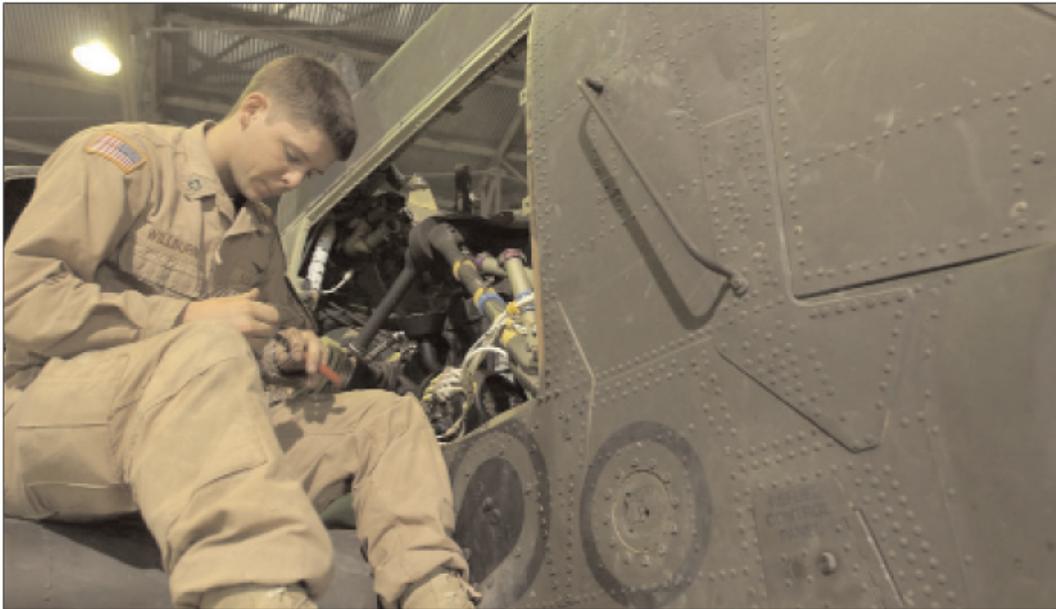


## 24-Hour-a-Day Job

# Lots of Air Time Means Lots of Maintenance



By Cpl. Benjamin Cossel, 122nd MPAD

**Pfc. Jordan Willburn, an Apache mechanic with the 615th Aviation Support Battalion, unwinds bailing wire that he will use to secure the transmission of an Apache helicopter when he performs a diagnostic check.**

**By Cpl. Benjamin Cossel  
122nd MPAD**

CAMP COOKE- 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,

**Continued on Page 3**

# Charlie 2-5: Helping Sadr City Beat the Summer Heat

**By Spc. Andy Miller  
122nd MPAD**

AL THAWRA, Baghdad, Iraq- The recent cease-fire in the Al Thawra, or Sadr City, district of Baghdad has helped clear the way for Soldiers to conduct civil assistance missions in the area. After three months of almost constant battle with the Mahdi Army militia, the 1st Cavalry Division Soldiers who came to help the people of this area are beginning to do so without interference from insurgents.

Recently, Soldiers of Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment (Task Force Lancer),

delivered two truckloads of office supplies and air conditioners to the Al Guiara clinic. It was the first of many planned visits by the First Team Soldiers to assist in improving the district's medical infrastructure.

"We had not been able to engage with the population as much as we'd like to," Capt. Troy Denomy, commander of Charlie 2-5, said, referring to the past three months. "So, the last couple weeks we've been talking to them more. This is the second time we've been in that area since the fighting

**Continued on Page 2**



By Spc. Andy Miller, 122nd MPAD

**Capt. Troy Denomy, the 2-5 Comanche Company commander, talks with local Iraqis at a busy marketplace in the Al Thawra district of Baghdad. Denomy's Soldiers conduct reconnaissance missions daily to gauge the concerns of local Iraqis.**

## Civil Assistance Missions Work to Improve Medical Infrastructure



By Spc. Andy Miller, 122nd MPAD

**Iraqi children crowd around chanting pro-coalition slogans as Soldiers move out of a popular marketplace in the Al Thawra district of Baghdad. Recently, following a cease-fire with the Mahdi Army militia, relations in the area have improved according to 1st Cav. Div. Soldiers who patrol the district.**

### Continued from Page 1

stopped, so they're thrilled to see us. They want the coalition to stay and provide stability, and of course, they were thrilled to get the supplies."

A truckload of brand new air conditioners brought a crowd of locals to the front of the clinic on a day when temperatures soared to more than 116 degrees Fahrenheit. Several of the Iraqis there didn't have business at the clinic, but nevertheless helped the Soldiers offload their trucks.

The people in the neighborhood left a positive impression on the Soldiers in an area where there was fighting just a few weeks ago, according to Sgt. Justin Bradbury, a team leader with Charlie 2-5.

"I know that before in that area, it was really not that friendly of a neighborhood. Now, in my opinion it's like night and day," Bradbury said. "I think yesterday was a really big step in showing these people that we're here to help them out. That we're not here per se,

trying to takeover. We are actually here trying to help these people, and help them get on their feet, and help their government out, so they can have a democracy and live in a free country."

Bringing assistance to the people of Al Thawra is what the First Team Soldiers wanted to do when they first took control of military operations in the area in April. The air conditioning units will prove invaluable to patient care, as temperatures continue to rise in the Baghdad

area, according to Capt. David Mathias, 2-5's battalion surgeon.

"I asked the [clinic] director yesterday if he had seen a lot of patients with heat injuries," Mathias said. "And he had said, 'absolutely' after the temperatures had gone high. In order to help those patients recover and be able to treat them effectively, to give them a break from the heat, it is essential to have a climate controlled clinic."

After delivering supplies to the clinic, the Soldiers moved along to a popular Al Thawra marketplace to talk to local Iraqis. The Comanche Soldiers usually conduct a reconnaissance mission to engage the local population twice a day, Denomy said. He said the people seem satisfied with the cease-fire, and are happy to get their lives back to normal.

"A lot of the business owners were getting very frustrated that they couldn't open their businesses. They were losing money when there was a lot of fighting going on," Denomy said. "They definitely feel safer now."

Soldiers plan to continue providing services to clinics in their sector. Following through on requests for supplies improves their reputation, Denomy said, and gives them integrity with the clinics.

**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:** Master Sgt. Dave Larsen  
**1st Sgt. 122nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment:** 1st Sgt. William Kuhns  
**Editor:** Sgt. Susan German  
**Staff Writers:** Staff Sgt. Tony Sailer, Sgt. Merrion LaSonde, Sgt. Dan Purcell, Cpl. Benjamin Cossel, Cpl. Bill Putnam, Spc. Jan Critchfield, Spc.

Bryan Kinkade, Spc. Andy Miller, Spc. Michelle Newbold, Spc. Marie Whitney, Pfc. Al Barrus, Pfc. Erik LeDrew

*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.

## 615 ASB Keeps Helicopters In the Air Through Phased Maintenance Program

**Continued from Page 1**  
mechanics of the 615th Aviation Support Battalion working the night shift are part of a 24-hour team that keeps 4BCT'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, Calif., Nix went on to explain that phased maintenance is a very in-depth, complicated, 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 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, 4BCT 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.

"Everyone in here understands the importance of their job," said Staff Sgt. Jose Hernandez, a platoon sergeant with the 615th ASB. "And everyone here does their job incredibly well."

**"My teams are easily gaining years worth of garrison experience out here."**

**-SSG Jose Hernandez, Platoon Sgt., 615th ASB**



By Cpl. Benjamin Cossel, 122nd MPAD

**A stripped Kiowa helicopter sits in the 615th Aviation Support Battalion's hangar awaiting its crew to complete mandatory phased maintenance before it can be put back on the flight line.**

Hernandez said that completing phased maintenance is very detailed work for his mechanics, but they are getting it done in record time.

"An Apache coming into the hangar at Fort 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 control measures in place as well as 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 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."

**Monday**  
High: 110  
Low: 83

**Tuesday**  
High: 111  
Low: 83

**Wednesday**  
High: 112  
Low: 84

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

**Iraqi Word of the Day**  
Airfield - ma-Tar / qa-aa-i-deh ja-wi-yeh

## Today in History

### July 12

► From [historychannel.com](http://historychannel.com)

**1862** President Abraham Lincoln signs into law a measure calling for the awarding of a U.S. Army Medal of Honor, in the name of Congress, "to such noncommissioned officers and privates as shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action, and other soldier-like qualities during the present insurrection." The previous December, Lincoln had approved a provision creating a U.S. Navy Medal of Valor, which was the basis of the Army Medal of Honor created by Congress in July 1862.

The first U.S. Army soldiers to receive what would become the nation's highest military honor were six members of a Union raiding party who in 1862 penetrated deep into Confederate territory to destroy bridges and railroad tracks between Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Atlanta, Georgia.

In 1863, the Medal of Honor was made a permanent military decoration available to all members, including commissioned officers, of the U.S. military. It is conferred upon those who have distinguished themselves in actual combat at risk of life beyond the call of duty. Since its creation, during the Civil War, almost 3,400 men and one woman have received the Medal of Honor for heroic actions in U.S. military conflict.

## Iraqi Kids Will Have Chance to 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.

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.



*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.**



*Seattle Post-Intelligencer*

**Chase Kregor, top, waves his oar in the air as he and Tony Simonelli, middle, Anna Simonelli, bottom left, and Dominic Simonelli, bottom right, place first in the Open Family category at the Milk Carton Derby held at Seattle's Green Lake to kick off Seafair 2004.**

## Babies Compete at Spring Ho Diaper Derby



Killeen Daily Herald

Monica Maldonaldo coaxes her daughter, Kharis Castaneda, 9 months, across the finish line in the first heat of the Diaper Derby during the Spring Ho festivities.

► From *Killeen Daily Herald*  
LAMPASAS, Texas- Cute babies wobbling on unsteady legs and fancy-dressed puppies and kittens drew large crowds Friday at the Spring Ho Diaper Derby and Pet Parade.

About 65 little ones, from crawlers under 9 months to new walkers at 24 months, participated in the Diaper Derby. Divided into five categories, the young contestants crawled, tottered and ran from one family member across the mats to another.

Some were excited about the challenge, others confused. At least one little guy just sat down and enjoyed the excitement, and one little gal so enjoyed the running that she nearly didn't cross the finish line - she just ran back and forth between her parents.

The Beta Mu Sorority has organized the Diaper Derby for over 25 years as a community service project. Each winner was given a small prize.

A few minutes after the Diaper Derby finished, the Pet Parade began.



## Major League Baseball Standings

as of 07/11/04 8:00 p.m. PDT

### American League East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	55	31	.640	-
Boston	48	38	.558	7
Tampa Bay	42	45	.483	13.5
Toronto	39	49	.443	17
Baltimore	37	48	.435	17.5

### Central Division

Chicago	46	38	.548	-
Minnesota	47	40	.540	.5
Cleveland	42	45	.483	5.5
Detroit	42	45	.483	5.5
Kansas City	31	54	.365	15.5

### West Division

Texas	49	37	.570	-
Oakland	47	39	.547	2
Anaheim	47	40	.540	2.5
Seattle	32	54	.372	17

### National League East Division

Philadelphia	46	41	.529	-
Atlanta	45	42	.517	1
Florida	45	43	.511	1.5
New York	44	43	.506	2
Montreal	31	56	.356	15

### Central Division

St. Louis	54	33	.621	-
Chicago	47	40	.540	7
Cincinnati	47	41	.534	7.5
Milwaukee	45	41	.523	8.5
Houston	44	44	.500	10.5
Pittsburgh	39	47	.453	14.5

### West Division

Los Angeles	48	38	.558	-
San Francisco	49	40	.551	.5
San Diego	47	41	.534	2
Colorado	36	51	.414	12.5
Arizona	31	58	.348	18.5

**Glossary** W: Wins, L: Losses, PCT: Winning Percentage, GB: Games Behind

TV GUIDE	AFN ATLANTIC	AFN PACIFIC	AFN Sports	AFN Spectrum
6 p.m.	I Spy/ Even Stevens	Tonight Show with Jay Leno/ The Late Show with David Letterman	U.S Olympic Trials	On The Waterfront 5 p.m.
7 p.m.	Jeopardy/ Headline News	Access Hollywood 7:30 p.m.	SportsCenter	The Wild Thornberrys/ Spongebob Squarepants
8 p.m.	ESPNNews/ Headline News	The Road to Bali	I, Max 8:30 p.m.	The Simpsons/ Happy Days
9 p.m.	60 Minutes	The Apartment 9:45 p.m.	ESPNNews/ Tour de France - Stage 8	Average Joe: Hawaii
10 p.m.	Cold Case			Law & Order: Special Victims Unit

**FIRST TEAM**