

Unit Dons First Combat Patch Since WWII



By Spc. Bryan Kinkade, 1st Cavalry Division PAO

Three representatives from each company in the 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry Regiment, attached to the 1st Cavalry Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team, don their blouses wearing the division's combat patch.

Piloting Soldiers Instead of Planes

Soldiers Traverse Streets Old Fashioned Way – Walking

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

September 11, 2001 –
Puerto Rico: Marcel Robicheaux, a pilot for Northwest Airlines, anxiously sat in an airport waiting room. All flights were canceled and news of the twin towers in New York City filled the mouths of passengers and television screens across the airport.

As he waited with the rest of the pilots, Robicheaux's

boss, a pilot in Vietnam, sat next to him in the waiting room.

"You'd better go next door," his boss said calmly.

Next door to the airport terminal was a National Guard aviation unit. Aside from being a pilot with Northwest Airlines, Robicheaux - on the side - served as a Blackhawk helicopter door gunner. It seemed only logical with the given circumstances that he would change uniforms. The looming threats and recent attacks made war seem inevitable.

It was settled.

Robicheaux grabbed his belongings and walked next door.

"I saw the writing on the wall," Robicheaux said. "I went next door and changed from one superman suit to the other."

Three years later, that walk would take him to Iraq.

Three years later – Baghdad, Iraq: In the hot night air of the wee hours, Robicheaux and his platoon patrolled the streets of the Adhamiya neighborhood in

By Spc. Bryan Kinkade
1st Cavalry Division PAO

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HUNTER- During a ceremony at Forward Operating Base Hunter, the 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry Regiment attached to the 1st Cavalry Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team, donned the first combat patch since World War II. Now each Soldier can wear the biggest patch in the Army on their right shoulder.

"It's quite an honor," said Maj. Kevin McMahan, the battalion executive officer of the Washington-based National Guard unit. "We were excited when we were attached to the 1st Cavalry Division."

Three representatives - one from each company - posted in front of the battalion's

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Baghdad by foot.

The previous day their company suffered a mortar attack that killed one Soldier and left six wounded. So tonight - as they traversed through dark alleyways - they looked for concealed locations where Soldiers could watch for enemy mortar teams.

Walking through the streets as an infantry platoon leader in Baghdad was a long road that stretched far beyond piloting for Northwest Airlines, or even gunning for a

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Hero of the Week



Soldier Quells Riot, Aids Comrade

By Capt. Joshua Vogel
Division Support Command

CAMP COOKE- Staff Sgt. Anthony Edwards wanted to learn Arabic, before he was deployed to Iraq, but he never thought that his grasp of the language would save lives.

Edwards didn't have very much time to prepare for his deployment. He had just arrived at Fort Hood, Texas from Korea, two weeks before the 1st Cavalry Division was set to deploy to Iraq. As a new member of Company B, 27th Main Support Battalion, he waived his 90-day transition time and jumped right into things at the company. One thing he knew would help him transition to life in Iraq, was a working knowledge of the Arabic language, and while he was at Fort Hood, he took classes to ready himself.

Those classes paid off.

As soon as he arrived at Camp Cooke he took charge of security during the day shift at Castle Gate. The day shift is known as one of the most difficult and dangerous shifts.

There can be more than 1,000 Iraqi workers, trying to get onto the base every day, and each of the vehicles and passengers needs to be searched. In addition to being the non-commissioned officer in charge (NCOIC) of the Soldiers at the gate, he also trained Soldiers of the Iraqi National Guard (ING) to secure the gate and worked with the Iraqi interpreters.

In May, Edwards would find out how a bit of courage and a grasp of the language could prevent death. When more than 300 Iraqis showed up at the gate without warning looking for ING jobs, things started to get scary. When the ING could not control the crowd, fighting broke out. Edwards knew a crisis was developing. He formed a security team and established a cordon to prevent the crowd from passing through the gate. As the crowd surged at the gate, Edward used the Arabic he had been taught, entered the crowd and took control.

He led the ING security force and his own security team to stop the fighting and assume



By Capt. Joshua Vogel, Division Support Command

Staff Sgt. Anthony Edwards, of Company B, 27th Main Support Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, stands at Camp Cooke's Castle Gate in Taji, Iraq. Edwards' bravery and leadership stopped a potential riot and saved one of his fellow Soldiers from further injury after a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated near the gate where he was working

control of the crowd. This incident could have developed into an international incident if the crowd had rushed the gate, but due to Edward's courage, training, and leadership ability he and the ING were able to organize the crowd and

reestablish order.

This was only one incident in which Edward's courage and training would be put to the test.

Early morning on June 6,

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Iraqi Word of the Day

bridge

ji-ser

Thursday

High: 116

Low: 87



Friday

High: 115

Low: 88



Saturday

High: 113

Low: 87



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

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3BCT Soldiers Receive Historic Patch, Awards, Medals

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formation and were given their blouse with the 1st Cav. Div. patch sewn on it. When commanded, they donned their blouse, with the combat patch on their right shoulder.

Colonel and Mrs. Ben Dorsey, then the commander of the 7th Cavalry Regiment, Fort Bliss, Texas, designed the patch to resemble the golden sunset at Fort Bliss and the traditional colors of the cavalry; blue and yellow. The family added a horse's head for the insignia to the triangular-shaped Norman shield with rounded corners after they observed a mounted trooper ride by their home on a blue-black thoroughbred horse.

As well as the combat patch, four Soldiers were awarded the Purple Heart and four were awarded the Army Commendation Medal for actions during Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

The Purple Heart recipients were Capt. Pete Chambers, Staff Sgt. Scott Browne, Sgt. Shawn Barefield and Spc. Montie Banks.

"[I feel] bittersweet," Chambers said about the award.

An improvised explosive device (IED) struck Chambers' convoy on a routine mission to FOB Cuervo. His vehicle was sprayed with shell fragments, wounding his left arm and damaging his hearing.



By Spc. Bryan Kinkade, 1st Cavalry Division PAO

Spc. Montie Banks received the Purple Heart June 23, from wounds sustained to his right hand from glass and metal when an IED detonated near his truck.

"I lost a medic that day. He truly deserved it [the Purple Heart Medal]," he said. "It's a good feeling, but it's a reminder of the sacrifices he made."

Walking Patrols Gives Soldiers A Better Feel for Area

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Blackhawk helicopter.

But Robicheaux wanted to do his part, he said. He wanted to serve his tour, so he volunteered and became an infantry officer for the Arkansas National Guard 39th Infantry Brigade.

He traded his wings for boots.

The brigade, as fate would have it, was ordered to Iraq under the 1st Cavalry Division supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

"Everyone has to do their part and this is my way of doing it," Robicheaux said. "I am fulfilling my need to serve my country."

His platoon took its patrol zig-zagging down streets laid out hundreds of years ago. There is no rhyme or reason to

them, no block system that can be discerned.

As they came to a halt, his platoon knelt to the ground while a team checked out a potential lookout location. Sgt. Cory Pickard, 27, of Little Rock Ark., a forward observer and team leader, noticed a fellow Soldier too close to the wall. In a low but firm voice that was barely audible, he gave a reminder.

"Stay at least 18 inches from the wall," Pickard said.

The verbal warning was a reminder of the things they have to think about as they move about - things like staying 18 inches from the wall because shell fragments can ricochet on concrete. The same rule applies to cars, as bullets bounce around.

Robicheaux's Soldiers look out for each other like sib-

lings, sometimes arguing amongst themselves but putting the bickering aside when they need to.

"We're all tight here - we all have our fights - but it's internal like a family squabble," Pickard said. "We still have each others backs."

These Soldiers want to believe they are doing something worthwhile in Iraq. They want to believe that possibly, they are giving the kids here a better life, or at the very least helping to create opportunities.

"Maybe I'm doing something good over here," Pickard said. "With the adults, you kind of keep your distance, but the kids...they didn't ask for this - they were just born into it."

Robicheaux and his platoon prefer the old fashioned method of conducting patrols - on foot. There are reasons for

their preference.

"You can see, hear, and get a better feel for the area when you're not in a Humvee," said Robicheaux. "It's boots on the ground."

It also allows them to get out and talk to members in the community as they patrol.

"There are some café's that terrorists hang out at, and when we drive by they give nasty glares and gestures," Robicheaux said. "But when we're walking they're peaceful, because they know we'll come in."

The platoon has been lucky. Three months into their deployment, they still have everyone.

"I'd like to be cocky and say we're good," said Robicheaux, "but I'll just say we're fortunate."

DISCOM Soldier Maintains Focus

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while Edwards and his security team were conducting security and crowd-control operations, a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) detonated at their gate. Edwards was only 50 meters from the explosion and despite being wounded, he immediately collected himself and went to the aid of a fellow Soldier who had also been wounded. Edwards received wounds to his wrist, hand and neck from shrapnel, but managed to crawl to the aid of a fellow Soldier who had also been wounded. Edwards received wounds to his wrist, hand and neck from shrapnel, but managed to crawl to the aid of a fellow Soldier who had also been wounded. Edwards received wounds to his wrist, hand and neck from shrapnel, but managed to crawl to the aid of a fellow Soldier who had also been wounded.

At the same time, he directed his security team and the ING to re-secure the gate and start helping approximately 40 wounded civilians. His rapid response saved the Soldier from further injury and saved the lives of many more civilians by directing emergency response assets.

Edwards maintained control until crisis response and quick reactionary forces arrived at the site. Once assistance arrived and despite his wounds, he continued to direct not only ING and U.S. forces but also directed the emergency



By Spc. Bryan Kinkade, 1st Cavalry Division PAO

Staff Sgt. Anthony Edwards (right) of Company B, 27th Main Support Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, talks to a fellow Soldier at Camp Cooke's Castle. Edwards used his communication skills and knowledge of the Arabic language to calm a rioting crowd and regain control at the gate.

response team until he was ordered to stand down and go receive medical treatment for himself.

Edwards remained calm under these extreme circumstances and never lost focus. His focus was always the security of Camp Cooke, and the welfare of those placed under his charge. In view of the carnage and destruction of the VBIED, he never faltered. He remained in charge and never forgot his responsibilities despite pain from his own injuries.

Edwards returned back to the same gate 48 hours after the attack. He said he wanted to let the anti-Iraqi forces know he will enforce security at Camp Cooke and that he will not be defeated. Edwards is a model for other leaders to emulate, and his dynamic leadership abilities cannot be lost or replaced. Edwards unwavering standards and dedication to duty are evident not only in his actions, but the actions of the noncommissioned officers and Soldiers under his watch.

Today in History

July 8

► From historychannel.com

1776 In Philadelphia, the Liberty Bell rings out from the tower of the Pennsylvania State House (now known as Independence Hall), summoning citizens to the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence, by Col. John Nixon. On July 4, the historic document was adopted by delegates to the Continental Congress meeting in the State House. However, the Liberty Bell, was not rung until the Declaration of Independence returned from the printer on July 8.

1853 Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry, representing the U.S. government, sails into Tokyo Bay, Japan, with a squadron of four vessels. For a time, Japanese officials refused to speak with Perry, but under threat of attack by the superior American ships they accepted letters from President Millard Fillmore, making the United States the first Western nation to establish relations with Japan since it had been declared closed to foreigners two centuries before.

1950 The day after the U.N. Security Council recommended that all U.N. forces in Korea be placed under the command of the U.S. military, General Douglas MacArthur, the hero of the war against Japan, is appointed head of the United Nations Command by President Harry S. Truman.

1994 Kim Il Sung, the communist dictator of North Korea since dies of a heart attack at the age of 82.



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Just One Place Where Wearing Yellow Counts

► From AP

ARRAS, France- It's the jersey Lance Armstrong covets and works so hard for: garish yellow and awarded daily to the leader of the Tour de France.

Armstrong slipped into the jersey Wednesday for the first time at this Tour after he and his team won a rain-soaked time trial. Then the five-time champion said he's ready to surrender the cherished shirt -- at least temporarily.



AFP

Lance Armstrong (right) and his teammate George Hincapie congratulate each other as they finish to fourth stage to win the first team time trial of the 91st Tour de France.

The reason? Because defending the lead at this early stage of the three-week race would be too grueling. For Armstrong, there's just one place where wearing yellow really counts: at the finish on the Champs-Elysees in Paris on July 25.

That would be Armstrong's sixth crown, a record in the 101-year-old race. The Texan took a big step toward that goal in Wednesday's team event, opening up important but not insurmountable time gaps over key rivals.

From here on, Armstrong will try to prevent them from recovering the lost ground, and even look to extend his advantage when the Tour climbs into the Pyrenees at the end of week two, followed by the Alps.

But Armstrong's team can't keep tabs on all 183 riders still in the race. As long as key challengers don't zoom ahead, Armstrong indicated he won't exhaust his teammates by making them chase down break-



AFP

Lance Armstrong celebrates on the podium after he took the day's yellow jersey as overall leader of the 91st Tour de France following a time trial won by his team U.S. Postal.

aways by second-tier riders at this stage - even if their efforts earn them the yellow jersey for a day or two.

"This is a hard race to defend," the 32-year-old Armstrong said. "We're not going to sacrifice the team to defend the yellow jersey in the north of France. The time to work and defend begins in the Pyrenees."

With Wednesday's win, Armstrong has earned 60 jerseys in his Tour career, including five as champion.



scores as of July 7
8:15 p.m. PDT

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Minnesota 12
Kansas City 10

Tampa Bay 13
Baltimore 3

Boston 11
Oakland 3

Texas 9
Cleveland 8

Detroit 10
New York 8

Toronto 12
Seattle 4

Anaheim
@ Chicago

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Milwaukee 4
Chicago 0

St. Louis 4
Cincinnati 2

Atlanta 14
Montreal 2 (@Puerto Rico)

Pittsburgh 4
Florida 3

New York
@ Philadelphia

Arizona
@ Los Angeles

Houston
@ San Diego

Colorado
@ San Francisco

TV GUIDE	AFN ATLANTIC	AFN PACIFIC	AFN Sports	AFN Spectrum
6 p.m.	Yu-Gi-Oh!/ Jackie Chan Adventures	Tonight Show with Jay Leno/ The Late Show with David Letterman	Totally NASCAR/ Pardon the Interruption	Inspector Morse 5 p.m.
7 p.m.	Jeopardy!/ Headline News	Access Hollywood 7:30 p.m.	SportsCenter	The Wild Thornberrys/ Spongebob Squarepants
8 p.m.	ESPNNews/ SportsCenter	Pump Up The Volume	ESPNNews/ Baseball Tonight 8:20 p.m.	The Simpsons/ Happy Days
9 p.m.	Everybody Loves Raymond/ Scrubs 9:25 p.m./ Reel Time 9:55 p.m.		SportsCenter	One Tree Hill
10 p.m.	Extreme Makeover 10:05 p.m.	Beverly Hills Cop	MLB - Anaheim Angels @ Chicago White Sox	The West Wing