

27th MSB: Rolling on a Moment's Notice

By Sgt. Merrion LaSonde
122nd MPAD

CAMP COOKE, Iraq—Recent combat in Najaf means that large pieces of military equipment must be moved to support the mission on a moment's notice. The Soldiers of Company B, Heavy Equipment Transporter (HET) operators of the 27th Main Support Battalion, Division Support Command, 1st Cavalry Division, make sure that equipment gets to where it's needed as soon as possible.

In three days, the company logged more than 1,000 miles and 58 hours on the road, supporting short notice missions.

"Normally we get 12 to 24 hours notice for a mission," said Capt. Joshua Vogel, Company B's commander. "For this particular mission, we got five."

Given the three-hour time frame to prepare all available heavy trans-



Heavy equipment transporters in the 27th MSB, DISCOM, are parked in the staging yard, prepared for the next mission. porters for the mission seemed an insurmountable task, as most of their drivers were on missions in and around Baghdad.

While the rest of the company worked on standard maintenance checks, the drivers began streaming in, two hours before their scheduled departure time.

"The first mission was to integrate ... trucks into the convoy, go to Camp Banzai, which we had never been to before, pick up a unit's equipment and transport them to Najaf,"



Photos by Sgt. Merrion LaSonde, 122nd MPAD

Sgt. Anthony Agnone, a heavy wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 27th MSB, fills a tire with air in preparation for a convoy mission. Agnone is in charge of the broken-down-vehicle recovery crew and rides along on all the Heavy Equipment Transporter missions.

Vogel said. "Nineteen separate convoys arrived, hours and 230 miles later, they arrived and downloaded the equipment for the units to begin preparing for their combat missions. Depending on when the

the drivers had anywhere from two to six hours of rest before returning to Cooke for their next mis-

Continued on Page 2

Air Defense Air Management Cell: The Future has Arrived

By Pfc. Matthew McLaughlin
10th Mtn. Div. Public Affairs

CAMP VICTORY, Baghdad - They are the poster children of the new brigade unit of action (UA). Constantly learning and evolving, they are putting a new concept to the test in the most serious of environments.

Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team (Commandos), 10th Mountain Division, are working in the first deployed Air Defense Air

Management (ADAM) cell as a part of the new unit of action. The ADAM cell is responsible for assuring that fire support and aviation don't conflict with each other in the Commando BCT's area of responsibility.

"We are the first ADAM cell in a combat zone in the Army," said Sgt. Ryan Hignight, ADAM cell non-commissioned officer in charge. "We're the middle-man; ground control. We coordinate fire

support and aviation so we're not firing into air corridors where aircraft fly through. Anything that flies through our area of responsibility goes through us. If an aircraft goes through our area of responsibility, we get advanced notice so firing won't conflict with them."

Hignight said the ADAM cell will assume responsibilities for the area of operations when they replace Soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division.

The Commando's ADAM cell is a sign of things to come for the new UA meant to combine all necessary assets for successful deployment into one brigade. Due to 2nd BCT's deployment, 1st Lt. Eric Rose, Headquarters Company, 2nd BCT, said they were given an opportunity to be the first deployed unit to utilize the ADAM cell.

"We had the option to do it first," he said. "The

Continued on Page 2

Short Notice; Fast Work for Troops

Continued from Page 1
sion.”

Vogel explained the return trip was only about 10 hours because of the lighter loads, which afforded the drivers a little more rest before heading out again.

“As soon as they returned, they did about four hours of maintenance with help from the rest of the company, parked the trucks in the staging area, got about six hours sleep then reported back to work to finish vehicle maintenance.”

The next mission would be more of the same: integrate with another unit's convoy, transport their equipment to Najaf, drop their load and return to

“It is a long trip, but we did it before and we'll do it again.”

- Pfc. Maria Salas
HET Operator 27 MSB

home base for more vehicle maintenance and much-needed rest for the weary.

Pfc. Maria Salas, HET operator and Orlando, Fla. native, took all the rushing around and lack of sleep in stride.

“It is a long trip, but we did it before and we'll do it again,” she said.

Squad leader and Killeen, Texas resident, Staff Sgt., John Franklin, supervised his crew of six while they prepared for their short-notice mission.

“I have a great squad,” Franklin said. “They are

hard working and reliable. They did a day's work in three hours with no complaining. They just jumped in and started.”

Vogel praised the abilities and attitudes of the personnel in his company.

“I was impressed with how quickly the load was done,” he said. “They worked fast and hard with little sleep and prep time. They faced the challenges of integrating into another battalion and then moving out with them to a location they had never been or seen. They did a great job.”



By Sgt. Merrion LaSonde, 122nd MPAD

Pfc. Maria Salas, HET operator with the 27th MSB, 1st Cav. Div., checks her truck's oil level as part of her preventive maintenance before the next day's mission.

ADAM Cell Combines Air Defense and Aviation Into One

Continued from Page 1
brigade isn't completely structured as a UA. But I think (the command) thought we can either do it now before we go, or do it later when we redeployed. They opted to do it now.”

The ADAM cell, which will soon be a mainstay for UA's, is meant to consolidate air defense and aviation into one cooperating cell, said Capt. Ryan

Leonard, ADAM cell aviation liaison officer.

“We're pioneers in the new Army transformation and what we experience in Iraq will help enhance other units that follow,” he said.

“Other unit's air defense and aviation operate independently,” Leonard said. “Their assets aren't combined, and it doesn't create an organized picture. A commander

has to go to individual liaison officers to get the complete information. We're a team coordinating resources to get the better picture.”

The new UA merges both assets and makes them a permanent fixture within the brigade, Rose said.

“We're a superior version simply for the fact we are an organic part of the brigade,” he said. “The ADAM cell provides a per-

manent link for the brigade commander.”

Since this is the first combat-tested ADAM cell in the Army's history, there are bound to be growing pains, Hignight said. They are working through the difficulties, however.

“We're all new to this,” he said. “We are establishing standard operating procedures and job descriptions as we advance.”

Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

Mosque
MASjed

Thursday

High: 106
Low: 80



Friday

High: 106
Low: 80



Saturday

High: 108
Low: 78



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

Commanding General: Maj. Gen. Peter Chiarelli

Public Affairs Officer: Lt. Col. James Hutton

122nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment Cmdr.: Maj. John Fuhrman

Public Affairs Supervisor/Interim Editor: Master Sgt. Dave Larsen

1st Sgt. 122nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment: 1st Sgt. William Kuhns

Editorial Assistant: Sgt. Christina Rockhill

Staff Writers: Sgt. 1st Class Tony Sailer, Sgt. Susan German, Sgt. Merrion LaSonde, Sgt. Dan Purcell, Cpl. Benjamin Cossel, Cpl. Bill Putnam, Spc.

Jan Critchfield, Spc. Andy Miller, Spc. Marie Whitney, Pfc. Al Barrus, Pfc. Erik LeDrew, Pfc. Brian Schroeder, Pfc. Matthew McLaughlin.

The Daily Charge is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of **The Daily Charge** are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 1st Cavalry Division. All editorial content of **The Daily Charge** is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs Office.

News Notes



WalMart to Open in Harker Heights

HARKER HEIGHTS, Texas (*Temple Daily Telegram*)-- Construction workers for Williams Development and Construction add another layer of cinder blocks to a retaining wall for the new Wal-Mart Super Center in Harker Heights on Tuesday. The new Super Center is scheduled to open in the spring of 2005 and will complete a string of stores from Belton to Lampasas.

Smoking Ban Going to Ballot in Cove

COPPERAS COVE, Texas (*Killeen Daily Herald*)-- Council members voted unanimously to ratify the ordinance to put the smoking ban on the ballot. The ordinance originally passed by a vote of 5 to 2.



Wes Borland Returns to Limp Bizkit

(*Radio Network*)-- Limp Bizkit confirmed the return of guitarist Wes Borland to the band's lineup, signaling a reunion that both sides had sworn would never happen. Borland left Bizkit in 2001, for creative differences. Borland's return also signals the end of Mike Smith's tenure with the group



▶ Texas Kids Return to School



Temple Daily Telegram

First day of school - Guillermo "Junior" Menchaca, first-grader at Jefferson Elementary, stretches Tuesday at the beginning of Temple school district's first day of school. (Photo by Dana Centola)

Lightning Sparks More Fires, Heavy Rain and Mudslides

DRYDEN, Wash. (*Seattle Times*)-- High winds prompted emergency officials to evacuate residents from two more canyons late yesterday where homes were threatened by the Fischer fire, which already had forced hundreds to flee.

Firefighters scrambled during the day after lightning storms swept through Central Washington, igniting 18 fires in the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests.

Those storms also brought heavy rains and mudslides late Monday that have closed North Cascades Highway. One of the largest new light-

ning-caused fires, Williams Butte, ballooned to 600 acres in one day. It is northwest of Twisp in north-central Washington.

More than 325 homes in several other canyons were evacuated earlier, and residents in more than 200 homes were on notice they might have to flee, said Robin Vora, fire information officer. The number of evacuations remained unclear last night.

Firefighters struggled to maintain control of several fires after thunderstorms swept through the region. The Monday night thunderstorms resulted in mudslides, that temporarily



Seattle Times

Recent storms brought heavy rains and mudslides that closed part of the North Cascades Highway. Crews removed road debris up to 8 feet deep in places. The storm also caused more wildfires in Eastern Washington.

ly trapped 65 people and their vehicles on the North Cascades Highway, northwest of Rainy Pass.



AP

The American women's gymnastic team stands on the medal platform displaying their silver medals Tuesday.

Romania unseated the American team, which came into the Olympic games as the reigning world champions.

Women Settle for Silver in Athens

ATHENS, Greece (AP) - The mistakes were so minor. The kind of errors only judges see.

Carly Patterson's foot grazing the lower of the uneven bars. Courtney Kupets' twirl ending here instead of there. Mohini Bhardwaj's itty-bitty wobble on the beam.

Little things, but added together they cost the U.S. gymnastics team valuable fractions of points and, ultimately, an Olympics gold medal.

Done in as much by their own sloppiness as Romania's sheer superiority, the Americans settled for silver Tuesday night.

"Things happen," Kupets said. "It's disappointing. But what are you going to do?"

Romania finished with 114.283 points, beating the Americans by more than a half-point for its second straight Olympic gold. Russia, never a factor even with diva Svetlana Khorkina prancing and

preening, won the bronze.

Silver is hardly anything to be ashamed of, of course. The U.S. men won one Monday night and were positively giddy. And it's far better than leaving empty-handed, which the U.S. women did in Sydney for the first time since 1976.

But these women are world champions, winners of every international meet they've entered since 2002 and perhaps the best team the United States has ever put on the floor. This was supposed to be their coronation.

Instead, they watched somberly as the Romanians partied in the middle of the floor.

"I'm happy because these children have a crown, a medal," Romanian coach Octavian Belu said.

Patterson closed out the Americans' night with a saucy, sassy floor routine that had the Olympic Indoor Hall rocking. But

the Romanians, who finished second to the United States at last summer's world championships, needed to average only 9.35 points per routine to catch the Americans.

Easily done.

Catalina Ponor, the final Romanian, brought the crowd to its feet with one of the finest routines of the night. Her teammates were already hugging each other and crying when her music stopped, and Ponor sprinted off the mat with a grin on her face. Even Bela Karolyi, whose wife Martha is now the U.S. team coordinator, had to applaud.

The Americans, meanwhile, sat glumly in their seats. A few clapped. Most simply stared ahead, perhaps thinking about all the wasted opportunities.

"We made small mistakes," Bela Karolyi said. "Small mistakes are to be paid for. And we paid."

Such a little error, such a big price.

Sports Shorts

Bonds Closer to 700 in Victory

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - Barry Bonds hit two home runs in a 5-4 Giants' victory over the visiting Montreal Expos. With the blasts, Bonds now sits at 691 career home runs, 23 behind Babe Ruth and 64 behind baseball's career leader, Henry Aaron. Giants' ace Jason Schmidt pitched eight strong innings, but lost a chance for his 16th win when his bullpen allowed the game to be tied. J.T. Snow singled in the winning run with one out in the ninth inning.

The Winner is: Boots in a Walk

SPRINGFIELD, Ore. (AP) -- While world-class athletes were grunting and groaning on the other side of the Atlantic



Boots Sunday, "Boots" went for the gold here in his own way. And he walked away with it. The 16-month-old ferret barreled through an 18-foot-long dryer hose in a record six seconds at the 8th annual Ferret Olympics, which highlighted one of America's faster-growing pet fads. It wasn't even close. Silver medalist "Sparky" took 12 seconds for the same event. About 30 ferrets took part in the fun.