



Troops Awarded Silver Stars

By Spc. Erik LeDrew
122nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- Two Soldiers with the 1st Cavalry Division's "Task Force Lancer" 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment received the Silver Star Medal in a Sept. 30 ceremony at Camp Hope.

Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Swope, a platoon sergeant with Company C, 2-5 Cav., and Staff Sgt. Robert Miltenberger, a dismounted squad leader with 2-5 Cav.'s Company A, were presented their medals by Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz, commanding general of Multi-National Corps-Iraq, for "exceptional valor in combat during Operation Lancer Fury."

Operation Lancer Fury occurred April 4 through 9 in Baghdad's Shi'ite slum "Sadr City." The operation was a response to the first violent insurgency by rebel Shi'ite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's militia.

Swope distinguished himself in "fierce urban combat" on Route Delta in Sadr City after his platoon encountered a deliberate ambush set by the militia near the slum's Sadr Bureau April 4.

"The day turned ugly real quick," Swope, a Richmond, Va. native said. "We just tried to stay alive and get out of there."

During the ambush, Swope organized a hasty defense while exposed to enemy fire and personally

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By Spc. Erik LeDrew, 122nd MPAD

Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Swope, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, and Staff Sgt. Robert Miltenberger, Company A, 2-5 Cav., were presented Silver Star Medals by Multi-National Corps-Iraq Commanding General Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz during a ceremony held Sept. 30 at Camp Hope. Bronze stars and purple hearts were also awarded during the ceremony.



By Staff Sgt. Susan German 122nd MPAD

More than 30 members of the Iraqi press corps assembled for a press conference at Camp Al Tahreer Oct. 2. Assistant division commander, Brig. Gen. Jeffery Hammond discussed the current security situation in Baghdad and the hope for peace and progress.

Peace Means Progress

By Master Sgt. Dave Larsen
1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq (Oct. 3, 2004) – Just 72 hours removed from a series of car bomb attacks in the Iraqi capital, where many of the dead and injured were children, the 1st Cavalry Division's assistant division commander, Brig. Gen. Jeffery Hammond met with members of the Iraqi press corps Oct. 2 at Camp Al Tahreer to discuss the current violence, and the security situation in the city.

"The enemy ... he's getting desperate," Hammond told more than 30 members of the Iraqi press corps. "He's killing Iraqis. He's killing your children."

Hammond told the assembled media members that seeing images of children killed by a car bomb at a sewage plant opening ceremony was deeply disturbing to him, personally, as a father of two. He told the media members that the security situation in Baghdad can improve, and improve quickly, with the

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By Staff Sgt. Susan German, 122nd MPAD

Brig. Gen. Jeffery Hammond spoke with more than 30 media members about the current security situation in Baghdad and the hope for peace and progress in the Iraqi capital.

ADCS Says 'Give Us Peace'

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help of the general population.

"Security is not just the role of the Soldier. Security's not just the responsibility of the police, the Iraqi National Guard ... the Iraqi Soldiers," Hammond said. "Security is everyone's responsibility. I know that when an attack occurs, when a rocket is fired, someone sees this. Someone knows who this person is. Part of their security job is to report this is occurring ... [to] help us identify the enemy."

Hammond stressed that the primary focus of his division is still the reconstruction of the Iraqi capital, but said that security

concerns have hampered these efforts.

He told the Iraqi press corps that given time, and cooperation of the local populace, every district of the Iraqi capital – even troubled eastern Baghdad – will flourish.

"Give us peace in Sadr City for 90 days," Hammond said, "and we'll have all those roads repaved, projects moving on, and many, many people working."

Hammond noted that elsewhere in Baghdad, the 1st Cavalry Division has made remarkable progress restoring essential services, such as clean water, electricity, sewage treatment and bulk trash removal.

Corps Commander Awards Troopers

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engaged enemy positions for more than five minutes of sustained contact.

When his platoon made the call to abandon their Humvees and set-up hasty fighting positions, Swope remained at the vehicles so he could maintain radio contact with his battalion headquarters and request reinforcements.

Swope remained in the vehicle by himself for over two hours, under enemy fire while the rest of his platoon took cover in nearby hasty-fighting positions. He was able to maintain radio contact with the battalion during this time, which allowed his platoon to be located by aerial assets, and their eventual extraction by a group of armored vehicles.

"We were so glad when those vehicles came to help us and get us out of there," he said. "I just took all my guys and got out of there as quickly as we could."

While en route back to Camp Eagle, one of his platoon's surviving vehicles got stuck on an enemy obstacle. Without hesitating, Swope dismounted

from his own vehicle and assisted with its recovery under intense enemy fire, saving the lives of the three Soldiers inside.

The following morning, Swope volunteered to command a Bradley Fighting Vehicle and joined an ad hoc platoon in securing the Al-Thawra Iraqi Police Station in Sadr City.

Miltenberger distinguished himself for "valorous achievement" in combat, also on April 4.

After engaging the enemy in Sadr City, he directed his squad in precise and lethal fire against Muqtada militia attackers. Miltenberger himself engaged several enemies while performing critical medical care on the wounded Soldiers in his squad.

In addition to the two Silver Stars awarded at the ceremony, six Bronze Stars, 16 Army Commendation Medals with Valor-device, and 20 Purple Hearts were awarded to Soldiers with 2-5 Cav. for Operation Lancer Fury and other operations that Task Force Lancer has undertaken since then.

Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

What are your plans for tomorrow?

mazza sa-tafAHal fee al-ghad

Monday
High: 100
Low: 70



Tuesday
High: 98
Low: 68



Wednesday
High: 98
Low: 68



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

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News Notes

Arkansas City Considers Gambling

HOT SPRINGS, Ark. (*Democrat-Gazette*) - Arkansas has become an "island" in a sea of legalized gambling, the marketing director for Tunica County, Miss., told a Hot Springs development group Thursday. "The No. 1 rule of marketing is to meet the competition," said Ben Combs, president of Combs & Co. of Little Rock, an advertising agency that promotes Tunica County and its casino operations - the biggest between Atlantic City, N.J., and Las Vegas. Arkansas, Combs said, is not competing. "Arkansas is an island in the true sense of the word," he said, noting the presence of casinos in Mississippi, Louisiana and Missouri; state lotteries in Texas and Tennessee ; and legalized bingo in Oklahoma.

Criminally Stupid Trial and Error

AUSTIN, Texas (*The Oregonian*) - In Austin, Texas, accused bank robber Adam Martin, 38, acting as his own attorney, inexplicably called his brother Michael as a character witness, and then, even though he knew that Michael had already pleaded guilty to being Adam's partner on four robberies, asked if Michael had ever committed any crimes. Michael responded, "Yeah. You were with me on four different bank robberies, Adam. You know that."



The Olympian

Roderick Smith, a professional painter from Portland, Ore., works on an oil painting of Mount St. Helens volcano from the Johnston Ridge Observatory on Sept. 30. With a 70-percent chance of eruption predicted by geologists, the waking giant is attracting thousands of people to the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument east of Castle Rock, Wash. 'As an artist, I'm responding to energy that exists in natural forms,' Smith said. 'To come and look at a volcano that has something alive inside of it is an artist's dream.'

South Park Trails to Expand

COPPERAS COVE, Texas (*Copperas Cove Herald*) - The city's South Park Trail is currently undergoing a \$130,000 expansion.

The current trail - which is about seven-tenths of a mile long - will be doubled in length, swooping around a nearby creek. The trail is located near the South Park swimming pool on the southwest side of town.

"It's a great start to tying the city's greenbelts together," said Parks and Recreation Department Director Ken Wilson. "Eventually we want to tie the park into Ogletree with a trail."

Walking along the beaten pavement of the South Park Trail, trees hang over

the path and provide shade for a small section of benches at the beginning of the trail. Walking further down the walkway, the sound of rushing water can be heard but the source is generally unseen at most points along the path. Wilson said another aspect of the project is the removal of overgrown brush that blocks the view of the trails most valuable resource, a narrow creek. The project also includes more benches, picnic tables and self-contained restrooms.

City Engineer Paul Boyer said the expansion project began during the summer. The city is waiting on the arrival of materials to finish the project. Boyer said that once the city



Copperas Cove Herald

Carrie Piette, 31, of Copperas Cove, strolls along the walkway at South Park Trail Wednesday morning.

obtains the materials, the project could be completed within a week or two.

"I believe quite a lot of people use the trail who live in the nearby neighborhoods," Wilson said.

Ichiro Breaks Hit Record

SEATTLE (AP) - No. 258 for Ichiro Suzuki was like so many others, a little ground ball up the middle.

Only this one made history - a hit cheered 'round the world.

Suzuki set the major league record for hits in a season Friday night, breaking George Sisler's 84-year-old mark with a pair of early singles as the Seattle Mariners beat the Texas Rangers 8-3.

"Through my career, I think this is the best moment," Suzuki said through an interpreter. "I can't really put it into words."

Suzuki later got another hit, giving him 259 this season and a major league-leading .373 average.

Suzuki chopped a lead-off single in the first inning, then put himself in



Seattle Mariners' fan Arisa Kobayahi, right, holds up a sign for Ichiro Suzuki celebrating his 259th hit of the season, with other fans from Osaka, Japan, in the sixth inning in Seattle Friday.

the record book with a bouncer in the third.

Fireworks exploded after Suzuki's big hit reached the outfield, creating a haze over Safeco Field, and his teammates mobbed him at first base.

With fans still cheering, Suzuki ran to the first-base seats and shook hands

with Sisler's 81-year-old daughter, Frances Sisler Drochelman, and other members of the Hall of Famer's family.

Sisler set the hits record in 1920 with the St. Louis Browns over a 154-game schedule. Suzuki broke it in the Mariners' 160th game of the year.

Nemechek Wins Pole for EA 500

TALLADEGA, Ala. (AP) - "Front Row Joe" is back on top. Finally. Joe Nemechek took his first pole in four years and the seventh of his NASCAR Nextel Cup career Friday, earning the top spot for the EA Sports 500 at Talladega Superspeedway.

"We've been right on top of our game," said Nemechek, who got his No. 01 Chevrolet around the steeply banked 2.66-mile at 190.749 mph. "You know, it's about the car in qualifying. The car has got to be right and the engine has got to be right.

"When the race comes, that's when the driver makes a difference."

Nemechek, who earned his nickname with six Cup poles from 1997-2000, shook his head when



Joe Nemechek signs autographs after his qualifying run at Talladega Superspeedway in Talladega, Ala., on Friday. reminded his last pole came at this track on Oct. 13, 2000, 133 races ago.

"That's a long time," Nemechek said. "They're just so hard to get. The competition's so tough. But we've been so close this

year, doing a good job. We've had two outside poles and I felt like this was close."

Ricky Rudd was second in a Ford at 190.609, followed by Dale Jarrett's Taurus at 190.374 and the Chevy of Nemechek's rookie MBV/MB2 Motorsports teammate Scott Riggs at 190.310.

The rest of the top 10 was made up of drivers who are part of NASCAR's new 10-driver, 10-race playoff-style championship.

Series leader Jeff Gordon, winner of NASCAR's last two races at Talladega and Daytona, the two tracks where NASCAR requires horsepower-sapping carburetor restrictor plates, had a solid fifth-place run.

In Brief

Malone Won't Play or Retire?

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Karl Malone told the Los Angeles Lakers he's not ready to play, but he didn't rule out returning sometime this season or beyond. "Karl's not playing, but he's also not retiring," Malone's agent, Dwight Manley, said Friday. "He's leaving his options open. Nothing's carved in stone. The 41-year-old Malone, the second-leading scorer in NBA history, underwent arthroscopic surgery on his right knee in late June.

Jagger Excited About New Album

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Mick Jagger is on a major songwriting roll, penning new tunes for an upcoming Rolling Stones album and basking in the glow



of praise for the soundtrack he helped create for the upcoming film, "Alfie." Jagger, famed frontman of the Stones, teamed with Eurythmics co-founder Dave Stewart to write and perform 13 songs for the film, including the haunting "Old Habits Die Hard," which will be released by Virgin Records on Oct. 19 as the first single from the soundtrack CD. "I just tried to make the music work for the film, and also stand on its own," Jagger told Reuters in an interview on Friday.