

FSC Soldiers Gain New Experience, Skills

By Spc. Andy Miller
122nd MPAD

CAMP EAGLE- Three months into their deployment to Iraq, and the Soldiers of Company A, 115th Forward Support Battalion of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, have had a piece of the action.

They've been shot at, ambushed and mortared. They've been struck with improvised explosive devices, and have had to fight their way back to safety. Yet through it all, the Soldiers say they enjoy the work they do here to support the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, as part of Task Force Lancer.

Sgt. Raymond Machen, a transportation specialist from Honey Springs, Tenn., started working with the First Team in February. In Iraq for his second tour of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Machen said he volunteered this time to improve upon his skill-set.

"I came to the Cav just to learn stuff," Machen said. "I'm doing a bunch of different jobs and I like it. Fuel, ammo, all kinds of stuff - in Germany all we did was drive trucks and that was it. Out here there is a lot more to do, it makes you a better all-around Soldier."

Instead of a more traditional organization structure, where a forward support battalion would support a brigade, Alpha 115th FSC supports a task force. A more diverse organizational structure makes it essential that Soldiers multi-task to ensure all the company's duties are accomplished.

In addition to providing maintenance to task force assets on the camp, the company operates a daily supply convoy, which transports equipment and supplies to and from other area camps. In Baghdad's non-linear battlefield, this means the company must remain vigilant against threats when moving through the city's oftentimes dangerous streets.



By Spc. Andy Miller, 122nd MPAD

Sgt. Raymond Machen, a transportation specialist with Company A, 115th FSC, tightens down a pallet load of oil on a truck destined for Camp Eagle. Daily resupply convoys ensure Task Force Lancer has the equipment and supplies it needs to conduct military operations in the Al Thawra district in eastern Baghdad. His unit supplies the task force with all logistic, maintenance and transportation support.

"They know its real here. There is not this pretend enemy out there. This is for real," Capt. Chris Gerhart, the 115th FSC commander said about his

Soldiers frequent movement through Baghdad.

He said one of the chal-

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Joint Patrol Guards Airport

ADA Troops Work to Eliminate Threats

By Pfc. Erik LeDrew
122nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq- 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 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

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4-5 ADA Helps ING Root Out Insurgents, Weapons

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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 enroute 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



By Pfc. Erik LeDrew, 122nd MPAD

Iraqi National Guard soldiers wave cars through a traffic control point after searching them for weapons. Meanwhile, Spc. Robert James, Battery A, 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, supervises the Iraqi troops, ensuring they perform the searches properly.

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, 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."

Monday

High: 116
Low: 83



Tuesday

High: 116
Low: 84



Wednesday

High: 117
Low: 85



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

Iraqi Word of the Day

machine gun

ra-sha-sha-e

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Al Doura Road Expansion Provides Jobs

Local Iraqi workers spread concrete for the expansion of Al Doura Road in the Al Doura District of Baghdad. The multi-national forces and the Neighborhood and District Councils of Al Doura fund the new project. The project will run until July 30, providing a wider road for the community, and lights in the median. The expansion costs \$435,980, and provides jobs for 100 citizens of Al Doura.



By Capt. Jayson Morgan,
1-8 Cav. Public Affairs

115 FSC Ensures Task Force Lancer Soldiers Get What They Need



By Spc. Andy Miller, 122nd MPAD

Pvt. Ryan Patterson, an ammunition specialist with Company A, 115th Forward Support Battalion, at Camp Cuervo, gives ammunition supplies to Spc. Dale Cowell, a transportation specialist with the 115th FSC. The 115th FSC, which is part of Task Force Lancer, operates a daily supply convoy to ensure the supply and maintenance needs of the task force are met.

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lenges of his job is ensuring the safety of his supply convoys.

"That's the main challenge, security," Gerhart said. "Just keeping the convoys from get-

ting attacked, making them have that porcupine look as they're going down the road."

This may be especially true for a task force that was drawn into combat its first day on the job. The company had about

two days to organize their operations before they were thrown into a vicious four-day battle with the Mahdi Army militia at the beginning of April. Gerhart said the battle created challenges getting supplies to the line units locked in battle, as well as the camp.

"We were quick on our feet to get resupplied, replenished, and actually stockpiled," Gerhart said, recalling his early days working at the camp. "We were conducting aerial resupply, which we've never done before."

Working for Task Force Lancer has created opportunities for many of the Soldiers of Camp Eagle to do the kinds of things they haven't done before.

Spc. Eduardo Lopez, a mechanic with the supply company, finds himself driving on many of the convoys that move to other camps for the daily

resupply mission. He said he likes going on these missions because he uses it as an opportunity to bring comfort items back for the Soldiers who have a more difficult time getting off the base camp.

Eduardo said he likes many of the possibilities for improvement presented by working in a non-linear task force environment.

"I like working together with these other [military occupation specialties]. They're teaching me stuff, and I'm teaching them stuff," Lopez said. "I like that, it takes me further into my job, which I never knew about, making me a better mechanic, a better Soldier and a better person. That way I can teach other people. When something happens, [I can say], 'Hey, I got this. Don't worry about it.' I can roll out, [and] carry out the mission. I'll cover down."

Smith: The 'Ultimate Catchall' Name

By *New York Times*

Immigration is changing America's face, but not necessarily its name. When the Census Bureau unveils its list of most common surnames later this year, Smith is expected to remain in first place, as it has for at least half a century.

"Smith is the ultimate catchall for linguistic naturalization," Justin Kaplan and Anne Bernays wrote in "The Language of Names." It takes in Schmidt, Schmitt, Schmitz, Smed, Szmyt, Schmeider, Smidovic, Seppanen, Fevre, Kalvaitis, Kovars, Haddad, McGowan, and other variants that in their original language mean someone who works with metal."

Many foreigners were given the name by immigration officials when they arrived, or they legally adopted it themselves to sound more American. In addition, millions of Americans named Smith are descendants of slaves who took their masters' name.

The new list, drawn from the 2000 census, is expected to include Hispanic surnames among the top 10 for the first time. (In 1990, Garcia, Martinez and Rodriguez were among the top 25.)

The potential for more non-Anglo-Saxon last names among the most common is growing. In 1980, nearly three in four Americans said their families were originally German, English or Irish.

By 2000, according to a new analysis, the proportion who said their families hailed from those countries had dwindled to about one in three.

For the first time, more Americans now describe their ancestry as African or African-

American than English, more as Mexican than Italian and nearly as many Vietnamese as Cuban. But no group grew more in the 1990s than those who described their ancestry only as "American" -- up to 20 million in 2000 from 12 million in 1990.

Today in History

July 19

► From historychannel.com
1799 During Napoleon

Bonaparte's Egyptian campaign, a French soldier discovers a black basalt slab inscribed with ancient writing near the town of Rosetta, about 35 miles north of Alexandria. The irregularly shaped stone contained fragments of passages written in three different scripts: Greek, Egyptian hieroglyphics, and Egyptian demotic. The ancient Greek on the Rosetta Stone told archaeologists that it was inscribed by priests of Ptolemy V in the second century B.C. More startlingly, the Greek passage announced that the three scripts were all of identical meaning. The artifact thus held the key to solving the riddle of hieroglyphics, a written language that had been "dead" for nearly two millennia.

1934 Harold T. Ames filed a patent application for his retractable headlamps. The design would later become one of the defining details on Ames' most triumphant project, the Cord 810.

1935 The first automatic parking meter in the U.S., the Park-O-Meter invented by Carlton Magee, was installed in Oklahoma City by the Dual Parking Meter Company.

1943 The United States bombs railway yards in Rome in an attempt to break the will of the Italian people to resist - as Hitler lectures their leader, Benito Mussolini, on how to prosecute the war further.



Killeen Daily Herald

Killeen firefighter Luis Lopez watches Gabriel Bonkowski pretend to drive the fire engine at the National Night Out Safety Fair at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center on Saturday. Children got a close-up look at emergency vehicles and equipment. The fair also had games, food, an inflatable bounce house and a slide.



AP/King County Journal

Four bicyclists cast shadows on a road in Auburn, Wash., during the 25th annual Seattle-to-Portland Bicycle Classic. Approximately 8,000 participants will cover the 205.4-mile ride along mostly rural roads in Western Washington and Oregon, beginning at the University of Washington and ending at Portland's Holladay Park.

Dawgs Gain Summer Chemistry

By Killeen Daily Herald

COLLEGE STATION, Texas—One look at Copperas Cove senior Ryan Rogers milling around on the sidelines with his 7-on-7 teammates and you get the feeling that he may have accidentally boarded the wrong bus when the Bulldawgs set out on their near-annual pilgrimage to the Fox Sports Net 7-on-7 Championship.

At 5-feet-9 and 210 pounds, he is hardly what anybody would think of when the fast-paced offensive game comes to mind — where quarterbacks, defensive backs, linebackers and wide receivers battle it out for summer supremacy.

And if you're thinking that he might be better suited for perhaps a lineman challenge, then you are on the right track.

Rogers, after all, is a lineman, perhaps the most important one to a team that is in the middle of a QB change and has a tendency to toss the ball around a bit like Cove. So, while other teams rely on an extra man to hike the ball from a kneeling position to start plays, it's all business for Rogers, who prefers to deliver the ball to Brent Garner in

the more traditional squat reserved for centers.

"When they say 7-on-7 they mean 7-on-7, and that includes the center," said Dawgs' head coach Jack Welch of his team's unusual preference among 7-on-7 competitors to bring a bona fide center to the event. "Our center is getting that many more snaps extra all through the summer. A lot of teams that are afraid of (getting) a bad snap won't do it, but we're doing this to get better."

Rogers, a two-year veteran of 7-on-7 and the team's starter going into the season, said the extra time spent away from his fellow "hogs" with the skill players has helped his game.

"I think it's been helping, and helping my team is all I'm trying to do."

The center does have a dream, though.

"Aw, yeah!," Rogers exclaimed when asked if he would like to slide down to receiver sometime and have a shot at catching the ball. "That would be awesome."

While Garner agrees that the extra work has helped Rogers get his snaps down and the two develop



Killeen Daily Herald

Copperas Cove quarterback Brent Garner looks for an open teammate during the Bulldawgs' first game in the consolation bracket. Cove defeated Victoria Memorial 21-19 on the way to advancing to the semifinals.

better chemistry going into the season, he thinks his partner's hopes won't get fulfilled anytime soon.

"He's a little too slow for that (playing receiver)," said Garner, not completely ruling out the possibility. "We might be able to give him a chance to do something like that sometime," he added with a laugh.



Major League Baseball Standings

as of 07/18/04 8:15 p.m. PDT

American League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	57	33	.633	-
Boston	50	40	.556	7
Tampa Bay	44	47	.484	13.5
Baltimore	39	50	.438	17.5
Toronto	39	52	.429	18.5

Central Division

Chicago	47	41	.534	-
Minnesota	48	43	.527	.5
Detroit	44	47	.484	4.5
Cleveland	42	45	.483	4.5
Kansas City	34	55	.382	13.5

West Division

Texas	52	37	.584	-
Oakland	50	40	.556	2.5
Anaheim	49	42	.538	4
Seattle	34	56	.378	18.5

National League

East Division

Atlanta	48	43	.527	-
Philadelphia	48	43	.527	-
New York	46	45	.505	2
Florida	45	46	.495	3
Montreal	32	59	.352	16

Central Division

St. Louis	57	34	.626	-
Chicago	49	42	.538	8
Milwaukee	47	43	.522	9.5
Cincinnati	48	44	.522	9.5
Houston	45	46	.495	12
Pittsburgh	42	47	.472	14

West Division

Los Angeles	52	38	.578	-
San Francisco	51	42	.548	2.5
San Diego	49	42	.538	3.5
Colorado	38	53	.418	14.5
Arizona	31	62	.333	22.5

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	ESPY Awards 5 p.m.	Roxanne 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	Adam's Rib	NHRA Auto Racing - MOPAR Mile High Nationals	The Simpsons/ Happy Days
9 p.m.	60 Minutes			Average Joe: Hawaii
10 p.m.	Cold Case	Desk Set	ESPY Awards	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit

FIRST TEAM