

Soldiers of the Gauntlet

720th Military Police Battalion Newsletter – September

Photo of the Month



411th MPs and Iraqi police officers search for weapons in a well near Tikrit. They found several RPG launchers, as well as ammunition, buried in the dirt wall.

Continuing the fight

During September, soldiers of the 720th Military Police Battalion continued to fight in many ways for a free, peaceful and secure Iraq.

In Ad-Duluiyah, Samarra and Balad, 64th MP Company soldiers worked alongside 4th Infantry Division soldiers, forces from the international coalition and Iraqi security forces. They confronted the enemy day and night, sometimes in open combat, and disrupted their attempts to inflict harm on U.S., coalition and Iraqi troops. They also continued to provide security for crucial supply convoys along the dangerous stretch of highway between Tikrit and Baghdad.

401st and 411th MP Company soldiers continued to work to reform the Iraqi Police in Tikrit and the Salah-al-Dein province. This included screening of new police officers, issuing of new equipment such as uniforms and new patrol cars, and continued training with the Transition and Integration Program. For the first time in October, Iraqi police officers who graduated as students from August TIP courses and were trained as instructors during September courses, will begin training new Iraq police officers as TIP instructors.

HHD soldiers based in Tikrit continued to overcome many adversities to support the soldiers in the line companies. Whether by driving countless miles on fuel missions, repairing damaged vehicles, acquiring vital supplies or working long hours to keep records up to date and accurate, their support kept the battalion flowing smoothly.

Everyone thinks of home and family always. But we know that the work we do now is making a better Iraq and a better world. We will always be proud of what we have overcome and accomplished.

Soldier Profile

1LT Nikki Boudreaux is a platoon leader with the 64th MP Company. Boudreaux joined the Army in 1998 while she was attending the University of Oklahoma where she earned a bachelor's degree in microbiology. Upon receiving her commission in the Army Reserve, she was assigned to the Medical Service Corps and began working in a hospital at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, TX. Two months later she went on Active duty and began serving in the MP Corps. Boudreaux, who has led her platoon on difficult missions in Baghdad, Ad-Duluiyah and Samarra, and believes they are one of the battalion's best platoons, said her most important job is taking care of her soldiers.

"I look out for these guys – my main goal is to make sure we all get back to Fort Hood in one piece."



1LT Boudreaux
Killeen, TX

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Soldiers of the Gauntlet

From the Commander's Foxhole

Nearly two years ago, following the deadly attacks on our country, we began a systematic campaign against terrorism. These months have been a time of new responsibilities, sacrifice, national resolve and great progress.

We have acted in Iraq, where the former regime sponsored terror, possessed and used weapons of mass destruction, and for 12 years defied the clear demands of the United Nations Security Council. Our Nation finally enforced these international demands in one of the swiftest and most humane military campaigns in history—and your soldier has been part of this great impact on world order.

For a generation leading up to September 11, 2001, terrorists and their radical allies attacked innocent people in the Middle East and beyond, without facing a sustained and serious response. The terrorists became convinced that free nations were decadent and weak.

And they grew bolder believing that history was on their side. Since America put out the fires of September 11th, mourned our dead, and went to war, history has taken a different turn. We have taken the fight to the enemy. We have rolled back the terrorist threat to civilization.

Here in Iraq, we are helping the long-suffering people of this country to build a decent and democratic society at the center of the Middle East. This change in history is huge.

Everywhere that freedom takes hold, terror will retreat. Our enemies understand this. They know that a free Iraq will be free of them—free of assassins, and torturers, and secret police. They know that as democracy rises in Iraq, all of their hateful ambitions will fall like the statues of the former dictator. And that is why, five months after we liberated Iraq, a collection of killers is desperately trying to undermine Iraq's progress and throw the country into chaos. We will not let this happen.

America has done this work before. Following World War II, we lifted up the defeated nations of Japan and Germany, and stood with them as they built representative governments. We committed years and resources to this cause. And that effort has been repaid many times over in three generations of friendship and peace. We accept the challenge of helping Iraq in the same spirit – for their sake, and our own.

And for America, there will be no going back to the era before September 11th, 2001 – to false comfort in a dangerous world. We learned that terrorist attacks are not caused by the use of strength; they are invited by the perception of weakness. And the surest way to avoid attacks on our own people is to engage the enemy where he lives and plans. We are fighting that enemy in Iraq today so that we do not meet him again on our own streets, in our own cities.

These great men and women of the 720th Military Police Battalion (“Soldiers of the Gauntlet”) that surround me and assume great risk here in Iraq understand the great cause they are in. Their drive is fueled by your support. Keep your soldier motivated by writing letters and supporting them when they get a chance to email or call home. Along with your soldier's efforts, your support will have a positive impact on world history.

I thank you family members and other supporters that keep us motivated to make the world a safer place. Your sacrifices are appreciated. Your prayers keep us safe. May God bless you and your families.

LTC Dave Poirier,
Commander, “Gauntlet 6”
720th Military Police Battalion



Soldiers of the Gauntlet

From the Battalion Command Sergeant Major's foxhole



Soldiers, Family and Friends, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to the courageous young men and women who have suffered the physical effects of war as the “Soldiers of the Gauntlet” reach what we believe is the mid-way point in our deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. These soldiers have endured not only physical pain, but also hardship and sacrifice as well.

Everyone is aware that our President declared an end to major combat operations months ago, but as the soldier on the ground will attest, our enemy is ever vigilant in inflicting casualties through whatever means necessary to demoralize our troops. As a direct result of enemy action, 17 of our soldiers have been wounded or killed in action entitling them to the award of the Purple Heart.

As stated in Army Regulation 600-8-22, Military Awards, the Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to any member of the Armed Forces who has been wounded or killed, or who has died or may hereafter die after being wounded. While clearly an individual decoration, the Purple Heart differs from all other decorations in that an individual is not “recommended” for

the decoration; rather he or she is entitled to it upon meeting specific criteria.

The origin of the Purple Heart decoration holds a storied past dating back 211 years from the opening volleys of the War of the American Revolution. These fine Gauntlet soldiers join the more than 1.6 million fellow service men and women bestowed this honor for their sacrifices.

SSG Webster, Monte V.	4/401 st MP Co, 720 th MP Bn	WIA/27 May 03
SGT Foster, Rico, J.	4/401 st MP Co, 720 th MP Bn	WIA/27 May 03
PFC Bauerle, Kenita	4/401 st MP Co, 720 th MP Bn	WIA/27 May 03
PFC Vandeloecht, Jedidiah	4/401 st MP Co, 720 th MP Bn	WIA/27 May 03
PFC Verdin, Darnell	4/401 st MP Co, 720 th MP Bn	WIA/27 May 03
PV2 Welch, Luke	4/401 st MP Co, 720 th MP Bn	WIA/27 May 03
PFC Halling, Jesse M.	2/401 st MP Co, 720 th MP Bn	KIA/07 Jun 03
SGT Nunnery, Christopher	4/401 st MP Co, 720 th MP Bn	WIA/30 Jun 03
PFC Godin, Matthew F.	4/64 th MP Co, 720 th MP Bn	WIA/04 Jul 03
SGT Card, Jai	4/64 th MP Co, 720 th MP Bn	WIA/12 Jul 03
SPC Cox, Kenny	4/64 th MP Co, 720 th MP Bn	WIA/12 Jul 03
PFC Correra, Kevin A.	4/64 th MP Co, 720 th MP Bn	WIA/12 Jul 03
PFC Nipper, Catherine	4/64 th MP Co, 720 th MP Bn	WIA/12 Jul 03
SGT Baldwin, Michael	4/411 th MP Co, 720 th MP Bn	WIA/08 Aug 03
SGT Rigsby, Gary	3/411 th MP Co, 720 th MP Bn	WIA/08 Aug 03
SPC Zubia, Anna	4/411 th MP Co, 720 th MP Bn	WIA/08 Aug 03
SSG Taylor, Antione	4/401 st MP Co, 720 th MP Bn	WIA/21 Sep 03



William A. Generali, CSM, US Army, “Orderly Regulation”

“You cannot be saved by . . . devotion to your ancestors. To each generation comes its patriotic duty, and upon your willingness to sacrifice and endure, as those before you have sacrificed and endured, rests the national hope.”

- Charles Evans Hughes, Supreme Court Justice

Soldiers of the Gauntlet

HHD 720th MP Battalion

by 1LT Christopher Church, Commander

Greetings from Tikrit. Six months down and it looks like we are over the hump. As the battalion works on numerous missions to better Iraq, the detachment continues to give much needed support each and every day to ensure mission success. Even though the enemy threat always remains, we continue to do our duties. On September 26 the battalion celebrated the Military Police Corps 62nd Anniversary, giving us a chance to get together and celebrate the achievements of the past year.

Again this past month we lost some great Americans back to the states, Captain Christopher Kasker, Sergeant Elizabeth Lopez and Specialist Todd. CPT Kasker returned to Fort Hood to prepare for company command, SGT Lopez and SPC Todd are both saying goodbye to the Army, having served the detachment and their country well. There have been no new members added to the Vanguard family this month, but we are looking forward to welcome them in the near future.

As always, family members at home continue their support through letters, care packages, and phone conversations. I urge you to continue this, because it is with your support that we are able to be successful. I also urge family members to stay active in the Family Readiness Group, and get involved in activities and events at home.



SPC William Davis, communications specialist, at a re-transmission site during a raid near Tikrit.

411th Military Police Company

by CPT Omar Lomas, Commander

Greetings Spouses, Family, and Friends of the Grizzly Family. Once again another month has passed us by here in Tikrit Iraq. It seems like time is passing us by quickly with all the missions we have going on. It is beginning to look like fall here in Tikrit as the weather has changed significantly. It has certainly cooled down and the days aren't unbearably hot anymore. It certainly has been busy here in the Grizzly Den in Tikrit. Our soldiers have done a fabulous job in keeping the missions going and keeping themselves motivated. It is difficult at times but they always seem to accomplish the mission and do it with pride in themselves and the unit. God bless them.

I will not beat around the bush on the redeployment news. As it stands right now, we are looking at redeploying anytime between February and March 2004. This news is not written in stone; therefore it is subject to change. I am keeping our soldiers informed and plan to do the same with all of you that support us day in and day out. I know it is a little difficult to wait until February or March but such is our call to duty to defend and protect America at all costs. Your sacrifices, and those of your soldiers here, will make our country a safer place to live and raise our children.

As I previously mentioned, we have been a really busy company this past month. First Platoon has been extremely busy in conducting raids. It seems as if the Rottweilers always end up being the platoon to get tasked with the raid mission. However, they have proven to be very proficient at conducting contraband raids. First Platoon has seized many illegal weapons and ammunition and taken it out of the hands of the bad guys. Their efforts have contributed to making Tikrit a safer place for Coalition Forces. In addition, the Rottweilers have also been involved in conducting checkpoints and MSR patrols in order to keep the roadways free of any enemy activity and keep US supply lines open. They have done a magnificent job. **(see 411th on page 9)**



411th MP Company soldiers and Iraqi Police officers search a farm near Tikrit for suspected weapons caches.

Soldiers of the Gauntlet

401st Military Police Company

by CPT Mark Blair, Commander

Greetings family members...as you all know, we are now at our six-month mark in Iraq. We are "over the hump" in terms of when we will come home. As of late, it has been business as usual for the company. We are currently standing up a police force in the town of Al Sharqat, which is about an hour and a half north of Tikrit. Things are progressing smoothly there so far. We are also continuing our work here in Tikrit with the local police force. Significant progress has been made legitimizing and reinforcing the quality of their ranks. As stated before, the goal is to give the Iraqis complete autonomy in the governing and management of their police force as well as the rest of the civil affairs throughout their country. Each day brings us closer to the overall goal of letting them control their country without direct guidance or control from the United States.

We are pleased to say that mid-tour leave has been approved by the Department of Defense. Soldiers will get a 15-day leave with the option of flying either to Baltimore, Maryland or Germany. Soldiers will pay their way from these

points to wherever in the United States and Europe they want to go. Under this plan, eligible soldiers in the company will get to go on leave between now and January. The DOD is reviewing the possibilities of other points of entry into the U.S. in addition to Baltimore. If this becomes reality, it may further alleviate the amount of air travel the soldier has to pay out of his/her pocket. We will keep you posted on any future developments of this proposal.

Again as always, keep our soldiers in your thoughts and prayers...they miss you very much and yearn to return home to you soon.

"Always First!" Gunfighter 6



SGT Jesus Salazar enters the home of a suspected Fedayeen member in Tikrit during a joint raid with Iraqi police.

64th Military Police Company

by CPT Juan Nava, Commander

As we reach what we believe to be the half way mark of our current deployment, the Guardians remain in support of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division as we span 3 different battalions. With our support missions we are challenged every day to conduct the spectrum of Military Police operations ranging from civil military local national police support to combat quick reaction force missions. The Guardians continue to step up to the plate each day and perform in outstanding professional fashion.

As the quality of life in our areas continue to improve daily here in 3rd BCT, the Guardians welcome the arrival of such additions as a volleyball net and ball, ping-pong tables, a hot shower trailer, and finally (at long last) a controlled air conditioned enclosed (relatively dust free) environment. The soldiers have the opportunity to enjoy AFN satellite in a relatively close hanger on Samarra East as well as in Samarra. Only 4th platoon, operating with Charlie Company, 1/8 Infantry (Mechanized) is lacking such access. We continue to struggle to get everyone the opportunity to use the satellite phone when available. Please remain patient with this process.

Your letters and prayers continue to be welcome. I am convinced that God is a Guardian who continues to look after his soldiers here. Our many close calls can only be a testament to this. We thank you all for your love and continued support. (see 64th on page 9)



SGT Donald Norris and SGT Peter Powers inspect damage to a gas station that was attacked in Ad-Duluiyah.

Soldiers of the Gauntlet

From the Chaplain

By Chaplain (CPT) John Longbuco

My dear brothers and sisters of the Family Readiness Group,

Blessings to you from Camp Speicher, Iraq. I am the Chaplain for 2-4 Aviation. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the true blessings and graces that some of your loved ones have experienced here in Iraq.

It is refreshing when I hear people ask for a Bible, a Koran or the Hebrew Scriptures. Many have come to realize that we are on the ground of our Biblical ancestors, between the area of Babel and the ancient town of Nineveh. Thousands and thousands of men, women and children have walked this Holy Ground. This fact has been both inspirational and bitter. Knowing what atrocities have taken place at the hand of another man truly dampens one's outlook towards such Old Testament history.

The idea of being in Biblical territory has inspired many to read about this land and the people who journeyed in this territory for centuries. Surrounded by so much that seems diametrically opposed to biblical life, some men and women have chosen to turn to their high power and learn about the chosen people, the Israelites. These ancient people were not looking for answers, just wandering in the desert seeking their God. Our soldiers can connect with the misery and desolation of the Israelites and at the same time they can connect with their sense of community.

In the absence of you, their loved ones, they seek community and connection with their brothers and sisters in service to our country. So in so many words they are experiencing their forty years in the desert, as did the ancient Israelites. This desert experience will make their reunion with you similar to the feelings of the Israelites as they entered the Promised Land.

Your love for them sustains their desert journey. So keep the love coming so everyone can experience the Promised Land feeling when we return.



Mid-Tour Leave – what to expect

For the first time, soldiers deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom will be given the opportunity to take a 15-day leave. The following guidelines are used to determine which soldiers are eligible for this leave.

- This leave is intended for those soldiers who will serve one year in Iraq. Therefore, those who did not deploy with the battalion in March will probably not be afforded the opportunity to go home on leave.
- Leave is to be used by soldiers between their 4th and 10th month of deployment. September is the 6th month of deployment for the 720th MP Battalion. This is based on the belief that the battalion will be packing in February and departing in March (the 11th and 12th months of the deployment).
- Currently, the battalion is allocated 16 seats for mid-tour leave every 9 days. This number might double by November 1.
- Priority for leave is granted as follows:
 1. Soldiers who were wounded in action and returned to duty.
 2. Supercargo personnel (those individuals who floated over here on the ships with the battalion equipment – they arrived about one month before the rest of the battalion.)
 3. New parents
 4. Each company will establish priority for their remaining soldiers, starting with those who arrived in March. Guidance to commanders is to give priority to those soldiers who have experienced high levels of stress depending on their jobs (i.e., leaders and soldiers who have been engaged in combat, and/or are responsible for many soldiers).

The first 16 soldiers are scheduled to depart for their mid-tour 15-day leave Oct. 2. We will do our best to make sure that all eligible soldiers have this opportunity in the future.

LTC David Poirier, Commander, 720th MP Battalion

Soldiers of the Gauntlet
Soldiers' Voices



SSG Donald Norton, PFC Carla Jacobs, SPC James Teague, PFC Julia Atkins, 1LT Stephen Dugan - 64th MP Company

SSG Norton
To Shannon

"You're a wonderful wife. Thanks for taking care of things at home. I love and miss you."

PFC Jacobs
To my family

"I love and miss you all so much. Hope I'll be coming home soon. Stacie and Alliyah – mommy loves you!"

SPC Teague

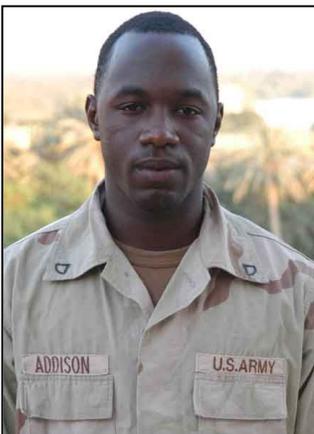
To Luke and Vickye

"I love and miss you both. I will see you when my task is done. Remember, don't worry for I am a protected soldier of a higher Army! Love, James."

PFC Atkins

To Shiri

"I just wanted to tell you that I love you! Take care – you are my strength. Hope you enjoy your new job!"



PFC Carlton Addison, 401st MP Company

To my mother and two brothers

"Just want to let you guys know that I miss you guys and that I am doing alright. Love y'all."

SGT Joel Creamer, 411th MP Company

To my Mom, Dad, Glen, Val and family

"I'll be home soon. Have cold beer and hot pizza waiting!"



Soldiers of the Gauntlet



SFC Donald Rowe, SPC Ronald Simpson, CPT Jennifer Knight, SPC David Gates, MAJ John Bogdan, SPC Jeremy Crone, SGM Nathan Wilson, SPC Strick Richardo, SFC Reginald Turner, SSG Jack Uecker, CPT Johnny Sellers, 1LT Shannon Newell, SSG Azusena Rodriguez
- HHD 720th MP BN

SPC Simpson

To Xzandra, Alexis, Mon and Phoebe

"I love you all and miss you all. Hope to see you all soon."

SPC Crone

To Mom and Dad

"I love y'all and will see y'all soon!"

SPC Richardo

To his family

"Be home in less than a year now."

SGM Wilson

To my wife Cathy, and kids Ian and Ethan

"Thank you for all you do everyday to support me. I love you!"

SSG Rodriguez

To her family

"Hola mi Amor, I love you William, Michael, Mom and Grandpa. I'm fine. Just miss everyone terribly. Take care and God bless."

SFC Turner

To his wife

"Hi, honey! I am doing well here in Iraq. Happy Anniversary. Love you."

CPT Sellers

To Susan, Kristen and Sarah

"I miss you more than you can imagine. Remember that I love you and I'll be home as soon as I can. Love you."

MAJ Bogdan

To Christine, Jake and Matt

"I miss you all and look forward to Disney World. No - you still can't have a paintball gun. Luv U!"



PFC Paula Christina Torres, 411th MP Company

To my whole entire family and all friends

"Yes, I'm still talking continuously. Surprisingly...only 5% of my stories have been told! You're all constantly in me thoughts and prayers. You're the universe that keeps my world spinning. Your faith encourages me to persevere and make the best of every second. Thanx - love you sooo much!"

Soldiers of the Gauntlet

411th from page 4

Second Platoon is coming off a two and a half month mission of securing FOB Iron Horse (the Tikrit Palace Compound where we all live). They have done a super job at maintaining the high security posture that is required to keep FOB Iron Horse safe and secure. Not once did the Blacksheep allow a breach in the perimeter of the compound; they are to be commended for that. It was because of their efforts that the soldiers of the 4th Infantry Division and the Soldiers of the Gauntlet slept safe at night. Now the Blacksheep are headed for a new challenge. They will now take on the mission of conducting our checkpoint and convoy escort missions. This is truly a change of pace for them but I know they will do extremely well.

Third Platoon is also preparing for a new mission. Previously, they were kept very busy by conducting our Police Reform Teams in an effort to stand up a viable Iraqi police force for the towns in our area of operations. Now the Rough Riders are preparing to pick up where Second Platoon left off in securing FOB Iron Horse. Third Platoon has already begun their transition into the security role and is prepared for the challenge.

Fourth Platoon continues in their unending pace of picking up all the convoy escort missions as well as conducting presence patrols and checkpoints in the evenings. The Peacemakers have done a superb job of stepping up to the plate and hitting last minute homeruns that have kept this company headed in the right direction. They always seem to get a late mission and accomplish it beyond expectations. Now the Peacemakers have a new challenge of being our General Support Platoon and taking any and all missions that head our direction. I know that they will continue to do great things for this unit as time passes by.

As usual, the Headquarters Platoon has kept the company marching forward. Our mechanics, medics, communications, administration clerks, supply clerks, and dining facility personnel continue to keep the unit's operations flowing smoothly. They too have done a magnificent job at supporting the Grizzlies. This month our supply section has really stood out. SSG Riley, SPC Hill, and SPC Carroll have been busy with the upcoming monthly inventories and with the ordering and requisitioning of supplies. Their efforts have paid off as the unit's logistical operations have continued to be effective.

Turnover has greatly affected the Grizzlies this past month. Our soldiers have departed the 411th MP Company in order to PCS or ETS. Some of these great soldiers include: SGT Moore, SPC Slaughter, SPC Luna, SPC Bell and PFC Bach. I would like to thank all of these soldiers for their service and wish them well in their future endeavors. I would also like to thank a few people that have moved from the 411th MP Company to other units in the battalion: SFC Thompson (to HHD), SSG Nudo (to HHD), and SSG Gessel (to 64th MP Co).

On the other hand, we have gained some new faces in the company. These include: 2LT Gonzales, SGT Edwards, SPC Stephens, PFC Grimm, PFC Keating, PFC Schoelles, PV2 Reddington and PV2 Brown. The First Sergeant and I welcome you and your families to our Grizzly Family.

Congratulations are in order for SPC and Mrs. Bostic. They are the new proud parents of a baby girl. Addison Bailey Bostic was born on August 30, 2003. SPC and Mrs. Ortiz also had a new addition to their family. Alexander Isaiah Ortiz was born on September 12, 2003. Finally, SSG and Mrs. Wimberley welcomed Trent James Wimberley into the world on September 17, 2003. Welcome to the Grizzly Family, Addison, Trent and Alexander.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you for sending our soldiers the care packages and mail that keep on coming in. Keep them coming, it really makes our troops feel good inside when you send them goodies. Continue to pray for all of us here in Iraq as we continue to fulfill our responsibilities and duties in order to safely return to Fort Hood. SPEED AND POWER!!

CPT Luis O. Lomas

64th from page 5

We would also like to congratulate the Saraiva and Rowley families for their new additions to the Guardian family. Our best wishes to the many soldiers that have departed. It truly was an honor and privilege to serve alongside you all. Best wishes to you all. GUARDIANS!
Guardian 6

From the 1SG:

The soldiers of the unit are doing extremely well and working hard to return home as soon as possible. I thank each and every one of you for your patience and time. The rear detachment has been instrumental to our continued success. The family members have been a great help, thank you. GUARDIAN! Send mail - Guardian 5

A hanger at Samarra East Airfield has been home for most of the 64th MP Company since June. Until September soldiers lived in a hangar that was open front and back (lower). Now, the front of the hangar has been closed (upper left), and a wall and six air-conditioning units have been installed in the rear (upper right).



Soldiers of the Gauntlet

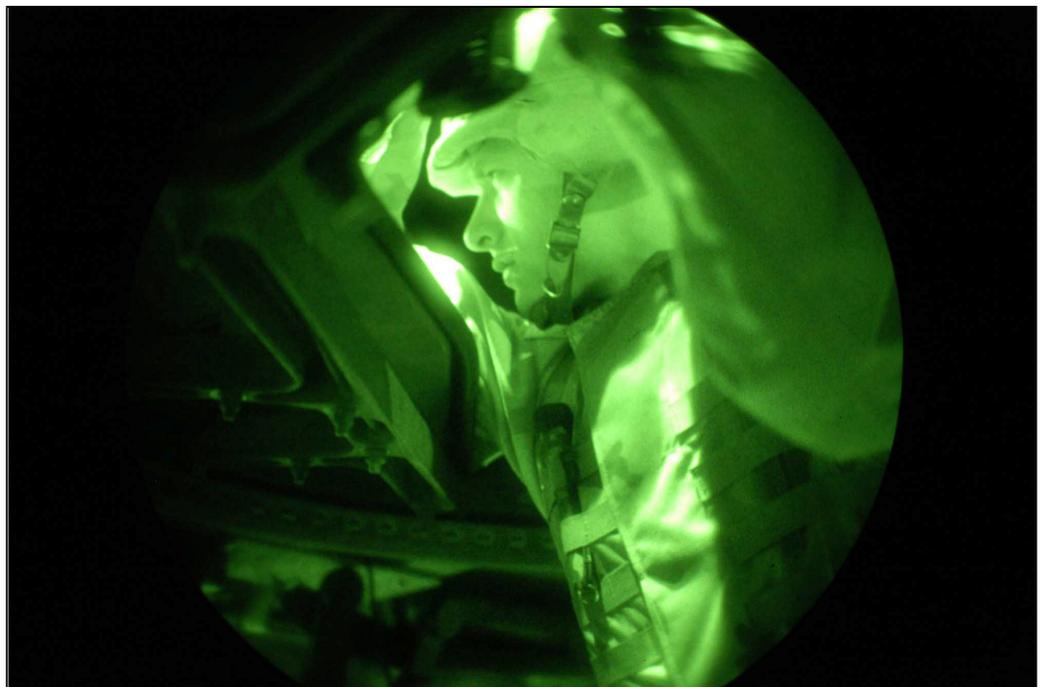
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Heroes of the Gauntlet



PFC Maria Martinez, MP,
64th MP Company...*in
her ASV in Samarra.*

PFC Jason Teklinski, MP,
411th MP Company...*in
his vehicle's turret during
a night mission north of
Tikrit.*

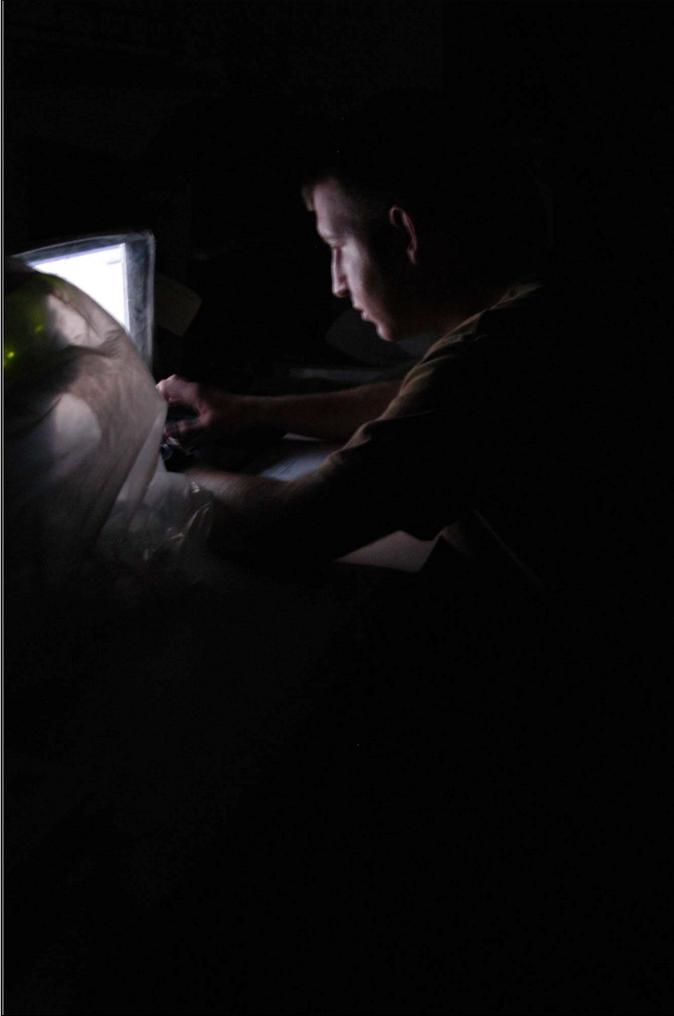


Heroes of the Gauntlet

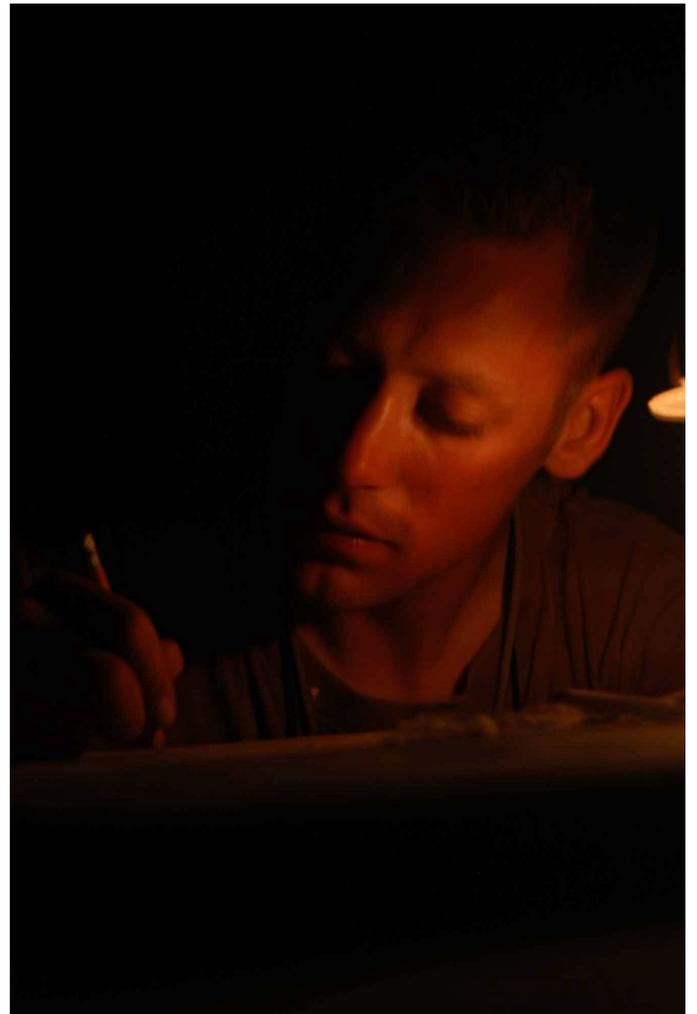
SGT Matthew Dusenbery, MP,
401st MP Company...*on a mission
near the Jabal Hamrin Ridge (to
the northeast of Tikrit).*



PFC Michael Molinaro, mechanic,
64th MP Company...*working on a
vehicle at Samarra East Airfield.*

Heroes of the Gauntlet

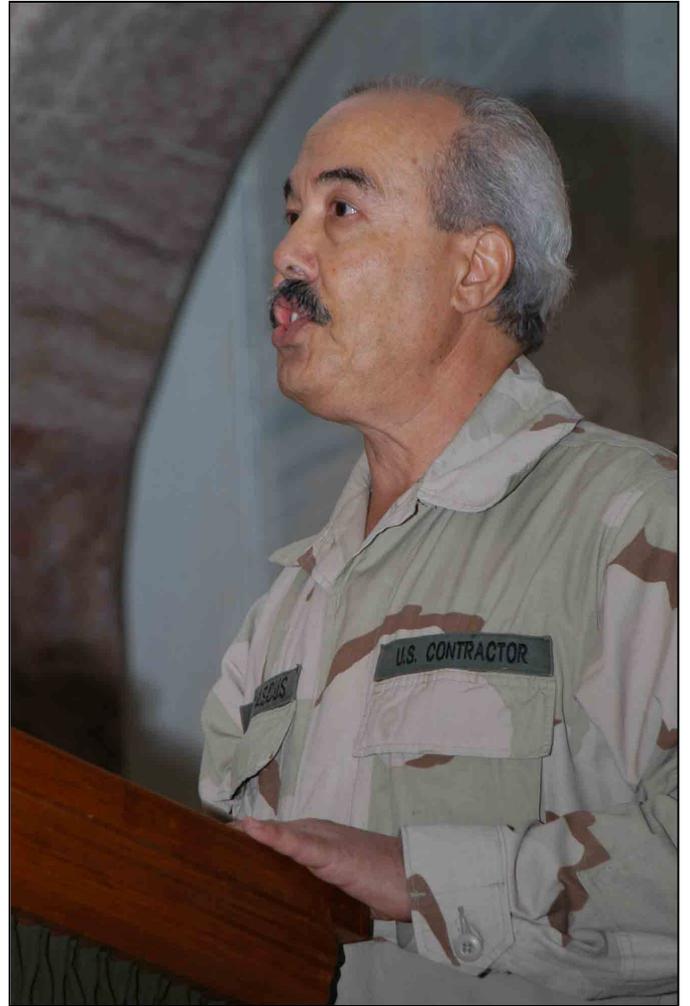
1LT Aaron McKivigan, battalion S4,
HHD 720th MP Battalion...*working
on his computer in the S4 shop in
Tikrit.*



SPC Joseph Locurto, MP, 411th MP
Company...*building a display board late at
night for the 62nd MP Corps Anniversary
observance held by the battalion in Tikrit
September 26.*

Heroes of the Gauntlet

Michael Damascus, civilian translator...
Damascus, a native of Syria who now lives in Glendora, California, has been the Iraqi Police Transition and Integration Program translator for the battalion since July. His translating has been an integral part of teaching Iraqi Police the course material and has not been without personal risk. Hostile forces have wounded and killed a number of translators working with coalition forces in Tikrit and other parts of Iraq.



SSG Azusena Rodriguez, Battalion
 NBC NCOIC, HHD 720th MP
 Battalion...*in the battalion TOC in Tikrit.*

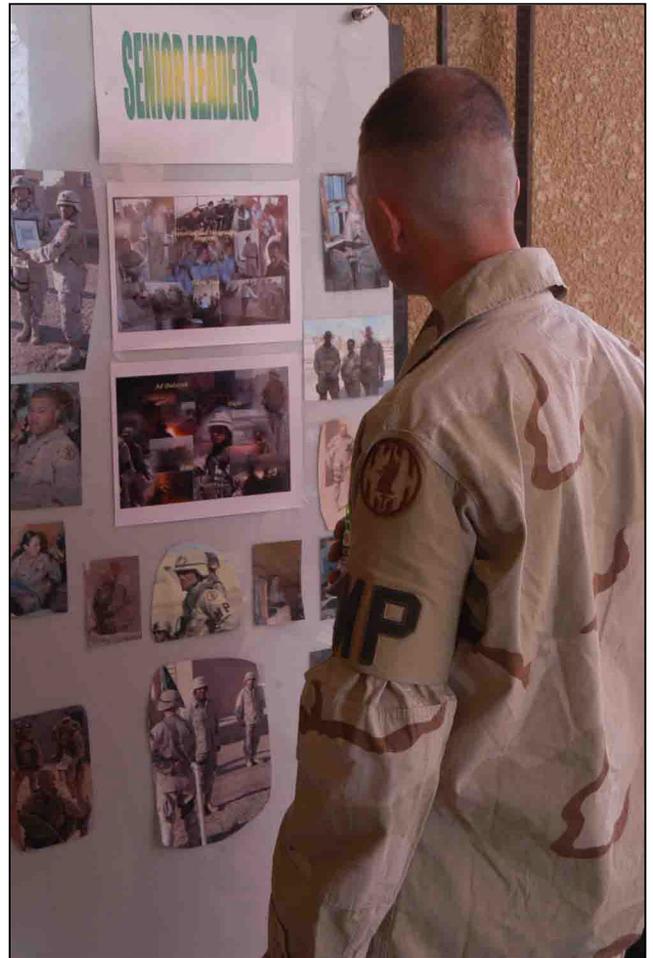
Soldiers of the Gauntlet

720th Military Police Battalion Newsletter photo supplement – September 2003

62nd Military Police Corps Anniversary



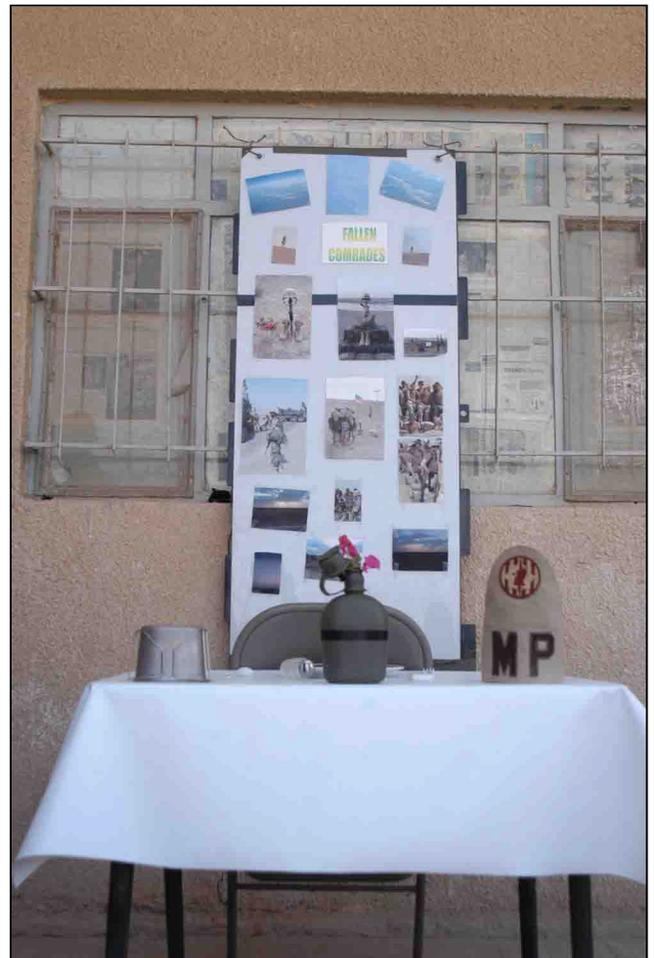
The 720th Military Police Battalion celebrated the MP Corps' 62nd Anniversary in Tikrit, Iraq, Sep. 26. Below left, a watermelon carved with the MP Corps Regimental Crest, and a cake provided by the 411th MP Company food service section. Below right, SSG Jones, 401st MP Company, looks at one of four photo collages created by HHD 720th MP BN soldiers for the anniversary observance.



MP Anniversary

Remembering the fallen...SPC Narson Sullivan, 411th MP Company and PFC Jesse Halling, 401st MP Company.

Left, 1LT Amanda Dorsey (left), and 2LT Alexis Marks, both 401st MP Company platoon leaders, bow their heads during a moment of silence.



MP Anniversary



Left, soldiers gather to watch a video slide presentation. Each company created a slide presentation documenting its participation in Operation Iraqi Freedom from March through September 2003.

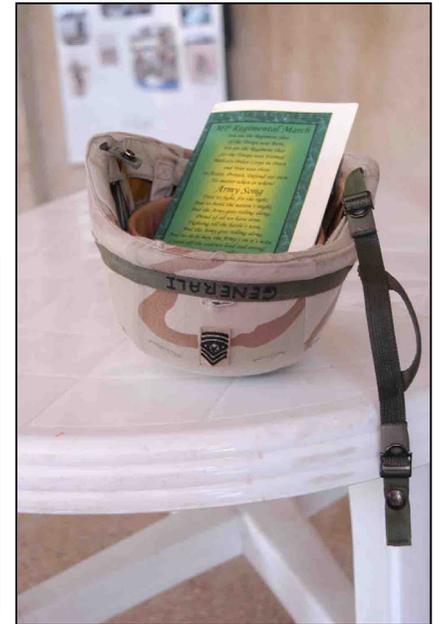
Middle, lunch, provided by the 401st and 411th food service soldiers and NCOs.



From left to right: 1SG Phillips, 401st MP Company (the Battalion's oldest MP), LTC Poirier, battalion commander, and SGM Spicer, 4th MP Company, cut the ceremonial cake.



MP Anniversary



Above, singing the MP Regimental song.
"We are the regiment that of the troops was born..."

Right, soldiers from the BN S1 section spent long hours creating and producing the programs for the anniversary, as well as three-by-five MP code-of-ethics wallet cards, for everyone in attendance.

Below, SGT Herbert and SSG Mount present a battalion sign created by SFC Nation and other 411th MP Company soldiers.



Soldiers of the Gauntlet

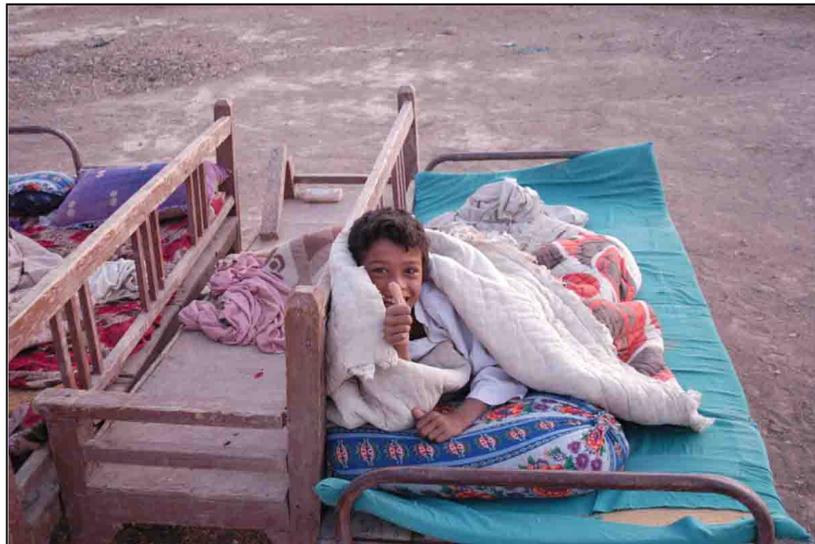
720th Military Police Battalion Newsletter photo supplement – September 2003

Raids

Sometimes we find the enemy, sometimes weapons, and sometimes...



...a family sleeping outside in their yard to beat the heat, with one boy who wanted to stay in bed, one who wanted to shake SGT Cruz's hand...



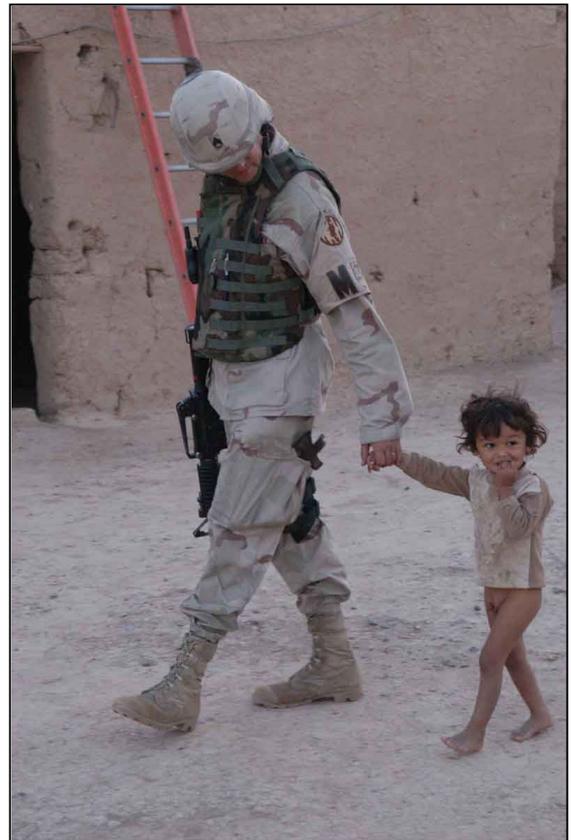
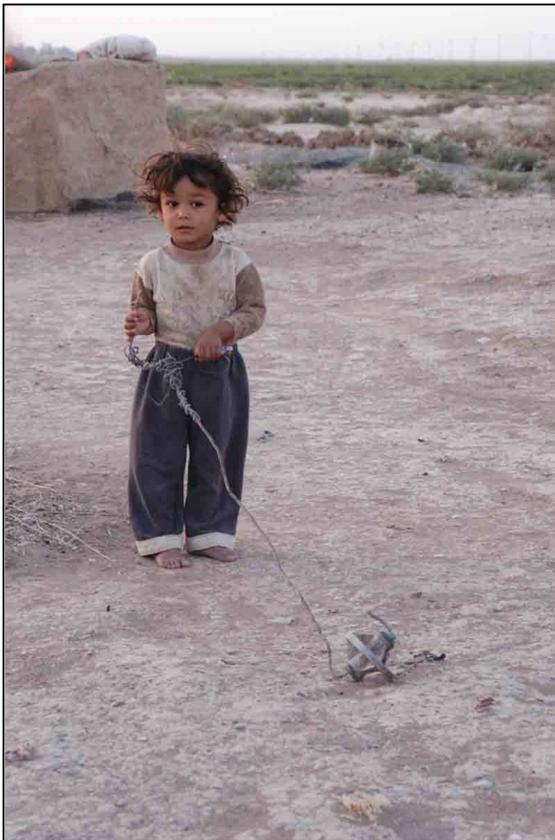
411th MPs search the family's farm in the pre-dawn darkness.



Sometimes we find...

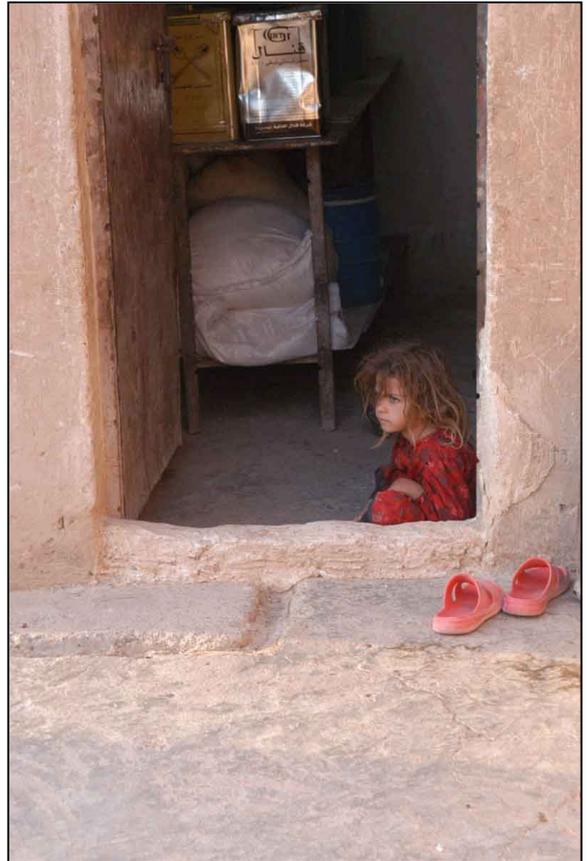
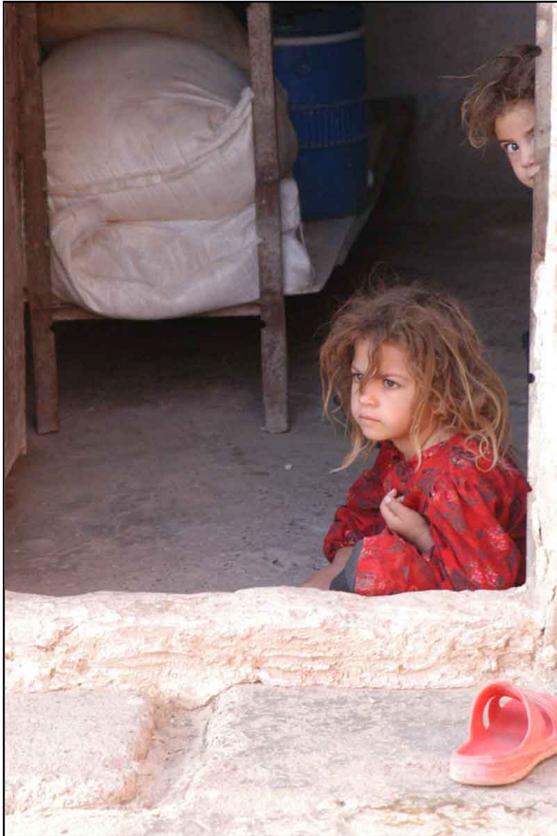


...and one little boy who wanted to say hello to SGT Cruz and SPC Locurto and SSG Mount before getting dressed to play with a toy...

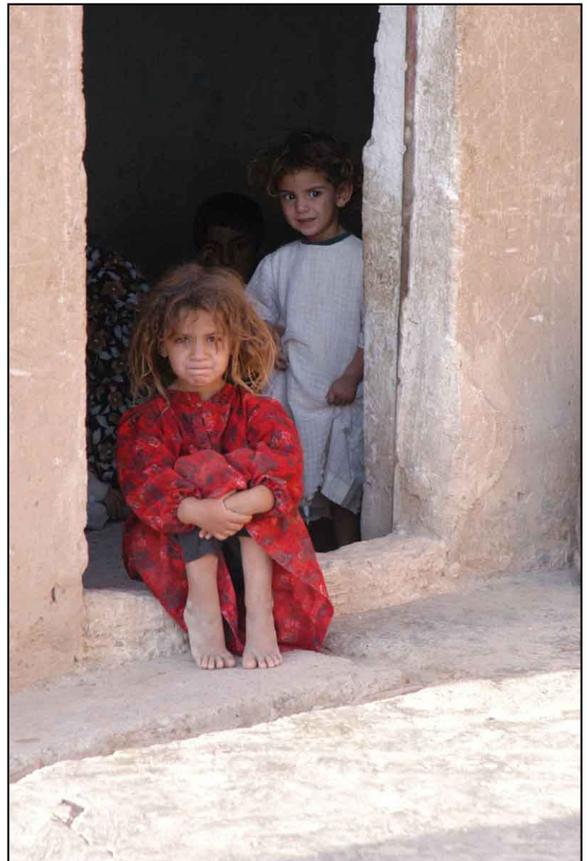


Sometimes we find...

...or two little girls who didn't want to leave the shelter of a doorway...



SGM Wilson and Iraqi Police officers speak with a man during a raid. The two girls were watching the conversation.



Sometimes we find...



...and one little girl who didn't want to leave the shelter of her box in the yard.



411th and 401st MPs discover a cache of Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPGs) in a neighboring farm close to the little girl's house.

Soldiers of the Gauntlet

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Scenes from Iraq



Sunset over the Tigris River and valley near Balad.

Scenes from Iraq



Two views of the Jabal Hamrin Ridge northeast of Tikrit.



Scenes from Iraq



Fields in a valley near Tikrit.



Scenes from Iraq

A flock of sheep east of the Jabal Hamrin Ridge (above), and a palm grove in Ad-Duluiyah (right).

