



Ark. Clerk Taking Care of Soldiers

By Sgt. John Queen
3rd BCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, Iraq - When Soldiers of Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, need a go-to man for any of their personnel needs, they know where to turn: Cpl. Jeffrey Bloom.

"I keep track of all the units' personnel," said Bloom, a 21-year-old native of Benton, Ark. "Any issues the Soldiers may have, they come to me first before they go anywhere else."

A military cook by trade, Bloom has been working as the unit's multi-functional clerk and commander's driver since their call to active duty in October 2003.

"Back at home station, I was trying to get out of the cook section," he said. "I didn't like being a cook at all."

So in a move that appeased both Bloom and his command, he was made the unit's administrator.

"I like doing this," Bloom said. "I didn't know anything about this job when I first started. It took a lot of learning. I learned most of it at Fort Hood before we deployed over here."

As the unit's administrative clerk, Bloom deals

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By Cpl. Benjamin Cossel, 122nd MPAD

A resident of Sadr City talks with Staff Sgt. Oracio Pena, Company A, 2nd Battalion 5th Cavalry Regiment Aug. 27. Moving into the second week of Operation Iron Fury, members of Task Force Lancer have begun talking with residents of Sadr City to better understand how the citizens there view the Mahdi militia, which has battled Multi-National forces in the past.

Securing Sadr City for Civil Relief

By Cpl. Benjamin Cossel
122nd MPAD

CAMP EAGLE, Iraq - As Operation Iron Fury moved into its second week, the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd Battalion 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team reengaged Mahdi Militia Forces in an effort to secure locations within Sadr City for the resumption of Civil Military Operations, Aug. 27.

Since Aug. 5, civilian contractors responsible for the restoration of water, electric and sewage facilities as well as trash collection have become easy tar-

gets for the anti-Iraq forces in one of the poorest sections of Baghdad.

"Since Aug. 5, we've made several attempts to send civilian contractors out into the city to perform civil relief projects," said 1st Lt. Raymie Walters, 1st Platoon Leader, Company A, 2-5 Cav. "Obviously contractors don't want to go out into a city where they're constantly getting attacked, where there are [improvised explosive devices] on the road and mortars are being fired at them by the Mahdi Army."

Walters said, in addition to the primary mission of securing the area for

future operations, troopers were also directed to talk with the local populace to better gauge their opinion of the Mahdi Militia.

Overwhelmingly residents of the war-torn area voiced their frustration and anger at the militia, noting that they were tired of the civilian casualties, tired of being without basic services and wanting nothing more than to get back to their normal life.

"The Mahdi Army isn't very accurate with their mortar rounds and gun fire," said Walters, a native of Longview, Wash. "They kill civilians on a regular

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Sadr City Residents Hoping for More Civil Relief

Continued from Page 1 basis. The people of this area see that and they're just tired of it."

The sentiments of the citizens were punctuated by a mortar attack launched by the Mahdi Militia that destroyed a power sub-station in the area, disabling the power of at least six city blocks. It is unknown at this time if the attack was intentional or if this was just another example of the Mahdi's inaccuracy inflicting collateral damage. It is also unknown when the sub-station will be operational again said Capt. Brian O'Malley, Public Affairs Officer, 1st BCT.

As Troopers entered a vacant building to establish an observation post, children of the area crowded around the Soldiers and their vehicles with shouts



By Cpl. Benjamin Cossel, 122nd MPAD

Sgt. Nicholas Bayers, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, watches the streets of Sadr City from the roof of a building just searched by members of Task Force Lancer, Aug. 27. Task Force Lancer has moved into the second week of Operation Iron Fury, an operation meant to secure areas within Baghdad's poorest neighborhood so Soldiers can perform civil military operations.

of "I love you" and the positive affirmation of the "thumbs-up" sign. A noticeably different feeling existed on the street during

past missions.

"There's definitely a lot more people on the street today. Shops are open and people are out

and about," said Staff Sgt. Mathew Mercado, 1st Squad Leader, 1st Platoon, Company A, 2-5 Cav, as he took up a position on the second floor of the building looking down into the market area.

A local shopkeeper said that this was the first day in almost a month he had actually been able to open his shop and make money for his family.

Even with the recent diminished insurgent activity in the area, troopers maintained a vigilant eye over the streets looking for the telltale signs of a militia attack.

"If only we could make ... the bad people of Sadr City, understand..." sighed Sgt. Jeremy Abbott, Command Radio Telephone Operator, Company A, 2-5 Cav.. "If they would just stop fighting us, we can do so much for this area."

From Cook to Unit Clerk

Continued from Page 1 with many of the Soldiers' personal issues, from pay problems to schools to leave.

"Leave is a big issue right now. Tracking personnel, making sure we know when they go on leave, where everyone is and when

they're coming back," said Bloom.

Though Bloom doesn't think he'll ever view Baghdad as a vacation destination. In the future he would like to come back on a later deployment to see how much more the country has improved.



By Sgt. John Queen, 3 BCT

Whether in garrison or in combat, keeping a Soldier's records straight is an important task. Trained as a cook, but now an administrative clerk, Cpl. Jeffrey Bloom updates records in his office, which also happens to be his as well as two other Soldiers' room.

Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

first aid kit

A'Lba tis'aFAAT awaLiya

<p>Wednesday High: 109 Low: 82</p>	<p>Thursday High: 110 Low: 82</p>	<p>Friday High: 110 Low: 82</p>
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Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

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News Notes

Dentists Concerned Over Bottled Water

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. (Inquirer) -- As sales of nonfluoridated bottled water continue to climb, more dentists are urging parents and patients to seek out the few brands that have added fluoride. Bottled water can be good, "but people have to realize they're not getting fluoride in it," said Rochelle Lindemeyer, director of the University of Pennsylvania's pediatric dental residency program. Although still controversial a half-century after it began, the fluoridation of municipal water systems is generally credited with a dramatic drop in cavities in the United States, especially among young children.

Woman Skydives to Celebrate 93rd

CALDWELL, Ohio (AP) - A woman who has six children, 35 grandchildren, 75 great-grandchildren and 10 great, great-grandchildren jumped from an airplane to celebrate her 93rd birthday. "Because it's a new adventure," said Luree Kohtz. After seeing a videotape of her great-granddaughter doing the same thing, Kohtz set her mind to skydive in Caldwell. Her age wasn't a concern, she said. Age hasn't slowed down Kohtz, who celebrated her 91st birthday by riding the automated bucking bronco at the Cassia County Fair. Kohtz is tight lipped about plans for her next birthday.

Students Return to Land of Learning

SEATTLE, (Seattle Times) - At times, it was a little too much for the children to bear.

The purple scissors, the blue pencil cases, the glue sticks striped with yellow, orange and pink. They never had this kind of stuff in kindergarten.

So the children raised fistfuls of pencils in celebration. They leaned across desks to compare the color of erasers. They yelled out the number of sharpeners they had at the ready, just in case some pencil needed a tip.

"I know this is pretty exciting," said Kathy Hovis, a first-grade teacher at A.G. Bell Elementary in Kirkland. "But let's just put four pencils in your schoolbox."

As schools in the Lake Washington district opened their doors yesterday, Hovis welcomed her 35th class of students into Bell Elementary. In more than



Seattle Times

Classroom chores are written on shoe soles in the first-grade classroom of Kathy Hovis, who hangs them on one of her classroom's walls.

three decades as a first-grade teacher, Hovis has taught generations of local residents how to read, inspiring some to join her profession later in life.

She has also grounded her children in the basics of good behavior, from how to wait in line to how to accept mistakes with grace.

"If they can be good

citizens in here, they can be good citizens anywhere," she said.

Colleagues describe Hovis as a master of her field, from her calm, patient manner to the tough demands she makes of her kids. She makes fun of her own mistakes and puts kids at ease with theirs, saying those few famous words: "not to worry."

Ark. Records Pattern of Tarantulas

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) - Michael Warriner, the coordinator of a statewide tarantula survey, expects even more reports of the creatures. Since May, he's recorded more than 700 sightings from ordinary people and is beginning to get an idea of where tarantulas flourish in the state.

"This is kind of a new thing for us," said Warriner, an invertebrate zoologist for the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission. "I've kind of imagined this is going to be a regular sort of thing. A citizen science study, devoted to groups that are kind of understudied but

which the general public can identify."

Next year, Warriner said he'd like to start a study of bumblebees, an important asset to Arkansas because the bees pollinate crops.

But for now he's busy finding which regions of the state have the hairy and mostly harmless tarantulas and whether there are more species in Arkansas

besides the Texas brown, generally thought to be the only species in the region.

The project, which will eventually include genetic testing to determine if there are different species, so far is using \$3,000 of state money for its Web site and posters

"Basically if we find out there's only one species and from our observation they occur over at least half of the state, this is a species that's relatively secure," he said. "They're probably not going to decline in the immediate future. But if habitat continues to be removed, they could be in 50 years."



Trigger Pull:**Pigskin Picks: Seattle Homey Hopeful**

By Master Sgt. Dave Larsen
Sports Buff

It is time to start picking the winners and losers of the upcoming NFL season. I'll look into my crystal ball each issue and pick two weeks at a time (we'll print one of them) - how's THAT for prognostication! And I'll be asking a loyal reader to come along for the ride each time, to see if they've got what it takes to be a football handicapper.

Our inaugural guest prognosticator is the plans officer for the 1st Cavalry Division's Information Operations cell, Capt. Mark Favero. He's a Washington state native and diehard Seahawks fan, who believes his club will open up the season 2-0.

Here's the rundown for Week One:

Indianapolis at New England

We both went with the reigning Super Bowl champions in the opener. Indy just isn't a good road team against tough competition. Peyton Manning will throw for a couple of scores, but Tom Brady will slice up the Colts defense.

Jacksonville at Buffalo

Favero took the Jaguars in this one, but I like the new Bills offense featuring Willis McGahee's rebuilt knee. With the pressure off of Drew Bledsoe to throw every down, Buffalo will be an offensive juggernaut.

Detroit at Chicago

Our guest took the visiting Lions. I like the

Bears. (You won't see that often from a Packer fan!)

Baltimore at Cleveland

Another split decision: Favero takes the Browns at home, while I think the Ravens defense is too good for Cleveland to cope with.

San Diego at Houston

The Chargers have been picked by most pre-season magazines to be the worst team in the league. Favero picked them to win their opener against an improving Texan team. I didn't. Houston wins at home.

Tennessee at Miami

We finally agree again on this one. A.J. Feely is the new Miami quarterback, and he doesn't have Ricky Williams to hand off to 30 times a game. Expect a low scoring defensive battle, with the Titans coming out on top.

Seattle at New Orleans

We both like the Seahawks, the captain because he's a homey and me because the Saints ain't all that.

Cincinnati at New York Jets

Three in a row! We agree ... again! The Vulcan Mind-Meld is in effect. The Jets win their home opener.

Oakland at Pittsburgh

Favero takes the Silver and Black on the road. I think Bill Cowher will have the Steelers back in contention this year.

Arizona at St. Louis

"I'm feeling very 'away' this week," is Favero's explanation for taking the lowly Cardinals to win in St. Louis. Call



Cpt. Mark Favero and Master Sgt. Dave Larsen duke it out over their week one NFL predictions.

it his upset special. I call it crazy. The Rams win ... big.

Tampa Bay at Washington

After watching the Redskins beat the Broncos in their pre-season opener, Favero takes the 'Skins at home. Not me. Tampa Bay wins their opener, spoiling Gibbs' official NFL return.

Dallas at Minnesota

The Cowboys made the playoffs last season. Minnesota choked on the final play of the year and stayed home. Even so, we both like the Vikes at home in the dome. (Catchy phrase, eh?)

New York Giants at Philadelphia

No toss up here. The Eagles have been to the NFC championship game three years in a row. The Giants have a new coach and a new quarterback. This one will be ugly. Philly wins.

Atlanta at San Francisco

In another strange quirk, Favero actually LIKES the 49ers this year (he's got them starting off 2-0). Not me. I've got the boys from the bay area

losing this one and again in Week Two.

Kansas City at Denver

Again taking the visiting team, Favero went with the Chiefs. While I picked the Chiefs to run the table, I think Mike Shanahan's Broncos will pin a loss on Kansas City to open the season. Close game. Look for Jason Elam's leg to win this one in the waning moments.

Green Bay at Carolina

Ah, Monday Night Football and my Packers are in prime time in Week One. Life is good. It'll be even better when Green Bay wins. Believe it or not, Favero (which is strangely similar to Favre) and I both pick the Pack to win on the road.

So, there you have it sports fans! I disagree with my guest picker on NINE games ... in just one week! Week Two's picks will go on file with the editor of Cav Country (we disagreed on seven games), and we'll be sure to show you a running tally of just how smart, or how dumb, we turn out to be.

Until then, stay safe. Go Packers!