



# Ironhorse Desert News

## Operation Iraqi Freedom

### *“Steadfast & Loyal”*



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*(Clockwise from left to right)*

Leaders from 1/44 ADA go over battle plans before a raid; Infantry soldiers from Oklahoma NG practice dismount movements; Detainees await questioning after the raid; Members of Bravo Battery ride in their Bradley Linebacker preparing for the raid.

*By CPL Vernon O'Donnell*

TARMIYAH, Iraq - Although the major ground war has ended in Iraq, the threat of violence against U.S. troops and local civilians is still high. Coalition forces are working hard to ebb the violence and attacks.

Members of Task Force Gunner conducted a raid on May 31, 2003, in the town of Tarmiyah, which is about 30 miles north of Baghdad. The task force combined elements of the Oklahoma National Guard with the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division's 1/44 Air Defense Artillery and DIVARTY.

"We were informed that there were a couple of households housing weapons in the village," said SSG Walter A. Hynson, Bradley Linebacker Section SGT, 1/44 ADA, when explaining the reason for the raid. "We also had an incident where one of our vehicles was hit by small arms fire."

The process of planning and executing the raid took place over a three-day period and was made up of multiple missions.

"First, we had to recon the area and determine the houses that were the threat," said 2LT Jason M. Connor, platoon leader, 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, 1/44 ADA. "Then we constructed a terrain map board to show the soldiers the area in which the raid would be taking place. After going over the raid on the map board, we had mounted rehearsals to go over the specific movements all of the soldiers would be making."

Once plans for the mission were finalized and all of the soldiers involved knew their assignments, the raid took place.

"Our leaders put together the plan for us to come in late at night. We had to come in swiftly and take out those people who took part in the small arms fire incident and to confiscate any weapons that were found," said Hynson.

The vehicles approached the target area to the assigned dismount point for the infantry soldiers. Then the foot soldiers entered the houses and detained the suspects and seized the weapons while the Bradley Linebackers supplied security and blocked the roads.

These raids are necessary to ensure safety for not only the soldiers living and working in the area, but also for the local citizens.

"This is important for the Iraqis," said Hynson. "(The Iraqis) deserve safety; they've spent years and years being oppressed by a ruthless dictator who really didn't have any feelings or even care. They need to experience the freedom that we experience in our country."

# Profiles in Leadership

*CSM Henry Burns, Jr.*

*by SPC Joseph Norton*

Caring. Helping. Rewarding. Words that frequently come up when talking with CSM Henry Burns, Jr., 2/20<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. These are words he uses when he talks about his work and responsibilities.

Burns' job allows him to get out of the office so that he can do what he enjoys most—interacting with his soldiers. That's when he is able to put those words into action everyday.

"I get a chance to really be with the soldiers," said Burns. "I'm out and about watching the young soldiers grow and turning those young soldiers into future leaders. It's rewarding, very rewarding," he said.

Burns feels part of that growth process takes place when his soldiers are in the community and tending to the needs of Iraqi civilians.

"One of the best things this battalion is doing is we're getting out in the population and really showing the people we care," said Burns.

"For instance, we have our medic who goes down into the town every two days to administer to the sick people."

Burns said one of his proudest moments during this deployment happened when a medical team member cared for an Iraqi child with an ear infection. The child was very nervous, and the way the medic overcame the language barrier by touching the child's eyes to sooth him. The crowd of Iraqis watching showed its approval by applauding.

For Burns, improving the quality of life for his soldiers is important. "I want to do everything I can do to make their stay in Iraq as smooth as possible," said Burns. "Give them some touch of home. Since we've been here, we've opened a PX, and we show movies at night for the soldiers, because they work hard."

Burns said he has served 26 "glorious years" in the Army, the last seven with the 4<sup>th</sup> I.D. He is married to Ramona, and they have a son Tim, 22, who is a tanker in the Army serving in Iraq; and a 16-year old daughter, Neisha.

Looking back on his career, Burns said he wishes he hadn't waited so long to go to college, but he doesn't regret it. He was focused on becoming a leader-- the caring and helpful leader he is today.

## Change of Command



LTC Timothy Parks relinquishes command of 1-12 Infantry Battalion during a change of command ceremony in Tuz, Iraq.



LTC William Schafer passes the guidon to his Battalion CSM during a 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division change of command ceremony for 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 12 Infantry Regiment. 1-12 Infantry is based at Fort Carson, Col. Schafer assumed responsibility of the 1-12 Infantry from LTC Timothy Parks.



*Story by MSG Dave Johnson*

CAMP IRONHORSE, TIKRIT, Iraq -- When the shout rang out in the post office, "Mail's in," a team of soldiers scurried into position to sort mail. The mail clerks run the operation like a meticulously rehearsed professional football team runs its two-minute offense -- except there is no stoppage in play. The precision passing, hand-offs, and laterals continued until all the mail had been sorted, stacked, organized, and readied for distribution to units.

The 449<sup>th</sup> Postal Company, an Army Reserve unit from Brevard, N.C., operates the mailroom at Camp Ironhorse, Tikrit. Every day they take on a monumental mound of mail, but they don't work alone. They get additional help from mail clerks assigned to units within the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.

"The teamwork is great," said SGT Felicia Stroud, noncommissioned officer in charge. "It really helps to get all these soldiers to pitch in during sorting."

According to Stroud, the 4<sup>th</sup> ID, on an average day, receives four 20-foot military vans of mail. Camp Ironhorse alone gets a two-and-one-half-ton truck packed full of letters and packages. Sorting all the mail that comes in daily is a monumental task. Many of the care packages received from family members are quite heavy.

"You have to be physically fit to lift these heavy boxes," said SPC Melody E. Williams, an administrative specialist with the 449<sup>th</sup>. Moving and sorting mass amounts of mail is not only physically demanding, but a strain on the eyes as well. "It definitely helps when packages come in written in big, block letters," said SPC Thomas A. Christian, II, a medical specialist, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4<sup>th</sup> ID, who helps in the mailroom.

"Sorting goes faster when the complete unit's and soldier's name is on the package," said SPC Clayton E. Fundersol, Jr., the mail clerk with HHC, 4<sup>th</sup> ID.

According to Stroud, soldiers can help speed the mail sorting and distribution process by properly labeling letters and parcels. "Use their full APO return address, and complete the entire address for the recipient. Many letters are sent without zip codes for USA addresses," said Stroud. "Use a customs form when sending film, CDs and cassettes through the mail."

"Some *do nots*," said Stroud, "are alcohol, sending or receiving. "Also," she said, "please do not send sand. Some soldiers want to mail sand back to the States. I don't know why, but we saw a lot of that while we were working in Kuwait. Don't try to send spiders or scorpions, either," she added facetiously. "A last *do not*," said Stroud, "is sending any agriculture product."

The 449<sup>th</sup> does a lot more for the soldiers of the Ironhorse Division than distribute mail. According to 1LT Tiwana J. Richardson, commander of the 449<sup>th</sup>, soldiers can now send mail home that weighs more than 13 ounces. Soldiers must pay the stateside rate for postage from the APO in New York to the recipients' address.

"Of course," said Williams, "mail weighing less than 13 ounces is free mail to another APO address or home to the States. When mailing to a fellow soldier at an APO, be sure to write 'MPS' (Military Postal Service) instead of 'Free Mail'." Stroud added, "The limits on mailing packages is a girth of 108 inches and weight of 70 pounds."

The hours of operations of the finance operations section of the mailroom are: Monday-Friday, 9:00-Noon and 3:00-6:00 p.m.; Saturdays 3:00-6:00 p.m.; and Sundays 9:00 to Noon. The 449<sup>th</sup> is located next to the HHC, 4<sup>th</sup> ID warehouse on Camp Ironhorse.

Getting mail to the troops of Task Force Ironhorse in the Tikrit area quickly and efficiently is the 449<sup>th</sup> goal and it operates with NFL-like proficiency.

# Task Force News



SPC Christine Seal, 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, 502<sup>nd</sup> Eng. Co., scans the cliffs rising out of the Tigris River during a security patrol.



A boat from 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, 502<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Co. patrols the Tigris River along the shores of Tikrit.



SGT Stefan Libowsky guides his boat along the Tigris River, with crew chief, SPC Steve Matta by his side.



A boat heads out on patrol as the sun sets on the Tigris River.

*By SSG Craig Pickett*

TIKRIT, Iraq—The sun sets on the Tigris River as eight soldiers push off from the west bank of the river and power their two boats into the fast-flowing waterway. The soldiers and the boats belong to the 502<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Company (Assault Float Bridge) from Hanau, Germany. They are assigned to Task Force Ironhorse and their job is to ensure the compound is safe and maintain a military presence on the river.

Typically the engineers build float bridges, but that has changed as infantry units have secured bridges throughout Iraq, explained CPT Christopher Jeszenszky, commander of the 502<sup>nd</sup>. Now that most of the float bridge missions are complete, the Engineers are focused on protecting the west side of Camp Ironhorse, where elements of the task force are staged.

Jeszenszky said patrolling is not one of the unit's mission essential tasks and has not been performed by the Army since the Vietnam War, which means they've had to adapt to the new role. Working with his TSG, Jeszenszky formulated a plan with principles based on mechanized travel in a linear danger area along with aspects of dismounted patrolling. With this concept in mind, a group of boats patrol the river, with some headed north while others go south. The 502<sup>nd</sup> has a presence on the river day and night.

Though the engineers enjoy their regular job of bridging, they have found patrolling offers its own benefits. "I love my job," said SPC Steve Mata, crew chief on the lead boat. "It's days like this - I've got a twelve hour shift, but I'm out on the water all night long, I don't have to deal with anybody; I just get to sit around and patrol this river. And enjoy the cool air," he added.

SPC Christine Seal, one of the security personnel on the boat, agreed with Mata's assessment of the mission. She enjoys the isolation, cool air and the simple fact that it gives them something to do. Seal takes her job seriously. With binoculars in hand, she scans the river for anything out of the ordinary. Her squad automatic weapon is within easy reach to quell any uprising.

The cliffs that rise up out of the water 200 feet or more are Mata's biggest concern. "It's too easy to get people up there and start shooting at us," he said. That is why Seal has a counterpart on the other side of the boat. SPC Daniel Jones is also looking for the odd and unusual in the water and on the cliffs. Both have night vision devices for use after the sun goes down.

"We're looking for any suspicious behavior," said Mata. "We have to check all boats coming down the river. Most of them are just fisherman trying to catch their meal for the night.

# News Briets

**SEOUL, South Korea** — The United States agreed Thursday to dismantle bases and withdraw American troops from positions they have occupied for decades near the tense Demilitarized Zone separating South Korea from communist North Korea. The troops will eventually be moved to "hub bases" at least 75 miles south of the Demilitarized Zone, according to a joint statement after two days of talks between U.S. and South Korean officials. Even after the redeployment, U.S. troops will continue to train north of Seoul and close to the DMZ, the statement said.

**AGABAH, Jordan** — Three leaders, three substantive, even somewhat startling statements of determination to see a settlement to the Palestinian–Israeli conflict finally concluded. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas and U.S. President George Bush infused their words with optimism after concluding their first summit meeting in the Jordanian city of Aqaba on Wednesday. But their words are being scrutinized and deconstructed by Jews, Arabs and Americans with myriad opinions on how and even if the conflict should end.

**WASHINGTON**— Attorney General John Ashcroft urged Congress on Thursday to expand the USA Patriot Act to permit the government to hold more suspects indefinitely and to extend the death penalty to more people accused of terrorist crimes.

**NEW YORK** — The executive editor and managing editor of The New York Times, the icon of American journalism, resigned Thursday following the journalistic fraud scandal involving former reporter Jayson Blair. The scandal has rocked the world of journalism and raised questions about the state of journalism in general.

**WASHINGTON** — Failing to weather the storm over a tax cut package that denied a major benefit to low-income families, Republican senators struck their sails Thursday, reaching agreement with their Democratic counterparts to expand a \$1,000 child tax credit to minimum-wage families — while also granting high-income married couples a full or partial credit later this decade. The full Senate then approved the bill, which would give 6.5 million low-income families a check worth \$400 for each of their children.

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — A home video of Saddam Hussein at one of his daughter's birthday parties has shown Iraqis a side to the deposed president he never let them see. Copies of the videos went on sale Thursday and sold out fast. THE GRAINY HOME movie, shot more than a decade ago, shows Saddam in military fatigues smiling stiffly. His wife, Sajida, and a crowd of children sing and dance beside a towering cake. For Iraqis, it is an unprecedented glimpse of the domestic life of the man who brutalized the country for decades. Nobody knows how the footage was found — vendors suspect it was looted from the home of somebody in Saddam's inner circle.

## SPORTS ZONE

**HOCKEY**--Give them a break — and add in some lucky bounces. Everything went the New Jersey Devils' way, and now the Stanley Cup might be headed their way again, too. Brian Gionta scored a goal and set up Jay Pandolfo for the go-ahead score — neither of which went off the Devils' sticks — in a decisive second period, and New Jersey beat the Anaheim Mighty Ducks 6–3 in Game 5 Thursday night .

**BASKETBALL**--Jason Kidd might want to take the San Antonio Spurs off his free-agent list after this season. It has nothing to do with either the Spurs or the idea of playing with Tim Duncan. Kidd is having trouble with the Spurs' new home, the SBC Center. He can't hit much of anything in the building.

**BASEBALL**--Sosa's reputation as a slugger may have been shattered. Five seasons after becoming a smiling, slugging ambassador for baseball, Sammy Sosa, his reputation and his historic accomplishments are coming under intense scrutiny after he was caught using a corked bat Tuesday night.

**NEW YORK**-- Shut out of the Olympics since 1988, ABC is trying to break NBC's recent monopoly and return to the event where it set a broadcasting standard.

**AUTO RACING**-- Tony Stewart has had his share of poor finishes this season, but on Sunday when the Winston Cup series makes its annual June stop at Pocono (Pa.) Raceway, Stewart is my choice to visit Victory Lane for the first time in 2003.

**GOLF**-- A bogey from the bunker. A bogey from the rough. Annika Sorenstam had been there before, on the back nine at DuPont Country Club early in the week, with the LPGA Championship already slipping away.

**FOOTBALL**-- Brian Westbrook learned from watching Brian Mitchell last year. Now he's trying to replace the NFL's most prolific returner.

**TENNIS**-- It started in the very first game, when a few fans applauded an errant forehand. By the final set, thousands loudly cheered missed serves. And when Serena Williams abruptly shook hands without speaking a word to Justine Henin–Hardenne, the woman who had just ended her Grand Slam winning streak, full-throated boos echoed from the upper deck.

**HORSE RACING**--Funny Cide's historic run came to an end Saturday when the 3-year-old gelding failed to win the Belmont Stakes, losing to Empire Maker in the 1 1/2-mile final jewel of the Triple Crown. Ten Most Wanted finished second, while the gelding was third

## Aid Station

Sick Call 7:00-10:00 a.m.

Dental 8:00-11:00 a.m.  
Emergency Care Available 24/7

**Note:** Don't let your prescription run out! Contact a PA at the Aid Station 2-3 weeks before you need a refill.

Emergency refills are available though the 21<sup>st</sup> Combat Support Hospital. Talk to your health care provider for details.

## 4<sup>th</sup> ID Band Performances

Monday  
5:45-6:30 p.m.

### Jazz Combo

Soldiers' Inn Lobby

Wednesday  
6:00-7:00 p.m.

### Brass Quintet

@ Soldiers' Inn Lobby

Friday  
6:30-7:45 p.m.

### Variety

@ Chapel/Movie Area

## Religious Services

\*New times begin June 15\*  
**Sunday**

Protestant- 9:30 a.m.

LDS- Noon - DFAC

Gospel- 11:00 a.m.

Catholic- 1:00 p.m.

### Friday

Jewish- 7:30 p.m.

Muslim 12:25 p.m.

### Wednesday

Prayer & Praise

6:30 p.m.

Bible Study

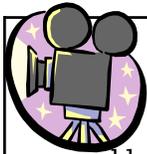
7:00 p.m.



LTC Ed Mount, G-3 Chief of Operations, stands at attention as MG Raymond Odierno, Commander of TF Ironhorse and 4<sup>th</sup> ID, places silver oak leaves on his collar. The promotion ceremony took place at the Water Palace in Tikrit, Iraq.



MG Raymond Odierno, Commander of TF Ironhorse and 4<sup>th</sup> ID, pins rank on the collar of LTC Mike Jones, Secretary General Staff.



## Soldiers' Inn Movies

*Shows Begin at 8:00 p.m.*

- 11 Jun Spider Man
- 12 Jun Two Weeks Notice
- 13 Jun Absolute Power
- 14 Jun As Good as it Gets
- 15 Jun Young Guns
- 16 Jun The Rookie
- 17 Jun A Beautiful Mind
- 18 Jun American Graffiti
- 19 Jun Maid in Manhattan
- 20 Jun Red Dragon
- 21 Jun Mob Justice

## Community Note

When you pass through the gate at Camp Ironhorse there is a big sign posted on the right side of the road. It's amazing how many times soldiers drive by that sign without noticing it. That sign could save your life or the life of your buddy. It directs everyone entering the complex to clear their weapon. It only takes a couple of moments to get out of your vehicle and do the right thing.

**Clear your weapon when entering all installations!**