOB's, as well.

Clements said that while their official job title may be "EOD Technician," they prefer to be called an "EOD Soldier."

According to Wooten, there are only five EOD Soldiers on the Ironhorse team.

"There's only 16 total in our company," Clements said regarding the 752nd Ordnance Co., which is stationed at Victory Base, Baghdad.

According to Clements, his team responds to an average of one IED per day.

"There are spurts in IED activity where we detonate anywhere from one to four a day," Clements said.

"There have been days where we've destroyed as many as six IEDs," Wooten said. "But in this sector, we're destroying more UXO than IEDs."

According to Wooten, their sector is literally covered with UXO. "Give me a grid coordinate and I could guarantee you that you'd find plenty of UXO there," she said.

One such UXO-destruction mission was conducted by Wooten, Verbeck and Pfc. Derek Jenkins on April 19, at an abandoned Iraqi ammo factory.

"The ammo dump is in an area east of Baghdad, right on our sector's border," Wooten said. "Our mission there was to assess what UXO might be at the old Iraqi ammo factory and how to dispose of it."

Providing security for the EOD team during their mission were the engineers of "Animal" Co., 20th Eng. Bn., and the 1st Bn., 82nd Field Artillery, both of 1st Cav. Div.

"We're entirely dependant on others for security," Clements said. "The idea is that we should never have to use our weapons while on a mission."

According to Wooten, one 37mm pro-



By Pfc. Erik LeDrew, 122nd MPAD

**Pfc. Derek Jenkins, 752nd Ordnance Co., inspects an explosive device he found in a bunker underneath an old Iraqi ammo factory outside of Baghdad.**

jectile, 8 arming fuses and a rocket motor were found on the mission, most of which were detonated on site.

"If the UXO isn't safe enough to transport, we'll simply blow it in place," Wooten said. "The UXO we found today we didn't even mess with, we just blew it in place; but that created a very little blast compared to what we've dealt with in the past."

"There really wasn't much UXO at the site for us to destroy. At least not as much as we expected," Wooten said, "But it's still that much less for the enemy to find and use against us."



By Pfc. Erik LeDrew, 122nd MPAD

**"When we go out on a mission, we don't wear any rank, badges, name-tapes or unit insignia on our uniforms because we have a bounty of something like \$50,000 placed on our heads because of the work we do as EOD," Sgt. 1st Class Lowel B. Clements said. Above, Pfc. Derek Jenkins examines the insides of a rocket motor found at the ammo dump.**

## The Real JAG... It's Better Than the TV Show

By Spc. Andy Miller  
122nd MPAD

War is not anarchy. The current law of war and Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) were written to maintain order and discipline, even in time of war.

The United States is party to several treaties and conventions regarding battlefield conduct, and Soldiers of the 1st Cavalry Division are bound by the UCMJ. Interpreting these documents, and advising the command on legally available courses of action on the battlefield is the job of the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate's office (OSJA), 1st Cavalry Division.

"If we didn't have the law of war, we would have anarchy and chaos on the battlefield," Maj. Jim Agar the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate said. "The law of war is not just a matter of fighting in a civilized manner. It's also trying to convince people, that although we have a military objective and we will achieve that objective, we won't do it at all costs. "We're not bad guys...we play fair...we fight fair, and that can go a long way toward winning a war."

In addition to advising commanders about conduct on the battlefield, the OSJA works issues concerning powers of attorney, wills and marriages for Soldiers deployed to



By Spc. Andy Miller, 122nd MPAD

**Maj. Jim Agar, Deputy Staff Judge Advocate and Sgt. Gabriel Galindo, detention operations noncommissioned officer, discuss weekly reporting procedures at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.**

this theater. Deployed troops often don't have the time or expertise to deal with legal matters, according to Spc. Jon Coen, a court reporter.

"Our real goal is to help make the command and the Soldiers not have to worry," Coen said. "We try to provide them with the best and most accurate service that we can. We try to make life as easy as possible for them."

Life isn't easy for all Soldiers who find their way to the OSJA office though. Those on the wrong side of the law may ultimately realize that they've made life difficult for themselves.

Agar has seen a number of punishable violations in this theater, including attempts to mail firearms

home and the consumption of alcohol. According to General Order Number One, these activities are punishable under UCMJ.

"The range of punishments can go from a letter of reprimand ... all the way up to a court martial," Agar said. "We are enforcing the rule of law in our own ranks, and I hope the Iraqis see that."

If Soldiers think ahead and realize there are consequences to their actions, then they can prevent a lot of the violations that happen in theater, Coen noted.

He added that knowing General Order Number One and conducting yourself in a polite and professional manner could avoid a lot of unpleasantness.

## Operation Conducted to Secure Al-Rashida Island Continued from Page 10

Battle Tanks (MBT) from 2-7 Cav, The operation was now fully underway.

Establishing the outer cordon along Route Crush, E-Troop, 151st Cav. almost immediately began taking enemy fire. Returning fire in a dazzling show of force, the engagement was quickly put down and the operation continued.

Their Bradley fighting vehicles rolling down the narrow dirt path, HHC, 2-7 Cav established the inner cordon around the presidential palace effectively handing squatters their eviction notice.

With outer and inner cordons established, Macedonian Special Forces worked quickly to secure the bridge and begin their search of the northwest area as TF Attack delivered its platoon elements of 2nd of the 162nd to the southeast.

Using Apache Attack and Kiowa helicopters, Task Force

## 1st Cav. Network Sharing Knowledge to Win the Fight

By Maj. Craig Unrath  
1CD G3 Support Operations

Have you ever wished you could share your insight from last night's mission with your buddies in other battalions? Now you can.

The 1st Cav. Knowledge Network is online and ready for use! All you need is a SIPRNET connection and you can access the website to begin joining discussions relevant to your current operations.

The Knowledge Network includes forums for discussing and posting comments for every task within our lines of operations.

You can even sign up for e-mail notification to alert you to new message posts related to your areas of interest. This tool enables First Team leaders to leverage what they are learning right NOW. From finding IEDs, to training firefighters, share your learned lessons with fellow leaders and Soldiers.

The Knowledge Network

Cell will enable the 1st Cav. Div. and others across the Army to rapidly and securely disseminate invaluable, emerging tactical lessons learned throughout the entire area of operations. Pegasus 6 is very excited about its potential and encourages maximum participation.

The Knowledge Network is a key combat multiplier in building a free and prosperous Iraq.

Be sure to check it out at: [http://www.1cd.army.smil.mil/cdkn\\_home.cfm](http://www.1cd.army.smil.mil/cdkn_home.cfm) or, you can access it through the First Team TACWEB homepage.

Start a thread today to share what you know and learn lessons from others. Registration confirmation is immediate and navigation is simple. We want to know what you are learning right NOW!

The point of contact for the 1st Cav. Knowledge Network is Maj. Craig Unrath; 1st Cavalry Division G3 Support Operations; by e-mail at [craig.unrath@1cd.army.smil.mil](mailto:craig.unrath@1cd.army.smil.mil) or by DNVN at 531-0220.

### Some Useful Arabic Phrases

#### Greetings

Good morning - sebah el khair  
Good afternoon - asad alla awkatakum  
Good evening - masa el kheir  
Goodnight - tabat lilatokom  
Goodbye - wa alsalamah  
Hello - marhaba  
How are you? - Ishlonak?  
I'm good. - ani zain.  
Thank you - shukran  
And you? - wa inta?

#### Numbers

Zero - sifer  
One - wahed  
Two - ithnayn  
Three - thalatha  
Four - arbaa  
Five - khamsa  
Six - sit-ta  
Seven - sabaa  
Eight - thamanya  
Nine - tisaa  
Ten - aashara

#### Days of the Week

Saturday - al sebit  
Sunday - al ahad  
Monday - al ithnain  
Tuesday - al tholatha  
Wednesday - al arbaa  
Thursday - al khemess  
Friday - al jumaa

#### Cardinal Directions

North - al shemal  
South - al jenub  
East - al sherq  
West - al gherb

#### Other phrases

Yes - na  
No - la  
I'm sorry - asaf  
What's your name? - shismak?  
My name is... - ani ismi...  
Do you speak English? - hel teteklem al inglizia?  
I do not understand you. - ena la efhemek.

## FIRST TEAM



By Cpl. Benjamin Cossel, 122nd MPAD

**Troopers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-7 Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division provide overwatch security on the Island Bridge during a Cordon and Search operation at the presidential retreat island and compound of Al-Rashida.**

Lobos, 1st of the 227th, 4th BCT, 1st CD provided security and intelligence from the sky.

By 1:00 P.M. the presidential compound and island of Al-Rashida had been completely searched. Coalition forces began their retrograde to the established rallying point of Baghdad Island.

"While it is disappointing that we didn't find all that we had hoped," said Maj. Steven Lachola, brigade battle captain, 39th BCT, 1st CD. "I think we successfully showed that we are willing to use all assets at hand to stop enemy engagement."

## Helping Iraqis Build Roads to the Future

**Capt. Brian O'Malley**  
1st Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DRAGOON-- More than four million dollars has been earmarked to restore 12 miles of local roads in the eastern portion of the Iraqi capitol city.

The Army Corps of Engineers is planning to train and supervise local Iraqi workmen to begin these road improvement projects, according to Civil Affairs Capt. Brian Donnelly.

"This is a major step in rebuilding the city," Donnelly said.

He added that these projects, funded by the Coalition, would

also create jobs for local Iraqis, noting that they would help spur the economy by bringing money and commerce into all areas of Baghdad.

Individual projects are already underway. Coalition forces, along with Iraqi workers, repaired part of a bridge that had been blown up by an insurgent-placed improvised explosive device (IED). Working together, they were able to open up one lane, restoring traffic flow to parts of southern Baghdad.

"When attacks like this happen, it only helps to strengthen the Iraqi and Coalition partnership," said Maj. David Clore, an advisor for Coalition troops in eastern Baghdad. "It brings us together to help defeat a common

enemy, and provides us an opportunity to work together for the common good."

"We [the Coalition and the Iraqi people] are gathering all our road-repair assets to make this project work," he continued. "The Coalition is committed to helping the Iraqi people rebuild their infrastructure. We will not be swayed by groups who wish to gain power at the expense of the Iraqi people."

The bridge repair is just one of many projects that the Coalition is conducting in a joint effort with local authorities. More projects are underway, including road repairs in the Al Thawra district and sewage system upgrades in other eastern Baghdad neighborhoods.

## Engineers Confiscate Posters of Anti-Coalition Cleric, Al-Sadr

Continued from Page 3  
could not be displayed.

The man refused to remove them.

"We explained the best we could without an interpreter," said Cpl. Mark Steir, a team leader in 1st Platoon. "They started to get angry once they realized why we were taking them down. The further along we got, the community became more upset."

To make the situation more tension-filled, the loudspeakers of a local Mosque addressed the neighborhood, drawing ecstatic shouts from the growing crowd of onlookers.

"There was a lot more finger-jabbing going on than usual," Schonfeld said. "A couple [people] even tried to grab our hands away from taking the pictures down." After several minutes of negotiation, Schonfeld was able to persuade the owner of the shop to remove the pictures, thanks to the help of a few English-speaking locals.

Moving along, 1st Platoon removed one more poster before a sizeable crowd formed and started throwing rocks.

"We've got a riot down here, sir," one Soldier yelled to Schonfeld, who promptly moved his platoon from the area to avoid an escalation of



By Spc. Jan Critchfield 122nd MPAD

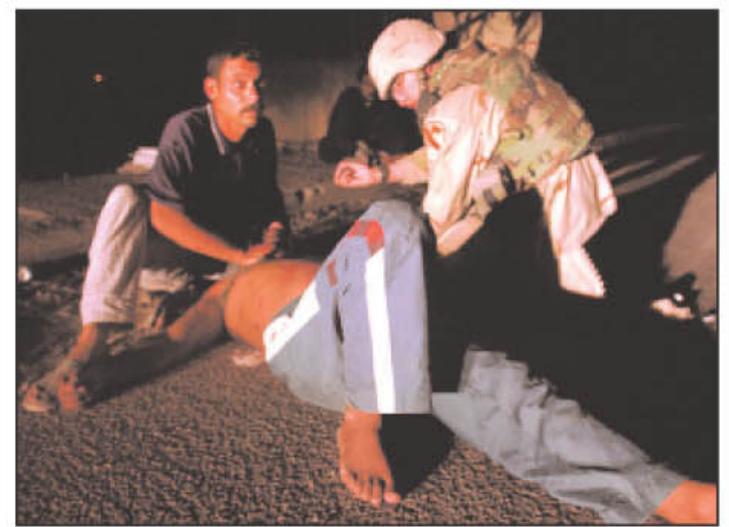
**1st Lt. Brian Schonfeld, a platoon leader in Charlie Company, 91st Engineer Battalion, explains to a Washash shop owner why the posters of anti-Coalition leader Muqtada al-Sadr are not legal to display publicly. Schonfeld noticed the presence of such anti-Coalition propaganda during a routine patrol through the area.**

force. The discovery of anti-Coalition propaganda is a negative development for coalition efforts in this neighborhood. The Coalition has several projects shop in the works, such as a playing field, a refuse disposal plan, and a communal textile shop, in hopes of making Washash a better place to live.

"It was a significant event for us because there is not a very heavy presence of supporters of Muqtada al-Sadr in Washash. The people that we

know in Washash have been supporters of [Grand Ayatollah al-Husseini al-Sistani]," said Capt. Ronald Hayward, commander of C Co., who gave the order to remove the posters.

"I think it was important [to remove the posters] because al-Sadr currently stands for all things that are anti-Coalition," he said. "It's important to show [the people of Washash] that we can deal with the propaganda in a non-threatening way, rather than coming in hard and forcefully."



By Spc. Jan Critchfield 122nd MPAD

**Pfc. Patricio Gonzalez of the 1st Cavalry Division, administers aid to an Iraqi man stabbed in the neck during a fight with another Iraqi in a community just outside of Forward Operating Base Thunder.**

## Cav. Soldier Aids Wounded Iraqi

By Spc. Jan Critchfield  
122nd MPAD

dangerously close to the man's windpipe.

"First we thought it was a [gun] shot, but it turned out he was stabbed," said Staff Sgt. Nestor Ibarra, a member of the QRF present at the scene.

FORWARD OPERATING BASE THUNDER-- Shortly after darkness descended, three Iraqi men were spotted carrying a fourth man toward this U.S. Army outpost. The man carried bled profusely from the neck.

A Quick Reaction Force, consisting of Soldiers from the 91st Engineer Battalion, left the camp to investigate.

After the QRF set up a defensive perimeter, Pfc. Patricio Gonzalez, a combat medic with the 91st, determined whether or not the man was actually wounded, making sure that this wasn't a ruse to draw the QRF into an ambush.

That thought was quickly ruled out, when Gonzalez removed a blood-soaked bandage, exposing a knife wound

Earlier in the evening, there had been a firefight in which the QRF had participated. This led them to believe that they might have been treating one of the combatants.

"They're still human beings," Ibarra said.

After Gonzalez applied fresh bandages and determined that the man's lungs were not filling with blood, the QRF called the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps to transport him to a local Red Crescent hospital.

"For a guy who just got stabbed, [his vitals] were still pretty steady," Gonzalez said. "It makes you feel good to help real people."

## Anti-Coalition Insurgents Brought into Custody

Continued from Page 1  
men.

Something later, however, struck Blair and a few of his Soldiers as odd. They found most people up, eating breakfast as if they expected a search that morning.

"Oh, they knew we were coming," he said to Whiteley. "They were already dressed and eating breakfast."

Later a company translator said the main suspect had a cell phone and might have notified everyone about the raid.

As the detainees sat near by

in the shade, a translator later explained one possible way the men fired the rockets; from the small, uninhabited island 200 meters from their homes and a short boat ride away.

"It's the closest point to the river," Whiteley said.

The company now had their men and prepared to move back to camp. Standing in the shade of a tree, Pfc. Robert Murphy said it's good the men were arrested, even if they didn't find the rocket caches.

"It gets them off the streets," he said.

## Soldiers plan to stay fit, lose or gain weight

By Spc. Bryan Kinkade  
1st Cav. Div. PAO

Many Soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division are doing something different with their body during this deployment to Iraq. Some Soldiers are choosing to lose weight, some want to gain weight, and some just want to get pumped up.

"Basically, I want to get back to where I was when I first got to Fort Hood," said Spc. Dan Mathia, a First Team Soldier with the Division Honor Guard. "I'm redistributing my weight, from fat to muscle."

Though some Soldiers don't have enough time to work out consistently, some are working out religiously. Mathia, 26, tries to work out two times a day and has a goal of bench-pressing at least 280 pounds before he leaves Iraq.

"I'm lifting weights, running and dieting," the Gainesville, Fla. native said. "It's been going well, I haven't even been here two months yet. When I got here I was warming up with 135 pounds and now I start with 210."

As Soldiers work out their own plans to gain and lose weight, the Deputy Division Surgeon said there are many ways to do it.

"[To lose weight] Soldiers should exercise in moderation and diet," said Maj. Gary Aspera, who doubles as the sen-

ior physicians assistant for the division. "But [Soldiers should] not [start a] complete cold-turkey diet, when they don't eat anything. They need a light, well-balanced diet.

"They need to lose weight slowly, not fast," he continued. "If they lose weight slowly, it's easier for them to keep off the weight."

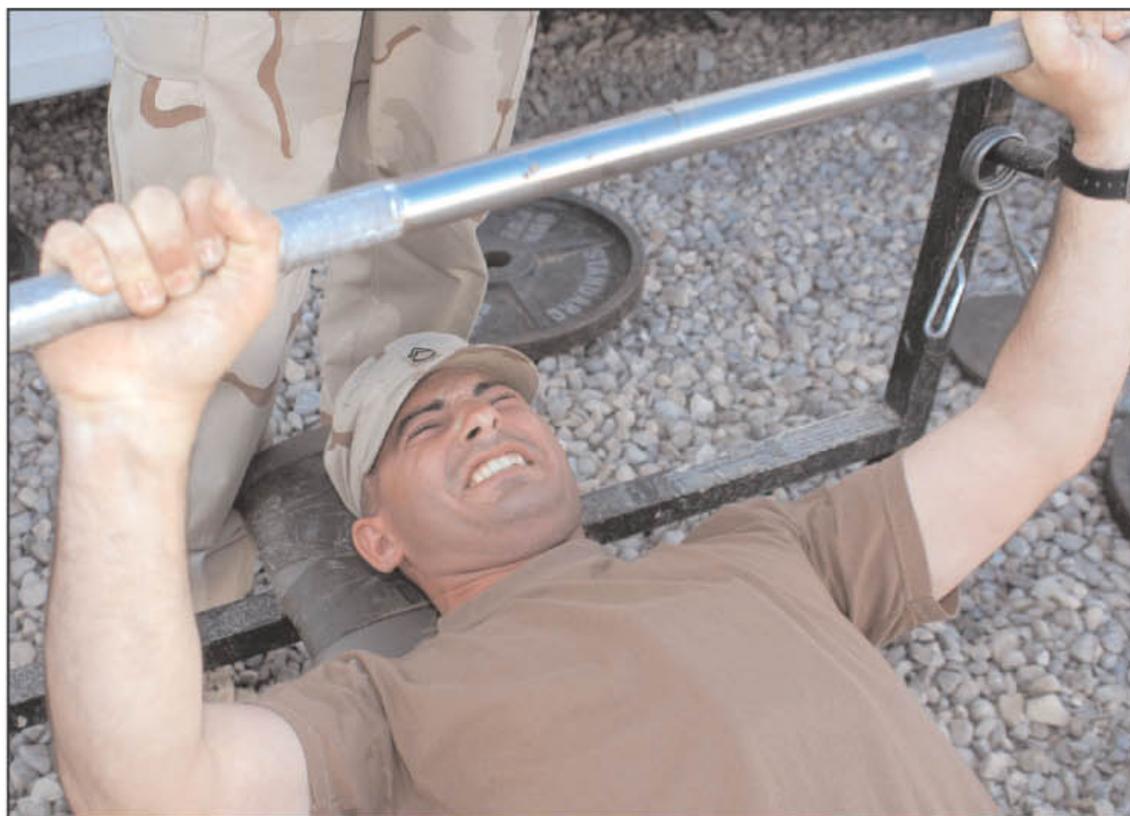
As there are many different ways to lose and gain weight in the deployment, Spc. Chas Marshall, a light-wheeled mechanic with Headquarters Company, 1st Cav. Div., has a different view on dieting, as he tries to gain weight in Iraq.

"I eat as much protein and starch as I can," he said, as he sat down at the dining facility with a plate full of beef and noodles, potato wedges, rice and mixed vegetables. "I maintain the same exercises as normal, just at a slower pace, so I burn less calories, but get the same endurance and strength."

Marshall's plan to gain weight seems to be working for him so far. He has gained four pounds since his arrival to the Middle East a little over two months ago.

"My first four months at Fort Hood, I did nothing but lose weight from the heat, so while I'm here, I might as well gain some, so I can lose it later," the Wheeling, West Va., native said.

Aspera thinks that Iraq may



Photos by Spc. Bryan Kinkade, 1st Cav. Div. PAO

**Staff Sgt. Alan Ash, the 1st Cav. Div. Deputy Commandant, lifts some weights after he gets off work.**

be a good place for Soldiers to focus on their bodies, because of the lack of social activities.

"The fact that they are here allows them to focus on a weight loss or weight gain program, if that's what they desire to do," he said. "Bottom line: it's a caloric intake thing. If you want to gain weight, eat a lot of carbohydrates, eat three meals a day, and maintain an exercise program."

At various post exchanges around Baghdad, a variety of dietary supplements and energy drinks are available. Mathia is taking fat burning and protein supplements to reach his goal, but he is considering a more natural plan.

"The best thing that has worked for me so far is dieting and cardio workouts to lose weight," he said.

One thing all Soldiers

should have in common, whether they want to lose weight, gain it, or neither, is the need to drink water.

"The dangerous thing for them to do is to not drink fluids and try to maintain weight loss by losing water weight," Aspera said. "Especially as it's going to get hotter as we get into the summer. We don't want the Soldiers to suffer from heat injuries."

## Health Tips for Hot Weather from Army Medicine Online

Information provided by  
Landstuhl Regional Medical  
Center, Germany

Individuals who are not adequately hydrated and acclimated to their environment or who are in poor physical condition are most at risk for heat injuries or illnesses. However, heat injuries and illnesses can be avoided in most circumstances if Soldiers are knowledgeable of the signs and symptoms of heat illnesses as well as alert to environmental conditions.

Individuals who have experienced a previous heat injury or illness tend to be at an increased risk for subsequent injuries or illnesses as well. Individuals who are overweight or not physically fit; are experiencing diarrhea; have conditions affecting sweat secretions such as a sunburn, chronic use of diuretics, or medications that inhibit sweating are all at an increased risk for heat illnesses.

Soldiers who are not physically exerting themselves may also be at risk. Tasks which are monotonous, repetitive, or boring; tasks which require attention to detail and short-term memory; tasks which must be done quickly or according to a fixed schedule; tasks which require arm-hand steadiness; and

command and control tasks where confusion and misinformation are common may be impacted negatively in hot environments. Simply put, reaction and decision times are slower in the heat.

Leaders need to ensure Soldiers stay hydrated, eat all meals, wear uniforms properly, use sunscreen, and stay alert to the signs and symptoms of heat illness. They should also implement the work/rest cycle if the tactical situation permits and consider delaying heavy work until the cooler hours of the day—mornings or evenings.

Leaders need to know not all Soldiers are at the same level of fitness or conditioning level. Leaders should gradually increase the intensity of the exercise each day, working up to an appropriate physical training schedule adapted for the environ-

ment. Maintenance-level PT programs should be conducted in the evening or night.

There are three fairly distinct clinical syndromes associated with heat-heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

Typically, the body is able to regulate internal temperatures within a narrow range quite well. However, as we become more active, the heat stress load increases, requiring the body to lose heat in order to maintain this optimal internal temperature range.

Heat cramps are muscle cramps, primarily in the abdomen, legs and arms. This condition is due to excessive salt and water losses. Heat cramps most often occur in Soldiers who are not acclimated to the heat and can generally be avoided by maintaining proper nutrition and hydration.

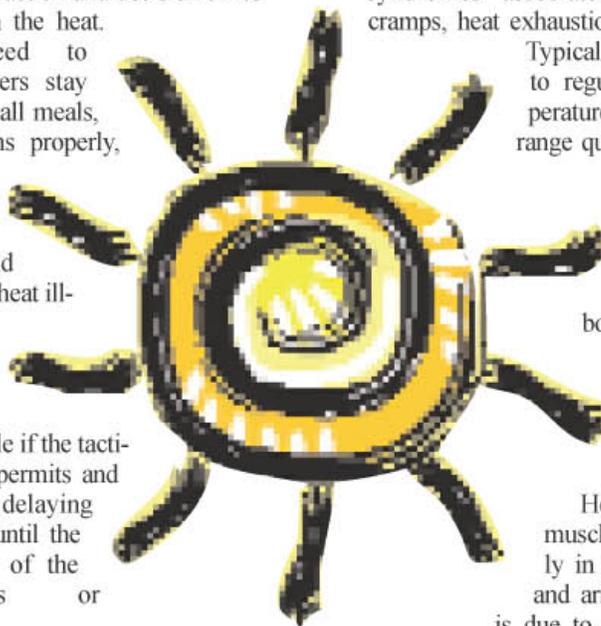
Heat exhaustion signs and symptoms may include fatigue, nausea, dizziness, faint-

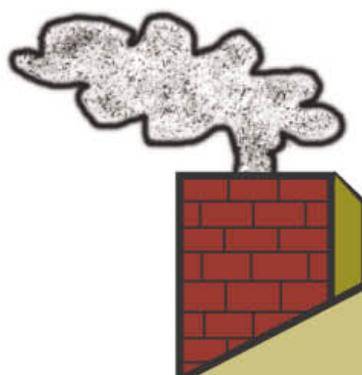
ing, vomiting, mild changes in mental function such as disorientation or irritability, and an elevated temperature. Heat exhaustion can be avoided by employing appropriate work/rest cycles, maintaining full hydration and ensuring individuals are properly acclimated to their environment.

Heat stroke may include some or all of the above-mentioned signs and symptoms, but is more severe and can be fatal. The victim will be hot and disoriented or unconscious. Employing work/rest cycles and maintaining full hydration can avoid heat stroke. This heat illness is a medical emergency of the highest priority for medical evacuation.

Heat-stricken Soldiers should immediately be moved into shade and any heavy clothing and equipment should be removed. If the victim is alert and not vomiting, have him or her drink water slowly. If enough water is available, wet the T-shirt and fan the Soldier for cooling.

For more information about how to prevent heat injuries or illnesses contact your unit field sanitation team, the unit's supporting preventive medicine section, preventive medicine detachment, division preventive medicine/surgeon's office, or the preventive medicine staffs at your supporting medical treatment facility.





## All in the Family

stories and Photos by Pfc. Al Barrus

### Cav. Twins: to Iraq and Back

It is an old belief that identical twins share a special connection that no one else can understand. Twins grow up sharing everything from clothes to friends to looks. But one pair of twins in Headquarters Company of the 1st Cavalry Division shares more.

Identical twins, Pfc. Natosha and Pfc. Latosha Gates have more than just each others' looks in common; they have the same job title in the same department of the same unit. They are both systems administrators in the telecommunications section (G-6) of 1st Cav. Div. HHC.

"We do everything together for the most part. We run together, work together and we're roommates," said Natosha. "We're basically the same person," added Latosha.

Although identical, there are ways to tell

the twins apart.

"Latosha smiles a lot," Natosha said. "She's always smiling. She wears glasses and I don't always wear mine, but we have the same prescription ... I braid my hair; hers is straight."

Another thing they mutually didn't share was the plan to enlist in the Army.

"I suggested we join the military, and I first started looking into the Army and Natosha looked into the Navy," Latosha said. "After she saw what the Army had to offer we both decided on it."

Now here, they are working together in the same office. Though they face danger in this combat zone, the girls are glad they joined.

"Joining the Army and coming here is the biggest challenge we have ever had together," Natosha admitted. "But since we came here



Identical twins Pfc. Natosha Gates (left) and Pfc. Latosha Gates both work in the telecommunications section of HHC 1st Cav. Div. as system administrators and are roommates.

together we do OK. As long as I'm with my sister, I know I have someone that I can talk to and someone I can trust."



Master Sgt. Joni Evans and her son Spc. Phillip Evans.

### Mother and Son Reunited

It's a frustrating feeling when you know someone you love is near, but you can't reach them, no matter how you try. Such a pickle was finally solved when a mother in 4th Aviation Brigade Combat Team finally met up with her son from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

"This [situation] kind of brought tears to my eyes, because it's difficult knowing he's close by and not being able to reach out to him," said Master Sgt. Joni Evans, 4th BCT career counselor. "But we made plans and we had been e-mailing back and forth because that's really the only time we get a chance to chat when he gets back from his missions," she said of her son Spc. Phillip Evans, a Bradley

Fighting Vehicle gunner in Charlie Co., 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment.

The mother and son finally arranged a meeting, coincidentally, on a very special day. "This being my 46th birthday it worked out great," she said.

The birthday reunion was a fluke. After a month of searching, a mother's birthday wish was granted.

"I think it's great having family here," said the 22-year-old gunner. "It was a good feeling... seeing my mom here. It just makes life out here a little better."

"For him being able to be here today; I cried. I had to. It was like one of the greatest things for me."

### Like Father, Like Son

Some fathers spend quality time with their sons going fishing or to baseball games, but one 2nd Brigade Combat Team father-son pair goes on combat missions in Baghdad together.

"In my active duty years I never got the chance to get deployed like this, so I figured I might as well come out here with my son," said Sgt. Norman French, a National Guardsman from Texas' 49th Armor Brigade, now a radio and telephone operator for 2nd BCT Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

"I don't know what the chances are that we got stationed in the same brigade, but I know they have to be pretty slim," said Spc. Ryan French, a quick reaction force team leader in Headquarters Support Battery, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd BCT.

"We get to go on patrols together every now and then, but it's hard for me to get out of the [tactical operations center]," said Sgt. French. "It's not terribly unusual to have a father and a son in the same brigade, but to actually be going on patrols together is something."

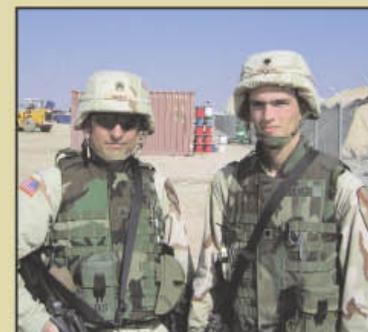
"I was put in 2nd Brigade by dumb luck. Now Ryan's trailer is only about 150 yards from mine," he said. The ability to talk to your

own son is a pleasure that can't be easily replaced, and it makes being on the other side of the world from home all the more easier."

There are a lot of stressors that build up on deployments overseas, and having family close by is a luxury not many troops have. "Most everyone here is away from their family," Sgt. French said. "This way we have some family with us."

Aside from the experience of a lifetime, Sgt. French volunteered to come to Iraq as a way to spend time with his oldest child.

"A big reason I volunteered to come here was to serve with my son," he said. "I more or less made him join the Army, and now he's gone to war, so it [was] only fair that I [went] with him."



Sgt. Norman French and his son Spc. Ryan French.

# In Remembrance...

May 14, 2004

Page 15

## Farewell to Fallen Comrades in Arms



By Staff Sgt. Tony Sailer, 122nd MPAD

(Above) Maj. Gen. Pete Chiarelli, commander of the 1st Cavalry Division, salutes the memorial of Pfc. Alfonso Carballo during a service commemorating the fallen soldier.



Photos by Pfc. Erik LeDrew, 122nd MPAD

(Above) 1st Lt. Christopher D. Haun, Headquarters and Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, 1st Cav. Div., kneels before the display of Spc. Justin Johnson's rifle, helmet, ID tags and boots at the service held in memory of Johnson, who perished on April 10, 2004. Haun was Johnson's platoon leader.



### Our Fallen Troops

SSG Stacey Brandon

SPC Ervin Caradine Jr.

PV2 Jeremy Drexler

SGT Adam Estep

CPT Arthur Felder

PFC Christopher Hudson

CW3 Patrick Kordsmeier

SPC Michael McGlothlin

SPC Kenneth Melton

SGT Gerardo Moreno

SSG Billy Orton

SSG Abraham Pena-Medina

SPC William Sturges

To all of our fallen troopers; you are gone but not forgotten. We will continue the fight.

## Red Team Remembers Fallen Cav. Soldier

By Staff Sgt. Tony Sailer  
122nd MPAD

CAMP FERRINHUGGINS-- Hundreds of Red Team Soldiers gathered mid-morning to pay respects to one of their fallen brothers during a memorial service here, April 14.

Pfc. Adolfo Carballo, Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 21st Field Artillery Regiment, 5th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, died April 10 when he was struck in the back by a rocket propelled grenade during a patrol in south Baghdad. Four days later,

Soldiers of his unit joined with other 5th BCT troops to celebrate his life and commemorate his death.

Cpt. Thomas Pugsley, Alpha Battery's commander, commented on Carballo's life, service and sacrifice. "As a soldier under my command, I could always count on him to do the right thing; to fight with courage and honor and never back down from what he knew was right. And the night he died, he held true to these convictions," Pugsley said.

As the ceremony progressed, friends recounted fond memories, read a scrip-

ture and recited a poem. Battalion chaplain, 1st Lt. John Boyer tried to put into perspective the events of the last few days.

"Each one of us has asked the question that exists deep within the heart of humanity; why O' Lord? We have tried to make sense of the tragedy. We have reasoned and questioned," Boyer said.

He reminded those present to focus on the road ahead and that in this Easter season, death has no triumph and that each person's contribution is valuable.

"We honor Carballo's

sacrifice," Boyer continued, "by keeping his spirit alive in this fight for freedom, democracy and liberation."

A native of Houston, Texas, Carballo served in the military as a Multiple Launch Rocket System crewmember. His awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart Medal, National Defense Service Medal and Army Service Ribbon. Carballo was posthumously promoted to the rank of Specialist.

Carballo is survived by his wife Elisa, and his mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Cesar Carballo.

### Beauty is in the Eye of the Beholder



By Spc. Jan Critchfield, 122nd MPAD

## 'Enforcers' lose out to IPS 6-3

By Sgt. Dan Purcell  
122nd MPAD

CAMP CUERVO-- In soccer action, players from the 759th Military Police Battalion 'Enforcers' and the Baghdad Headquarters Traffic Police competed against each other for the first time at Camp Cuervo, on April 30, 2004.

Despite the cheers and enthusiasm of their fellow team mates, the Enforcers were beat out by the Iraqi Traffic Police 6-3 by the end of the game.

Capt. Joseph Squizzero, Iraqi Police Service coordinator with Higher Headquarters Detachment, 759th MP Bn. said, at the end of the first half the 'Enforcers' were down 3 to 1. When the Iraqis got that lead, they kept it throughout the game.

"Our strategy was to focus on our stamina and strength and I

think the second half of the game went pretty well, as a result, when we scored two more goals. However, we soon realized that things weren't working out in our favor so we gathered the team together and decided to put the best competitive players we had out there," said Squizzero.

"All the players did great, but one player who stands out is Spc. Jason Trotman from Charlie company, 759th MP Bn., because he scored our first two goals," Squizzero added.

The game was sponsored by the 759th MP Bt., under the direction of Squizzero.

"The idea for the soccer match belongs to not only our predecessors, but the traffic police who thought it would be a good way to foster team work and to give everyone involved a chance to put our work aside for just a little while and get to know

each other on a personal level," Squizzero explained.

"So, as a result, we decided to do something. The Iraqis didn't know much about football, basketball or baseball, so we decided on a soccer match because that's their national sport," Squizzero continued.

Yet, putting the game together wasn't all that easy according to Squizzero, and most of the work fell to Spc. Shakira N.H. Fry, IPS liaison specialist, 759th MP Bn., who organized every-

thing. "I didn't know anything about soccer when I first started looking into what it would take to get this event started, so I started looking on the internet and asking around until I got the information I needed on how to put this game together," explained Fry.

"I had to find out everything about the game, find Soldiers from our units who were interested in playing, coordinating a time to play that wouldn't interfere with missions. There were also uniforms to be made and refreshments to line up," Fry explained.

"It took about two months to get this game going. We planned one for about a month ago but missions get changed and so we had to wait," Fry continued.

At the conclusion of the game, the traffic police were presented with certificates as well as



By Sgt. Dan Purcell, 122nd MPAD

**Sgt. Kara A. Hines, HHD, 759th MP Bt., knocks the ball towards her fellow teammates in an effort to score another goal. Hines, a native of Spokane, Washington, said after the game, "I would love to play this every week. It's good for cohesion with the Iraqis and good competition."**

a soccer ball inscribed with the names and jersey numbers of the players from the 759th.

"After the game I talked to the Soldiers and they said that they loved it even though they lost. That's what made preparing for the event worth every drop of sweat and every moment of frustration.

If it's something that really makes them happy, then that's all that really matters. Even the Iraqi players were real happy about the game," Fry concluded.



By Sgt. Dan Purcell, 122nd MPAD

**The Iraqi Traffic Police players try to retain their lead by blocking the Enforcers' attempt at another field goal.**

## Second Down: Sports Analogies Pale in the Face of Life ... and Death

Football lends itself to war-like comparisons, where taking territory away from your adversary, commanding the ground game or enjoying air superiority can lead to victory. Football is a painful sport. Getting hit by a 250-pound linebacker running at full speed as a headhunter on a kick-off has got to hurt ... even with pads. Many star players have had their careers cut short by injury, and more recently from concussions from the pounding they take. Some players never achieve greatness on the gridiron not because they lack the skills, but because they can't take the punishment involved with playing the game.

We tend to make heroes out of our favorite football stars. Here's one who isn't.

A federal judge has decided that former Ohio State running back Maurice Clarett has to bide his time before playing in the National Football League. Clarett, a freshman phenomenon runner who sat out his sophomore year

must now sit another season before attempting to start his professional career.

Here's my take on this one: two words ... Lawrence Phillips. Phillips, if you recall was a gifted, but troubled athlete from Nebraska whose talents on the football field made him a high draft pick (1st rounder by the St. Louis Rams in 1996), but whose issues off the field drove him from the NFL. When last heard from, Phillips was kicked off the Calgary Stampede ... a week after gaining 155 yards in an October 2003 game ... for arguing with his coach about the game plan. He hasn't resurfaced again in a football uniform.

Clarett, last listed at 6-foot, 230 pounds, seems to have all the tools to play in the NFL, or at least he did before deciding he was too good for Ohio State and college football. With the decision to uphold the NFL's policy to not allow athletes to enter the draft

### Commentary

MSG Dave  
Larsen



Sports Buff

until after their junior year of college eligibility, Clarett basically gets a two-year hiatus from the game, which I believe will send him to the Canadian Football League or the NFL Europe. He'll get that far, only if he can leave behind nagging legal battles that have plagued him since leaving the Buckeyes for greener (\$\$\$) pastures.

It's amazing to me that professional football can have such polar opposites. This next guy is a hero in everyone's book.

A lot has been written over the past few weeks about former Arizona Cardinals free safety Pat Tillman - and for good reason. Tillman quietly walked away from

a \$3.6 million three-year pro football contract following the September 11, 2001 tragedies to become an Army Ranger.

Tillman died in April, during a firefight in some remote location in Afghanistan. The Cardinals are retiring his number; so are the Arizona State Sun Devils. The Army honored his memory, too, by posthumously promoting him to Sergeant. Tillman is an American hero; but he's not the only one.

What we do, everyday, in Baghdad, makes us heroes, too. I know that I didn't walk away from a million-dollar-a-year job, and I'm pretty sure that none of you did, either. But that doesn't make our sacrifices any less great. Thirty Soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division have given their lives for their country here already. They all had hopes and dreams. They all have families and friends who grieve their passing. They all died fighting for their country. They all were heroes.

Just like Pat Tillman.

## Standings

**MLB**  
As of May 6, 2004

American League East Division			
	W	L	Pct GB
New York	16	11	.593 --
Boston	16	11	.593 --
Baltimore	13	12	.520 2
Toronto	10	18	.357 6.5
Tampa Bay	9	17	.346 6.5

Central Division			
	W	L	Pct GB
Chicago Sox	17	10	.630 --
Minnesota	16	10	.615 .5
Detroit	13	15	.464 4.5
Cleveland	12	14	.462 4.5
Kansas City	8	18	.308 8.5

West Division			
	W	L	Pct GB
Anaheim	18	10	.643 --
Texas	18	10	.643 --
Oakland	12	14	.462 4.5
Seattle	10	17	.370 7.5

## National League

East Division			
	W	L	Pct GB
Florida	16	11	.593 --
Atlanta	13	13	.500 2.5
Philadelphia	12	13	.480 3
New York	12	15	.444 4
Montreal	7	21	.250 9.5

Central Division			
	W	L	Pct GB
Houston	17	10	.630 --
Chicago Cubs	15	12	.556 2
Cincinnati	14	13	.519 3
St. Louis	14	14	.500 3.5
Milwaukee	13	14	.481 4
Pittsburgh	12	13	.480 4

West Division			
	W	L	Pct GB
Los Angeles	16	10	.630 --
San Diego	17	11	.607 --
Arizona	12	14	.462 4
Colorado	12	14	.462 4
San Francisco	12	16	.429 5

**Glossary:**  
W: Wins, L: Losses, PCT: Winning percentages, GB: Games back

**NBA**  
As of May 6, 2004

## Playoff Standings

### Eastern Conference

<b>Indiana vs. Boston</b> Indiana wins series 4-0
<b>New Jersey vs. New York</b> New Jersey wins series 4-0
<b>Detroit vs. Milwaukee</b> Detroit wins series 4-1
<b>Miami vs. New Orleans</b> Miami 81, New Orleans 79 Miami 93, New Orleans 63 New Orleans 77, M 71 New Orleans 96, Miami 85 Miami 87, New Orleans 83 New Orleans 89, Miami 83 Miami 85, New Orleans 77 Miami wins series 4-3

### Western Conference

<b>Minnesota vs. Denver</b> Minnesota wins series 4-1
<b>L.A. Lakers vs. Houston</b> L.A. Lakers win series 4-1
<b>San Antonio vs. Memphis</b> San Antonio wins series 4-0
<b>Sacramento vs. Dallas</b> Sacramento wins series 4-1

### Conference Semifinals

<b>Eastern Conference</b> Indiana vs. Miami New Jersey vs. Detroit
--

<b>Western Conference</b> L.A. Lakers vs. San Antonio Minnesota vs. Sacramento
--

**NHL**  
As of May 6, 2004

### Eastern Conference

<b>Tampa Bay vs. Montreal</b> Tampa Bay wins series 4-0
<b>Philadelphia vs. Toronto</b> Philadelphia 3, Toronto 1 Philadelphia 2, Toronto 1 Toronto 4, Philadelphia 1 Toronto 3, Philadelphia 1 Philadelphia 7, Toronto 2 Philadelphia 3, Toronto 2, OT Philadelphia wins series 4-2

### Western Conference

<b>Calgary vs. Detroit</b> Calgary wins series 4-2
<b>San Jose vs. Colorado</b> San Jose 5, Colorado 2 San Jose 4, Colorado 1 San Jose 1, Colorado 0 San Jose 1, Colorado 0, OT Colorado 2, San Jose 1, OT San Jose 3, Colorado 1 San Jose wins series 4-2