



1-82 Field Artillery runs patrol through dangerous Al Thawra District in support of 2-5 Cav.

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Soldiers at forward operating bases all around Baghdad celebrate the 4th of July, Cav. Style.

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Cav Country

Volume 1, Issue 7

"Telling the First Team's Story"

July 23, 2004

1-7 Cav. Neutralizes Insurgent Cell

By Cpl. Bill Putnam
122nd MPAD

AL RASHID-- The cavalry troopers of 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, and Soldiers from the Iraqi National Guard's 304th Battalion launched a massive cordon-and-search operation on the first morning of Iraqi sovereignty June 29.

The operation targeted the "worker bees" of an active insurgent cell in the southern area of the squadron's zone, said Maj. Daryle Hernandez, the 1-7 Cav.'s operations officer.

All in all, the mission was incredibly successful, Hernandez said. Three of the squadron's six targets were found -- one through incredible luck and the sharp eyes of a trooper on guard duty, he said.

"We think that cell has been effectively neutralized," Hernandez said.

A trooper in the squadron's Comanche Troop was pulling security on his vehicle when a man popped out of a lit window holding an AK-47 rifle. A search team was next door to the man's house and he called his sergeant about it. A couple of minutes later the search team entered the man's house and detained him. It turned out he was the troop's first target.

He tested so high for exposure to explosive residue the

trooper joked he had "washed his hands in it."

The troop's second target was home. That's typical not only for that morning's mission, but in a lot of the squadron's missions, Hernandez said.

Neighbors at other targets said they had moved away, Hernandez said. "We're finding guys move but still maintain ties to their communities," he noted.

Efforts to take out the cell have been on-going, Hernandez said. They started whittling away the leaders, the financiers, gun-runners and planners just after arriving in Iraq, he said.

The worker bees, the guys planting improvised explosive devices or shooting rocket-propelled grenades at Coalition forces, were the only thing left, he noted.

The operation's scope was large. The squadron had planned on ten targets, nine from the cell and another target with ties to a terrorist group. They detained three from the cell and the extra target for a total of four.

All of the troops were designed to hit their targets within a few minutes of each other, Hernandez said. That's quite a feat given the distance to the targets and the timing of the mission, he said.



By Cpl. Bill Putnam, 122nd MPAD

Troopers from Comanche Troop, 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Squadron prepare to enter a house during a squadron-level cordon-and-search the morning of June 29.

The mission's dynamics didn't change given the surprise change in the country's political environment with the previous day's hand-over of sovereignty, Hernandez said.

They had planned for the Iraqi National Guard's Company A, 304th Battalion, to participate in the mission all along, he said. The ING will continue to work

with the squadron, he said.

"They're good searchers" because they identify culturally with the locals, Hernandez said. "They know where to hide things and will look in those places."

Leading up to Iraqi sovereignty, the squadron stepped up operations in late May to take apart the insurgency in their area of operations, Hernandez

explained.

Their goal was to disrupt the anti-Iraq forces planning for an insurgency as the hand-over moved closer and closer, he said.

With numerous squadron and troop cordon-and-searches under their collective belt, Hernandez said the unit's leadership is confident they've done that.

ING Bn. Raises Iraq's Flag



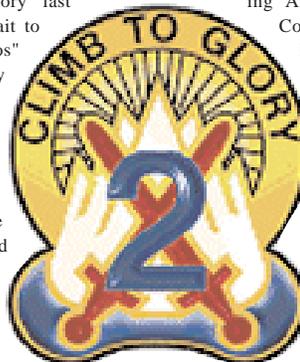
Photo by Spc. Bryan Kinkade, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

The 302nd Iraqi National Guard Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Hayder Abdul Rasul (right), passes an Iraqi flag to one of his troopers for the flag raising ceremony July 1. The ceremony marked the nation's sovereignty and changed out the guards at Assassin Gate, from American Soldiers to ING members.

10th Mountain Joins the First Team

BAGHDAD-- Soldiers from Second Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum, N.Y. made the "Climb to Glory" last week as they convoyed from Kuwait to Baghdad, Iraq. The "Commandos" will serve with the 1st Cavalry Division for one year at Forward Operating Bases throughout Baghdad.

The 2nd BCT, 10th MD, is under the leadership of Col. Mark Milley, and includes; the Brigade Headquarters Company; 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment; 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment; 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment; 210th Forward Support Battalion; Company B, 10th Signal Battalion; and elements of 110th Military Intelligence Battalion.



"The nation is fully committed to the Global War on Terror, and the Army is committed to meeting America's security challenges," said

Commander of the 10th Mountain Division, Maj. Gen. Lloyd Austin.

"Our Soldiers are deploying with the best training and best equipment available."

Maj. Gen. Peter Chiarelli, commanding general of the 1st Cavalry Division said he's proud to have the Commandos serving with the First Team.

"We've had a big troops-to-task issue since we arrived here," he said. "Having the 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 10th Mountain to augment our efforts is a welcome addition. They've got a great reputation and we look forward to working closely with them."

Faith Helps Change Negative Outlook on Life

By Chaplain (Capt.) Jim Combs, 2-12 Cav.

Do you ever feel like a Christian burnout? Whereas you were once a shooting star, now you're more like a dim bulb that any respectable moth wouldn't even give a second glance? If this sounds familiar, here are a few symptoms to make you're final diagnosis:

1. You have misplaced your faith in God.
2. You have a lack of zeal in regards to the things of God.
3. You would rather criticize others than tell them about Christ.
4. You exhibit an over all attitude of bitterness and hatred rather than love.

If you suffer from spiritual burnout, know that you are not alone - even Moses occasionally lost his passion for Godly service. Although he walked and talked with God, Moses' spirit was broken by the numerous burdens encountered during the Israelites journey in the wilderness. In particular, the quarreling, grumbling and complaining of God's chosen people.

It wasn't always that way. After their miraculous deliverance from the hand of the Egyptians, the Israelites were happy to follow Moses and eager to praise God along the way. However, once things got

uncomfortable, they were quick to complain and cast blame.

First, they were hungry: "You brought us out into this desert to starve the entire assembly to death" (Exodus 16:3). Then, they were thirsty: "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?" (Exodus 17:3).

Think of how things might have turned out differently had they chosen to interpret their trials as opportunities to exercise faith rather than to "put the Lord to the test."

In the first instance, God inevitably provided manna and quail to feed the people. In the later episode, He miraculously quenched their thirst by bringing forth water from the rock. Unfortunately, they were a faithless generation and their bad attitude eventually rubbed off on Moses.

When the people were hungry, he took it in stride and waited upon God. The first time they grumbled about thirst, Moses cautioned them and cried out to the Lord. By the time they were whining again in Numbers 20, he's desperate and without words: "Moses and Aaron went from the assembly to the entrance to the Tent of meeting and fell facedown, and the glory of the Lord appeared to them."

After sharing their daily trials, sweating under the same burning sun, hearing grumbling rather than encouragement - Moses lost his spiritual cool. In Numbers 20:1-9, we read that both Moses and Aaron used a "ministry opportunity" to verbally lash-out at God's people and take credit for His handy-work.

Now, it would be easy to cast stones and criticize Moses...had I never been there myself. What about you? Have you ever grown tired of challenges in your walk with God? Been wearied from criticism and complaining even within your church? Or maybe felt the inability to pray because you can no longer find the words to express your heart?

If so, first remember that Moses himself felt the same. But more importantly, ask yourself where God is in the midst of your burnout. Have you forgotten that He has promised to stand by you just as He stood by Moses?

For God said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5).

Hang in there. Times of refreshing will eventually come. For the "spiritual rock" that provided refreshing for Moses and the Israelites in the wilderness is with you today and that "rock" is Christ!

Pegasus 6 Sends 1st Cav. to Ensure the 'Promise' of Iraq's Future

When we ventured from Fort Hood to Baghdad months ago, I asked you to acknowledge the 3 P's (Polite, Professional, and Prepared to Kill). Now is the time to add one more "P"; and that is Promise.

I am convinced that our troopers are as able as any our great Army has fielded --- ever. I have asked a lot from you; to assist Iraqis through providing security, initiating an array of public works projects, training a future Iraqi security force, and engaging in combat operations. I can say without hesitation that we're doing well on all fronts.

When I speak of Promise I want you to think of the Promise that is inherent in this great land. From vast natural resources, to large areas of arable land, to a large number of highly educated Iraqi citizens, this country has tremendous Promise following years of a decadent and cruel dictator.

It must be clear to the Iraqi people that we view our duty here as providing a link to the Promise of this country. One significant way we can achieve that sign of recognition is to quickly and noticeably alter our behavior toward the citizenry. Whether it's leading a convoy, walking a foot patrol, or engaging Iraqi leaders, we must demonstrate our full respect for the people much as we are expected to do in the United States.

Iraq belongs to Iraqis and soon its citizens will begin to share in the dreams of representative government and full freedoms that have been denied so long. Respect Iraqis as you would your neighbors at home.

Obviously, we must continue to

Maj. Gen. Peter Chiarelli



CG 1CD

protect ourselves. Indeed, we must, at times, engage in highly lethal combat operations. What I am asking each of you to do, however, is to examine your personal conduct toward people throughout the city - the largest majority of whom do not participate in violence against the new Iraqi government or us.

Do you need to point your weapon at a car during a convoy simply to make a person change lanes? Do you need to shout and scowl at on-lookers as you move through their areas? Can you visibly alter your conduct to demonstrate that you respect Iraqis as people with aspirations much like your own?

I think upon close examination, all of us can find a way to move our relationship with the Iraqi people to a higher plane. Iraqis have pride in family, tribe, and country - not unlike us. Let them know that you want them to achieve success in each of their important groups.

Each of you also has pride in your professionalism, your family, your unit, and your country. Let the Iraqis you meet know, that in a free land, hope is eternal - and the cornerstone is respect for all. Let them know that our Promise is to help them achieve a brighter future.

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Spur & The Moment

"What do you miss the most from home?"

Photos by Spc. Marie Whitney, 122nd MPAD

My daughter. Can't wait to get home [and see her].



Sgt. Julian Pickett, 3-82 Field Artillery

I'm a steak person, so I miss the Outback Steakhouse. And not having to worry about wearing my flack vest.



Spc. Aaron Soap, 13th Signal Battalion

My little girl. Every time I talk to her on the phone she asks me if I'm still in 'Iwak.' She says she wants to come to 'Iwak' to be with me. [And I miss] my little boy too.



Sgt. Brian Mayfield, HHC, 1st Cav. Div.

My wife. Just my wife.



CWO2 Wayne Turner, 1st Bt., 227th Aviation

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Headhunters Open Schools, Playground

By Spc. Bryan Kinkade
1st Cav. Div. Public
Affairs

SHEIKH JUNAID, Baghdad—The 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry Regiment "Headhunters," 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, checked off three community projects in their area of responsibility, June 16.

The Fine Arts Institute, al-Ma'Aree Primary School and a playground were officially opened and marked complete.

Nearly \$400,000 was put into the three projects. The unit hired Iraqi contractors for each one. For the Fine Arts Institute, over 100 Iraqis were employed.

Beginning in the morning, Soldiers from 1-9 Cav. convoyed to the al-Ma'Aree Primary School. Members from the neighborhood advisory council (NAC) joined the Soldiers in a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the completion of construction, which began May 18. The school needed electrical, plumbing and masonry work done; and it was.

The NAC members brought cake and sodas to the ceremony and they all enjoyed some



By Spc. Bryan Kinkade, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

Capt. Jason Kniffen, civil affairs officer for 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, bounces up and down on a seesaw with an Iraqi boy at the playground in the Sheikh Junaid neighborhood June 16.

sweets for breakfast after cutting a red ribbon at the school's entrance.

"Basically, we want a safer environment for the kids to go to school," Staff Sgt. Terry Bacon, civil affairs noncommissioned officer in charge for 1-9 Cav., said. "It's better than the broken windows and doors."

Leaving the school, the Soldiers headed to the newly built playground. Upon arriving, members of the NAC were

putting up a sign on the entrance to the playground. It read, both in English and Arabic: Resourced and supervised by 1st Cav. (1-9 Cav.) and the NAC of Sheikh Junaid.

"[The playground was] a big pile of trash and rubble," Bacon said. "That's all it was."

Now, the playground includes 24 pieces of equipment, trash containers and a security fence. 2nd Lt. Pat Miller and Capt. Jason Kniffen played with

the children on a merry-go-round, seesaw and slide, while they visited the playground.

The children smiled and played joyfully on all the new pieces of equipment.

"There are a lot of kids [here]," Bacon said. "Basically, on that road there are four schools. It gives the kids a place to play in a safe and clean environment."

The last and biggest of the three projects was the Fine Arts

Institute. Construction began in mid April. Lt. Col. Thomas MacDonald, 1-9 Cav. commander, attended the event. Members of the NAC and the school gave a grand tour of the school.

The walls were artistically painted with black and white. Boxes were painted on the walls with marble-like textures to give the appearance of marble tiles.

After the tour, which ended during lunchtime, the Iraqis brought all the Soldiers into a room filled with a feast of Arabic food.

Before a construction project can be started, the unit tasks engineers to check the project and give an estimated bid, Bacon said. But the unit doesn't want to interfere with the children's schoolwork, so they wait.

"We want to hold off on starting projects until they complete their final exams," Bacon said.

Overall, the Headhunters seemed happy about what they are doing for the community and the rebuilding of Iraq.

"I think it's going pretty good," Bacon said. "We've done some projects on schools, fine-arts and trash. I think it's having a pretty good impact."

Checkpoints, Cell Phones and Army Values

Distinguishing Friend from Foe Can Be Difficult; Professionalism Key

By Sgt. 1st Class Warner Stadler
Civil Military Operations
Liaison Officer

If you treat an Iraqi with respect, he will give you his shirt. But - if you dishonor him or harm his brother or family, he will not rest until he has taken revenge, even if it takes one hundred years.

-- Iraqi Proverb

In the last issue I wrote that every Soldier is an ambassador. Sadly, although there are many Soldiers who are doing an outstanding job representing our great country, there are still some who don't seem to understand the importance of showing respect and dignity to the Iraqi people or their customs and traditions. There is good reason that one of the seven army values is respect. That is not only respect for self, but also respect for others.

Consider the following incident.

A cell phone rings at division headquarters. The Assistant Chief of Staff for Civil Military Operations (G5) answers. "Hello, this is Lieutenant Colonel Welch."

A distressed male voice with a strong Middle Eastern accent comes on the other end. "Colonel Welch - this is Mohammed Ali-Ali (not his real name). I'm on my way to pick up my brother and I have been stopped at the checkpoint. The Soldiers will not let me or my security detail through..."

Suddenly another voice is heard. "G*#!*\$#! Mot*#!... gimme that F!###!..... phone." You are not allowed to use this at this checkpoint!" Then the phone went dead, apparently snatched from the Iraqi's hand.

Now, I understand the policy of restricting the use of cell phones at a checkpoint to prevent the intentional or accidental detonation of a car bomb (VBIED) at a checkpoint. However, the issue I want you to consider is not the policy restricting the use of the phone, but the manner in which the Soldier enforced the policy.

The way in which many of our checkpoints are designed, despite signs that are posted to inform people about the restriction on cell phone usage, many people feel the need to use their cell phones to contact and inform peo-

ple of their status when stuck in line or restricted from going through. This need to use the cell phone is further enhanced by the apparent lack of other means of communication for the traveler at the checkpoint.

There is no dispute that the Soldier had every right to enforce the policy and restrict the use of the cell phone. However, could he have had the same result, but with a better effect, by treating the man with a firm but polite and professional approach? Did he do more to damage our relations with the Iraqi people by treating the man with such disrespect? Would it have been just as easy and taken just the same amount of time to respond with, "I'm sorry Sir, for your safety we do not allow cell phones to be used at our check point. May we help you contact someone?"

But there is more to this story...

What the Soldier at the checkpoint did not know was that our Iraqi friend is a principle in one of the wealthiest and most influential business families, not only in Baghdad, but also in Iraq. He is a supporter of the new Iraqi government and Coalition forces. In fact,

because of that family's support for the Coalition effort and new government, anti-Iraqi forces assassinated his brother's wife. Ever since then, all the members of his family travel with the protection of a personal security team.

Although Mohammed was visibly upset about the way he had been mistreated by an American Soldier, he accepted an apology and still indicated he and his family wanted to help us bring peace and prosperity to Iraq. Another man, less sympathetic to our cause, could have decided he wanted to extract revenge because of the insult to his honor.

As our commanding general has said many times, "Treating the Iraqi people with dignity and respect is a force protection issue!" If we don't treat people with dignity and respect, then we run the risk of creating more enemies.

In our deadly struggles with anti-Iraqi forces, where we often can't tell friend from foe until bombs blow and bullets fly, the last thing we need are more enemies. Most of the Iraqis we meet everyday are not our enemies. Let's not treat them that way.

Ironhorse

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1-82 FA Patrols 'Squaretown' on Foot

By Spc. Andy Miller
122nd MPAD

BAGHDAD-- The Soldiers from Battery C of the 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment are familiar with Paladin Howitzers. Firing them was their main mission, until they arrived at Camp War Eagle last March.



By Spc. Andy Miller, 122nd MPAD

Pfc. David Moller, an 1-82 FA artillery gunner, (front) and Spc. Anthony McMillion, a 1-82 FA mechanic, pull security during a recent dismounted foot patrol in the Al Tariq area of Baghdad. The field artillery Soldiers conduct the patrols at night to root out insurgent activity in an area where mortar attacks have been launched at Coalition forces in the past.

Here they've found themselves in the midst of a dynamic battlefield. For the 1-82 FA this means less field artillery, and more light infantry.

To support the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment of the 1st Cavalry Division in the dangerous Al Thawra District of Baghdad, the 1-82 FA has begun conducting dismounted foot patrols in a area the

Soldiers call "Squaretown."

"We're supposed to be shooting our paladins from a distance away to provide cover for the infantry guys," Sgt. Michael Speers, a 1-82 FA mechanic said. "But being with 2-5, we get a chance to go out and do the infantry skills, just like we were taught in basic training."

The infantry tactics used on foot patrols might make some Soldiers recall their days in basic training. But for the Iraqi National Guard (ING) troops who are with them, it's their first exposure to many infantry tactics. The 'Charlie Rock' Soldiers always bring ING Soldiers with them on dismounted patrols and other combat missions.

"What we try to do is set the example for them when we go out," 2nd Lt. Joseph Esensten, a 1-82 FA platoon leader said. "When we go on missions we show them and try to communicate to them as best we can on how to do it right."

The late-night dismounted patrols give the ING Soldiers a real-world training environment to help them prepare for future missions, which they will conduct on their own, according to Lt. Ali Saheb, a platoon leader for Jaguar Company of the 306th ING Battalion.

"We need much training," Saheb said. "We have some guys they were not with the army before and they need more training."

From Squaretown, insurgent forces have launched mortar attacks and the Soldiers are concerned about weapons being transported through the area near the out-

skirts of Camp War Eagle. The patrols and traffic control points Charlie Rock conducts in the area will deter insurgent activity, Esensten said.

He also said the dismounted patrols have advantages over vehicles at night. On foot, the Soldiers have an element of surprise to their advantage.

"It's very dangerous when you are in a vehicle at night," Esensten said. "You can't be in a Humvee because there is a huge [improvised explosive device] threat, and a huge [rocket propelled grenade] threat."

Walking through territory used by enemy forces in the dark can get unnerving, Esensten said. Against the backdrop of barking dogs and braying donkeys, the 1-82 FA Soldiers watched through night vision goggles for movement in alleyways and on rooftops on a recent mission.

"There was a lot of movement in the alleys, and there was close to no light at all," Speers said. "Every time you see movement, you zero in on that movement."

The Soldiers also feed off their adrenaline to stay alert, Speers said. Even though they are often tired after working during the day, the Soldiers are motivated to test their light infantry training in a real-world environment at night.

"For a lot of the Soldiers it's new, but they really enjoy it," Esensten said. "Sometimes we have to pick people [for missions], but mostly they volunteer because it's something different. They get a chance to be outside the [camp] and make a difference."

Iron Horse Brigade Aids Iraqi Boy's Recovery

By Spc. Andy Miller
122nd MPAD

TISA NISSAN, Baghdad-- It was early April, and Mahdi's Army was conducting a full-scale assault on 1st Cavalry Division forces in the Al Thawra District of Baghdad. In the neighboring Tisa Nissan district, Soldiers from the Maverick Team of the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment were called upon to reinforce Facility Protection Services.

Spc. Jeffery Ward, a medic from the Maverick team, was stationed at the Tisa Nissan district advisory council (DAC) hall during this time. His actions one April day not only helped to save an Iraqi boy's life, but they started a chain of events that forever altered the boy's future.

A crowd of people was standing around a fallen Iraqi boy. Ward stepped in to care for the boy.

"Everybody is entitled to emergency care, regardless of who they are or what happened," Ward said. "So I took a small security element, and jumped the wall, and ran over to where they were."

The boy, Shimir, had a right-side head wound combined with left-side paralysis. Ward found his father, Kamill Isker, who is a Facility Protection Services guard

at the DAC hall.

"I said, 'he needs to go to a hospital immediately,'" Ward told Isker. "I cleaned his head up. I put a dressing on it, wrapped his head in gauze, and said 'take him to the hospital to see what's wrong.'"

A few days later, while patrolling the area, Ward checked in with Isker at the DAC hall to see how Shimir was doing. He found out that the 12-year-old boy had sustained a bullet wound to the brain. When he got back to Camp War Eagle, he told Lt. Col. Bob Gerhardt, the 1-12 battalion surgeon, about Shimir's situation.

For the next two months, while Shimir lay in the hospital, Gerhardt and others from Task Force 1-12 worked to see if there was anything they could do to help. After Shimir was released from the Iraqi hospital, Gerhardt agreed to examine the boy.

"When I originally saw him, the family had said, 'is there anything that anybody can do, because the Iraqi doctors said they can't,'" Gerhardt said.

He explained that while the Iraqi healthcare system is a good system with many highly trained professionals, there is a belief in Iraq that American doctors can work magic. This may be why Shimir's family asked for help

from the American Soldiers. After seeing Shimir, Gerhardt decided maybe there was a way he could help.

"He still knows who he is and where he is," Gerhardt said. "So he's not catastrophically hurt, thank heaven. But he's also not in a position where he can be healed back to normal."

The bullet had left Shimir with hemiplegia, or weakness, in his left arm and leg. Iraqi and American doctors who examined him concluded that it would be better to leave the bullet in place, than to perform dangerous and life-threatening brain surgery.

Gerhardt explained that with this type of injury, treatment would include physical and occupational therapy. Realizing that Iraq has few of those resources, he searched for any alternatives. Luckily, there was a physician at the 118th Medical Support Battalion (MSB) at Camp Victory who specialized in physical rehabilitation, who would see Shimir.

A meeting was arranged at the 31st Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad. On June 25, almost three months after the injury, Lt. Col. Kenneth Lee, a physical medicine and rehabilitation specialist with the 118th MSB, saw Shimir. After the examination, Lee walked



By Spc. Andy Miller, 122nd MPAD

Lt. Col. Bob Gerhardt, battalion surgeon for Task Force 1-12 of the 1st Cav. Div., with Shimir Isker at the Tisa Nissan district advisory council building in Baghdad. Isker was injured when a bullet struck his head in early April. out of the consultation room with a smile on his face.

"Here is a kid who could be potentially a lawyer, could be an engineer. He could be a businessman or a politician," Gerhardt said. "Here is a kid who could be a professional some day. So in that sense [his future] is fairly bright."

Task Force 1-12's contribution to Shimir's recovery is part of the whole spectrum of military medical operations in Iraq, according to Gerhardt. From the beginning when Ward took the initiative

to see what was wrong to an injured Iraqi boy, to Lee's prognosis for Shimir's future; military medical humanitarian missions include providing care for locals.

The cooperation between Shimir's family and local Iraqi leadership with support from Task Force 1-12 allowed Coalition medical personnel to treat the boy.

"How can you feel when some guy comes in to take your son to the hospital?" Isker asked. "I want to thank the Coalition forces and the U.S. Soldiers."

Black Jack

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ADA Troops Work to Eliminate Threats

By Pfc. Erik LeDrew
122nd MPAD

Patrols, traffic control points (TCP) and cordon and searches are crucial to maintaining security and preventing insurgent attacks on Multinational Forces and the Interim Iraqi Government, and that is now the job of the Troopers of the 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Regiment, attached to the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

On a daily basis, they jump into their Humvees and Bradley Armored Fighting Vehicles, ready to eliminate whatever threats they may encounter in the region they patrol west of Baghdad International Airport (BIAP).

"It's a challenge, dealing with the language barrier, and always looking around you, trying to find the bad guy," said Sgt. Steven Dematos, a team chief with 4-5 ADA and Tampa, Fla. native.

The ADA Troopers also frequently work side-by-side with an Iraqi National Guard (ING) unit while on patrol, assisting the fledgling native security force in becoming familiar with both the terrain of their patrol-zone and the dangers of their new trade.

"They're really the best guys for this job," said Staff Sgt. Gregory Howard, also with the 4-5 ADA and a Long Island, N.Y. native. "They speak the language so they can search for the bad guys much more efficiently than we can."

One such patrol began around 10 a.m., July 13, when several Humvees and Bradleys linked-up with several teams of ING soldiers and rolled out the western BIAP gate. After nearly two hours of mounted patrol, the troopers and ING soldiers left their vehicles and set up a TCP along a major thoroughfare in their sector. They hope to confiscate weapons and detain insurgents who may be en-route to Baghdad from the north.

"This road is a good choke-point for us to catch insurgents, because three roads all converge into one right here," Howard said, while supervising ING soldiers performing car searches. "This road is our best bet to catch anyone coming into our sector from the north with [improvised explosive device materials], mortars or RPGs [rocket-propelled grenades]."

The troopers and Iraqi guardsmen took small arms fire from the roof of a derelict factory nearby after occupying the TCP for several hours. An impromptu raiding party was organized to attempt to catch the triggermen.

The factory and surrounding buildings were cleared in a matter of minutes, but no one was apprehended following the brief attack.

Despite the unsuccessful attempt to capture the attackers, Dematos asserted that it is important to react to enemy contact, even if it's unlikely that any insurgents will be captured.

"The more active we are in our zone,



By Pfc. Erik LeDrew, 122nd MPAD

Sgt. Steven Dematos, A Battery, 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, kicks in a padlocked door while an Iraqi National Guard Soldier stands ready follow him. Dematos' unit and the ING troops with them were shot at from the factory's roof while maintaining a traffic control point nearby.

the more likely we are to encounter insurgents," Dematos said, "and that is what we're here to do."

While rooting-out insurgents and reacting to hostile activities is their primary mission while on patrol, combat operations are not the 4-5 ADA's only focus in their sector.

"We've done a lot of Civil Affairs work out here too," Dematos added. "We check in on the mosques and schools in our area to ensure they're at least getting

power and water, and we do what we can to help them out with what they don't have."

Dematos' unit patrols their sector both day and night, sometimes staying outside the wire for as long as 24 hours.

"It's tough, especially in the middle of the day when it really heats up, but it's just something we have to do," he said. "All in all, you just gotta take it one day at a time and hope you're gonna make it back to your family."

2-12 Cavalry Builds Hope with Soccer Field

By Sgt. Dan Purcell
122nd MPAD

BAGHDAD-- Nestled between a highway overpass and a lower-income neighborhood in the Kamidaya District of Baghdad lies a field of hope and dreams; a symbol of a peaceful and prosperous future.

On June 30, local dignitaries and residents gathered for a ribbon cutting ceremony marking the completion of a soccer field and playground.

"Originally, it was just a dirt field with some goal posts and a lot of trash and debris, but we cleaned it out, put in some sod for grass, fenced it and put in a play ground at a cost of about \$8,000," said Capt. Kevin Badger, the commander of Company A, 2nd Battalion 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division.

"This was one of two soccer fields in the area, and what the Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) decided to do was to combine the soccer

fields and the parks together, which is why there is a playground," Badger said about the projects. "The purpose is to give the kids something to do while the adults are playing soccer."

Badger said May and June have been very busy months for beautification projects throughout his area of responsibility.

"These projects are real good for the community," he

said. "We paved about a mile and half of unimproved road that runs along the Tigris River. It was in really bad shape from being used by tanks and Bradleys, but now it is providing the people with a riverside drive that they didn't have before. We have done a variety of [Commander Emergency Relief Program] projects ranging between road cleanup to parks".

As for the post transfer of

authority, Badger said that the work that is being done will continue without much change.

"However, the NAC and District Advisory Council (DAC) will take a more active role in how things get done, and my job will be as a facilitator and to make sure things are being done to standard," Badger said.

"Currently we are looking at renovating a local hospital dormitory for young doctors

and we are looking at renovating a school a week in the neighborhoods," he said. "We have been trying to make some quick fixes so the people can see that we are trying to help them, and now we are moving on to bigger projects. I think we have done pretty well so far and have made a lot of people happy."

"I appreciate what the Coalition did for this neighborhood and we hope that there will be more projects for this area," Dr. Mohammed Rauef, DAC chairman, said. "In the future we are planning to build a big sports facility with a swimming pool, a health center and a public market. With the recent transfer of authority has come more responsibilities, but this has been our biggest hope."

Abdul Kadr, a NAC member, concluded, "Projects, such as the soccer field are like messages of peace and help to raise the name of Iraq up so that people can see that we are a free and prosperous country again."



By Sgt. Dan Purcell, 122nd MPAD

Capt. Kevin Badger, commander of Company A, 2nd Battalion 12th Cavalry Regiment, (center) sits for a soccer team-picture marking the completion of the soccer field and playground.

8th Engineers Battle Baghdad Trash Problem

By Spc. Bryan Kinkade
1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

KARADAH DISTRICT, Baghdad-- When the 8th Engineer Battalion arrived in Baghdad, its focus was to fight the garbage piled on Karadah District's streets.

"We've moved almost a quarter mil-

lion cubic meters -125,000 tons - of trash," Capt. Tony Hearn, the battalion's solid waste coordinator, said. The battalion has spent approximately \$11 million on projects to enhance the Karkh and Karadah districts' solid-waste systems.

On June 28, the 1st Cavalry Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team engineers purchased three dump trucks,

capable of holding 18 tons of garbage each, and one fuel truck for Karadah District Solid Waste Services.

Abdul Rezak, the director of solid waste services, told Hearn the trucks were one thing the service station needed, because some of the trucks had been stolen. So the contract was written up, the contractors were notified, and the trucks were delivered.

The new trucks will be used to transport garbage from the residential dump trucks to the transfer site, where long-haul trucks will transport it to the Abu Ghraib landfill.

In addition to the trucks, the unit bought and replaced 716 dumpsters and various parts for the trucks to get them in working order.

"We've repaired 26 trucks that were non-mission capable when we got here," Hearn said.

As a problem that the 1st Armored Division faced in the past, many of the metal dumpsters spread throughout the city were stolen, but Hearn said he is trying to prevent that from happening again.

"Theft and vandalism are always an issue," he said. "We bought 30 percent more [dumpsters] than we need. The Iraqis will place them on truck routes, which will be supervised and, if possible



By Spc. Bryan Kinkade, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

While at Karadah District Solid Waste Services, Sgt. Jeffrey Lloyd, Headquarters Company, 8th Engineer Battalion, hands out a plastic baseball bat and a whistle ball to one of the children.

[the dumpster's will be] chained down."

Hearn said his focus is finding places to put the garbage. Before the battalion started cleaning up the area, the garbage transfer site was overfilled and could not be used.

"I've been focusing on the systems and not the individual bubble gum wrappers," he said. "I've seen quite an improvement [since arriving]."

Now that the dumpsters will be spread throughout the district, Hearn said the Iraqis will see the dumpsters and become more confident in the district's garbage system.



By Spc. Bryan Kinkade, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

Capt. Tony Hearn, the 8th Engineer Battalion solid waste coordinator, pays the contractor cash for the trucks he delivered June 28.

Unit Dons First Combat Patch Since WWII

By Spc. Bryan Kinkade
1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HUNTER, Baghdad-- During a ceremony at Forward Operating Base Hunter, the 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry Regiment attached to the 1st Cavalry Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team, donned the first combat patch since World War II. Now each Soldier can wear the biggest patch in the Army on their right shoulder.

"It's quite an honor," said Maj. Kevin McMahan, the battalion executive officer of the Washington-based National Guard unit. "We were excited when we were attached to the 1st Cavalry Division."

Three representatives - one from each company - posted in front of the battalion's formation and were

given their blouse with the 1st Cav. Div. patch sewn on it. When commanded, they donned their blouse, with the combat patch on their right shoulder.

Colonel and Mrs. Ben Dorsey, then the commander of the 7th Cavalry Regiment, Fort Bliss, Texas, designed the patch to resemble the golden sunset at Fort Bliss and the traditional colors of the cavalry; blue and yellow. The family added a horse's head for the insignia to the triangular-shaped Norman shield with rounded corners after they observed a mount-

ed trooper ride by their home on a blue-black thoroughbred horse.

As well as the combat patch, four Soldiers were awarded the Purple Heart and four were awarded the Army Commendation Medal for actions during Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

The Purple Heart recipients were Capt. Pete Chambers, Staff Sgt. Scott Browne, Sgt. Shawn Barefield and Spc. Montie Banks.

"[I feel] bittersweet," Chambers said about the award.

An improvised explosive device (IED) struck Chambers'



By Spc. Bryan Kinkade, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

Three representatives from each company in the 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry Regiment, attached to the 1st Cavalry Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team, don their blouses wearing the division's combat patch.

convoy on a routine mission to FOB Cuervo. His vehicle was sprayed with shell fragments, wounding his left arm and damaging his hearing.

"I lost a medic that day. He truly deserved it [the Purple Heart Medal]," he said. "It's a good feeling, but it's a reminder of the sacrifices he made."

Crime & Punishment Soldiers Sentenced by Courts Martial in Iraq; at Hood

Although deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the division continues to process judicial actions, both in Iraq and back in the rear. The following is a summary of some recent 1st Cavalry Division cases:

Aggravated Assault

On June 18th, 2004, at Victory Base, Iraq, Spc. Luric Fiffee pled guilty to aggravated assault with the intention to inflict grievous bodily harm in violation of Article 128 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Charges arose out of an April 3 incident where Fiffee stabbed another soldier in the upper back, buttocks, and leg with a knife. The court sentenced him to be reduced to the grade of E-1, confined for four years and a dishonorable discharge.

Dereliction of Duty

On June 19th, 2004, at Victory Base, Iraq, Sgt. Matthew Smith pled guilty to dereliction in the performance of duties in violation of Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. This charge arose out of an April 14 incident where Smith chose to ignore his duties as a sentry so that he could receive sexual favors from an Iraqi national, thereby endangering the lives of his fellow Soldiers. The court reduced him to the grade of E-1 and ordered him confined for six months.

Desertion

At a recent court-martial at Fort Hood, Pvt. Michael Zavala, a 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment Soldier was convicted of desertion with the intent to avoid important service and missing his unit's movement to Iraq. Although he was only gone four months, the military judge sentenced him to 21 months confinement, total forfeiture of pay and allowances, reduction to E-1 and a bad conduct discharge.

Missing Movement

Pvt. Brian Lloyd, another 1-5 Cavalry Soldier, was convicted of one specification of shirking important service (deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom) from January 6 through January 11. This was in violation of Article 85. He was also convicted of one specification of missing his unit's movement to Iraq. The military judge sentenced the accused to confinement for 30 months, total forfeiture of pay and allowances, reduction to E-1, and a dishonorable discharge.

Warriors

July 23, 2004

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Lots of Air Time Means Lots of Maintenance

By Cpl. Benjamin Cossel
122nd MPAD

CAMP COOKE, Iraq-- A little over four months ago, the helicopters of the 1st Cavalry Division's 4th Brigade Combat Team took to the air with a vengeance. Flying missions that included supporting troops on the ground during combat operations to transporting personnel between Forward Operating Bases, the hours spent in the air quickly accumulated. As aviation assets fly more and more missions, maintenance cycles and upkeep on the precision equipment becomes more and more crucial.

Responsible for phased and unscheduled maintenance, mechanics of the 615th Aviation Support Battalion working the night shift are part of a 24-hour team that keeps 4th BCT's birds in the air.

"Each helicopter has a number of hours it can be flown before it must be taken off-line and put into a phased maintenance cycle," explained Capt. Cecil Nix, a platoon leader with the 615th. "For the Apache it's 250, for the Black Hawk it's 500 and for the Kiowa, it's 125. After they've reached that threshold, the bird is brought into the shop and my team starts phased maintenance."

Originally from Torrance, Ca., Nix went on to explain that phased maintenance is a very complicated, and lengthy process.

"When a bird does come in, we check everything," he said resting his hand on a stack of technical manuals standing over a foot high. "Each one of our helicopters has a series of manuals detailing the exact manners and method of phased maintenance. We take



Photos by Cpl. Benjamin Cossel, 122nd MPAD
Sgt. Aaron Hazelwood, an armored electrician with the 615th Aviation Support Battalion, works to prepare the 30-millimeter gun mounts on an Apache helicopter during a phased maintenance cycle.

everything apart, check it over, fix it if it needs it, ... oil, lube. It's sort of like bringing your car in for a major overhaul."

Nix said that a typical phased maintenance cycle takes about a month to complete and is usually done once a year.

"The rate at which we've been flying these birds has been astronomical," he said. "Back in garrison, we might perform a phase maintenance once a year. Here, we've been performing them about every four months."

Nix noted that in June alone, 4th BCT pilots logged 1700 hours of flight time, the highest amount for any of the commands in theater.

"That's a lot of wear and tear on a bird," he said. "And if it wasn't for my guys in the hanger, we wouldn't be able to get it done."

The awe-inspiring machines that adorn the flight line stand in stark contrast to the stripped down, shells that rest inside the hanger. Power tools sound with their "ZIP ZIP" blending with the cacophony

of metal on metal as wrenches turn removing rotor blades and adjusting transmissions.

"An Apache coming into the hangar at Ft. Hood, might take 30 days to get through a maintenance cycle," he said. "But realizing how important this all is, we've been getting the Apaches back on the flight line in about 12 days. We have extremely tight quality controls measure in place as well ensuring that everything that goes back into operation has been checked, double checked and triple checked."

Meeting mission requirements of an increased workload and expectations of quick turn around times has had a positive affect on the mechanics.

"My teams are easily gaining years worth of garrison experience out here," Hernandez beamed. "You just can't simulate some of the conditions combat and the total number of hours flown puts these birds under."

Perched atop the wing of an



Working hard in tight spaces is a specialty of helicopter mechanics of the 615th Aviation Support Battalion. Pfc. Jordan Willburn, an Apache mechanic with the 615th ASB, works between fittings and wires to get access to the transmission of a helicopter grounded for routine phased maintenance.

Apache, Pfc. Jordan Willburn, an Apache mechanic, calls down for confirmation.

"We're working on the transmission tonight, right?!" he calls out.

"That's right, open it up and get it looked over," comes a disembodied reply.

"The amount I've learned in just four months is incredible," said

Willburn, a native of Maybears, Texas. "Every time one of these birds comes into our shop, we know that the safety and the trust of the pilots is in our hands. If we don't do our job, and do it right, troops on the ground don't get support and birds fall out of the sky. That's a lot of responsibility, but we all take it very seriously and we do it right."

Keeping the Warriors up to Full Strength



By Cpl. Benjamin Cossel, 122nd MPAD
Cpl. Matthew McDaniel, Headquarters Company, 4th Brigade Combat Team talks with Master Sgt. Joni Evans, 4th BCT retention non-commissioned officer in charge about the options he might have upon reenlistment.

By Cpl. Benjamin Cossel
122nd MPAD

CAMP COOKE, Iraq-- America's First Team announced that the division met third-quarter retention goals on July 3 (see story page 15). One of the reasons the division met those goals was due to Master Sgt. Joni Evans, 4th Brigade Combat Team's retention noncommissioned officer in charge.

"This job is my life," Evans said.

With 17 of her 25 years in the military dedicated to career counseling, that claim is not made lightly.

"The years of experience really help," Evans said. "I can speak to almost every fear and concern that Soldiers coming to see me might have."

Evans said with the division deployed, retention within the First Team has brought new challenges.

"Many Soldiers are worn out with the current operations tempo," she said. "But when you sit down with them and compare what their options might be in the civilian world, where you don't know for sure if you're going to have a job one day to the next, a job that you are completely assured of, even with a high operations tempo, becomes more appealing."

Her approach must be working. Over the third quarter, Evans has reenlisted 63 Cav. troopers in the 4th BCT. Evans said she has also helped Troopers of 2nd Battalion 7th Cavalry Regiment.

"2-7 doesn't really have a retention representative here being they've been broken off from their home brigade to augment the 39th BCT," she said. "I also point Soldiers of the 39th BCT in the right direction with who they need to talk to regarding reserve component matters. So really, in some way shape or form, I have a hand in

all the retention efforts on Camp Cooke."

Attributing much of her success to those who support her, Evans lauded the efforts of the command and senior non-commissioned officers of the Brigade.

"I have great support," she said. "I don't think there has been a time when a Soldier has been in my office and Command Sgt. Maj. Sanders (the Brigade Sgt. Maj.) doesn't stop in, talk to the Soldier, see how they're doing and just be there for them."

Reflecting on her years as a career counselor and plans for the future, Evans has plans to retire when she returns home.

"I will certainly miss doing this for a living," she said. "In 17 years, my job has never been boring, it never gets old. No single Soldier that walks through my doors ever have the same needs, wants or desires. That has definitely kept it very interesting."



Independence Day

Headhunters Celebrate their Independence

By Spc. Bryan Kinkade
1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HEADHUNTER, Baghdad-- Minus fireworks, the Soldiers of Task Force 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry Regiment had a fun-filled day in the sun at their forward operating base (FOB) in Baghdad. Activities, which went on all day, included a five kilometer race; tournaments in volleyball, boxing, basketball, soccer; and a concert performed by two bands comprised of some of the task force's Soldiers.

Kicking off the Independence Day celebration, the task force commander, Lt. Col. Thomas MacDonald, pinned Purple Hearts on twelve of his Soldiers, and three other troopers reenlisted.

One Soldier, Sgt. Gregory Parker of Company A, 1st Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment attached to the task force, received three Purple Hearts that day for three separate grenade attacks.

"At first, it didn't hurt at all; it felt like a slap," Parker said, explaining the first time he received shrapnel



Cpl. Robert Heckler, the drummer for Headhunter Main band, jams to one of their songs during the concert they put on as a part of the task force's Independence Day celebration.

from a grenade attack. "About 30 minutes after [I got hit], it burned like a sun of a gun."

After the ceremony, the boxing smoker began. Command Sgt. Major Donald Felt, the senior enlisted member of the task force, jumped into the ring dressed as Uncle Sam, tossing out patriotic hacky sacks, American flags and candy to the crowd.

"What I really tried to do was come up with a day-long plan so that as many people as possible could participate," Felt said.

As the first boxers entered the ring decorated with red, white and

blue, one Soldier hollered 'Where's the ring girl,' and others were betting on who would win. The three judges steadied their eyes on the boxers and the fight started. Eight different weight class fights were underway with eight titles to win.

Many of the three-round fights were won by decision, but the last fight was won by a technical knockout. With a square punch to his opponent's face, the Headhunter's super heavyweight champion knocked his opponent to the ground for the second knockdown. Soldiers rushed the ring screaming and hollering at the hit they

just witnessed.

"I was surprised really," Luis "Nitro" Carter, the champion, said after his fight. "I just wanted to get a good shot in. If I saw it, I was going to take it."

When the fights were over, the Soldiers migrated to the volleyball and basketball courts.

"I think it's excellent," Staff Sgt. Nathan Brown, a medic with Headquarters Company, 1-9 Cav., said about the day's events while watching one of the basketball games. "Everyone I talk to says it makes them forget they're over here; it's good for morale."

And for the final sports event of the day, the HHC medics played the Company C "Crazywolves", 1-9 Cav., in the last soccer game of the season. These two teams had worked hard the last two months during the task force's soccer to get to the top. After two sudden death overtimes and a shootout, the medics took the championship 4-3 over the Crazywolves.

During a quick ceremony at the end of the day, the task force commander gave out awards for the different events and urged his Soldiers to check out the concert to enjoy some music from two different bands - Headhunter Main and the Homeland Security Band.

The Soldiers gathered outside Toby's Favorite Bar, and Planet Headhunter, while Headhunter Main got on the make-shift stage.

Headhunter Main opened the concert with the National Anthem. They played mostly slow songs by Hootie and the Blowfish, Third Eye Blind and other slow rock bands, but a song most of the Soldiers and the Iraqis that attended the event enjoyed was "Pretty Woman."

During the band's breaks, the Homeland Security Band jumped on stage and picked up the beat playing songs by Staind, Nirvana and Weezer.

"I had a number of comments during the concert," Felt said. "One [trooper] told me 'for one minute I forgot I was in Baghdad,' and another one told me 'it was a little piece of home.'"

The day proved to be time away from the stressful anxieties the deployment brings to the Soldiers. The troopers had a chance to relax, have a good time, and take out some aggression through competition.

"The competition was good," Felt said. "It helps get their anxieties or their frustrations out and kind of just takes their mind off of what they've been doing for about four months now."



Photos by Spc. Bryan Kinkade, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs



(Above) 2nd Lt. Pat Miller, a medic with HHC 1-9 Cav., jukes past one of his opponents from the Charlie Company "Crazywolves", 1-9 Cav.

(Left) Luis "Nitro" Carter, 8th Engineer Battalion, backs off after getting a 'money shot' in, knocking Gregory Williams, Company C, 1-9 Cav., to the ground for his second knockdown in the match.

Photos by

Day Celebration



By Capt. Mitch Zornes, 122nd MPAD

MWR Brings Celebration to Camp Victory North

By Spc. Marie Whitney
122nd MPAD

CAMP VICTORY NORTH, Baghdad-- Barbecues, fun and games: The three things that make up a typical 4th of July celebration. And thanks to the Morale, Welfare and Recreation personnel in the area, that is what the Soldiers at Camp Victory got on the anniversary of the United State's independence.

The celebration started out with a 5-kilometer fun run put on by the Equal Opportunity section of the 1st Cavalry

(Left) As a part of the 4th of July celebrations that took place on Camp Victory North, 1st Cavalry Division Soldiers participate in a single elimination volleyball tournament early in the morning July 4th. The 411th Engineer Battalion beat F Troop, 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery 23-21 to claim the tournament title. (Below) More than 50 1st Cavalry Division Soldiers line up just before they start out on the 5K run that took place on July 4th.

Division and the division's Engineer Brigade. More than 50 Soldiers showed up as singles or in ten-man groups at 5:30 in the morning, some on their day off.

Spc. Steven Phillips, from the division headquarters' Automation Systems (G-6) section, finished in first place out of all the male runners. The top woman finisher was Capt. Elizabeth Evans, commander of the Engineer Brigade's headquarters company. The 458th Engineer Battalion claimed the title as the top team.

After the run, the celebration

moved down the road to where a volleyball tournament was held. Twelve teams showed up to participate in the single elimination event. Staff Sgt. Christopher Cherok of Headquarters Company, 458th Engineer Battalion took on the volleyball competition right after completing the run.

But when it got down to the last game, the only two teams left were the 411th Engineer Battalion and F Troop of 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment. The engineers squeaked by, in overtime, with a 23-21 win to claim the tournament title.

Wrapping up the morning's activities, Soldiers were treated with a barbecue at the Pegasus Sports Oasis dining facility. Everything in the chow hall was in tune with the celebration of Independence Day. The cooks of the division's Headquarters Company wore red, white and blue soccer-style uniforms.

American flags hung from the ceiling, while cakes and pies were decked out in red, white and blue frosting. There was even a three-foot tall ice carving of the division's patch.

"This is fantastic," said Sgt. Dan Lewis of the division's Fire Support Element. "This barbecue just blows the last one we had out of the water. The variety of food is outstanding and the ice sculpture was really cool."



By Spc. Marie Whitney, 122nd MPAD



Photos by Spc. Andy Miller, 122nd MPAD

(Above) Pfc. Christopher Hoemann, a paladin howitzer mechanic with 1st Battalion, 82nd FA Regiment of Task Force Lancer, exits the parade field with 10 other Purple Heart recipients at an Independence Day ceremony at Camp War Eagle in Baghdad. Hoemann was injured when struck by shrapnel from a mortar that hit his work area.

(Left) 1st Lt. Christopher Doherty, a fire support officer with 1st Battalion, 12 Cavalry Regiment, pins a 1st Cavalry Division combat patch on the right shoulder of Sgt. Christian Freeman, a 1-12 Cav. fire support sergeant, during an Independence Day ceremony at Camp War Eagle.

Lancers Observe July 4th at Camp Eagle

By Spc. Andy Miller
122nd MPAD

CAMP EAGLE, Baghdad-- An Independence Day ceremony brought together the elements of 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment (Task Force Lancer), of the 1st Cavalry Division, at Camp Eagle in eastern Baghdad the morning of July 4.

Task Force Lancer has been at the camp since March 31, when it took control of military operations in the Al-Thawra District (formerly Sadr City) from the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment. The Task Force observed Independence Day with an awards and combat-patch ceremony.

"It's a perfect day to have the ceremony," Task Force Lancer Command Sgt. Maj. Fernando Rodriguez said. "We've got to take the opportunity to... recognize folks and award our Soldiers with what they have earned."

By pinning the First Team division patch on a battle buddies right shoulder, the Lancer Soldiers displayed that they've served in a combat zone. Wearing the combat patch on the right shoulder is only authorized to Soldiers who served in a designated combat zone for more than 30 days.

1st Lt. Christopher Doherty, a fire support officer with Company B, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, said the Task Force Soldiers earned their right shoulder patch by frequently being in combat. The Soldiers have encountered enemy contact during the Mahdi Army militia uprising over the past three months.

"Considering all that 2-5 has been through, and the area of Baghdad that we're in... it felt really good to know that we've been noticed, that we're getting that patch and being recognized," Doherty said. "On the 4th of July, it makes you miss home a lot. But on the other hand, it makes you realize what you are fighting for. And getting that [patch] pinned on during the 4th of July is special."

In addition to the combat patch, all the infantry Soldiers from Task Force Lancer were awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge (CIB) during the ceremony. Worn on the uniform above the left breast pocket, the CIB is only awarded to infantry Soldiers who have demonstrated exemplary conduct in action against an enemy.

"The CIB is the highest award that an infantryman can get. It means you've done your job in combat, and you've done it to standard," said Rodriguez, who earned his CIB in 1991 while serving with the 1st Armored Division in the Gulf War.

Other Lancer Soldiers were distinguished with additional awards during the ceremony. Col. Robert "Abe" Abrams, the 1st BCT commander, presented 11 Purple Hearts, nine Army Commendation Medals and a Bronze Star Medal with valor device.

Sgt. Eric Bourquin, a team leader with Company C, 2-5 Cav., received the bronze star with valor device for his actions during a battle April 4 with enemy forces in Sadr City. He said it was an honor to receive the award and be a part of the ceremony.

Bowie Brigade

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July 23, 2004

Joint Patrol Fosters Community Relations

By Cpl. Benjamin Cossel
122nd MPAD

TUNIS, Iraq-- With only days remaining until Iraqi sovereignty was to be restored, Coalition forces worked doggedly to ensure those would take the mantle of Iraqi security were properly trained.

Working with a platoon of Iraqi National Guard (ING), Soldiers of Company B, 3rd Battalion 153rd Infantry, 39th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division conducted a patrol in an area more commonly known as "The Fish Market" June 20.

"Our mission tonight is twofold," said 1st Lt. Keith Wilson, Company B commander. "First, any mission we can get the [ING] involved with us gives them an opportunity to gain experience they normally wouldn't have. Plus it allows Iraqi citizens to see them working with us and fosters the sense that Iraqis are the ones patrolling the areas, keeping things safe as we reduce our footprint. Second, we're conducting an information operations campaign. My Soldiers are handing out stickers and comic books to the kids as well as just talking to the citizens of this area, getting an idea of their views and opinions."

During the operation, members of the ING set up perimeter security as well as traffic control points.

"Earlier today we had these guys out zeroing their weapons and going over basic rifle marksmanship," said Sgt. Patrick Lemley, company radio operator, 3-153. "Everything we can do to get them ready to run missions without us we are going to do."

As their ING counterparts maintained security, Soldiers of 3-153 walked about the area, mobbed by children eager for comic books or stickers the Soldiers were handing out.

"The kids really love us here," said Mikal Brooks, of Company B, 3-153. "Basically this whole area is positive to neutral about the Coalition. Us being out here, interacting with them, just the face-to-face type of engagements helps to change their opinion and make them more positive toward us. Engaging children really helps too. Iraqis have a real deep love of their children and when they see us giving them stuff and having a good time with them, it goes a long way."

Aside from the positive reaction of the children, local shop owners and residents of the area also received the joint patrol warmly.



By Cpl. Benjamin Cossel, 122nd MPAD

Soldiers from the Iraq National Guard and Company B, 3rd Battalion 153rd Infantry, 39th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division perform a joint patrol on the streets of Tunis, Iraq, more commonly known as "The Fish Market" June 20.

"It's great to see Iraqis being a part of this," said one shopkeeper as he came out to interact with the Soldiers. "It really gives us hope for the future, seeing Iraqis doing this."

After patrolling the area for about an hour, the joint patrol mounted up and con-

voyed back to Forward Operating Base Gunslinger.

"I really think this mission was a big success," Wilson said. "We were able to interact with the citizens of the area and show them their security forces in action. That's a win-win situation for all of us."

Safety Tips

-Things to keep in mind for PT safety

- do not run alone.
- stay on the right side of the road.
- stay on the pavement.
- avoid stepping on or kicking debris laying in the road.
- wear your reflective safety belt or vest.
- do not wear headphones.
- do not run close to concertina wire.
- stay hydrated.
- when running in formation, all members of the formation must stay within the right lane.

Soldiers Arrive in Iraq to Backfill 39th Brigade

By Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns
39th BCT Public Affairs

TAJI, Iraq-- Arkansas' 39th Brigade Combat Team recently received nearly 150 replacements from the states to backfill units who have lost troops due to combat and non-combat related events.

"The reality is this," said 39th Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Isbell, while briefing incoming Soldiers of their new surroundings. "you're in combat now."

The new Soldiers sat through a series of briefings that explained the rules of engagement, promotions, pay, and theater-specific operations.

New arrivals to the Baghdad International Airport were welcomed with incoming mortar fire July 2. Mortar rounds hit the base as Soldiers moved off the plane single-file, gathering on the flight line for further instructions.

The freshly arrived Soldiers grabbed

their gear as Isbell, who came to greet them, directed troops to scatter in an effort to prevent possible casualties.

Pfc. Ryan Thackeray, 19, of Corvallis, Ore., was briefed on the flight line that the mortar attacks were nothing new.

"It was definitely something to fear," said Thackeray, who is catching up to his company after being left behind in Fort Hood, Texas on medical hold for a broken ankle. "It (mortar attacks) was what I was expecting but I wasn't expecting it so soon."

In an unusual twist, a new recruit who completed basic training in February, met up with her mother in Iraq just two hours after the plane landed.

Pfc. Courtland Faulkner, 19, of Little Rock, Ark., is a supply clerk for the 39th Brigade Headquarters Company, who was still in basic training at the time her unit left for Iraq. Her mother, Sgt. Angela Carey is a combat medic for the same brigade and had already been in Iraq for nearly three months when her daughter arrived two days ago.

"I was very excited to see her," said Faulkner.

In an effort to maintain family ties, Faulkner's mother gave her a radio so that the two could keep in contact. It wasn't a phone but it was close enough.

"I can call her on the radio," said Faulkner. "It doesn't get good reception but it's a good method and makes both of us feel more at ease."

For the next week, Soldiers will re-qualify on their weapons and receive further training on convoy operations, close-quarter combat operations and clearing buildings before being released to their new units.



By Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns, 39th BCT Public Affairs

Pvt. Joshua Lunsford, of DeQueen, Ark., fills out paperwork along with other replacements upon arrival in Taji, Iraq. Within a week, Lunsford will join his new unit in the 39th Brigade Combat Team's 1st Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment, in Baghdad. Lunsford is one of more than 100 replacements who arrived in Iraq to fill vacancies due to both combat and non-combat losses.

Red Team

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Iraqi Guard Unit Trains for the Future

By Pfc. Al Barrus
122nd MPAD

AL DAURA, Baghdad-- Overseen by advisors from the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, two platoons from Company A, 40th Battalion, 304th Iraqi National Guard (ING) Brigade took on their first mission as a 60-man element June 22.

Having received intelligence of suspected terrorist activity in an Al Daura palm grove, the two ING platoons along with five advisors, dismounted from their vehicles and marched through the rugged, jungle-like terrain as well as the surrounding neighborhoods.

The platoons covered more than three square kilometers, marching nearly ten miles in the scorching Baghdad sun, according to Sgt. 1st Class Brian Martinez, the senior ING advisor to the company.

"The mission was for two things," Martinez said. "One was to get the [ING] out into the community, and also to locate any weapons caches that might be along any roads or trails we marched on."

While no contraband was seized or any suspects detained, the mission was a good learning experience, according to Capt. Michael Cole, the 1-8 Cav. Iraqi security forces officer.

"Overall, the first half went

very well," Cole said. "[In] the second half, after everyone got tired they lost some of their discipline, it gave us a good place to start from and we could identify some of our short falls in the company."

The mission may not have gone perfectly, but the troops have come a long way.

"Before we would mostly have them assist on [1-8 Cav.] missions to provide security on the outer cordon of a search or a raid," Martinez said. "Now they have been integrated into the tactical searching. They do patrols and infantry stuff."

The mission helped the advisors realize where there was room for improvement, and where the strengths lie for the unit they are helping to develop.

"Right now I think they need work on the large scale operations," Cole noted. "But [with] small precise missions and interacting with the people they are excellent because they are Iraqis."

As Cole works with the ING and sees their growth and observes how they work, he now knows that they are worthy warriors and is proud to work along side them.

"Many of these Soldiers I have come to know as every bit as dedicated and loyal as American Soldiers," Cole added. "I feel safe with those guys, and I feel confident that if we got in a firefight they would back me up."



(Above) Senior ING advisor Sgt. 1st Class Brian Martinez of 1-8 Cav. leads the way through the rugged palm grove in Al Daura, searching for any weapons caches or terrorist activity.



(Left) Iraqi National Guard troops of a Co. 40-304 ING, advised by 1-8 Cav, take a knee and watch guard before they begin a three square-kilometer search through an Al Daura palm grove.

Photos by Pfc. Al Barrus, 122nd MPAD

Soldiers, Veterinarians Give Agriculture a Boost

By Pfc. Al Barrus
122nd MPAD

AL RASHID, Baghdad - Fifty Iraqi veterinarians hired by the 5th Brigade Combat Team of the 1st Cavalry Division, began giving vaccinations to farm animals during the Al Rashid

District Animal Health Project June 20.

The \$156,000 project to provide deworming and vaccinations to more than 50,000 animals kicked off in an open field, where the animal health team oversaw the first day of the two to three month mission.

"We're doing this project for a few

reasons," said 1st Lt. Chip Cole, the 5th BCT animal health officer. "There is an abundance of veterinarians without jobs. The second thing is these animals are being eaten up by internal parasites. The third is the borders are open and there are all of these animals coming in with pathogens, so we started vaccinating them against common diseases to sustain the herd that is here."

Cole, an experienced farmer with a bachelor's degree of Animal Science, along with Staff Sgt. Barry Rinehart, a high school agriculture teacher, were tasked to work with the Red Team as the animal health team.

"They told me they were having problems with their irrigation and I wanted to do something about it," Cole said. "We ended up doing a full analysis and [found] out what was wrong and how to fix it."

While the vaccinations and irrigation projects are already underway, there are a number of other projects the two would like to start to improve the farming and agriculture of Al Rashid.

"We would like to supply them with some certified seed to introduce a wider gene pool of corn, barley and wheat,"

Cole said. "Their seed is so inbred that it won't germinate, and if it does it puts out a very low yield."

As a narrow gene pool is crippling the crop production, this problem is similar for the livestock in the area, Cole said.

"Were also looking at a way to improve the milk production of the cows, but they are so inbred they only produce a quarter of what they should," Cole said. "The cheapest and easiest way to do this is ship over bull semen and artificially inseminate the cows."

These projects, along with the implementation of herbicides, insecticides, and a renovation of a local slaughterhouse are all future projects that will improve Iraqi agriculture and food production. The Soldiers expect that the projects will improve the economy and improve the quality of life for the Iraqi people.

"If you help the people with their animals that's a big portion of their lives," Rinehart said. "They may have one cow or they may have four or five, but they can't afford to lose one, so this improves their home life and the future of their children."



Photo by Pfc. Al Barrus, 122nd MPAD

An Iraqi veterinarian hired by the 5th Brigade Combat Team starts off his first day of work vaccinating animals in Al Rashid by administering a de-worming injection to a Holstein cow.

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UA Recognizes Need for Male Nurses

From Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark.-- Tommy Reed talked quietly to his "patient" as he dabbed her forehead with a warm, damp washcloth.

"You still doing all right?" Reed asked Tina Pastakia, who was lying on a hospital bed, covered by a white sheet.

Reed and Pastakia are nursing students at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. They took turns in class last week practicing how to clean a bedridden patient.

Reed was the only man in the room.

Reed is one of eight male students in the nursing school at the Fayetteville campus. The other 92 are women.

At 8 percent, UA is at the national average for men enrolled in post-secondary nursing programs. Once they graduate, men join a smaller fraternity. About 6 percent of the nation's 2.7 million nurses are men.

"This has been an ongoing concern across the country," said Jean Bartels, president of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.

Nursing schools in different states have developed marketing campaigns to draw men, said Bartels, who heads the nursing school at Georgia Southern University.



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, nursing student Ryan McSpadden, one of eight male nurses on the campus, shares some knowledge about shaving with classmates.

Her school worked with other south Georgia nursing programs to hold a recruitment fair last spring for men, she said. The event, which drew a couple hundred men, piggy-backed the Oregon Center for Nursing's recruitment campaign, launched in November 2002 with the slogan: "Are you man enough

... to be a nurse?"

A copy of the poster is displayed at UA's nursing school. Reed, a junior, said his friends and family would like him to find a job beyond nursing, such as a doctor. "They don't care about the care I'd rather give," he said. "I can't think of anything else I'd

like to be."

The student nursing population needs to be more diverse, said Tom Kippenbrock director of UA's Eleanor Mann School of Nursing.

Kippenbrock was one of three men in a class of 50 when he attended Indiana University's nursing school in the 1970s. "It hasn't

changed a lot over time," he said. Statistics show more men are enrolling in nursing schools nationwide than four years ago, according to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.

Still, the percentage of men in nursing programs has dipped from 10.7 percent in 1995 to 8.4 percent in 2003, according to the association.

Men also dropped out of nursing schools at a higher percentage in 2000 than in 1992, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

To understand the low numbers of men in nursing, one has to go back to the turn of the 20th century, said Gene Tranbarger, president of the American Assembly for Men in Nursing.

Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, believed nurses should be women, Tranbarger said.

Nightingale, who started a training school for nurses in London in 1860, didn't mean to discriminate against men, he said. She wanted to create a profession for women in the Victorian Era, he said. Because of Nightingale's influence, nursing is seen as a feminine profession, he said.

Men were barred from most nursing schools until the 1960s.

The Army Nurse Corps, founded in 1901, prohibited men until 1955.

Iraqi Kids Will Soon Play on Big Toys

From the Olympian

TUMWATER, Wash.- Children playing on Big Toys playground equipment is part and parcel of everyday life in the South Sound.

Big Toys, manufactured in Tumwater, are everywhere - elementary schools, parks and day care centers.

Soon, children in war-torn Iraq will be playing on a Big Toys playground.

The company is donating a \$12,000, midsize playground to Iraq.



The Olympian

Betty and Craig Holt pour mixed concrete into post holes as a volunteer group of PTA members install a Big Toys playground at Garfield Elementary School.

It's not a statement for or against the war, but rather an effort to reach out to Iraqi children.

"While we may have different opinions about the war in Iraq, we can agree that the children in this region have suffered more than any of us can imagine," said Tim Madeley, Big Toys owner and president.

There are no illusions over the relative importance of one playground, but Madeley said it's a step in the right direction.

Big Toys is working in partnership with Save the Children, an organization that works to bring positive change to children's lives in the United States and throughout the world.

Save the Children employs more than 150 Iraqi aid workers and supports a range of programs for children and teachers, Madeley said.

The equipment was shipped last month to Kuwait City. It will be transported to a yet-to-be-determined city in southern Iraq.

Compared with metals and synthetics, wood fits well in scorching climates such as Iraq.

Madeley said it's Big Toys' mission to benefit children locally and worldwide.

As children in Iraq will soon know.

Where The Train?



Temple Daily Telegram

Angelina Hernandez, 3, plays on one of the trains on display at the Santa Fe Depot Railroad and Heritage Museum in Temple, Texas. Angelina and her family were waiting to take a train to Michigan where they will visit her mother who has recently returned from Iraq.

Local Economy Falls Victim to the Rain

From *Killeen Daily Herald*

KILLEEN, Texas- Recent rains have hit the city of Killeen in the pocketbook.

Two weeks of nearly continuous rain have put a damper on local sporting events and water sales — and both have dealt a blow to city revenue.

Organizers last week canceled a state softball tournament, which would have brought about 15 teams to stay in local hotels and eat in area restaurants.

Without a complete billing cycle for the month of June, any losses in the city's hotel-motel tax are hard to quantify, said Killeen Finance Director Connie Green.

While the city can't immediately put its arms around any tourism losses, the missed revenue from water sales is more easily calculated.

At the end of May, the city noted a 1.8 percent decrease in year-to-date water sales. The decrease means a \$102,000 revenue loss for the year.

If the city does not meet its budget, it may have an effect on rates next year.

But while water usage is down, the heavy rainfall has also caused sewage treatment prices to escalate.

"There is just more water running through the plant," Green said.

KCEN-TV Meteorologist Mike Cameron said the Central Texas area has received more

rain in the past six months than it normally gets in a year.

Cameron said 31 inches per year is considered normal. Official measurements showed that Waco inched past that total Tuesday.

"For the past 14 or 15 days, we've had measurable rain every day," Cameron said.

As the clouds loom overhead, Killeen Parks and Recreation workers pump water from fields at the city's softball complex, hoping next week's events, including games with the women's Olympic team and a national tournament will run as scheduled.

Parks and Recreation Supervisor Glen Morrison said the department is doing its best to work around the rain.



Killeen Daily Herald

Killeen Parks and Recreation worker Marcus Snell pushes water off one of the softball fields at the Killeen Athletic Center on Wednesday. The department had to cancel a state softball tournament that involved 16 teams, just one example of how the weather has affected the local economy.

Summer Camp Appeals to the Next Generation of Computer Whizzes

From *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*

SEATTLE- Even as a college student plotting out hypothetical business models for imaginary companies, Pete Findley's vision was complex and ambitious.

He envisioned a multi-limbed technology company with branches for children and adults, schools, businesses, even the military; a firm that could grow and evolve like the human brain itself, spreading the gospel of high-tech with missionary zeal.

But first, he had to start a summer camp.

It began in the summer of 1997, when the newly minted col-

lege graduate got the University of Washington to lend him a classroom where a few youngsters would learn to build Web pages.

Eight years later, Cybercamps has exploded to include 6,000 children at 50 camps across the country, creating video-game codes, digital animation, and elaborate multimedia Web sites with soundtracks from Led Zeppelin and Pink Floyd.

To Findley, 30, his success among youngsters is only logical. The surprise came later, when parents came to pick up their young charges and, agog at what their progeny could create, began to demand similar courses for themselves.

"Kids are acting like the chief technology officers in their families and parents don't want to be left behind. They're just blown away by their kids' love of technology and what they can do with it," said Findley, while 58 young computer wizards zipped between four university classrooms, devising digital films and computer-controlled robots.

To answer their pleas, the entrepreneur now offers 20 high-end adult technology courses at sites around Western Washington, including the Fort Lewis military base, through his umbrella company Giant Campus.

At that moment, camp director Anna Farr was trying to ascertain whether one of her students had sufficiently planned for next week's water fight. Cybercamp kids are not pasty geeks who refuse to set foot outside. Indeed,

Farr, a free-lance video-game designer in the adult world, discovered just how exuberant the new generation of tech-heads can be.

The water guns come from home, but all the other equipment — computers, monitors, digital cameras, editing software and robotics materials — are donated or sold at deep discounts by technology companies only too glad to reach youngsters early in their buying careers.

Cybercamp is pricey. Though Findley said he is aiming for the day when 10 percent of all campers will be financed by scholarships, most students now pay about \$500 for one five-day program. Many sign up for a single session.

To make sure Thomas and other Cybercampers stay involved and increase their skills during the school year, Findley and his staff have spent the last six years building thousands of hours of online curriculum so students can log on and return to their projects for 12 more months.

Cybercamps, which is designed for youngsters 7 to 16, is about 75 percent boys, but Findley, the ever-optimistic entrepreneur, has a plan for that as well.

"Next year, we're going to offer many more visual and creative courses to try and attract more girls," he said. "We're a learning company. Cybercamps is the foundation from which we're going to build a much bigger house."



Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Cybercamps counselor intern Helena Menendez, 17, helps 8-year-old Angie Mayr of Sumner with her robotics project. What started in one classroom in 1997 has grown to 50 camps across the country.

Teen Exhibit Connects Urban Visitors to Rural Nostalgia

From *The Oregonian*

The family farm exhibit, run by teens, provides a glimpse of what for most Oregonians is a thing of the past

For many adults, a first glimpse of the Oregon Zoo's new Trillium Creek Family Farm sparks a ripple of nostalgia.

For most teens and children, it marks an unfamiliar adventure.

The exhibit, which opens Saturday, is meant to bridge the generation gap between those who milked cows as a chore and those whose only bovine association is the milk that washes down the morning cereal.

"We want to connect people with the fact that Oregon has agricultural roots," said Charis Henrie, the zoo's education program coordinator. "More and more, our visitors are pretty urban."

The 18,000-square-foot exhibit mimics a Century Farm, a designation from the Oregon Historical Society for farms that have been in a family for at least 100 years. Nearly 1,000 Oregon farms are enrolled in the program.

Zoo visitors can pet rabbits and ducks, coax Shetland sheep to their sides and watch Pygora goats gobble food pellets. Most of the action for the exhibit's 11 breeds takes place on the wooden porch of a traditional farmhouse and inside a cavernous barn.

Zoo officials think the family farm will be the only exhibit in the country run completely by teenagers.

Volunteers from the summer ZooTeen program care for the animals and describe them to visitors.



The Oregonian

ZooTeen volunteer Amanda Brown, 15, holds a rabbit for Elizabeth Zegzula, 6, to pet Thursday at the Oregon Zoo's new Trillium Creek Family Farm exhibit. The traditional farm opens this weekend with special events.

Soldiers Produce Beats from Trailer Studio

By Spc. Marie Whitney
122nd MPAD

CAMP VICTORY NORTH, Baghdad-- "When it was time to come out here, I knew there wasn't going to be much going on for the year. And everyone else I knew was bringing their Xboxes and stuff. So I took my tax return and bought myself a mixer, a keyboard and microphone," said Spc. Robert Burke of Headquarters Company, 1st Cavalry Division. With this equipment, Burke set up a modest recording studio inside his trailer, out of which he and some of his friends from HHC, 1st Cav. Div. record music for their rap group, Eclectic.

Burke is the producer for their band, creating beats, recording the voice tracks and editing to create their final products. Turning out a new beat every couple of days isn't a struggle for Burke, who has been creating beats back home since 2000.

"Everything has a certain mood to it. One night I was going over the beats I had started in Kuwait and when we first got here to Iraq. You can hear the change in what I was feeling every time."

Burke's group mates don't take for granted what he brings to the group in knowledge and talent. "This guy's a genius," said Spc. Bryan Clark, the lyrical master of the group. "Every time we do a track he'll get on here and find something that could be done better. So our material is always getting better and better."

But setting up the studio turned out to be a little more difficult than the members of Eclectic had originally thought. "We would have had this going a long time ago, but when we first got here we had a problem

with the power situation," said the group's comic relief, Spc. Adrian Tucker. "We didn't have a transformer." But they soon got a transformer, enabling them to finally set up their studio. Now, all they needed was some lyrics.

Burke said that writing the lyrics for Eclectic's songs is a group effort. "The writing of the songs is a culmination of everybody. But each one of us is naturally good at something too," he said. "Clark will come up with a lot of ideas. And he can come up with some lyrics in a snap. I'll be feeling a certain way and I won't be able to express it through words, so I'll make a beat for it. And Tucker keeps us motivated."

The members of the group, who have been working together for the last three months, plan to try to put out a CD of their music during their time in Baghdad. They also intend to try to get their music played in the Morale Welfare and Recreation tent on Camp Victory North. And Clark plans to perform at the Equal-Opportunity-sponsored talent show July 24.

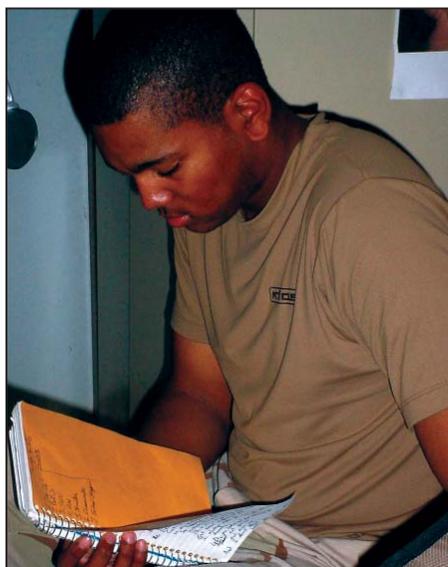
To the three HHC Soldiers, creating music is a definite escape from long days at work. "It's definitely a stress reliever," said Tucker.

But Eclectic takes their music seriously. Every time they sit down to work on their music, they're trying to improve on what they've been working on for a while already.

"It's always a work in progress," Burke said, "We talk about our lyrical content. We like what we do now, but we think we could come a little bit better from our hearts. It's not really a matter of if we can do it or not. It's if we try to do it or not."



(Above) Spc. Adrian "Tuck" Tucker of Headquarters Company, 1st Cavalry Division freestyles on the mic in the studio of Spc. Robert "Sticky" Burke, also of HHC, 1st Cav. Div. Tucker, Burke and Spc. Bryan Clark have a rap group called Eclectic that they began while in Baghdad.



(Far left) Burke looks for a good beat to freestyle to from the group of beats that he has created on his computer. Burke is the producer for a rap group he and his groupmates call Eclectic.

(Left) Clark, reviews his lyrics in his "book of lyrics" before jumping on the mic to record a song. Clark is the lyrical master for the rap group. Along with Burke, the producing expert and Tucker the comic relief, the three Headquarters Company Soldiers make up a close knit group, that they consider "like a family."



Photos by Spc. Marie Whitney, 122nd MPAD

First Team Meets Reenlistment Goal

By Master Sgt. Dave Larsen
1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

BAGHDAD -- Even faced with long deployments, involuntary extensions and the inability to move more freely from assignment to assignment, the 1st Cavalry Division has met its retention goals for the third quarter of this fiscal year.

The division reenlisted more than 700 Soldiers over the past three months, with more than a third reupping to stay with the First Team.

"That's a tremendous amount of Soldiers reenlisting for stabilization," said Sgt. Maj. Merle Henry, the division's command career counselor. "It says a lot about Cav traditions."

For the year, Henry said, the division's overall retention percentage stands at a whopping 124 percent. But that figure is a little misleading, since retention received credit for Soldiers who voluntarily extended to support Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

"In the first two quarters [of this year], we had no problem [achieving retention goals]," Henry said. "Meeting our first quarter retention mission sets the tone for the rest of the year. We don't have to play catch up."

Cash bonuses have played an important role in helping the First Team meet its reenlistment goals, Henry said.

"Because we're in a war zone, many Soldiers in specialties who might never see a bonus can get one here," he said. The size of the bonus is based on a Soldier's pay grade, and the length of the reenlistment.

Sgt. Rose Cerda, personnel services sergeant and driver for the division's command sergeant major, raised her hand to swear in for another six years, effectively maximizing her reenlistment bonus. She received \$10,000; all of it tax-free while serving in Iraq.

The San Antonio native said that her decision to reenlist had been a topic of discussion with her husband, Matt, even before she deployed. Actually, the choice was already made. The only question was the

timing.

"Ever since I joined, I knew I'd be a 'lifer,'" said the five-year Army veteran. "I think you'll see a lot of us [Soldiers in specialties normally not receiving bonuses] take advantage of it over here."

Besides the bonus money, Cerda also reenlisted in order to get a European assignment. She expects to depart Texas for Germany in July 2005. That leaves her just a few months after returning from Iraq to pack up the house and get her husband and 14-month-old son, Amadeo, ready for the trip. She's looking forward to it.

"I wanted to get a chance to go to Germany," she said. "I want my son to see the world."

Henry said the Army issued out \$5.1 million in reenlistment bonuses in the third quarter alone for First Team Soldiers. While he admits the money is important to retention, he said it's not the only factor keeping Soldiers in the Army, and in the First Team.

"I believe every Soldier who serves here is a great American," Henry said. "There's really not one thing that will trigger everybody to stay, but patriotism does play a role."

Looking into his retention crystal ball, Henry said it will become more difficult for the division to meet reenlistment goals down the road, since more than 1,000 Soldiers have been involuntarily extended under the Army Stop Loss policy to stay with the division during this deployment.

"When we return to Fort Hood, those Soldiers are going to want to get on with their lives," Henry said.

Henry said the most important issue for Soldiers today impacting on their decision to either stay in or leave the force is future deployments, especially the uncertainty of the length of time of those deployments.

"Many Soldiers tell me that if they knew future rotations were six months in length, instead of a year, it would make a difference," he said. "A year away from family is a long time, and the decision to reenlist, or not, is a family decision."



Photo by Spc. Joseph Hickey, HHC, 1st Cav. Div.

Sgt. Rose Cerda (right), a personnel sergeant with the 1st Cavalry Division's Headquarters Company, reenlists for a six-year term at the division's headquarters building July 3. Cerda is one of many First Team Soldiers taking advantage of special reenlistment bonuses available to troops serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. Lt. Col. Frank Caponio, the division's chief of personnel, conducted the reenlistment ceremony.

1st Cavalry Division Remembers...



Photos by Pfc. Erik LeDrew, 122nd MPAD

(Above) Artillery troopers of the 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, mourn the loss of their friend and comrade-in-arms, Spc. Shawn Michael Davies, at a memorial ceremony July 15, on Camp Blackjack.

(Left) A First Team Trooper salutes the display of Davies' rifle, kevlar, boots and ID tags following the ceremony. Davies died of non-combat-related injuries on July 8. He is survived by his parents, Ronald and Martha Davies.

Our Fallen Troops

Spc. Eric, McKinley

Spc. Shawn Davies

Spc. Jeremiah Schmunk



"Thund-Her-Struck" Strikes Camp Eagle

By Spc. Andy Miller
122nd MPAD

CAMP WAR EAGLE, Baghdad-- First Team Soldiers at this eastern Baghdad base camp took a break July 2 when entertainers from the United States stopped by to perform as part of an Independence Day holiday Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) tour.

Under a bright summer sun, hundreds of 1st Brigade Soldiers crowded around the stage they had built in front of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment (Task Force Lancer) headquarters to listen to the jokes of comedian Dan Smith and the rock and roll sounds of Thund-Her-Struck, an all girl AC/DC tribute band from Los Angeles.

The entertainers said it was an honor for them to entertain the troops at War Eagle, which is located in one of the most dangerous areas of Baghdad. Smith, who has family in the military, said that he always requests to do shows in areas like this one when on an MWR tour.

When the girls of Thund-Her-Struck heard they were going to Camp War Eagle, their manager, Dwayne Ulloa, told them to be prepared for anything and everything. The band wasn't deterred by the idea of going into a combat zone, though.

"[I said] I can tell you that I know the military doesn't mess around when it comes to our safety, and they are going to do their utmost to provide us as much safety and security as they can. But we're going into the belly



Photo by Spc. Andy Miller, 122nd MPAD

Thund-Her-Struck singer, Dyna Shirasaki, hands a T-Shirt to 1st Sgt. Erik Smith of the 1st Battalion, 82 Field Artillery Regiment, at a concert held at Camp War Eagle in Eastern Baghdad July 2. The event, which included an appearance by comedian Dan Smith and the all-girl AC/DC tribute band, Thund-Her-Struck, was held as part of Morale, Welfare and Recreation tour to celebrate the Independence Day holiday in Iraq.

of the beast, so to speak," Ulloa, the event promoter, told the band. "And [the band members] put their flak jackets and their Kevlar helmets on, and hopped in the copter, and said 'Let's go rock their world!'"

At the show, Soldiers were set to 'rock and roll' as they crowded around the front of

the stage, pumping their fists in the air, some of them singing along. Between songs, band members would pass out T-Shirts and compact discs, and joke with Soldiers in the crowd. All the while, Camp Eagle Soldiers were getting a break from the rigors of life in a combat zone.

After playing a full set of classic AC/DC tunes, Task Force Lancer commander, Lt. Col. Gary Volesky went on stage to present the comedian and band members with certificates of appreciation. Then, following an encore performance, the band members stayed well into the night to sign autographs for Soldiers who lined up for a chance to meet with them.

Sgt. Michael Philips, a gunner with the Task Force Lancer's Outlaws platoon, asked the members of Thund-Her-Struck to add their signatures to the guitar he'd brought from home.

"I've always been a music buff. Everything is guitar orientated. I know a lot about guitars, different people, what they play, what their strings are, what their amps are and their settings," Philips said.

Stephanie Leigh, the Thund-Her-Struck drummer, said the show was the most interesting she's ever played. Her band is accustomed to playing at Los Angeles night clubs and indoor entertainment venues. She said coming to Camp Eagle was a way for the band to show respect to Soldiers serving in Iraq.

"We've done several different tours, like to the Balkans and stuff, but when you're asked to come to Iraq to play for the troops, it's like oh, you have to think about that for a second," Leigh said. "But it's an honor to come out. [These Soldiers] spend so much time out here, doing what [they] do for our country, that for us to come out and entertain and do such a small stint, it's an honor."

Rocket Gets Rocked; Shaq in Heat; Boozer in Utah

It's a good thing that this is an Olympic year. Unless you are a diehard baseball fan, the mid-summer means a slow-down for sporting news. But there is enough going on to eek out a column for this issue, Sports Fans.

We'll start off with baseball, where Roger Clemens got bombed in baseball's mid-summer classic, giving home field advantage to the American League in the World Series. I'm thinking conspiracy here. First and foremost, consider the Rocket's recent ties to the New York Yankees (who everyone knows will WIN the American League pennant!), and his affection for Joe Torre. Then there's Clemens' disdain for his own battery mate on the N.L. squad, the Mets' Mike Piazza. Put two and two together, and Voila!, a conspiracy theory is born.

I didn't get to actually see the Major League Baseball All-Star Game this year. Usually, I don't

Trigger Pull

really care who wins ... even when the game ended in a tie two years ago in Milwaukee. But with home field advantage on the line, it makes the Rocket's meltdown in the game more significant. Clemens got tagged for six runs in one inning; three of them earned on five hits. He did manage to get strike outs for two of the three outs he registered. Other than that, he got rocked. The AL won the game, going away, 9-4.

Another all-star break story comes out of Houston, as the Astros sent their manager packing. Jimmy Williams had his team laboring to a 44-44 record at the break, despite the additions of Clemens and former Yankee Andy Pettitte. Phil Garner gets a shot at the job in the second half of the season, but his team trails the Cardinals by double-digits.

Garner is a former Astro himself, and most recently led the Detroit Tigers to the worst record in baseball. Garner NEVER had this much talent to work with before, though.

"We got some boys on this team that I think can do something really special," he told the AP following the announcement of his hiring. If Garner can pull this group together, a wild card appearance in the play-offs isn't out of the question, but I'm still betting on the Cubs and Cardinals making it in

MSG Dave
Larsen
Sports Buff



from the tough NL Central Division.

Another big news item comes from the National Basketball Association: the Lakers are dead. Shaquille O'Neal is history in Tinseltown and headed east to Miami. Heat president Pat Riley was even able to get the big fella without giving away his most-prized ball player, guard Dwayne Wade. He gave up a number one pick and three players: Caron Butler, Lamar Odom and Brian Grant. True, none of those three guys are total stiff, but none of them are all-star caliber players, either. Shaq said that he will make Wade even better.

"I look forward to making D-Wade a starting all-star this year and the number one guard in the Eastern Conference," O'Neal told the Associated Press following the trade.

The NBA champion Detroit Pistons are working to stay on top, with their recent signing of Antonio McDyess. The injury-prone former all-star power forward makes a

deep unit even deeper if he can stay on the floor next season, and the Pistons can re-sign Rasheed Wallace. Stay tuned.

A final note about the NBA: Carlos Boozer is leaving Cleveland for Utah. The Jazz surprised the league last year, finishing 42-40 when most "experts" picked them dead last. They narrowly missed the play-offs out west, and the addition of Boozer should put them back in the post-season mix. Not championship caliber yet, but the Jazz will make it to the dance.

The last item this time is a bit bizarre: Mike Ditka has decided not to run on the GOP ticket for the Illinois senatorial race. The Illinois Republican Party still doesn't have a candidate to face off with Democrat Barack Obama. The election is just four months away.

In declining the opportunity to run, the Hall of Fame tight end and former Chicago Bear coach said he didn't think his famous temper would play well on Capitol Hill.

"I don't know how I would react on the Senate floor if I got in a confrontation with somebody," Ditka told the AP outside his Chicago restaurant.

It's a good move on Ditka's part to pass on politics. Good for us, anyway. Remember, this is the guy who traded an entire draft for one running back.

That's the news, as I see it. Until next time: Go Packers!

Standings

MLB
As of July 17, 2004

American League East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	56	32	.636	--
Boston	48	39	.552	7.5
Tampa Bay	43	46	.483	13.5
Toronto	39	50	.438	17.5
Baltimore	38	49	.437	17.5

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago Sox	46	40	.535	--
Minnesota	47	42	.528	.5
Detroit	43	46	.483	4.5
Cleveland	42	46	.477	5
Kansas City	33	54	.379	13.5

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	50	37	.575	--
Oakland	49	39	.557	1.5
Anaheim	48	40	.545	2.5
Seattle	33	54	.379	17

National League East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	47	42	.528	--
Atlanta	46	43	.517	1
Florida	45	44	.506	2
New York	45	44	.506	2
Montreal	32	57	.360	15

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	56	33	.629	--
Chicago Cubs	48	41	.539	8
Milwaukee	46	42	.523	9.5
Cincinnati	47	43	.522	9.5
Houston	44	45	.494	12
Pittsburgh	40	47	.460	15

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	49	38	.521	--
San Francisco	50	40	.556	.5
San Diego	48	41	.533	2
Colorado	36	52	.403	13.5
Arizona	31	59	.355	19.5

Glossary:
W: Wins, L: Losses, PCT: Winning percentages, GB: Games back



AP Photo