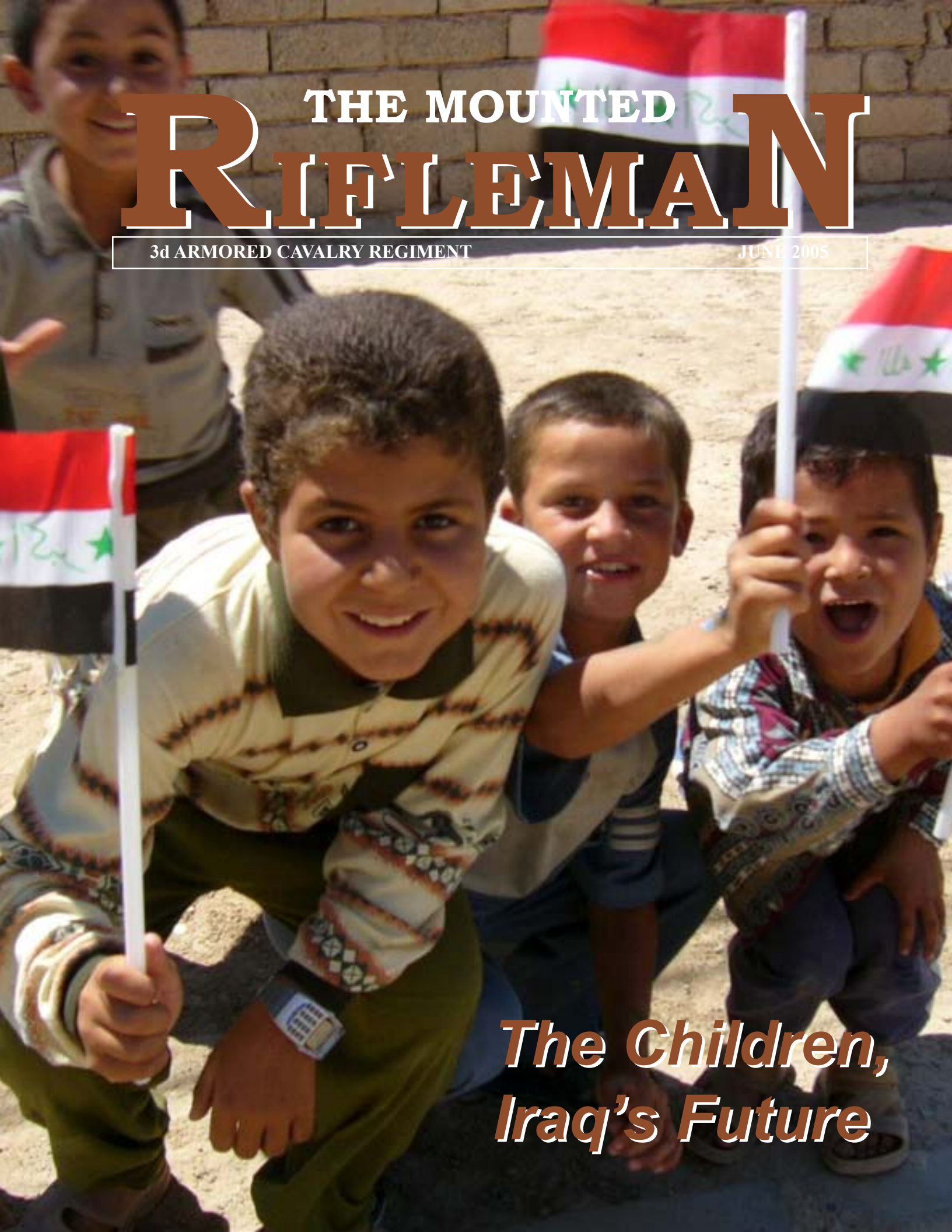
THE MOUNTED RIFLEMAN

3d ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT JUNE 2005



The Children, Iraq's Future

THE MOUNTED RIFLEMAN

Published monthly by the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment

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The Mounted Rifleman is the official publication for the Troopers, Noncommissioned Officers, Officers, family members and friends of the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment. Views expressed herein are those of the authors.

The Mounted Rifleman is the primary Command Information tool of the Regimental command leadership. Its mission is to foster esprit de corps, enhance morale and keep Troopers informed throughout the Regiment.

About This Issue

The Regiment has definitely made an impact in Iraq in such a short time. Operation Veterans Forward kicked off in the last week of May and spearheaded into June.

Working side by side with our Iraqi brothers-in-arms, the Regiment was successful in rooting out terrorists and foreign fighters in our area. Jointly, we have made a difference in the lives of the Iraqi people.

Although this enemy has caused chaos, grabbed headlines and have tried to break the will of the Iraqi people, it cannot break the ties of the Coalition Forces and the Iraqi Security Forces.

Everything we do, every detainee we take off the streets, every battle or skirmish we win — we make life so much better and bring peace and security to Iraqis here.

The people of the region are rejecting the ideology of the terrorists. The people of Iraq know the terrorists don't offer a better life for them and their families.

This edition of the Mounted Rifleman captures the accomplishments of our Troopers throughout the Regiment's area of operations.

Whether it's Sgt. Brandon 'Doc' Casanova of Crazyhorse Troop drawing the curiousity of Iraqi children in Ba-aj or Staff Sgt. Frank Herring of Medical Troop providing timely care to injured Iraqi citizens following a mortar attack, our Troopers have been exceptional in their daily duties and mission.

Sadly in the month of June we've lost five more of our brothers-in-arms — four from Thunder Squadron and Lt. Col. Terrence Crowe of the 98th Training Division. Despite their pain and grief, the troopers under the command of Lt. Col. Ross Brown have continued to remain vigilant in the fight despiter their adversity.

Every month I try to come up with a theme for the magazine, and throughout this month, there has been a lot of attention on the children of Iraq. Those innocent, beautiful children who has witnessed the horrors first hand committed by the terrorists who bring evil to their country.

Everything we accomplish in this country is for them. So with that thought in mind, this edition is devoted to those who one day will smile, laugh, and play in a secure Iraq.

-- The Editor

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Left: Sabre Squadron troopers square off during a boxing smoker held June 3. See related article and photos on Pages 14-15. Cover: Iraqi children proudly wave the flags of their nation in the city of Bi-aj.

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Cover photo by Spc. Jory Randall

A message from the
71st Colonel of the Regiment

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Gen. John Abizaid, U.S. Central Command commanding general, talks to Col. H.R. McMaster, 71st Regimental Commander, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, during his visit to the Regiment June 16 at Camp Sykes, Iraq.

During the past months, the Regiment has performed with great distinction and made the most difficult missions look easy. The Regiment minus Thunder Squadron and Renegade Troop moved into our new area of operations.

Saber Squadron and 2nd Battalion, 14th Cavalry Regiment, a Stryker-mounted Cavalry squadron helped the Regiment get established.

Sabre Squadron secured the Regiment on the way in as they continued to pursue the enemy in Tall Afar. The Muleskinner Squadron established another base of operations and immediately began supporting long range reconnaissance operations.

Our Support Squadron helped establish several forward operating bases and simultaneously established a Forward Logistical Element to sustain an important long range reconnaissance mission.

Longknife established another airfield, began operations over a wide area, and established Forward Area Refuel and Rearm Points to support extended range operations.

Tiger Squadron assumed an important mission in the western portion of our area and surprised everyone with how rapidly they were able to establish multiple bases of operations, initiate reconnaissance, and partner with Iraqi Army, Police, and Border Police.

Our smooth transition to operations in Northern Iraq would not have been possible without a herculean effort on the part of Thunder Squadron.

Thunder temporarily assumed responsibility for a very wide area—an area that a brigade or regiment would normally cover. The operations that Thunder squadron conducted in May-June added another proud chapter to the Regiment's history.

Thunder has remained in the critical South Baghdad area as part of the 48th Separate Brigade and the 3d Infantry Division while Predator Battery, a platoon from 43rd Combat Engineer Company, and teams that remained in Baghdad to help train the Iraqi Army have joined the Regiment in the North.

Renegade Troop continues to distinguish itself in combat as part of the 3d Infantry Division in the Baghdad area of operations.

In the North, the Regiment(-) is in the final phases of Operation Veterans Forward, an operation designed to disrupt the enemy and extend Iraqi Army security responsibilities throughout our new area.

The operation was a tremendous success as the Regiment delivered a staggering blow to terrorists who are determined to see freedom fail in Iraq. Our brothers from the 2-14 CAV, along with soldiers from the 3d Iraqi Army Division and Pegasus Troop from Longknife Squadron initiated Operation Veterans Forward by conducting a zone reconnaissance across the Al Jazeera Desert.

2-14 CAV, a very professional outfit who helped establish the Regiment in our area of operation and who performed with distinction in our area with a much smaller force, killed and captured terrorists and gathered important intelligence.

Tiger Squadron exploited the success of 2-14 CAV by establishing security in the towns of Rabiyah and Bi'aj. Rabiyah is located on the Iraq-Syrian border and is the major crossing point between the two countries.

By securing Rabiyah, Tiger disrupted terrorists' ability to move in and out of Syria. In Bi'aj, terrorists had established a base of operation in that small town.

Tiger, fighting alongside soldiers from the 3rd Iraqi Army, overwhelmed the enemy, captured insurgents, established the mayor and police force, and returned Bi'aj to the Iraqi people. People thanked our troopers and Iraqi soldiers for saving them and their children.

Sabre Squadron and soldiers from the 2nd Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army, continued very effective operations in Tall Afar.

During recent offensive operations in Tall Afar, Sabre captured 28 out of 32 insurgents and defeated multiple enemy attacks, inflicting severe losses on the enemy.

The discipline of our troopers and Iraqi soldiers prevented injuries to civilians even though the enemy has used children as human shields.

Our Regiment is building relationships with the people and the people are confronting the terrorists. For example, fourteen local leaders in Tall Afar recently denounced terrorism in a press conference.

In Ninewa Province and South Baghdad, Brave Rifles Troopers are taking the fight to the enemy. Since arriving in Ninewa Province, our troopers and our Iraqi Army partners have captured or killed over two hundred of the enemy, detected and destroyed twenty-seven improvised explosive devices and three car bombs.

We have defeated numerous attacks on our forces including five suicide car bombs. Our troopers have overmatched the enemy in every engagement.

Sadly, our recent accomplishments have not been without loss. This month our Regiment lost Lt. Col. Terry Crowe from the 98th Training Division, as well as Staff Sgt. Justin Vasquez, Spc. Eric Poelman, Pfc. Brian Ulbrich and Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Phelps from Thunder Squadron.

Lt. Col. Crowe gave his life while leading the soldiers of the 3rd Iraqi Army Division in combat operations in the city of Tall Afar. Staff Sgt. Vasquez, Spc. Poelman, Pfc. Ulbrich and Sgt. 1st Class Phelps were killed in action during operations in southern Baghdad.

Six of our Iraqi comrades have fallen alongside our troopers since my last letter. These fine men were all respected and loved by their fellow troopers.

We will honor their selfless and distin guished service to our nation by continuing our vital mission. We will keep their families foremost in our thoughts and prayers.

Our operations have the enemy on the run. This enemy is ruthless, however, and has now targeted Iraqi civilians, including children, to intimidate the population.

Our doctors, physician assistants, and medics have saved the lives of many innocent Iraqis in recent weeks. There is more fighting to be done.

I want all of our families to know that you should be very proud of what your Soldiers are accomplishing. I am proud to serve alongside the great troopers of the Regiment and our attached units. We will remain true to you, our mission, and to each other.

BRAVE RIFLES!

A message from the
XVII CSM of the Regiment

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Command Sgt. Maj. William Burns, XVII Regimental Command Sergeant Major, inspects the chamber of a trooper's weapon at guard mount.

First I want to send greetings to the family members and friends of the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen.

In the short time I've been in the Regiment, I've seen a disciplined unit in which sergeants set and enforce high standards.

I am very proud of our troopers and leaders. Our force protection posture is strong which means we can sleep well at night and conduct our daily missions from a secure operating base.

However, we can never settle or rest on our accomplishments because the enemy is ever present and willing to exploit any sign of weakness.

Because of this fact, we can never compromise on standards and the well being of each trooper serving here, so we will remain vigilant on force protection.

As I talk to Soldiers and leaders, throughout the Regiment, I tell them we have a great unit full of tough, disciplined, and courageous troopers.

The one thing that I've been reinforcing with NCOs is that I need for them to maintain standards and care for soldiers including counseling and mentoring.

It is our NCOs who must provide purpose, direction, and motivation everyday. If we allow our Soldiers to become complacent we, the professional NCO Corps, do our soldiers a grave disservice.

Standards and discipline are cornerstones of our Army. They are what distinguish us from all other armies all over the world.

We know that the Regiment's and the Army's purpose is to fight and win. Sergeants ensure that Soldiers are ready to fight – that's our primary responsibility as NCOs.

Check weapons, ensure high quality training and hold Soldiers accountable for their actions.

Leaders must also take the time to talk with their Soldiers to see what their concerns are and address those concerns.

We must never forget that leadership is a human endeavor.

In combat, it is particularly important that we know our Soldiers' state of mind so we can help them deal with the demands and stress of combat operations.

We must ensure every Trooper is confident and proficient in their equipment, tactically prepared, trained and motivated. Confidence in their equipment, their team, and their sergeant serves as a barrier against fear and stress in battle.

I want our families to know that your Soldier is part of a great team of Soldiers who care for each other and are committed to each other and our important mission. Thank you for your support

In closing, I'd like to ask everyone to stay focused and to pace themselves; we still have a tough, long road ahead.

All I ask is that you give your best everyday, nothing more.

Conference focuses on security for Tall Afar

By Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks
NCOIC, 3d ACR Public Affairs

In an unprecedented move towards security in the city of Tall Afar nearly 80 sheiks agreed to work together to end violence in the restive city during the Tall Afar Security Conference held June 5.

The conference, held at Al Kisik and hosted by Iraqi Maj. Gen. Kursheed, commander of the 3rd Iraqi Army Division, and attended by the Mosul Chief of Police and the Vice Chairman of Mosul Province, allowed the various tribe leaders to voice their concerns and attempt to come up with a resolution to remedy security issues in Tall Afar.

"The Coalition Forces and the Iraqi Army need your help; we can't do it alone to fight the terrorists," Kursheed said. "If all the sheiks put all their hands together to do the same thing, then we'll defeat them [terrorists]."

Kursheed labeled Tall Afar a ghost town due to the lack of civilian activity in the city. Insurgent threats has made an impact on the city ranging from children no longer playing outside nor attending schools, government buildings shut down and people staying indoors due to fear of violence.

"With out your help, we can not bring life to the people of this city," Kursheed said.

The Iraqi general mentioned that both Iraqi and U.S. Soldiers have died to help curtail the insurgency which has plagued the city and challenged the sheiks to fix the problems in Tall Afar themselves.

The violence in Tall Afar led to the call for the Security Conference which focused on five talking points – starting civil services and construction of city projects; placing security in the hands of Tall Afar leaders and citizens; reestablishing the Tall Afar Police force; reestablishing local government and infrastructure renovation and encouraging the community to cooperate with the Army, police, provincial and local officials in order to defeat the terrorists.

During several heated debates, some of the leaders said military action was the best route to follow to combat the insurgency, while others said it (military action) would only make the situation worse.

Col. H.R. McMaster, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment Commander, attended the conference and was introduced by Kursheed to speak on behalf of the American forces operating in the Tall Afar area.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Col. H.R. McMaster, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment commander, addresses Tall Afar community leaders during the Tall Afar Security Conference aimed at ending the violence in the Iraqi city.

"As General Kursheed has said, as military officers we know one way to bring security to this area," McMaster said. "But I believe as General Kursheed believes that is not the best way for Tall Afar."

McMaster primarily discussed the intentions of the American forces, his commitment to the Iraqi Third Division, and bringing security to Tall Afar.

"Our intentions are to help bring security to the people of Tall Afar and to Western Nineveh and to join the brave Iraqi Soldiers who are bringing security to their own people," McMaster said. "And I want you to know we regard our Iraqi partners as brothers in this effort."

McMaster closed his remarks by reminding the sheiks why security was important for the Iraqi citizens in the city.

"Like most of you; our Soldiers have children at home," McMaster said. "I have never seen more beautiful children than I've seen in the streets of Tall Afar. All of us owe them security."

At the conclusion of the conference, the Sheiks agreed to work together on the five talking points addressed during the conference, to end insurgent activity in the city and bring normalcy to the people of Tall Afar.

TIGER SQUADRON

By Lt. Col. Gregory Reilly
Tiger Squadron Commander

From the rising heat of the morning Iraqi sun just east of the Syrian border to the brisk cool breeze atop Sinjar Mountain, greetings Tiger Squadron troopers, family, and friends.

Over the past 30 days, Tiger Squadron displayed superb flexibility and ability while transitioning from a large scale Squadron movement to continued combat and reconnaissance operations in Northwest Iraq.

It was, to say the least, an extreme and difficult challenge to execute a more than 250-mile movement and relocate in an area with rigorous living conditions and minimal life support systems in place.

However, in Tiger Squadron fashion, it was not long before our troopers and leaders combined limited resources with their personal innovation, ultimately turning poor facilities into a suitable environment to comfortably enjoy on a regular basis.

Currently, we have transitioned from conditions with little to no life support to a permanent base camp that houses electrical power and generation in most buildings, a shower and laundry service for consistent usage, as well as emplacing several communication systems all with internet capabilities located in our very own MWR facility.

This particular MWR facility has 20 Dell desk-top computers and eight Spawar satellite phone systems for enhanced communication both to and from our troopers' families around the globe.

At the moment, we are awaiting the arrival of two additional MWR packages of similar quantities to facilitate other Squadron forces positioned away from the main camp.

In addition to Tiger Base, our Squadron now calls home to two separate smaller base camps spread throughout Northwest Iraq spanning a 150 mile stretch. Two Cavalry troops and one Engineer company house these two camps combined with several Iraqi Army units.

Presently, most of the Squadron logistical resources push forward daily to improve the living conditions for our troopers during this period of transformation.

Overall, Tiger Squadron rose high above the complex challenge of creating a new habitable home for our troopers.

I am very proud of the entire team effort that was put into our relocation.

In addition to the relocation of our unit, the Squadron wasted little time in planning and conducting large-scale reconnaissance in our new area of operations.

Just two weeks after our trail party arrived from central Iraq, we deployed all elements forward with the exception of one troop to gain a detailed understanding of our direct surroundings.

The six-day operation was the first of its kind in this particular area of Northwest Iraq, as the Iraqi populace hadn't seen this type of combat power since initial occupation by the 101st Airborne Division in the early stages of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Without a doubt, the squadron is a force to be reckoned. The distinct combat power of our Cavalry organization combined with the absolute professionalism and pure discipline of our troopers immediately overwhelmed the general Iraqi populace, instilling a sense of trust and confidence within the public regarding the improving security of their homeland.

This type of reconnaissance operation proved successful and has set the tone for future combat operations within our area.

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Tiger Squadron continues to demonstrate that when we receive our nation's call, we answer and execute with ease.

Rising up from the harsh challenge of a difficult move to quickly gaining perspective and intelligence in our new area of operations, the morale, commitment, and spirit of the Squadron are as high as I have ever seen – just absolutely phenomenal.

I am very proud to lead the finest troopers and leaders in today's Army. Their constant daily sacrifices and intense patriotism, combined with pure American pride, truly make our organization the strongest in the world.

I continue to ask all of our families and friends to remain patient as I will ensure that each Soldier is provided with ample opportunity to contact their loved ones.

Finally, I want to thank the entire Tiger Squadron "team" for your constant support and dedication to the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen and our great nation.

Tiger 6

'Doc' Casanova epitomizes combat medic

Mounted Rifleman Reports
Crazyhorse Troop, 1/3

Photo by Spc. Jory Randall

Sgt. Brandon 'Doc' Casanova, Crazy Troop, 1st Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, gets the attention of Iraqi children in the town of Bi-aj, Iraq, during a patrol.

In Army folklore, the combat medic always has a special place in the hearts and minds of the Soldiers they serve alongside with and provide care to on the battlefield.

The medic is often depicted in movies as providing a dosage of morphine to a dying Soldier or the anti-war troop who delivers funny anecdotes on cue.

Crazyhorse Troop has their own combat medic and he is not short of nicknames, and he is not the Hollywood version that is on screen.

"Some call him Nova, I personally call him D-cup, and others stick with the traditional favorite for a 91W series, Doc," said 1st Lt. Michael Euperio, platoon leader, Crazyhorse Troop, Tiger Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Although there may be some question as to what to address the gentle, unassuming giant of a man, there is no doubt that Sgt. Brandon Casanova excels at being a troop medic and contributes in many more facets to his unit.

'Doc' Casanova displayed his cool and calmness in the most horrific of conditions on May 28, garnering the admiration and respect of his fellow troopers.

Insurgents targeted Tiger Squadron's operating base with a coordinated car bomb attack on two of the camp's entrances.

Fortunately, the attack did not result in any U.S. military casualties, but a few Iraqi bystanders at the gates did not share the same luck.

"Unfazed by the thunderous explosions, 'Doc' Casanova proceeded to deliver medical attention to

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Photo by Spc. Jory Randall

1st Sgt. Luis Cruz, left, and Sgt. Brandon 'Doc' Casanova, Crazy Troop, 1st Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, walk the streets of Bi-aj, Iraq three days after an insurgent detonated a vehicle borne improvised explosive device. Casanova delivered medical attention to injured Iraqi citizens immediately following the blasts.

civilian wounded with an eerie coolness," Euperio said.

Other Tiger Squadron medics collectively conducted first aid and evacuated numerous casualties to local medical treatment facilities undoubtedly saving a number of Iraqi lives in the process.

"'Doc' Casanova personally spent a little over an hour in the blistering heat treating various injuries from shrapnel penetrations ranging in category from minor to life-threatening," Euperio said.

'Doc' further assisted other Iraqi citizens at the Squadron Aid Station for more minor walk-in injuries.

"Bottom line, Crazy troopers can take special comfort in knowing that their lives, if necessary, are in the hands of a well-trained and combat-tested professional," Euperio said.

'Doc' also has an integral role to the Regiment's Information Operations (IO) mission. Under IO, units spread important coalition messages to the Iraqi people regarding to voting, improving general welfare and infrastructure, and garnering coalition support.

"Like some jolly giant bringing bundles of gifts, the children flock to 'Doc' Casanova and his infectious smile," Euperio said. "It is a joy to watch him work with kids and bring happiness to lives that have been dominated by violence and instability."

Euperio mentioned while conducting Squadron operations in the contentious town of Biaj, 'Doc' dismounted with Iraqi Army soldiers and aided with a detailed village assessment focused on the medical aspects of the urban area.

'Doc' Casanova individually treated and assessed two grateful citizens with unidentified illnesses who had no access to a local doctor. His initial prognosis would allow qualified medical caregivers to fine tune and focus their treatment.

"Not only did he win the hearts and minds of local Iraqis, more importantly, he boosted the morale of all Soldiers within Crazy troop," Euperio said. "I recall many a hot afternoon where he facilitated friendly competition by spearheading a pickup game of basketball. He could also make your local video rental chain nervous with the amount of DVDs he shares with his fellow troopers."

'Doc' Casanova may not hold the reputable title of a scout, tanker, or mortar man but he definitely is a vital piece of the Crazyhorse winning team and has defined his own legacy.

"I am extremely proud to have such a capable troop medic and call him a fellow Brave Rifleman," Euperio said.

Iraqi Army assists Tiger during joint-combat operation

By Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks
NCOIC, 3d ACR Public Affairs

Coalition Forces, in conjunction with the Iraqi Army, detained 21 suspected terrorists and discovered multiple weapons caches during Operation Veterans Forward, held May 26 – June 4, in Bi-aj, Iraq.

The massive joint-combat operation involved two brigades from the 3rd Iraqi Army Division, alongside Soldiers from 1st Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment and 2-14th Cavalry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, conducted mounted and dismounted patrols, as well as a cordon and search of suspected terrorist locations across the area.

"Iraqi Army and Coalition Forces worked very well together and demonstrated good, solid fundamental skills," said Lt. Col. Gregory Reilly, commander, Tiger Squadron, 3d ACR. "The success we had during this operation would not have been possible without the supporting role of the Iraqi Army."

In separate raids, Soldiers assigned to 2-14th CAV discovered a variety of weaponry including AK-47 rifles, 30mm projectiles, 60mm mortar rounds, rocket-propelled grenades, artillery propellant and 10,000 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition.

"This operation shows that they [Iraqi Army] can certainly defend this area," said Reilly. "They proved that throughout the operation and will only get better."

Photos by Spc. Jory Randall

Iraqi Army soldiers of the 3rd Iraqi Army Division patrol the streets of Bi-aj, Iraq as part of Operation Veterans Forward. The soldiers conducted joint-combat operations alongside Tiger Squadron and 2-14th Cavalry Regiment.

3rd Iraqi Army Division soldiers assist a Tiger Squadron trooper to gather information about insurgent activity from an Iraqi citizen at Bi-aj, Iraq. The Iraqi soldiers played a pivotal role during Operation Veterans Forward in which 21 suspected terrorists were detained and multiple weapons caches were discovered.

SABRE SQUADRON

By Lt. Col. Christopher Hickey
Sabre Squadron Commander

Brave Rifles from Tall Afar! Sabre Squadron continues to fight alongside the Iraqi Army with intensity and precision in the city.

Every day we deny initiative and momentum to the enemy while broadening the coalition's base of support. The citizens of Tall Afar dream of freedom and the Troopers of Second Squadron are here to ensure that dream becomes a reality.

Recently we have been busy with two major operations, the first of which was an operation in the Sarai district of Tall Afar.

The Squadron and the Iraqi Army (IA) massed its combat power and with the help of enablers such as Tactical PSYOPS, EOD, and Civil Affairs, we were able to detain dozens of suspected insurgents and gain important insight from the populace of this troubled section of town.

Thanks to the overwhelming efforts of the squadron, the people of Tall Afar feel increasingly free to speak up against the violent and dangerous insurgency that threatens their lives and livelihoods.

The second major operation that Second Squadron and the IA conducted was in the small town of Avgani. Again, the tremendous efforts of Eagle, Fox, Grim, Heavy, Lion, and Rattler, and all of our enablers, combined to make this operation a success.

We were successful in detaining more enemy insurgents and gaining a strong foothold in Avgani.

Sadly, during our offensive operations in Sarai, we lost a valued member of the Sabre team. Lt. Col. Terrence Crowe, assigned to the 1st Brigade Military Transition Team (MiTT), was killed by enemy fire as he patrolled the streets of Tall Afar with the Iraqi Army.

In spite of the best efforts of both the Iraqi soldiers on the scene and our own expert combat medics, Crowe did not survive his injuries.

Along with the rest of the 1st Bde. MiTT, Lt. Col. Crowe's job was to help train, assist, and supply the Iraqi Army so that it can one day be fully independent.

As an attachment to the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen and a member of the Sabre team, Lt. Col. Crowe provided invaluable support to our efforts. His contributions, and his sacrifice, will never be forgotten by those of us who were privileged to serve with him.

I have had the honor of bestowing upon him the Order of the Spur, posthumously, as a small expression of the squadron's overwhelming gratitude for his service to our country.

Our missions in Avgani and Sarai may be complete, but our duty to the people of Tall Afar continues. We will not rest in our efforts, nor falter in our commitment to victory. Ai-ee-yah!

Sabre 6

The citizens of Tall Afar dream of freedom and the Troopers of Second Squadron are here to ensure that dream becomes reality.

Cavalry couple redefines air-ground integration

By 1st Lt. Andrew Scott
PAO, 2/3

Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Hickey, commander of Second "Sabre" Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, knows the value of air support.

"Air-ground integration," he asserts, "is what separates the Cavalry from other combat units. It gives us the ability to see and act on information with great agility and mass a lot of combined arms firepower quickly."

For Captains Mike and Sarah Piro, who were married in September 2004, air-ground integration has taken on an even deeper significance.

Mike is the executive officer of Fox Troop, 2/3 ACR, while Sarah is a Kiowa Warrior helicopter pilot and platoon leader with Outlaw Troop, 4/3 ACR.

Because Outlaw Troop has been assigned to habitually support 2nd Squadron, the Captains Piro recently found themselves conducting a combat operation simultaneously—on the same battlefield.

Early in the morning on May 20, the troops of Sabre Squadron were preparing for a major operation in Tal Afar. Mike was with Fox Troop in a Bradley Fighting Vehicle inside the city, while Sarah was scheduled to conduct aerial reconnaissance above the city.

When Sarah took to the air, she couldn't make contact with anyone in the Squadron—except her husband. "She couldn't get radio comms with Sabre, so I had to relay," Mike said.

"Everybody hollers when they hear them talking on the radio," said First Sergeant Lynn Bradley of Fox Troop, who suggested that Mike spoke especially tenderly on the radio with his better half.

Throughout the mission, the Piros were in

See **PIROS,** Page 14

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Captains Mike and Sarah Piro, both assigned to the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, share a moment together. The couple conducted a combat operation together in late May, one by air, the other by ground, taking air-ground integration to a new meaning.

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periodic communication. "We talked directly several times," said Mike, "I got her to look at some areas [in the city] that I was worried about."

The mission, which resulted in the detention of numerous personnel who were suspected of having ties with the insurgency in Tal Afar, was deemed a success by Hickey for both Sabre Squadron and the Piros.

The significance of having a husband and wife team working hand-in-hand on the battlefield is not lost on the Squadron. "As far as I know, this is a Regimental first—if not a first in the Army," said Maj. John Wilwerding, executive officer of 2/3 ACR. "We've got one in the air, and one on the ground, and they're coordinating operations on the radio."

Hickey has no hesitation about having both halves of a marriage under his command on a common battlefield.

"They are both very professional and focused on the mission," he says. "[Captain Sarah Piro] is one of the best pilots and Cavalry leaders in the squadron…[and] Mike is an equally respected combat leader."

The Piros, who met as cadets at West Point, are both on their second deployment to Iraq. They are adamant that the situation has no impact on their operations.

"We pretty much just do our jobs," said Mike, though both readily admitted that being deployed together was preferable to the last deployment, during their engagement, when they spent nearly a year apart.

"It's much better," said Sarah, 26, who has clocked nearly 700 hours of combat flying time. She was with Outlaw Troop for her first deployment to Iraq in 2003, while Mike, 25, is the newcomer to the Cavalry. He was assigned to 2-8 Infantry out of Fort Hood, Texas for his previous deployment.

When asked how Mike is adjusting to the Cavalry, Sarah quickly responded, "He's doing fine," but after stealing a glance from her husband across the table, she revised her statement: "no, he's fabulous."

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Pfc. Adam White, Eagle Troop, Sabre Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, lands a punch to the chin of Pfc. DeJuan 'Too cool for school' Franklin, during the unit's boxing smoker held June 3.

Boxing smoker no joke

By Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks
NCOIC, 3d ACR Public Affairs

Some jokes can go just a tad bit too far, but in some cases for the good. What started off as a joke from one Soldier to another; led to a huge sporting entertainment event in the Iraqi desert.

It wasn't the "Thrilla' in Manila," but troopers of Eagle Troop, Sabre Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment brought the "Beat down at sun down" in a boxing smoker held at Camp Sykes June 3 before a crowd of nearly 300 fans.

The event snowballed after Pfc. Jason Foltz challenged Sgt. 1st Class Ron Bates to a fight while the two were joking around along with other troopers in the unit.

"I told him I wouldn't take him up on his offer, but volunteered Pvt. [David] Stotenburg to handle my dirty work for me," Bates said. "After that a little verbal trash

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talking took place and we set up a date for the fight to take place in three weeks on my birthday."

Bates admitted he had no idea what was going to happen next as word spread about the pending bout between the two challengers. Before he knew it, the Norfolk, Virginia native said the event became bigger than what he'd expected and the joke became serious.

"I had Soldiers approaching me everyday within the unit wanting to sign up and box," said Bates, an avid boxing fan who has never stepped into a ring as a fighter. "So we started putting up flyers to promote the event around the FOB."

He began soliciting for help through the MWR staff, firefighters from the Fire Department and medical support personnel from Medical Troop.

A risk assessment was done prior to the bouts which were scheduled for three three-minute rounds and each boxer had to fight an opponent within their weight class.

"We had two Soldiers who wanted to fight in which there was 40-pound weight difference," Bates said. "Both agreed to fight, so I wasn't going to stop a good fight."

As the days drew closer to the event the boxers, all assigned to Eagle Troop, began practicing their pugil skills for the big event.

All had limited or no boxing experience, but it didn't matter for the fiery competitors ready to draw or taste first blood in the ring.

Two buddies, Pfc. Dejuan 'Too Cool for School' Franklin and Pfc. Adam White, squared off in the ring. Both the cavalry scouts decided to fight just for fun. Leading up to the fight White admitted it was hard to get mad at his opponent because they were good friends.

But after absorbing a straight jab from Franklin, the Dublin, New Hampshire native, nearly had a change of heart.

"After Franklin connected on me, I got a little mad," White said.

A little anger led White to a unanimous judges' decision over Franklin.

"He wants a rematch but I don't think I'll give it to him," White said.

The boxing smoker was a great opportunity to lift the morale of the Soldiers and also for them to build their courage and confidence, according to Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Horsley, Sabre Squadron command sergeant major.

"It's a good way for them to unwind, relax and forget about the real world situation out here," Horsley said. "I wish I would have thought of this idea myself. We have to do more events like this to improve the Soldiers morale.

"Also, it takes a lot of personal courage to fight and prove themselves among other Soldiers. They know they're fighting for pride, they represent their unit and they represent their platoons."

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Pfc. Lloyd Hall, left, and Pfc. Jorge Sedillo, hug each other following their bout in which Hall won. Both troopers, assigned to Eagle Troop, fought in the most popular fight of the boxing event. Coming into the ring 40 pounds lighter than Sedillo, Hall rallied for the decision after being knocked down in the first round. After each fight, all of the Soldiers embraced each other as a show of camaraderie.

Above: 9:42 a.m. - Sgt. Craig Meeks, left, and Spc. Guadelupe Lopez, awaits for the word to move out, as Lopez enjoys breakfast consisting of cold oatmeal and water. Right: 10:25 a.m. - An Iraqi citizen tipster is carefully camouflaged and concealed before leading Grim Troop Soldiers to the house where a suspected insurgent lives in the city of Tall Afar, Iraq.

"It's time to go," said Capt. Matthew Howell, commander, Grim Troop, Sabre Squadron, 3d ACR. And with those words the quest begins to capture a suspected terrorist.

Left: 12:06 p.m. - Capt. Matthew Howell, left, gives instructions to his troopers after dismounting from his Bradley Fighting Vehicle. He informs his Soldiers the tipster will lead them to the house of the suspected insurgent.

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Above: 12:15 p.m. - Grim Troop Soldiers enter the courtyard of the suspected insurgent after the house was positively identified by the Iraqi tipster. Upon entering the courtyard, the troopers search for weapons, improvised explosive device making material and other illegal contraband.
Right: 12:47 a.m. - The suspected insurgent is detained to be transported for future questioning. IED making material was found at the suspect's home during the raid.

"No shots fired is always good,"

Howell said after the raid. "The local citizens of Tall Afar are tired of the violence and are telling us where the bad guys are."

THUNDER SQUADRON

By Lt. Col. Ross A. Brown
Thunder Squadron Commander

Dear friends and family members of the Thunder Team, greetings from Baghdad! The Squadron diligently continues its hard work in our area in true Cavalry fashion.

We have been very busy since I wrote you last. We sadly saw the rest of the Regiment move north to answer a call for help along the Syrian border and areas west of Mosul.

This past month, we fought with the 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, where we were spread out all across South Baghdad, from the Euphrates to the Tigris, after relieving Tiger Squadron from their area of operations, allowing them to move north with the Regiment.

Fortunately, they left Predator Battery and 2nd Platoon, 43rd Engineers with us for 30 days to work alongside Ironhawk Troop in protecting the skies around Baghdad International Airport and ensuring that our Main Supply Route Tampa was clear of enemy activity.

Recently, with the 48th Brigade Combat Team, from the Georgia Army National Guard, arriving, we have reverted back to our initial area of operations south of Baghdad.

The days fly by out here as the tempo of our operations across our far-flung area is consistently high.

That said if there is one message that I need to convey, it is the unrelenting high spirits of our Soldiers. They are undeterred by the harshness of the fighting and the casualties amongst their comrades.

They clearly convey a greater appreciation of their life and of the love that they share with their families, that does so much to sustain them as we move forward in this test of wills between us and the enemy.

The connection with home — with their reasons for being here now engaged in this fight — are seen in the pictures of you, their wives, children, siblings, parents and friends that they carry in their helmets, pockets, notebooks and Bibles.

Their faith remains strong and serves as the bulwark that it always is, and their humor is clearly intact as their smiles greet me on my rounds.

While they dearly miss home, the already strong bonds with each other out here have grown even stronger, and together we will come through all this.

Our operations have seen many successes. Thunder Squadron dispersed across Southern Baghdad and along the Tigris River continues to take the fight to the enemy every day.

Our four casualties have been heartbreaking, yet nothing is weakening our Soldiers' resolve. Daily we

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Our four casualties have been **heartbreaking,** yet nothing is weakening our Soldiers' resolve. Daily we grow **stronger** and the enemy grows weaker.

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grow stronger and the enemy grows weaker.

In the complex environment in which we operate, the Cavalry's generosity of spirit, their guardianship of their buddies, and their steadfastness in the face of adversity are the things that will ultimately build our families, our communities and our Nation into even greater examples of all that is good.

The character of these fine young warriors is something to behold as I get to see each day. Yet I recognize that you don't get to see this reassuring presence and the best I can do is to try to articulate their strengths with these few awkward words.

I hope that you hear from your loved ones through letters or maybe e-mail or perhaps an occasional phone call so you can know what I see every day.

The enemy hides behind his bombs, and the alarm in the newspapers and on TV that accompanies such activities must be very worrisome to you and to all our families.

Rest assure that there is no pressure on us to act hastily or move faster in our operations than we believe is prudent — no one is pushing us to do things that require us to sacrifice good judgment.

We are methodical in our approach, first getting the best possible information, then setting up the best possible support for each operation, and only then prosecuting our mission, but with keen attention to any possible enemy surprise.

Coupled with the prayers and support of you at home — you who represent to us what really matters in this world — we could not be in better company as we fight.

Please take care of each other and know that our high spirits and deepest prayers are with every one of you. I want to thank each and every family member for their love and support. Just as I know your thoughts are with us, our thoughts are also with you.

Thunder 6

Thunder grieves loss of troopers

By Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks
NCOIC, 3d ACR Public Affairs

In the Army mottos are more than just words that Soldiers sound off when called to attention – they are also the fabric which unites individuals into a team.

'Everybody fights, nobody quits,' is the rallying cry for members of Red Platoon, Lightning Troop assigned to Thunder Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment.

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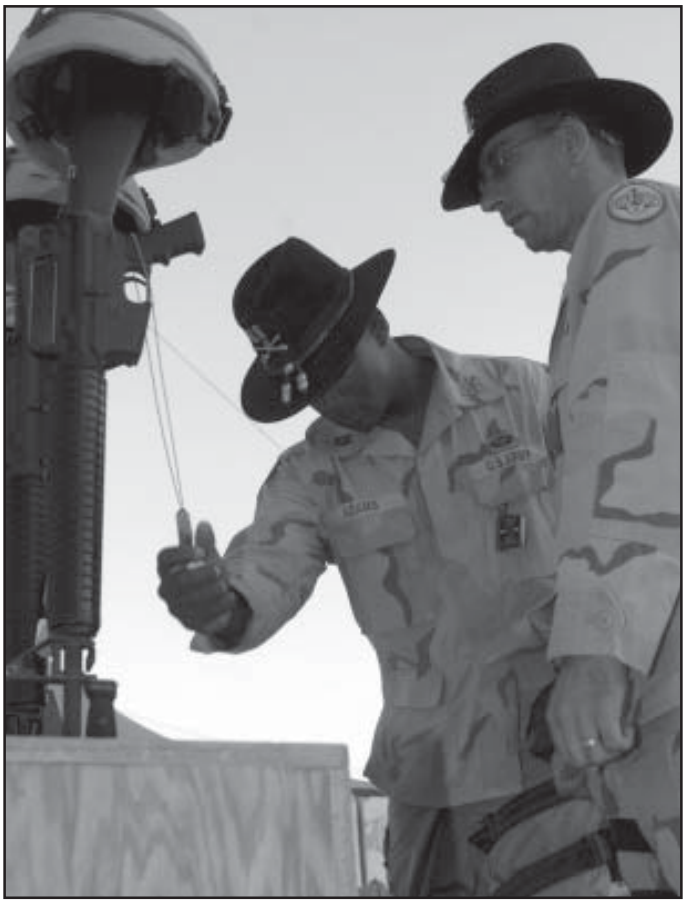

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Capt. Freddy Adams, left, Lightning Troop commander, Thunder Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, graps the identification tags of one of his fallen troopers as 1st Sgt. Duane Smith looks on during a memorial service held at FOB Falcon, Iraq.

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Those words epitomized three fallen troopers honored during a memorial service held June 9 at Forward Operating Base Falcon.

Staff Sergeant Justin Vasquez, Spc. Eric Poelman and Pfc. Brian Ulbrich were killed in action June 5 while coming to the aid of their fellow soldiers along a small patch of road in Iraq known as route Bug, by an improvised explosive device.

"We come here today to honor the lives of those three Brave and selfless men," said Capt. Freddy Adams, Lightning Troop company commander. "Those leaders, soldiers, and friends who have touched our lives in profound ways, whose memories are indelibly, etched upon our hearts and minds, those men who have made us better men through the privilege of serving with them."

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Sgt. David Costello, left, medic, Lightning Troop, Thunder Squadron, 3d ACR, sheds tears for his fallen comrades following the memorial service for Staff Sgt. Justin Vasquez, Spc. Eric Poelman and Pfc. Brian Ulbrich as Sgt. Gary Baty tries to comfort him. Costello tried to give medical assistance to the slain troopers after they were hit by an improvised explosive device.

One by one, memories and fond reflections of each man was delivered to the grieving audience by 1st Lt. Michael Smith, Red Platoon leader, Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Barteau, Red Platoon platoon sergeant and Sgt. David Selby, Red Platoon member.

Smith recalled how Vasquez, affectionately nicknamed Rooster, had a love for Corvettes and his family.

"His passions were for his family and his car," Smith said. "His room was covered in pictures of his wife and son. The rest of the space on his walls dedicated to his 81' Corvette.

"After spending a day talking about his car you could tell his love for it, but when the conversation went on, it inevitably turned to what he loved more, which was his family back home."

Smith added Vasquez loved his wife Riley and son Justin to no end.

Following Smith, Barteau delivered remarks about the Soldier who always had a smile on his face and a funny remark to bring light to any situation.

"It is difficult to put someone's life into a few minutes, especially someone like Eric Poelman," Barteau said. "He brightened the lives of every person he came into contact with. He brought joy and laughter. He brought love and friendship; he brought himself."

Poelman is survived by his wife Renate.

The final tribute went to the proud native West Virginian nicknamed 'Brick.' Ulbrich was remembered as a trooper who loved everything and anyone from his home state.

"We always had to sit so he had a view of whatever sporting event or race that was on as we ate chow," Selby said. "No matter who was playing or who was racing he new every West Virginian that was participating. Brick would always let you know he was a country boy and damn proud of it."

All three men had different backgrounds and different reasons for joining the Army, but all died as teammates together as one. Adams challenged the troopers in his command to continue on with the difficult mission despite the loss of Vasquez, Poelman and Ulbrich.

"We know that in times of war that sometimes good men die, but that death cannot kill their memory," Adams said with conviction in his voice. "As we continue on with this mission, we will honor our fallen brethren by doing as they would do. All us will fight, none of us will quit."

Phelps remembered as silent professional

By Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks
NCOIC, 3rd ACR Public Affairs

If leadership was all about screaming and yelling, then Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Phelps did not portray that example. Instead, he was the silent kind who'd rather let his actions represent his leadership style.

And it was his actions on June 23 following an improvised explosive device attack on his vehicle in northern Baghdad which exemplified Phelps as a man and the epitome of what a platoon sergeant should be.

The 18-year Army veteran was remembered in a memorial service conducted by Thunder Squadron at FOB Falcon on June 29. Phelps was killed as a result of the IED, but while lying mortally wounded, he was concerned more for his driver than his own self.

"I hope we all could be as brave and selfless as Sergeant Phelps was after being mortally wounded," said Lt. Col. Ross Brown, 3d Squadron commander, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. "As he lay on the road, he tried to calm those who were attending to his wounds and asking them the status of the other troopers in the damaged vehicle."

Phelps, from Louisville, Ky., was affectionately known by his troopers as 'Daddy' for his fatherly image and love for every Soldier in his platoon. But mostly he was remembered as a silent professional who always got the job done when called for duty.

"Sergeant Phelps never talked a lot…at least…not to me," said Capt. Scott Seidel, Ironhawk Troop commander. "But he never had to. To me, he was the kind of guy that when he talked, you better listen, because it was important."

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Two Thunder Squadron troopers pay their final respects to Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Phelps at the slain Soldier's memorial service held at FOB Falcon on June 29.

Seidel continued praising Phelps as a devout family man to his wife Bobbi and children Cloud, Raeseana and Jeyavani, and his son Christian.

"You knew Sergeant Phelps was a great man when you would see him with his family," Seidel said. "Whenever they were with him – at the Christmas party or another troop function… his kids were right next to him the whole time and he seemed so proud of them… He loved his family and they loved him back. And that love extended to his Soldiers and we loved him back."

As a new platoon leader to Ironhawk Troop, Fourth Platoon, 2nd Lt. Justin Smith shared with the audience how he'd lost his mentor, leader, platoon sergeant and friend.

Trying to hold back his tears was a difficult task for the young officer, but he found the courage to speak about Phelps' role in developing him as a leader.

"I can remember Sergeant Phelps taking me under his wing when I first came to the platoon as a great platoon sergeant does," Smith said. "In just five months, he has made such a difference in my life. He gave me strength when I was down, I knew I could always bring problems to him or share good times."

As the heart and soul of his platoon, Phelps' death left a major void, one now taken up by Staff Sgt. Shawn Cannon, who assumed platoon sergeant duties.

Cannon admitted upon addressing his fellow troopers that delivering Phelps eulogy was the hardest thing he'd ever had to do.

"Five minutes with him and you would never forget him," Cannon said. "I look up to him, I respect him, and I care for him like a brother. I know that Sergeant Phelps would want Bobbi and the kids to know that he loved them more than anything in the world, and for fourth platoon to keep their heads up."

As the rank and file of Troopers in Thunder Squadron marched to pay their final respects to their fallen comrade, each silently said a prayer and saluted Phelps memory.

The silent professional, Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Wade Phelps, wouldn't have had it any other way.

LONGKNIFE SQUADRON

By Lt. Col. Douglass Pavek
Longknife Squadron Commander

Game On! As school winds down and the summer begins to wind up at home, summer is taking hold here and promises to bring hot days and warm nights. As always I hope this newsletter finds you all doing well and well on your way to an exciting summer!

I write to you this month from our newest Forward Operating Base (FOB), FOB Sykes.

With the exception of R Troop and selected AH-64D maintainers from T Troop and AVIM who have remained with 3rd Infantry Division at Camp Taji, all of our troopers made it north to FOB Sykes by various means throughout the end of last month.

Upon arrival the Squadron was set to work as we assumed our newest missions and area of operation (AO). FOB Sykes was a little austere when we arrived and while housing and MWR facilities are not perfect, there are improvements around the FOB abound.

Since our arrival the Soldiers have made do with the facilities that exist here and have begun patiently waiting for the promised improvements.

While the wide open spaces for running provide great opportunities for much needed PT, the amenities and accommodations leave much to be desired.

With the crowded living conditions now slightly alleviated by the arrival of bunk beds our Soldiers are now literally living on top of each other.

After weeks and weeks of waiting, the PX is finally open and Stetson can now be alleviated of the responsibilities of doing the squadrons' shopping on their nightly log runs.

Within the next few months we look forward to the arrival of our new MWR Center which will offer a large Internet and phone center along with a library, weight room, gymnasium and an Amphitheater for viewing movies during the evenings.

As our northwestern AO was established and our mission was solidified, we began to see a lot of changes within the Squadron.

Our battle space is large, and more now then ever, the Squadron will have an opportunity to have a huge impact on the Regiment's mission and the successful development of Iraq and its Police force.

Because of the size of the AO – members of the Squadron have pushed forward to better support the Regiment and the ground squadrons.

Nomad maintains limited living quarters at FOB Sykes, and returns often for maintenance and some good food, but operates and lives predominately with its supported ground squadron at FOB Stark.

Members of HHT and T Troop have pushed out as well to provide forward arming and refueling points to our aircrews. As always the fuelers and armament techs provide the necessities to our aircrews and enable the Squadron to conduct its missions.

Outlaw and Pegasus have both been hard at work – providing air coverage to Sabre Squadron and 2-14th Cavalry respectively.

Their mission is tough and demands courage as the aircrews fly in close support to the ground elements. As always the troopers of HHT, T Troop, and AVIM troop have been working overtime to support our aggressive flight and ground operations.

Stetson continues to perform exceptionally well providing transportation and enabling battlefield circulation throughout this vast AO – while flying over 700 hours a month.

As I praise the troopers of this fine Squadron I would like to welcome the newest members of our team.

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This month we welcome a new Ground Reconnaissance Troop, Quickstrike Troop, as well as a Radar team, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) platoon and Air Traffic Controllers (ATC) to Fourth Squadron.

I would like to welcome each of the new troopers to the Longknife Taskforce and urge the FRG to welcome the families of our newest comrades.

The newly founded Ground Reconnaissance Troop, "Quickstrike" is still under construction but will be composed of our Striker Platoon, an Avenger platoon, a HQ platoon and a large Iraqi Platoon – that is currently being developed from hand picked Iraqi soldiers and officers.

Quickstrike will have an enormous impact on the Squadron's ability to patrol, recon and action troops within our AO.

The Squadron is excited to welcome the troopers and their families to the team, and looks forward to the implementation of this new and diverse Troop – the only one of it's kind, dedicated to the Regimental mission.

The Radar team, attached to us from Tiger Squadron, provides much needed radar support and has already had a vast impact on the Squadron.

The UAV platoon, from 3rd Inf. Div. has also already had a substantial effect on the Squadron – they bring to the table a unique reconnaissance platform that will continue to provide the Squadron with visibility on the enemy.

TheATCs have in a few short weeks established an airfield control authority – that is now capable of receiving and deconflicting all of our helicopters as well as multiple Air Force fixed wing aircraft.

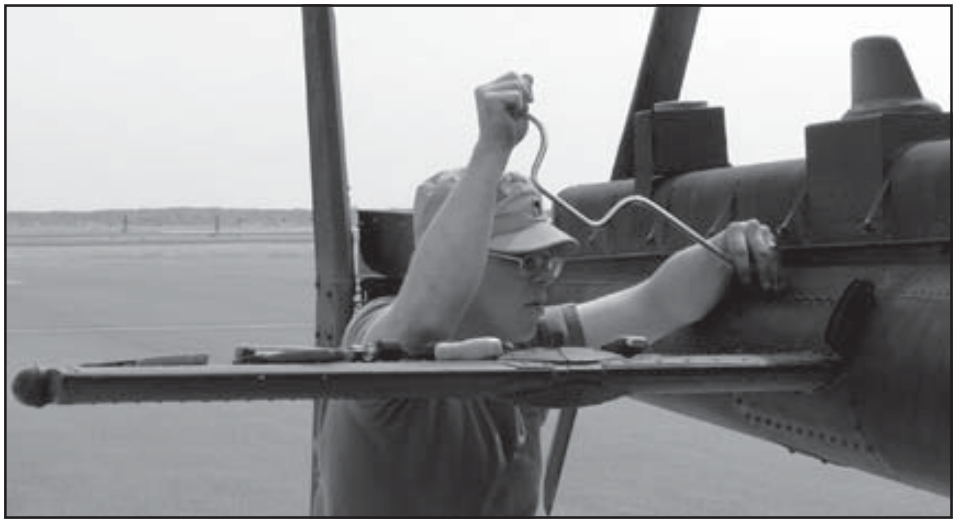
Our time here in Iraq has started to move quickly, it's hard to believe that we're already working on our fourth month here.

With the anticipation and excitement for our new mission – time is passing even quicker. The knowledge and the visible signs that we are having a positive impact on this country help ease the separation from family and friends.

As always, I remain proud of all our Troopers and all they are doing in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Until next month, from all of us here, best wishes to all and please enjoy your summer. We all look forward to the postcards and pictures from summer trips and vacations!

Longknife 6



Courtesy photo

Space sprocket

Spc. Jason Coffman, an OH-58D Kiowa Warrior crew chief from Outlaw Troop, uses a speed wrench to conduct service on the helicopter.

MULESKINNER SQUADRON

By Lt. Col. Richard O'Connor
Support Squadron Commander

Dear Muleskinner family and friends, the Support Squadron is finally settling into a battle rhythm at FOB Sykes, Iraq.

We deployed to FOB Sykes a month ago from Camp Striker on the outskirts of Baghdad where we had conducted several operations for about a month.

Since we hit the ground we have been extremely busy conducting a multitude of sustainment operations throughout the Brave Rifles Area of Operations.

Leading the way is Packhorse, the workhorse for supply and transportation, whose troopers have the primary mission of conducting Combat Logistics Patrols in support of our two ground cavalry squadrons, Tiger and Sabre.

They have completed over 50 patrols to date. It is absolutely impressive to see them in action every day getting the supplies ready and preparing for the convoy.

Bullwhip is doing an awesome job running the Base Defense Operations Center. They have taken on the very important mission of securing and protecting the largest forward operating base in the 3rd ACR area of operations.

This is no easy task and requires ordinary troopers and NCOs, who yesterday were cooks and mechanics, but who are now providing command and control of security at one entry control point and several towers along a 14-mile perimeter.

It is quite impressive to see them adapt and overcome these challenges and in the end we sleep well at night knowing that Bullwhip is out cracking the whip!

Chemdawg has produced excellent results with their two-fold mission of Convoy Security and Detainee Operations.

The Regiment has relied on them to run the

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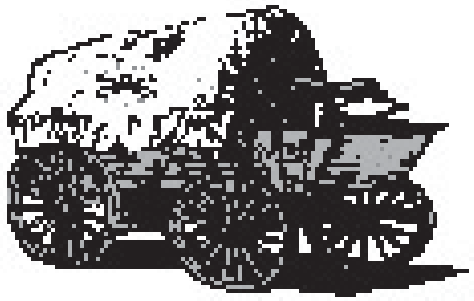
Since we hit the ground we have been extremely busy conducting a multitude of sustainment operations throughout the Brave Rifles Area of Operations.



Mail call

Spc. Theresa Rojas, Headquarters, Headquarters Troop, Support Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, prepares mail to be distributed to Soldiers throughout Muleskinner.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Rose Lindsey

MULESKINNER from Page 24

highest standards of detention operations providing the important intelligence gathering that has led the Regiment to a high level of success in stopping the insurgency in the Multinational Division Northwest.

The Recon platoon continues to lead the convoy security detachment and quick reaction force for the Squadron and has kept our logistics patrols secure for many miles.

Blacksmith is totally engaged with maintenance operations and the Cavalry Support Teams are hard at work with their respective line squadrons.

Scalpel is running a "state of the art" Troop Medical Facility and is treating several local nationals from the surrounding communities and continues to provide the highest standard of medical care anywhere.

Air Raider is working side by side with Longknife providing dedicated aviation maintenance operations.

Recently the Forward Support Platoon was instrumental in recovering a downed Kiowa OH-58D where both the crew and aircraft were returned to base safe and sound.

Air Raider is currently operating at two locations; FOB Sykes and Taji. Eighteen soldiers from Air Raider are augmenting Renegade Troop (AH-64) with world class direct support aviation maintenance to maintain the operational readiness of these combat systems.

We had the unique pleasure of a special guest visit from world famous country western singer, Toby Keith. He took time out for pictures with Soldiers, autographs and even had lunch with several Muleskinner troopers.

He took stage and played some of his most famous songs such as "Beer for my Horses" and "American Soldier."

On one final note, Scalpel will be conducting a change of command on July 2. Capt. Dan Liedl will assume command from Capt. Brian Wallace.

Capt. Wallace has done an outstanding job these past two years and the troopers and leaders of Mulskinner will miss this commander. I have the utmost confidence that Capt. Liedl will command this troop at the same high standards.

Muleskinner 6

Iraqi citizens treated at Army aid station

Medical Troop personnel adapts wartime mission during OIF III, care for injured civilians, children

By Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks
NCOIC, 3d ACR Public Affairs

Treating injured Soldiers on the battlefield is the primary mission for medical personnel deployed in a combat zone.

But when the battlefield extends to the streets and neighborhoods of the civilian population, medical personnel are faced with a different challenge.

Soldiers assigned to Medical Troop, Support Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment were faced with this scenario after six injured Iraqi civilians were medically evacuated to Troop Medical Clinic on Camp Sykes for treatment following a mortar attack June 15, in Tall Afar, Iraq. Two of the wounded were children.

The attack took place one day after several Sheiks and Tall Afar community leaders publicly agreed to work together and denounced all terrorists' activity in the city in a news conference.

"They were treated for blast and shrapnel wounds," said Staff Sgt. Frank Herring, aid station noncommissioned officer in charge, Medical Troop. "One patient required surgery and the others received basic triage and trauma care. For the most part, they're doing well right now."

Medical personnel at the Aid Station were anticipating more than 20 wounded victims to arrive and had treatment teams ready in place to provide triage.

Herring mentioned there was an abundance of personnel on hand to deal with the possibility of mass casualties.

Immediately as the patients arrived, the Soldiers conducted triage and began first aid to the injured by cleaning and dressing wounds, performing X-rays and surgery.

"This is a big switch from the last time we were deployed here," said Sgt. Joshua Peters, shift leader, Medical Troop. "We have to medically adapt to the nature of the injuries because they are different with civilians and children."

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Sgt. Lily Boaz, medical specialist, left, and Maj. Vincent Leto, chief nurse, monitors the status of an Iraqi girl injured from a mortar attack on June 15. Six Iraqi civilians, including two children, were transported to the Troop Medical Facility following the attack for medical care.

Herring added during Operation Iraqi Freedom I, the medical staff primarily treated U.S. Soldiers and enemy wounded.

However because of the increased attacks on innocent civilians and children by terrorists, the treatment is entirely different in the Aid Station.

Also the Medical Troop has a pediatrician assigned to the unit which is a huge bonus, according to Herring.

"The hardest part is when children are caught up by the attacks," Herring said. "It bothers us all differently, but we're completely dedicated to give first rate care to the Iraqi citizens."

REMINGTON TROOP

By Capt. David Olsen
Remington Troop Commander

Dear Remington Families, it is an honor to speak to all of you for the first time as the new Remington Troop Commander. Col. McMaster passed the guidon to me on June 12 as Capt. Rozelle departed for his new assignment at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in our nation's capitol, where he will be helping many of our brave wounded Soldiers recover and continue their lives.

I have already spent several years in the Regiment, first as a lieutenant in Thunder Squadron, and then returning last fall to work in the Regimental Tactical Operations Center for the first three months of our deployment to Iraq.

I am thrilled to have to the opportunity to command this great Troop, and I look forward to providing all of you with the latest developments and news from our important mission here in Iraq.

The summer months here in Northern Iraq are bringing more of the sun and heat that we have all come to expect, but life at Camp Sykes continues to improve. More living quarters, or "CHUs" (Containerized Housing Units), have opened up as the previous unit moved out of the camp, allowing our Troopers some room to spread out.

The PX is now open, so we have a place to buy the basic necessities, along with books, magazines, drinks, and snacks. In addition to the large fitness center already set up on the camp, the headquarters platoon has built a small gym on the roof of our command post so the troops can get in a quick workout during lunch or after a long day.

Our maintenance section has also moved to a new location inside an old airplane hanger so they can work on vehicles under a roof that protects them from the hot sun.

Within the month, we expect to open our new Tactical Operations Center in a large air conditioned building with individual offices for each of the staff sections. Shortly after that, construction will be completed on a large MWR facility that will include an indoor basketball court and a full-size movie theater..

1st Sgt. Rodney Greene, who recently took on the role of Mayor of Camp Sykes, is constantly working with civilian contractors to make life more pleasant for our Troopers.

While most of us spend the majority of our days inside the Camp Sykes perimeter, many Remington Troopers are taking part in operations in towns and villages throughout the region.

The Personal Security Detachment works tirelessly every day to protect our leaders as they travel around the area of operations to visit our troops in the field. The logistics specialists in our S4 section continue to bring much-needed supplies to our camp. Our signal personnel work long hours to ensure that we can communicate with units spread across northern Iraq.

And our civil affairs teams meet regularly Iraqi leaders, security forces, and local citizens to help rebuild this part of the country. The rest of the Troop spend long hours making sure that these Soldiers, and the Squadrons that we support, have the latest intelligence, the equipment, and the vehicles they need to get the job done.

Our team continues to work hard to support the Regimental Commander and all the Troopers of our Regiment.

I am proud of the effort that all of our Soldiers are putting into this mission here in Iraq. I hope that you are all enjoying a restful summer back home.

We truly appreciate all the gifts that you have shared with us to help make life a little better, especially the countless letters of love and support – thank you for everything that you do! Brave Rifles!

Remington 6

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Capt. David Olsen, incoming commander, Remington Troop, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, accepts the unit's guidon from Col. H.R. McMaster, commander, 3d ACR, and assume command of the Troop. Capt. David Rozelle, outgoing commander, departed for an assignment at Walter Reed Army Medical Center

Remington in Olsen's hands

By Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks
NCOIC, 3d ACR Public Affairs

On a warm Sunday sunset in the Iraqi desert, Capt. David Rozelle bid farewell to the troopers he led for one year as the commander of Headquarters, Headquarters Troop, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, June 12 at Camp Sykes, Iraq.

In traditional Army custom, the guidon representing the unit's colors was passed from Col. H.R. McMaster, 3d ACR commander, to incoming Remington Troop Commander, Capt. Dave Olsen, and ending Rozelle's tenure as Remington 6.

Olsen was introduced by McMaster as no officer better qualified to lead the unit of more than 200 troopers in combat.

"Sun Tsu had it right 2,500 years ago when he wrote that, 'Leadership is a matter of intelligence, trustworthiness, humaneness, courage and sternness," McMaster said. "Captain Olsen possesses all those qualities."

The Baltimore, Md. native is serving his second stint with 3d ACR where he served as a tank platoon leader, scout platoon leader, Headquarters Troop executive officer and Adjutant in Thunder Squadron.

"Colonel McMaster, sir, thank you for the opportunity to command this fine organization while we are deployed in support of combat operations here in Iraq," said Olsen. "Troopers of Remington, I pledge to work every day to continue to improve this great Troop so that we can complete our critical mission here in Iraq and return home safely to our families."

See **REMINGTON,** Page 29

REMINGTON from Page 28

Rozelle departs Remington Troop after making Army history as the first amputee to return to a combat zone as a commander of troops. As commander of K Troop, 3rd Squadron, 3d ACR, Rozelle suffered a serious injury while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in June 2003.

After months of sometimes agonizing rehabilitation Rozelle overcame his setback was selected at Remington's commander in June 2004.

"In addition to rehabilitating his troop, Captain Rozelle also rehabilitated his own body," McMaster said. "In doing so, he set an example for all of us and demonstrated that determination and toughness will allow us to overcome adversity."

Rozelle, a native Texan, leaves the Regiment of Mounted Rifleman to assume duties as the leader of the amputee program at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

"His triumphant return to Iraq will inspire other brave Soldiers as they fight personal battles to overcome adversity and recover from wounds suffered on the field of battle," McMaster said. "Captain Rozelle, it has been a privilege to serve with you. You will always be a member of the Brave Rifles."

Looking out at the troopers assembled before him in formation, Rozelle addressed the Soldiers he once commanded for the last time and began his speech.

"Troopers of Remington, when I tell you that it has been an honor to serve as your commander, I am not just passing pleasantries," Rozelle said. "Two years ago this month, I almost lost my life on the battlefield here in Iraq. As I redeployed, I was broken because I believed that I would never again serve in uniform."

Rozelle expressed it was his desire and goal to return to Iraq as a commander and thanked his troopers for their patience for putting up with the constant barrage of television cameras, news crews and TDY trips as he told his story to the nation.

He also mentioned the many accomplishments the unit garnered during his tenure in command and he answered a question posed to him once about leaving his troop while deployed to Iraq.

"The thing I love about command is that you have the ability to take care of Soldiers," Rozelle said. "That is the reason we command. My new job is not just about taking care of Soldiers for 12 months, or two years.

"It is about making a difference in someone's life that will last a lifetime. There are over 300 amputees from this war, and I am going to go back and help them."

After publicly thanking those who supported him during his long journey back to Iraq, Rozelle was satisfied and felt his mission was accomplished.

"Although I am leaving this command, I am, in a sense, going to a new command that directly supports the war," Rozelle said. "I am proud to continue to serve."

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Capt. David Olsen, commander, Remington Troop, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, stands before his troopers as their new commander during the Change of Command ceremony held June 12 on Camp Sykes, Iraq. Olsen previously served in Thunder Squadron as tank platoon leader, scout platoon leader, troop executive officer and as the Adjutant.

ROZELLE
U.S.ARM

Destiny Fulfilled

Capt. David Rozelle's triumphant return to Iraq after nearly losing his life two years ago came to an end with his Change of Command ceremony.

By Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

I clearly remember my first encounter with Capt. David Rozelle and initially I did not like him. Upon inprocessing at Remington Troop, the fellow Texan yelled for me to come into his office and asked me where in the hell had I been? I wasn't finished inprocessing on Fort Carson and I thought to myself, being a senior noncommissioned officer, how does this captain think he can talk to me like I'm a private. It wasn't until later that day I discovered who he was and the path he'd traveled in preparation for our deployment to Iraq. Days later, I sat in his house with him during one of many media sessions I'd soon be accompanying him on, and that's when I truly realized the man who I was ready to follow into combat with - any time, any where. His story is one of inspiration to the Soldiers serving our country, his story is one of dealing with adversity and his story is one of personal courage. He became my 'Media Darling' as I often called him, but more than that, he became a friend. I sat down with him the night before he left Iraq after relinquishing his command to get his final thoughts after serving in the Regiment of Mounted Cavalrymen.

Photo by Craig Walker

Q – Describe what thoughts were in your mind during your final moments and hours in command of Remington Troop?

A – I've been in this Regiment since our country has been at war and I've been completely dedicated to the war effort and to the Regiment. To leave while this war is still going on and while we're making great progress in Iraq and as I continue to prepare my Soldiers for each day's new fight, of course it's difficult for me to walk away.

Q – What will you miss during this particular tenure as a commander of troopers; I know you once commanded K Troop, but how was this command different?

A – For the first eight years of my Army career, I didn't know anything but line troops and fighting. I never even, like most platoon leaders and company commanders, didn't think about all the things that made me successful on the battlefield.

And to have had an RHHT, you really understand how things work, why things move and to be part of that everyday during war is a great experience.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Capt. David Rozelle, former Remington Troop commander, walks with an Iraqi father and son during a 'meet and greet' patrol in northwestern Iraq.

Q – What are some of the major differences in the two units you commanded in the Regiment?

A – This war is a non-continuous battlefield. In olden days, unless you were severely losing, it was only the Soldiers who fought up front that fought.

To be in a RHHT in OIF, you are fighting wherever you are. Even when I kicked out a TAC to establish forward control of the battle, we were in enemy country.

That's really unique for a HHT commander because usually you're buried back in the wire somewhere. But we're out in the front taking fire.

Q – You lost one Soldier during this deployment, Pvt. Joseph Knott. Describe the pain you still feel for losing him.

A – No commander goes to the battlefield and expects to bring every Soldier home. You do everything you can to prepare your Soldiers to do their best and be ready to fight.

Unfortunately on this battlefield the enemy doesn't know rank or structure and everyone is a target.

I'll never forget that young man and the contributions he made toward this war effort. We should never forget him.

Q – What is the legacy you want to leave behind to the Soldiers you commanded in Remington Troop?

A – I changed the RHHT from a mechanism that battle tracked and set up little command posts and operated in shifts to a warfighting troop that came to the battlefield ready to fight.

I tried to bring my experience from fighting in the last war and tried to train these staff Soldiers to fight like cavalry scouts. That's sometimes took a little more explanation, but I think a lot of them got it.

When we were on our convoys, the enemy could not tell us from any other cavalry organization. And we were ready to fight. No one secured the RHHT, we secured ourselves – that's different, that's unique.

Q – What would you like to say to the family members who supported you during your tenure in command?

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jose Colon

A – I think family members often misunderstood my desire to go back to war. They think my wife is crazy for letting me to come back, but this has brought closure to my injury and to my fight in Iraq.

When I set off, I knew it just wasn't about Dave Rozelle going to war. It's about taking these Soldiers ready to fight and bringing them home.

It might be confusing for them to know it's been a change of command while we're deployed. But the most important thing for them to know is these Soldiers maintained their vigilance and with this new commander, they're going to get better and better, stronger and ready to fight.

Q – What will you take from your experiences as a commander into your next job?

A – I think for any job in the Army you bring your big tool box that you created throughout your career. I'm actually at a point in my career where I have some experiences and a resume – that feels good.

To go to Walter Reed, I'm going to bring the 'Cav' mentality and get our Soldiers, even the injured ones, fit to fight – whether it's to go back to the civilian world and be successful or whether to go back on the modern battlefield with a prosthetic device and fight.

I proved it could be done and I'm going to show them how to do it.

Q – Anything else you'd like to share with the leaders, troopers and family members?

A – I want to thank the troopers and the families for putting their trust in me. I've never had a complaint. I've always had support. Also, I appreciate and respect all the families that give the sacrifice to give their Soldier to come out and fight. I just want to say thank you.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Top: Rozelle takes a nap during the convoy from Camp Striker to Camp Sykes. He is the first Soldier to command troops as an amputee in a combat zone. Above: Rozelle is given a group hug by the Personal Security Detachment. He will next serve as the Program Manager of the Amputee Center at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

There Is Nothing Heroic About Danielle Carpenter...

Except she's a Soldier who donated one of her kidneys to save her dying mother and she deployed to Iraq less than three months later. Nothing heroic.

Story & Photos By Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Long before Pfc. Danielle Carpenter knew anything about Army Values, she already had them embedded in her spirit. Words like selfless service, duty and personal courage epitomized her essence before any drill sergeant taught her the meaning in basic training.

Assigned to Remington Troop, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment; the 20-year-old administrative specialist, who has been in the Army nearly two years, path to personify those values began in 1998.

At age 14 instead of worrying about junior high school and boys, Carpenter from Grand Rapids, Mich., had to deal with the possibility of losing her mom to kidney disease, and her journey of epitomizing the Army Values began before wearing an uniform.

HONOR

Her mother Diane Brogger was informed by her doctors that her kidneys were only functioning at 20 percent or less and getting worse.

"I needed to be on dialysis immediately, and it was a complete life change, 3 1/2 hours, three times a week on a machine to cleanse my blood," Brogger said.

Although Carpenter was only a teen, she tried to encourage her mom after she found out the news of her disease.

"I remember my mom was crying when she found out, but I told her don't worry, I'll give you one of mine," Carpenter said trying to inspire her mother.

Although the gesture was heartwarming, Carpenter was too young to be considered a donor. Doctors recommended she'd have to be at least 20 years old. Over the years as her mother's condition worsened, Carpenter had watched her mom literally erode right in front of her eyes.

As the years went by, Brogger's doctors said she had antibodies which, when tested with cadaver donors that came up, never matched. In 2003 and 2004 she started having IV treatments with a drug to combat the

U.S.ARMY

antibodies, and the level went down, but not enough.

"It was rough for both of us. She had problems getting her blood pressure under control throughout dialysis," said Carpenter, a native of Grand Rapids, Mich. "She'd go from extreme high to extreme low. She'd get really sick after dialysis and I'd go pick her up from the dialysis unit. It was rough. I really wanted to give her the kidney."

After Carpenter became of age to donate her organ, she decided to join the Army, but afterwards her mom refused to take her kidney, for fear it might jeopardize her daughter's pending military career.

"She wouldn't let me donate it before I got in the Army," she said with a light laugh.

LOYALTY

Staff Sgt. Claudia Huffman still clearly remembers the day she overheard Carpenter, visibly upset, talking on her cell phone with her mother saying, "Mama, I can't, mama I can't."

"I told her you can't talk to your mama that way," said Huffman, assigned to Remington Troop and Carpenter's supervisor, and affectionately nicknamed 'Sgt. Mama.'

After Carpenter got off the phone, Huffman asked her what was wrong. Carpenter admitted her mother had to have a kidney transplant and that she was a positive match for donation.

"I asked her if she was going to donate her kidney to her mama," Huffman said. "She said no because she had this deployment coming up. She didn't want anybody to think she was doing it to get out of deployment and was going to wait until she returned to donate her kidney."

Huffman next asked Carpenter if her mother was going to live that long, to which she answered the doctors can't guarantee that and she may get called while she was in Iraq.

Carpenter had her mother fax all the medical documentation about her condition so she could present it to the commander. Again she was apprehensive and wanted to wait if she could, however Huffman persuaded her to get all the necessary actions in motion just in case.

"The doctor told her he didn't think that her mother would last a year," Huffman said. "She was scared about doing it and asked me to make the decision for her. I told her that was something I couldn't do and it was her decision, but I did not want her to go to Iraq and regret if something happened to her mother and she didn't do it."

Two days later, Carpenter told Huffman she wanted to do it. Huffman took the Soldier to Capt. David Rozelle, former Remington Troop commander, and 1st Sgt. Rodney Greene, Remington Troop first sergeant, where Carpenter explained her situation.

"When the Soldier first came to me and talked about it, I thought it was the right thing to do – to support her mom," Greene said. "I knew she'd been dealing with this problem for a while."

Greene told Carpenter if she'd suffer any problems after donating the kidney, the unit would ensure all medical care and rehabilitative treatment would be fully supported so she could recover and remain serving in uniform.

"We would exhaust all avenues to take care of her through both Army and civilian support systems," Greene said.

SELFLESS SERVICE

As Carpenter wrestled with the decision of donating her kidney before or after deployment, her husband Stacey Haynes, also a Soldier was giving her encouragement and support.

The two would have conversations regarding the surgery, her military career and the possibility of her losing her mother.

"I was very quiet in the house for hours and he knew something was wrong with me," Carpenter said of her husband's concern. "He'd say, 'It's okay baby, everything is going to be alright.'"

Meanwhile Brogger's condition was worsening by December 2004. Both daughter and mother began extensive research on kidney transplants for her stage in the disease.

They discovered the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., had successfully done kidney transplants with patients who had antibodies and had positive crossmatches with their donors.

Carpenter took leave in December, went to the Mayo Clinic for tests. Initial results were not promising as Carpenter tested as a positive crossmatch; however doctors prefer a negative crossmatch.

Crossmatching is a further testing of antigen compatibility. In this test, white blood cells from the donor are mixed with blood from the recipient.

If the white blood cells are attacked and die, then the crossmatch is 'positive,' which is a negative as far

as the donor's ability to donate – in the case of Carpenter.

It means the recipient is 'sensitized' to the donor – the recipient has antibodies to some of the donor's antigens which meant her mother's immune system would turn on her daughter's kidney.

"The doctors decided to go forward with surgery because there was no chance for my mother getting a kidney from anyone except a family member."

At the clinic Carpenter went through extreme testing as she was poked at least six times a day every day to draw blood.

With Carpenter's pending deployment to Iraq, anxiety set in as she was worried about both missing deployment and her mother dying without the kidney transplant.

"I explained to my nephrologist that Danielle was in the Army and preparing to go to Iraq with her troop in March," Brogger said. "He wrote a letter explaining the seriousness of the situation and asked that Danielle be given the chance to help me."

"My chain of command was unbelievable on what they did to take care of me... They didn't hesitate; they knew my mother's life was at stake."

-- Pfc. Danielle Carpenter

She returned back to Fort Carson to be evaluated by Capt. Jay Baker, Regimental Surgeon, to provide a recommendation and a medical opinion to the chain of command on the procedure.

"The hospital had identified her as a matching candidate for a kidney transplant and she wanted to do this so her mother could come off of dialysis and resume a normal life," Baker said. "It's a very courageous act by this young Soldier, not only could have ended her career, but there could have been complications in which she could have died."

After he confirmed with the doctors at the Mayo Clinic, he recommended to the chain of command to do whatever was necessary to allow Carpenter to give this gift to her mother.

Throughout the entire ordeal, the Regimental chain of command was supportive of the Soldier.

"My chain of command was unbelievable on what they did to take care of me," Carpenter said. "I was approved within the week to go ahead and be given the chance to save my mother's life. Colonel [H.R.] McMaster and Command Sgt. Maj. [John] Caldwell were unbelievable in getting everything together as quickly as I needed. They didn't hesitate; they knew my mother's life was at stake."

PERSONAL COURAGE

Before undergoing surgery, Carpenter talked to a lot of her friends about the procedure, many who asked if she was scared. "I was scared, but I didn't want to tell them," she said

The team of doctors met at Mayo and decided the surgery would be March 25, 2005. Barring any complications, Carpenter would have to spend only a few days in the hospital and her mother a month at most.

Prior to the surgery Carpenter, her husband, her mother and stepfather spent a week together touring Minneapolis in an effort to relax and have some fun.

"Throughout the week my husband tried uplifting our spirits and giving me and my mom our final week of happiness before the surgery," Carpenter said.

The surgery was a success for both, but it wasn't long before both mother and daughter had post-surgical complications. Brogger began to reject the kidney after two weeks and spent the first three weeks of April receiving daily blood transfusions and massive amounts of IV drug treatments to fight the antibodies attacking the new kidney.

Carpenter's recovery was just as bad.

"I never had surgery before, so I didn't know what to expect," Carpenter said. "I almost immediately after surgery began doing sit-ups and pulled a muscle on my left side where they did the laparoscopic procedure."

Whereas she would have spent two days in the hospital, she stayed nine days. Her reason for doing sit-ups was so she could return back to her troop and deploy to Iraq.

"I promised my Troop I was going to come to Iraq as soon as I could," Carpenter said. "I also wanted to come to Iraq in the best condition because I didn't want to put myself and my battle buddies at risk."

Carpenter spent her entire convalescent leave at the Mayo Clinic at her mom's bedside, as her unit extended her leave to be with her mother.

Brogger's rejection to the kidney led to another surgery, and the only resort was to remove her spleen which was attracting the antibodies.

"It was touch-and-go all the time for me, and Danielle never left my side," Brogger said. "They commended Danielle and me for enduring all the hardships, never complaining and remaining optimistic."

With a crack in her voice, Carpenter said, "We got through it together because we didn't know at the time if she was going to keep the kidney. It was a really bad rejection."

When her mother was rejecting the kidney after the surgery, Carpenter kept in contact with Huffman via e-mail to vent her frustration.

"She was upset after all the stuff she went through to help her mother, and she felt her mother was going to die," Huffman said. "I kept telling her everything was going to be fine. Just keep your spirits up and your mother will get better."

Her only concern was that she'd given up an organ and it was all for nothing. Also it meant that would have been the last chance to save her mother's life.

DUTY

It meant a lot for Huffman to see the Soldier, who is young enough to be her daughter, when she arrived to Iraq on June 15. The two made a deal to see each other in July, but their reunion came one month earlier.

When Carpenter arrived to Camp Sykes, Huffman was there on the ground to welcome her to Iraq.

"It was great," Huffman said. "When she came off the plane, she couldn't miss my blonde hair, she just grabbed me and told me how much she missed me, she wanted to be with everybody, she didn't want to be in the rear detachment and she said she just felt great to be here."

Carpenter doesn't think what she did for her mom as heroic – just something any child would do for their parent. She also admitted she wasn't concerned at all of the risk of possibly losing her career due to a medical complication from surgery.

"If it's your mom, you would do it too," she said. "If you can help somebody out, you should do everything you can, especially if it's your family."

The reception upon her arrival to Iraq was warm and welcome by her leaders and 'battle buddies' alike.

"I'm proud of her and what she did," Greene said. "It takes a lot for a person to even want to give up a kidney. You talk about somebody doing some type of surgery on you – it took a lot for her to step up and do that. And now she's come here on deployment. That sets her character apart from a lot of Soldiers."

Carpenter said she can fully concentrate on her mission and take care of her battle buddies now. She calls her mom from Iraq every other day and confessed her mother has recuperated well from her post-surgery trauma and complications. Her mom, now fully recuperated, brags about her daughter's involvement in Operation Iraqi Freedom and of the Army's role in giving her a new lease on life.

"I know I could never hope to convey my full gratitude to the Mayo Clinic doctors for their compassion and expertise and to the U.S. Army and her leadership for allowing my daughter to truly give me "The Gift of Life."

Carpenter wants to be a voice for the cause on organ donation and plans on talking to Soldiers about the importance of donating.

"I just want to encourage people to donate," Carpenter said. "They have so many people waiting on lists that need a kidney really bad. We have two of them; God gave us two of them for a reason."

Prayer breakfast celebrates Flag Day

Commentary By Chaplain (Capt.) Roger Benimoff
2/3 Squadron Chaplain

When we think about the American flag, many images and words come to mind that describe a symbol that represents people, time, and an ideal.

For instance, when I think of the American flag, words such as majesty, sacrifice, devotion, freedom, allegiance, and history come to mind.

We who serve know that the flag is more than a multi-colored piece of cloth that we salute…it is over 229 years of history that spans generations; men and women that stood for values that they thought more important than themselves.

We do not pledge our devotion and our allegiance lightly to the flag and we salute it with pride as we serve our Nation's call to defend freedom once again against those who would impose tyranny against the Iraqi people.

Second Squadron held a Prayer Breakfast to celebrate National Flag Day and it was another reminder of the privilege to be Americans and live in a country where we are blessed with freedom.

To honor such a powerful symbol was humbling and we found out some interesting facts about Flag Day: The U.S. flag first flew in a Flag Day celebration during the first summer of the Civil war, when it was flown at Hartford, Conn. on June 14, 1861.

A few years later on June 14, 1877 the flag celebrated it's 100th birthday.

At that time the U.S. government requested that the flag be flown from all public buildings to celebrate its first century.

From that point on, Flag Day celebrations became a popular but not yet official, celebrations.

Most early (1885 - 1900) Flag Day celebrations were independent activities, often as a part of school educational programs.

A school district in Fredonia, Wis. began as early as 1885 to celebrate "Flag Birthday." The Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia conducted a Flag Day celebration in 1891. By 1893 the children of Philadelphia were gathering at Independence Square to celebrate the birth of the flag.

Not until 1949 did Congress take formal action on the matter of Flag Day. On Aug. 3, 1949 President Harry S Truman signed their resolution "That the 14th day of June in each year is hereby designated as Flag Day."

As we recall Flag Day, we become part of the rich history of men and women who were selfless; we sacrifice our personal desires for our country's calling.

So, the next time that you salute the flag, remember that you are a part of its' history.

May God bless you, may His face shine upon your face, and may He protect you as you continue to serve your Nation.

Make the most of your moments, enjoy your time

One time a warden asked a man on death row what he would like to eat for his last meal on earth.

The inmate said, "I would like to have a huge piece of watermelon."

The warden said, "Watermelon? You must be kidding? This is December. Watermelons have not even been planted, let alone harvested."

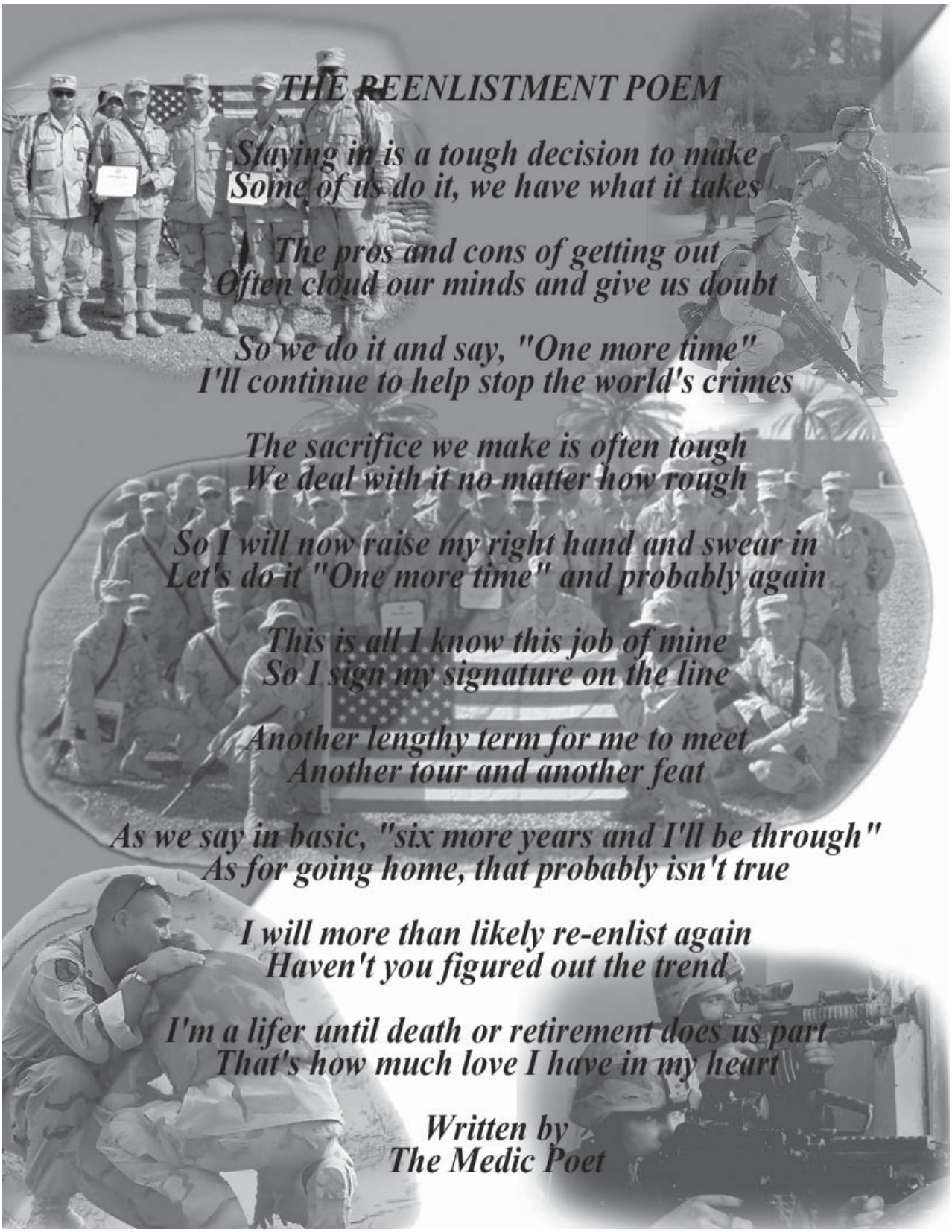
The inmate replied, "That's okay. I don't mind waiting."

In the face of death, time – even in prison – becomes a welcome friend. Time is very precious and we should never seek to race through it in our expectations of better things to come.

Oft times, only when we face the loss of life itself, do we realize just how precious every moment of every day is - even in a prison.

In a sense, our deployment is like a prison sentence. We've lost almost all of our privacy and our personal freedom. We're separated from our spouses and loved ones. We can only "leave the wire" under the watch of armed guards.

Yet, as difficult as this deployment may be, each day of it is a gift from the Lord and it is filled with unnoticed blessings – often in the form of other people and character-building lessons that we will value the rest of our lives.



THE REENLISTMENT POEM

Staying in is a tough decision to make
Some of us do it, we have what it takes

The pros and cons of getting out
Often cloud our minds and give us doubt

So we do it and say, "One more time"
I'll continue to help stop the world's crimes

The sacrifice we make is often tough
We deal with it no matter how rough

So I will now raise my right hand and swear in
Let's do it "One more time" and probably again

This is all I know this job of mine
So I sign my signature on the line

Another lengthy term for me to meet
Another tour and another feat

As we say in basic, "six more years and I'll be through"
As for going home, that probably isn't true

I will more than likely re-enlist again
Haven't you figured out the trend

I'm a lifer until death or retirement does us part
That's how much love I have in my heart

Written by
The Medic Poet

Iraq poses risk hazards for troopers

Compiled by Antonio Padillia
Safety Officer, 3rd ACR

The hazards that troopers face in Operation Iraqi Freedom come from a wide range of directions. Land mines, improvised explosive devices, snipers, and bullets, are battlefield hazards, but Soldiers need to be cautious and alert for animals than can cause serious injury or death.

Intense desert heat, sand storms, cobras, saw-scaled vipers, scorpions and insects which are found throughout Asia and the Middle East pose potential safety risks.

INTENSE DESERT HEAT

One of the fiercest and most feared of OIF III hazard is the intense desert heat. In June and July temperatures rise as high as 120° Fahrenheit (48° Celsius).

The harsh weather conditions on the battlefield also require a 40 percent increase in water consumation.

The average daily temperature in the Iraqi desert will rise about 10 degrees each month to reach a peak of 113 degrees Fahrenheit in the shade in July.

This rise of temperature stirs up winds as air moves from high pressure areas in the north to the low pressure areas in the south.

The *kaus*, which last until early June, are followed by northerly, furnace-like winds known as '*shamals*'. These *shamals* stir up dust and sandstorms that can rise to several thousand feet and they continue from mid-June until mid-September.

The sandstorms that occurred have proven to be an impeding force as visibility is low as 20 feet at times.

Dust from these storms can rapidly coat machinery and clog the engines of tanks and helicopters, grind down helicopter blades and ruin electrical equipment.

The dust chokes Soldiers and heightens the risk of them becoming disoriented and lost. Gusts of sand can even affect global positioning satellite systems which are used for navigation.

CREEPY-CRAWLERS

Poisonous snakes and scorpions are common in Iraq's deserts and Soldiers deployed here need to know which creatures they can brush off and which ones they need to worry about."

The Iraqi desert is home to a number of poisonous reptiles and scorpions which could make life miserable and ruin the day for anyone who gets in their way.

In addition to rats, mice and flies, which are bad enough, Iraq has a large number of dangerous critters which include lizards, scorpions, snakes and camel spiders; which are a cross between a spider and a scorpion and the size of a fist with large fangs.

Iraq has four species of scorpions which include black-tailed and yellow scorpions. The most dangerous of these is the death stalker scorpion.

The Death Stalker Scorpion may be small, but it is the ***most toxic scorpion on earth***. In general, scorpions with slim and narrow pincers are equipped with more toxic venom.

Powerful venom compensates for the scorpion's weaker pincers and lack of brawny strength. This scorpion's sting delivers extremely toxic venom that can cause extreme pain, convulsions, paralysis, and even death by heart or respiratory failure.

The poisonous snakes found in Iraq include black desert cobras and sand vipers, but the saw-scaled vipers which are found throughout Asia and the Middle East are ill-tempered and aggressive, and their venom is the most toxic in the world.

The venom from a bite from these vipers can break down the circulatory system and cause bleeding from the eyes, nose and ears causing a slow, painful death.

Sand flies are another problem as they transmit bacteria that cause severe anemia, viruses that cause flu-like symptoms and protozoa that cause a disease known as leishmaniasis which causes skin ulcers and enlargement of internal organs.

Ticks that transmit a viral disease known as Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever and live in the sand can also be found in Iraq.

REGIMENT'S ENGAGEMENTS

MONTH	LOCATION	UNITS ENGAGED
1 Jun 1871	Huachuca Mountains, AZ	F
3 Jun 1870	Near Fort Whipple, AZ	Detachment M
5 Jun 1870	Apache Mountains, AZ	B and F
5 Jun 1870	Black Canyon, AZ	Det. M
8-13 Jun 1868	Apache Springs, NM	Det. G, I
8-9 Jun 1871	East Fork River, Mazatzal Mountain and Wild Rye Creek, AZ	Det. A, E, G
9 Jun 1876	Tongue River, WY	Det. A, B, C, D, E, F, G, I, L, M
10 Jun 1871	Huachuca Mountains, AZ	F
11-12 Jun 1847	National Bridge, Mexico	A, B, D, E, F, G, H, I, K
15 Jun 1870	East Branch of Rio Verde, AZ	E
15 Jun 1900	Nonte Maradudon, Ilocos Sur, PI	E
16 Jun 1867	Gallinas Mountains, NM	Det. H
17 Jun 1876	Rosebud River, MT	Det. A, B, C, D, E, F, G, I, L, M
17-18 Jun 1876	Near Hat Creek, WY	Det. K
18 Jun 1861	Penasco River, NM	Det. C
18 Jun 1862	Canyon Ladrone, NM	Det. C, M
20 Jun 1847	Pass of La Hova, Mexico	C
21 Jun 1900	Monte Paruyan, Ilocos Sur, PI	E
22 Jun 1898	Santiago, Cuba (siege and surrender of, embracing the action San Juan Hill, July 1-3 and around Santiago July 3-17	B, C, E, F, G, H, I, K

MONTH	LOCATION	UNITS ENGAGED
24 Jun 1870	White Mountains, AZ	Det. A, C, L, M
25 Jun 1870	Pinal Mountains, AZ	F
26 Jun 1870	Near Camp Apache, AZ	Det. A
27 Jun 1857	Gila River, NM	B, G, K
30 Jun 1847	San Juan de Los Llanos, Mexico	I
30 Jun 1900	Near Badoc, Ilocos Norte, PI	Det. E

Henry's courage etched in Regiment's history

Compiled by Jim Mallette
3d ACR Museum Technician

In June Gen. George Crook led a large force northward to a head-on clash with massed warriors under Crazy Horse.

Some historians say the Battle of the Rosebud was a triumph for the Sioux because Crook was put out of action, unable to affect a junction with General Terry's forces moving south from the Yellowstone.

Others say the battle was a victory for the Army because the Army maintained the battlefield at the end of the day.

Depending on which side you believe, the stage was set for the famous disaster for the Seventh Cavalry at the Little Bighorn.

Described as "probably the greatest Indian battle in our history," the Battle of the Rosebud combined the largest force-on-force battle of the Centennial Indian War; more than 2,500 combatants took the field on June 17, 1876, three days after the Army's 101st birthday.

The three battalions of the Third Cavalry were commanded by Captains Anson Mills (later 11th Colonel of the Regiment), Guy V. Henry (later 12th Colonel of the Regiment) and Frederick Van Vliet.

These three commanders performed gallant, heroic and outstanding service in this battle. Later in their careers they would receive brevet promotions for their actions.

During the battle Henry was seriously wounded. He had been shot in the head and the bullet was lodged behind his eye. It was believed that his death was certain.

Even though he was seriously wounded he continued to fight until he fell unconscious from his horse. This temporarily demoralized his men and they fell back as the Indians attacked.

Henry was evacuated to Fort Fetterman by an improvised litter (a travois) and later to Fort DA Russell by wagon.

Henry's experience and endurance personify the Army value of Personal Courage as shown in the following article:

It had been a bad day - that was certain. The battle had raged for six hours, but the U.S. Army held the field at the end of the fighting.

The Sioux and Cheyenne warriors led by Crazy Horse and Spotted Wolf had withdrawn to head North West to the Little Bighorn for their historic encounter with George Armstrong Custer and the troopers of the 7th U.S. Cavalry.

The 1,034 men in General Crook's column had gone up against five times their number on the June 17, 1876 in a remote area of Montana Territory, on a tributary of the Yellowstone River known as Rosebud Creek.

Crook's command had suffered high casualties for Indian fighting - 10 dead and 21 wounded. Both sides claimed victory, yet history views the action as a draw.

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HENRY from Page 43

The 550 men in ten companies of the Third U.S. Cavalry had received four Medals of Honor for their gallantry under fire.

That fact, alone, stands as a testament to the courage shown on the field that day, but this story involves another tale of truly personal courage.

Captain Guy Vernor Henry was a man of few words, direct and to the point. He was 37 years old when he commanded D Company of the Third at the Rosebud. He was a Brevetted veteran of the Civil War and held the nation's highest honor himself for valor at Cold Harbor.

He had already suffered personal tragedy with the death of his wife three years earlier shortly after their transfer from Arizona to Fort D.A. Russell (now F.E. Warren AFB) near Cheyenne, Wyoming Territory.

While falling back to connect with Crook's left during the battle on 17 June, 1876, he was very nearly killed when he was "struck by a bullet which passed through both cheek bones, broke the bridge of his nose and destroyed the optic nerve in one eye."

He reeled in the saddle, fell to the ground, and was in danger of being further injured or killed. His body had no more than touched the ground when the "coup minded" hostiles rushed toward it, some actually riding over his body.

Only the courageous actions of his Shoshone and Crow scouts in protecting him prevented his death on the field of battle.He was the only officer wounded in the battle.

Henry was carried from the field to the hospital set up near the crest of Crook's Hill. A .44 caliber bullet had struck him, and the wound was initially thought to be mortal.

Henry tried to return to duty on the field, but was prevented. As reported in the *New York Daily Graphic* of 13 July, 1876: *"... The gallant fellow...would have returned after having the wound dressed but that the surgeon in charge positively refused to permit it..."*

In his own report, prepared during his agonizing trip back to Fort Fetterman, just three days later on the 20th, Henry makes little mention of his severe wound: *"During the retreat...I was wounded and taken to the rear to have my wound dressed intending to return but the surgeon forbid me doing so."*

The next day, Henry was placed on a makeshift litter lashed between two mules to begin the trip back to Fort Fetterman (near present-day Casper, WY), nearly 200 miles south.

The only thing he could eat was broth poured between his shattered jaws. His escort came within sight of Fort Fetterman, just across the swollen North Platte River, only to discover that the ferryboat cable had just snapped and had disappeared in the rushing waters.

Henry is said to have referred to this simply as a *"disappointment."* Before long, however, an officer from the fort crossed the river in a decrepit skiff and offered to take him across, "*... if Captain Henry is willing to take the chance of capsizing."*

In his condition, should that happen, he would likely drown in sight of relief His answer was simply *"Let's give it a try."*

Once safely across he was told by the surgeon at Fort Fetterman that they could do little for him there, and he would have to be taken back to civilization - another 300 miles of travel to Fort D.A. Russell.

After nearly two weeks of hard travel, he arrived at Fort Russell, where he finally received professional care - such as it was.

He survived the crude efforts of the Army surgeons at Fort Russell and began his recuperation. He regained the limited use of one eye, and by the following spring, was reassigned to active duty at Fort Laramie.

He could have retired for disability at this point in his career. Yet, he remained on active duty through the end of the Indian Wars, receiving a Brevet promotion for his service at Rosebud.

Promoted to Major General of Volunteers he commanded the Department of Puerto Rico until his discharge in 1899 at this regular army rank of Brigadier General. He died October 27, 1899 of pneumonia resulting from a malarial infection he had contracted in Cuba.

His eldest son, Guy Vernor Henry, Jr. would command the Third U.S. Cavalry as our 24th Colonel from 1927-1930.

Captain Henry's devotion to duty, his indomitable spirit, and his focus on his mission with little regard to his own needs seems like so much fiction to modern minds - yet it actually happened. It was and is courage such as that shown by Guy Vernor Henry some 129 years ago which sets the standard for this Army Value.

Save the children

"When I look at the world, it feels me with sorrow, little children today, are they going to suffer tomorrow... Live life for the children, let's save the children, let's save all the children." – *Marvin Gaye*

By Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

As a young Soldier preparing to deploy to Operation Desert Shield in 1990, I was very resistant to going to what I thought at the time as a war not fighting. All of that changed the first time I embraced a Kuwaiti child who was a victim of the brutality that is a part of war.

I knew from that moment on why I was there and my attitude and views on the Gulf War were re-shaped. I was there to help all the innocent children and citizens of Kuwait from the ugliness of war.

Fastforward more than 10 years later and I prepared to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. I, like many other Soldiers, didn't know what was in store for me on this deployment.

Those of us who wear the uniform and have deployed in the past understand that war is not glamorous. War is exactly what has best described it again and again – it is hell.

And it is the children who pay the most of it. Throughout the month of June in Tall Afar, Iraq; those who oppose freedom, security and democracy to the Iraqi people, have attacked innocent women and children.

Their cowardly acts reflect the ugliness and cold-heartedness of the enemy here in Iraq. They indiscriminately attack those who gain the most from a peaceful Iraq.

In early June I was both overjoyed and saddened to see the faces of the Iraqi children up close during a patrol with Grim Troop in Tall Afar.

As their laughter filled the air I couldn't help but smile and embrace this pure moment of innocence.

For once since I'd been in Iraq, I didn't think about the ugliness of war. And I smiled again as I heard voices saying, "Mister, mister! What's your name?"

Then, I began to think of my own children who were home in America growing up in a place where they didn't have to worry about rocket-propelled grenades launched at them, mortar attacks and suicide bombers.

I found myself on an emotional roller coaster after sharing those few moments with those children. That's when I could hear Marvin Gaye singing the words in the quote above.

For several days I kept singing those words. And just like deja vu, I found myself feeling the way I did in 1990. Once again, I'm here for the children.

I'm here, like every Soldier serving in Iraq, to stop the children from suffering. We're here to help them live for tomorrow, we're here to save the children.

There are days when this war takes its toll on our spirit, but we must remember the children.

As Staff Sgt. Frank Herring told me while his Soldiers were treating two Iraqi children from the result of a mortar attack, "The hardest part is when children are caught up by an attack. It bothers us all differently, but we're completely dedicated to give first rate care to the Iraqi citizens."

During the Tal Afar Security Conference earlier this month, Col. H.R. McMaster, 71st Regimental Commander, summed it up best as he talked to the tribal leaders of Tall Afar.

"Like most of you; our Soldiers have children at home," McMaster said. "I have never seen more beautiful children than I've seen in the streets of Tall Afar. All of us owe them security."

Yes, it's time to save the children of Iraq.

June's Fallen Troopers

June 5 - Staff Sgt. Justin Vasquez, 3/3
June 5 - Spc. Eric Poelman, 3/3
June 5- Pfc. Brian Ulbrich,3/3
June 7 - Lt. Col. Terrence Crowe, 98th Tng. Div.
June 23 - Sgt. 1st Class Chris Phelps, 3/3