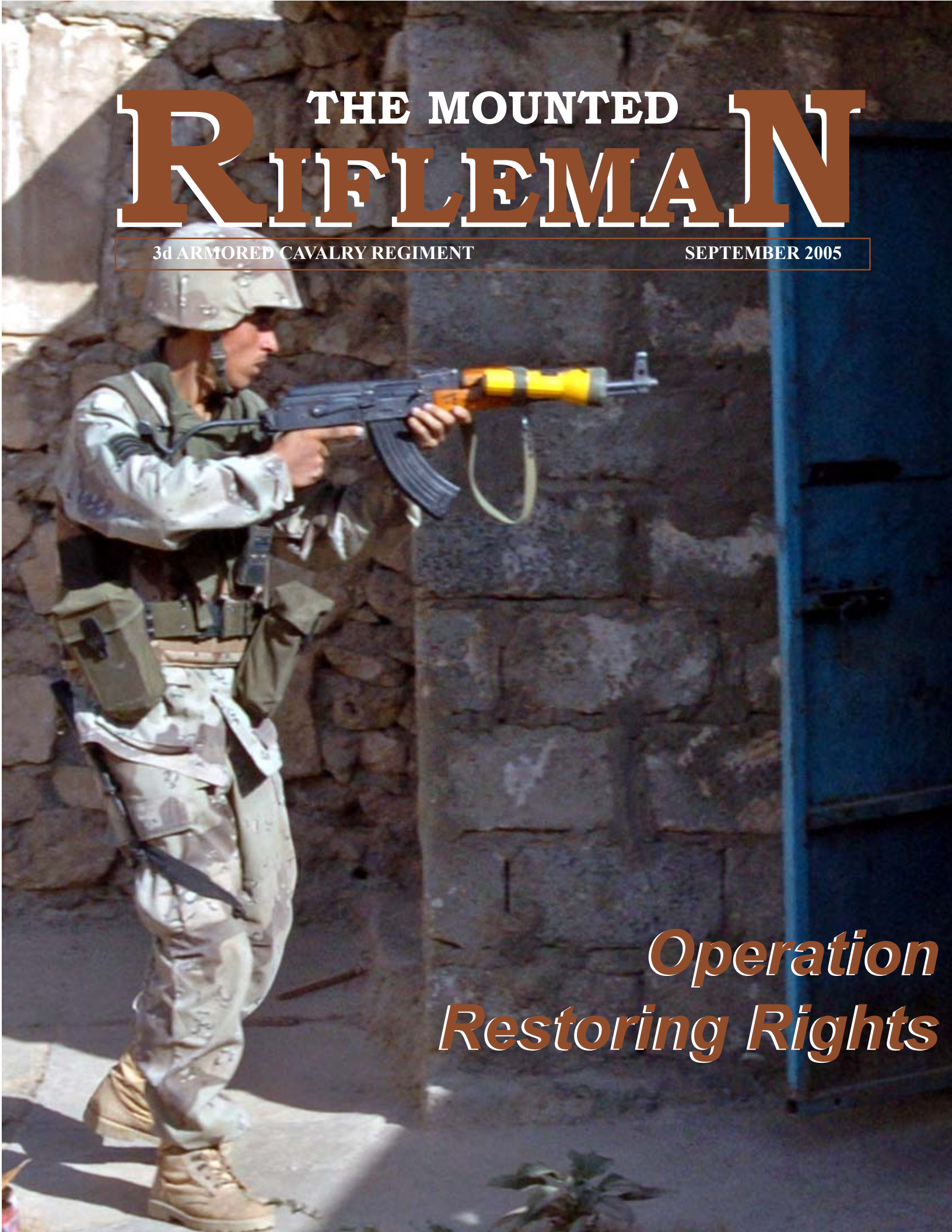
THE MOUNTED RIFLEMAN

3d ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT SEPTEMBER 2005



Operation Restoring Rights

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

If there ever was a proper name for a military operation, Operation Restoring Rights fits the bill as the perfect name for freeing the citizens of Tal Afar from the terror that was imposed on them by insurgents.

Restoring Rights means the people of Tal Afar have the right to go outside their homes and not be shot by a sniper. It means innocent children can go outside and play in the streets without fear of being mortared or kidnapped.

Restoring Rights means the people of Tal Afar can go shop at a market for food without wondering if they were targeted for assassination.

Restoring Rights means no more abductions, no more living in the fear of intimidation, and no more terrorists taking over neighborhoods and using them as safe havens.

Every squadron in the Regiment played a part of this operation's success. Whether is was taking care of displaced citizens, participating in the frontal assault or conducting the Regiment's first smoke operations since Operation Desert Storm, every Trooper did their part.

Operation Restoring Rights also saw the emergence of the Iraqi Army's capabilities to take the fight directly to the enemy. They were courageous and gallant.

We are priviliged to have taken the battlefield with such a formidable ally. They proved their mettle and were professional comrades.

Sadly during Operation Restoring Rights, the Regiment lost four more of our brothers-in-arms.

The memory of these brave troopers will remain in our hearts and their sacrifice will not go in vain. We pray for their families for strength and support in their time of sorrow and grief.

Operation Restoring Rights will go down in our Regiment's history as one of our finest hours in which we restored the pride, dignity, and security of the citizens of Tal Afar. We should be proud of our efforts.

-- The Editor

Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. James L. Harper Jr.

Cover: An Iraqi soldier clears a room during security operations during Operation Restoring Rights. Left: A U.S. Army infantryman from Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg N.C., breeches the door to the home of suspected Anti-Iraqi Force members during Operation Restoring Rights in Tal Afar, Iraq, on Sept. 14, 2005. See related articles and photos of the operation on Pages 12-19.

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Cover photo by Photographer's Mate First Class Alan D. Monyelle

A message from the
71st Colonel of the Regiment

Over the past month, the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen conducted Operation Restoring Rights alongside the Iraqi Army's 3rd Division in Tal Afar, Iraq. The Regiment, with our Iraqi partners, freed the city from the terrorists and returned it to the Iraqi people.

While conducting this operation, the Regiment maintained security across Western Ninewa Province. Thunder Squadron secured South Baghdad and severely disrupted the enemy there during very effective operations.

Operation Restoring Rights was a tremendous victory for the Iraqi people and the people of Tal Afar. The Operation lifted fear from the people so life could return to the city.

I am very proud of what our soldiers accomplished under the toughest conditions of combat against an enemy who demonstrates a complete lack of respect for human life.

The purpose of Operation Restoring Rights was to secure the population of Tal Afar from these terrorists who established a support base and conducted a campaign of terror to protect it.

It was necessary to defeat the enemy so economic and political development could proceed and Iraqi Security Forces could establish permanent security for the people of Tal Afar.

The enemy was drawn to Tal Afar for a number of reasons. Tal Afar is positioned along routes that lead from Mosul into Syria.

Photo by Spc. Nasir Adams

Col. H.R. McMaster, 71st Regimental Commander, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, assists a displaced Tal Afar family during their return home after citizens were allowed back in the city following Operation Restoring Rights.

Members of the Iraqi Army patrol the streets in Tal Afar, Iraq on Sept. 15, 2005 as part of OperationRestoring Rights. Soldiers of the 3rd Iraqi Army Division took part in huge operation alongside with troopers of 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, rid Tal Afar of terrorists and find and destroy enemy weapon caches.

Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. James L. Harper Jr.

It was important to the enemy to control the city so they could access external support from Syria.

Also, this area is important to Al Qaeda in Iraq to foment ethnic and sectarian violence. The terrorists want Iraq to fail and descend into civil war.

Tal Afar is vulnerable in that connection because it is composed of an ethnic minority – the Turkmen.

The Turkmen are further divided between a majority of Turkmen Sunna and a minority of Turkmen Shi'ia.

The city also lies in an area that includes other ethnic and sectarian groups, including Sunni Arabs, Yezedis, and Kurds. Tal Afar was an ideal terrorist support base because of its dense-urban terrain.

The enemy used the area to train, organize, and equip terrorist cells for employment in Tal Afar, across the region, and potentially throughout the country.

To protect this valuable base, the enemy waged a brutal and murderous campaign against the people of Tal Afar.

Terrorist organizations across the city consisted of a direct action cells of about 100 fighters each.

They also had kidnapping and murder cells, propaganda cells, mortar cells, and sniper cells. They removed all the imams from the mosques and replaced them with Islamic extremist laymen.

They removed all the teachers from the schools and replaced them with people who had a fifth-grade education and who preached hatred and intolerance. They kidnapped and murdered large numbers of innocent people, both Sunni and Shia.

In recent months, a Sunni Turkmen imam was kidnapped and murdered. A respected city councilman was pulled out of his car in front of his children and his wife and shot repeatedly in the head.

Many people were kidnapped and beheaded. The enemy conducted indiscriminate mortar attacks against populated areas, killing and wounding innocent civilians, including scores of children.

This enemy did the most horrible things one can imagine – in one case murdering a child, placing a booby trap within the child's body, waiting for the parent to come recover the body of their child, and exploding it to kill the parent.

All the while, they were also brainwashing the youth of the city and attempting to turn them into hate-filled murderers. This is the enemy that the Regiment and Iraqi Army Forces defeated in Tal Afar.

People across the city have expressed their thanks for removing these terrorists from their neighborhoods.

Operation Restoring Rights was a continuation of our efforts since arriving in Western Ninewa Province. Since May, Sabre conducted aggressive offensive and reconnais-

"Tal Afar was an ideal terrorist support base... To protect this valuable base, the enemy waged a brutal and murderous campaign..."

Photo by Photographer's Mate First Class Alan D. Monyelle

Soldiers from the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment conduct a raid on a suspected insurgent safe haven during Operation Restoring Rights.

sance operations in the city.

Initially, the enemy engaged in pitched battles during which they committed 200 fighters. In each of these engagements, Sabre and Iraqi Army forces killed scores of the enemy.

The enemy realized that this tactic would not work and fell back on harassment attacks, including roadside bombs, mortar attacks, and sniper attacks.

But our Troopers aggressively pursued the enemy in these engagements and our courageous aviators tracked the enemy while our aggressive troopers maneuvered to kill and capture them.

Because we took the fight to the enemy that was terrorizing the population, we developed a good relationship with the local population that led to extremely effective intelligence.

In one raid in the beginning of June, we were able to capture 26 targeted individuals within a 30 minute period – these included some of worst people here in the city.

The enemy began to realize that they could not hide behind the good people of Tal Afar.

To counter our growing network of informants, the enemy levied a horrific campaign of intimidation against the people. They began to attack the local population with mortars and snipers.

In response, Sabre Squadron killed four mortar teams and captured two. The Regiment killed twelve sniper teams. We relentlessly pursued the enemy and limited their ability to attack and intimidate the local population.

The Regiment also conducted operations in the outlying communities to identify fighters attempting to hide from our very effective operations.

Simultaneous with Sabre's operations in Tal Afar, Tiger Squadron established security along the Syrian border and in the cities of Rabiyah, Sinjar, and Biaj.

Sabre, Tiger, and Muleskinner operated in other outlying communities leading up to the operation, reduced enemy caches, and captured enemy attempting to hide in these communities.

The town of Avgani, north of Tal Afar, has been a notable success for the Iraqi Army. Sabre and Tiger Squadrons both conducted operations in the town of Avgani leading up to the operation and captured more than 150 suspected terrorists over the course of three operations.

An Iraqi Army Battalion conducted the final operation with assistance from Special Forces.

Following this operation, the Iraqi Army established permanent security in the town that allowed for the re-introduction of police into this city.

The new Avgani Police Force, recruited and trained by the Regi-

"Because we took the fight to the enemy that was terrorizing the population, we developed a good relationship withthe local population."

A member of Iraqi Army ties the hands of a suspected member of the Anti-Iraqi Force apprehended in the streets of Tal Afar, Iraq on Sept. 15, 2005 as part of Operation Restoring Rights.

Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. James L. Harper Jr.

ment and our Special Forces brothers, has completed its training and is operating alongside the Army.

I recently had the opportunity to walk through Avgani with the new Western Ninewa Province Chief of Police – the people were happy and the city was vibrant.

Finding it increasingly difficult to hide outside the city, many of the enemy resolved to defend their safe haven in Tal Afar.

Captured enemy propaganda exhorted them to defend Tal Afar at all costs.

To divert our attention from the stronghold in the Sarai neighborhood; the enemy moved into other neighborhoods throughout the city, evicted families, and staged attacks on Sabre and Tiger Squadron.

As Sabre was isolating the Sarai District, Tiger Squadron encountered the enemy in well-organized, layered, defensive strong-points.

Homes were ringed by RPG and machine gun positions; surrounding those positions, other homes were rigged to explode as U.S. and Iraqi soldiers entered them.

An outer ring employed bombs buried under the roads.

Tiger, Sabre, and Longknife Squadrons, along with the Iraqi Army, defeated these complex defenses with a combination of aggressive action and intelligence.

Based on informants, the Regiment exploded IEDs with attack helicopter fire or detonated them with our engineers.

missiles.

From Sept. 2-6, the Regiment killed more than 200 enemy fighters and captured more than 300 insurgents trying to escape the fighting.

The enemy's will was breaking. The enemy leadership instructed their fighters to hide because they were being "slaughtered."

"The enemy's will was breaking. The enemy leadership instructed their fighters to hide because they were being 'slaughtered.'"

Our ground forces attacked into the enemy's strong-points with tanks and Bradleys, supported by Iraqi Army Infantry.

Our armored vehicles absorbed the energy from the rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns and continued the assault into these safe havens with the Iraqi Infantry clearing the complex urban terrain.

Simultaneously, our aviators destroyed the leadership in their command and control houses and reduced enemy defenses with hellfire

In Sarai, however, the enemy prepared an elaborate defense in the old city. Here, as in Western Tal Afar, the defenses included buildings rigged for demolition, machine gun positions, sniper positions, and mortar positions.

Again, human intelligence allowed us to target these defenses and destroy them with a variety of means including missiles, tank and Bradley fire, attack and scout helicopters, and sniper fire.

Tiger defeated the enemy's plan

Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. James L. Harper Jr.

Iraqi children pose for a photo during a Coalition Forces-led humanitarian mission in Tal Afar, Iraq, Sept. 24, 2005 as part of Operation Restoring Rights. The citizens celebrated the removal of terrorists who made the city into a safe haven to conduct extensive terrorist operations and intimidate the populace.

to draw us west as Sabre, reinforced with additional Iraqi Infantry, bore into the Sarai district.

Sabre had already engaged in heavy fighting Sept. 5-6, killing more than 100 of the enemy in their forward defensive positions.

The enemy realized the futility of their defensive efforts. The cowards who had kidnapped and murdered so many defenseless civilians abandoned their positions and tried to run.

They did everything they could to blend in with the civilians who were evacuating from this dense urban area. Some dressed as women; others forced children to walk with them.

Due to our close integration with the people, the Iraqi Army, and the Iraqi Police, we were able to identify the enemy.

In one day, the Regiment captured 104 of the enemy attempting to flee the city. Throughout the operation, the Regiment captured more than 800 insurgents.

During the second day of operations in Sarai, the 2nd Battalion of the 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division – Known as the White Falcons – joined the Regiment.

They cleared the rest of the neighborhood of the enemy and identified abandoned enemy IEDs and weapons caches.

They also found the vestiges of an extensive terrorist training network throughout the Sarai district: they found classrooms, complete with chalkboards and diagrams, full of training manuals on weapons systems, chemical weapons, and Jihadist tactics.

The White Falcons have secured what was once one of the most dangerous neighborhoods in any Iraqi city, restoring the confidence of the people and defeating enemy attempts to return.

Throughout the operation, Support Squadron played a critical role in sustaining the Regiment across all of Western Ninewa Province.

Additionally, Muleskinner conducted combat operations in outlying villages to detain terrorists who attempted to flee the city.

They captured over 150 of the enemy with the assistance of the Iraqi police.

Muleskinner also ran a displaced civilian screening site and a humanitarian assistance site.

> "They did everything they could to blend in with the civilians who were evacuating... some dressed as women..."

They truly made history with their extraordinary versatility and professionalism throughout the operation.

Longknife Squadron also made history by conducting extremely effective reconnaissance, attack, and lift missions throughout the operation.

The tactics that Longknife em-

Spc. Lucas Anderson of Sutherland, Neb., plays "patty-cake" with a local Iraqi boy. Anderson is assigned to Fox Troop, Second Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Photo by Photographer's Mate First Class Alan D. Monyelle

ployed will become the model for future air-ground operations across our Army.

The Squadron provided early warning of suspicious activity, maintained contact with the enemy, and destroyed countless IEDs, defensive positions, and houses rigged to explode.

The Squadron had a dramatic psychological as well as physical effect on the enemy.

Quickstrike Troop, acting as the Regimental reserve, gave the Regiment tremendous flexibility and performed with great distinction.

As the Regiment focused in Tal Afar, the remainder of Tiger Squadron, reinforced with Nomad Troop and platoons from Sapper, continued to secure the western area of operations and the area along the Syrian border with a greatly reduced force.

Because of what forces outside of Tal Afar accomplished, the enemy had no opportunity to strike in other areas.

In South Baghdad, Thunder Squadron continued effective operations in the most critical area in the country.

As the Regiment has in Western Ninewa Province, Thunder integrated Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police units into successful operations against the enemy.

Thunder discovered IEDs before the enemy could use them and delivered a severe blow to the enemy during an intense firefight.

An Iraqi police commando unit was ambushed and Thunder immediately responded, overwhelming the enemy with air and ground fires, killing more than 25 terrorists and capturing more than 70 more.

The Squadron also identified and reduced several large caches consisting of IED-making material.

The Regiment's success against the enemy did not come without sacrifice. Cpl. Joseph Martinez of Eagle Troop, Sabre Squadron, was killed on Aug. 27.

2nd Lt. Charles Rubado of Crazy Troop, Tiger Squadron, and Chief Warrant Officer Dennis Hay of Pegasus Troop, Longknife Squadron, died on Aug. 29.

Cpl. Jeffrey Williams of Medical Troop, Support Squadron, and the Regimental Commander's security detachment, was killed on Sept. 5.

"These brave and respected Troopers and their families will remain foremost in our thoughts and prayers. They will continue to inspire us."

These brave and respected Troopers and their families will remain foremost in our thoughts and prayers. They will continue to inspire us as we honor them with our deeds.

Cpl. Martinez, 2nd Lt. Rubado, Chief Warrant Officer Hay, and Cpl. Williams gave their lives to free the people of Tal Afar from the terrorists and murderers who demon-

Photo by Photographer's Mate First Class Alan D. Monyelle

An Iraqi boy sells a soda to Soldiers of 3d Armory Cavalry Regiment in Tal Afar after the main offensive of Operation Restoring RIghts. Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces remain committed to bringing security and restoring the city's infrastructure after the operation.

strated their complete disregard for humanity.

Their sacrifice will help ensure that our children can continue to live free from the violence, fear, and hatred that these terrorist have inflicted on the good people of Iraq.

The Regiment is fully engaged with improving the city with projects to improve basic services and reduce unemployment.

The Regiment has seen its efforts with the Iraqi Army pay off as our Iraqi brothers performed with distinction during Operation Restoring Rights – we will continue to develop the Iraqi Army, Police, and Border Police capabilities.

The terrorists want to incite fear, but they have been now fully introduced to the Brave Rifles, and they are the ones who are afraid.

The Iraqi Army is confident, and determined, and the Iraqi Police demonstrated during the referendum that they will not be intimidated.

The Chain of Command and I are very proud of what our Regimental Team has accomplished.

All of us are grateful for the privilege of serving with the finest Soldiers and the finest people in the world.

We are also grateful for our wonderful families, without whose support we could not fulfill our duties to our nation and each other.

Brave Rifles!

"The Regiment has seen its efforts with the Iraqi Army pay off as our Iraqi brothers performed with distinction during Operation Restoring Rights."

Col. H.R. McMaster,
71st Colonel
of the Regiment

A message from the
XVII CSM of the Regiment

Since the beginning of our arrival here to Tal Afar, the Troopers of this Regiment have served with honor and distinction. September witnessed our great Troopers, partnered with Iraqi Security Forces, perform with courage, spirit and honor against a ruthless and determined enemy during Operation Restoring Rights.

Our Troopers knew the enemy was waiting for our assault. The enemy was entrenched in defensive positions hoping to pin down our forces and hold on to their safe havens.

The enemy in this area was the worst of the worst in terms of people in the world. The enemy thought they would continue to intimidate and cast fear upon the citizens of Tal Afar.

However, the enemy underestimated the resolve and bravery of our Troopers.

The enemy had no chance. To their demise – the enemy could not run and could not hide.When they attempted to flee from our forces, our Troopers and the Iraqi Army aggressively pursued the enemy to kill or capture them.

The enemy's campaign of terror was disintegrated and dissolved.

None of our efforts could have been successful without the valiant efforts of the Iraqi Army.

These patriots are fighting, just as our Army did in the Revolutionary War, for the future of their country.

They are putting their lives on the line so their children can live in a country free of terror. We are extremely proud to serve by their side.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Command Sgt. Maj. William Burns, XVII Regimental Command Sergeant Major, left, and Command Sgt. Major Frederick Thompson, Support Squadron command sergeant major, attends the memorial service for Cpl. Jeffrey Williams Sept. 18 held on Camp Sykes, Iraq.

I could not be more proud of what our Troopers have accomplished during Operation Restoring Rights. They have relentlessly pursued this enemy in continuous combat operations for more than a month and continue to press the fight.

I know that the American people must be proud their accomplishments.

Brave Rifles!

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out from Crazyhorse Troop, First Squadron, avalry Regiment runs for cover while Iraqi sol- security in Tal Afar, Iraq during Operation Re- s.

Terrorists Driven from Tal Afar in Joint Combat Mission with Iraqi Army

Story By Gerry Gilmore
Photos by Photographer's Mate First Class Alan D. Monyelle

Terrorists who once ran the western Iraq city of Tal Afar have been routed by American and Iraqi security forces, a U.S. military officer told Pentagon journalists following the conclusion of Operation Restoring Rights.

During a video-teleconference with reporters, Army Col. H.R. McMaster reported from Iraq how Tal Afar's citizens teamed up with U.S. and Iraqi forces to jettison insurgents who had used the area as a safe haven to conduct training and launch terror operations across the country.

The operation began in early May this year, McMasters noted, but fighting reached a climax early this month when insurgents were ejected from the city after heavy losses.

About 5,000 Iraqi security forces and around 3,500 U.S. troops participated in Tal Afar operations during the past two weeks, the colonel said.

American and Iraqi security forces killed 150 insurgents in and around Tal Afar between Sept. 2 and 6, McMaster, commander of the U.S. 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, noted.

McMaster said a "pall of fear" has been lifted from Tal Afar, which is near the Syrian border. The insurgents there had long brutalized the city's population with murders and kidnappings, he said.

Tal Afar's citizens became fed up with insurgents' brutality and were key factors in the successful cam

See **DRIVEN,** Page 14

DRIVEN from Page 13

3d Armored Cavalry Regiment and Iraqi Soldiers cross an intersection during a security patrol in downtown Tal Afar, Iraq, on Sept. 11, 2005. Iraqi army security forces fighting side by side with 3rd ACR Soldiers disrupted and destroyed insurgent safe havens, cleared weapons cache sights during Operation Restoring Rights.

paign, McMaster said.

Tal Afar's citizens had provided coalition forces with useful information such as locations of terrorist booby traps and mortar emplacements, he said.

The U.S. is employing "the right strategy" to defeat insurgents in Iraq by building up capable Iraqi security forces, including police, to eventually take over from coalition troops, McMaster said.

Iraqi forces are growing more capable by the day, but they still need improved logistics and more capable junior leaders, he said.

Things in Iraq aren't "all rosy," McMaster acknowledged, but he maintained that the campaign against insurgents is moving in a "positive" direction.

"The terrorists of Tal Afar are some of the worst human beings on the face of the earth."

He said the American people should be very proud of U.S. servicemembers in Iraq, noting that they and their coalition and Iraqi partners have "the enemy on the run."

And the Iraqi people should know that America is "going to stand by them" until the insurgents have been defeated, the colonel said.

The now-departed terrorists of Tal Afar "are some of the worst human beings on the face of the earth," McMaster said.

And those surviving terrorists might try to return.

"But, we're not going to let them do it," the colonel vowed.

(Editor's note: Gilmore writes for the American Forces Press Service.)

Paratroopers join 'Cav' to clean up Tal Afar, help rebuild city

Army News Service

About 700 paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division, working with Soldiers from the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, are attempting to place the troubled city of Tal Afar under control before the constitutional referendum in October and the national elections in December.

The paratroopers of 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment arrived Sept. 11, ready to fight, but opposition was light.

They conducted patrols and searched homes in the nearly deserted city, as well as questioned the few local residents who failed to evacuate prior to the operation.

"It was less resistance than we had anticipated from the [intelligence] reports we received," said 2nd Lt. Steve Taylor, fire suppression officer for Company B.

White Falcons' strive to make friends

As temporary residents of the city, the 2nd Battalion "White Falcons" are striving to build friendly relations with the people of the war-damaged city, Taylor said.

The Soldiers hope the future relationships they build with the residents will encourage them to come forward with information and tips regarding the whereabouts of insurgents and weapons, he added.

To help build those relationships means making repairs and cleaning up the city, work that the paratroopers are already assisting with.

"There is a lot of damage to the city and their homes. Now we have to help rebuild it," Taylor said.

Short-term potable water needs are being provided by tanker trucks, portable water tanks and water cans distributed throughout the city, while Army engineers are upgrading Tal Afar's water supply and distribution system.

Paratroopers clean out booby traps

The Iraqi government is discussing funding to rebuild Tal Afar. To date, the U.S. has approved $5 million to help rebuild the infrastructure of the city, with more than $3 million in additional funds requested.

More than $730,000 is earmarked for transformers, wiring and other electrical infrastructure repairs, and

See **325TH,** Page 16

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. James L. Harper Jr.

Pfc. Thomas Coliboso, an infantryman from Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C., covers a position during a routine patrol in Tal Afar, Iraq, Sept. 14, 2005.

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U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. James L. Harper Jr.

An Iraqi man in Tal Afar, Iraq receives a sticker from members of Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C. Sept. 23, 2005 as part of Operation Restoring Rights.

two electrical lift trucks are standing by to aid in repairs to the electrical grid.

The paratroopers already completed a portion of their mission — they made the city safer.

"We did the best we can on getting rid of all the bad guys, cleaning up the [improvised explosive devices] and the booby traps," Taylor said.

In the first four days of the operation, the paratroopers found seven improvised explosive devices, weapons caches and extremist propaganda, said Capt. Jonathan Norman, the battalion intelligence officer.

The length of the paratroopers' mission in Tal Afar is undetermined, officials said. They will stay in the city as long as the situation calls for, they said, but are capable of relocating to other parts of the country should the need arise.

(Editor's note: David Vergun compiled this article from military news releases.)

Cavalry troopers take part in historic event at Tal Afar

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

Soldiers from the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment participated in an historic event as they provided security for the members of the Iraqi Transitional Government during a tour of the war-torn city of Tal Afar.

Tal Afar, which was once a terrorist refuge, was considered too dangerous for representatives of the Iraqi government to visit since insurgents took root in the city.

Government and municipal buildings were destroyed by terrorists in an intimidation campaign against the populace resulting in a decayed infrastructure of the city.

Two weeks after a successful military operation conducted by the Iraqi Army and Coalition Forces in early September, delegation members of the ITG were able to set foot in Tal Afar for the first time in nearly a year.

Brig. Gen. Kevin Bergner, Multi-National Forces-Northwest deputy commander, hosted the tour which included Dr. Haider al-Abadi, Prime Minster's Office, Special Interlocutor and Ministers of the Interior, Edu-

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Members of the Iraqi Transitional Group took part in a tour of Tal Afar to see the city's damaged infrastructre which was once a terrorist safe haven.

See **ITG,** Page 17

ITG from Page 16

cation, Housing, Finance and Industry.

Tal Afar Mayor Najem led the tour to show al-Abadi how the terrorists devastated the city's municipal foundation.

The purpose of the tour was to give the ITG members a close view of the damaged city so they could decide how to allocate approximately 50 million dollars allocated to repair the city's infrastructure.

Also, the members wanted to show the nation of Iraq that Tal Afar was now secure.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Col. H.R. McMaster, left, Brig. Gen. Kevin Bergner, second from left, and members of the Iraqi Transitional Group stand in the rubble remains of a municipal building which was destroyed by terrorists in Tal Afar, Iraq. 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment Soldiers escorted the delegation on a tour to see the city's war-torn infrastructure.

Peering through the windows of the HUMMVWs, the government officials saw electrical wires ripped from generators or hanging loosely from poles, trash-laden neighborhoods, bullet-ridden buildings, and countless craters in the streets from roadside bombs.

The delegation stopped at a municipal building which terrorists destroyed in June. The building consisted of little more than rubble and twisted metal at its foundation.

Col. H.R. McMaster, 3rd ACR commander, briefly explained to the delegation how and why the terrorists targeted government buildings.

"Not long after we [3rd ACR] arrived to Tal Afar, the terrorists destroyed any building associated with the government," McMaster said. "This was part of their intimidation campaign against the people."

The convoy maneuvered through the Sarai district, the former safe haven the terrorists had established in the heart of the city. The delegation saw people emerging from over a year of living under a reign of fear.

Hundreds of children ran out to the roadside to wave their hands or give the 'thumbs up' sign to the convoy passing by; the delegation saw what was once considered a 'ghost town,' now a place where Iraqis could walk in the streets without fear.

After the tour was over, McMaster gathered all of the Soldiers who provided security for the delegation and explained what they witnessed.

"For a long time in Tal Afar, the Iraqi government could not come and see this city because there was no security in the city," McMaster said. "Today, you were a part of history because you allowed the Iraqi government to see Tal Afar. You and your efforts throughout Operation Restoring Rights made that happen."

McMaster praised the Soldiers and challenged them to tell their peers about the significance of the tour.

"Your actions are going to make life better for the people of Tal Afar," McMaster added.

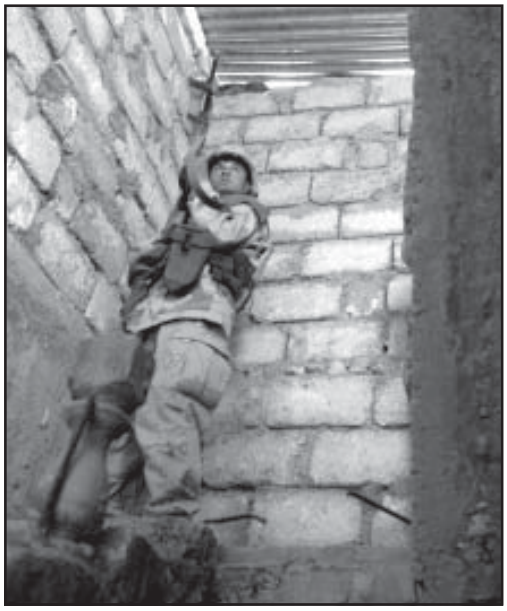
Following his impromptu motivational speech to the Soldiers, Najem thanked the Soldiers on behalf of the citizens of Tal Afar. "You brought back life to the city," Najem said proudly. "The terrorists controlled the men, women and children, and now, within days, we will see reconstruction in Tal Afar because of your efforts."

Najem added the children of Tal Afar are now able to smile again and the citizens appreciate the restored security.

"You have the right to hold your heads up and look up to the sky," Najem said. "You saved our lives and you saved our dignity. Thank you, thank you, and thank you."

‘Brave, courageous’ Iraqi Army d

Iraqi Security Forces celebrate after detaining high-level enemy suspects in a raid where insurgents were susp
Iraqi Army Security Forces, fighting alongside the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment during Operation Restoring
secured the citizens of Tal Afar from terrorists who infiltrated the city and made it a safe haven.



Above: An Iraqi soldier kicks a door in to search for terrorists inside a house in order to disrupt insurgent safe havens. Right: An Iraqi soldier provides security during a raid.

efeat terrorists

pected.
Rights,

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

More than 5,000 Iraqi Security Forces participated in Operation Restoring Rights in early September to secure the city of Tal Afar.

Terrorists infiltrated the city and built a formidable defensive stronghold in the Sarai District.

Leading the attack against the insurgents, soldiers of the 3rd Iraqi Army Division took the fight to the enemy.

Col. H.R. McMaster, commander, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, praised the extraordinary efforts of the Iraqi Security Forces' throughout the successful operation.

McMaster mentioned the Regiment's close integration with Iraqi security forces, particularly the 3rd Iraqi Army Division, complemented 3d ACR's capabilities: "we have achieved a very high degree of synergy in our efforts as a result of that."

"These Iraqi soldiers are brave," McMaster said. "They're courageous. They're building capabilities every day.

"And we draw strength from their example. I mean, these are men who, like our Soldiers, are committed to this mission.

"They're doing it at great risk to themselves. So we're proud, very proud to serve alongside these brave Iraqi soldiers."

Above: An Iraqi Army soldier prepares to take part in a raid at a suspected insurgent hide out during Operation Restoring Rights. Soldiers of the 3rd Iraqi Army Division took part in huge operation alongside with troopers of 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, rid Tal Afar of terrorists and find and destroy enemy weapon caches. Left: An Iraqi soldier races towards his next security position during security operations.

Photos by
Photographer's Mate First Class
Alan D. Monyelle

TIGER SQUADRON

By Lt. Col. Gregory Reilly
Tiger Squadron Commander

I could not be more proud of the performance of the Squadron over the past month. Tiger has once again moved to the sound of the guns to make Iraq a safer place for the Iraqi people.

The Squadron continued to train and conduct operations with soldiers from the 3rd Brigade, 3rd Division, Iraqi Army, and that training paid off during our recent operations in the city of Tall Afar.

Tiger has had a strenuous month, preparing for upcoming elections, and once again splitting forces to accomplish the mission in Tal Afar.

During our combat operations in Tal Afar, our troopers conducted reconnaissance day and night to defeat the insurgents.

The troopers of Tiger endured almost daily attacks of indirect fire, small arms, and improvised explosive devices.

We searched over one thousand structures, most of which had been abandoned long ago by the people that lived there.

During these searches, Tiger Squadron found numerous weapons caches consisting of artillery shells, mortars, machine guns, ammunition, hand grenades, and even homemade explosives.

As you may already know, 2nd Lt. Charles Rubado was killed while conducting combat operations in Tal Afar on Aug. 29. Words cannot express the deep sense of loss that we all feel.

Charlie touched each of our lives, and we will never forget his quiet demeanor and infectious smile.

God bless Charlie Rubado and his beloved family (parents Charles and Nitaya and his wife Mary-Anne). We will never forget his sacrifice.

With the expert assistance of our Iraqi Army counterparts, we were able to separate the insurgency from the populace, isolating them from their base of support, and making them vulnerable to capture.

When Tiger first entered Tal Afar, there were places in the city where coalition forces did not go. Now, after nearly 25 days of continuous operations, people are free to travel where they please, and thousands of people have returned to their homes.

The Squadron has entered into a new phase in Tal Afar. We are turning our attention to repairing the damage, getting the water running, and ensuring that families are safe to return to their homes.

While a large portion of the Squadron was conducting operations in Tal Afar, the rest of the Tiger remained in our bases along the border.

Apache Troop, left under the capable hands of Capt. Scott Wicklund, continued area security and counter insurgency operations in Al Bi'aj. Sapper Company continued their operations in Rabiah at the border checkpoint to ensure that only legal traffic enters or exits Iraq.

Bandit Troop maintained a small force in Rabiah as well to continue to secure their forward operating base. Predator Battery, who remained in Sinjar, bore the brunt of the Squadron's operations in Tal Afar.

They maintained force protection in Sinjar, secured the RETRANS on Sinjar Mountain, provided a quick reaction force, and conducted endless route reconnaissance along the main highway between Sinjar and Tall Afar.

I am very proud of the continued accomplishments of those who remained out west.

We recently received new arrivals, and we welcome our new troopers and their families. Maj. Jonathan Larsen has moved from the Regimental Staff to become our Operations Officer, and we welcome him, his wife Dulcie, and son Jonathan to the Tiger Family.

See **TIGER,** Page 21

TIGER from Page 20

At the same time that we welcome Maj. Larsen, we bid a fond farewell to Maj. Derrick Baxter and his family as they move from Tiger to join the Sabre family.

As we conclude our operations in Tal Afar, Tiger continues to look towards the next objective; elections.

Tiger will work diligently to ensure that free and fair elections take place in the western Ninewa Province.

I am very proud of our team and what they have accomplished both at Fort Carson and here in Iraq. Additionally, I am extremely proud of our 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.

Tiger 6

When Tiger first entered Tal Afar, there were places in the city where coalition forces did not go. Now after 25 days of continuous operations, people are free to travel where they please.

Apache Troop passes time securing Iraqi border

By 2nd Lt. Andrew Bailey
Apache Blue 1

While providing security and over-watch of the western Iraqi landscape minutes are like hours, hours are like days and days are like years passing by.

Although the duty is repetitive and boring, the Soldiers of Apache Blue quarter troop knows that on mission anything could happen.

There is no room for complacency on this watch.

After nearly five months guarding the Iraq-Syria border, Specialists Christopher Frye and Joseph King, both assigned to Apache Troop, First Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, are now seasoned veterans.

Apache Troop near the Iraqi town of Bi'aj which is located 40 kilometers from the Syrian border.

Preparing for their next mission which included pre-combat checks on their Bradley Fighting Vehicle the two cavalry scouts were ready to embark on another day of protecting the border.

The rumbling of tanks and Bradleys through Bi'aj had become commonplace but Frye always noticed how the local population marveled at the armored column as it rolled out of town.

Resembling horsemen riding out in the sunset in an old Hollywood Western film, the vehicle silhouettes parked near the border representing sentinels of freedom.

"Just another day on that long dusty trail out here on the frontier of freedom," said King, from the back of his Bradley.

The unit's mission for the evening was to screen along the Syrian border in order to interdict smugglers and anti-Iraqi Forces that might be trying to cross into Iraq.

Before Apache Troop's arrival in the region, the Iraqi Border Police (IBP) had been struggling to stem the flow of personnel and contraband that flowed from both sides of the border.

King mentioned the IBP were very motivated despite being outmanned and under-equipped.

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BORDER from Page 21

He also had a deep sense of appreciation for the IBP after watching them evolve into a more capable force of protecting and sealing off their border.

The journey to the chosen IBP border fort was long and tiresome; however Frye expertly maneuvered his vehicle through the ensuing darkness.

Upon reaching the border fort, the quarter troop vehicles were set into a screen line with the tanks facing to the North and South in order to over watch the IBP Observation Points (OPs).

The other vehicles provided over-watch of the berm which served as the international border between Iraq and Syria.

At the OP the Iraqi Army and Apache Troop leaders dismounted to have a quick meeting.

Frye and King diligently pulled security.

The brief meeting resulted in the reassurance of the IBP that Apache's presence was in their corner and prepared to act as a quick reaction force should any of their OPs come under attack.

Although the evening passed without enemy contact, the Apache troopers remained vigilant in accordance with their commander's intent.

"Just because there was no action tonight, it doesn't mean that we can let our guard down," Frye said. "When I am pulling security I know everyone is relying on me."

The partnership with the American forces has been one the IBP enjoy and is vital in the region according to Maj. Jadaan, a member of the Iraqi Army battalion staff, stationed outside Bi'aj.

"We are excited to be working with American forces and appreciate the help," Jadaan said. "We want nothing but security for the people of Iraq."

As the sun faded into the distance, Frye and King organized with their fellow troopers for yet another long night of providing over-watching.

"You know even if we don't catch any one it doesn't mean we wasted our time out here," King said. "Letting the Iraqi's know we've got their back and showing them how we operate has got to be worth something."

He had figured out a lot on his time at the border.

The seconds, minutes, hours and days have been gratifying for both King and as the eerie glow of the Arabian moonlight danced over the Abrams and Bradleys of Apache Blue quarter troop, King scanned the horizon with both pride and vigilance.

Photo by 2nd Lt. Andrew Bailey

A lone Bradley Fighting Vehicle manned by troopers of Apache Troop, First Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, provides security and over-watch near an Iraqi Border Patrol Observation Point at the Iraq-Syria border. The troop assists the IBP in controlling trafficking and insurgents from crossing the border into the country.

Tiger jumps TOC forward for ORR

By Sgt. Daniel W. Lucas
366th MPAD

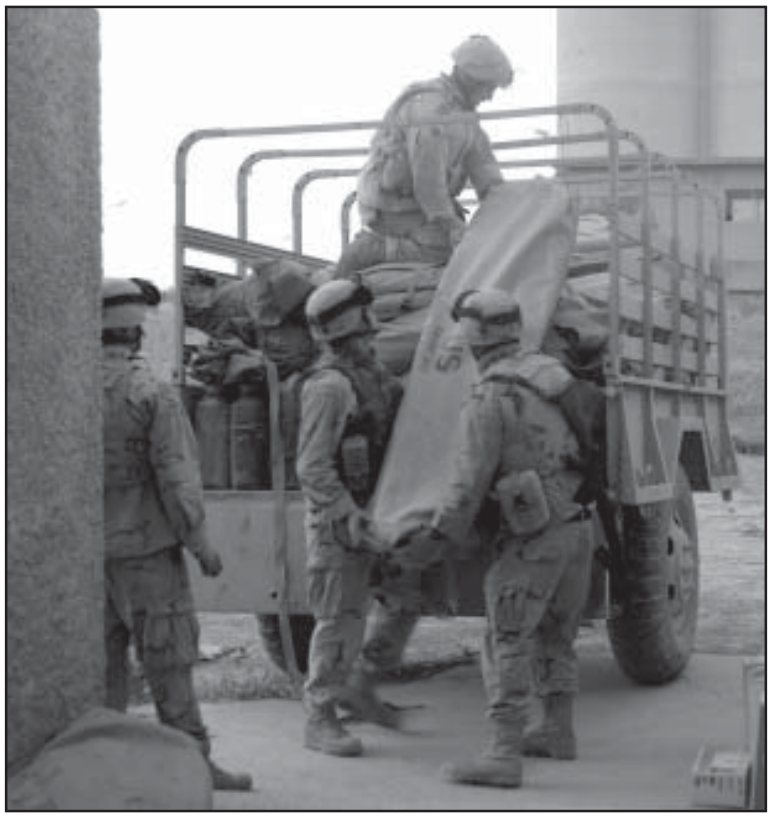

Photo by Sgt. Daniel W. Lucas

Troopers of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, First Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment unload equipment prior to setting up their forward Tactical Operations Center in Tal Afar prior to Operation Restoring Rights.

Engaging the enemy requires battlefield planners to be closer to the fight.

Before participating Operation Restoring Rights, Soldiers of both 1st Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment and the Iraqi Army set up a forward Tactical Operations Center (TOC) in Tal Afar to better communicate to the troopers conducting the fight.

"A Forward TOC is a manifestation of the unit in the field to keep communications with Soldiers on the ground," said Sgt. 1st Class Clarence McKaine, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1/3 ACR. "It is supposed to help maintain command, control, and communication with the units, because if those aren't upheld, the units won't be as effective."

"It is easier to get reception with units in the field from here than from the main TOC, said 1st Lt. Alex Vershinin, HHT, 1/3 ACR. "We can also track units faster with less interference."

As soon as the troopers from HHT got to the location of the temporary TOC, a lot of factors had to be considered; security and the ability to communicate were on the very top of the list.

"We are bringing out various barriers and sandbags to fortify force protection here," said Capt. Terrence Buckeye, commander, HHT, 1/3 ACR. "It took a full day to set up all the equipment and make sure the force protection measures are adequate."

He added that a platoon of IA Soldiers is helping guard the forward TOC by guarding the main gate and manning two of the guard towers.

When the building was sandbagged and the barriers were in place, the antennas went up and the Soldiers' pushpins dotted the activity of that day on maps.

Lighting was also placed, powered by generators they brought with them to keep the TOC going throughout the night.

Setting up the forward TOC may be all in a days work for the HHT troopers, but the TOC they created stays up and running 24 hours a day, keeping constant communication with all of the units currently deployed in Tal Afar.

"Each situation has its own unique challenges," said McKaine. "We have everything we really need here to be successful. These guys are performing a job most guys won't do, and they go above and beyond. This is a great unit doing great things."

Even though the HHT set up the TOC in a matter of hours, they were pushed to do it right, not to do it fast.

"It's not about the speed which we do our mission," said McKaine. "It's about the effectiveness of it. Anybody can run though and tear stuff up, but these guys are taking their time and doing things right.

"That means saving lives for us and the Iraqis, they know their jobs and they are doing them well."

(Editor's note: The 366th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment is based out of Iowa.)

SABRE SQUADRON

By Lt. Col. Christopher Hickey
Sabre Squadron Commander

Greetings again from Tal Afar! As we enter the autumn months here in Northern Iraq, Sabre Squadron continues to lead the cavalry charge towards freedom.

In recent weeks the intensity of operations has grown tremendously. Sabre's troopers are currently teamed up with a multitude of U.S. and Iraqi forces.

Together, they have begun to undertake a myriad of missions to rid Tal Afar of the lingering insurgent presence and ensure smooth-running elections towards the year's end.

The number one enabler of our successes on the battlefield has been the sustained desire of the Coalition Force's men and women to work hard and accomplish the mission.

As the Troopers of Sabre Squadron readied themselves to push into the Sarai District for high intensity operations, some new faces arrived to support the mission.

Tiger Squadron has moved to Camp Sykes from the Syrian border and has seamlessly begun working with their Sabre counterparts. Joint help has also arrived in the form of U.S. Navy SEALs.

The famed Navy Special Forces members have already brought a new perspective to the fight in Tal Afar. Our Air Force brethren can often be heard in the skies above, giving our Soldiers on the ground comfort in knowing they are not alone out there.

However, the largest reinforcement element we have received is the quick deployment force of 82nd Airborne Soldiers out of Fort Bragg, N.C.

They have been quickly assimilated into our daily operations and will certainly help bear some of the burden. Every member of the U.S. forces here knows the importance of their presence in Tal Afar and is excited to be performing on a worldwide stage.

The integration of Iraqi Army Soldiers continues to be a major priority for Sabre Squadron. For this major operation in the Sarai District, we have called upon a brigade of Iraqi Army Soldiers to conduct an array of missions with us.

This is a great opportunity for them to put their training to use. Thanks to the perseverance and knowledge of the Iraqi leadership great strides have been made in Tal Afar.

Thanks to the **perseverance** and knowledge of the Iraqi leadership, **great strides** have been made in Tal Afar.

Having an Army comprised of native troops fighting alongside U.S. Soldiers creates a unique dynamic rarely seen in history.

As a result, the local citizens are given a feeling of hope for the future when they see their fellow countrymen on the forefront of Coalition operations.

Their trust in America is also strengthened by the sight of Iraqi and American forces acting as one against the insurgency.

See **SABRE,** Page 21

SABRE from Page 25

Although the current missions in Sarai have been going well and have given us a chance to flex our military muscle, we cannot forget the loss of a beloved Sabre Soldier and friend.

Cpl. Joseph L. Martinez, 23, of Las Vegas, Nev., was killed on his tank Aug. 27 while pulling security from the loader's hatch for his fellow Soldiers.

Promoted just two days earlier to the rank of corporal, the young Martinez impressed us all by fast tracking his way to the gunner's position as a private first class. This promising young man has reminded all of us of the grave nature of our profession of arms.

Cpl. Martinez's brave sacrifice in the line of duty has also allowed us to stand where we do, on the frontier of freedom.

As we find ourselves in the midst of deployment, our Troopers are maintaining a high level of confidence that is vital in these types of intense missions.

Soldiers have also been feeding off each other's confidence, which shows a mature level of teamwork and camaraderie.

I have the utmost certainty that Sabre Squadron, along with the aforementioned U.S. and Iraqi forces, can and will continue the charge towards a free Iraq. Sabre Ready!

Sabre 6

Lion Battery assists hundreds in Iraqi Police recruiting effort

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

More than 300 Iraqi citizens of Tal Afar lined the streets Sept. 24 to volunteer to join the Iraqi Police in an attempt to bring security to their neighborhoods.

The recruiting drive was in its fourth day as the Police sought recruits to diversify the force to better represent the population make up of the city and to help with the reconstruction of Tal Afar.

Iraqi Police officers and Soldiers of Lion Battery, Second Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment coordinated and organized the recruiting drive by prescreening candidates for selection to become members of the force.

"This is a very positive sign to see so many volunteers," said Capt. Christopher Marquez, commander, Lion Battery, of the men who showed up at the police station. "They have a gleam in their eyes because they have an opportunity to gain employment, feed their families and provide security and stabilization in their community."

Marquez emphasized the importance of having a police force that resembled the demographics of the population, particularly because Tal Afar has a very

See **POLICE,** Page 26

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Strung out

Pfc. David Medcalf, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, Second Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, plays the banjo to relax after a long day at the Castle in Tal Afar, Iraq.

POLICE from Page 21

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Staff Sgt. Marvin Ephron, Lion Battery, Second Squadron, 3d ACR waits for the signal to send an Iraqi volunteer to get pre-screened for joining the Iraqi Police force during an Iraqi Police force recruiting drive in Tal Afar, Iraq on Sept. 23, 2005.

diverse population with many tribes.

"Being a policeman is an honorable occupation," Marquez, from Albuquerque, N.M. "Security is the number one concern for the citizens here, so the people respect the police force.

"At the same time it's important for every tribe has representation in the Iraqi Police."

Although more than 800 volunteers showed up in the first four days of the week-long recruiting drive, not all were qualified to become candidates to attend the Police Academy.

The volunteers had to be 18 years or older, able to read and write Arabic, and live in the eastern part of Tal Afar. The pre-screening conducted by Lion Battery and the Iraqi Police eliminated those didn't meet the criteria to join the force.

"I think it's pretty monumental because we never had so many Sunnis apply for the police force before," Marquez said.

By the end of day four, more than 200 of the men were selected to be candidates to join the Iraqi Police. All of the selected were sent to Al Kisik for the beginning of their training to become policemen.

Sgt. Luis Tebalan, Lion Battery, Second Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, verifies the identification card of a recruit with an Iraqi policeman.

Those who weren't selected were not just sent away without an employment opportunity.

They were given opportunities based off their par-

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Handle with care

Above: Spc. Enrique Mendez-Luciano, Lion Battery, Second Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, takes a break and entertains a young Iraqi boy in Tal Afar, Iraq. Right: Mendez becomes a human jungle gym for an Iraqi boy. The Bronx, N.Y. native was the center of attention as the Iraqi children swarmed to play with him.

POLICE from Page 26

ticular skill and craft to reconstruct the city which had been wretched in fear and intimidation by terrorists before Operation Restoring Rights.

"You can see that the Iraqis here in Tal Afar want to take care of their own city," said Staff Sgt. Hiram Garcia, section chief, 2nd Platoon, Lion Battery. "We're not just rejecting these guys and sending them on their way, we're telling them that although you don't qualify to be a policeman, there are other job opportunities."

Garcia, from Cidra, Puerto Rico, said as the Soldiers screen more volunteers each day, the better he feels about the future of security in the city.

"The Iraqis have shown the desire to build up security in Tal Afar," Garcia said. "They want to play an active role in maintaining security here. We're just a vehicle to help them exercise their right to defend their community. I'm proud of that."

THUNDER SQUADRON

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

Friends and Family of Thunder Squadron, as Thunder enters its sixth month of combat operations in southern Baghdad, and I am happy to report that our troopers are performing each mission with distinction and to the highest standard possible.

Thunder Squadron has continued to take the fight to the enemy this month. From leader to trooper, each continues to amaze me through their performance and commitment.

We have also increasingly integrated Iraqi Security Forces into our operations. Both Killer and Lightning Troops preformed admirably during recent combined operations that led to the destruction and detention of numerous enemy.

Our continued pressure on the enemy via precision offensive operations has led to a dramatic decrease in attacks in our area of operations.

Thunder's logisticians have done an outstanding job keeping the fleets and soldiers fit for battle. With an increased operational tempo, our tanks, Bradleys, and Up-Armored HMMWV's have seen an increased workload, but our talented mechanics have been up to the challenge.

Maddog Company and Ironhawk Troop have both conducted vehicle services three times as part of our OPTEMPO driven service plan.

September also brought most of Thunder a needed break from combat operations. On Sept. 4, the Squadron took a step back and enjoyed an Organizational Day.

And "upon the fields of friendly strife" Headquarters and Headquarters Troop (HHT) and Lightning Troops came out as champions.

While Lightning brought home the coveted football crown and squadron bragging rights, HHT was the overall champion winning every other event of the day.

September was a great month for Thunder. Our troopers continued to perform magnificently, our leaders continued to lead by example, and our area of operations continued to benefit from our constant pressure on the enemy.

In every mission, the men and women on Thunder Squadron have answered the call of the Regiment, the 3rd Infantry Division, and given the Iraqi people a chance for a better future

Thunder 6

"Our troopers continued to perform magnificently, our leaders continued to lead by example, and our operations continued to benefit from our constant pressure on the enemy."

Medics ready for whatever ails Soldiers

Trained, prepared to take care of wounded on Iraq's non-linear battlefield

Spc. Dan Balda
4th Brigade Combat Team PAO

The medics assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, joined the Army for reasons most involved in the medical profession can attest to: they enjoy helping people.

For one combat medic—Staff Sgt. Aaron Stone—the reason was a little closer to home. Stone's mother was always patching up the usual childhood injuries like scraped knees and twisted ankles.

Photo by Spc. Dan Balda

Sgt. Kevin Pantoja, a combat medic assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, checks a Soldier's temperature during sick call hours at the squadron aid station.

When Stone was 12 years old, his mother diagnosed his stomachache as something a little more serious than a run-of-the-mill ailment—her son had appendicitis.

On that day, Stone knew he wanted to be a medic.

Now on his second combat tour in Iraq, Stone and the medics who work with him are able to give back to the Soldiers out on the front lines.

The HHT medics assist their squadron in a number of ways, starting with running an aid station to provide Level One healthcare to their Soldiers.

"Level One care is basically sick call—stuff like a fever or flu-like symptoms," said Sgt. Kevin Pantoja, a native of Puerto Rico. "Having our own aid station helps us keep our skills current while also taking care of our own."

Pantoja had something else in mind when he joined the Army as a medic. He imagined he'd be working in a hospital, taking patients' blood pressure and starting write-ups.

Once he got to Iraq, however, that world of white lab coats and squeaky, sterile hallways gave way to dust, dirt and combat.

"At Advanced Individual Training they teach you basic Emergency Medical Technician stuff, send you to your unit and you go from there," said Stone, a native of Goldsboro, N.C.

Stone used his squadron's mission readiness exercise as an opportunity to train his Soldiers, new and old, to be prepared for the non-linear battlefield of Iraq.

"We had nothing but mass casualities for a whole week," Stone said. "It was basically the worst week of our lives. It gave the guys a heads up on what to expect out here.

It was an eye-opener to say to ourselves, 'Hey this could really happen over there.'"

Luckily, the kind of trauma the medics spent so much time training for has not reared its ugly head, but that doesn't mean they don't constantly exceed the standard when it comes to training.

"Whenever we aren't busy, we are training on everything we might see out here," said Pantoja. "We

See **MEDIC,** Page 30

MEDIC from Page 29

go through all the steps involved in the treatment so we know we are ready if they need us."

When they aren't seeing Soldiers during sick call hours, the medics are out on missions supporting the line units.

"The missions here are constant, not only for us, but for our line medics as well," Stone said. "We have four medics assigned to each line company. Every single mission our squadron goes out on takes at least one medic with them."

When the squadron undertakes large missions, the medics ride along for treatment and evacuation if the need arises.

"All the noncommissioned officers are our instructors here," Stone said. "They have been doing a great job to make sure everybody is up to speed on their training and are ready to assist the squadron if they get called out on a mission."

Courtesy photo

Troopers from 1st Platoon, Ironhawk Troop set up an observation point while conducting operations near Baghdad International Airport.

Ironhawk Troop moving non-stop in Iraq

By Capt. Scott Seidel
Ironhawk Troop Commander

Since arrival in the OIF area of operations, Ironhawk Troop, 3rd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment has been almost constantly on the move. It all started shortly after the Troop's arrival to FOB Falcon in southern Baghdad.

Just after Ironhawk had completed it's relief in place in late April, the Troop received word that they would be participating in a Division level operation the next morning.

In less than 20 hours, Ironhawk prepared for the mission and conducted a 100 kilometer road march that took them to the other side of the Tigris River. With very little planning and preparation time, the troop performed flawlessly and the operation was a success.

Just as Ironhawk was settling back into FOB Falcon and establishing a routine mission set in their area of operations, they again received word that they would be moving.

This time, the troop was tasked to move its' entire unit to Baghdad International Airport (BIAP), where they would be relieving 1st Squadron, 3d ACR.

See **IRONHAWK,** Page 31

IRONHAWK from Page 30

"The Troop was very successful and accomplished it's mission of protecting BIAP from indirect fire attacks and preventing anti-aircraft fire on landing planes."

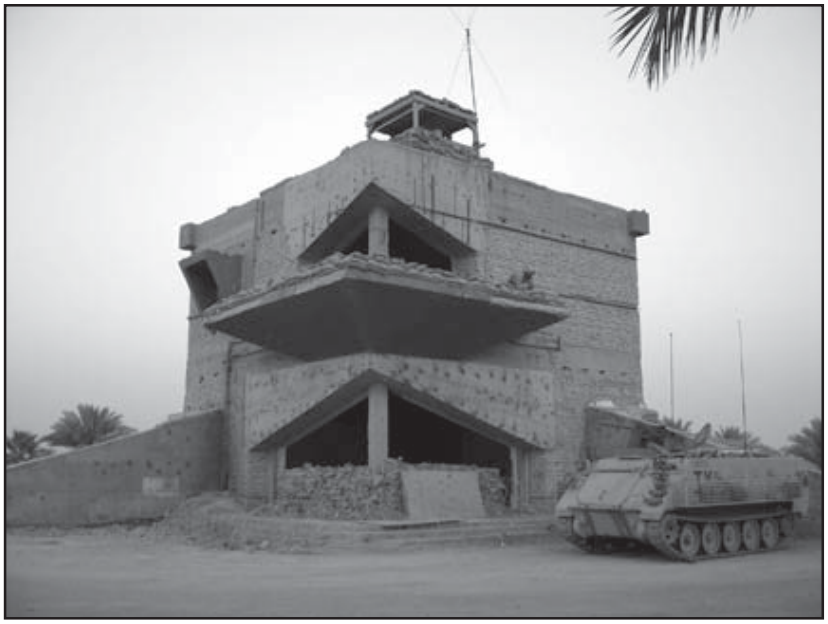
Ironhawk Troop, together with ADA Battery, took responsibility of an area that had belonged to an entire cavalry squadron.

The time spent at BIAP was challenging for the Ironhawk troopers, and many Soldiers were worn out after conducting missions with a cycle of 26 hours on and 22 hours off.

However, the Troop was very successful and accomplished it's mission of protecting BIAP from indirect fire attacks and preventing anti-aircraft fire on landing planes.

Once Ironhawk had completed the relief in place at BIAP, the Soldiers were looking forward to the move back to FOB Falcon. Upon arrival at the FOB, the troop didn't expect to see much of BIAP again.

However, this was not true. Shortly after arrival, the Ironhawk was tasked to again man the outpost that they had established to the east of BIAP.



Courtesy photo

Troopers from 2nd Platoon, Ironhawk Troop secure the troop's outpost while conducting operations near Baghdad International Airport. Since the unit's arrival into Iraq in April, Ironhawk Troop has prevented BIAP from indirect fire attacks and anti-aircraft fire on landing planes.

The two tank platoons and mortar section picked up this mission, while the two scout platoons began patrolling a new section of the major supply route that the Squadron is responsible for.

Ironhawk conducted missions in the area east of BIAP for approximately two weeks before the entire troop was back to operating out of FOB Falcon.

Currently, Ironhawk Troop has been set at FOB Falcon and continues to conduct missions to secure a critical part of the supply network.

In addition, Ironhawk continues to work with the local Iraqis in identifying projects to improve their living conditions and making their area a more secure place.

At this time, Ironhawk Troop is also moving into a new and exciting phase of operations. The Troop has begun a new partnership with Iraqi Security Forces.

Ironhawk Troop is currently in the preparation phase of training two companies of the Public Order Bridge.

These are special police (SPs) units that were originally formed for security in the Iraqi election held in January, but they now have a dual military and police role.

Ironhawk will spend a number of weeks training these SPs in various police and military tasks and then begin to incorporate them into patrols in the troop's area of responsibility.

The Squadron has been waiting a long time to form a partnership like this and everyone is very optimistic about the future of turning over the security of Iraq to Iraqi Security Forces.

The training and combined patrols will be tough work and will require substantial patience, but the benefits will be well worth it.

LONGKNIFE SQUADRON

By Maj. John Scott
Longknife Squadron Commander

Greetings to the friends and family of the Longknife Squadron, it is with a deep sense of loss that I write about the Squadron suffering the loss of Chief Warrant Officer Dennis Patrick Hay of Pegasus Troop who was killed in action on Aug. 29.

Dennis was a fabulous and courageous aviator who loved supporting his ground brothers in combat.

There were none finer and Dennis' contributions, camaraderie and friendship to the Squadron will be sorely missed.

It is with heavy but determined hearts that the Squadron continues its mission.

Chief Hay was an extraordinary officer and it gives the troopers of Longknife some solace knowing that he would have wanted us to continue this mission and rid this country of the terrorists who intend to destabilize this region and in so doing our country.

Our prayers go to the Hay family during this trying time.

The Squadron has ushered in the month of September and with it, our seventh month in Iraq and some cooler temperatures.

As I sit and write this, the troopers in the Squadron are doing an absolutely fabulous job supporting the Regiment in preparation for the upcoming Constitutional Referendum.

Their efforts and dedication are truly impressive and they are making history in a very special way. I am extremely proud of them and I know you would be too.

The Squadron has been focused on the entire breadth of the Regiment as they conduct reconnaissance and security operations from surveillance to attack operations.

As you have read or seen in the news the Regiment has completed one of its most important operations in freeing the city of Tall Afar from terrorists. Your troopers planned, prepared and executed their missions perfectly and freed the city from the stranglehold of terror.

The success of Longknife is a direct reflection of the hard work and dedication of every single trooper in the Squadron. Great work!

Of course, the Squadron has been able to find the time to relax and enjoy some of the MWR activities here on Camp Sykes.

The biggest hit is the superb gym meanwhile the troopers are looking forward to the completion of the Theater, indoor Basketball and new MWR center.

This facility will most certainly be the crown jewel of Camp Sykes. Additionally, the troopers enjoy the great food here in our chow hall.

The Squadron hosted a "Run for the Cure" run on Sept. 11 that mirrored the same run sponsored in Colorado Springs.

The turnout was super and I want to extend my personal thanks to everyone who helped in organizing and supporting the event from back home. Thanks!

Your thoughts, prayers and support to our troopers are truly inspiring and are treasured here in Longknife Squadron. Thank you for everything you do.

Longknife 6.5

Longknife bridges friendship to assist local Iraqi village

By 2nd Lt. Mollie Kedney
4/3 PAO

Every since June, the Civil Military Operations (CMO) team of Longknife Squadron has conducted humanitarian operations by visiting villages to asses the needs of the Iraqi people.

During August, the CMO team was once again on the move, as they payed a visit to the Sunni-Muslim Arab town of Thari Al-Garah.

The team after consulting with the populace planned to build a culvert bridge in an attempt to assist the local nationals.

In the village of Thari Al-Garah, Chief Warrant Dylan Welsh, Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Boyle and their team were able to sit down with the local sheik and his family on multiple occasions.

These visits with the sheik allowed the team to better assess the true needs of the area and on one visit they discovered a large Wadi, the valley of a stream that is usually dry except during the rainy season, which cut the village in half.

"The village quickly began requesting for us to build a bridge to help ease the delivery of water and increase accessibility of the local clinic," Welsh said.

The team wasted no time getting to work on this project. They quickly drafted a plan and pushed to get it approved and funded, and by Aug. 10, the project was approved.

According to Welsh, the CMO team gathered information about constructing bridges to ensure they provided quality help and were extremely lucky to happen upon a local contractor and his son from the Sinjar area.

The man and his son belong to the Yezeedi's religious/tribal group in northwestern Iraq, a group that is known to have a long history of trouble with Muslim Arabs, but the man and his son were eager to help the Sunni Muslim village and promptly hired 15 locals to work for him.

By Aug. 15 the CMO team along with the newly established contractor began breaking ground with an estimated three weeks of work ahead of them. Once construction was under way, the project moved along smoothly and quickly.

The bridge was scheduled for completion by the end of the first week of September, however it was completed one week ahead of schedule on Aug. 31.

Courtesy photo

The completed bridge in the town of Thari Al-Garah was the end result of a project contracted through the Longknife Squadron Civil Military Operations team. Rival tribes worked together to build the bridge which was completed one week ahead of schedule.

MULESKINNER SQUADRON

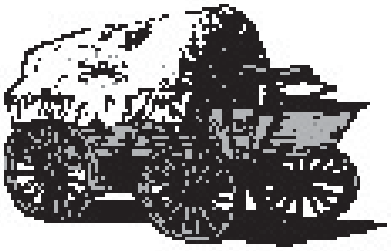
By Maj. Loren P. Schriner
Support Squadron Executive Officer

It seems each month that goes by brings us new challenges and missions that stretch the capabilities of the Support Squadron. This month has been no different.

We are faced with a determined enemy that seeks to impose their will on the population and the newly formed government here in Iraq.

Each one of your Troopers is shouldering the load and continue to amaze us with their dedication to each other, the units we support and the continuing mission here in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

'Out of the ordinary' is the best phrase that would describe some of our missions over the past 30 days.



In addition to our normal combat service support operations in the Northwest sector and the city of Tal Afar, Muleskinner has shown its extraordinary flexibility in taking on a few critical combat missions that exceeded our Line Squadron's capabilities.

Most notably was the planning and execution of a Displaced Civilian Screening Facility, a Displaced Civilian Camp and the conduct of Area Reconnaissance in outlying communities.

These three missions are not typically performed by our Squadron, but the staff put in days of hard work planning and obtaining the required resources, and the Troops of the Squadron trained and executed these complex missions flawlessly.

A special thanks to all. You can be proud of your contributions to the success of the Regiment's mission to provide a safe and secure region.

Muleskinner has continued to find innovative and creative solutions to some of the hardships that the local civilians are suffering.

We continue to provide Humanitarian Assistance, in the form of meals and bottled water, to local areas and neighborhoods in Tal Afar.

Recently during our engagement with the local communities we discovered a need to repair and construct a ground water well in a local community that had fallen into a state of disrepair.

We contacted a contractor, conducted site surveys and coordinated for the funds to execute the repairs. I am proud to report that repairs are complete and that the village of Zariqi has fresh drinking water.

We are also actively conducting engagement discussions within this community and have had very positive results.

The community is very receptive to us and we have employed a number of these local nationals in our work areas on the installation.

We must escort them everywhere and pick them up each day from the front gate, but they are a welcome addition.

They help us with general clean up of trash and wood in the Supply Activities and recently helped to construct tents for the Displaced Civilian Camps and additions to the Squadron TOC.

They are hard workers and we look forward to continuing their employment.

There is an abundance of hard work left to do here, but your troopers are making steady progress.

The Squadron will continue to push supplies, execute patrols, conduct base camp security, operate the detention facility, fix ground combat systems and helicopters, operate supply activities and execute our diverse and critical mission.

Thanks for all of your support and keep the faith.

Muleskinner 5

89th Chemical Company uses smoke concealment for unique mission

By 1st Sgt. Michael Shirley
89th Chemical Company

After an enemy sniper mortally wounded two Iraqi Soldiers from his hiding post, commanders on the ground decided to use an age old method to deceive the sniper.

Using the concept, 'the enemy can't kill what he can't see,' Lt. Col. Gregory Reilly, commander, First Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, used a tactic which hadn't been used for quite some time – smoke concealment.

He made the call for the 89th Chemical Company's Smoke Platoon to perform a mission which according to Capt. John Fennell had not been done in the Regiment since Operation Desert Storm.

Up to that point, Apache Troop of Tiger Squadron had tried to obscure the sniper's view of their rescue efforts with smoke grenades, and vehicle engine exhaust smoke. Projected smoke delivered by artillery was too dangerous to the urban environment due to the fire hazard.

"He [Reilly] took a more precise method by using smoke rather than an artillery strike," said Fennell, commander, 89th Chemical Company. "With no other feasible options, Tiger 6 requested mechanized smoke."

After receiving the mission request from Tiger Squadron through Regiment, Fennel contacted Tiger to determine what type of support would be needed.

Tiger required smoke as soon as possible to obscure the extraction of the fallen Iraqi soldiers.

During the unit's current deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Smoke Platoon's duties have primarily been running the Regimental Internment Facility (RIF).

The platoon had to conduct a hasty smoke opera

See **SMOKE,** Page 36

U.S. Army photo

Two M58 Smoke Obscurant systems deliver smoke to conceal Iraqi Army Soldiers so they can retrieve their fallen comrades. The smoke mission was the Regiment's first since Operation Desert Storm.

SMOKE from Page 35

tion; something the unit hadn't done the entire deployment.

According to Field Manual 3-60, hasty smoke operations are smoke operations conducted with minimal prior planning.

Hasty smoke operations are used to support a combined arms force to counter an enemy action or anticipated enemy action of immediate concern to the commander. Hasty smoke operations generally cover a small area for a short duration.

Fennell mentioned time is of the essence when conducting such a mission and all of the Platoon's M58 Smoke generator systems were parked in the motor pool and had not been used for four months since the Regiment left Baghdad.

Fortunately, the company had ordered fog oil and filled each track in anticipation of a smoke mission.

"Loading the oil in the generator is what takes the longest time, so we were lucky to have already loaded our generators," Fennell said. "If we had not done that, it would have taken us six-to-eight hours to make that happen."

Reilly and Fennel quickly assessed the amount of smoke required and how long it would take to have one smoke squad to get ready.

Fennell told Reilly that it would take about four hours, however the Smoke Platoon Sergeant had two crews ready to roll in two hours.

The crews consisted of Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Armbruster, platoon sergeant, Staff Sgt. Keith Roos, squad leader, Spc. Herminio Chapparo, M58 driver, Spc. Natogma Abdulai, generator operator, Spc. Patrick Bacon, M58 driver, and Pfc. James Willis, generator operator.

"Our guys were excited to do something new and be a part of the fight downtown," Fennell said.

"We're a Smoke Platoon, regardless if we're performing detainee operations," Roos said. "If a commander ask for smoke, we are prepared to deliver."

Upon arrival to the site Armbruster linked with Reilly to discuss the prevailing wind direction and smoke track locations.

It was determined that with a westerly prevailing wind, they would place one M58 on the northern edge of the open area that surrounded the water tower, and one on a road on the eastern edge of the open area.

Generators turned on and the thick white cloud streamed out. The smoke crept through the open area, rising to the height of the top of the water tower.

Initial concerns that the 100-degree heat would immediately disperse the smoke became a non-factor as the gentle 10 mph wind from the east flattened out the smoke.

The Iraqi soldiers were initially hesitant to enter the smoke for the rescue because they could not see ahead of them.

After 20 minutes of smoke on target, two Iraqi soldiers managed to climb the water tower and recover the bodies of their two fallen comrades.

Within four hours of departing for the mission, the Smoke squad returned back to FOB Sykes to resume their duties at the RIF.

The mission was short in duration, but it left a lasting memory in the minds of the Soldiers in the unit.

"I've never seen smoke used in that fashion during my career as a chemical officer," Fennell said. "Usually smoke is used for conceal friendly forces from enemy mechanized forces – not an individual. What we did today is part of Brave Rifles Standards – never leave a comrade behind. We're proud to do our part."

Looking forward to future missions, the Smoke Platoon now maintains a squad's worth of equipment ready for a fight adjacent to the RIF.

> "I've never seen smoke used in that fashion during my career as a chemical officer. Usually smoke is used for conceal friendly forces from enemy mechanized forces – not an individual."
>
> ***-- Capt. John Fennell, Commander, 89th Chemical Company***

Blacksmith Troop ready for any mission

Troopers trade wrenches for weapons, ID insurgents trying to escape from area

Mounted Rifleman Reports

During basic combat training, recruits are instilled that every Soldier is an infantryman. When the time comes, every Soldier needs to be ready to pick up their weapon and be ready to fight.

When the time came for the Soldiers of Maintenance (Blacksmith) Troop, Support Squadron to drop their wrenches for a mission they'd never done before, they were ready for the challenge.

That mission called for the troopers to screen all displaced civilians evacuating from the Sarai district of Tal Afar before Operation Restoring Rights.

As the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment prepared to attack this district and rid it of insurgents, the citizens were given a chance to avoid the attack that was coming and take up residence in a more secure and safer area.

A critical task of Blacksmith's mission was to identify possible insurgents and separate them from the displaced civilians.

For this mission the troop received attached personnel from various units including military police, civil affairs, and military intelligence.

Most importantly, the unit received soldiers from the 1st Iraqi Emergency Battalion and a platoon of Iraqi Army military police.

An engineer element had already completed the shell for the facility by building large berms as the outer walls and internal protection.

The unit had approximately 48 hours to complete the construction and set up of the screening facility before displaced civilians were routed to the site.

The troopers put up more than 700 rolls of concertina wire for force protection, emplaced barriers to control both foot and vehicle traffic flow, established a command and control area, a sleep area, a detention facility, and areas for additional questioning.

Two hours into set up a large mass of displaced civilians had begun movement through the city and were headed to the site.

The military police quickly established their traffic control point to be ready to pre-screen the individuals and delayed them while the set up was completed.

"By days end 80 displaced civilians had been screened and cleared to move on to stay with family and friends to wait out the attack to remove insurgents from their neighborhoods," said Capt. Jon Reeves, commander, Maintenance Troop.

Slowly over the next two days, an extended family or two made their way to the facility. Each family consisted of 30-40 members.

See **BLACKSMITH,** Page 38

By Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Robert M. Schalk

Spc. Adan Serna, Maintenance Troop, Support Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment stands guard at a screening sight outside the city of Tal Afar in Iraq's Nineveh province. His presence was intended to provide aid and comfort to civilians evacuating the city and separate anti-Iraqi forces from the general population.

BLACKSMITH from Page 37

Displaced Iraqi citizens from Tal Afar take shelter at a camp manned by Soldiers assigned to Maintenance Troop, Support Squadron before Operation Restoring Rights began.

Courtesy photo

However, once the official evacuation of the Sarai district kicked off, things got busy. On the first day 1,399 displaced civilians were screened.

Reeves said to identify suspected insurgents moving with the evacuees, masked sources were positioned along the route into the screening facility "enabling us to pull suspected insurgents from the masses before reaching the screening facility."

During their 11-day mission at the facility, Blacksmith troopers screened 3,248 displaced civilians and detained 98 suspected insurgents.

"Starting this mission our focus was on capturing insurgents trying to leave the city but in doing so, another very important aspect became evident, intelligence gathering," Reeves said. "We were given possible weapons storage sites, locations of higher echelon insurgent leaders, locations of possible vehicle borne improvised explosive device factories and exact locations of improvised explosive devices."

This information was taken and quickly passed up to the Regiment's intelligence section, with much of the information turning out credible.

In the end Reeves said Blacksmith troopers and attachments performed "above all expectations" and establishing a new standard to assist units in the future trying this same mission.

"We captured terrorists, provided security to displaced civilians, gathered intelligence to aid coalition forces in destroying the enemy, and utilized Iraqi Security Forces to make this mission a success," Reeves added.

"The citizens saw the compassion our Soldiers had for their children."

The facility also gave the Iraqi citizens a chance to see the professionalism of both the Iraqi Forces and the Blacksmith troopers.

"The citizens saw the compassion our Soldiers had for their children," Reeves said. "We provided water, food and comic books to help them on their journey to a more secure area."

Reeves added the displaced civilians saw how female Soldiers treated Iraqi women with dignity and respect as they searched them and asked questions about possible insurgent hideouts.

"Watching them leave the facility with a bottle of water, a prepackaged meal and a smile allowed us the satisfaction of knowing all the hard work was worth it," Reeves said.

During the planning phase there was "some doubt" that a maintenance unit could be diverse enough to accomplish a mission that had rarely been done before on this level.

The troopers have returned to their daily jobs of repairing all the equipment in the Regiment, processing all supplies in the Regiment, and manning the entry control point of FOB Sykes; patiently waiting to be called upon to accomplish the next impossible mission.

Scalpel bids farewell to fallen medic

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

"Champions aren't made in gyms. Champions are made from something they have deep inside them – a desire, a dream, a vision. They have to have last-minute stamina, they have to be a little faster; they have to have the skill and the will. But the will must be stronger than the skill." – Muhammad Ali

There were two things that Cpl. Jeffrey Williams loved – boxing and being a Soldier.

His passion for both often intertwined throughout his daily path in life as he exuded the same confidence, cockiness and dedication in the ring to his job as a combat medic.

On Sept. 5, Williams was killed in action by an improvised explosive device in Tal Afar during Operation Restoring Rights.

Assigned to Medical Troop, Support Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, Williams was honored during a Memorial Service held Sept. 18 at Camp Sykes, Iraq.

"Corporal Williams was the epitome of a combat Soldier and eagerly volunteered to be the Regimental Commander's medic," said Lt. Col. Richard O'Connor, Support Squadron commander. "You see, Corporal Williams always volunteered for the tough missions; this was his ethos, to be in the fight, just like a boxer."

O'Connor mentioned Williams was a proud man, hungry for the fight and the challenge because he knew that when the going gets tough, he would be the one the Soldiers would ask for.

Williams entered the Army in June 2003 after graduating Wheaton Warrenville South High School in Chicago. Upon completing basic training at Fort Benning, Ga., he went to Fort Sam Houston, Texas, where he graduated as a Medical Specialist and Basic Emergency Medical Technician.

He was assigned to Fort Carson, Colo., in January 2004 to Medical Troop, Support Squadron, 3d ACR and he deployed to Iraq in February 2005.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

A 3d Armored Cavalry Trooper salutes during the playing of Taps to honor Cpl. Jeffrey Williams at the Memorial Service to honor the fallen trooper held Sept. 18 at Camp Sykes. Williams was killed in action by an improvised explosive device in Tal Afar, Iraq on Sept. 5.

It was Williams' grit and professional work ethic that caught the eye of his commander, Capt. Daniel Liedl.

He recalled spending a moment with his trooper the night before Williams departed for his final mission.

"I watched him as he was performing one of his greatest loves – boxing," Liedl said. "He struck his training partners boxing mitts with accuracy, strength

See **WILLIAMS,** Page 40

WILLIAMS from Page 39

"There were never dull moments with 'Will' around. I would ask, 'Will, are you motivated?' He would come back before I could finish the sentence saying, 'Yep, Sergeant Glenn-Bracey, always.'"

-- Sgt. Sertello Glenn-Bracey, Medical Troop

and determination – just like he performed all his medical missions."

Liedl found himself struck with pride as he watched Williams prepare for his mission with the same confidence he had while punching.

"I asked Corporal Williams if he was prepared for his mission," Liedl said. "He looked me in the eyes and, with that big smile on his face we will all miss, said, 'Sir, I am ready.'"

After a pause to look at Williams' photo, Liedl said, "You have made me a better man and better commander."

The loss of Williams saddened every trooper in Medical Troop, particularly Sgt. Sertello Glenn-Bracey, his supervisor. Wearing dark-tinted shades to cover her red-stained and tear-filled eyes, Bracey gained her composure and proudly recalled memories of her trooper.

"There were never dull moments with 'Will' around," Glenn-Bracey said. "I would ask, 'Will, are you motivated?' He would come back before I could finish the sentence saying, 'Yep, Sergeant Glenn-Bracey, always.'"

She mentioned how the two would have conversations about his family back home. He was the big brother who started the path for his family serving in the military.

"His mother was a very special role model in his life," Glenn-Bracey said. "He once told me he wouldn't be the man he is today if hadn't been for her."

As the Soldiers lined up for final honors to Williams, Sgt. Adrian Taylor and Pfc. Ernesto Bojorquez stood with a boxing glove on one hand.

After saluting the Kevlar and weapon, they laid the boxing gloves beside the boots to symbolize Williams' love of the sport.

"It was the right thing to do," Taylor said. "He loved to box. He loved the Army. It's sad and we're going to miss him."

Williams is survived by his mother and step-father, Sandra and Aron Smith, and two brothers, Jermaine and Jerren, of Mansfield, Texas and father and step-mother Dennis and Diana Martin of Coral Springs, Fla.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

From left to right, Sgt. Sertello Glenn-Bracey, Sgt. Adrian Taylor and Pfc. Ernesto Bojorquez, await in line to pay their final honors and respect to Cpl. Jeffrey Williams at the conclusion of the Memorial Service to honor the fallen trooper held Sept. 18 at Camp Sykes.

REMINGTON TROOP

By Capt. David Olsen
Remington Troop Commander

Dear Remington Families and Friends, hello from Camp Sykes. As I am sure you are aware, the past month has been extremely busy for everyone in our Regiment as we conducted a major operation to remove insurgents from the city of Tal Afar.

This was the most significant step towards freeing the people in this region from the insurgent threat up to this point in our deployment.

Every Soldier in Remington Troop had a role to play in supporting this operation, and each of them performed admirably to contribute to the success of this effort.

Many of our Troopers were called upon to work long hours under hazardous conditions alongside the combat troops who carried the fight to the enemy in Tal Afar.

Our Troop took on a new mission early last month in Tal Afar by establishing a forward command post for the duration of the Regiment's combat operation in the city.

Remington Troopers were joined by Soldiers from 66th Military Intelligence Company and 16th Signal Brigade to provide a secure location for the Regimental Commander to oversee the fight to clear insurgents from the city.

In addition to providing security at the site, many of our Troopers interacted with international media, Iraqi Soldiers, police, and civilians on a daily basis to ensure that the command post ran smoothly and safely.

Our Soldiers made numerous patrols throughout the city to support the operation and allow the Regimental Commander and the staff to visit U.S. and Iraqi forces and meet with local leaders.

Many members of the staff worked long hours throughout the operation to ensure that our combat forces received the support they needed and that our messages explaining the ongoing operation reached the people of Tal Afar.

Finally, our mission could not have been successful without the support provided by the rest of our Troop back at Camp Sykes. Every Remington Trooper should be proud of the part they played in this significant operation.

All of us in Remington Troop were deeply saddened by the loss of Cpl. Jeffrey Williams from Muleskinner Squadron. Corporal Williams joined us to serve as a medic for our Protective Services Detachment during the last month's operation and was on a mission with our Scouts at the time of his death.

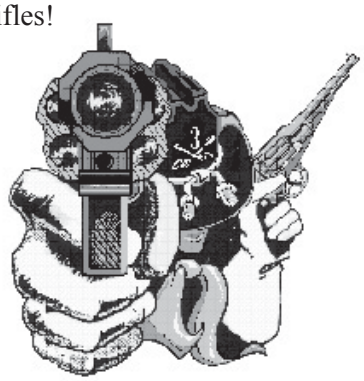
It was obvious to everyone who worked with him that he loved his job and loved helping his fellow Soldiers. It was an honor to serve with such a fine man; we will never forget him or his sacrifice.

While we continue with our mission in Iraq, we are also thinking of our fellow Americans who have been affected by the hurricanes in the southern United States, especially the family members and friends of Soldiers deployed with the Regiment.

We have had several families who were impacted by this national tragedy, and we wish them all the best on the road to recovery.

I hope that you are all doing well and enjoying the fall season back home. Thanks as always for your support – we will be thinking of all of you as the holidays approach. Brave Rifles!

Remington 6



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Staff Sgt. Guadalupe Ona, paralegal specialist, Regimental Legal Office, reviews the claim of an Iraqi citizen at the Civil Military Operations Center in Tal Afar, Iraq.

Straight, No Chaser

Staff Sgt. Guadalupe Ona is judge, jury for Iraqi citizens making claims

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

Arriving at the Civil Military Operations Center located in the city of Tal Afar, Staff Sgt. Guadalupe Ona is greeted by nearly 100 Iraqis waiting anxiously in line.

Staring at the length of the line, she sighs because it's going to be a long day of being both judge and jury when it's time to pay compensation claims to the men and women.

"The hardest part of doing this job is the communication barrier," said Ona. "And of course those the other part is dealing with those who don't tell the truth."

The 27-year-old Queens, N.Y. native serving in Headquarters, Headquarters Troop, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment as a paralegal specialist is responsible for paying monetary compensation to Iraqis for damages caused by Coalition Forces.

Ona's concealed 9mm pistol rests on top of a stack of $50 bills within hand's reach.

It is a job that is not for the meek of heart.

With the aid of an interpreter, Ona has to listen to each citizen give proof of damages to their property from Coalition Forces in Operation Restoring Rights.

Some have the proper documentation which includes a Coalition Forces Claims Card, photographs, and property deeds.

"For them the process is easy," Ona said. "All they have to do is corroborate what happen based what's written on the claims card."

Those who show up with only their identification card and their word have to be thoroughly cross-examined by Ona, whose keen ear doesn't miss a detail or word.

Ona is straight, no-chaser as she begins questioning each claimant. She has to be. She is a woman and her decision of reimbursement is final and non-negotiable.

Next to her right side, concealed on a shelf, is a stack of $50 bills totaling $50,000.

On top of the 'Grants' is her 9mm pistol in the event of a robbery. Before a safe was delivered to her new office, she once was packing $500,000.

The first Iraqi sits in a chair directly in front of her desk. He doesn't have the claims card, but he has photos of a truck's front and back end.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

An Iraqi citizen receives monetary compensation from Ona for damages to his property.

Looking directly into his eyes she begins her questioning. The interpreter's timing with her is apparent the two are synchronized like two figure skaters.

"How did it happen? When did it happen? Were you there? Did you evacuate? How do you know it was Coalition Forces that did this?"

The barrage of questions obviously has the man shaken. Ona doesn't relent after viewing the photos of a truck that shows none of the damages the man claims happened by Coalition Forces.

She denies payment until he can bring other photos proving otherwise.

This encounter is the exception and not the norm. Most of the citizens who come for claims are legitimate. In a matter of minutes after listening to their depiction of what happened, Ona has to make a decision of payment.

"We don't compensate for damages caused by the terrorists and insurgents," Ona said. "Believe me, I feel sorry for what they go through and what happened to the people here, but the payment is exactly what it is – a sympathy payment."

After payment, she explains to each citizen that no other member of the household can come and make a claim, and most importantly, not to discuss how much they were paid.

"I don't want them to get mugged because the money is for the whole family," Ona said.

Ona and other paralegal specialists serving as pay agents at the CMOC ensure the payments are commensurate to the damages.

They also review the significant activities of what happened during the operation prior to going to the CMOC to validate Coalition Forces were in a particular neighborhood.

According to Sgt. 1st Class Theodore Scully, noncommissioned officer in charge, Regimental Legal Office, more than 99 percent of payments have been for broken windows, kicked-in doors, bullet-ridden walls and furniture and other damage caused by Coalition Forces.

"Most of the Iraqis are satisfied with the payment they receive," Scully said.

Both Scully and Ona has paid compensation ranging from $200 - $1,500 per household.

So far more than 1,000 claims have been paid totaling more than $300,000.

Ona is proud of her job and takes well the nickname she's been given by her fellow Soldiers.

"They call me Judge Judy, but I'm cool with it," she said revealing a smile. "I'm very direct. Don't try to B.S. me."

Just as the shrewd TV judge sits perched atop her bench and snaps at both defendant and plaintiff for lying, Ona does the same when she suspects someone is not being honest with her.

At the end of the day she is clearly mentally drained.

She's paid more than 50 claims on this day and nearly $3,000.

Tomorrow the lines will be there waiting for her arrival.

Keep hope alive when all else fails

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

Sports Illustrated writer Jack McCallum called it the 'saddest silver' of the 2000 summer Olympics in Sydney. It was awarded to U.S. freestyle wrestler Sammie Henson, who lost a heartbreaking match to his opponent from Azerbajian.

McCallum wrote that, after Henson lost "he ran yelling and screaming down a hallway. All the hours of sweat and toil, all the dreams, all the mental pictures in which he saw himself on the top step of that magic pedestal – All gone.

"And Henson lost it… like nobody I've ever seen lose it.

"As his yells reverberated through one section of the arena, (people) looked around to find out where the noise was coming from.

"Henson continued yelling and screaming for at least five minutes, pounding his hand against a wall outside of the locker room until he finally collapsed on the floor. Now all we could hear was his agonized sobbing.

"For 99.9 percent of the world, a silver medal in the Olympics would be considered a career; for Henson, it was a nightmare.

"When Sammie was eight he told his father he would one day become an Olympic champion and he worked steadily toward that goal.

"Now, at age 29, it may (never) happen."

Like Sammie Henson, we all need hope. Hope pulls us from the pit with the power of future promise. But when our hopes don't come true, it can literally sicken our hearts with despair.

That's why we need to keep one hope alive when all else fails.

In his darkest hour, the psalmist writes, "Why am I discouraged? Why so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again— my Savior and my God!" (NLT)

What are you struggling with today? Are you trying to fix your problems in your own strength, and as a result are you filled with despair?

We are seven months into our deployment and I encourage you to fix your hope on God; He's the only one who can help when all hope seems lost!

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Be encouraged

Pfc. Danielle Gerboc, Medical Troop, Support Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, is consoled by Col. H.R. McMaster, 71st Colonel of the Regiment, during the memorial service for fellow medic, Cpl. Jeffrey Williams.

'Stay Cav' '05 ends with 114 re-ups

Mounted Rifleman Reports

The Regiment of Mounted Riflemen would like to issue a huge thank you and also a congratulations to the following Soldiers who elected to reenlist during the month of September.

Bonuses are still out there for eligible Soldiers. The deployed selective reenlistment bonus is still available for troopers who elect to reenlist while deployed in support of OIF 04-06. Contact your Squadron Career Counselor for more information.

Tiger Squadron

Spc. Lorren Kellerhals
Spc. Jose Regalado
Spc. Andrew Hagan
Spc. William Thomas Jr.
Spc. Joshua Pennington
Spc. Brian Torkelson
Spc. Steven Stroud
Spc. Jeffrey Conway
Spc. Carlos Rivera-Rosado
Spc. Josiah Cecil
Spc. William Lee III
Sgt. Steven Thomas
Sgt. Roger Jaramillo Jr.
Sgt. Brandon Howard
Sgt. G. Trevor Marr
Sgt. Michael Stephenson
Sgt. Jeremy Boone
Sgt. Marlon Miguel
Sgt. Daniel LaCoste
Sgt. Nicholas Rossetti
Sgt. Daniel Saucedo
Sgt. Kevin Zielke
Sgt. Charles Pallas III
Sgt. Steven Behr
Sgt. Robert Myrick
Sgt. Gene Spears II
Sgt. Brendon Neelyotts
Staff Sgt. David Keener III
Staff Sgt. Kevin Oshea
Staff Sgt. Moses Santana
Staff Sgt. William Proctor
Staff Sgt. Louis Mundinger
Staff Sgt. Daniel Thibodeau
Staff Sgt. Kevin Stewart
Sgt. 1st Class Robert Metzger

Sabre Squadron

Spc. Blaine MacDowell
Spc. Matthew Blair III
Spc. Matthew Gensler
Spc. Jeremy Clark
Spc. Donald Schmidt III
Spc. Jonathan Rodriguez
Spc. Robert Pare
Spc. Keldon Walker
Spc. Scott Starnes
Sgt. Perry Flemon
Sgt. Salvador Loera
Sgt. Steven Kramer
Sgt. Tasawur Shaheen
Sgt. Raymond Swearingen
Sgt. Ryan Dietz
Sgt. Christopher Young
Staff Sgt. Shawn Pinder
Staff Sgt. John Stapleton
Staff Sgt. Timothy Gibson
Staff Sgt. William Martin

Thunder Squadron

Spc. Jaramia Jackson
Spc. John Plover
Sgt. Stephen Dewitt
Sgt. Jason Arnold
Sgt. Michael Kasuba
Staff Sgt. Eric Klopfer

Longknife Squadron

Spc. Ba Pham
Spc. Bruce Wilson
Spc. Ryan Branner
Spc. William Howell II
Spc. Robert Witbrodt
Spc. James Sandberg
Spc. Andrew Clark
Sgt. Mikel Kelly
Sgt. Angel Villegas-Perez
Sgt. Ines Benson
Sgt. Eric Sutton
Sgt. Louis Vasquez
Sgt. James Scofield
Staff Sgt. Raymond Ngirailemesang
Staff Sgt. Troy Reier
Staff Sgt. Doswell Carter
Staff Sgt. Michael Workman Jr.
Staff Sgt. Wade Brambley
Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Kracker
Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Williams

Muleskinner Squadron

Spc. Jerald Cunanan
Spc. Bridget Smiley
Spc. Herminio Chaparro-Jaramillo
Spc. Patrick Bacon
Spc. Antonio Palma
Spc. Donald Balow
Spc. James Francis
Spc. Justin Parker
Spc. Jesus Baca Jr.
Sgt. Alaine Gilpin
Sgt. Matthew Crane
Sgt. Jeremy McDonald
Sgt. Peter Crouch
Sgt. Frank Cruz
Sgt. Jared Benson
Sgt. Jared Job
Sgt. Ngoc Do
Sgt. Jawn Harris
Sgt. Gregory Crowder
Sgt. Patrick Hudson
Sgt. Christopher Curlee
Staff Sgt. Ronald Pena-Turcios
Staff Sgt. Junior Smart
Staff Sgt. Omawali Bedminster
Staff Sgt. Angela Gilbert
Staff Sgt. Fabian Harrison
Staff Sgt. Bernard Perry Jr.
Staff Sgt. Andrew Landefeld

Remington Troop

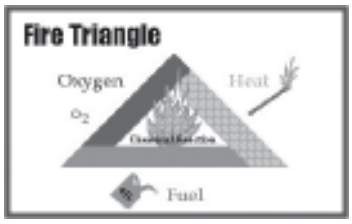
Pfc. Melissa Romero
Pfc. Justin Lunk
Spc. Matthew Ryan
Spc. Robert Dillon
Sgt. Annette Robinson

Fire safety never goes out of season

Compiled by Antonio Padillia
Safety Officer, 3rd ACR

In order to understand how fire extinguishers work, you first need to know a little bit about fire.

The Fire Triangle



Four things must be present at the same time in order to produce fire:

1. Enough oxygen to sustain combustion,
2. Enough heat to raise the material to its ignition temperature,
3. Some sort of fuel or combustible material, and
4. The chemical, exothermic reaction that is fire.

Oxygen, heat, and fuel are frequently referred to as the "fire triangle." Add in the fourth element, the chemical reaction, and you actually have a fire "tetrahedron."

Essentially, fire extinguishers put out fire by taking away one or more elements of the fire triangle/ tetrahedron.

Rules for Fighting Fires

Before deciding to fight a fire, keep these rules in mind:

Know what is burning.

If you don't know what is burning, you don't know what type of extinguisher to use. Even if you have an ABC extinguisher, there may be something in the fire that is going to explode or produce highly toxic smoke.

Chances are, you *will* know what's burning, or at least have a pretty good idea, but if you don't, let the fire department handle it.

Always position yourself with an exit or means of escape at your back before you attempt to use an extinguisher to put out a fire.

In case the extinguisher malfunctions, or something unexpected happens, you need to be able to get out quickly, and you don't want to become trapped. Just remember; always keep an exit at your back.

Not all fires are the same, and they are classified according to the type of fuel that is burning. If you use the wrong type of fire extinguisher on the wrong class of fire, you can, in fact, make matters worse.

It is therefore very important to understand the four different fire classifications.

Class A - Wood, paper, cloth, trash, plastics: Solid combustible materials that are not metals. (Class A fires generally leave an **A**sh.)

Class B - Flammable liquids: gasoline, oil, grease, acetone**.** Any non-metal in a liquid state, on fire. This classification also includes flammable gases. (Class B fires generally involve materials that Boil or Bubble.)

Class C - Electrical: energized electrical equipment. As long as it's "plugged in," it would be considered a class C fire. (Class C fires generally deal with electrical **C**urrent.)

Class D - Metals: potassium, sodium, aluminum, magnesium. Unless you work in a laboratory or in an industry that uses these materials, it is unlikely you'll have to deal with a Class D fire. It takes special extinguishing agents (Metal-X, foam) to fight such a fire.

Most fire extinguishers will have a pictograph label telling you which classifications of fire the extinguisher is designed to fight.

For example, a simple water extinguisher might have a label like the one below, indicating that it should only be used on Class A fires.

REGIMENT'S ENGAGEMENTS

The following is a brief summary of historical events involving the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen, the 3d U.S. Cavalry, 3d Cavalry Group (Mechanized) and the 3d Armored Cavalry, during the month of September.

MONTH	LOCATION	UNITS ENGAGED
1 Sep 1944	Thionville, France	B, 3d Cav Recon Sqdn
2 Sep 1875	North Platte River, north of Sidney, Neb.	Detachment G
5 Sep 1854	The Lobo, near the Rio Grande, Texas	Detachment D
5 Sep 1864	Near Benton, Ark.	B, C, F, G, I, K
5 Sep 1900	Piddig, Ilocos Norte, PI	Detachment A
5 Sep 1944	Rezonville, Gravellote France (Capture- COL Drury)	A, 3d Recon.
8 Sep 1847	Molino del Rey, Mexico	I
9-15 Sep 1858	Operations from Ft. Defiance, NM (near Laguna Chusca)	A, F, H, I
9 Sep 1876	Slim Buttes (surprise of American Horse), Dakota	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, I, L, M
9 Sep 1900	Near Cabugao, Ilocos Sur, PI	Detachment K
12-14 Sep 1847	Chapultepec and Mexico City, Mexico	A, B, D, E, F, G, H, I, K
13 Sep 1847	Siege of Puebla, Mexico	Detachment
14 Sep 1990	Attached to 24th Infantry Division	3d ACR
16 Sep 1900	Near Solsona, Ilocos Norte, PI	Detachment A
19 Sep 1990	(Operation Desert Shield) Began troop movement to Saudi Arabia	3d ACR (-)

REGIMENT'S ENGAGEMENTS

MONTH	LOCATION	UNITS ENGAGED
20 Sep 1900	Banna, Ilocos Norte, PI	Detachment A
21 Sep 1990	(Operation Desert Shield) Liaison Team arrive at Dhahran, Saudi Arabia	80 troopers
22 Sep 1900	Near Badoc, Ilocos Norte, PI	Detachment K
23 Sep 1860	Navajo country, NM	I
23 Sep 1990	(Operation Desert Shield) Advance Detachment arrive at Dhahran	240 troopers
24 Sep 2000	(SFOR7) Completed peacekeeping mission	2nd Sqdn
25 Sep 1858	Laguna Negro, NM	I
26 Sep 1900	Near Badoc, Ilocos Norte, PI	Detachment B
26 Sep 1990	(Operation Desert Shield) Main body begins to arrive in theater; Ashley Lykes (first ship with 3d ACR equipment arrives)	3d ACR (-)
28-29 Sep 1858	Chusca Valley and Mountains, NM	Detachment E
29 Sep 1869	Miembres Mountains, NM	Detachment E
29 Sep 1879	White River, Ute Expedition, Milk Creek, Colo.	
30 Sep 2000	(SFOR7) Completed peacekeeping mission	Support Sqdn.

The Draper Leadership Award statue was designed after the Goodrich Trophy in 1974 by the U.S. Armor Association. The Goodrich Trophy was presented to the U.S. Cavalry Association in 1926 by Colonel L.E. Goodrich. The trophy was presented annually to the troop that demonstrated the highest proficiency.

In 1934 the rules of the competition changed to read that once a regiment won the trophy three times it would become the permanent possession of that organization. The Goodrich Trophy is on display in the Third Cavalry Museum.

The Goodrich Trophy was sculpted by A. Phimister Proctor. The models for the trophy are Sergeant Wotiski (the rider) and "Peggy" the mount.

Peggy was among the best mounts in the Regiment. In 1924 and 1925 Peggy won the United States Mounted Service Cup. She was assigned to Troop F, 3d U.S. Cavalry.

Keeping Americans Informed

"Public Affairs fulfills the Army's obligation to keep the American people and the Army informed, and helps to establish the conditions that lead to confidence in America's Army and its readiness to conduct operations in peacetime, conflict and war." – The PA Mission

By Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Sitting on my couch at home during R&R leave, I found myself glued to the TV watching Operation Restoring Rights when it kicked off in Tal Afar.

Instead of wearing my DCUs and combat boots, I was fitted in a Dallas Cowboys T-shirt, shorts and flip-flops. I was 'Joe American,' instead of an Army senior noncommissioned officer.

I wanted to know what was going on with the Soldiers fighting on the ground.

I was craving for more information about the operation unsatisfied by the small tidbits that CNN was airing about the "Army's biggest offensive since Fallujah."

As a Public Affairs specialist for nearly 15 years of my military career, I know very well the importance of keeping the American taxpayer informed about its Army. I knew the importance of fighting rumors, enemy disinformation efforts, uncertainty, fear and other factors that cause stress.

When the TV did not satisfy my desire for more information on the operation, I turned to the Internet and without failure; there were articles from embedded journalists in the field covering the Regiment's on-going operations.

As 'Joe American' I was consumed with reading how the Regiment was unraveling the grip once held by the terrorists in the "restive city of Tal Afar located near the Syrian Border."

And then there were the articles mentioning the deaths of four troopers assigned to the Regiment – I was instantly saddened. At that time, I became Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks, and I knew I lost my fellow brothers-in-arms.

These were men I deployed to Iraq with, men who left their families behind to serve our nation in war and men who once recited an oath to volunteer in our Army. Now they were gone.

If I ever needed a reminder of the importance of my job as a journalist and Public Affairs practitioner, I got it one day in the form of an e-mail from an old colleague of mine – Rick Fulton.

Long retired from serving as a Soldier and an Army Public Affairs civilian, he was at home just finishing dinner in Pittsburg, Kan., when he saw Col. H.R. McMaster on C-SPAN.

The RCO was conducting a video-teleconference with reporters at the Pentagon about the operation.

Fulton wrote, "It was a genuine pleasure to hear an operation described to the general public in no nonsense, straight from the shoulder style.

"It was particularly refreshing that the briefing contained no self serving language, was non partisan, and was very factual and very precise…

"When the program was over, I understood what had happened, 'got it' with respect to the pride we all must continue to have in our U.S. Soldiers, and was particularly proud of the way you praised the Iraqi forces who were also engaged."

As stated in the PA Mission, keeping America informed is vitally important to maintain the nation's confidence in our Army. America can be proud of the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen and our efforts here in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As both an ordinary 'Joe American' and a Soldier, I'm grateful to be informed and to inform. Now I just can't wait to get back to that couch.

September's Fallen Trooper

Sept. 5 - Cpl. Jeffrey Williams, RSS