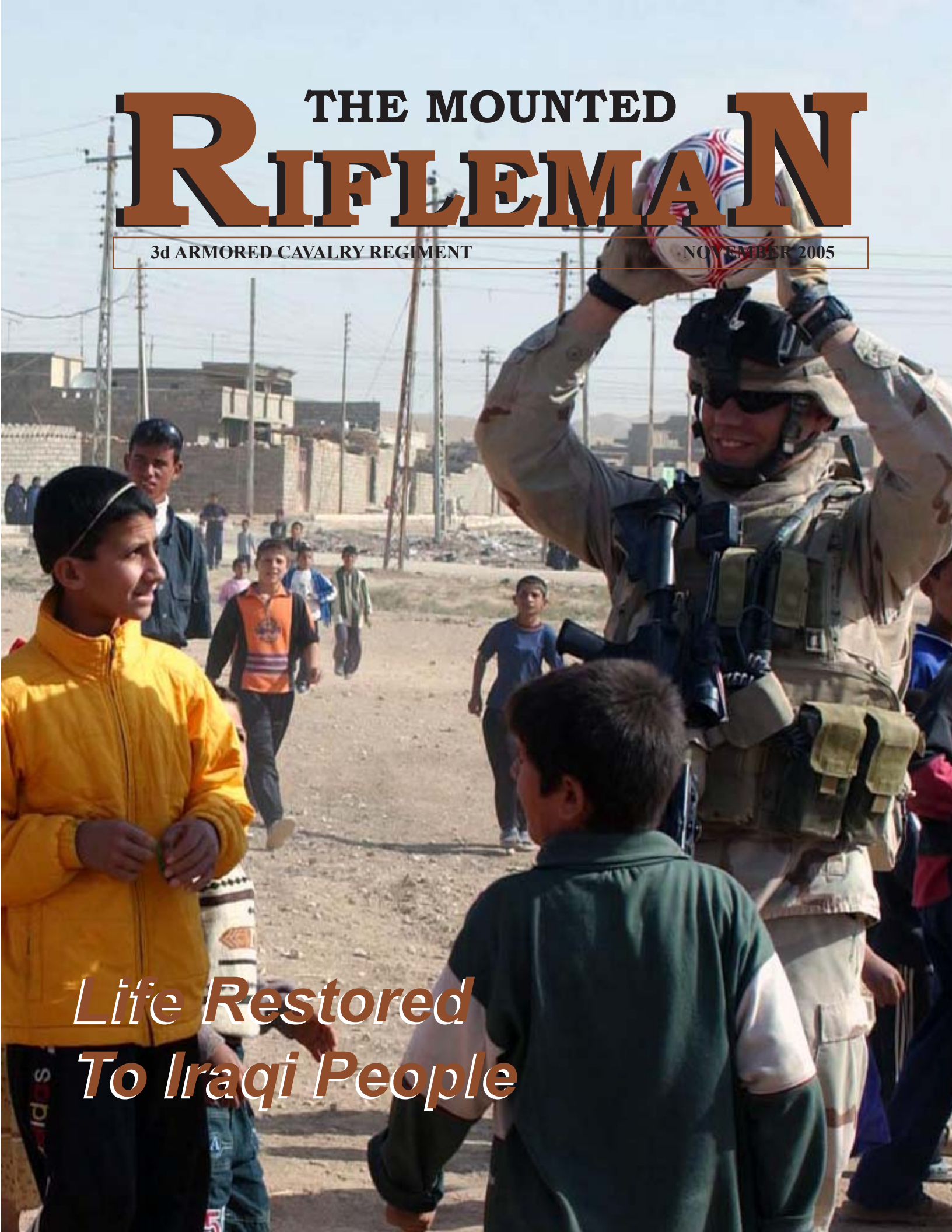
THE MOUNTED RIFLEMAN

3d ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT NOVEMBER 2005



Life Restored To Iraqi People

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

November is known for two holidays - Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving. On each of those two days the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen took time to reflect on the significance and meaning of those days.

On Veteran's Day in Tal Afar, both American and Iraqi Soldiers stood side by side in formation as the colors for both nations were hoisted during the playing of each countries national anthem.

The ceremony, although simple in nature, was a powerful gesture to pay tribute and homage to all those who have answered the Nation's call to serve in uniform for our nation.

Thanksgiving Day was special as Lt. Gen. John R. Vines, commanding general, Multi-National Corps-Iraq, personally pinned medals for valor on several Soldiers for their courageous deeds on the battlefield.

Despite being away from family members and loved ones, the Regiment's troopers were able to enjoy a traditional holiday meal with all the fixings. Televisions aired football games and there was even a live turkey on display at Tiger Squadron's camp in Sinjair.

As stated on the cover, life has been restored to the people of Iraq after living for years in tyranny and fear. One day historians will write about how the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen came to this country in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and helped bring the fruits of freedom, peace and security to Iraqis in our area of operations.

It is truly amazing to see children attending class at schools, Iraqi storeowners opening their shops on the market and Iraqi citizens going on with their day-to-day lives without fear.

This did not come without a cost as seven more troopers paid the ultimate sacrifice in defending our nation and helping the Iraqi's secure theirs.

We are truly thankful and we will honor these heroes everyday.

-- The Editor

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Cover: Capt. Ryan Howell, commander of Grim Troop, 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Calvary Regiment, hold a soccer ball over his head while playing with the children before opening of a new soccer field. See related story on Page 19. Left: 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment Soldiers stand in formation alongside Iraqi Army Soldiers during a Veteran's Day at Forward Operating Base Sykes, Iraq. See related article and photos of the event on Pages 8-9.

FEATURES

4 71ST COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT
Col. H.R. McMaster offers a word of thanks to the troopers serving in our Regiment and Nation.

5 XVII REGIMENTAL COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
Command Sgt. Maj. William Burns thanks all family members for their continued support of their troopers.

15 TIGER SQUADRON
Iraqis celebrate through dance, music opening of new school in village of Tall Qussab.

18 SABRE SQUADRON
Sgt. 1st Class Xiengkone Vongkoth enhances Iraqi Army physical fitness with creation of soccer field.

24 THUNDER SQUADRON
Ironhawk troopers remember four fallen comrades, interpretor during memorial ceremony.

28 LONGKNIFE SQUADRON
Maj. John Scott praises his troopers for their accomplishments during November.

29 MULESKINNER SQUADRON
Lt. Col. Richard O'Connor recalls the good deeds performed by his troopers during November.

30 REMINGTON TROOP
Capt. David Olsen recaps the hard work and mission accomplishment of various staff sections and his troopers.

32 CHAPLAIN'S CORNER
The grass isn't always greener on the other side so be careful what you ask for.

33 RETENTION - STAY 3D ACR
Cavalry troopers continue to reenlist, stay Army throughout the Regiment.

Cover photo by Pfc. James Wilt

A message from the
71st Colonel of the Regiment

Photo by Sgt. 1st Donald Sparks

Col. H.R. McMaster, 71st Regimental Commander, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, slices brisket on Thanksgiving Day for Tiger Squadron troopers at Bi-aj', Iraq.

November was a very successful month for our Regiment. We are thankful for the great victory we are securing in Tall Afar and Western Ninewa Province and the very successful operations that Thunder Squadron has conducted South of Baghdad.

The constitutional referendum was successful. Iraqi Army and police continue to get stronger every day. I am thankful for having the privilege of serving alongside courageous men who gave their lives to bring freedom and security to Iraq and secure the future of our children.

Men like 1st Lt. Justin Smith (Ironhawk Troop), Staff Sgt. Brian Freeman (Ironhawk Troop), Spc. Robert Pope (Ironhawk Troop), Pfc. Mario Reyes (Ironhawk Troop), Sgt. Tyrone Chisholm (Fox Troop), Sgt. Denis Gallardo (Eagle Troop), and Sgt. 1st Class Eric Pearrow (Mad Dog Company).

These brave men made the ultimate sacrifice for their country in November. The families of our fallen troopers remain in our thoughts and prayers. We will continue to honor these heroes with our deeds as we continue our vital mission.

On this time of Thanksgiving, I am most thankful that America has men and women who are willing to make sacrifices to defend our nation and our way of life against terrorists such as those our Regiment has confronted in Iraq.

I am also thankful for families whose support allows their soldiers to serve our nation, our Army, our Regiment, and their fellow Troopers.

Brave Rifles!

Rifles 6

A message from the
XVII CSM of the Regiment

As we enter the holiday season, I would like to thank all of the families of our deployed troopers for the support they are providing that allows them to continue to serve. I know that separation during the holidays is especially hard on both soldiers and their families.

But for all troopers still serving in Iraq, we should be grateful for our continued health and we must ensure we stay in contact with our wounded comrades who are recover in the United States from the wounds they received at the hands of the enemy in Iraq.

Let them know how much we are thinking of them as we build on the sacrifices that they made.

Finally, I would like everyone to take time to think of the families of our fallen troopers. The first holiday without their beloved fallen trooper will be especially hard.

The sacrifice these families have made on behalf of their country deserves our utmost respect.

I encourage all friends of fallen troopers to contact these families at this time to let them know the Regiment has not forgotten their sacrifice and we will always be thinking of them.

Rifles 7

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Command Sgt. Maj. William Burns, XVII Regimental Command Sergeant Major, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, shares a moment with Pfc. Daniel Burke, Lightning Troop, 3-3, during a morale visit to Baghdad, Iraq on Nov. 7.

Pay

Tal Afar citizen from Iraqi gove

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

City officials in Tal Afar began handing out more $4.5 billion Iraqi Dinar to the citizens of the city from Oct. 30 through Nov. 1.

The Iraqi Transitional Government allocated the money to provide every family (head of the household) 157,000 Dinar ($100) within Tal Afar, including displaced families, as compensation to mitigate past terrorist activity in the city.

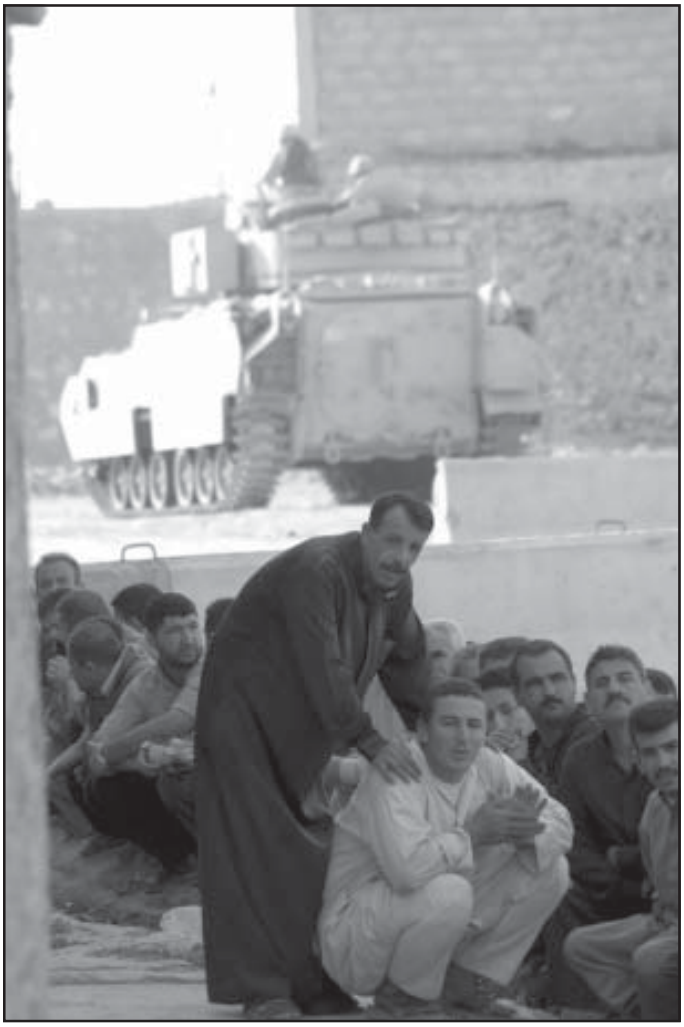
More than 3,000 Iraqi soldiers and police, partnered with the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, assisted the citizens as they came to collect money.

Tal Afar Mayor Najem personally greeted residents of the city as they stood in line to collect their money and gave words of encouragement and praise.

"This money is for you and your families," Najem said to the crowd waiting in line. "This money will help you to buy necessary items for

Day

ns collects money
ernment



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Left: An excited Iraqi citizen proudly displays his thumb and $100 worth of Iraqi Dinar after collecting the money provided by the Iraqi Transitional Government in the city of Tal Afar on Oct. 30. The money, given to each head of household, served as compensation to residents of the city from past terrorist activity. Above: Iraqi citizens from Tal Afar await in line to collect $100 worth of Iraqi Dinar as a 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment vehicle provides security.

your children."

Najem remarked that the people of Tal Afar were happy and upbeat after discovering the government provided money to the people – many of whom had suffered from terrorist attacks in their neighborhoods.

"This is a great day for the people of the city," Najem proclaimed.

Reconstruction projects are underway in Tal Afar following the end of combat operations ridding terrorists from the city.

Schools are being renovated or built, water wells are being constructed, electricity and phone lines are being improved and installed, and roads are being repaved to restore the city's quality of life.

Veterans Day

celebrated by 3d ACR, Iraqi Soldiers as brothers in arms

Article By Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

American and Iraqi Soldiers stood side by side Nov. 11 in Tal Afar, Iraq, as brothers in arms, to honor Veterans Day. Soldiers of the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment and Iraqi Soldiers of the 3rd Iraqi Army Division saluted together in unison during a Veterans Day ceremony, as flags of both countries were raised to honor the accomplishments of all service-members – past and present.

The ceremony also symbolized the sacrifices of Soldiers who have defended freedom and ensuring the continued security of both nations in the ongoing war on terrorism.

As the Troopers stood at attention, the music of the *Star Bangled Banner* and *Mawtini* (My homeland) filled the air adding to the atmosphere of honor and pride.

Col. H.R. McMaster, 3d ACR commander, described the history of Veterans Day before a formation of nearly 150 U.S. and Iraqi soldiers standing side by side.

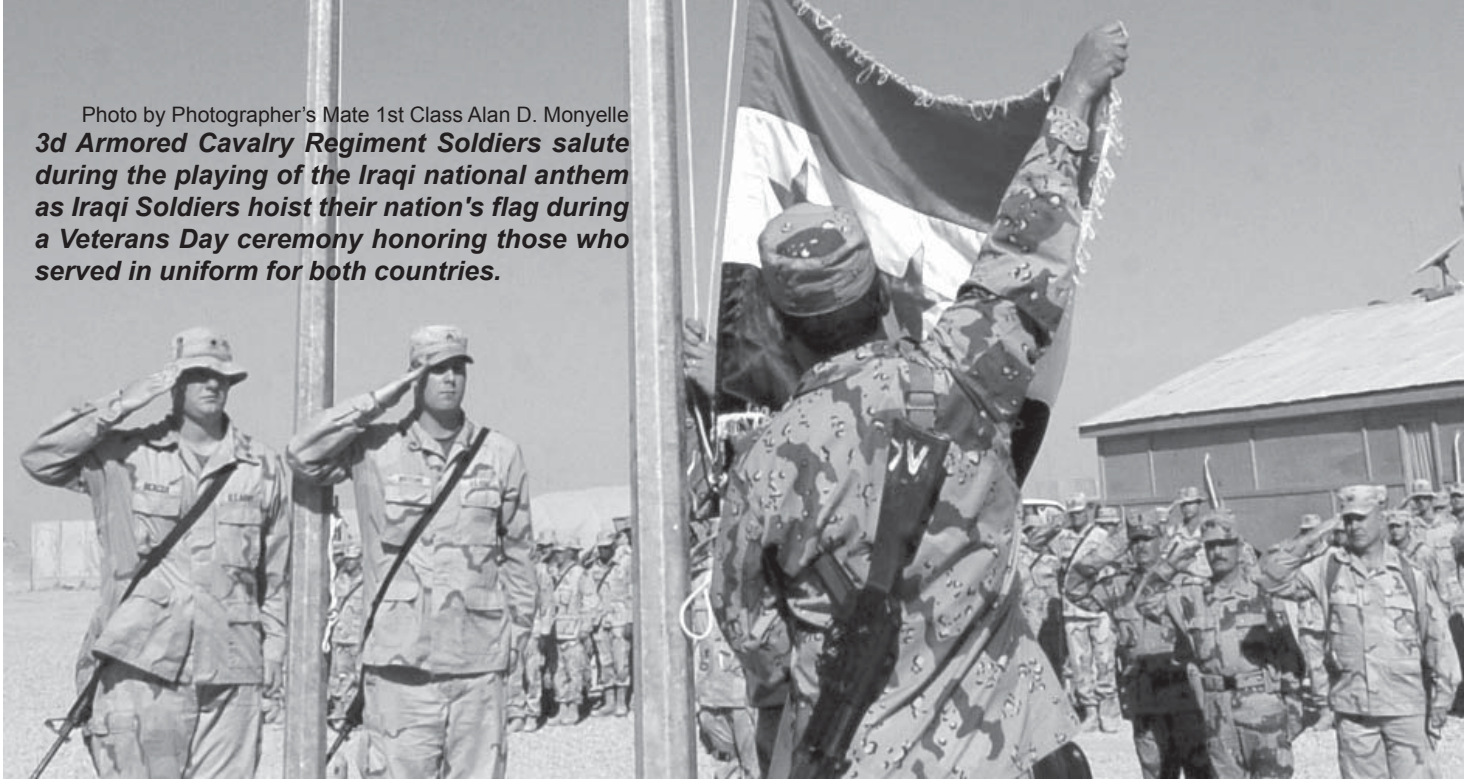


Photo by Photographer's Mate 1st Class Alan D. Monyelle

3d Armored Cavalry Regiment Soldiers salute during the playing of the Iraqi national anthem as Iraqi Soldiers hoist their nation's flag during a Veterans Day ceremony honoring those who served in uniform for both countries.

"On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of they year 1918, the Allied and Central Powers signed the Armistice to end the Great War," McMaster said. "For the next 26 years, our country observed 'Armistice Day' to commemorate the end of what we now call World War I, which was meant to be the 'war to end all wars.'"

McMaster proceeded to explain how Armistice Day was renamed 'Veterans Day' by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1954, "In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans' organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose."

Scanning across the formation, McMaster stared into the eyes of the troopers under his charge and remarked on the 3d ACR's history in defending the nation.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Iraqi Soldiers and 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment salute during the playing of both countries national anthems as part of a Veterans Day ceremony honoring those who served in uniform.

"The 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment has a long line of distinguished Veterans," McMaster said. "Proverbs 22:1 advises us that a good name is to be valued more than riches. For over 150 years, in over 40 battles seven wars, spanning three continents, our Regiment's name has been synonymous with valor and commitment to the defense of our nation."

McMaster's admiration of the Iraqi forces, which have fought beside the Regiment in combined operations, was communicated as a spirited testimony of their role in the fight against terrorism.

"Today we fight shoulder to shoulder with our brave Iraqi brothers of the 3rd Iraqi Army Division," McMaster said. "As we observe the Veterans of our country's wars on this solemn day, I would like all of our troopers to think of their Iraqi brothers in arms fighting alongside them. They fight at great risk not only to themselves, but to their families."

As commander of the 3rd IA Division, Maj. Gen. Salim Hassan Kursheed has partnered with the 3d ACR in preparing soldiers to fight together against one common foe – the terrorists who aim to disrupt security in the Western Ninewa Province.

Celebrating Veterans Day with his American counterparts was a special moment for the Iraqi officer, who called the men and women in uniform his "fellow comrades."

"This day which you are celebrating is a special day for you, and it has a special place in your hearts," said Kursheed, through an interpreter. "It is Veterans Day when you hold the remembrance of those brave Soldiers who have sacrificed themselves for their country and who have fallen in battle."

Kursheed praised the Soldiers and mentioned the traditions that Soldiers, who serve on behalf of their nation, keep in high regard such as bravery, valor, self-sacrifice, and devotion to duty. He went on to pay tribute to the Americans who paid the ultimate sacrifice in defending Iraq against its enemies.

"On my behalf of all my brave division troops, we share this celebration with you, to hold the remembrance of the untold Soldiers who gave their country the most expensive sacrifice – which is their pure blood," Kursheed said.

Following the ceremony, both American and Iraqi Soldiers embraced each other with pats on the back and exchanged nonverbal communication – the kind Soldiers understand.

Thanking one another for serving in each other's army, this Veterans Day was a reminder they were forever be brothers in arms.

Honoring his fellow comrade and friend, McMaster commended Kursheed and the 3rd IA Division.

"General Kursheed, I would like to thank you and your men for your bravery and dedication," McMaster said. "Your men serve as an inspiration to myself and all of the Troopers of this fine Regiment. We are bound together by our common mission to bring security to the people of Iraq.

"We are also bound by mutual respect that only professional Soldiers understand."

Vines pins valor medals on troopers

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

Thanksgiving Day for several troopers of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment included turkey, dressing, sweet potato pie and medals for valor.

Lt. Gen. John R. Vines, who commands the Multi-national Corps Iraq, paid a visit to Forward Operating Base Sykes to personally commend the troopers for their acts of heroism and to thanks the troopers of the Regiment for their sacrifices in the war against terrorism.

"Some time today on television, a sports announcer will talk about the hero of a football game," Vines said before a formation of nearly 150 3d ACR troopers. "Well these Soldiers standing before me are the true heroes of our nation.

It's an honor to spend this Thanksgiving with you and I'm proud of what you're doing for our country and the people of Iraq."

Air Medal for Valor

Capt. Daniel Anderson, Chief Warrant Officer Milton Walker, Sgt. Jerome Shai, and Sgt. Kevin Doyle were pinned the Air Medal with Valor for their heroic actions on Aug. 29.

Assigned to 1159th Medical Company (Air Ambulance), 36th Medical Evacuation Battalion, the aeromedevac team conducted a mission, under direct enemy fire without concern for their personal safety, for two urgent-surgical pilots from a downed OH-58D Kiowa Warrior aircraft in the city of Tal Afar.

In less than seven minutes from notification, the crew – Smuggler 62, lifted off under night vision goggle conditions.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

From left to right, Capt. Daniel Anderson, Chief Warrant Officer Milton Walker, Staff Sgt. Rigoberto Torres, Sgt. Kevin Doyle, Sgt. Jerome Shai, Spc. Christopher Davis and Pfc. Marcus Waggoner stand in formation after being decorated for valor for their heroic acts in battle. Anderson, Walker, Doyle and Shai received the Air Medal for Valor; while Torres, Davis and Waggoner received the Bronze Star Medal for Valor on Thanksgiving Day at Forward Operating Base Sykes, Iraq.

Their aircraft received small arms fire to the rotor blades and inside the pilot and crew compartment.

Shai, from Gambrills, Md., was the first of the crew to identify and report the small arms fire and the location of the firers.

Maintaining strict composure, Shai rapidly assessed the aircraft for damage and reported to the pilot commander, Anderson, that the aircraft was capable to continue the mission

Anderson, from Sacramento, Calif., and Walker, from Bel Air, Md., immediately executed emergency procedures to avoid the continuing volley of fire from the ground.

With concern for the pilots on the ground, Smuggler 62 continued to fly toward the downed aircraft. Once on the ground Anderson instructed the crew chief to conduct a physical inspection of the Smuggler 62 aircraft which identified multiple indications of small arms impact and bullet fragments within the aircraft.

After exiting the aircraft, Doyle, from Peabody, Mass., began searching for the location of the casualties.

Doyle, armed with his M-4, ran to two Bradley Fighting Vehicles near the landing zone and received negative confirmation on the location of the casualties.

He identified two dismounted Soldiers and ran to their location. Upon his arrival to their location, enemy small arms fire was heard and they assumed protective fighting positions.

Doyle continued the pursuit across open ground, within enemy small arms range, to locate the injured pilots and located the patients in a third Bradley where he organized two litter teams and loaded the patients onto the aircraft.

"The bravery and the courage of these air crew members of the 1159th Air Medevac exemplifies what is good about Army Aviation and the efforts of our troopers here Iraq," said Maj. John Scott, commander, Longknife Squadron, 3d ACR. "I'm extremely proud of them."

Bronze Star Medal for Valor

Vines also presented Bronze Star Medals for Valor to Staff Sgt. Rigoberto Torres, Spc. Christopher Davis and Pfc. Marcus Waggoner, all of Second Squadron, 3d ACR.

Torres and Davis, both assigned to Grim Troop, earned their medals for their bravery and courage under heavy enemy fire on July 9 in the restive Sarai neighborhood of Tal Afar, Iraq.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Lt. Gen. John R. Vines, who commands the Multinational Corps Iraq, pins the Bronze Star for Valor to Spc. Christopher Davis assigned to Grim Troop, Second Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment on Thanksgiving Day at Forward Operating Base Sykes, Iraq. Davis, from Tempe, Ariz., earned the medal for his actions on July 9 after he put himself in harm's way to save a wounded comrade.

After a medic track was hit by an improvised explosive device, Torres, a Bradley commander from Bell, Calif., maneuvered his vehicle to the IED site to render assistance to three fellow wounded troopers.

Torres came under intense small arms fire immediately after dismounting the vehicle to provide aid to the wounded Soldiers. He was told by one of his Soldiers the disabled vehicle that the fuel cells were leaking and the batteries were sparking.

Despite the hazardous conditions, Torres entered the vehicle to extract the wounded Soldiers. As he loaded the first casualty to his first sergeant's Bradley, enemy rounds impacted a few inches from him, yet he continued the mission.

He went back to retrieve the second Soldier who was stuck under debris. Again as he took the second casualty to safety, Torres came under heavy enemy fire.

See **VINES,** Page 12

VINES from Page 11

The final casualty posed a challenge for Torres to extract. The trooper was caught under the front deck of the exploded vehicle, but Torres was determined to move the trooper to safety.

He developed a plan with one of his Soldiers to push the disabled vehicle with the nose of their Bradley. His driver lifted the disabled vehicle enough for Torres, who risked serious injury or death, to go underneath and extract the last casualty.

Then-Pfc. Davis was leading a dismount team during a raid on a suspected enemy weapons cache when they came under heavy direct fire.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Lt. Gen. John R. Vines, commander, Multinational Corps Iraq, share a moment and greets Soldiers of the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment on Thanksgiving Day at Forward Operating Base Sykes, Iraq.

While waiting for a Bradley to breach a wall at the location, the exposed team was decisively engaged with small arms fire from multiple directions. After the Bradley cleared the wall, the dismounts entered into location.

Davis, from Tempe, Ariz., took up the third position on of the two clearing teams and helped his team clear the first room. Moving to secure the room, a hand grenade exploded in the door of the room the team just cleared.

One of the dismounts was mortally wounded and Davis moved his team to provide security for the casualty. Then, without regard for his safety, Davis ran out of the building, exposing himself to fire to retrieve a litter from one of the vehicles outside.

He exposed himself to fire again while returning to the building. Once inside, Davis provided suppressive fire for a medevac team rendering aid.

A second grenade exploded near Davis, yet he continued to secure his position and allowed his comrades to evacuate the wounded Soldier to safety.

Waggoner, assigned to Eagle Troop, distinguished himself on June 14 as part of a dismount patrol in the Hai Al Quadisiyah neighborhood of Tal Afar.

The 19-year-old Sedro-Wooley, Wash. native was conducting the dismount with his squad leader, Staff Sgt. Jason Bednarek, to gather intelligence on insurgent activity when the patrol came under heavy small arms fire.

The squad immediately scattered to seek cover and engage the enemy, but Bednarek had the furthest to find cover. He was struck below the knees in both legs by at least two rounds.

Waggoner was the only Soldier in the squad that saw Bednarek fall and acted without regard for his own safety, left his safe cover to retrieve his wounded squad leader.

He exposed himself to a 10-second burst of fire in the alley and grabbed the handle on the back of Bednarek's interceptor vest and dragged him out of the danger area. Waggoner then began initial care of Bednarek's wounds.

Addressing the soldiers under his charge, Col. H.R. McMaster, 3d ACR commander, scanned from left to right and thanked them for their service.

"You want to know what I'm thankful for on this Thanksgiving," McMaster began. "I am thankful this day to serve with all of you. I'm thankful for what you've done here in Iraq, and I'm thankful for these brave warriors who have represented our Regiment and nation so proudly."

TIGER SQUADRON

By Lt. Col. Gregory Reilly
Tiger Squadron Commander

Tiger Squadron continues to make outstanding progress on all fronts, improving all aspects of security and stability in our part of Iraq.

The Squadron started 22 new improvement projects over the past 30 days focused on improving schools, digging wells, and improving medical clinics.

The Squadron has identified over $2.5 million in projects and it is just a matter of time before they are approved, started, and completed.

So many villages and Iraqi families are benefiting from our troopers hard work, dedication, and continuing efforts. Almost monthly now, we see a new school that is open to Iraqi students, which will leave a lifetime memory of Tiger Squadron's positive contribution to the Iraqi people.

Our Soldiers are very well received everywhere they go by the people of Iraq as a result of their efforts to improve critical facilities and overall security.

The Iraqi elections were a complete success and Iraqi security forces are getting stronger everyday. The Squadron was responsible for planning and executing elections at 31 of the Regiment's 58 polling election sites.

Our Troopers emplaced barriers and secured election sites along with Iraqi Police, Iraqi Army, and Border Defense Forces.

Together, Iraqi security forces and our Cavalry forces combine to get any mission accomplished, regardless of the difficulty and arduous nature of the task.

Our forces are working each day, side by side, with Iraqi security forces and they are getting very strong and are capable now of conducting most missions on their own, or with our forces nearby.

In securing over 400 kilometers of the Iraqi/Syrian border, Tiger Squadron has nearly stopped all illegal traffic in areas where smuggling and movement of for

See **TIGER,** Page 14

Original or extra crispy?

Spc. Matthew Shurtoeff, a food service specialist assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, rotates a rack of roasted turkey on Thanksgiving Day at Forward Operation Base Nimr at Sinjair, Iraq.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

TIGER from Page 13

eign fighters was rampant.

You can be assured in knowing that your Tiger Squadron troopers have made an incredible impact thus far in securing a huge part of Iraq, spanning from Tal Afar all the way along vast expanses of the Iraqi/Syrian border.

All of our units are busy executing security operations in order to enable economic and political progress to continue. Apache Troop is conducting operations on the border, training with border defense forces, Iraqi Police and its partner Iraqi Army Battalion.

Bandit Troop is over watching operations at the strategic point of entry and conducting effective border security operations, conducting joint operations with Iraqi Police, Iraqi Border Defense forces and working to improve the capability of its partner Iraqi Army Battalion.

Crazyhorse Troop conducts daily security operations and border surveillance, while also training Iraqi Police, Iraqi Border Defense Forces and working with its partner Iraqi Army Battalion.

Dragon Company continues to secure key routes in Tal Afar, while conducting security operations in support of Sabre Squadron.

Predator Battery maintains security of our operating base at Sinjar, conducts route security and conducts security operations in our sector.

King Battery continues to exceed all expectations by conducting security operations, route reconnaissance, and provides indirect fire support to the Squadron.

Roughrider Troop continues to provide magnificent support to the Squadron by ensuring our equipment is maintained, that our troopers are well fed, have outstanding medical support, and that our plans and operations are conducted successfully by the staff.

All of our units are maximizing every opportunity to remove insurgents, while building positive relations with the Iraqi people. Together, our units make Tiger Squadron an extremely agile, flexible, and aggressive organization that can accomplish any mission, anytime – always achieving superior results.

The Squadron had a wonderful Thanksgiving meal in new dining facility tents, and is enjoying more improvements and renovations each and every month.

The Squadron received new weight sets as well as new temperature-controlled large tents for dining and morale support activities.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Capt. Michael Davis, left, and 2nd Lt. Andrew Bailey, Apache Troop, 1st Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment slice turkey and brisket during Thanksgiving dinner at Bi-aj, Iraq.

Additionally, every base camp now has latrine and shower units that are very superior to the outhouses we have grown accustomed to in the past.

Every effort is being made to continue improvements to the overall quality of life of our Soldiers for as long as we are in Iraq.

Now, Thanksgiving has passed and Christmas is on the horizon. The leaders and Soldiers of Tiger Squadron have accomplished so much in such a short period of time and look forward to completing the mission here.

We will remain focused to keep our edge in order to provide the best opportunity to get this mission accomplished as safely as possible.

I am 100 percent committed to that objective and will be relentless in taking every step to provide for the safety of our Soldiers.

We are so blessed to have such a great team: the strength of our families, our Rear Detachment, and our Family Readiness Group leaders volunteering at home.

Tiger Squadron will certainly prevail to accomplish any mission our country calls on us to undertake. Thank you for your commitment, your sacrifice, and support to our Squadron.

Brave Rifles!

Tiger 6

Celebration, music marks opening of new Iraqi school

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

Seconds after Col. H.R. McMaster stepped out of his helicopter, the thumping hum of rotating blades became a whisper as the sounds of festive drum beating and blaring horns filled the air in the background outside the village of Tall Qussab, Iraq on Nov. 19.

Walking towards musicians, McMaster who commands the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, instantly found himself mobbed by dozens of school-aged children waving Iraqi flags and cheering.

After patting several heads and shaking hands with the children, he was finally near the objective of his visit – an Iraqi school that was built through the partnership of troopers under his charge and the residents of the small town.

McMaster smiled uncontrollably as he watched nearly two hundred Iraqis celebrate, through dance and music, the grand opening of the new school.

"This is amazing, and I'm truly touched," McMaster said. "These are just some of the most beautiful children here. This school represents what happens when we work collectively to bring security here in Iraq."

The opening of the school came three months after Capt. Dan Ruecking and 1st Lt. Ryan Poyant, met with the town's leadership to assess and establish projects that could improve the quality of life.

"Our immediate feedback from the sheiks, mukhtar [local neighborhood official], and other town leaders was that a new school was needed," said Ruecking, commander, Howitzer Battery, 1st Squadron, 3d ACR.

Ruecking, from Elmhurst, Ill., discovered there were only three primary schools in the area for children to attend, however the children of Tall Qussab had to cross a high-traffic highway by foot to another town to go to school.

"It was very important for us to make this happen," Ruecking said. "There are cars driving 85 miles per hour on that road, so the last thing that needs to happen is a kid to get hurt trying to go to school. It was very dangerous."

The $46,000 contract was approved by Lt. Col. Greg Reilly, 1/3 commander, on July 31, and ground was broke to build the school Aug. 4.

The town's mukhtar won the bid, as Ruecking mentioned, because he was clearly interested in improving

See **SCHOOL,** Page 16

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Residents of the village of Tall Qussab, Iraq dance to music in celebration of a new school that opened Nov. 19 for children of the town to attend. The school was built as a project spearheaded by 1st Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment to improve the quality of life of the villagers.

Predator Battery preps, conducts operation with Iraqi Army company

By 2nd Lt. Michael Patchus Jr.
Predator Battery, 1/3 ACR

Predator Battery conducted zone reconnaissance north of the Sinjar Mountains on Nov. 5 in coordination with 1st Company Iraqi Army in order to deny insurgent safe havens and improve area assessments.

In order to accomplish that mission, Capt. Bucher, Predator Battery commander, task organized the 1st Company IA, three Air Defense Artillery platoons and the Ground Surveillance Radar platoon into two "half" troops.

Red Troop, comprised of 1st Platoon, GSR and one Avenger team tasked to conduct operations in the northern portion of the battery's area of operations.

White Troop would sweep the southern sector with 2nd and 5th platoons working together. The IA unit would augment both half troops with two squads each (40 Soldiers total) and take lead once an outer security was established by both half troops.

Once the battery was in Tiger's sector, Iraqi soldiers dismounted and searched local villages while Predator assumed outer security.

Many of the villagers had not seen coalition forces since the 101st Air Assault (Airborne) Division during OIF I.

"They were surprised and scared when we moved in to search their towns," Bucher said. "By conducting reconnaissance, Predator hoped to build trust with the local population as well as collect valuable information about the area."

The IA also played a role in proving to the local villagers that they were able and willing to provide regional stability and security in the Iraq.

"Once the villagers were informed by the Iraqi forces and interpreters that we were here to help, the Iraqi people were glad to see coalition forces, and openly praised their 'new' Iraqi Army," Bucher said.

Initial assessments indicated operations would take at least 10 days. However, as soon as Predator Battery entered the villages, the local population was receptive to the battery's presence and provided information about smuggling, insurgent presence and community life.

They were also eager to greet their newfound guests with tea and curiosity as they marveled at the coalition equipment and vehicles.

By conducting assessments, the squadron hopes to help the local population in Tiger's AO north of the Sinjair Mountains. During most of the operation, the Iraqi army was given a chance to display their skills in clearing villages.

"The IA proved that they were on the road to assuming responsibility in Tiger Squadron's area of operations," Bucher said. "Overall, Predator Battery formed a long lasting impression on the people in Tiger's AO that will ensure future stability and cooperation resulting in smooth running polls in the coming months."

SCHOOL from Page 15

the lives of the community.

Another bonus from the school construction was that it provided jobs for several of the town's citizens. Also many of the town's leaders provided desks and necessary school supplies.

"Although we initiated this project, the Iraqi people took ownership and pride in building this school," Ruecking said. "This is a total team effort."

Mesmerized by the celebration, Poyant, from New Bedford, Mass., felt a feeling of satisfaction watching the Iraqis singing and dancing in the courtyard of the school.

With a gleam in his eyes, Poyant said, "I feel good. This is exactly why the Regiment is here to do this mission in Iraq – provide service to the population, support the government and help build relationships with the people."

Ponyant expressed the project also provided the community to see the Iraqi Army work hand-in-hand with the Iraqi government.

"The people see the end result of the IA and the government working together," Ponyant said. "They see the services brought to their town and the people begin to trust their government leadership and the Army."

SABRE SQUADRON

By Lt. Col. Christopher Hickey
Sabre Squadron Commander

The Cavalry guidon flies high as Sabre Squadron continues to bring the people of Tal Afar ever closer to a free way of life.

Each day, Sabre Troopers, in conjunction with our Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police counterparts, make progress toward creating an environment where the Iraqi people can live free of oppression, tyranny, and intimidation.

Building upon the resounding success of Operation Restoring Rights, Sabre Squadron was able to successfully secure the Constitutional Referendum Vote in mid-October.

Many factors led to the overwhelming success on that historic day, as the people of Tal Afar turned out in large numbers to vote, and were rewarded with a safe, secure, and attack-free environment in which to do so.

The bravery and resolve of the Iraqi people were certainly evident on that day, as a large percentage of eligible voters defied the threats of the insurgents and came out to have a voice in how their country will be run for decades to come.

Certainly the tactical competence of the Sabre Troopers on the ground, as well as past insurgent-destroying operations also played a vital role.

However, although the courage of the people of Tal Afar and the skill, fitness, dash, discipline, cunning, and aggressiveness of our Cavalry Troopers were essential to a successful vote, the factor of greatest import was the ever-growing abilities of our Iraqi brethren in arms.

The Iraqi Police performed superbly in providing local security at the voting sites and the Iraqi Army provided exemplary cordons of the immediate voting areas.

It is due primarily to the accomplishments of these two entities that the people of Tal Afar were able to vote in safety.

With the referendum passed, Sabre Squadron is now preparing for the governmental election in December.

In preparation for this momentous event, Sabre, along with the Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army, continue to take the fight to the insurgents, creating a safe, fear-free environment, where the people of Tal Afar can live in peace and control their own lives through participation in the democratic process.

Sadly, while fighting a group of insurgents in Tal Afar, Sabre lost two of our most dedicated and loved Troopers this month.

Sgt. Tyrone Chisholm of Fox Troop was the gunner on his Abrams Tank as his platoon conducted a mounted patrol of northwestern Tal Afar on Nov. 11.

The patrol came under small arms fire and immediately began to return fire and maneuver on the enemy.

Fifteen minutes into the firefight a large improvised

See **SABRE,** Page 18

Soon the Iraqi people will be able to live in a safe, secure, and democratic country; protected and secured by their own countrymen alone.

SABRE from Page 17

explosive device detonated near Sgt. Chisholm's tank, killing him instantly and seriously injuring two other Troopers. Our hearts ache from his loss and our deepest regards go out to his two children, his brother, and his parents.

Spc. Denis Gallardo of Eagle Troop died from complications of pneumonia on Nov. 22. We are immensely saddened by the loss of Spc. Gallardo and we give our deepest condolences to his wife and parents.

Sabre Squadron's success in Tal Afar becomes ever more evident as each month passes. We have witnessed a significant decrease in the number of attacks against coalition forces since our arrival in April.

More importantly, though, we have watched as the Iraqi Security Forces become ever more proficient and confident. Soon the Iraqi people will be able to live in a safe, secure, and democratic country; protected and secured by their own countrymen alone.

We look forward to the day that the Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army take full control of and responsibility for the city of Tal Afar and their continued progress gives us faith that that day is approaching soon.

Sabre 6

Soccer field enhances IA morale, fitness

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

A physical fitness program consisting of push-ups, sit-ups and running has been the norm for Soldiers serving in the U.S Army.

Incorporating sports activities such as basketball or volleyball helps to break the monotony and instills competition between Soldiers.

Upon his arrival to assist the Military Transition Team, Sgt. 1st Class Xiengkone Vongkoth was given the task of implementing a physical fitness program for the Iraqi Soldiers in the unit.

Right away Vongkoth, assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, Second Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, knew he had to come up with an innovative way to inspire the Jundis to participate in PT.

Soccer is the most popular sport in Iraq, so Vongkoth took the Iraqis passion for the game and implemented it in a fitness program. After locating a field near the Iraqi Army compound the 10-year Army mortar man decided to transform the area of land into a soccer field.

"The first thing I wanted them to do was take ownership of the field," said Vongkoth. "I told them they were going to be ones to build it."

Before allowing the soccer games to kick off the Jundis had to clean the field of debris. Meanwhile Vongkoth arranged for the 3d ACR Retention Office to donate reenlistment T-shirts for the Jundis to wear as jerseys.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Iraqi Army Soldiers compete on the new soccer field.

On Nov. 15 the 'Green versus Gray' soccer game officially kicked off as green-and-gray-clad Iraqi Soldiers met midfield to compete.

"Their morale leading up to the game went up tremendously," Vongkoth said. "When they saw the soccer balls and T-shirts, they lit up."

Watching the Jundis contend on the field was satisfying for the Sgt. Maj. Ahmed Shabai, Iraqi Army sergeant major.

"Many of the Jundis are homesick," Shabai said. "Football is something they've played since they were children and playing takes their mind off being away from home. They needed this field and they are having a good time. We are truly grateful for Sergeant Vongkoth for making this happen."

The sergeant major added it will be nice if the Jundis could play the American counterparts in a game.

"It would be an honor to do so," Shabai said.

Coalition Forces opens soccer field, enjoy day of fun in Tal Afar neighborhood

By Pfc. James Wilt
PAO, 2-325th AIR

Coalition forces, in cooperation with local residents, constructed and opened a soccer field Nov. 5 at the Al Zahawe School in the Sarai neighborhood in Tal Afar, Iraq.

"It is basically a good will gesture from the Coalition Forces to the Sarai neighborhood," said Capt. Ryan Hambleton, a team leader in the 401st Civil Affairs Battalion.

Sarai was one of the more deeply effected neighborhoods during the military actions in early September.

With over 50 children attending the opening of the "football" field, the day was filled with the joyous yelling, laughter, and soccer.

Elements from the 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division and Grim Troop, 2nd Squadron, 3d Armored Calvary Regiment aided elements of the 401st CA Bn. who coordinated the event.

A flatbed tractor trailer brought the newly constructed goal posts to a dirt field located behind the school where they were soon put into place at opposing ends.

Carefully laying down lines of chalk, a local Iraqi man marked the boundaries and goal lines of the field.

Nets donated by Presbyterian College in South Carolina were strung up with black wire ties after a team effort by the children to reach the top of the post.

Once the field was ready for play, the anticipation built as the children waited for a soccer ball.

Lined up against a wall, the children waited anxiously for the battalion commander of the 2-325 and an Iraqi general to open the field.

As several paratroopers and Iraqi policeman took to the field to challenge the children in a friendly game, the field was christened.

The children of the neighborhood were given 10 balls by the Coalition Forces to use on their new field.

Photo by Pfc. James Wilt

Capt. Ryan Howell, commander of Grim Troop, 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Calvary Regiment, hold a soccer ball over his head while playing with the children before opening of a new soccer field.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

A Soldier from Fox Troop, 2nd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, grasp the identification tags of Sgt. Tyrone Chisolm during the fallen trooper's memorial ceremony held Nov. 14.

Beloved trooper with infectious smile honored by Fox Troop

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

His smile was contagious and his personality captured the hearts of those who met him. His Southern charm and charisma was identifiable the moment he opened his mouth to speak and his character was unquestionably above reproach.

That's the way Sgt. Tyrone Chisolm was remembered by his fellow brothers in arms of Fox Troop, Second Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment.

A native of Savannah, Ga., Chisolm was killed Nov. 11 by an improvised explosive device in Tal Afar, Iraq.

The sting of his death was expressed by the men who served with him during a memorial service held Nov. 14 at Camp Sykes, Iraq.

"Sergeant Tyrone Chisholm was a superb, proud cavalry trooper who was serving his second combat deployment to Iraq," said Lt. Col. Christopher Hickey, commander, 2/3. "By his subordinates, peers, and leaders he was considered an elite warrior who was took great pride in his expertise of the M1A2 tank. His friendly, positive personality was hard not to like."

Hickey recalled how Chisolm spent most of his military career serving in combat operations in Iraq after joining the Army as a tank crewmember in September 2002.

Chisolm arrived to Fort Carson in May 2002 and was assigned to Fox Troop. During Operation Iraqi Freedom I, he participated in hundreds combat operations in the volatile Al Anbar Province.

He took part in the early battles in Ramadi, Fallujah,

See **CHISOLM,** Page 21

CHISOLM from Page 20

and Al Kiam, said Hickey.

"During this current deployment, Sergeant Chisholm took part in countless missions and contacts with enemy forces," Hickey said. "He braved the mean streets of Tal Afar through the extreme heat of the summer.

"He fought through the many challenges of this war: the extreme summer desert temperatures, the constant threat of attack, the dangers of the daily conduct of combat missions, and the feelings of loneliness of being so far away from home. He was never alone."

Staring at the memorial tableaux, which became a silhouette in the evening sky, Capt. Jesse Sellars, Fox Troop commander, reminisced of the trooper who captivated him from their first encounter.

"The first thing I ever saw him do was smile," Sellars said. "There was a simple exchange of words between us that was graced by his distinctive Southern dialect and his wonderful laugh.

"I liked him from that very first moment, but as time past he quickly proved to me that there was far more to him than just an enjoyable personality."

"The first thing I ever saw him do was smile... I liked him from that very first moment."

-- Capt. Jesse Sellars, Fox Troop commander

With a hint of pride in his voice, Sellars told the gathering of nearly 300 Soldiers a story of then-specialist Chisolm serving as the platoon sergeant because of personnel turnover in the unit.

Chisolm had the arduous task of preparing to qualify for gunnery. After spending an entire weekend and numerous hours in a gunnery simulator, he emerged Monday as a qualified gunner to fire live rounds.

"From that day forward I referred to him as 'Gunner,'" Sellars said full of pride. "He smiled every time I said it, and he made me smile every time I saw him."

Remembering their heated debates about the M1A2 Abrams tanks, Sgt. Salvador Loera mentioned how he and Chisolm battled on for hours.

"We would always get into heated discussions about the mechanics of the weapons system," Loera said. "But by the end of the debate, he always won, either by being right or never giving in. I'll miss our occasional battle of wits."

Chisolm enjoyed playing basketball, watching NASCAR, playing dominoes with friends and spending time with his daughters.

Cpl. Isaias Valencia boasted of a victory against his former leader and friend.

"Nothing is left now but memories, memories of a great NCO, memories of a great person, memories of a great friend, and memories of a great father," Valencia said. "One of the best memories I have of Sergeant Chisholm is when I almost put him on the No-Name-of-Fame while playing a three-man game of dominoes. He told me never to tell anyone. I never did."

Chisholm is survived by his two daughters, Laionna and Chikya and his mother, Sharon Wilson of Savannah, Ga.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

1st Sgt. Lynn Bradley, Fox Troop first sergeant, salutes the memorial tableaux during the playing of Taps honoring Sgt. Tyrone Chisolm who was killed Nov. 11 in Tal Afar, Iraq.

Eagle Troop pay tribute to patriotic, Airborne trooper at memorial service

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

As a young boy growing up in Panama City, Panama, Denis Gallardo experienced his childhood years in a country ruled by a ruthless dictator.

After American forces removed Noriega from power during Operation Just Cause, he saw the beauty of freedom that was brought to his land.

Years later as a Soldier in the U.S. Army, Gallardo wanted to help the Iraqi people experience the same freedom and spirit of democracy he enjoyed after enduring years in tyranny.

On Nov. 22 Gallardo, assigned to Eagle Troop, 2nd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, died as a hero while serving his country during Operation Iraqi Freedom to help the Iraqi people on its path to freedom and democracy.

"Sergeant Gallardo was part of a team of teams that lifted the cloud of an evil terrorist network from the people of Tal Afar, Iraq," said Lt. Col. Christopher Hickey, 2/3 commander, during a memorial ceremony held Nov. 23 at Forward Operating Base Sykes, Iraq.

"No matter how hot, how late, how dangerous the tactical situation was, Sergeant Gallardo was there," Hickey said. "Working with our partners in the Iraqi Army and the Iraqi Police, coalition forces defeated the terrorist network and now life is being restored to the city."

Hickey added Gallardo was a proud, brave, dedicated, patriotic American Soldier serving his country in time of war who helped bring freedom to a far away land.

Gallardo moved with his family to south Florida prior to starting high school and upon high school graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Army on Aug. 16, 2002.

He attended Basic Training at Fort Jackson, S.C., and graduated Advanced Individual Training at Fort Lee, Virginia, with the Military Occupational Specialty of Supply Specialist. He also successfully completed Airborne School at Fort Benning, Ga.

In 2004, Gallardo accomplished his goal of becoming an American Citizen.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Sgt. Eric Boyd, Eagle Troop, 2nd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, pays homage to Sgt. Denis Gallardo during the fallen trooper's memorial ceremony held Nov. 23 at Forward Operating Base Sykes, Iraq.

See **GALLARDO,** Page 23

GALLARDO from Page 22

"He knew that freedom was not free and he was proud to do his part," Hickey said.

He was remembered by his leaders as dedicated, a hard worker, outspoken and energetic. But mostly for passion for taking care of the logistical needs for the Soldiers in Eagle Troop.

Just before Operation Restoring Rights in September, Gallardo assumed duties of as the Supply Sergeant for the troop and was left with the huge task of supplying the troop in preparation for the operation.

"In the week leading up to the big operation and throughout the month-long mission I don't remember once seeing him when he wasn't covered in sweat and dust from scrounging and organizing supplies to ensure the troop had everything necessary," said Capt. Noah Hanners, Eagle Troop acting commander. "His efforts were crucial to our Troop's success."

Hanners praised his fallen troop more by telling the audience of nearly 200 Soldiers how Gallardo would make fun of West Point graduates, anyone who wasn't Airborne, and particularly of Hanners who sometimes didn't comprehend Gallardo's dialect.

"Regardless of the topic it was never a dull conversation," Hanners said with a hint of laughter in his voice.

A lover of the game of soccer, Gallardo often played against the Iraqis, fellow Soldiers and civilian employees on the soccer field. But he had another love – his Airborne wings. Just about every trooper in Eagle Troop knew about it his love of 'those Airborne wings.'

"I don't remember once seeing him when he wasn't covered in sweat and dust from scrounging and organizing supplies to ensure the troop had everything necessary."

-- Capt. Noah Hanners, EagleTroop acting commander

"I will never forget when he took off his Airborne tab and gave it to me," said Pfc. Bernard Penegor, Gallardo's Soldier. "He looked me in the eyes and told me I have the potential to be Airborne. He told me that when we get back into Colorado Springs, he would take me under his wings and show me the finer things in life."

Holding back his tears, Penegor came to the position of attention, stared at the memorial tableaux, and sounded off, "Eagle Troop gives you permission to rest in peace, Airborne!"

Gallardo is survived by his mother, Ileana, and a younger sister and brother.

Pfc. Bernard Penegor, Eagle Troop, 2nd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, reads his tribute to Sgt. Denis Gallardo, who was Penegor's mentor, leader and friend. He shared with the audience, "He always looked after me when he knew something was wrong. He was always there to be a friend."

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

THUNDER SQUADRON

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

Dear friends and families of Thunder Squadron, greetings from southern Baghdad!

As the Soldiers of Thunder Squadron continue the counter insurgency fight, their determination remains unshaken and their dedication to mission accomplishment continues to drive the Squadron forward.

Thunder continues to operate as a member of the 4th (Vanguard) Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, and the support our Soldiers have received is second to none.

Our continuous operations have seen many successes against the enemy in November. Paramount to our success has been the integration of the 4th Battalion, 5th Brigade, 6th Infantry Division, Iraqi Army Soldiers into combined operations.

The self proclaimed "Thunder Battalion" has become a key fixture in our area of operations. Our Troop commanders have worked diligently with their Iraqi counterparts, and integrated into everything operation.

In the complex environment of this counter insurgency, Thunder is making progress and winning the war in our area of operations.

November was a very difficult month for Thunder as four of our Troopers made the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation.

1st Lt. Justin Smith, Staff Sgt. Brian Freeman, Spc. Robert Pope, and Pfc. Mario Reyes, members of Ironhawk Troop, were great men, Soldiers, and friends to us all, and the Soldiers of the Squadron will always remember the sacrifice they made.

Our thoughts and prayers are with each of their families and friends.

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

Our Soldiers have performed admirably this past month, and I could not be more proud of their performance, continued mission focus, and professionalism as we enter the ninth month of combat operations in Iraq.

Finally, I want to thank our families of the Soldiers for their love and support of the brave men and women. Your heroes remain intent on completing the task, are mission-focused, and look forward to returning home.

Thunder 6

"As the Soldiers of Thunder Squadron **continue** the counter insurgency fight, their determination remains unshaken and their **dedication** to mission accomplishment **drives** the Squadron forward."

Ironhawk Troop honors four troopers, interpreter at memorial

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

Under a clear, full moon sky, four kevlar helmets and four sets of identification tags, one for each of the fallen Soldiers of Third Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, illuminated brightly as a sentimental reminder of the lives of the four men being honored.

1st Lt. Justin Smith, Staff Sgt. Brian Freeman, Spc. Robert Pope III, and Pfc. Mario Reyes, all assigned to Ironhawk Troop, 3/3, were remembered as heroes, leaders and friends during a memorial ceremony held Nov. 12 at Forward Operating Base Falcon.

All four, including their Iraqi interpreter, were killed by a suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device attack on Nov. 7 in Baghdad.

Capt. Scott Seidel, Ironhawk Troop commander, paid tribute to his men and expressed his pain about losing each trooper and their interpreter.

"Lieutenant Smith had an energy and spirit like no other," Seidel said. "His excitement for life was only paled by his endless creativeness. Whatever the problem or situation, Justin knew no boundaries – there was no thinking outside of the box because to him, there was no box."

Smith, from Lansing, Mich., became an officer in May 2004 after serving as an enlisted Soldier.

He arrived to 3d ACR in January 2005, where he was assigned as a platoon leader and in March he deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 04-06.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

1st Sgt. Haynes, Ironhawk Troop first sergeant, comforts a trooper following the memorial ceremony held Nov. 12 to honor 1st Lt. Justin Smith, Staff Sgt. Brian Freeman, Spc. Robert Pope III, and Pfc. Mario Reyes.

Smith is survived by his wife, Shellie and two sons, Spencer and Stewart who reside in Garner, N.C.

Seidel went on to talk about Freeman, who arrived to his unit in August and on his personal data sheet listed his aspiration to be the

See **FALLEN,** Page 26

FALLEN from Page 25

Sergeant Major of the Army.

"I wish I had an opportunity to know him better," Seidel said. "I admired his versatility and his commitment. No matter what platoon he was in, no one had to explain to him his role: he knew he had to take care of soldiers and complete the mission."

Freeman from Lowndes County, Miss., entered the Army Aug. 5, 1997 and after concluding his One Station Unit Training at Fort Knox, Ky., was awarded the Primary Military Occupational Specialty of 19K, Tank Crewman.

He is survived by his wife, Leah, who resides in Fountain, Colo.

The next Soldier Seidel acknowledged was one he once called 6D – a call sign for the commander's driver. The two spent countless hours driving in Baghdad.

"Specialist Pope was a New Yorker, tried and true," Seidel said. "He had a great sense of humor. He knew where that line was when you could take a joke too far, but he'd push that line – and it would make me laugh, as he made many people laugh."

Pope joined the Army on Aug. 22, 2003, after witnessing the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, and after concluding OSUT at Fort Knox, was awarded the PMOS of 19D, Cavalry Scout.

He is survived by his wife, Lyenna, who resides in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The final trooper honored by Seidel was remembered as quiet, yet he was devoted to his friends, leaders and unit.

"Pfc. Reyes was a quiet man," Seidel began, "His tank commander, Lieutenant Smith loved him. There was a bond there that only those that have spent months with the same men in a cramped tank or HMMWV can truly understand."

Reyes, from Las Cruces, N.M., joined the Army Sept. 13, 2004, and after concluding his OSUT at Fort Knox, Reyes was awarded the PMOS of 19K, Tank Crewman.

Reyes is survived by his mother, Ernestina, and father, Rufino, who reside in Las Cruces, N.M. and brother, Sgt. Ortiz Reyes, who is currently serving in C Battery, 4/1 Field Artillery, Taji, Iraq.

Seidel paid tribute to the man the Troop simply called "Bob."

"Bob was a patriotic man that saw what Iraq could become," Seidel said. "He helped our troop to better understand a culture and people that seem so different than ours."

"We will miss the men and the leaders that we were proud to call Ironhawk Green 1, Green 2, Green 2L and Green 1D," Seidel said. "For us who mourn you, our mission in Iraq is not quite finished; but never will our debt for your sacrifice and the sacrifice of your families ever be truly paid."

Following Seidel, 1st. Lt. Thomas Wietzel, 3rd platoon leader, Staff Sgt. Shawn Cannon, Spc. Casey Sullivan and Pfc. Christopher Johnson Jr., each shared told stories about their fallen brothers in arms.

Smith was Wietzel's roommate since his arrival to Ironhawk Troop in June.

"Justin's personality was contagious," Wietzel said holding back tears. "He could make me laugh at times when I didn't feel like laughing. And he was impossible to be

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Troopers from Ironhawk Troop pay tribute to their fallen comrades during the memorial ceremony held Nov. 12 to honor 1st Lt. Justin Smith, Staff Sgt. Brian Freeman, Spc. Robert Pope III, and Pfc. Mario Reyes.

See **FALLEN,** Page 27

FALLEN from Page 26

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

A Thunder Squadron trooper salutes the memorial tableaux representing the four fallen troopers of Ironhawk Troop.

mad at… I'm really going to miss him.

"But I take comfort in knowing that he believed in the big picture. He understood commitment and how important it is to see things through to the end."

Cannon told the audience that he knew right away Freeman was a great addition to their platoon.

"The platoon took to Staff Sergeant Freeman faster than most new Soldiers," Cannon said. "He challenged the Soldiers to be the best. When he was on mission his concern with the Soldier's safety was always his first priority.

"I will always remember and cherish the time we had with him. Knowing and working with Staff Sergeant Freeman has been a great honor."

Sullivan recalled the first time he met Pope – he didn't like him at first but in time Pope became his best friend. Pope enabled him to get through the deaths of family members and their platoon sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Phelps in July.

"We didn't hit it off right away, which is to say with all new guys, but in time we became the best of friends," Sullivan said. "He would tell me his problems and I would tell him mine, both trying to make each other's lives easier. He was the one that would always lift my spirits up when I had doubts.

"He was more then just a good friend to me, he was a brother. I don't know how I could ever repay him for what he has done for me."

The final tribute came from Johnson about Reyes. The two had completed their entire Army careers together beginning at OSUT through their deployment to Iraq.

"Pfc. Reyes and I were more than just friends we were brothers, everywhere that I went he would be right there by my side whether was the phones, Internet café, PX, or to chow; he even went to the gym with me a few times," Johnson said.

He brought the audience to tears as shared a story about going to Reyes' home during a four-day weekend prior to deploying where he met Reyes family and friends. He also talked about a trip to Cancun, Mexico the two planned after returning to Colorado.

"I could never imagine spending the rest of my military career without him; we were supposed to ETS out of the Army together," Johnson said. "While he was alive he made everyday so much easier for me."

At the end of the service, as the troopers of Thunder Squadron saluted the memorial tableaux as a mark of respect, the moon-lit sky appeared a bit brighter and so did the memories of the five men honored for sacrificing their lives for freedom to shine.

LONGKNIFE SQUADRON

By Maj. John Scott
Longknife Squadron Commander

Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays from all of the troopers of Longknife Squadron here at Camp Sykes, Iraq.

I sincerely hope that your Holiday Season is filled with joyous memories and good cheer. The Squadron has ushered in the month of November and with it, our ninth month in Iraq.

The Squadron has been continuing with its excellent area reconnaissance and security mission for the Ninewa Province and the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen.

Additionally, Longknife Squadron is preparing for the upcoming General elections and its newly anticipated partnership with an Iraqi Army Brigade.

Just like the Squadron performed brilliantly during the constitutional referendum, I expect another outstanding job as we help Iraq usher in their new government and make history.

As always, I am extremely proud of the way our troopers have performed and I know you are as well.

When this goes to press, the troopers of Longknife will have logged its 25,000th flight hour during this deployment!

This is an extremely impressive accomplishment and is indicative of the teamwork that our troopers display on a daily basis.

The deployment has been long but rewarding and I know that everyone at home can be proud of every single trooper and their accomplishments.

The new Multi Use Facility is now complete!

The troopers are extremely excited and are using the new gym, MWR room and theater.

Of course, the Squadron has benefited from its own MWR tent system and has decorated all the different troop areas with all of the great stuff sent from home. Thanks for the holiday cheer!

Finally, I want to take the time to personally thank you and your families for the personal sacrifice during this holiday season.

The separation is tough, but with the love and support from home, our troopers gather strength and determination to complete their mission.

Again, thank you for everything you do.

Longknife 6.5

"The **separation** is tough, but with the love and support from home, our troopers gather **strength** and **determination** to complete their mission."

MULESKINNER SQUADRON

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

November has proven to be an exciting time for Muleskinner. Sandwiched between the Referendum vote in October and the elections in December, we have found ourselves with time to accomplish many small but significant missions in the city of Tal Afar.

After the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment successfully defeated the insurgency during Operation Restoring Rights the city began to slowly show signs of life again.

People began to visit the market, children started playing outside, and citizens started using the hospital.

With our myriad of capabilities, we have found ways to assist in the rebuilding process while the line squadrons continue to keep the city secure and safe.

Scalpel Troop, in conjunction with members of the Support Operations Office, conducted an impressive mission to the Tal Afar hospital.

The MCAT (Medical Clinic Assessment Team) assessed four areas of the hospital including: administration, clinical, equipment and maintenance, and ancillary services.

The MCAT along with local hospital administrators developed a thorough plan of action to improve the quality of health care in the city.

Following the initial delivery of trauma supplies, the team hopes to improve everything from the structural integrity of the building to the continuing education for medical personnel to the dispatch procedures for emergency vehicles.

The MCAT is excited about their work with the locals and looks forward to the hospital's future improvements.

Packhorse Troop continues to assist in Tal Afar's restoration. Their Heavy Equipment Transport vehicles logged hundreds of miles on the road hauling concrete barriers in and around the city providing force protection for civilian houses, Iraqi Police stations, schools, and more.

Packhorse even transported brand new soccer goals into the city so school age children could enjoy a favorite pastime. These Troopers have also played an integral role in the city's water distribution plan.

Packhorse sends water tankers every other day into the city to fill up water tanks for individual homes, schools, and other municipal buildings.

This mission has been greeted with open-arms by the citizens of Tal Afar during the long and tedious clean up process in the city.

Blacksmith, Chemdawg, Bullwhip, and Air Raider have continued to march on without a skip in their step. Along with their continuous maintenance and security missions, they have already begun preparing for the transition between us and our replacement unit.

They have established lines of communication with the new unit and are already developing right seat ride training plans to prepare their successors for the difficult mission they are about to embark on.

As we approach the winter months, we look back in awe of how far the city has come since the Brave Rifles arrived last spring.

The citizens of Tal Afar have endured a powerful and murderous insurgency, numerous counter-insurgency operations, and an inspiring election.

It is amazing to see the Iraqi Soldiers patrolling the streets alongside our brothers from Tiger and Sabre Squadrons, protecting the streets from the insurgents that prevented the citizens from living freely.

The smiling faces we see as we deliver water, barriers, or soccer goals gives us hope for a bright future for Tal Afar.

Happy Holidays to all of our families. God bless!
Muleskinner 6

REMINGTON TROOP

By Capt. David Olsen
Remington Troop Commander

Hello from Camp Sykes! November was a chilly month here in Northern Iraq – we had our first heavy rainfall since last spring, leaving lots of mud around the camp.

We definitely saw the benefits of the work that Sgt. Maj. Jonathan Hunt, 1st Sgt. Rodney Greene, and the Mayor's Cell have done to lay gravel around the Regimental Headquarters and our Troop Command Post.

The Regimental Staff is continuing to review the situation here in Tal Afar and the surrounding area since our operations in the city and the Constitutional Referendum last month.

Our Civil Affairs and Engineer teams have been working hard with local contractors to rebuild the roads, schools, and the city's infrastructure.

School supplies, books, food, and medical supplies continue to flow into the city to help the people recover from years of conflict and restart their lives.

The citizens of Tal Afar continue to return to work and shop in the markets throughout the city, a clear sign of progress. Many of our Soldiers traveling through town have noticed that storefronts are open for the first time since we arrived in Tal Afar.

Our CA and Psychological Operations teams are also ensuring that Iraqi citizens receive news about events around their country and learn about the national elections next month.

The elections will be another major milestone and an important day for the Regiment's mission here in Iraq.

We had the opportunity to promote some more great Soldiers in Remington Troop this past month. Our Troop Executive Officer, Deron Sommers, was promoted to captain in front of the Remington Headquarters, and Capt. Douglas LaBouff was promoted to the rank of major by the Regimental Commander.

Spc. Daniel Whitcomb was also laterally promoted to Corporal in recognition of his leadership abilities and his outstanding performance during this deployment.

On Nov. 18, Sergeants First Class Jonathan Callahan, Timothy Metcalf and Donald Sparks were selected by Department of the Army to be promoted to Master Sergeant.

More of our Troopers have decided to reenlist this month, and five of them participated in a small group ceremony in front of the Regimental Headquarters.

Staff Sgt. Behanzin Bowen, Sgt. Christopher Lipe, Spc. Joshua Mills, Spc. Jeremy Zimmerman, and Spc. Frank Fritz all took the oath together beside our new flag poles.

Sgt. Paul Gross was sworn in by Lt. Col. Neoma White, the Regimental Staff Judge advocate, and Sgt. Jeffrey Grissom also renewed his commitment in front of his friends in the Remington Headquarters Platoon.

1st Sgt. Greene and I are grateful that these fine Soldiers are continuing to serve our country when they are needed most.

Our Troopers are already getting into the holiday spirit – lights and decorations are already appearing on office walls and CHU windows. The dining facility served a big Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings that helped us enjoy the holiday away from our families.

We may have a new, larger PX to shop for presents soon, as the new structure has finally arrived and is going up now, and the long-awaited Multi-Use Facility building is nearly complete with a much larger gym, internet center, recreation room, and indoor basketball court.

We're all looking forward to the holidays and hope that all of our families are enjoying the season at home. I would like to thank them for the continued donations of gifts, snacks, ornaments, and everything else that has made our lives better over here.

I wish everyone a very happy holiday season and a happy New Year! Brave Rifles!

Remington 6

White Falcons disrupts insurgent activity in Tal Afar

By Pfc. James Wilt
PAO, 2-325th AIR

Paratroopers from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division conducted a raid on the outskirts of Tal Afar on Nov. 18.

The night was calm and quite until the rumble of HMMWVs and tracked vehicles broke the silence. The noise only grew louder as paratroopers dismounted the vehicles and began to kick in the doors of houses on the desolate stretch of land.

Like ants searching for food, the Soldiers swarmed into the houses looking for a man connected with insurgent activities in the city.

Once the paratroopers entered the houses, they contained the residents for questioning and conducted searches of the houses and surrounding land.

Despite questioning the occupants and searching the houses, the raid was deemed unsuccessful.

The suspected insurgent they were looking for was gone; his own father denying his existence.

After searching several surrounding homes, the Soldiers returned to their vehicles to come back another day.

The man's capture will have to wait for another day. Two nights prior, the paratroopers had a marked success, finding a cache containing 105 artillery rounds.

Working off of a tip from a local resident, the Soldiers converged on a house at the edge of the city, said 2nd Lt. Nathan Kish, the company fire support officer.

After arriving at the house which was under surveillance by Army helicopters, the company's engineers set to work searching for a cache, Kish said.

The metal detectors the engineers were using soon began to hum as the men began to find artillery rounds lightly concealed by dirt, Kish said.

"All of the rounds still containing explosives were taken into a field and destroyed; empty casings were taken to another location for disposal," Kish said.

The owner of the property, who apparently was warehousing the improvised explosive device components, was also detained in the operation, Kish said.

Photo by 2nd Lt. Nathan Kish

Spc. Emmanuel J. Ceballos, 25, a combat medic with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, lifts an artillery round out of a cache on the outskirts of Tal Afar, Iraq, Nov. 18

Grass isn't always greener - unless there's lots of rain, grass cutting

Compiled by Chaplain (Maj.) David Causey
Regimental Chaplain

The coach had put together the perfect team for the Detroit Lions. The only thing that was missing was a good quarterback.

He had scouted all the colleges and even the high schools, but he couldn't find a ringer quarterback who could ensure a Super Bowl win.

Then one night, while watching CNN, he was watching a war-zone scene in Iraq. In one corner of the background, he spotted a young Iraqi soldier with a truly incredible arm.

The Iraqi threw a hand grenade straight into the top window of ten-story building - BOOM - and killed an insurgent sniper.

He threw another hand grenade into a nest of terrorists from 100 yards away: KABOOM!

Then a suicide bomber was stopped in his tracks as the young Iraqi soldier tossed a grenade into the terrorist's speeding car - BOOM! The VBIED was taken out.

"I've got to get that guy!" The coach said to himself. "He's got the perfect arm."

So he brings the man to the States and teaches him the great game of football, and the Lions go on to win the Super Bowl. The young Iraqi is hailed as the great hero of football.

When the coach asks him what he wants now, all the young man wants to do is call his mother.

"Mom," he says into the phone, "I just won the Super Bowl!"

"I don't want to talk to you," the old woman says. "You deserted us. You are not my son."

"But mother," the young man pleads, "I just won the greatest sporting event in the world. I'm here among thousands of my adoring fans."

"No - now let me tell you." His mother retorts. "At this very moment, there are gunshots all around us. The neighborhood is a pile of rubble. Your two bothers were beaten within an inch of their lives last week. And this week your sister was assaulted in broad daylight."

The old lady pauses, and then tearfully says, "I'll never forgive you for making us move to *Detroit*." (Adapted from William Bausch, *40 More Seasonal Homilies*)

America; Home, sweet, home; Fort Carson! Don't we long to return to them? But home has its problems as well as Iraq.

Reunion is coming. Reunion with family and loved ones and the return of personal freedom and privacy and the chance to consume some alcohol excites everybody.

But be warned - happy reunions between soldiers and spouses do not "just happen." They must be planned and patiently executed.

Expectations must be realistic. Communication between husband and wife must begin – now.

Forgiveness for unwise decisions and outright sins must be poured out and reconciliation made. Praise for "standing alone" must be lavished.

Patience must be exercised. Re-bonding must take place. Then, and only then, can reunion possibly meet our expectations.

The Scripture says, "Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins." (1 Peter 4:8)

More than 170 Troopers reenlist, stay Army

3d ACR Retention Office

Since Oct. 1 we have had 177 Cavalry Soldiers reenlist and gratitude is due to all of them and their families. Thank you for continuing your service with the United States Army. AI-EE-YAH

Tiger Squadron

Spc. Kyle Ainslie
Spc. Thomas Vincelette
Spc. Ryan Hanagan
Spc. Joshua Dixon
Spc. Brandon Littleton
Spc. Courtney White
Spc. Corey Hille
Spc. Matthew Shurtleef
Spc. Joshua West
Spc. Moises Arreola Cardenas
Spc. Juan Roman
Spc. Michael Harrington
Spc. Joshua Dixon
Sgt. William Phillips
Sgt. Joseph Monroe
Sgt. Henry Sutton
Sgt. James McKeehan
Sgt. James Smith
Sgt. Albert Lorentz
Sgt. James Barton
Sgt. David Moreno
Sgt. James Lawrence
Sgt. Benjamin Reduque
Sgt. Alan Estabillo
Sgt. John Webster
Sgt. Benjamin Fahr
Sgt. Charles Weston
Sgt. Ryan Senneker
Sgt. Shannon Reinke
Sgt. Kenneth Hugo
Sgt. Edward Crowder
Sgt. Richard McCormick
Sgt. Matthew Williams
Sgt. Kyle Hetcel
Sgt. Jason Schafers
Sgt. Kevin Zielke
Sgt. Jason Schwartz
Sgt. Ryan Bland
Sgt. Andrew Ham
Sgt. James Houlik
Staff Sgt. Edward Blanton
Staff Sgt. Gregory Dudley
Staff Sgt. Jose Fantauzzi
Staff Sgt. Michael Rayman
Staff Sgt. Michael Grace
Staff Sgt. Joseph Landsberger
Staff Sgt. Mark Walters
Staff Sgt. Mark Schutzendorf
Staff Sgt. Jurjens Shaun
Staff Sgt. Willis Morris
Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Jacops
Staff Sgt. Christopher Oak
Staff Sgt. Marcus Clute
Staff Sgt. Matthew Maloy
Staff Sgt. Elliot Montesinos
Staff Sgt. Marc MacDonald
Staff Sgt. Robert Lowery
Staff Sgt. Jason Kreiling
Sgt. 1st Class Theodore Petersen

Sabre Squadron

Spc. Timothy Nauls
Spc. Erick Quinonesortiz
Spc. Jeremiah Johnson
Spc. Donald Lonidier
Spc. Henry Cordero
Spc. Donald Crandall
Spc. Jack Dryburgh
Spc. Hector Rodriguez-Dejesus
Spc. Aleksieyi Cedeno-Rivera
Spc. Josephromaldo Santos
Spc. Melvin Crosby
Sgt. Shawn Gore
Sgt. Matthew Galloway
Sgt. Bradly Cole
Sgt. Travis Rott
Sgt. Christopher Elias
Sgt. Ein Mack
Sgt. Dennis Radcliff
Sgt. Timothy Cooper
Sgt. Kelly Wooldridge
Sgt. Scott Johnson
Staff Sgt. Marcus Howard
Staff Sgt. Carl Searcy
Staff Sgt. Jason Wolfe
Staff Sgt. Marc Wilson

Thunder Squadron

Spc. Robert Marrero
Spc. Reginald Alston
Spc. Kendall Smith
Spc. Tracy Allen
Spc. Mark Gilley
Spc. Michael Downs
Spc. Matthew Koerner
Spc. William Rieder
Spc. Steve Blackman
Spc. Darren Tidwell
Spc. Juan Leon
Sgt. Toni Bradshaw
Sgt. Kevin Rathbun
Sgt. Johnathan Fuselier
Sgt. Cody Marley
Sgt. Oronde Foster
Sgt. Cary Carter
Sgt. David Rincon
Sgt. Kipatrick Jackson
Sgt. Thomas Ericksen
Sgt. Jamie Meiners
Staff Sgt. David Winczewski
Staff Sgt. Robert Matthews
Sgt. 1st Class Asron Stone

Longknife Squadron

Pfc. Roberto Cancelramos
Spc. Janet Bourgord
Spc. Brandon Schultz
Spc. Douglas Gregory
Spc. Jared Carlson
Spc. Jeffrey Maxwell
Spc. Aaron Evans
Spc. Terry Stinnie
Spc. John Caudill
Spc. David Garcia
Spc. Sharla Donovan
Spc. Lawrence Hughes
Sgt. Devere Yarbrough
Sgt. Larry Dawson
Sgt. Charles Blake
Sgt. Michael Murphy
Sgt. John Day
Sgt. David Pierson
Sgt. Eric Fowler
Staff Sgt. Lionel Bascombe
Staff Sgt. Jesus Lozano

Muleskinner Squadron

Pfc. Andrew Stephens
Spc. Daniel Aills
Spc. Andrea Thornton
Spc. Stephanie Counts
Spc. Pamela Wright
Spc. Ruthie Huddleston
Spc. Kristy Martinez
Cpl. Sonya Hunter
Sgt. Teneya Townsend
Sgt. Pete Sullivan
Sgt. Willie Roberts
Sgt. Brien Costello
Sgt. Jason Morris
Sgt. Thomas Williams
Sgt. James Sutton
Sgt. Marlon Drakes
Sgt. Michael Neumann
Sgt. Kyle Busko
Sgt. Jason Vanloo
Sgt. Brad Vandeveer
Sgt. Lamberto Guitron
Sgt. Brent Budd
Sgt. Antonio Armijo
Staff Sgt. Deral Dorsey
Staff Sgt. Donterise Anderson
Staff Sgt. Deandre Garrett
Staff Sgt. Kurt Vaul
Sgt. 1st Class Michael Holbrook

Remington Troop

Spc. Jeremy Zimmerman
Spc. Frank Fritz Frank
Spc. Joshua Mills
Sgt. Paul Gross
Sgt. Marlon Butterworth
Sgt. Stacey Haynes
Sgt. Christopher Lipe
Sgt. Jeffrey Grissom
Staff Sgt. Jeffery Marjerrison
Staff Sgt. Behnzin Bowen
Staff Sgt. Gene Braxton
Sgt. 1st Class Reginald Cook

What am I truly thankful for?

"Thanksgiving is every day. Be thankful you have what you need, not everything you want." – Sara Mae Jones

By Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

If I had a dime for every time my mother said the above quote, Lord knows I'd be rich a thousand times over. Thanksgiving, by tradition, has been a day when Americans pause to give thanks for the good things in their lives.

In my household growing up, I was reminded Thanksgiving was everyday. If I got a new pair of shoes, it was a moment to give thanks.

If we had food on the table, whether it was something I desired like smothered pork chops, or something I'd choose not to sit at the table, smothered liver and onions, my mother made sure we were thankful.

To this day, I still can't be thankful for liver and onions - but that's my hangup. But I can honestly say that my mother's nurturing has allowed me to look at life with an unselfish nature when it comes to being thankful.

So it is why I appreciate so much in this world and I don't take any of my good fortunes for granted. Being here in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom has opened my heart to another level of being thankful.

During my travels on this tour I've played and laughed with children who has known nothing but despair - yet they live on.

They know the meaning of being thankful.

I've seen the faces of Iraqis who after living in years of oppression, tyranny and fear, now live in a nation of hope and promise for the future.

They know the meaning of being thankful.

I've walked the streets of Tal Afar and Avgani where American Soldiers were greeted with a scowl and a frown, but now I can shake hands, drink chai (tea) or even get a pat on the back and a smile.

Again, they know the meaning of being thankful.

And they know the meaning because they are grateful for the joint efforts of our forces and the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police bringing security to their lives.

As an American I can never understand what its like for brutal regime to take over a neighborhood, kill elected officials, destroy schools and threaten police officers to either leave or be killed.

I'm thankful that we would never have to go through such an ordeal in our nation.

But it happened here in Iraq and I'm thankful for the Troopers of this Regiment who has fought and died to bring life back to this country.

I'm thankful for the men and women who sacrifice so much for the service of our nation's interests.

No doubt Sara would be proud to know her only son didn't let her words to go in one ear and out the other (another verbal assault she used to scream to me).

I haven't got everything I always wanted, but somehow life has a way of showing you everything you need to see in order to be thankful for what you got.

It's been a blessing to come to Iraq, although a tough one, but I can honestly say that I'm even more thankful to be a Soldier and an American.

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November's Fallen Troopers

Nov. 7 - 1st Lt. Justin Smith, 3/3
Nov. 7 - Staff Sgt. Brian Freeman, 3/3
Nov. 7 - Spc. Robert Pope III, 3/3
Nov. 7 - Pfc. Mario Reyes, 3/3
Nov. 11 - Sgt. Tyrone Chisolm, 2/3
Nov. 22 - Spc. Denis Gallardo, 2/3
Nov. 24 - Sgt. 1st Class Eric Pearrow, 3/3