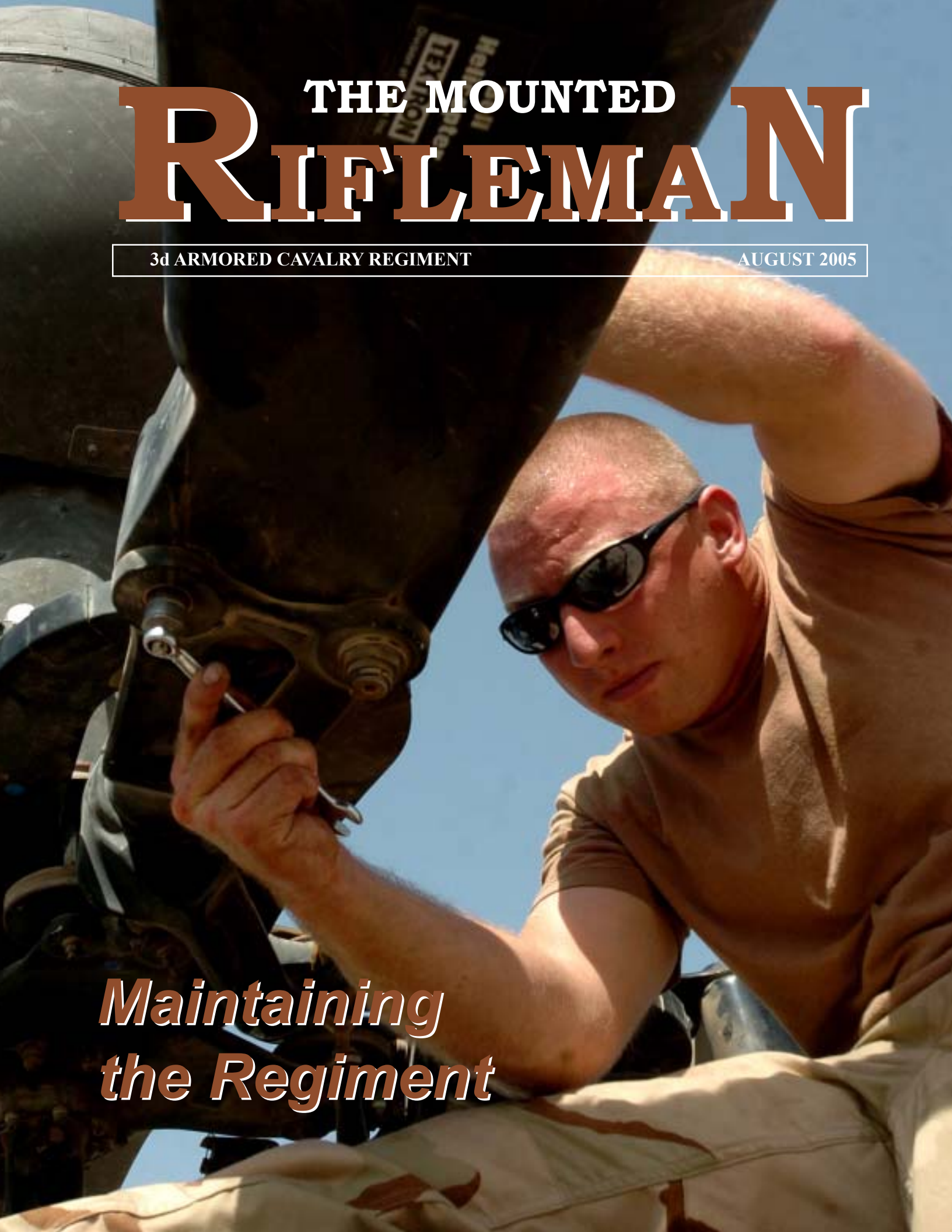
THE MOUNTED RIFLEMAN

3d ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT

AUGUST 2005



Maintaining the Regiment

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 of Mounted Riflemen has had many troopers serve with distinction throughout it's history. There are countless stories of heroism and selfless service recorded in the Regiment's history books.

In recent history, most of the lore and legacy is attributed to those troopers serving as cavalry scouts and tankers. But the success of those fighting on the battlefield is attributed to the men and women who do the "dirty work" to ensure the Regiment's equipment is ready to bring the fight to the enemy.

Those unsung heroes are the welders, mechanics (both light and heavy-wheeled), and flight crew chiefs who either burn the midnight oil or brave the elements of Mother Nature to tighten a screw, change the oil, or 'break track.'

This edition of the Mounted Rifleman recognizes the efforts of those troopers for their dedication to duty and mission accomplishment.

During my interview with Sgt. Andy Pratt, a crew chief assigned to Longknife Squadron, it was evident this young noncommissioned officer was a professional and loved taking care of his 'birds.'

They may not get all the 'atta boys' in the world and they may not get all the glory the warfighter attains on the battlefield, but they are a critical part of the Regiment's success.

August once again was another scorcher here in the desert of Iraq and in the city of Baghdad. Despite the merciless temperatures in theater, the troopers of the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment continue to do great things in securing the lives for the Iraqi citizens.

Once again it is my honor to put together through the following pages just some of the accomplishments of our troopers. Each time I get to raise my camera to capture an image of one our troopers, I know I'm allowing the family members to see the great job we're doing.

Sadly the Regiment lost five Soldiers - Sgt. 1st Class Robert Derenda, Sgt. 1st Class Brett Walden, Cpl. Joseph Martinez, 2nd Lt. Charles Rubado, and Chief Warrant Officer Dennis Hay.

These heroes paid the ultimate sacrifice for serving our nation and will never be forgotten.

-- The Editor

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Left: An Iraqi Army soldier unloads food supplies during a humanitarian mission with Fox Troop, Sabre Squadron, in Tal Afar. See related story and photos on Page 16. Cover: Cpl. Bryan Law, OH-58D crew chief, assigned to Outlaw Troop, Longknife Squadron, performs a spring tension check on the main rotary expandable bolts on Camp Sykes, Iraq. See related article and photos on Pages 22-26.

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Cover photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

A message from the
71st Colonel of the Regiment

In early September, the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen entered a new phase in the battle against the insurgents in Western Ninewa Province and South Baghdad. The Regiment is pursuing the enemy relentlessly while continuing to build the Iraqi Army, police, and Border Police forces.

The Regiment demonstrated tremendous flexibility and agility while conducting major combat operations in complex urban terrain, initiating projects to address the needs of the population, preparing for the constitutional referendum, and building toward long term security through partnership with Iraqi Security Forces.

Sabre Squadron continued to build on its success in Tall Afar. The Squadron supervised and directed the construction of an obstacle around Tall Afar that prevents insurgents from entering or leaving the city without traveling through Iraqi Army checkpoints.

This, combined with aggressive reconnaissance, raids, and continuous security efforts, has greatly reduced the enemy's ability to conduct effective attacks against our forces and the population.

Sabre has successfully engaged tribal and political leaders in the city to isolate the terrorists from the population.

They also, reinforced with Dragon Company, maintained security along key supply routes and ensured the safe passage of logistical convoys throughout their area of operations.

Beyond these achievements, Sabre has helped reconstitute a police force while continuing to improve the Iraqi Army's capability.

Tiger Squadron is securing what was the lawless Syrian border region of Ninewa Province. Cavalry Troops routinely interdict illegal border crossings and have captured numerous smugglers and foreign fighters.

The 43rd Engineer Company at the Rabiyah border crossing has also severely impeded the flow of terrorists into Iraq. Sapper company instituted reforms at the crossing point, taught Iraqis how to identify fake passports, and severely restricted the movement of weapons and foreign fighters into Iraq.

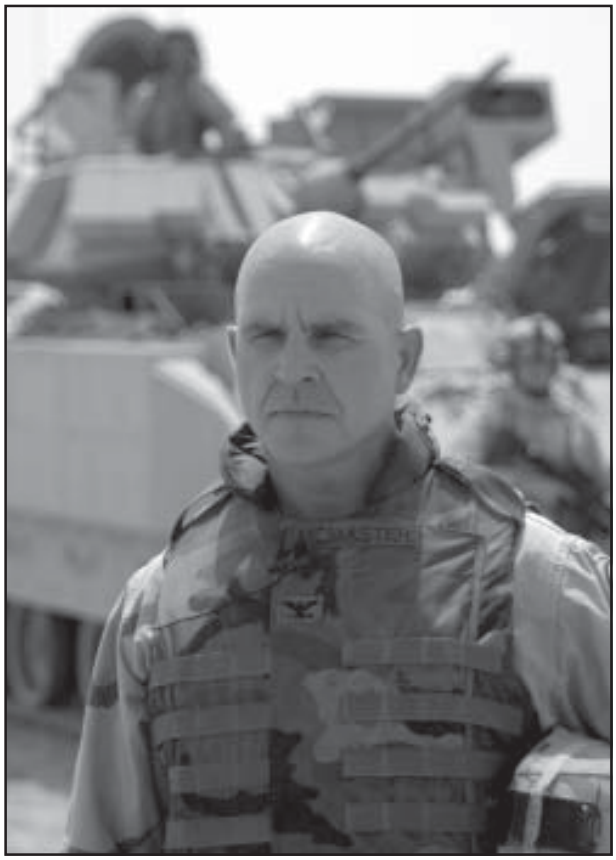

Photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Robert M Schalk

Col. H.R. McMaster, 71st Regimental Commander, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, concludes a command message during filming of the 3d ACR video highlighting service to the Regiment.

To achieve long term security, Tiger is building an Iraqi Border Police Brigade and is rooting out corruption that was once endemic to this force. Like Sabre, Tiger continues to train its partner Brigade from the 3rd Iraqi Army Division to assume security responsibilities throughout the area of operations.

Thunder continued to provide security south of Baghdad, and is now serving as part of the 4th Brigade of 3rd Infantry Division.

They have maintained security along major Coalition

supply routes and provided protection to the interim Iraqi government as it completes its historic work on the Iraqi Constitution.

Thunder has also successfully integrated specialized Iraqi units during raids that resulted in the capture of over 100 suspected insurgents.

Thunder continues to provide the 3rd Infantry Division with the power and flexibility it needs to control south Baghdad and will soon be developing the capabilities of an Iraq Army Battalion and a Public Order Battalion.

Support Squadron continued to make critical contributions to the fight in Ninewa Province.

Muleskinner has maintained support to our widely dispersed forces; their extraordinary efforts have allowed the Regiment to maintain a high operational tempo while fighting aerons a area spanning 240,000 square kilometers.

Support Squadron has also commanded base defense operations at FOB Sykes, run the Regimental detention facility with the highest degree of professionalism, and conducted humanitarian assistance and detainee screening operations.

Muleskinner has also provided logistical support to multiple Iraqi security forces to ensure that our partners had the equipment and supplies they needed to carry the fight to the enemy. Rarely has any unit been asked to do so much; Muleskinner has continuously exceeded expectations.

We have benefited immersurably from the assistance of the Special Forces and the Military Interim Transitition Teams (MITT) that have become part of the Regimental team.

These courageous, experienced Soldiers have increased our effectiveness, particularly in the critical mission of developing security forces.

"The Regiment demonstrated tremendous flexibility and agility while conducting major combat operations in complex urban terrain... and building toward longterm partnership with Iraqi Security Forces."

Tiger and Saber worked together alongside our great Special Forces Soldiers to break up insurgent networks in the many towns throughout our area. Thunder integrated Special Forces advisors and Iraqi Special Forces into their counter-insurgency operations in South Baghdad to prevent the enemy from emplacing roadside bombs.

Navy Seal Sniper teams, working with Sabre Squadron, have had great effect against terrorists.

Longknife continues to demonstrate its ability to accomplish multiple tasks simultaneously. The Squadron continued to provide air cavalry, attack, logistical, and command and control capabilities for the Regiment, while conducting independent area security operations in a large area of operations. Stetson Troop has flown non-stop to support the Regiment.

Renegrade has operated across the entire area of operations and has conducted devastating attacks against the enemy, including the destruction of six car bombs intended for use against our forces and Iraqi civilians.

Our Air Cavalry Troops continue to give us the speed and flexibility that makes the Regiment unique. Our aviation mechanics and crew chiefs continue to sustain our fleet despite the highest tempo of operations in the Iraqi Theater.

One of last month's highlights was the establishment of Northern Iraq's first Non-commissioned Officer Academy.

The strength of our Army is the leadership of our sergeants. A small and professional team from Support Squadron and Longknife established this Academy with the help of our Special Forces brothers.

Sergeant Major Rodney Plazek of Tiger squadron is serving as the commandant. The first course lasted 23 days, and graduated 51 future Iraqi Army leaders; the second course has already begun. The pride of the graduates was palpable.

After graduation, the NCOs engaged in a spontaneous pep rally of sorts led by a charismatic young leader, and the graduation festivities made national news in Iraq.

The successes of this month have not come without loss. The Regiment lost Sgt. 1st Class Robert Derenda from the 98th Army Support Team (AST) - from the Kentucky National Guard; Sgt. 1st Class Brett Walden from ODA 534, 5th Special Forces Group, Cpl. Joseph Martinez, assigned to Eagle Troop, Sabre Squadron; 2nd Lt. Charles Rubado, assigned to Crazyhorse Troop, Tiger Squadron and Chief Warrant Officer Dennis Hay, assigned to Pegasus Troop, Longknife Squadron.

These fine Soldiers were respected and loved by their comrades. We will press the fight to honor them with out deeds. Their families will remain in our thoughts and prayers.

For our wounded brothers, we want you to know that your Regiment has this fight well in hand and wants you to continue your fight to recover.

Your courage and example remain sources of strength for us. The chain of command and I are proud of you. We think of you everyday and look forward to seeing you when we return from this mission.

The troopers of this great Regiment are building on the legacy of the courageous Soldiers who have gone before us.

We all miss our families tremendously, yet we are grateful to be in the company of our fellow Soldiers who have answered our nation's call to service.

Together, we are fighting against terrorists who would enslave 26 million Iraqis and use this country as a base to attack our nation and destroy the values that define who we are as Americans.

Command Sgt. Major Burns and I are proud to serve alongside the brave and dedicated Troopers of this great Regiment.

Brave Rifles!

Photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Robert M Schalk

Col. H.R. McMaster, 71st Regimental Commander, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, pauses during filming of the 3d ACR video highlighting service to the Regiment.

A message from the

XVII CSM of the Regiment

The Month of August will prove to be the watershed moment for the Iraqi Army's Third Infantry Division. The 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment helped the 3rd Iraqi Army Division establish their first Non-commissioned Officer Academy.

Unlike the United States Army, the Iraqi Army does not have a tradition of leadership from within the enlisted ranks; instead, they rely on officers to do the tasks that our officers never have to worry about.

Consequently, the Iraqi Officer Corps is not able to do the long term planning that a successful, modern army requires. More importantly, the Iraqi Army has not developed the junior leaders that win the fight on the ground.

Tiger Squadron's Sgt. Maj. Rodney Plazeck led a small, handpicked group of NCOs in establishing the Noncommissioned Officer Academy.

The Regiment also received invaluable assistance from soldiers of the 5th Special Forces group, who served as instructors for the Academy.

Fifty-eight students arrived on the first day of training. After seeing the trials ahead, one Soldier excused himself from the course due to illness. Another Soldier claimed that he could not read, and therefore could not continue.

When we told him that literacy was not a graduation requirement, he asked what the first Soldier had told them to leave the course.

When he found out that he had claimed to be sick, he replied, "well, I am sick also." We quickly assigned these two soldiers as bunk mates, and got to work!

Over the next twenty three days, these two Soldiers – and forty-nine of their comrades – rose to the challenge and became Non-commissioned officers.

They learned the core of what an NCO must master, and more importantly, instill in his unit: physical fitness, training management, rifle marksmanship, first aid, hand-to-hand combat, small unit tactics, and Troop-leading procedures.

The graduation ceremony was the capstone event for the NCOs, where they proudly recited – by memory – the Noncommissioned Officer Corps creed: the pride that the cadre and I felt at this moment will be one of the highlights of our time in Iraq.

The NCO Academy will not be a success, however, unless it endures when we depart. The second class of the NCO Academy is now in training; four Iraqi NCOs from the first graduating class have remained as instructors.

As the monthly classes continue, more of the responsibility for training will be passed along to the emerging Iraqi NCO Corps.

Units in the field are already feeling the impact of this training. Commanders are grabbing hold of these new leaders and empowering them to train their Soldiers.

Newly minted NCOs are demanding training schedules and range time for their Soldiers. The backbone of this new Army is forming.

The past month has been very productive for the Regiment. The enemy is on the ropes, and the new Iraqi Army is gaining strength everyday.

The Troopers continue to make a difference in this remote, but important region of Iraq. I continue to be amazed and humbled by the dedication and courage of our Troopers.

Brave Rifles!

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Troopers from 2nd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment performs daily maintenance on a M1A2 tank. The crew broke track on the vehicle to keep it servicable and combat effective.

B-r-e-a-c-k-i-n-g T-r-a-c-k

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

It is the grimiest, greasiest and dirtiest of jobs in the Army – but it has to be done. For the troopers who serve as tankers, cavalry scouts and tank mechanics in the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, "breaking track" is more than a way of life.

It is their life when conducting maintenance on the vehicles in which they love to hate and hate to love.

"I love it," said Staff Sgt. Matthew Hodges, Remington Troop, 3d ACR. "I enjoy doing the hands on maintenance. It's a good way to have some team building with the Soldiers, but don't get me wrong, it's hard work."

According to Hodges there are several reasons for "breaking track" – when replacing an entire track, if a shoe is broken, replacing track pads or replacing a sprocket.

As a cavalry scout with nearly six years in service,

Pfc. Shaun Molver, tank mechanic, Headquarters, Headquarters Troop, 2nd Squadron, uses a hammer to undo the bolts on the center glide of a M1A2 tank.

Hodges has broke track too many times to remember and under different weather conditions ranging from cold and muddy fields in Germany to the blistering deserts of Kuwait and Iraq.

Although he's only broke track on the Bradley Fighting Vehicle, Hodges, from Mississippi, doesn't complain compared to the labor done by tankers. The Bradley track has eight shoe sections, each weighing nearly 300 pounds.

"I feel sorry for those boys," Hodges said. "The Bradley track is a pain in the butt, but the tank track is a nightmare because it's heavy as hell."

Those 'boys', the tankers and tank mechanics, agreed with Hodges, but added for one scout it takes to break track on a Bradley, it takes four tankers to perform the same task on a tank.

"A good tank crew can break track in five minutes," said Sgt. Pablo Diemecke, a tanker from Socorro, N.M., assigned to Eagle Troop, 2nd Squadron, 3d ACR. "But out here you don't want to break track because it's so hot during the day."

As part of preventive maintenance checks and services, both scout and tanker agree the importance of taking care of their vehicles.

"This is part of our daily maintenance," said Pfc. Joseph Turner, a tanker from Concord, N.H., assigned to Eagle Troop, 2-3 ACR. "We do this on a daily basis because it adds to our combat effectiveness. We don't have to worry about our track, so we can concentrate and complete our mission."

All in all the art of "breaking track" is not for the meek of heart. It takes muscle-aching and back-breaking hard labor to get the job done. For the tankers, cavalry scouts and tank mechanics – it's just all in a day's work.

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Spc. Kontar Briggs, metal worker, Headquarters, Headquarters Troop, 2nd Squadron, welds a nut on the sprocket of a M1A2 tank during unit maintenance.

TIGER SQUADRON

By Lt. Col. Gregory Reilly
Tiger Squadron Commander

Tiger Squadron continues to make outstanding progress in Iraq improving area security, providing opportunities for the Iraqi people, and improving Iraqi security forces.

During the last month, the Squadron conducted several successful operations across Northwest Iraq, by isolating areas where insurgents are operating and recruiting more than 1,100 Iraqi citizens to join the Iraqi Army.

As we were improving security within our area, we also improved our overall living conditions as we continue to operate from austere and remote locations.

The units of Tiger Squadron are performing magnificently in all areas. There are just so many diverse missions the Squadron conducts daily, but here are a few highlights of how we are improving security and overall living conditions in Iraq.

We are actively engaged in providing surveillance along the Iraqi and Syrian border with the Iraqi border guards, interdicting smugglers and insurgents actively on a daily basis.

Our air and ground forces are unmatched when it comes to seeing illegal activity and being able to respond to it.

We are training and employing three battalions of the Iraqi Army, making them much stronger and capable so that some day soon they will be able to provide security for their own country.

We have units that are training and teaching Iraqi Police forces to conduct police functions and improve security in their areas.

The Squadron has initiated over 60 civil affairs projects worth 1.4 million dollars to improve medical clinics and schools, to dig water wells, to improve roads, and to provide opportunities for employment to young Iraqi adults.

The units of Tiger Squadron recently went on a recruiting campaign to hire additional Iraqi Army soldiers and signed up 1,100 qualified candidates over a five-day period.

This achievement is unprecedented and will surely contribute to providing many Iraqi families with opportunities for the future.

Additionally, the Squadron conducts meetings weekly with Iraqi leaders across our vast area, building relationships that foster cooperation towards improving security and living conditions for the Iraqi population.

It is a direct result of the superb leadership of our units and the determination of our soldiers that these accomplishments are possible.

Taken together, the Squadron is making tremendous progress in accomplishing our mission.

A significant accomplishment of the Squadron came recently as we were called on to deploy nearly half of our total forces to another area of operation to rid the area of insurgents and those who would bring turmoil to the area.

The Squadron deployed in darkness, moving over 40 miles, conducting continuous reconnaissance operations for eight days without a single incident or accident.

When called, the Squadron stands ready to accomplish any mission, anywhere, anytime.

In addition to our many mission successes, the Squadron is sustaining itself the old Army way, on our own with the equipment and supplies the Army provides.

Our cooks prepare over 3,000 meals per day for our soldiers using Army food and equipment. Our

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‘Gibby Mount’ increases Iraqi Army firepower

Mounted Rifleman Reports
King Battery, 1/3

Courtesy photo

The ‘Gibby Mount’ pictured above helps Iraqi Army Soldiers to move comfortably in a complete circle, thus providing the gunner with a 360 degree field of fire. The mount was named after Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Gibby, King Battery, 1st Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment,

When King Battery began operations in the Western Ninewa Province of Iraq, they also began a unique partnership with the Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Brigade of the Iraqi Army.

During initial joint operations, it became apparent that the 3rd Battalion Iraqi Soldiers were a group of tested veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

These soldiers had the benefit of quick maneuverability in their vehicles and a reliable crew served weapon, the RPK.

“However, they were limited in firing capability due to the lack of a weapon’s mount,” said 1st Lt. Lloyd Felix, executive officer, King Battery, 1st Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment. “At the time, the vehicle’s gunner was limited to a 45-degree field of fire directly in front of the vehicle.”

Felix began discussing possible solutions with Maj. Abbas, operations officer 3rd Bn., 3rd Bde., on how they could maker the weapon more effective in the vehicle.

Both officers agreed that an effective crew served weapon mount would have to be designed for the weapon to be more of a combat multiplier.

Felix decided to use a little ‘Soldier ingenuity’ and placed the idea in the capable hands of his experienced motor sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Gibby.

Gibby gathered his crew of mechanics and reminiscent of the popular TV show Monster Garage, the team made a blue print for the mount.

The team consisting of Staff Sgt. Kenneth Guinard, Spc. Brian Torkelson, Spc. Jason Smith and Spc. Howard Veasley was excited to work on the anticipated project.

“The maintenance team’s primary focus was to build a versatile and tactical system for crew served weapons that could be mounted in the rear of all Iraqi Army tactical vehicles,” Gibby said.

The team went about it by using an existing RPK tripod mount, however, in order to use the mount they had to tear it apart and simplify it.

Next they broke down the mount to just the basic cradle and trunnions, and then began designing around that particular piece.

They decided on a basic tripod template design that the cradle and trunnion mount would bolt onto, and acquired a 1-inch stock and a quarter-inch steel plate to use as the frame and base for the weapon mount.

The maintenance team formed the stock steel into a triangular frame, welded the frame to the plate, and bolted the mount directly into the top of the triangular frame allowing the weapon system to achieve maximum range of motion.

The final stage was to bolt the mount directly into the center of the bed of the vehicle.

“The Soldiers affectionately called the contraption the ‘Gibby Mount,’” Felix said.

Felix took the ‘Gibby Mount’ to the local Iraqi populace in hopes to find a contractor that could mass produce this new product.

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GIBBY from Page 11

He was fortunate to find Faris Haji Khudieda from the town of Tall Qassab who was chosen contractor for the project.

The biggest test for the maintenance team was to see how the 'Gibby Mount' would hold up during a test fire.

After the first test fire resulting in a failure Gibby and Abbas agreed on a few changes that would be improve the product.

The mount was returned to Faris, who made the corrections, and on the second test fire the mount was a complete success.

A total of 43 of the 'Gibby Mounts' were purchased and outfitted on the fleet of Iraqi Army vehicles.

"The 'Gibby Mount' and its placement in the vehicle allow the Iraqi gunner to move comfortably in a complete circle, thus providing the gunner with a 360 degree field of fire," Felix said.

Although the mount has Gibby's namesake he underplays it and is proud to do his part in assisting the Iraqi Army fight against the insurgents.

"This design is a more tactical, proficient way to utilize the Iraqi Army's weapons system that offers maximum security for that vehicle," Gibby said. "The new addition of this mount improves the entire combat effectiveness of the 3rd Battalion two fold and gives added security to its soldiers."

The joint project was a perfect combination of Coalition Forces, the Iraqi Army, and local citizens working together in union to design new technology in order to improve the Iraqi Army's capabilities to fight Anti-Iraqi Forces in northwestern Iraq.

Predator platoon aims to eliminate IED emplacements

Mounted Rifleman Reports
Predator Battery, 1/3

The cliché "the enemy never sleeps" is the best way to describe the motivation behind the mission of 5th Platoon, Predator Battery.

Every day the platoon, assigned to1st Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, conducts a route reconnaissance patrol just before dusk and then sets a series of observation posts throughout the night focused on patterns of enemy behavior.

The purpose of these observation posts is to deter and interdict any Anti-Iraqi forces from placing these IEDs along the route. The mission typically lasts anywhere from nine to fourteen hours.

Based out of Forward Operating Base Al Nimr in Sinjar, Iraq, the platoon's primary mission is to prevent the insurgent emplacement of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) along Route Sante Fe, the long stretch of highway that runs from Tall Afar to Sinjar.

"Our platoon is best suited for this mission because of the night capabilities of the Avenger system," said 2nd Lt. Albert Elam, 5th platoon leader, Predator Battery. "We can observe large sections of route Sante Fe at night because of the Avenger's use of the Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) system and the range of the M3P .50 caliber machine gun.

"Our equipment combined with the determination of the soldiers makes 5th Platoon a lethal fighting force."

Avenger gunners spend countless hours on observation posts, searching and scanning with their FLIR monitors, attempting to detect insurgents.

Their team chiefs can typically be found on the ground directing their gunners on which areas to focus their observation.

While 5th platoon carries out its mission with pride and enthusiasm, it takes extreme patience, according to Elam. On any average night, they will sit at an observa-

See **IED,** Page 13

IED from Page 12

tion post for two to three hours without seeing much if any activity.

Elam mentioned the waiting can sometimes be very frustrating to the Soldiers, and added, "They realize that their continued presence is ultimately helping contribute to the total operational success of Tiger Squadron and the Regiment."

"It can be quite boring out there sometimes but I think we're doing some good," said Spc Omar Suarez, an Avenger gunner assigned to 5th Platoon, when asked about the mission. "There has only been one IED attack in our area of Route Sante Fe on nights we've been doing our mission."

Most days the platoon conduct its patrols of Route Sante Fe without incident, however, there are times when it does get dangerous.

Staff Sgt. Christian Wilson, one of two section sergeants in the platoon, has a great eye for spotting IEDs. On one route reconnaissance patrol, he spotted a 60mm mortar round on the side of the road.

Upon inspection of the mortar, it was determined that the only way to remove it was to call the Explosive Ordinance Detachment (EOD) and have them control detonate it.

"I'd rather wait on EOD to dispose of a piece of unexploded ordinance, than mess around with it and something bad happens," said Wilson.

Unfortunately, even with the best technology the Army has to offer, not all IEDs are discovered in time. Two Soldiers in the platoon were hit by an IED, luckily with no injuries to either of them.

Cpl. David Wheatley and his gunner, SPC Jeremy Breckenridge were in the lead Avenger while escorting Iraqi Army vehicles and military personnel to Tall Afar.

Wheatley recalls the incident well.

"When the IED went off, I was just worried about my gunner," Wheatley said. "The lights were blown out, the truck went completely dead, and shrapnel sprayed my windshield. Also, my communications went out and I couldn't talk to him for a couple of minutes which seemed like an eternity."

Soon afterwards, Wheatley heard Breckenridge yelling from the turret to inform him that he was okay.

"That was a huge relief," Wheatley said.

Currently, 5th platoon continues to conduct daily route reconnaissance and security of Route Sante Fe. The Soldiers are constantly praised by their commander for their professionalism and dedication to their mission.

"These Soldiers' consistent and dedicated efforts bring great pride and credit to Predator Battery, Tiger Squadron, and the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen," said Capt. Troy Bucher, commander Predatory Battery. "It is because of troopers like this and their brothers in arms that the Iraqi people are one step closer to the total transition of securing their own country."

Courtesy photo

Spc. James Cassidy (front) points out target reference points for Spc. Omar Suarez while on OP along Route Sante Fe near Sinjar, Iraq. Both Soldiers are assigned to 5th Platoon, Predatory Battery, First Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment.

TIGER from Page 10

mechanics are working overtime in 120-degree weather, changing tires, engines, repairing brakes, and keeping our fleet ready for every mission.

Our staff, logisticians, signalers, medical personnel, and support fleet plan operations; move over 200 tons of supplies a week; distribute fuel, water, parts, mail, and food and our medical personnel ensure that we are healthy and safe conducting routine inspections of living and working conditions.

Our Mayor Cell personnel, with the help of many people chipping in daily, burn our trash, repair our facilities, and keep water and power generation running.

It is an incredible effort that is not replicated anywhere in Iraq to this degree of difficulty or excellence.

Although conditions for our Soldiers remain austere, as the result of a lot of hard work by our Soldiers, living conditions have improved immensely.

All of our Soldiers now have access to power, air-conditioning, showers, laundry services, email, phones, and latrines.

There is still a lot of dust, heat and many still live in tents, but conditions have improved drastically since we first occupied these areas that offered very little in the way of shelter, power, security, or plumbing.

The ingenuity, industry, and grit of our Soldiers is just phenomenal and you would all be so very proud to see what they have accomplished in Iraq in a such a short period of time.

As we enter the political election phase of our tour and the third quarter, I am confident that Tiger Squadron will continue to excel in all aspects. I am so proud of our team and what they have accomplished both at Fort Carson and in Iraq.

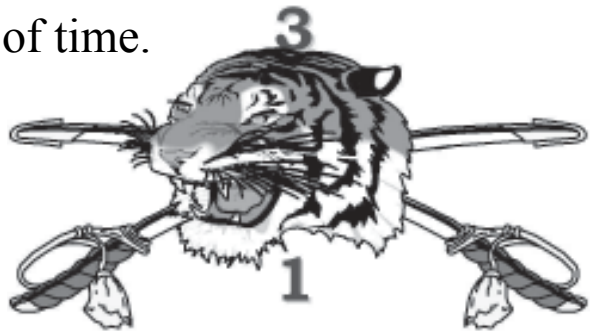
The Family Readiness Group is providing outstanding support to our families and bonding together in their own special way, having recently conducted a FRG Spur Ride and Tiger Family Day.

I am extremely proud of our entire team as we crest the half-way point on our mission. I thank our community, our families, our leaders, and our Soldiers for their sacrifice, commitment, and selfless service to our country at war.

Brave Rifles!

Tiger 6

The ingenuity, industry, and grit of our Soldiers is just phenomenal and you would all be so very proud to see what they have accomplished in Iraq in such a short period of time.



SABRE SQUADRON

By Lt. Col. Christopher Hickey
Sabre Squadron Commander

Greetings again from Tal Afar! As the Cavalrymen of Sabre Squadron enter yet another month in theater, we realize how vital our presence is to the lives of the citizens here in Tal Afar.

Our Soldiers, in conjunction with the Iraqi Army, have provided much needed assistance to the local populace, while continuing to quell the insurgency.

I have spent a great deal of time meeting with local leaders to address the issues pertaining to the future of this city.

The progress made in these meetings thus far has given us a feeling of optimism and dispelled many of our fears and worries. Obviously, the situation in Tal Afar is the number one priority of Sabre Squadron.

However, great strides have also been taken to ensure the continual improvement of living conditions for our men and women here at Camp Sykes and out at Fort Tal Afar.

Furthermore, the Squadron has recently seen some new additions and also undergone numerous changes of command.

Our camp has also seen the addition of Dragon Troop, brought over from Tiger Squadron. They have been assisting us in keeping Route Santa Fe open and running convoy escorts.

Several Troops from Sabre Squadron have had changes in leadership. Capt. Darrell Watkins of Eagle Troop was succeeded by Capt. Richard Blackburn; Capt. Christopher Marquez has taken Capt. James Dayhoff's position as the Howitzer Battery Commander; and Capt. Mitchell Kusmier has replaced Capt. Gasperini as Sabre's Rear Detachment Commander.

Over the past few weeks, Sabre has provided citizens of Tal Afar with much needed food and water. A seemingly simple gesture can go a long way in gaining confidence of the local population.

We also have elements working daily on certain electrical systems in the city. Rebuilding the electric infrastructure is vital, especially to buildings such as the hospital.

Actions always speak louder than words and as Iraqi families begin to realize the importance of our efforts, I feel that the insurgency foothold will continue to slip.

Frequent meetings with the local leaders have been progressing well. Many of them show a true desire to secure Tal Afar for democracy. Our main focus is to provide a stable setting for the elections in December.

Another goal is to keep strengthening the Iraqi Police force in Tal Afar. Sabre elements have continued training the Iraqi Army.

Now that IA soldiers have been trained to drive and perform preventative maintenance checks and services on M113 vehicles, they are growing into more versatile assets to their country.

As we approach the half way point in this deployment, our Troopers are maintaining their resilience and confidence that we are making progress here in Tal Afar continues to increase.

Our presence here is directly contributing to the safety of the people of Tal Afar as well as those throughout the region and the world.

Sabre Squadron has made many accomplishments so far and I have the utmost confidence that our forces, alongside the Iraqi Army, will complete the mission successfully. Ai-ee-yah

Sabre 6

An Iraqi Army Soldier unloads a box of food during a humanitarian mission aimed at distributing food to needy citizens in Tal Afar.

Meals on Wheels

Fox Troop assists Iraqi Army with food delivery to Tal Afar

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

More than 20 Iraqi Army Soldiers unloaded nearly one ton of food which included rice, canned vegetables and other raw food products to the Sunna district in the city.

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

Troopers from Fox Troop, Second Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment conducted a humanitarian mission alongside Iraqi Army Soldiers in Tal Afar on Aug. 15.

Delivering nearly one ton of food to the Sunna district of the city, the intent of the mission was to provide food for the citizens and show the good will of the American and Iraqi forces.

Throughout August, elements of Sabre Squadron participated with their Iraqi counterparts in various humanitarian missions to improve the lives of Iraqi citizens in the city of Tal Afar.

A curious Iraqi child peeps over a wall to look at a 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment trooper providing security at the food distribution site.

THUNDER SQUADRON

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

Dear friends and family members of the Thunder Team, greetings from southern Baghdad. I could not be prouder of how the Squadron has performed the past month.

As I reported in my last letter to you, the Squadron joined the 4th (Vanguard) Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, on the July21 and the units continue to flourish in their daily operations.

Our continuous operations have seen many successes against the enemy in August and we continue to work hard to maintain the initiative everyday.

In the complex environment of this counter insurgency, the squadron is making progress in establishing a stable and secure environment and winning the war in our area of operations.

Many of you have seen our Soldiers return to Fort Carson for well-deserved environmental leave. Continue to receive these heroes with open arms.

The two weeks that they spend home with family and friends has proven to be very beneficial as Soldiers have returned recharged and ready to rejoin their troop, company or battery, and continue our mission.

Our thoughts and prayers are with each one of our families and friends – particularly those who we have lost.

We will continue to honor our fallen and keep them alive in our hearts by using them and their example of duty, of selflessness and honor, and of goodness to guide our decisions and actions.

Thank you very much to those who have assisted in memorializing our Soldiers back at Fort Carson. I know their families are very appreciative.

I want to thank each and every family member for your continued love and support- our thoughts are never far from you.

Thunder 6

In the complex environment of this counter-insurgency, the squadron is making progress in establishing a stable and secure environment and winning the war in our area of operations.

Mad Dog Company spearhead of Thunder's success during OIF 04-06

Mounted Rifleman Reports
Mad Dog Company 3/3

The role of the tank company is usually the main or supporting effort in a conventional fight on the battlefield. However in Iraq, the tank company is fighting an unconventional enemy in an unconventional fight.

For the tankers of Mad Dog Company, they've been the spearhead of Third Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment since the Regiment's arrival to Operation Iraqi Freedom 04-06.

Mad Dog led the first convoy into Iraq from Kuwait and has never looked back and continues to lead many of the critical operations Thunder Squadron conducts as well as securing one of the most vital supply routes in all of Iraq, according to Lt. Col. Ross Brown, commander, Thunder Squadron.

From day one in their area of operation, the unit has made an immediate impact on the enemy which operated freely in the area.

The company secured checkpoints at strategic locations along the route and took over the vital Route Security mission on MSR Tampa on a stretch of road that had been plagued by over 75 improvised explosive devices in the previous month.

Only hours after departing Forward Operating Base Falcon, Mad Dog came under small arms fire from a van and a truck that were driving by.

Soldiers from Mad Dog immediately returned fire, killing one of the passengers of the truck.

The unit's success has been evident and has produced dramatic results during its first five months in the area.

The number of IEDs has decreased more than 80 percent on the route allowing civilian and military traffic to flow nearly unimpeded throughout Mad Dog's area of operation.

The mission has been a grind for both the Soldiers and the tanks, as they perform a different type of fight.

During the first month and a half, the Tank Company performed operations solely from its M1A2 tanks and conducted operations for over 40 days without a dedicated maintenance day.

"Soldiers would go out on missions for eight to 12

See **MAD DOG,** Page 19

Courtesy photo

M1A2 Abram tanks assigned to Mad Dog Company line up in preparation for a mission. The unit has solely been responsible for decreasing IED attacks along Main Supply Route Tampa in Baghdad.

MAD DOG from Page 18

hours and then perform at least four hours of maintenance on their vehicles to keep them running," Monhaut said. "The platoons were putting nearly 800 kilometers a week on their tanks.

"The discipline of the tank crews to maintain their vehicles despite the rigorous pace of missions proves the amount of dedication they have to the mission and to each other."

Mad Dog's maintenance team has been critical in the sustaining readiness of the vehicles, changing 10 engines, four transmissions, hundreds of road wheels, arms, hubs, hub caps and led the Squadron throughout this deployment in operational readiness.

The unit suffered a personal tragedy with the lost of Sgt. Timothy Hutton to an IED attack on July 11. The same attack also injured Capt. Joseph Albright, commander, 2nd Lt. Josh Porter, and tank driver Pfc. Lowery; requiring all to return to the states.

The loss of Sutton hit the unit extremely hard.

"He was one of the best Soldiers and one of the best people I've ever worked with," said Staff Robert Cornett said at his eulogy.

The leadership of the unit has now transferred to Capt. Michael Hensley. Despite the obstacles Mad Dog had experienced, Hensley mentioned the unit is still determined to defeat an enemy that is very resilient and adaptive.

"Mad Dog Company continues to strive to eliminate all enemy forces within its area, tweaking and adjusting its tactics to try and stay one step ahead of the enemy," Hensley said. "Having one of the most demanding missions tasked to Mad Dog is a credit to all of the Soldiers who work every day to make Iraq a better place.

"The Soldiers have gone through quite a bit in the past few months but they refuse to give up and are constantly taking the fight to the enemy."

The success achieved by Mad Dog has been noticed throughout the Squadron and all of the 3rd Infantry Division's Area of Operations, and continues to be one of the most critical missions in all of Iraq.

3d ACR faces different mission this time around

Spc. Dan Balda
4th Brigade Combat Team PAO

Nobody ever said war is easy, and that has not changed for 3rd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment during its second rotation to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The Mounted Riflemen are back in Iraq after serving here during OIF 1. The unit redeployed in April and, as of mid-July, 3-3 ACR fell under the command and control of 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

The unit's mission is now focused on building Iraqi Security Forces, counter-insurgency operations, and setting the conditions for the construction of a new Iraqi government—a far cry from the scenario of the first days of Iraq's liberation in Spring 2004.

CSM GLEN DAILEY

The change has not always been easy.

"The mission has been very difficult thus far," said Command Sgt. Maj. Glen Dailey, 3-3 ACR's senior noncommissioned officer.

The Soldiers' mission has evolved somewhat from what the squadron trained for at its home, Fort Carson, Colo., but Dailey has no fears

See **DAILEY,** Page 20

DAILEY from Page 19

"We are catching a lot of guys, and the Soldiers want to see that, they want to see us making headway against the insurgents. We want to catch the guys that killed my friend, my brother, my sergeant, my Soldier, and see them face justice."

-- CSM Glen Dailey, Thunder Squadron

regarding his units' ability to adapt.

"Back at home station we trained for a lot of cordon and searches and traffic control points," the Repton, Ala., native said. "Here, it's mostly route security, reconning the area to check for improvised explosive devices and other attack areas.

"We are a cavalry unit, we know how to adjust fire and get trained up on a changed mission with no problem."

The top NCO has heard nothing but positive affirmation from his Soldiers regarding the changing of direction.

During Dailey's deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 1, he was 2nd Squadron's operations sergeant major which gave him different responsibilities.

This time, Dailey's job allows him to interact with his Soldiers on a daily basis.

"With my new responsibilities, I am most concerned with the Soldiers themselves," Dailey said. "It's a different ballgame from operations. I get to be where the Soldiers are at, making sure they are doing the right thing and they are being taken care of."

Like any NCO worth his or her salt, Dailey prefers to be out with the Soldiers.

"I can honestly know what it feels like being out there working hard in the heat," he said. "I get to do what the Soldiers are doing and see what the Soldiers are seeing."

Dailey said 70 percent of his Soldiers have deployed to Iraq before the current deployment. This is something he sees as both a blessing and a curse.

"It's good because the people know the conditions, they know what to expect. It's kind of not good because it's not the same fight that we had before.

"They also have to get the information down to the younger Soldiers who were not here before. I have to tell them, 'Guys this is what we did last time, and this is what we are going to do now.' They have to differentiate between the two fights."

During 3-3 ACR's previous deployment, they were in a more rural area, which allowed the unit's Bradley Fighting Vehicles and Abrams tanks to get out after the enemy with their main guns.

The face of the enemy is the biggest challenge facing the Thunder Squadron.

"Before the enemy would present themselves, as they would in a normal battle. This time the enemy are not presenting themselves."

Dailey understands how the frustration in the "fog of war" can build and he does his best to combat it.

"They are keeping focused on the mission, that's part of my job, to make sure they have things available to release that stress when they come in off a mission," Dailey said. "I don't want them to just sit there and think about it. I'd rather them go to the gym or watch TV instead of getting angry."

He knows the squadron needs to achieve tangible results to maintain its level of motivation.

"We are catching a lot of guys, and the Soldiers want to see that, they want to see us making headway against the insurgents," Dailey said. "We want to catch the guys that killed my friend, my brother, my sergeant, my Soldier, and see them face justice. We make sure the guys are maintaining their composure, their professionalism."

Dailey believes his Soldiers will carry the day, partly for selfish reasons—they want to go home after having completed the mission—but more importantly, for altruistic reasons.

"We are not here to destroy the Iraqi community or the Iraqi people, we are here to give them the support to see how they can live and evolve to running their own country."

LONGKNIFE SQUADRON

By Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Waller
Longknife Squadron Command Sergeant Major

Dear family and friends of the Longknife Squadron, hello again from Camp Sykes! Thank you for reading our monthly newsletter, we hope that it brings you just a little more in touch with what's going on over here and entertains you a little with our photos and often funny Troop updates.

Just when we thought it couldn't get any warmer, August came rolling in. August has been yet another exceptional month for the Squadron despite the soaring temperatures.

Soldiers have continued to perform at levels far beyond that expected and show no sign of slowing as the deployment wears on.

From the beginning we have looked at this deployment as a marathon, not a sprint and it is with pride that I report that your Troopers continue to amaze me with their performance under less than ideal work conditions, sustained time away from home, and an impressive stamina.

With five months and counting, the mid-tour leave program is in full swing, and almost daily, Soldiers are departing or returning from their leave destinations.

Some Soldiers are electing to go on R&R instead and have reported back that the accommodations and experience was well worth the trip down south to Kuwait.

The Squadron is fully engaged in the fight as, N, O, P and R Troop find themselves conducting missions as varied as Blackhawk chase to security and recon in direct support of the ground squadrons.

HHT is supporting from the front as always and has been doing an exceptional job at Camp Sykes as well as other Forward Operating bases in northern Iraq. S Troop continues to carry the Regiment as 571st continues its exceptional work – based out of Al Asad Airbase.

Quickstrike Troop has contributed a great deal over the last month to the training and integration of the Iraqi Army during combat mission in the Longknife Area of Operations.

And as always the aircraft maintainers of T Troop and AVIM Troop have kept our Aviation fleet in the air – a remarkable task considering the extraordinary number of flight hours accumulated by the Squadron each month.

As always we look forward to hearing from everyone back at home.

I personally thank you for the support you provide to your deployed loved ones; family is the backbone of the military, and without supportive family and friends at home the deployed unit would not be able to focus on the missions at hand and successfully combat our enemy.

Thank you for all that you do and for the personal sacrifices you make each day in support of the military and your loved one.

Very respectfully,
Longknife 7

Longknife cre

F

ew chiefs bring new meaning to

light Service

Story By Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

After returning back to Germany following his deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom Sgt. Andy Pratt was celebrating at a club when a Soldier approached him at the bar. The two had never known each other before, but after their conversation, Pratt realized just how much his job as an OH-58D Kiowa crew chief meant to the men who fought on the ground.

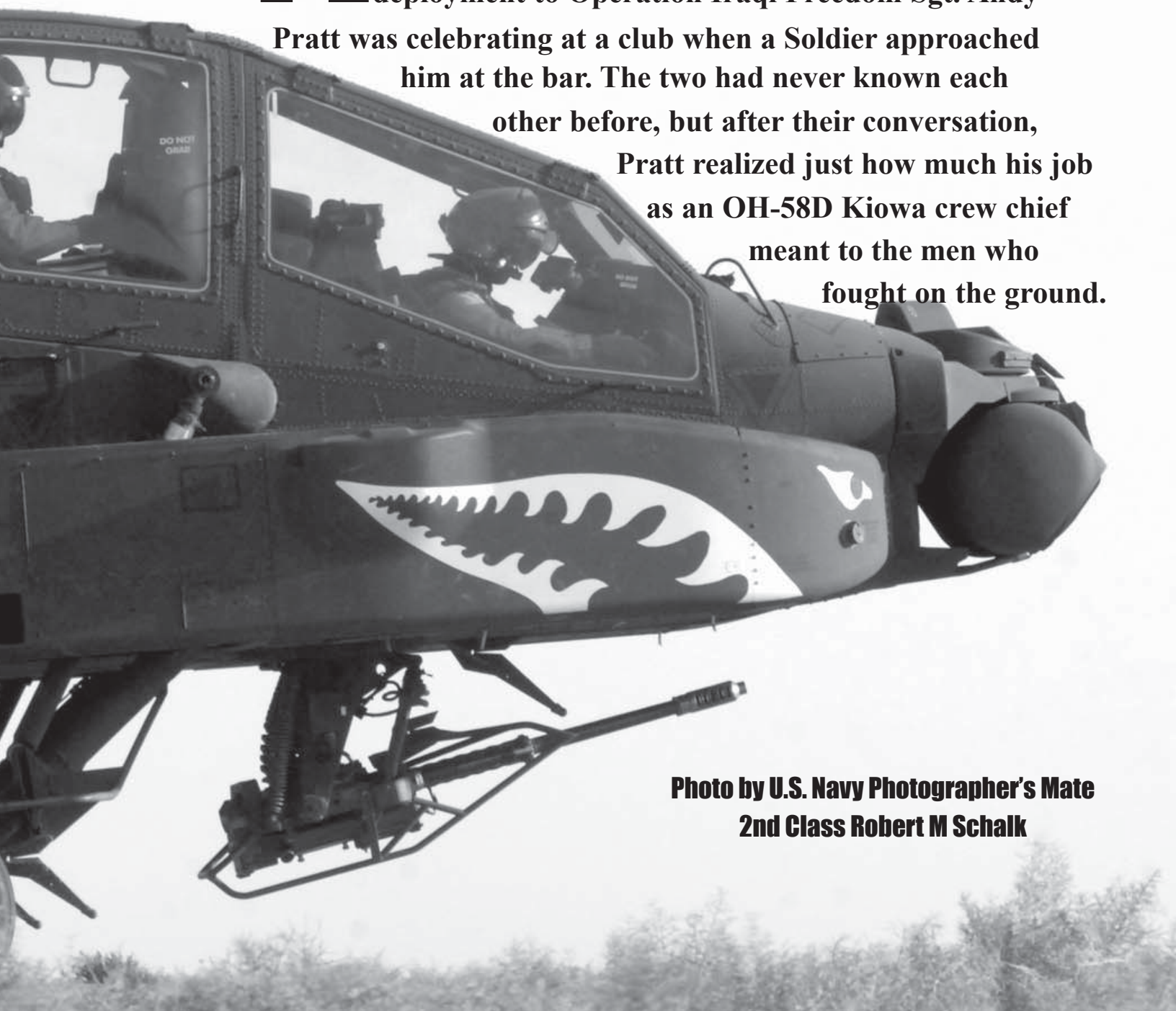


Photo by U.S. Navy Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Robert M Schalk

"He told me that because of what I did to keep birds flying in the air, his squad was saved during a fire fight with the enemy when one of my birds came and gave air support," said Pratt, now assigned to Fourth Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment.

The Soldier bought Pratt four beers, one each for the Soldiers whose lives he saved on that day.

That story is one that the native of Burns, Ore., shares with his Soldiers in Outlaw Troop to remind them of their importance and what they bring to the overall fight and mission of the Regiment.

The life of an aircraft mechanic or crew chief is not one of the glamour jobs such as the pilots who fly the various helicopters assigned to the Squadron; in fact the job is one that Pratt calls a daily "race against time."

The 'race against time' includes a quick handover from the shift supervisor, what has been accomplished and what needs to be accomplished on the next shift.

Pratt mentioned his crew is briefed on which airframe is a hard down, what aircraft are flying currently, and which aircraft is prepped for flight.

"As soon as you come on shift you automatically have to put hours on the airframe," Pratt said. "You have eight to 12 hours to do it depending on the mission.

"You're putting hours on the aircraft that they can fly and do what it needs to do the next time it flies, so the main object is to put hours on the bird."

Putting 'hours on the bird' is slang for conducting maintenance and preparing it for the amount of flight hours the helicopter will be in the air before it's next inspection.

"Every time the bird lands, hands are on it," said Cpl. Bryan Law, from Kanab, Utah, a Kiowa crew

Photo by 2nd Lt. Mollie Kedney

Crew chiefs from Tomahawk Troop conducts an inspection of a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during routine maintenance following an operation.

chief who deployed with 3d ACR during OIF I. "Some missions require the birds to have eight to 10 hours available to fly before its next inspection."

Just as Soldiers conduct daily Preventative Maintenance Checks and Services on wheeled vehicles, the crew chiefs check for deficiencies which could prevent the aircraft from flying.

"The time we have to prepare the aircraft for the next mission can be exhausting," Law said. "It doesn't help that maintenance is done outside in temperatures sometimes exceeding 115 degrees."

Longknife Squadron has six aviation troops at Camp Sykes, Iraq: Stetson Troop which maintains the UH-60L Blackhawk helicopters, Renegade Troop which maintains the AH-64 Apache helicopters, Outlaw, Nomad and Pegasus Troops which maintains the OH-58D Kiowas and Tomahawk Troop which supports aviation unit maintenance.

The Soldiers with diverse aviation military occupational specialties inspect the aircraft for frayed hoses and pressure lines, leaks, and most importantly – bullet holes and battle damage.

"Usually if an aircraft is engaged, we'll know about it before it touches the ground, so we know what to look for," Law said.

During OIF I, the Longknife's aircraft wasn't as actively engaged with the enemy, however during this current deployment, the Squadron's aircraft has been engaging the enemy as it conducted more combat-oriented operations.

"If a bird gets hit and makes an emergency landing, we have to repair it and still cover down on maintenance on the other birds," said Spc. Juan Moreno, OH-58D crew chief from San Antonio, Texas.

Stetson Troop's crew chiefs are the only crew chiefs who actually fly with the pilots on their missions.

Halfway through the troop's one-year deployment, Stetson's crew members have flown more than 3,000 hours.

See **CREW,** Page 26

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Sgt. Jonte Williams, crew chief, Renegade Troop, braves the heat while conducting maintenance on an AH-64 Apache helicopter on Camp Sykes, Iraq.

CREW from Page 25

The crew members not only conduct daily maintenance on the aircraft, but during flight operations, they provide security as gunners inside the Blackhawk.

The pilots praise the efforts and dedication of the crew chiefs and mechanics for keeping the aircraft mission ready.

"As far as operational level of it, that's their job," Moreno said. When it comes to the diagnosis part of it, they come to us. The pilots are very dependent on us to keep the bird flying for them, making sure they have a safe flight and keeping them alive."

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Spc. Daniel Walter, UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter crew chief, assigned to Stetson Troop, Longknife Squadron, conducts a test fire of the M240B during a flight near Tall Afar, Iraq. Blackhawk crew members are responsible for providing security and engaging the enemy during flight operations.

The operation tempo for the entire Squadron is one that is literally off the charts. Every day a bird is in the air whether it's a Blackhawk, Kiowa or Apache.

Outlaw Troop alone has flown nearly 2,700 flight hours. During a normal year at garrison on Fort Carson, Colo., the Kiowas fly 400 hours according to Pratt.

"Our optempo is unreal," Pratt said.

The hard labor of the troops maintaining the birds have not gone unnoticed by the Squadron's senior leaders.

"Since the beginning of this deployment, our aircraft combined has flown more than 20,000 hours," said Maj. Wayne Gilstrap, operations officer, Longknife Squadron. "It is absolutely remarkable what our crew chiefs are doing and despite the optempo, they continue to maintain a high level of motivation."

Gilstrap added what the average Soldier on the ground doesn't see is that the crew chiefs are working 24 hours a day, seven days a week to maintain the aircraft so the birds can accompany the ground troops on their combat missions.

Most importantly, Gilstrap said the crew chiefs are part of the Regiment's overall combined arms fight against the enemy in which air/ground integrations brings superiority and dominance to the battlefield.

"They're not out in the streets like the cavalry scouts, but they bring so much to the fight," Gilstrap said. "If we can provide a little more confidence in the cavalry scout's minds, then we're doing our jobs. That's the reason the crew chiefs do what they do."

Gilstrap added the aircraft is the eyes for the scout on the ground and "the crew chiefs make that happen."

As for Pratt, once again he's found favor and respect from the men who take the fight to the enemy in the urban battlefield.

"I hear it from the other troops, from some of the tankers, so I know how much they appreciate what we do," Pratt said with a sense of pride in his voice. "It's good for the guys on the ground. If we can keep a bird up, it makes them feel a lot safer and to conduct their missions more effectively."

MULESKINNER SQUADRON

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

Dear Muleskinner family and friends, I am pleased to report that as we enter our six month of deployment, Muleskinner continues provide superb maintenance, great supply support, medical support and base security which allow the Regiment to retain absolute freedom of maneuver through the 34,230 square miles of Veterans Area of Operations.

This is of course is due to the impressive accomplishments of the Muleskinner Team of Champions. Here is a brief overview of each unit and their role to the team.

Chaplain (Capt.) Leo Moras continues to keep his finger on the morale of the Squadron conducting a wide range of counseling and holding three separate Catholic services every Sunday.

As the only Catholic priest, he makes time to travel to outlying Forward Operating Bases (FOB) providing catholic services to the Regiment.

Bullwhip continues to manage the security of Camp Sykes through their Base Defense Operations Center. Part of their success is attributed to their knowledge of the local area surrounding the camp.

They have conducted several humanitarian aide missions to local villages and have worked with the locals on improving their standard of living.

We have successfully delivered numerous amounts of food and water to the surrounding villages and made several assessments on long term improvements such as drilling wells and improving medical care.

Bullwhip also serves as the command and control of the Convoy Security Detachment (CSD) which has a two-fold mission to secure our combat logistics patrols and serve as the quick reaction force for the camp in order to defeat any enemy engagements.

Packhorse recently completed their 100th combat logistics patrol and our Soldiers display the discipline, confidence, and competence to complete every mission.

They are the quick reaction force for the Regiment when it comes to logistics. With the CSD, they can deliver anything at anytime of the day and do so with the lethality and prowess of any combat unit.

Packhorse currently has a water purification team that is forward deployed to FOBAl Nimr at Sinjar supporting Tiger Squadron with the necessary bulk potable water.

Last month this water team purified and issued almost enough water to fill an Olympic size swimming pool.

Packhorse also prepared, stored and issued 215 tons of bagged ice which is the equivalent in weight to three fully combat loaded M1A2 Abrams Tanks.

Blacksmith continued their amazing 24/7 maintenance support to the Regiment this past month.

One section I'd like to mention is the Operational Readiness Float Maintenance Team, which has the very important mission of restoring tanks and Bradley Fighting vehicles that are damaged.

This past month they were able to turn around several, ensuring the Regiment remain prepared for their mission.

The Service and Evacuation section used their welding skills recently to build targets for the Iraqi Army to train and qualify on their weapons systems. Also they were instrumental in repairing and strengthening the new cabs on the FMTVs.

While performing these amazing feats of maintenance support, they continue to provide the security at the main gate ensuring all personnel and vehicles are cleared before entering.

See **MULESKINNER,** Page 28

MULESKINNER from Page 27

The Tech Supply Platoon in the Supply Support Activity (SSA) continues to keep the Regiment moving by receiving, processing, storing, and issuing the critical parts that keep the tanks, Bradleys, and other equipment rolling.

In the past month they have received and issued almost 27,000 parts in order to keep the Regiment postured for success.

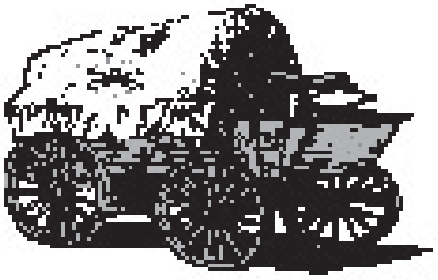
Air Raider continues to keep Longknife Squadron flying as they repair critical armament and aircraft. Since Renegade Troop returned to the Regiment, Air Raider completed their first Apache Phase Maintenance, complete aircraft inspection and repair.

Chemdawg continues to balance their twofold mission of combat logistic patrol security and operating the Regimental Internment Facility (RIF). They do so by employing their smoke platoon in the RIF and their Recon Platoon with the CSD.

While they are the smallest unit in the Squadron, they continue to accomplish Herculean feats by receiving and guarding more than four times the amount of their company size in detainees just this past month.

The Recon platoon recently completed their 100th Combat Logistics Patrol, ensuring every CLP was secured and guided to their final destination.

This is truly one of the most noble and historic acts of kindness performed by our fellow Americans.



An aircraft must be completely rebuilt after so many hours of flying and it takes several days. Due to the amazing efforts of their mechanics and technicians, they allowed the Apache to return to the fight in record time.

The aviation SSA continues to manage all the thousands of parts needed to keep the aircraft flying.

Scalpel's medical support is top class and they continue to heal the wounded and cure the sick at a record pace.

Between mid-July and mid-August, Scalpel treated almost 1,600 patients including U.S. Soldiers, Iraqi Army soldiers, local nationals and detainees.

I want to extend my utmost appreciation for the impressive support by your loved ones who are deployed to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

This is truly one of the most noble and historic acts of kindness performed by our fellow Americans.

I thank you for your contribution and I applaud your unwavering support to your loved ones who are deployed to win this Global War on Terrorism.

It is truly an honor for me to serve alongside each and every Muleskinner Trooper and I look forward to meeting each and every one of you when we redeploy.

Godspeed, Brave Rifles!

Muleskinner 6

Muleskinner troopers bring hope, care to small village

Mounted Rifleman Reports

Looking directly into the eyes of his M249 SAW Gunner, Capt. Todd Allison asked the question he always asks when the two leave the 'wire.'

"Are you ready to go?" said Allison, S-1, assigned to Support Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Spc. Leonard Bowen quickly responded, "Yes Sir, I am ready to go and win the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people."

The two Soldiers participated in a short-planned humanitarian mission that was specifically geared towards helping the local Iraqi population living in the town of Zariqi located just outside of Camp Sykes.

Because of insurgent violence in the city of Tall Afar, many families fled the city to seclude themselves from the danger.

Zariqi, home to members of the Shii tribe, has a population consisting of about 250 families who are loosely tied to each other through family lines. Approximately 100 to 150 families had recently settled there to escape the insurgency in Tall Afar.

Due to the increase of population the citizens were in desperate need of some basic necessities such as potable water, sufficient food, and medical care. Also the town had an unusually large population of children; so it was in need of a pediatrician.

Entering the small town of stone and clay homes, the residents quickly assembled around the Soldiers to welcome their presence.

Shortly after the convoy's arrival, the Soldiers were taken to the existing well which supplied water for the town.

Capt. Steven Williams, commander, Bullwhip Troop, Support Squadron, along with civil affairs and medical personnel had visited Zariqi several times during the past month and identified several community projects – including the well.

"We came to the well which was nothing more than an L-shaped rusted pipe coming from the ground," Allison said. "Around it was old concertina wire to keep thieves from taking

Photo by Capt. Todd Allison

Pfc. Danielle Gerboc, medic, assigned to Medical Troop, Support Squadron, checks the heart rate of an infant girl name "Munta." Munta suffers from a hole in the heart that makes her weak and deprives her body of oxygen.

See **VILLAGE,** Page 30

VILLAGE from Page 29

what was left of the well."

The Civil Affairs team, along with 1st Lt. Trevor Crandall, S-4, Support Squadron, began to make an assessment of the well.

It was determined the well was about 20-to-50 meters deep and it was last operational when the 101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division had been in the area more than a year and a half ago.

The villagers pointed out a working well that was owned by one of the villagers who paid for the parts and labor himself.

"It was decided that the old well site was most likely not operational in the past two years, but it was decided Zariqi would get a new well there," Allison said.

The townspeople were aided by Capt. Jennifer Rael, a doctor and pediatrician, and Pfc. Danielle Gerboc, medic, both assigned to Medical Troop, Support Squadron, who came along to provide medical care and treatment.

Rael and Williams engaged conversation with a local Iraqi named Mustafa.

Mustafa was recently hired on one of the visits to the village to work on Camp Sykes as general labor in the warehouse.

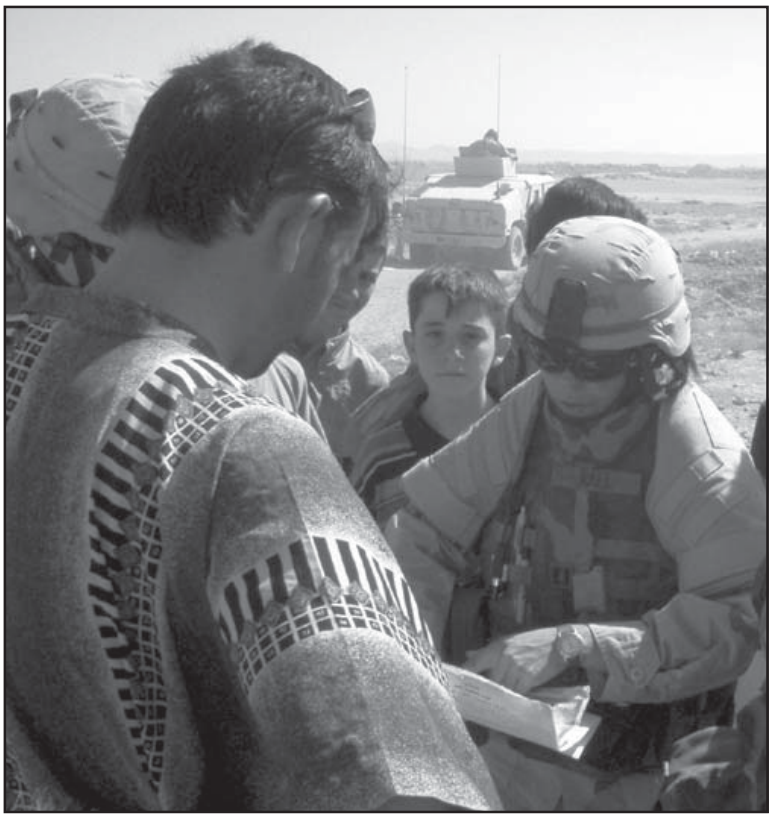


Photo by Capt. Todd Allison

Capt. Jennifer Rael, doctor and pediatrician, Medical Troop, Support Squadron, prepares medical instructions for the townspeople of Zariqi during a humanitarian mission.

On a previous visit he had sought treatment and medicine from the medical personnel for his daughter Munta, who appeared to be about three years of age. His daughter had a 'hole' in her heart.

"This is a medical condition that does not allow the heart to pump blood through the body as normal children, causing Munta to be weaker than others her age," Rael said.

It was explained to the worried father that his daughter needed heart surgery to repair her condition. Unfortunately the chances of finding a cardiologist that specialized in treating children in Iraq was considered remote, particularly in their region of the country.

"She would survive without treatment, but she would remain weaker than others and she would have to be cared for in different ways."

Not long after Rael examined the little girl, many families began bringing their children to her for medical treatment. One by one, she began caring for the children who were sick and injured.

As the humanitarian effort came to a close, Allison began to wonder if he'd fulfilled his Soldier's response of "winning the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people." He'd just handed a bag of candy to a little girl clutching her little brother.

"Is she old enough to understand what the Americans are doing in her little village?" Allison said. "This young girl and children like her are the future of a democratic and free nation of Iraq. Time will only tell in this little village."

REMINGTON TROOP

By Capt. David Olsen
Remington Troop Commander

Dear Dear Remington families and friends, hello from Camp Sykes. As the month of August passes behind us, the weather here outside of Tall Afar is beginning to cool ever so slightly – a sign of more favorable fall temperatures.

The Regiment is making final preparations for the constitutional referendum next month – this effort is demanding long hours from everyone in the Regimental Headquarters as we work with local leaders and polling officials.

The Regimental Iraqi Security Forces team has helped the Iraqi Army reach a key milestone on the path to developing the leaders needed to help secure this country.

The Border Security Forces and Iraqi Police are likewise making significant progress towards stopping the flow of insurgents and weapons into Ninewa Province.

The Regimental staff has worked closely with the regional government to help establish these organizations in northwest Iraq.

The Regimental Engineers and Civil Affairs team are coordinating projects throughout the area of operations to help rebuild infrastructure in villages and towns, including wells, schools, police stations, and sewage systems, much of which has been damaged by conflict and neglect.

These projects are an important part of the process of re-establishing the local economy and returning a sense of normalcy to the region.

Even as combat operations are continuing, our Soldiers are improving the lives of the people of Ninewa Province every day. Their hard work will leave a lasting impression on this country long after the Regiment has redeployed.

Remington Troopers continue to train in basic Soldier skills to maintain their proficiency throughout the deployment.

Together with the 66th Military Intelligence Company, we conducted a small arms range over two days on Camp Sykes to re-qualify Soldiers on their personal weapons and familiarize them with various crew-served machine guns.

The Troop Headquarters and the NCOs of Ghostrider Company did an outstanding job of organizing and executing this range.

Construction of the large MWR facility here at Camp Sykes was delayed by some funding issues, but we hope to see it completed later this fall.

In the meantime, our Troopers have been participating in the camp's softball league and organizing a flag football team for the upcoming season. Other Soldiers are enjoying Karaoke at the dining facility and poetry readings at the MWR building to relax and help pass the time.

We had the opportunity to reward several of our Troopers last month for their hard work during this deployment.

Spc. Danielle Carpenter and Privates First Class Benjamin Cochran, Christina Jenkins, and Brody Taylor were all promoted here at Camp Sykes, as were Captains Adam Grow and Eric Pittman.

Sgt. Gene Braxton and Spc. Joshua Stanley were selected as the Remington Troop NCO and Soldier of the Month, respectively.

And last, but not least, 1st Sgt. Rodney Greene has been selected in his first look for promotion to Sergeant Major.

Congratulations to each of these Soldiers and their families – their dedication is helping to make our mission a success here in Iraq.

I hope that everyone back home is enjoying the last few weeks of summer. Thanks for all your continued support! Brave Rifles!

Remington 6

Getting through the tough times

By Chaplain (Maj.) David Causey
Regimental Chaplain

Author Leslie Flynn tells the story of a sailor who was shipwrecked on a South Sea island. He was seized by the natives, carried shoulder-high to a crude throne and proclaimed king.

He learned that, according to custom, a king ruled for one year. The idea appealed to the sailor until he began to wonder what had befallen previous kings.

He learned that when a king's reign ended, he was banished to a deserted island where he starved.

Knowing he had power of kingship for a year, the sailor began issuing orders: carpenters were to make boats; farmers were to go ahead to this island and plant crops. Builders were to erect a sturdy home. When his reign finished, he was exiled, not to a barren isle, but to a paradise of plenty.

There is a world in which we can create a virtual paradise for ourselves, an escape from the pain and loneliness that deployment brings upon us.

What is this place, this haven to which we can flee and by which we survive the toughest of times? This world is our memory.

In a *Science Digest* article entitled "The Magic of Memory," Laurence Cherry says: "Our memories are probably our most cherished possessions. More than anything else we own, they belong uniquely to us, defining our personalities and our views of the world.

"Each of us can summon thousands of memories at will: our first day at school, a favorite family pet, a summer house we loved."

Oscar Wilde had all this in mind when he said, "Memory is the diary that we all carry about in us." And the German writer Jean Paul Richter said, "Our memory is the only paradise out of which we cannot be driven."

A memory filled with a garden of pleasant thoughts and recollections can be a paradise for us in difficult times.

This is why it is so important to build happy memories with our families and loved ones when we have the opportunity – on mid-tour leave, in-between deployments, on four-day weekends (when we get to observe them).

Too often we opt for more "practical and profitable" uses of our time or we dismiss such family fun times as unnecessary.

But having a treasury of pleasant experiences stashed away in our memories will sustain us and our marriages through the grinding tough times.

James Matthew Barrie once explained, "God gives us memory so that we may have roses in December."

The Scripture says, "Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything praiseworthy, think on these things." *(Philippians 4:8)*

Courtesy photo

Sunday service

Chaplain (Capt.) Paul Fritts, conducts service for worshippers during Sunday Service at the Camp Sykes chapel. Religious services are provided for 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment Soldiers on the camp.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Four more years

Spc. Christopher Coats, Medical Troop, Support Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, is given the reenlistment oath from Col. H.R. McMaster, 71st commander of the Regiment, during his reenlistment ceremony.

Proper protection, education key to preventing leishmaniasis

By Antonio Padillia
Safety Officer, 3rd ACR

Since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom, many Soldiers and other servicemembers have been diagnosed with cutaneous leishmaniasis, or "Baghdad Boil."

The 5/20th Infantry Division had 119 cases after leaving Tall Afar last year. The disease, spread by sand flies, causes mild to severe skin lesions that take months to heal and can be disfiguring.

Like malaria and other insect-borne afflictions, leishmaniasis has been around for a long time and is found all over the world. There isn't a vaccine to thwart it, but leishmaniasis is treatable and, most importantly, *preventable*.

Prevention begins with awareness, and Soldiers should be aware of the sand fly's habits. Only one-third the size of mosquitoes, these silent flies are most active from dusk to dawn, but frequently feed during daylight hours.

They easily can fit through the mesh of bed nets and are nuisance biters, meaning they bite repeatedly—some Soldiers have reported being bitten more than 100 times.

Once infected, it may take several months for a Soldier to exhibit the sores typical of leishmaniasis. These single or multiple ulcers can be extremely painful and don't get better on their own.

Over a few weeks, the sores enlarge, crust over, and break down into slow-growing ulcers up to several centimeters in diameter.

Soldiers with suspicious sores should seek medical attention immediately for accurate diagnosis and treatment.

The ulcer will heal without treatment after 6-9 months but will leave a scar.

It's important to remember that if you take the proper steps, you won't have to wait for the doc to come around.

The Department of Defense Insect Repellent System—properly worn DCUs treated with permethrin and DEET on exposed skin—is the best protection against insect bites and diseases like leishmaniasis and West Nile Virus.

The DCU top should be worn with the sleeves down and the undershirt tucked inside the pants, which should be tucked into the boots. Permethrin is available as an aerosol spray or an impregnation kit

To protect exposed skin, apply a thin, even layer of DEET-containing product to uncovered areas such as your hands, neck, and face.

Don't forget to protect yourself while you sleep. Always use a permethrin-treated bed net in your sleeping quarters or tent.

There is enough product in a single can of aerosol permethrin to treat one bed net. DCUs should be treated with the impregnation kit

For more information on leishmaniasis, visit the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine Web site at *http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil*.

REGIMENT'S ENGAGEMENTS

MONTH	LOCATION	UNITS ENGAGED
1 Aug 1870	Skirmish Canyon, Apache Mountains, Ariz.	F
2 Aug 1860	Near Albuquerque, N.M.	Detachment I
2 Aug 1861	Dug Springs or Dry Creek, Mo.	Company of recruits
7-31 Aug 1918	Vesle Front, France (2nd Battle of the Marne)	K
13 Aug 1990	Desert Storm railhead operations -Train movement of 2160 pieces of major equipment, weighing over 3 million pounds, on 13 trains from Fort Bliss to Beaumont, Texas	3d ACR
15 Aug 1869	Near San Augustine Pass, N.M.	F and H
16 Aug 1944	Rambouillet, France	43d Cav Recon (MECZ)
18-20 Aug 1847	San Antonio, Contreras and Churubusco, Mexico	A, B, D, E, F, G, H, I, and K
25 Aug 1871	Arivapaya Canyon, Ariz.	D, H, and Detachment F
29 Aug 1858	Near Bear Springs, N.M.	I
31 Aug 1900	Near Sinait, Ilocos Sur, PI	Detachment K

On Aug. 3, 1861, the Regiment was re-designated as the Third U.S. Cavalry.

Bravery, courage, devotion part of Mounted Riflemen's legacy, lore

Compiled by Jim Mallette
3d ACR Museum Technician

On Aug. 20, 1847 General Scott addressed the Regiment of Mounted Rifles after the Battle of Contreras.

The following is the text of the address as ***remembered by First Sergeant Sam McCurdy, D Co. Regiment of Mounted Rifles.***

"BRAVE RIFLES, VETERANS—you have been baptized in fire and blood, and have come out steel. Where bloody work was to be done, the Rifles was the cry, and they were there.

"All speak of them in terms of praise and admiration. What can I say? What shall I say? Language cannot express my feelings of gratitude for your gallant conduct in the terrible conflict of yesterday and this morning.

"But, my brave boys, in the course of one hour more you will be engaged in a more sanguinary engagement than the one you have just passed through, and I hope and trust that you will take the same noble stand you did yesterday and this morning. And now, men of the Rifles Regiment, God bless you all."

"First Sergeant McCurdy," according to his commander, Col William P. Wood, was an honorable and brave man, always with his company and always for duty."

[William B. Lane. (1895, October). "The Regiment of Mounted Riflemen;"]

Nearly 100 years later (late July and early August 1944) found the Regiment completing their training and making final preparations for crossing the English Channel into France; beginning their 274 day charge across France, Germany and Austria into history as "*Patton's Ghost Troops*."

According to Major Utterback (43rd Executive Officer and later Commander), when the 43rd Squadron and Group Headquarters received their vehicles they were amazed that the armored cars had no racks to hold the crew's duffle bags and the turret had no ring mount to hold the 50 caliber machine gun.

The light tanks had no racks to hold the crew's duffle bags and there were no duffle bag racks or wire cutter and machine gun mounts on the Jeeps.

So the final preparations the Regiment had to complete included making machine gun mounts, racks to hold the crew's duffle bags on their vehicles and wire cutters for the Jeeps.

The only people available to perform these tasks were the Troopers of the Regiment.

Tell a man he is brave, and you help him to become so

The Regiment had no money to purchase the materials that were needed. So the Supply officers and Sergeants of the Squadron were ordered to barter, trade and scrounge for the supplies that were needed.

The Regiment did have several cases of Scotch whisky (their monthly ration) that they could and did use for bartering with the locals near the Salisbury Plains, site of Stonehenge.

One evening an English general told the Regiment to stop welding at night. The Germans would be able to see the lights from the welding and then target the areas for bombing.

The Regiment continued to weld around the clock. They completed the project as they received their movement orders for deployment into France.

Thomas Carlyle (a nineteenth century Scottish essayist and historian) said, "Tell a man he is brave, and you help him to become so."

70th Colonel of the Regiment visits wounded troopers at Walter Reed

Mounted Rifleman Reports

Although he led the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen during Operation Iraqi Freedom I and has moved on, Col. David Teeples, has not stop caring for those troopers wearing the Brave Rifles patch.

The 70th Colonel of the Regiment visited Walter Reed U.S. Army Hospital on Aug. 19 to visit wounded troopers and also pin Purple Heart medals.

He was joined by 1st Lt. Brian Oman, a platoon Leader in Grim Troop, who was home on mid-tour leave. Oman presented Sgt. Leroy Scott, a medic attached to Grim, his Purple Heart.

"It was an honor for me to present two Purple Hearts to Pfc. Jamie Kiklis for wounds he received on June 16 and 26," Teeples said. Kiklis is assigned to Eagle Troop, Sabre Squadron.

There were other Brave Rifles Troopers and families present. Sgt. Jeremy Wolfsteller was rolled in lying in his hospital bed and Spc. Adam Beintema was also there in his wheel chair.

"Most impressive was Brian Oman and the genuine love he has for his Soldiers," Teeples said. "And his wife, Ellen, who is enduring Brian's second tour in Iraq. What great Americans and what great representatives of the Regiment."

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Final salute

A rifle squad consisting of noncommissioned officers of the 1st Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group and 98th Division (Advisory Support Team) salute their weapons during the playing of Taps honoring fallen comrades Sgt. 1st Class Brett Walden and Sgt. 1st Class Robert Derenda held at Al Kisik. Both Soldiers were killed on Aug. 5.

Courtesy photo

1st. Lt. Brian Oman, far left, platoon leader, Grim Troop, Sabre Squadron, Sgt. Leroy Scott, Grim Troop medic, Col. David Teeples, 70th Colonel of the Regiment, and Pfc. Jamie Kiklis, Eagle Troop cavalry scout, pose for a photo after Scott and Kiklis received their Purple Hearts for wounds in combat in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III in Tal Afar, Iraq. The event took place Aug. 19 at Walter Reed U.S. Army Hospital in Washington, D.C.

August's Fallen Troopers

Aug. 5 - Sgt. 1st Class Brett Walden, 1-5, SFG
Aug. 5 - Sgt. 1st Class Robert Derenda, 98th Div. AST
Aug. 27 - Cpl. Joseph Martinez, 2/3
Aug. 29 - 2nd Lt. Charles Rubado, 1/3
Aug. 29 - Chief Warrant Officer Dennis Hay, 4/3