



# Ironhorse Desert News

## Operation Iraqi Freedom



8 September 2003

*“Steadfast & Loyal”*

Volume 1 Issue 17

**Secretary of Defense, Chief Administrator, CJTF-7 Commander  
and Sheiks Visit Forward Operating Base Ironhorse**



Photo by SPC Rhea Anderegg



Photo by CPT Allen Hansen

Left: MG Ray Odierno hosted Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld, on Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup>.  
Right: MG Odierno and Task Force Ironhorse hosted a meeting with LTG Ricardo Sanchez and 13 Tribal Sheiks on September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Story by MAJ Brian Bennett, SGS

FORWARD OPERATING BASE IRONHORSE, TIKRIT, Iraq -- Major General Ray Odierno hosted two important meetings this past week.

The first was a regional leaders meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September that included the Combined Joint Task Force-7 commander, LTG Ricardo Sanchez, and 13 Tribal Leaders from across the three

provinces in the Task Force Ironhorse area of operations. The Regional Leadership engagement brought together the military leaders and the Sheiks to discuss the challenges in north central Iraq regarding security, infrastructure repair, and the process of improving institutions in Iraq including schools and health care. The Sheiks have great influence on the members of their tribes, and they worked to clarify current policies in place by the commanding generals of both Task Force Ironhorse and CJTF-7. Sanchez reminded the leaders that security remains paramount and that cooperation among all leaders is the key to achieving a secure Iraq, which ultimately leads towards economic and institutional growth.

After more than three hours of discussion, the leaders gathered at the Division Main for a photograph before they departed back to their provinces. Both Sanchez and Odierno were very pleased of the productive discussion and all leaders came away with a better understanding of what is required to continue the progress of building a secure Iraq. SEE RUMSFELD, PAGE 3



Photo by SPC Derek Dexter

Administrator of the Coalition Provisional Authority to Iraq, L. Paul Bremer, eats lunch with Ironhorse soldiers.

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# Task Force News

## 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Helps With Immunization Day

Story and photos by SPC Derek Dexter

AL DOUR, Iraq – Amidst the harsh screams of young children, infants held by their mothers and toddlers holding onto their fathers' robes, lined up to receive vaccinations during the Iraqi Ministry of Health's monthly Child Immunization Day.

The Ministry holds Child Immunization Day on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of every month in an attempt to prevent communicable diseases and childhood illnesses. This month, children were vaccinated against polio and measles, mumps and rubella, according to LTC Kirk Egelston, the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Surgeon.

UNICEF supplied vaccines, and Task Force Ironhorse's medical soldiers provided assistance to Iraqi health care workers with administering the immunizations. The vaccines are free for babies and young children, said Egelston.

He added, though vaccines are available every day, the 22<sup>nd</sup> is a day that the vaccinations are pushed harder. Egelston said the resident head doctor at the clinic went to the local mosque the day prior to announce the availability of vaccines.

According to Egelston, one of the newer immunizations young children are receiving is against tuberculosis. This vaccine is not given in the United States, due to the relatively low number of cases. In Iraq, though, tuberculosis is rampant, so the vaccine is important and given to as many children as possible.

As Iraq moves into a new era of freedom, it also moves into a new era of improved health care

facilities and standards of medical care. The monthly immunization days prove Iraq is looking forward to its future by taking care of its children.



A child receives an immunization at the clinic during Immunization Day. For many Iraqi infants, this is the first time they've felt the prick of a needle since immunizations were uncommon during the former regime.



## Heroes From Task Force Gunner Stand Out

Story By CPT Bryan Miller

TAJI, Iraq—When people think of war heroes, names like Dwight Eisenhower and Audie Murphy come to mind. Task Force Gunner, out of Fort Hood, Texas, does not have soldiers with the historical significance of Ike, but what TF Gunner does have, is many soldiers working hard to complete every mission they are assigned. There are many soldiers that stand out for the amazing things they do everyday.

The 2-20th Field Artillery Battalion has many soldiers who stand out as heroes, not for what they have done, but how they have reacted to danger. During an attack on a pre-raid assembly area, two soldiers, CPL Robert Delgado and SPC Taj Body, both from 2-20, were wounded. Body was not worried about his own injuries; the only thing on his mind was saving his battle buddy. With the help of another soldier, Body administered first aid to Delgado and made sure his buddy was safe. Delgado has recovered from his wounds and is on his way back to Iraq from convalescent leave to rejoin his unit.

Another true hero is SSG Donald W. Bango. During an operation to capture an Iraqi terrorist, Bango was shot in the head; fortunately, his Kevlar saved his life. The more amazing part of the story is Bango continued to lead his troops after the life-altering event. His only concern was for his soldiers and completing the mission at hand.

Many times, like in the Bango incident, unforeseen events bring out the best in people. SPC Mary Worrel, with the 44<sup>th</sup> Chemical Company, is no different. A road side bomb was remotely detonated as Worrel's vehicle passed. SEE HEROES, PAGE 3

# Task Force News

## HEROES, FROM PAGE 2

Even though Worrel was seriously injured and the left front tire of her vehicle was destroyed in the blast, she maintained control of the vehicle. Worrel's quick, decisive actions kept the truck from crashing into on coming traffic and saved the lives of everyone in the vehicle. She will make a full recovery from her wounds.

In some cases, soldiers are heroes for what they do on a daily basis. According to CPT Troy Schnack, commander of Bravo Battery, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery, the hero in his battery is PFC Vickram Shamchander. Schnack said Shamchander is the guy you want next to you in combat. He is the type of guy who never complains and always works as hard as he can, no matter what the task.



## VOCALISTS WANTED

4IDs rock band, Prime Mover, is looking for lead vocalists. Applicants must be able to perform rock, R&B and country.

Numerous travel opportunities with the position.

Contact SFC Marroquin at DNVT 534-9871

## 4ID Bands' Upcoming Performances

10 Sept: Prime Mover @ Ironhorse Stage at 7:30 PM

11 Sept: Moment's Notice @ DFAC at 6 PM

18 Sept: 7 Iron Horsemen @ 1-8 Infantry's DFAC in Balad, at 6 pm

19 Sept: Prime Mover in Balad at 7 pm

20 Sept: Prime Mover in Balad at 7 pm

CPT Randy Klingensmith, commander of the 46<sup>th</sup> Chemical Company, said the hero in his unit was SFC Harry Milder. Milder is the company's repair and upkeep noncommissioned officer. He is responsible for building latrines and showers, and providing electricity and running water to the building where his company lives. Klingensmith said Milder has made an unbearable place bearable for the soldiers of the 46<sup>th</sup>.

The list could go on and on about the heroes in the Task Force. The soldiers of Task Force Gunner have performed magnificently during every operation. They have worked under extreme conditions to include the scorching summer heat of Iraq and will continue to do so until the mission is complete, and everyone is safe at home.

## RUMSFELD, FROM PAGE 1

A few days later, the CG hosted The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense, on September 5<sup>th</sup>. The SECDEF met with leaders of Task Force Ironhorse and received an operational overview. MG Odierno provided an in-depth look at the operations across the Ironhorse AO emphasizing the very successful offensive operations that are conducted simultaneously with the civil military actions rebuilding the nation of Iraq.

After Mr. Rumsfeld and his staff received the overview, The Secretary of Defense took a few minutes to address soldiers from across the Task Force, reminding them of the importance of their mission to Iraq, their nation, and the world. Meeting and greeting soldiers in the Division Main Headquarters, Mr. Rumsfeld expressed his appreciation for the sacrifice and dedication of the soldiers and their families and underscored the strong support the soldiers have from the American people.

The Secretary then traveled to the Dining Facility and enjoyed lunch with soldiers from a myriad of units and posed for photographs.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, greets soldiers after his speech at FOB Ironhorse.



Photo by SPC Derek Dexter

# Task Force News

## MPs Teach Iraqi Police New Techniques

Story and photos by PFC Jason Phillips

TIKRIT, Iraq -- The graduation ceremony had almost ended. An Army sergeant first class walked to the front of the large banquet hall, stood behind a podium, and announced that graduates would now be given their diplomas.

One by one he read their names.

"Osama Kahtab, Alaa Awad, Nasir Housien, Basam Mouloud..."

One by one, men seated in the middle of the hall, proudly wearing new blue uniforms, stood and walked forward to receive a diploma.

These men are Iraqi policemen, and they represent the brightest hope for peace, freedom and democracy in Iraq. Sixty-seven graduated from the Transition and Integration Program (TIP) August 28 in a ceremony held at the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division's 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Headquarters, just south of Tikrit.

"I am very glad to be a police officer," said Farkad Sabree through a translator after the ceremony. "All these courses we took are going to help the Iraqi people. I want to protect and serve, and do the best I can."

The TIP is a three-week course designed by the US- led Coalition Provisional Authority to introduce the Iraqi police to the principles and techniques of law enforcement in a democratic society. In Tikrit, the TIP is being taught by soldiers of the 720<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion from Fort Hood, Texas.

The course includes instruction on topics such as international law, human rights and freedom of religion, and techniques such as weapons safety, handcuffing and interviewing. For the Iraqi policemen, the course opens their minds to new ideas as law enforcers and citizens in a free society, said Michael Damascus, the lead translator during the course. "It's like they used to live in a big jail, and now they are opening up to a new society and new freedoms," said Damascus.

During TIP lectures, Iraqi police officers were given many opportunities to express their ideas and feelings about issues, a freedom they did not have under Saddam Hussein.

"They like to express their feelings about what they know and what they are learning," said Damascus. "But they are afraid because of what happened to them during the previous regime. They don't always want to open up because the fear is still in them."

Most of the police officers in the course had friends, uncles, brothers and fathers who were hurt or killed by security forces under the former regime, according to Damascus, a Syrian native who spoke with several of the Iraqi police officers during the



Left: An Iraqi Police officer waits to be called upon to answer a question during a Transition and Integration Program class held in Tikrit, Iraq.

Right: Farkad Sabree, an Iraqi Police officer, receives his TIP diploma from Lt. Col. David Poirier, commander, 720<sup>th</sup> MP Battalion during a graduation ceremony held Aug. 28 near Tikrit, Iraq.

course. Many of them expressed gratitude about the American military presence in Iraq, said Damascus. "They don't consider Americans to be bad," he said. "They are glad they are learning a lot, and they tell me they are thankful the Americans saved them from the previous regime."

"I have been very happy to work with the Americans," said Sabree. "They are the most powerful country in the world, and they are teaching us the right things." What the Iraqi police have learned in the TIP course will help them better serve the Iraqi people, according to Sgt. First Class Micheal Robledo, MP, 720<sup>th</sup> MP Battalion, who oversees the TIP training in Tikrit.

"The new ideas we teach them about things like human rights, and the new techniques they learn will help them gain the trust of the Iraqi people," said Robledo. "Citizens will know when they see a crime, or are the victim of a crime, they can come to the police, instead of fearing the police."

### POSTAL ADVISORY

All packages must be wrapped or in an unsealed container. For rugs, use a trash bag, if necessary.

A postal inspector must examine the contents before it is taped shut.

Do not send home sand.

# Task Force News

## Task Force Sabre Helps Guard the Iranian Border During Pilgrimage



Iranians, detained during Operation Ivy Needle, wait for information about continuing their religious pilgrimage to Karbala.

*Story and photos by SPC Derek Dexter*

CAMP CALDWELL, Iraq – Rumors about large numbers of Iranians entering Iraq had been circulating for several weeks, and these rumors were confirmed when the soldiers of 1-10 Calvary Regiment, also known as “Buffalo Soldiers,” initiated raids against suspected illegal border crossing sites during “Operation Ivy Needle.” Close to 1000 Iranians were detained for crossing the border into Iraq illegally.

“We’re standing across from a crowd of about seven hundred Iranians that we have detained,” said Lt. Col. Reginald Allen, commander of the 1-10 Cav., as he looked at the group across the road. The Iranians were travelling illegally across the border as part of a pilgrimage to worship at a mosque in Karbala, where they believe the prophet Mohammed’s brother ascended. This practice had been forbidden under Saddam Hussein’s rule.

The 1-10 CAV, also called “Task Force Sabre,” began its raid during the early morning hours. Constantly alert, cavalymen noticed several vehicles moving after the U.S.-imposed curfew. When many of these vehicles were stopped, the validity of the rumors became truth as large numbers of Iranians were taken into custody.

As the sun broke over the horizon, it also shed light on the truth of how local Iraqis were smuggling Iranians across the border. “Apparently, the Iraqis were using this as a burgeoning industry; transporting Iranians that wanted to come in for the haj,” said Allen.

While most of the Iraqis transporting Iranians were detained peacefully, some resisted and fought. No cavalymen were injured during the raid, but a few had to fire warning shots to get fleeing Iraqis to stop.

“We are detaining the Iraqi citizens that were helping them come across because that is illegal,” said Allen.

One Iraqi vehicle was destroyed when the driver attempted to flee after being told repeatedly to stop. With impeccable aim, a Kiowa helicopter brought the truck to a screeching halt with the aid of a hellfire missile. SEE BORDER GUARDS, PAGE 7

# Task Force News

## 223<sup>rd</sup> Engineers Improve FOB Ironhorse

Story and photos by Cpl. Vernon O'Donnell

FORWARD OPERATING BASE IRONHORSE, TIKRIT, Iraq -- The removal of the former regime led to widespread looting in Iraq and few places were hit as hard as Saddam's former palatial grounds in Tikrit. Couches, pictures, circuit breakers and boards, air conditioners - everything was fair game until Task Force Ironhorse moved onto the compound.

All of the looting left the Task Force missing necessary items in order to effectively use the compound and improve the standard of living of the soldiers staying there. A hand-select team from the 223<sup>rd</sup> Engineer Battalion out of Calhoun City, Miss., has been tasked with fixing these problems throughout FOB Ironhorse.

"We work on electrical, water, sewer systems, air conditioners, everything really," said Sgt. Barry D. Cannon, a carpentry and masonry expert with the 223<sup>rd</sup>.

The team of noncommissioned officers from the Mississippi National Guard has a variety of skills from both their specialties in the Army and their civilian professions.

"When we first got here, we were working on all the generators, getting electricity up and running," said Cannon, and this pertains to what I do back home as a civilian."

According to Cannon, this was one of the most difficult tasks they have had because the wiring in Iraq is different than back in the states. There are no color codes for the wires, like in the United States, and this caused the engineers to go through a trial-and-error process until a working partnership with local Iraqis was finalized.

"We work with the Iraqis five days a week," said Sgt. James Edwards, a carpentry and masonry specialist. "They help with anything and have been really useful in getting the electricity working."

The Iraqis helped with transitioning the electricity source from generators to the main power grid, said Cannon. This shift from generator power has improved the living conditions for the soldiers staying at FOB Ironhorse. This has been a major improvement because of the stability of the main power in comparison to a generator. Appliances such as TVs, DVD players and laptop computers now run non-stop. There are still minor interruptions in power, so generators are still needed as back-ups.

Although working with the Iraqis has greatly helped the engineers in accomplishing their mission, there were the typical problems that have faced soldiers throughout Iraq.

"At first it was hard to understand what they

were saying or doing," said Cannon, "but now we get along better. It helps that they are smart and know what they are doing."

The six-man team from Mississippi and the six-man group from Tikrit have developed camaraderie from working together every day. Both groups have nicknames for all of the members of the other group, and there is constant joking between the groups despite the language barrier.

The guardsmen have had hurdles to overcome in developing the infrastructure of the Tikrit palatial compound. They lacked transportation assets when they arrived and were short repair parts. They improvised and were able to make repairs and improvements.

The engineers have completed many undertakings in addition to working on the electrical issues here in Tikrit.

"We got the washers, dryers, and presses working at the PX," said Cannon. "We built the shelving at the PX and our current priority is the 'R and R' sites and the MWR building."

The Rest and Relaxation site has been repaired so troops from the combat brigades get four days in a pleasant environment. The R & R building is intended for use by all soldiers in order to help relieve the stress of being stationed in a combat zone.

The small team of experts from the 223<sup>rd</sup> Engineer Battalion has an expansive mission with an assortment of differing duties to complete. Without the team's non-stop efforts and unique skills, the soldiers on FOB Ironhorse would have a considerably lower standard of living.



Left: SGT Barry Cannon helps an Iraqi contractor replace a circuit board in an old palace. Right: SGT Darrell Franks fixes a sink in the R & R Building.

# Task Force News

BORDER GUARDS, FROM PAGE 5

Several vehicles used to transport the illegal Iranians were confiscated. These trucks will be turned over to the newly trained Iraqi border police to aid with keeping the borders closed until a permanent crossing can be established.

During the morning and into the early afternoon, soldiers began moving the detainees back toward the Iranian border. According to Allen, Iran is not allowing its citizens to make this pilgrimage; hence they needed to be moved back across the border. The detainees were loaded onto trucks and moved to a place where they could cross the border into their home country. The 1-10 CAV also provided medical assistance and food and water to the pilgrims who were suffering from the harsh desert heat.

Taskforce Sabre's role during Operation Ivy Needle sent out a clear message stating lawlessness will not be allowed in the post-Saddam Iraq, especially on the edges of Taskforce Ironhorse's area of operations.

"These are the Buffalo Soldiers," said Allen. "We do operations on the frontier of the Division's AO, just like in 1866, when the Buffalo Soldiers did operations on the frontier of America."



## Local Announcements

### Question of the Week

**Question:** Why is the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division called the Ivy Division?

### Dining Facility

Ice Cream is now available.

### SPORTS BAR SCHEDULE

The R & R Building opened its sports bar. Weekly schedule is:

Mondays: C & W

Tuesdays: Football Night. Games will be shown on tape delay.

Wednesdays: Hard Rock and Techno

Thursdays: Salsa

Fridays: R & B

Saturdays: Reggae

Sundays: Oldies but Goodies

### Religious Services at FOB Ironhorse

#### Sunday:

9:30 a.m.-- Protestant

11:00 a.m.-- Gospel

Noon-- LDS

1:00-- Catholic

#### Wednesday:

6:30 p.m.--Prayer & Praise

7:00 p.m.- Bible Study

#### Friday:

7:30 p.m.- Jewish

12:25 p.m.- Muslim

### Combat

### Stress Team

Now available at FOB Ironhorse located at the Aid Station.

**Call 534-0161**

### Movie Schedule

Movies are shown at the Soldiers' Inn.

**Movie times are 11 am,  
2 pm, 8 pm**

Sept 8th: The Crow 3: Salvation

Sept 9th: Head of State

Sept 10th: Bringing Down the House

Sept 11<sup>th</sup>: Just Married

Sept 12<sup>th</sup>: Gangs of New York

Sept 13<sup>th</sup>: Old School

Sept 14<sup>th</sup>: The Hot Chick

\*\* Sunday's Movies are shown at 2 pm and 8 pm only.\*\*

# News Briets

Washington D.C. -- Federal Reserve officials said that U.S. interest rates will remain at 45-year lows for some time, and even held out the possibility of another cut in rates if economic growth disappoints again, a study says.

WASHINGTON D.C. -- A federal appeals court issued a surprise order today blocking the Federal Communications Commission from imposing new rules that would make it easier for the nation's largest media conglomerates to add new markets and areas of business. The decision came a day before the new rules, considered among the most significant efforts at deregulation adopted during the Bush administration, were scheduled to take effect. It followed two hours of oral arguments at an emergency hearing this morning by a three-judge panel in Philadelphia.

AP -- A virus found in wild animals captured and sold for food in China is genetically similar to the virus that infects humans with SARS, suggesting the disease jumped from animals to humans and could continue to do so, a study found.

Reuters -- Billy Bob Thornton has erased Angelina Jolie from his body, but not from his soul. He had his tattoo of her removed.

Reuters -- Humanitarian workers in Liberia warned of disaster on Thursday as thousands of refugees flooded into already packed camps in the West African country after reports of fighting upsetting the fragile peace process.

## SPORTS ZONE

COLLEGE FOOTBALL -- The TOP 25 had numerous upsets on September 6<sup>th</sup>. A total of five ranked teams lost in week two of the college football season.

#1 Oklahoma 20, Alabama, 13;  
#2 Ohio State beat San Diego St, 16-13;  
#3 Miami beat # 18 Florida, 38-33;  
#5 USC beat BYU, 35-18;  
#6 Kansas St defeated McNeese St, 55-7;  
#7 Michigan crushed Houston, 50-3;  
#8 Georgia beat Middle Tenn St, 29-10;  
#9 Va. Tech shut out James Madison, 43-0;  
#10 Florida St. beat Maryland, 35=10;  
Wake Forrest upset #11 North Carolina St, 38-24;  
#12 Pittsburgh crushed Kent St, 43-3;  
#13 LSU vs Arizona was a late game;  
#14 Tennessee slipped by Marshall, 34-24;  
South Carolina upset #15 Virginia, 31-7  
#16 Notre Dame slipped by Washington St in OT, 29-26;  
#17 Wisconsin defeated Akron University, 48-31;  
Georgia Tech upset #19 Auburn, 17-3;  
Bowling Green from the MAC upset #20 Purdue, 27-26;  
#21 Arizona St beat Northern Arizona, 34-14;  
#22 Colorado squeaked past UCLA, 16-14;  
#23 Iowa crushed the Buffalo Bulls, 56-7;  
#24 Nebraska beat Utah St, 31-7 and  
Boston College upset #25 Penn St, 27-14.

Tennis -- In another day of rain delays at the U.S. Open, No. 1-ranked Kim Clijsters moved a step closer to her first Grand Slam title, beating No. 5 Amelie Mauresmo 6-1, 6-4 on Thursday to set up a semifinal against 1998 Open champion Lindsay Davenport, who defeated No. 24 Paola Suarez, 6-4, 6-0.

NFL -- Washington kicker John Hall gave the Skins just what they wanted Thursday night, a game-winning field goal in the final seconds. QB Patrick Ramsay led the last-second drive, in the 2003 season opener.

BASEBALL -- Boston is rapidly catching the Yankees in the American League East. The Red Sox are only two games behind with 22 games remaining in the regular season. The Central is tied, Chicago and Minnesota have passed Kansas City this week. The Royals are down 1.5 games. In the west, Oakland has passed Seattle and is ahead by two games. Boston now leads the race for the wildcard over Seattle by one half game.

In the National League, Atlanta leads the East, well ahead of Philadelphia. The Central Division is log-jammed, with Houston up on Chicago by a mere one half game, and two in front of St. Louis. The Western Division is led by San Francisco. The Giants have pulled way ahead of the Dodgers and sinking Diamondbacks.

The wildcard race is led by Philadelphia, followed closely by Chicago, St. Louis and Los Angeles.

NCAA SOCCER -- The Indiana Hoosiers moved up from #7 to # 5 last week after palying two ranked teams to ties, 0-0 against the University of Alabama Birmingham, and 2-2 versus Georgetown University.