

## Soldiers Produce Beats from Trailer Studio

By Spc. Marie Whitney  
122nd MPAD

CAMP VICTORY  
NORTH- "When it was time to come out here, I knew there

wasn't going to be much going on for the year. And everyone else I knew was bringing their X boxes and stuff. So I took my tax return and bought myself a

mixer, a keyboard and microphone," said Spc. Robert Burke of Headquarters Company, 1st Cavalry Division.

With this equipment,

Burke set up a modest recording studio inside his trailer, out of which he and some of his friends from HHC, 1st Cav. Div. record music for their rap group, Eclectic.

Burke is the producer for their band, creating beats, recording the voice tracks and editing to create their final products. Turning out a new beat every couple of days isn't a struggle for Burke, who has been creating beats back home since 2000.

"Everything has a certain mood to it," he said. "One night I was going over the beats I had started in Kuwait and when we first got here to Iraq. You can hear the change in what I was feeling every time."

Burke's group mates don't take for granted what he brings to the group in knowledge and talent.

"This guy's a genius," said Spc. Bryan Clark, the lyrical master of the group. "Every time we do a track he'll get on here and find something that



By Spc. Marie Whitney, 122nd MPAD

**Spc. Robert "Sticky" Burke, Headquarters Company, 1st Cavalry Division, looks for a good beat to freestyle to from the group of beats that he has created on his computer. Burke is the producer for a rap group called Eclectic.**

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## Reenlistment Brings Brothers Together in Iraq

By 1st Lt. Kristen Schaffer  
1st Brigade Combat Team  
Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq- It has been almost six years since they had last seen each other, but brothers Staff Sgt. Robert Franks and Staff Sgt. Bradley Franks finally got the opportunity again just days after the change over of sovereignty.

It took a lot of coordination and a few helicopter rides but Robert was able to have his brother Bradley with him for his last reenlistment.

"This is my last reenlistment in the Army, I'm a careerist, and since my brother was also in country I wanted to be able to share this moment with him," Robert said.

Robert is a squad leader in Company C, 20th Engineer Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, based out of Ft. Hood, Texas. His brother Bradley is attached to 324th Tactical Psychological Operations Company based out of Sacramento, Calif.

The brothers had not seen each other for such a long time because of their military com-

mitments and because their duty stations were so far from each other.

The brothers spent as much time as possible getting caught up on each other's lives, but unfortunately Bradley had to leave the same evening.

There is still a lot of work to do here in Iraq; and both of the brother's have very impor-

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## 39th Brigade Combat Team Soldiers Patrol Baghdad



**(Above) Sgt. Christopher Southern, of Little Rock, Ark., takes a moment to talk with a local Iraqi child in downtown Baghdad while on patrol. Southern is currently serving with the 1st battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment in Iraq. He is two months into a yearlong rotation to support Operation Iraqi Freedom II.**

**(Below) Staff Sgt. Curtis Coleman, of Foreman, Ark., patrols the streets of Baghdad on a security mission. Coleman is a part of the 1st battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.**



**(Below) Spc. Terry Martin, of Hope, Ark., mans the 240B machine gun while on patrol in downtown Baghdad. Martin is part of the 1st Battalion, 153 Infantry serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.**

Photos by Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns, 39th Brigade Combat Public Affairs



### Iraqi Words of the Day

border	Ha-duud
camp	maas-ker
square	mu-ra-bbaa
village	qa-ree-ah

<p><b>Friday</b> High: 116 Low: 89</p>	<p><b>Saturday</b> High: 115 Low: 88</p>	<p><b>Sunday</b> High: 113 Low: 87</p>
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Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

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## Talented Group 'Eclectic' a Work in Progress

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could be done better. So our material is always getting better and better."

But setting up the studio turned out to be a little more difficult than the members of Eclectic had originally thought.

"We would have had this going a long time ago, but when we first got here we had a problem with the power situation," said the group's comic relief, Spc. Adrian Tucker. "We didn't have a transformer."

But they soon got a transformer, enabling them to finally set up their studio. Now, all they needed was some lyrics. Burke said that writing the lyrics for Eclectic's songs is a group effort.

"The writing of the songs is a culmination of everybody. But each one of us is naturally good at something too," he said. "Clark will come up with a lot of ideas. And he can come up with some lyrics in a snap. I'll be feeling a certain way and I won't be able to express it through words, so I'll make a beat for it, and Tucker keeps us

motivated."

The members of the group, who have been working together for the last three months, plan to try to put out a CD of their music during their time in Baghdad. They also intend to try to get their music played in the Morale, Welfare and Recreation tent on Camp Victory North. And Clark plans to perform at the Equal Opportunity sponsored talent show July 24.

To the three HHC Soldiers, creating music is a definite escape from long days at work. "It's definitely a stress reliever," said Tucker.

But Eclectic takes their music seriously. Every time they sit down to work on their music, they're trying to improve on what they've been working on for a while already.

"It's always a work in progress," Burke said. "We talk about our lyrical content. We like what we do now, but we think we could come a little bit better from our hearts. It's not really a matter of if we can do it or not. It's if we try to do it or not."



By Spc. Marie Whitney, 122nd MPAD

**Spc. Adrian "Tuck" Tucker of Headquarters Company, 1st Cavalry Division freestyles on the mic in the studio of Spc. Robert "Sticky" Burke, also of HHC, 1st Cav. Div., Tucker, Burke and Spc. Bryan Clark have a rap group called Eclectic that they began while in Baghdad.**

## A Family Affair: Soldier Able to Share With Brother, Unit

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tant jobs to do here. Although they soon went back to those jobs they will have this brief moment in time to look back upon.

Robert said it was wonderful to be able to share his reenlistment with not only his brother, but his military family too.

"We take care of each other, that's what families do," Robert said.

**Staff Sgt. Bradley Franks and Staff Sgt. Robert Franks pose for a picture before Robert's last enlistment in the Army.**

Photo courtesy of  
1st Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs



## Today in History

### July 9

► From [historychannel.com](http://historychannel.com)

**1850** Zachary Taylor, the 12th president of the United States, dies suddenly from an attack of cholera morbus. He was succeeded by Millard Fillmore.

**1877** The All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club begins its first lawn tennis tournament at Wimbledon, then an outer-suburb of London. Twenty-one amateurs showed up to compete in the Gentlemen's Singles tournament, the only event at the first Wimbledon. The winner was to take home a 25-guinea trophy.

**1941** Crackerjack British cryptologists break the secret code (Enigma) used by the German army to direct ground-to-air operations on the Eastern front. Enigma was the Germans' most sophisticated coding machine, necessary to secretly transmitting information.

**1947** In a ceremony held at the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, General Dwight D. Eisenhower appoints Florence Blanchfield to be a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army, making her the first woman in U.S. history to hold permanent military rank.

**1993** British forensic scientists announce that they have positively identified the remains of Russia's last czar, Nicholas II; his wife, Czarina Alexandra; and three of their daughters. The scientists used mitochondria DNA fingerprinting to identify the bones, which had been excavated from a mass grave near Yekaterinburg in 1991.

## ► Little Rock Kids Benefit from Summer Program



*Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*

**Youth Sports Program Draws 400 Kids - Aadrin Farr (left) and Kendrick Holloway practice staying afloat during a swimming lesson Wednesday at the East Little Rock Community Center. About 400 children ages 10 to 16 participated in the National Youth Sports Program, a six-week camp at Philander Smith College that ends this week and offers a variety of sports and enrichment classes.**



*AP Photo/The Bremerton Sun*

**A grumpy looking young swallow waits for its next meal as it sticks out of a birdhouse at the Northwest Golf Range on Waaga Way in Bremerton, Wash.**

# Sports/Leisure

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## U.S. Olympic Softball Team To Play in Killeen

► From *Killeen Daily Herald*

KILLEEN, Texas- As far as streaks go, Eric Gagne's recently deceased run of 84 saves certainly deserves praise.

The USA softball team's current tear, however, merits something approaching worship.

The U.S. National team will put their 154-game win streak in pre-Olympic competition on the line in an exhibition game at the Killeen Athletic Complex.

The Texas Elite, a club team hailing from the Dallas/Ft. Worth metroplex will, needless to say, have their hands full.

The USA softball team is boasting a 45-0 record as it nears the end of its international 'Aiming for Athens' tour which began in February. Killeen is one of the last five stops before the squad, arguably the best team ever assembled by USA softball, embarks for Greece on July 28.

"For the city of Killeen to say we hosted the 2004 Olympic fast-pitch team is unreal," said Glen Morrison, director of parks and recreation.



**Jennifer Crooks, of Kirkland, Wash., and her horse La Dona crash through one of the jumps at Spruce Meadows during the North American show jumping event in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Thursday July 8. Both rider and horse were not injured in the mishap.**



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

### AMERICAN LEAGUE

Minnesota 7  
Detroit 1

Toronto 10  
Seattle 8

Texas 10  
Cleveland 0

Chicago 9  
Anaheim 8

Boston 8 (10 innings)  
Oakland 7

New York 7  
Tampa Bay 1

### NATIONAL LEAGUE

Cincinnati 9  
Milwaukee 3

Montreal 2 (@Puerto Rico)  
Pittsburgh 1

Philadelphia 5  
New York 4

Colorado  
@ San Diego

Houston  
@ Los Angeles

Arizona  
@ San Francisco

## TV GUIDE



	AFN ATLANTIC	AFN PACIFIC	AFN Sports	AFN Spectrum
6 p.m.	Ozzy & Drix/ As Told By Ginger	Tonight Show with Jay Leno/ The Late Show with David Letterman	MLB - Oakland Athletics @ Boston Red Sox 4 p.m.	The X-Files
7 p.m.	Jeopardy!/ Headline News	Access Hollywood 7:30 p.m.	SportsCenter	The Wild Thornberrys/ Spongebob Squarepants
8 p.m.	ESPNNews/ Headline News	Groundhog Day	Tour de France - Stage 6	The Simpsons/ Happy Days
9 p.m.	The Simpsons/ Malcolm in the Middle			The Dead Zone
10 p.m.	The Apprentice	The First Wives Club	Bassmaster Elite 50	Boston Public

### Today in Cav History July 9



1950 - The 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment was deployed to the east coast of South Korea with the mission to provide a security force for the Air Force at the Yonil Airfield.