



# Ironhorse Desert News

## Operation Iraqi Freedom



22 September 2003

*“Steadfast & Loyal”*

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### VIPs Visit Task Force Ironhorse Area of Operations

Story by CPT Danielle Schug, Deputy SGS; photos by SPC Rhea Anderegg

TIKRIT, Iraq – September 15<sup>th</sup> was a busy day for MG Raymond Odierno, Commanding General of 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and Task Force Ironhorse. First, he flew to Kirkuk to meet Secretary of State, Colin Powell, to discuss 4ID’s accomplishments and operations.

Then, he flew to Ba’qubah to meet CENTCOM (Central Command) Commander, General John Abizaid.

General Abizaid pinned the Bronze Star with “V” device on SPC Christopher Smith, a HEMMIT driver with 204<sup>th</sup> Forward Support Battalion.

IH6 then escorted GEN Abizaid to FOB Ironhorse where he received an update on 4ID’s actions in this AO.



MG Odierno traveled to Kirkuk to meet with Secretary of State, Mr. Colin Powell.



General John Abizaid, CENTCOM Commander, pins the Bronze Star medal with “V” device on SPC Christopher Smith, a HEMMIT driver with 204<sup>th</sup> Forward Support Battalion. The V device is for Valor.

Abizaid then relaxed with brigade commanders with an amazingly creative dinner prepared by SFC Dennis Burke, the CG’s enlisted aide. Abizaid spent the night at FOB Ironhorse.

The distinguished visitors quarters were painstakingly prepared by CSM Chuck Fuss, Division Command Sergeant Major, SGT Jennifer Estes, the CSM’s aide, and SSG Keith Cashion, NCOIC of the Secretary General Staff.

The General thanked the soldiers and leaders for all their efforts in Iraq.

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# Task Force News

## Kurat Al-Qadem (Soccer) Match

Story and photos by SSG Craig Pickett

TIKRIT, Iraq—The young Iraqi players ran on to the field sporting flashy new jerseys and kicking new, black and white soccer balls. The team from Tikrit has a new sponsor, the U.S. Army and members of 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.

The Fort Hood soldiers have been working to reestablish the Ministry of Youth and provide funding and facilitation to youth centers throughout the province.

“We started this from scratch,” said CPT Lou Castillo, 1<sup>st</sup> BCT chemical officer. “The system had fallen apart. When we began, the Ministry of Youth did not have anyone to fill the positions. We acted as a facilitator to bring everyone together.”

Castillo fell into the role of facilitator since he had time to spare. He has been working with the local director of services to bring much needed help to the youth programs. So far, Castillo estimates the Army has spent over \$100,000.

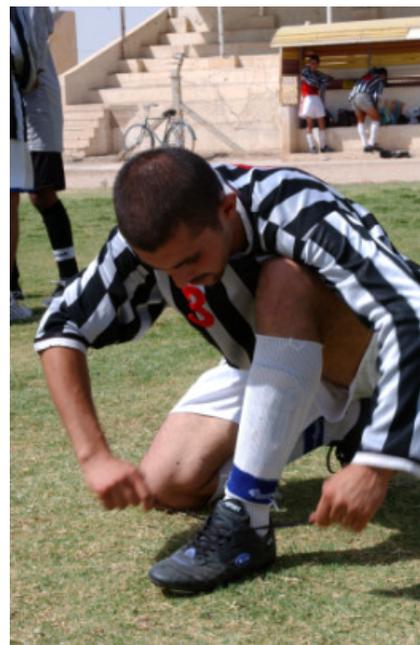
Much of the money has been spent on building repairs. Castillo explained many of the buildings had been looted and destroyed, even before the war. Some needed fresh paint but others were in need of full renovations.

“By funding these games and facilities, we give the kids something to do; and they all love soccer,” said Castillo.

Hashim Kalif, the director of services for the district, said they have no problems but more money could be used. He said before the war, the government fully supported the program and gave them much in the way of funding and supplies. He mentioned a need for stadium lights, a new coat of paint for the entire stadium, water for the grass and much more.

The Army is not as quick to help water the grass on the field and give each team a bus for transportation to and from games. Castillo said they are trying to teach the Iraqis to help themselves.

Kalaif wants his players to be like other players around the world.



An Iraqi soccer player from Tikrit ties his shoe prior to an inter-city match.



The action is fast and furious for the boys on the Tikrit soccer team who played an inter-city match while sporting equipment paid for by the U.S. Army.

The youth centers, which cater to boys 18 and younger, are the central element to achieving his goal. He said the ministry is active in all the districts and they play against each other, and then pick the best team to represent the district. He said right now they are focusing on soccer only, but as the season moves on, they will explore other sports.

It is a slow start, but for the youths of the area it is a beginning. They play everyday and with the support of

Coalition forces, they have places to go, balls to kick and shoes to protect their feet.

# Task Force News

## Civil Affairs Soldiers Protect Environment

Story and photos by CPL Vernon O'Donnell; additional photos by COL Bobby Nicholson

TAIJI, Iraq – The maligned Iraqi infrastructure has been one of the main causes for much of the social unrest throughout Iraq since the official end of combat missions on May 1st. Sporadic electricity and water are the primary sources of complaint, but a new problem has arisen in the past few weeks.

“These oil pipelines have been neglected for ten years,” said LTC Bill MacDonald, the public affairs officer for Task Force Ironhorse. “There hasn’t been any maintenance and some of the pipes have begun to leak.”

The leaky pipes are more than just an economic and ecologic problem; they possess the potential to be seen as targets for anti-coalition rebels in Iraq. In one attempted attack, two bombs were placed near a major hub of pipelines near the Tigris River. Recently, two different pipelines have been set on a fire on two separate occasions bringing the problem to the forefront of the public eye.

“The pipeline here near Taiji was set on fire on August 12,” said CPT Scott Gould, the commander of the 44<sup>th</sup> Chemical Company. “The pipe was burning in three different locations, evenly spaced along its length.”

The 44<sup>th</sup> was called out to prevent the fire from spreading to nearby buildings, including a United Nations food warehouse. The chemical company uses vehicles, usually designated for decontamination, to spray foam and water to contain large fires and extinguish smaller blazes.

Local Iraqi firefighters also arrived on the scene and helped the Coalition troops hold the flames in check. The fire was put out when a representative arrived from the Ministry of Oil and shut off the valves to that portion of the line.

SEE OIL, PAGE 7



MAJ Rick Burns, the civil affairs officer for Task Force Gunner, inspects damage to the environment from an oil fire near Taiji.



An oil spill and the subsequent fire caused ecological damage near a water channel by the town of Taiji. Task Force Ironhorse is working to repair damage to the local ecosystem.

# Task Force News

## MP Makes Sacrifice

Story and photos by SPC Jason Phillips

TIKRIT, Iraq—The young specialist had a choice between two homes and two families.

One home was in Daytona Beach, Florida, with his wife and son on the way, due in November. He could have worked a 9-5 job and gone fishing on weekends, or just sat on the beach beneath palm trees. It would have been paradise, said SPC Thomas Canady, military police officer with the 64<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company. The other home and family was in Iraq. He chose Iraq.

"I came over here with a mission to make sure my guys go home," said Canady. "I can't leave them here. I came over here with my family, and I plan to go home with my family."

Canady's family in Iraq is comprised of the two soldiers who make up his military police team, SPC Greg Hatfield and PFC Nikki Hacking, MPs of the 64<sup>th</sup>.

They live with the rest of the 64<sup>th</sup>'s soldiers in a cavernous concrete hanger at Samarra East Airfield, about 60 miles north of Baghdad. The airfield is a desolate, dusty plain stretching to the horizon. Charred skeletons of Iraqi military vehicles are scattered along the runways. Tall, twisting dust devils swirl lazily through the clusters of colorless hangers. Temperatures reach 120 degrees by noon and often peak near 130 by late afternoon. Even in the hanger, there is no escaping the heat.

The team conducts missions along various roads south to Baghdad and north to Tikrit, routes that have been the site of recent ambushes. They conduct patrols through the nearby town of Ad-Duluiyah, the site of several recent firefights between MPs and hostile forces.

Canady was scheduled to leave Iraq, Hatfield, Hacking, the hanger, the heat, risky missions and the Army by the end of July. Throughout May and June, he tried to extend his contract. Finally, a day before he was to board a plane and fly home, he was allowed to sign the paperwork that extended his enlistment for six months. It hasn't been easy for him to explain his decision to his wife or his family.

"My wife was not happy one bit," said Canady. "She doesn't like the fact that I'm over here, but she's not over here. She doesn't see the looks on the kids and adults faces as we drive past them."

It's difficult for some people back home to understand why he and his fellow soldiers are in Iraq, said Canady.

"If you go out and talk to the Iraqi people you'll truly realize how bad they had it before we came here," he said. "They were living in hell and now



SPC Thomas Canady, MP, 64<sup>th</sup> MP Company (left) stands beside his vehicle at Samarra East Airfield with his team, SPC Greg Hatfield (right) and PFC Nikki Hacking (gunner), MPs, with the 64<sup>th</sup>.

they have hope and a chance for a better life. I'm glad I've been a part of this."

Canady's team is glad he chose to stay too.

"It shows he cares about us," said Hacking. "I know he cares a lot about his family back home, but right now he has a job to do and he is going to fulfill the job."

"When we were leaving Fort Hood, he hugged my wife and told her he was going to bring me back," said Hatfield, whose wife gave birth to a girl in June. "I thought to myself, 'We're going to war – things happen – he can't really mean this,' but now I see he is going to see that promise through."

Canady's choice is rare in Iraq. Many soldiers can think of nothing except getting home as soon as possible. Not many would have had a better reasons for leaving. Yet Canady made the difficult choice to stay.

"I want to continue my career in the Army more and more everyday," said Canady. "I love this life. I wish they could get some AC in the hanger, but I'm glad I decided to stay!"

## 4ID's Bands' Performances

23 Sept: Prime Mover @ 173<sup>rd</sup> ABN, Block Party in Kirkuk at 7 pm

25 Sept: 7 Iron Horsemen @FOB Ironhorse DFAC, at 6 pm

26 Sept: Prime Mover @ Old D-Main Stage at 7:30 pm

29 Sept: Moment's Notice @ FOB Ironhorse DFAS at 6 pm

# Task Force News

## Khalis Law Enforcement Center Opens

Story by SPC Joseph Norton

KHALIS, Iraq – The mission of the Coalition Forces in Iraq is to help build an infrastructure that will provide a stable and secure environment. One of the first steps toward establishing that infrastructure is getting a stable police force in place, and having a headquarters building from where it can properly operate. The 3-67 Armor Battalion, part of 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, with the help of local contractors, has accomplished this important part of its mission.

On September 7, 2003, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to commemorate the opening of the Khalis Law Enforcement Center. The Governor and Vice Governor of Diyala, the Mayor of Khalis, the Khalis Judge and Police Chief, local Sheiks and religious leaders, as well as COL David Hogg, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Combat Brigade's Commander, and LTC Young, the 3-67 AR Commander, attended the event.

"This is a great opportunity to attach the community to the court system. It will bring the citizens together," said CPT Philip Staten, legal officer for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade.

The Khalis Police Department and Court were severely looted following the war. When 3-67 AR began conducting security and stability operations in Khalis, the police and judge were operating out of the Mayor's Office. There were cows and sheep living in the former Police Station and Court buildings, and the police did not have a jail facility to hold prisoners or a court for judicial matters.

Upon seeing the problem, the 3-67<sup>th</sup> AR worked with local contractors to repair damages to the police station and court building. Contractors hired local Khalis residents to repair both facilities, employing approximately 75 Iraqis. After the six-week project was completed, the cost to repair the police station was \$21,000, and court repairs and furnishings were \$85,000.

The mayor and police are not the only ones glad to have the police station and court buildings operational again.

Said one onlooker at the ceremony, "Three months ago, there were cows roaming in and out of this building. In fact, I stepped in cow dung three different times while here, now look at it! Unbelievable!"

The people of Khalis once again have a place where justice can be served for the people.



OIL, FROM PAGE 3

Three days later, the pipeline that acts as the sole conduit for Iraqi oil to Turkey, was torched as well. It was estimated that oil revenue worth approximately \$7 million was lost everyday while repairs were made to the line and the fire was put out. Also, in both incidents the oil pools were relit the next day, causing further damage.

According to Col. Robert W. Nicholson, the division engineer for 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, there are several projects underway to improve oil production and safety.

"We monitor progress, support the oil companies with any supplies they might need, provide security for the lines, and advise on management practices," said Nicholson. "The emphasis is to have the Iraqis fix the problems themselves, so they can learn to be self-reliant."

The work procedures of the old regime focused entirely on producing oil with no concern for establishing consistency or efficiency in selling oil. Due to this production dropped almost 33% from March 2000 to March 2003, from 1.2 million barrels/day to 800,000 barrels/day, in the Kirkuk region alone.

Under Coalition supervision, the goal is to return oil production to pre-war levels by the end of the year. After that goal is met, the plan is to streamline the process of exporting oil to maximize the profits and minimize the damage to the environment.

"Currently there are 40-something potential projects totaling almost \$295 million suggested to fix all kinds of problems with the pipelines," said Nicholson. "The Ministry of Oil will ultimately be in charge of determining which suggestions are acted on."

There are dozens of pipelines crisscrossing the northern parts of Iraq and many more in the south of the country. At one site on the Tigris River alone there are 18 supply and product lines that cross under the river, so the ultimate goal of correcting the mistakes of the ousted regime is monumental. But with hard work from Iraqis and support from the Coalition nations, the problems should be remedied.

"The main reason these problems will be fixed is the genuine desire of the Iraqis to see their nation prosper through oil production," said Nicholson. "They definitely understand that their practices were counterproductive in the long run."

# Task Force News

## G6 Keeps the 4<sup>th</sup> ID Connected

Story and photos by SPC Joseph Norton

Tikrit, Iraq – Since the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division arrived in Tikrit, Iraq, a lot has been done to make former ruler Saddam Hussein's palatial compound an operational military facility. A big part of the transformation involves the ability of the Commanding General to communicate with other units in the country, relay information back to the states, or for a soldier to simply call home every once in a while for morale.

The soldiers of the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division's G6 section are the tireless workers who have made sure the Division has been able to communicate effectively, and with minimal delay.

"We maintain connectivity between Division headquarters main command post, the Division tactical command post, all the brigades and separate battalions, and of course, with Combined Joint Task Force Seven and Central Command," said SGM Edgardo Ramirez, the G6 Sergeant Major.

A big part of the job is making sure video teleconferencing and radio conferencing is operational for use by Major General Odierno on a daily basis, allowing the Commanding General to talk with his subordinate commanders.

This responsibility falls under the Audio Visual Section of G6, led by the Audio Visual non-commissioned officer in charge, SFC John Parham. "I am responsible for ensuring all connectivity within Division, including D-Main, DTAC, DSE (Division Support Element) and all audio divisions in all aspects including VTC. We also do satellite installation," said Parham.



SPC Christopher Admire, technician, switches red, blue and green video cables to verify 4IDs video teleconferencing works.

Corporal Joel Hall, an audiovisual technician, aids Parham. "I do video teleconferencing, set up AFRTS satellites systems, PA systems, radio station, pretty much anything to do with audio visual," said Hall.

There is more to the section than the audiovisual aspect, however.

The G6 also has an administrative services section. The soldiers run official mail for the Division, take care of publications management, and mass perform reproduction, such as printing the weekly newspaper.

Sergeant First Class Karen Hicks, the NCOIC of Administrative Services said, "We order publications and take care of official forms. Right now our biggest deal with forms is the award certificates throughout the Division - thousands of Bronze Star medals, ARCOM's, and AAM's."

Another facet of G6 deals with computer-related problems. The network administrators deal with troubleshooting problems concerning e-mail, and computer hardware problems, such as viruses.

The job of Combat Camera also falls under G6, as well as audio-visual support for all change-of-command ceremonies. "For every ceremony the CG attends, G6 is there," said Hicks.

All soldiers in each section of G6 have worked hard, and their efforts are appreciated by soldiers throughout the area of operations.

"Everything that we're getting back from all the sections," said Ramirez, "is very positive. Everybody knows we try to help out with making sure computers, telephones and televisions are working."

Along with this hard work comes some personal gratification from the soldiers who are proud of what they've accomplished and that they are able to make life a little easier for other soldiers here.

"We've accomplished a lot within the Task Force and also throughout the whole Division," said Parham. "If you go around and see a satellite on the roof, you know that G6 had something to do with it."

Added Hall, "The best part is getting the handshake at the end, someone saying 'thank you' and then they turn on the sports channel and watch their football game for the first time. That's just great."

### R&R ANNOUNCEMENT

There is an FOB Ironhorse 10K Run on Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> starting at 6 am. Sign up at the Information Desk in the R&R Building by Oct 1<sup>st</sup>. There are prizes for the winners in each age bracket.

# Task Force News

## Local Leaders Elect Interim Provincial Government for Salah Ad Din



Story and Photos by MAJ Josslyn Aberle, Task Force Ironhorse Public Affairs

TIKRIT—Iraq – September 15<sup>th</sup> marked a new beginning in the history of the Salah Ad Din Province, as Iraqi Leaders from districts throughout the province including, Sharqat, Tuz, Bayji, Tikrit, Samarra, Ad Dawr, Ad Dujayl and Balad met in Tikrit to participate in the first Delegation Convention to elect a new Interim Provincial Government. The delegates voted for a 34 member council which then nominated and voted for three Assistant Governors for the offices of Government Redesign, Reconciliation, and Resettlement and a Deputy Governor. This is the first time they had ever participated in a free election.



TOP: Delegation members and soldiers listen to the opening remarks of the convention held at Raider Brigade TOC. LEFT: Newly elected council members raise their right hand in preparation to be sworn into office. RIGHT: The Interim Governor and Deputy Governor, rest their hands on the Koran while repeating their oath of office.



## Local Announcements



### Religious Services at FOB Ironhorse Sunday:

9:30 a.m.-- Protestant  
11:00 a.m.-- Gospel  
Noon-- LDS  
1:00-- Catholic

### Wednesday:

6:30 p.m.--Prayer & Praise  
7:00 p.m.- Bible Study

### Friday:

7:30 p.m.- Jewish  
12:25 p.m.- Muslim

### Movie Schedule

Movies at the Soldiers Inn are shown at 11am, 2pm and 8pm.

### Movies listed below are for the 8pm showing only.

Sept 22nd: Darkness Falls  
Sept 23rd: The Hot Chick  
Sept 24th: Brotherhood of the Wolf  
Sept 25<sup>th</sup>: The 6<sup>th</sup> Day  
Sept 26<sup>th</sup>: Reservoir Dogs  
Sept 27<sup>th</sup>: Friday After Next  
Sept 28th: City of Angels

\*\* Sunday's Movies are shown at 2 pm and 8 pm only.\*\*

### Combat Stress Team

### New Classes Begin in October

Anger Management  
Stress Management  
located at the FOB  
Ironhorse Aid Station.

Call 534-0161

# News Briefs

DENVER, Colorado (AP) -- After days of delays, a rescue flight reached the South Pole on Saturday to pick up an ailing worker at a research station there. Snow and wind delayed the rescue attempt for five days while the plane waited at Britain's Rothera Air Station on Antarctica, 1,346 miles (2,166 kilometers) from the pole.

(CNN) -- A resilient robot ship that has explored Jupiter and its moons for eight years will dive into the crushing atmosphere of the giant planet Sunday, a spectacular finale to one of the most productive deep-space missions ever. Galileo, its propellant running low and its electrical systems on the blink, will nonetheless keep a handful of its 10 instruments on during the final hours, giving scientists a chance to squeeze some final data from the \$1.4 billion mission.

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (AP) -- Miss Florida, Ericka Dunlap beat out 50 rivals Saturday to be crowned Miss America in a pageant that featured some of the brainiest contestants that judges have seen in years. Dunlap wins a rhinestone tiara, a runway walk, \$50,000 in scholarship aid, a yearlong national speaking tour and after it the permanent tag of "former Miss America."

WASHINGTON (CNN) -- The United States needs "a lot more" than \$87 billion to rebuild Iraq and Afghanistan, and Congress should put off tax cuts for the top income bracket to pay for it, a leading Democratic senator said Sunday.

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (Reuters) -- NASA may replace its troubled fleet of space shuttles with a new generation of Apollo-type space capsules, a top space agency official said.

## SPORTS ZONE

COLLEGE FOOTBALL -- Four TOP 10 teams suffered upset losses on September 20th.

#1 Oklahoma 59 UCLA 24; A. Perkins, OU, breaks NCAA record with 3 punt return TDs  
#2 Miami, FL 33 Boston College 14  
#4 Ohio St. overcame Bowling Green 24-17  
#22 Oregon topped #5 Michigan, 31-27  
Marshall won its first game ever vs. ranked team with upset of #6 Kansas St. 27-20  
#10 LSU stopped #7 Georgia 17-10; LSU scored winning TD with 1:22 remaining  
#8 Virginia Tech beat #20 Texas A&M 35-19; K. Jones, VT, ran for 188 yards, 3 tds  
#9 Florida St. destroyed Colorado 47-7; C. Rix, FSU, threw for 395 yards, 2 tds  
Toledo surprised #11 Pittsburgh, 35-31; Toledo's QB Gradkowski threw for 470yds, 3tds  
#12 Tennessee defeated #17 Florida, 24-10  
#13 Texas 48 Rice 7  
#14 Iowa shutdown #16 Arizona St. 21-2; ASU held to 184 total yds., 0 points on offense  
#18 Arkansas 38 North Texas 7  
#19 Texas Christian 30 Vanderbilt 14  
#21 Washington 45 Idaho 14  
Michigan St. beat #23 Notre Dame, 22-16  
#24 Minnesota 48 Louisiana Lafayette 14  
#25 Washington St. 23 New Mexico 13  
Other Scores:  
N. Illinois improved to 3-0 on the season with a win at Alabama, 19-16  
Missouri held on against Middle Tennessee 41-40 in OT  
Purdue walloped hapless Arizona, 59-7  
Oklahoma St. romped SMU, 52-6; R. Woods set NCAA record with 7 receiving TDs

NFL WEEK THREE --

New England (2-1) beat the N.Y. Jets (0-3), 23-16  
Minnesota (3-0) 23 Detroit (1-2) 13  
N.Y. Giants (2-1) stopped Washington (2-1), 24-21(OT)  
Kansas City (3-0) destroyed Houston (1-2), 42-14  
Tennessee (2-1) 23 New Orleans (1-2) 12  
Indianapolis (3-0) controlled Jacksonville (0-3), 23-13  
Arizona (1-2) upset Green Bay (1-2), 20-13  
Tampa Bay (2-1) dominated Atlanta (1-2), 31-10  
Baltimore (2-1) dominated San Diego (0-3), 24-10  
Pittsburgh (2-1) 17 Cincinnati (0-3) 10  
Seattle (3-0) scored late to beat St. Louis (1-2), 24-23  
Cleveland (1-2) squeaked by San Francisco (1-2), 13-12  
Miami 17 Buffalo 7

BASEBALL --

The Cubs pulled within a ½ game of first in the N.L. Central with a 4-1 win over Pittsburgh. Houston holds onto a slim lead.

The Marlins maintain a ½ game lead over Philadelphia for the N.L. wild card and a 1.5 game margin over the Cubs.

The Braves, Giants, and Yankees have already clinched their respective divisions; the N.L. East, the N.L. West, and the A.L. East. The Braves and Yankees have homefield advantage for the playoffs.

Minnesota is pulling away from Kansas City and Chicago in the A.L. Central and has a 5.5 game lead.

Boston and Seattle are fighting it out over the A.L. wild card with the Red Sox ahead by 2.5 games.

Oakland's magic number is 3 for clinching the A.L. West. Most teams have seven games remaining in the 2003 regular season.