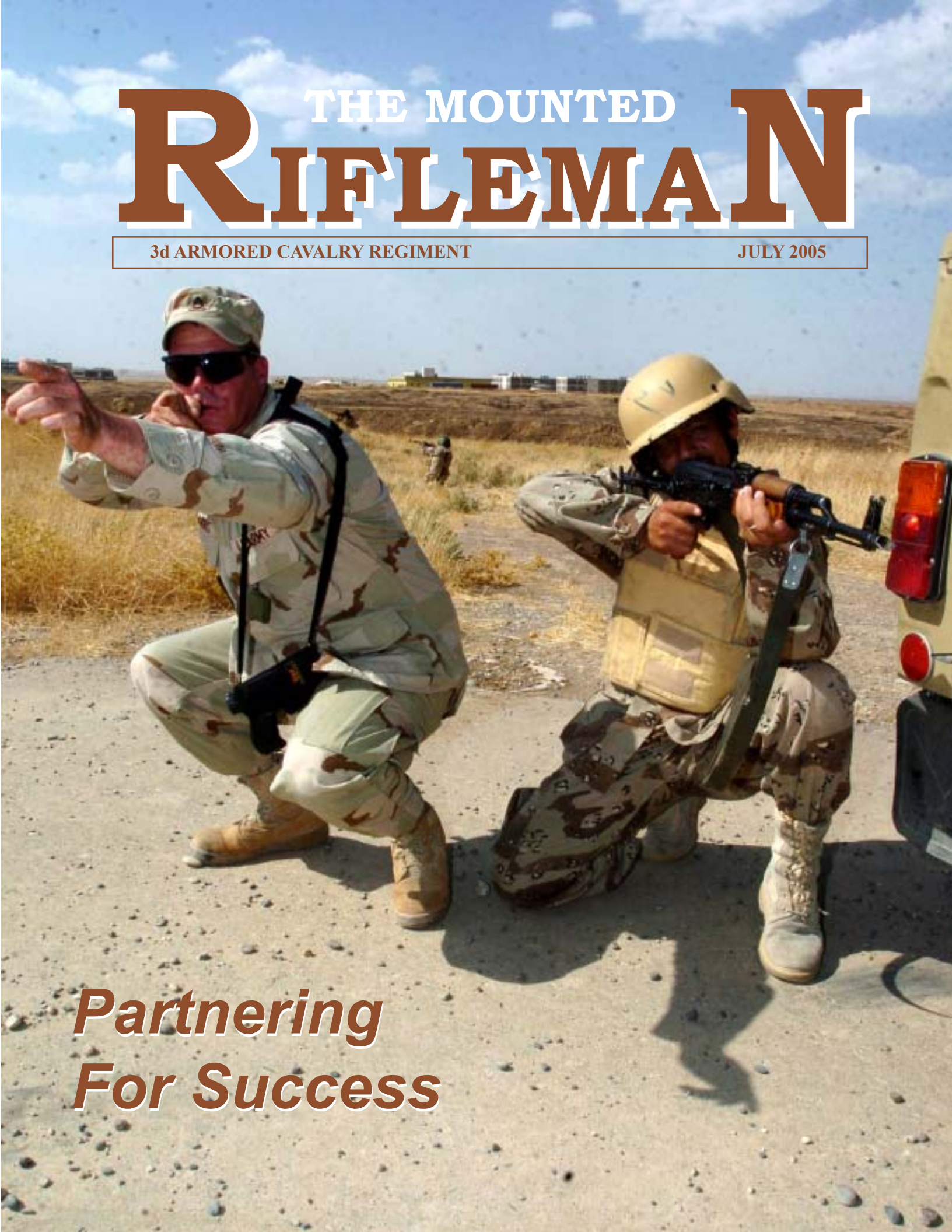
THE MOUNTED RIFLEMAN

3d ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT JULY 2005



Partnering For Success

THE MOUNTED RIFLEMAN

Published monthly by the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment

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The Mounted Rifleman is the official publication for the Troopers, Noncommissioned Officers, Officers, family members and friends of the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment. Views expressed herein are those of the authors.

The Mounted Rifleman is the primary Command Information tool of the Regimental command leadership. Its mission is to foster esprit de corps, enhance morale and keep Troopers informed throughout the Regiment.

About This Issue

Every July our country celebrate its independence and our actions in Iraq will someday allow the citizens of this country to one day do the same. During this month the Regiment's successes have brought the Iraqi people closer to celebrate their own constitution.

This edition of the Mounted Rifleman, once again through photography and pen, captures the accomplishments of our Troopers throughout the Regiment's area of operations.

The troopers of Bandit Troop, Tiger Squadron, helped a school in a Iraqi village by building desks for the students, thus creating a bette environment for them to learn.

In an effort to prevent terrorists from smuggling into Iraq through the Syrian border, Soldiers assigned to the 43rd Combat Engineering Company bulldozed countless tons of earth to build berms.

The month, with temperatures on some days exceeding 110 degrees, also provided the troopers some time for fun and relaxation.

Sports Day and a rock concert by Edison, a band from New York City, were huge morale boosters. Also the first-ever 10K Freedom Run planned by 1st Lt. Carla Graves, Medical Troop, was a success as well.

In an historic event, the Regiment opened the doors for the Brave Rifles NCO Academy-Al Kisik on July 16, welcoming more than 50 Iraqi noncommissioned officers and leaders for the first course.

As the premier Army in the world, our NCOs are training the Iraqi Army's NCO Corps on developing standards, leadership and passing essential knowledge so they can stand on their own.

Sadly in the month of July we've lost 12 more of our brothers-in-arms — nine from Thunder Squadron, two from Sabre Squadron and one from 66th Military Intelligence Company.

The memory of these brave troopers will remain in our hearts and their sacrifice will not go in vain. We pray for their families for strength and support in their time of sorrow and grief.

-- The Editor

Photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Robert Schalk

Left: Spc. Joel Francis, 43rd Combat Engineering Company, use an Armored Combat Earthmover to construct a berm around an Iraqi border patrol station to protect Iraqi border guards from incoming fire. See more photos on Pages 16-17. Cover: Staff Sgt. Donald Harris, instructor, Brave Rifles NCO Academy-Al Kisik, explains to a student where he should be providing cover during a field training exercise. See related article and photos on Pages 8-12.

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Cover photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

A message from the
71st Colonel of the Regiment

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Col. H.R. McMaster, 71st Regimental Commander, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, talks to troopers of Mad Dog Troop, Thunder Squadron July 12 at Forward Operating Base Falcon, Iraq.

Over the past month, the Regiment has pursued the enemy and conducted very effective operations in South Baghdad and in Northwest Iraq. I could not be more proud of our troopers who continue to exhibit extraordinary courage, professionalism, and dedication to duty. As we approach the mid-point of our mission, we want our families to know how much we appreciate the sacrifices they make so their trooper can serve our nation and his or her fellow troopers.

I want to take a moment to acknowledge the tremendous contribution that all of our support troopers make to our operations.

Our air and ground mechanics, supply personnel, medical, transportation, supply, food service, and communications specialists are working very hard to sustain our combat readiness.

To give you an idea of what it takes to sustain the Regiment, consider that 80 Muleskinner Squadron combat logistical patrols covered over one hundred thousand miles in support of Tiger and Sabre Squadrons during the past month alone.

These troopers, because they are focused on specialized areas, often do not get to see the results of their hard work and professionalism.

Recently, I had the opportunity to speak with many of our support formations and update our troopers on Regimental operations.

All of us recognize that we could not accomplish our mission without these talented and dedicated troopers.

The Regiment arrived in Western Ninewa and conducted very effective operations against the enemy. Initially, the enemy attempted to keep us out of the city of Tall Afar and organized complex attacks against us as we conducted reconnaissance.

The result was lopsided and devastating to the enemy; we inflicted heavy losses on them as we overwhelmed them with firepower and chased them down.

Simultaneously, due to the discipline and professionalism of our Soldiers, we developed relationships with the people of the city who are the real victims of the terrorists. Those relationships gave the Regiment access to intelligence that Sabre Squadron used to conduct precise raids to kill or capture the enemy.

In response, the enemy intensified attacks on the civilian population of Tall Afar; a shift that alienated them from the population and encouraged the good people of the city to take a stand.

We are fighting an enemy that has attacked funeral processions and recruiting stations with suicide bombers, fired mortars into residential neighborhoods, kidnapped and murdered innocent civilians, and used children as human shields.

"These are people who would not only deny freedom and security to the people of Iraq, they would also attack our nation and our children if given the chance to do so."

The enemy tries to justify their inhumanity through a misrepresentation of religion. The people we are fighting, however, are irreligious and their actions have revealed their true nature.

These are people who would not only deny freedom and security to the people of Iraq, they would also attack our own nation and our children if given the chance to do so. Our troopers are pursuing the enemy relentlessly alongside our Iraqi Army partners.

While Sabre Squadron seized the initiative in Tall Afar and delivered devastating blows to the enemy, Tiger Squadron established control of the border crossing point in Rabiyah, defeated the enemy, and established permanent security in a critical hub of insurgent activity in Biaj.

Tiger conducted border surveillance as well as reconnaissance and offensive operations that severely disrupted the enemy's ability to access external support from Syria.

Tiger captured foreign terrorists trying to infiltrate into Iraq and dismantled a network of Iraqi traitors who were equipping, financing, and moving these terrorists across the border and into the interior of the country.

Longknife Squadron continues to have a significant impact on the enemy as the Squadron conducted air and ground interdiction of infiltrators and smugglers from Syria and continued to provide the entire Regiment with exceptional logistical, command and control, reconnaissance, and attack aviation support.

Longknife's crew chiefs, mechanics, and maintenance test pilots are sustaining our fleet despite an extraordinarily high tempo of operations.

Most recently, in combined operations with Iraqi security forces and Special Operating Forces, Tiger Squadron defeated the enemy in the town of Avgani and returned what was an enemy safe haven to the people.

As in Biaj, the Regiment, along with the Iraqi Army, established a permanent security force in the town as we build police forces that can fight and stand up to the terrorists.

The enemy attacked our forces there, but thanks to the protection emplaced by the 43rd Engineer Company and the quick reaction of the Iraqi Army, the suicide bomber succeeded only in killing himself.

Some of the Regiment's other accomplishments in the last month in Western Ninewa Province include: the destruction of three vehicle-borne IEDs and one mortar team; the capture of one mortar team, one suicide vest, three vehicle-borne IEDs, and five small ammunition caches; the capture of over 140 of the enemy; and the destruction of 40 of the enemy who were foolish enough to engage our troopers.

In the critical area of South Baghdad, Thunder Squadron continues to be the "rock" of the "Rock of the Marne" as our troopers conduct area security and route reconnaissance to protect their fellow troopers and deny the enemy the ability to influence our operations or the Iraqi Government's operations in the capitol city.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Col. H.R. McMaster, 71st Regimental Commander, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, talks to troopers of Medical Troop, Support Squadron at Camp Sykes, Iraq.

Thunder Squadron continued to pursue the enemy. Recent cordon and search operations have resulted in the capture of several enemy leaders and protected Baghdad.

Successful reconnaissance operations near the main highway leading to Baghdad yielded a cache consisting of 18 aerial bombs that had been used to attack our forces.

Our Regiment is helping to rebuild Iraq even as we pursue the enemy. Thunder has initiated 32 projects that will greatly improve Iraqis quality of life.

These accomplishments have not been without sacrifice. Last month the Regiment lost Staff Sgt. Jeremy Brown from the 66th Military Intelligence Company, Staff Sgt. Scottie Bright, Spc. Lyle Cambridge, Sgt. Timothy Sutton, Spc. Ronnie Williams, Staff Sgt. Jason Montefering, Sgt. Milton Monzon, Pfc. Ramon Villatoro, Pfc. Ernest Dallas, and Spc. Robert Swaney from 3/3 ACR, and Spc. Hobie Bradfield and Pfc. Eric Woods from 2/3 ACR.

Staff Sgt. Brown was lost while conducting security operations with Tiger Squadron in Western Ninewa Province.

Staff Sgt. Bright, Spc. Cambridge, Sgt. Sutton, Spc. Williams, Staff Sgt. Montefering, Sgt. Monzon, Pfc. Villatoro, Pfc. Dallas, and Spc. Swaney were killed in action while conducting operations in South Baghdad.

Spc. Bradfield and Pfc. Woods were killed in action during operations in Tall Afar. We will not forget our fallen comrades and we will honor them through our actions. Their families will remain in our thoughts and prayers.

The Regiment has become a family – a strong family that is committed to each other. We will continue to draw strength from each other and look after each other.

We know that our mission will not only shape the future of Iraq, but is also vital to the security of our own nation.

The Regiment has once again been baptized in fire and blood and come out steel. RCSM Burns and I consider it the greatest privilege to serve alongside our courageous troopers.

BRAVE RIFLES!

A message from the

XVII CSM of the Regiment

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Command Sgt. Maj. William Burns, XVII Regimental Command Sergeant Major, praises a trooper from Medical Troop during a morale visit on Camp Sykes, Iraq.

First I want to thank all the family members and friends of the Regiment. As we enter the halfway mark of our deployment, I want to remind everyone that our mission is not yet complete.

Although our successes have been many during this deployment, there is much more to do. I know the summer months are usually a time for having fun and relaxation, but it is critical for every trooper to remain safety conscious and vigilant to their assigned duties.

I'm encouraging every trooper to take leave to go home and recharge your batteries so you can continue to make a difference in the fight on the battlefield.

The time away from Iraq should be a time to relax, reflect, and reinvigorate your physical and mental health.

Each day as I talk to the great troopers of this Regiment I am constantly impressed at the level of professionalism, talent and dedication to duty our Soldiers possess.

Whether I talk to a mechanic, scout, medic or supply technician, the outstanding Troopers of this Regiment are truly a representation of the finest Americans serving our country.

I've sat on promotion and Soldier/NCO of the Month boards and seen our future leaders of the Army shine before me.

I'm filled with pride to know that our Noncommissioned Officer Corps is in good hands with those Soldiers coming up through the ranks.

Finally I want to encourage all leaders to think heat injury prevention during the brutal Iraqi summer season. Ensure your Soldiers are properly hydrated, are exercising as missions permit and are eating a well-balanced diet.

Talk to your Soldiers every day! Monitor their well-being and take care of their personal and professional growth. By doing this we can ensure we're cultivating our Troopers into better Soldiers.

RCSM

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Staff Sgt. Donald Harris, instructor, Brave Rifles NCO Academy-Al Kisik, gives a pep talk to Sgt. Baban Naseraldin Taha during a field training exercise.

Sgt. 1st Class Maurice Larry, instructor, Br

School of HARD KNOCK

NCO Academy develops Iraqi NCO Corps

Photo by Staff Sgt. Maurice Paez

rave Rifles NCO Academy-Al Kisik, observes the Iraqi Army students during their drill and ceremonies instruction.

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Story By Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

The U.S. Army Noncommissioned Officer Corps is envied by the rest of the world as the "backbone" of the Army and every since there has been an Army, NCOs have trained, led and cared for Soldiers.

In an effort to assist the Iraqi Army to develop its NCO Corps, the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment stood up an NCO Academy at Al Kisik and began its first class July 16 with more than 50 students attending.

According to Sgt. Maj. Rodney Placzek, commandant, Brave Rifles Academy – Al Kisik, the mission of the school is to help develop Iraqi NCOs to be capable of leading, training and motivating its own Soldiers.

"What we're trying to do here is develop the middle management part of their Army," Placzek said. "The toughest thing we're facing is trying to teach them what we, as an Army, take for granted – for example, down to wall locker displays."

Giving an example, Plazek mentioned if a group of U.S. Soldiers who'd been through basic training were given the task to prepare for a room inspection, "You can pretty much bet everything will be organized, neat and to a standard."

"Fom the first inspection I had with them and walking through their rooms, I said, 'Wow, these guys have no idea what a standard is for barracks,'" Placzek said. "And taking that mentality of how they think and try to transform that to a constant mentality of leadership is what we're facing here."

The 23-day course, taught in a small-group environment, is described by the instructors as a Primary Leadership Development Course on "steroids," with students receiving instruction on more than 40 topics such as Duties and Responsibilities of an NCO, Dismounted Movement Formations and Techniques, Universal Human Rights and Preparing Warning and Operations Orders.

With 'positive stress' conditions to similar to PLDC, the students are up before sunrise conducting physical fitness training, performing barracks maintenance before breakfast and are 'encouraged' to move in an expedient manner everywhere they go.

There are six instructors from 3rd ACR, four sergeants first class and two staff sergeants, who were selected from throughout the Regiment to teach and mentor the students.

"They're getting in 23 days what we go through in basic training, advanced individual training, PLDC and probably a little bit of BNOC [Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course]," said Staff Sgt. Dennis Cronin, instructor, Brave Rifles Academy – Al Kisik.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Iraqi Army Noncommissioned Officers plan their operation order prior to their field training exercise as Staff Sgt. Dennis Cronin, far right, instructor, Brave Rifles NCO Academy-Al Kisik, looks on.

Everyday the students recite their NCO Creed, created by the instructors, and debate and give their individual perspective on what they think an NCO should be, know and do. Also the Academy features an Honor Code for the students to adhere during the course.

Despite course materials comprised primarily from Noncommissioned Officer Education Schools and various Army training manuals, Placzek doesn't want to give the impression that the Academy is "Americanizing" the Iraqi Army.

"I constantly remind my instructors that this is for the Iraqi Army; we're not trying to make them United States citizens," Placzek said. "We're not trying to make them U.S. Army Soldiers; we're just trying to get them to develop their systems of leadership with

just the basic principles of how to get things done."

The Program of Instruction has not been without challenges for the instructors. Once they started teaching and began to see what the Iraqi Soldiers understood, nearly 40 percent of the POI was changed.

However the biggest challenge for the instructors was teaching through an interpreter. The interpreters share the platform alongside the instructors and translate the course material to the students.

"The language barrier is hard and sometimes the interpreter doesn't know the right word for which we're trying to convey during instruction," said Cronin.

Initially the students were apprehensive of the course. The Iraqi Army of the past was officer-centric so NCOs were never put in a position of authority or given any responsibility for leadership.

Placzek realized right from the start he had to instill pride in the students and to impress upon them the importance of their title as NCOs.

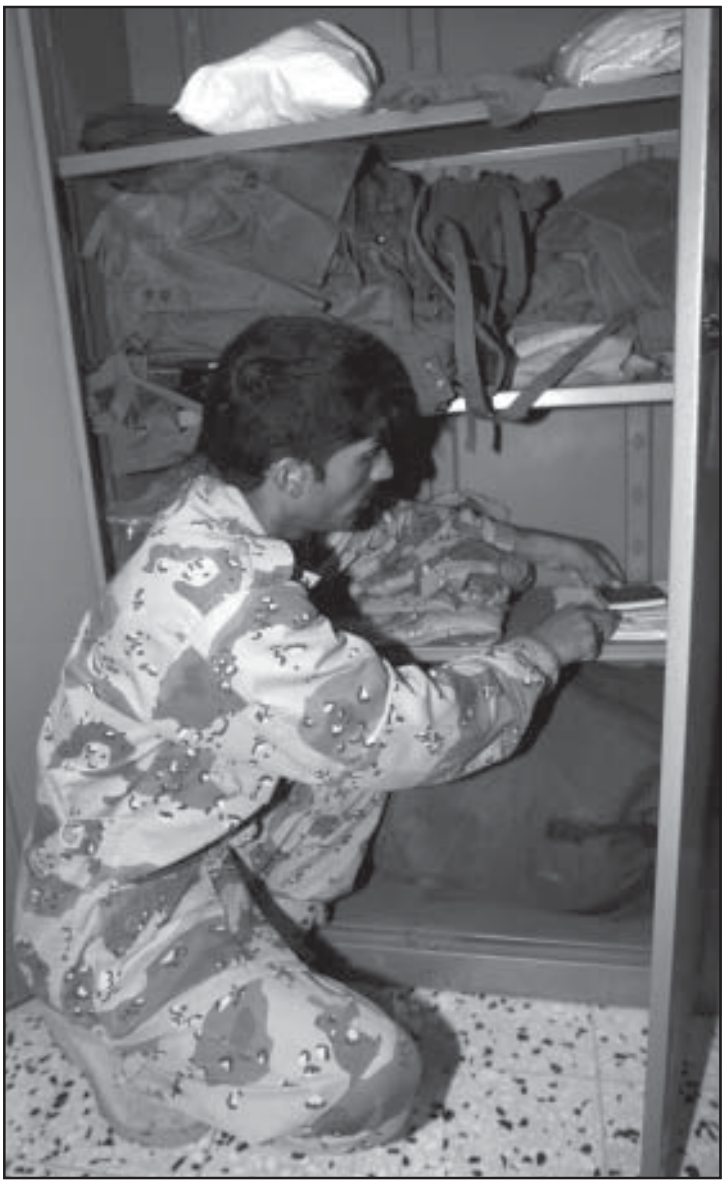

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

An NCO Academy student prepares his wall locker display for an upcoming inspection. The Academy teaches the students military classes such as Wear and Appearance of the Uniform, Duties and Responsibilities of the NCO, Leadership and Weapons training.

"This Academy, from the word 'go,' all the classes were written by NCOs," Placzek said. "Everything they see all around them was put together by NCOs and every class will be taught by NCOs. They needed to know that."

After the first week of the course it was evident the students were soaking up their new-found knowledge; so much so they were telling their fellow comrades and family members about the classes.

"Once they found out what we were teaching and what the students were starting to learn here, the division commander, Gen. Kursheed himself came to the Academy," Placzek said.

The visit from the 3rd Iraqi Army Division commander validated the importance of the Academy as he motivated the students with a pep talk.

Kursheed was so impressed with what the NCOs were learning that he decided he wanted to send his officers as well to the Academy. Placzek and the general agreed that only one-third of the student population will be officers.

The class will have an honor graduate for the student who achieves the highest academic score. More importantly, students who display outstanding communication and leadership skills will be selected to remain as instructors for the Academy, according to Placzek.

His vision for the Academy is for half the curriculum to be taught by Iraqi Army instructors

"The information we take from this course will be valuable for the Iraqi Army's future and every Iraqi Soldier need to attend this school."

-- Sgt. Salah Youins Zuity, Student, Brave Rifles NCO Academy - Al Kisik

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Sgt. Baban Naseraldin Taha and Sgt. Salah Youins Zuity, Iraqi Army, pose for a photo during a class break.

by the third cycle. During Class 05-02, the Iraqi Soldiers will get train-the-trainer training from U.S. Army instructors and start learning how to teach some of the instruction to prepare them for the platform.

"We've already selected a sergeant major to be the commandant for the school," Placzek said. "At the end of the course, we have four leaders who meet the qualities we're looking for to be instructors."

Nearing the end of the third week the students have left their mark on the instructors by impressing them with their desire to learn and their progression in leadership skills and setting standards.

"After you taught them and they say 'zain' which means 'okay, I got it' and see they retain the knowledge is pretty gratifying," said Staff Sgt. Donald Harris, instructor. "The learning process has been awesome. Their motivation level is always high. You tell them to do something, and they'll give you everything they got."

Completing his third day as class leader for Class 05-01, Sgt. Baban Naseraldin Taha was exhausted after preparing and leading his classmates through a raid to capture and detain a suspected terrorist during a practical exercise.

Drenched in sweat, Taha explained how much the course meant to him and his fellow NCOs.

"This is good for the U.S. Army to help instill pride in the Iraqi Army, particularly in helping Iraqi NCOs," Taha said. "We appreciate everything they've done for us. The training here at this Academy was very good for our Army."

The goal now for the Iraqi students is to take back what they learned to their units.

"We have to continue to learn and the Iraqi Army needs this to keep training new Soldiers," said Sgt. Salah Youins Zuity. "The information we take from this course will be valuable for the Iraqi Army's future and every Iraqi Soldier need to attend this school."

Zuity added he was extremely happy with the course and the chance to learn so much valuable information on becoming a better leader.

By passing on the knowledge from the U.S. Army's 230 years of existence to the Iraqi Army, both Cronin feelw will make a difference in the war against terrorism in Iraq.

"They listen to us because they consider us the best Army in the world and to be trained by us is very special to them," Cronin said. "Just watching them from day one to where they are now three weeks later is something special. We need to teach them what we know, to fight for themselves and to develop standards."

Long after he's retired from the military some day, Harris said his experiences training the Iraqi Army will be something he remembers for the rest of his life. He already has an Iraqi helmet for his students to autograph as a token for him to treasure.

"I will never forget this," Harris said. "I'll look at a map and point out Iraq and tell my kids I helped build their NCO Corps. This is the most gratifying thing I've done in the Army."

TIGER SQUADRON

By Lt. Col. Gregory Reilly
Tiger Squadron Commander

From the rapidly rising heat of the morning Iraqi sun near the Iraqi-Syrian border checkpoint in Rubiyah to the strong and drifting crosswinds of native Bi'aj, greetings Tiger Squadron troopers, family, and friends.

Over the past 30 days, Tiger Squadron has performed exceptionally well at conducting both counterinsurgency and security operations, not only effectively incorporating Iraqi Security Forces in our mission but improving the overall quality of life for the Iraqi people.

Now, three months after our initial arrival in Northwest Iraq, the Squadron continues to conduct reconnaissance operations daily in order to gain further intelligence and develop our current area of operations.

Three weeks ago, Tiger Squadron's own Dragon Company along with two additional Predator platoons were cross attached to Sabre Squadron at Camp Sykes in order to assist with the Regimental main effort in the city of Tall Afar.

Currently, Dragon Company is responsible for both the reconnaissance and security of all major ingress and egress routes surrounding the immediate Tall Afar area.

Since these Tiger elements have arrived in Tall Afar, there have been no major improvised explosive device attacks or small arms ambushes along these routes, thus improving the overall security of the region.

Even outside of Tiger Squadron's area of responsibility, the Squadron remains extremely successful.

Aside from these Regimental detachments, along with the remainder of our Squadron forces, the integration of the Iraqi Army, Border Police, and other national security forces is vital to our fight.

Not only has this welcome addition to our strength made an everlasting impression on the Iraqi people by building trust and confidence in the improving security of their country, but built a firm line of rapport and respect within the surrounding communities.

Recently, the Squadron has welcomed the arrival of several Iraqi Assistance Group training teams that focus daily on setting and improving Iraqi Army and Border Police standards and their overall effectiveness in the mission.

Using both discipline and professionalism, two of the shaping principles that our military was originally founded on, these training teams ultimately play a crucial role in guiding the Iraqi Security Forces to the level of soldiering they need to have in order to be a successful fighting force capable of securing their homeland.

In addition to the training of Iraqi Security Forces, Tiger Squadron has displayed superb flexibility and ability in juggling both border surveillance and reconnaissance operations on a daily basis.

A few weeks ago, the Squadron, in conjunction with Iraqi Security Forces, conducted a large-scale reconnaissance mission north of the Iraqi city of Tall Afar in order to isolate and capture several high-named insurgency targets.

Acting on information and tips, the Squadron believed that these individuals had been fleeing the direct vicinity of Tall Afar seeking refuge in smaller villages to the north.

The duration of the operation lasted approximately one week and the results were outstanding.

The operation was a total success for the Squad-

See **TIGER,** Page 15

Bandit Troop builds desks for Iraqi school

By Capt. William Eldrige
Bandit Troop, 1/3

During the summer months in America, while most students enjoy vacation time away from the thought of reading, ‘riting and ‘rithmetic, in some Iraqi villages students are deprived of the basic essentials to learn the R’s.

In an effort to improve the educational opportunities for the Iraqi children, troopers of Tiger Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, used their carpentry skills for a worthy cause.

While conducting a meet-and-greet patrol in the Kalhi Village, Bandit Troop (Blue ¼) troopers met with the mayor to get an assessment of the town.

The mayor informed 1st Lt. Jeff Ullmer, platoon leader, and Staff Sgt. Christopher Becker, platoon sergeant, that the 101st Airborne (Air Assault) built the town a new school during Operation Iraqi Freedom I.

The two toured the school with some of the village children and discovered that the building was empty of desks, bookcases, chalkboards and all other essential resources for running a school.

“The mayor explained that the 101st had redeployed to the U.S. shortly after the school was complete and did not have time to continue supplying the school with necessary supplies,” Ullmer said. “We decided that during our next daily patrol, we would stop at Kalhi village and build some desks for the school.”

Sgt. 1st Class Chris Hull and Staff Sgt. Brad Bygness designed a template for the benches and set to work building them. Pfc. Danny Arellano, Sgt. Emery Allen and Becker also assisted in building the desks and bookcases.

“A few villagers came by and offered a hand increasing the rate of speed that we could construct the desks,” Ullmer said.

Through a joint effort by Blue ¼ and the people of Kalhi, a total of eight desks and one bookcase were built for the school. This project provided seating for approximately 50 children or 30 adults.

Photos by Capt. William Eldrige

Top: Sgt. 1st Class Chriss Hull, Staff Sgt. Brad Bygness, Staff Sgt. Christopher Becker and Pfc. Danny Arellano, all of Bandit Troop, put together a desk for the Khali village school. Above: Iraqi school children show their appreciation for the new desks to Bandit Troopers.

At one point the building crew took a minute to stop and share a cup of chi (tea) with some members of the town. While the construction was ongoing inside the school, other members of Blue ¼ Troop were out in the town passing out candy and playing games with the children.

“At the end of the day, all of the children were allowed to enter the school and the smiles on their faces showed the real feelings of the people,” Ullmer said.

TIGER from Page 13

ron, taking a number of detainees and collecting further intelligence on surrounding areas, proving vital in shaping future reconnaissance operations within the Regimental area of interest.

Aside from an operational standpoint, presently, the Squadron's life support cycle and mission have made superb progress.

Currently, all three Squadron Forward Operating Bases are fully functional and have transitioned into both habitable and comfortable environments, thanks to the logistical support of the Regiment and the personal innovation of our troopers.

First, a few weeks ago, the Squadron received numerous generator and air conditioning units for our buildings and tents.

These systems facilitate both electrical necessities for Squadron daily operations and the inherent comfortability for our hard working troopers in the dead heat of a full-fledged Iraqi summer.

Along with these new units came a personal installation team that quickly installed all electrical systems and verified their working status.

Second, in addition to last month's MWR communications package for Tiger Base, the Squadron has received two more Dell computer and Spawar satellite phone systems for our troopers housing the two smaller base camps in Rubiyah and Bi'aj.

The emplacement of these two internet-capable MWR packages greatly enhances communications both to and from our trooper's families around the world.

Finally, last week, Tiger Squadron transitioned to three-a-day hot meals for our troopers from our very own dining facility located at Tiger Base.

This pleasant change to three hot meals was welcomed with open arms by all Tiger troopers and has since become part of our daily routine.

Overall, Tiger Squadron continues to rise high above the difficult challenge of creating a suitable and livable home for our troopers.

As the months and our time grow shorter, Tiger Squadron will **continue** to take the fight to the insurgency. Our mission, while dangerous, is of **vital importance** to rid evil from this country.

Whether our Squadron efforts lie with improving life support systems or conducting large-scale reconnaissance missions within our area of operations, Tiger Squadron has always been and will always continue to be up to the challenge.

As the months pass and our time here grow shorter, Tiger Squadron will continue to take the fight to the insurgency. Our mission, while dangerous, is of vital importance to rid evil from this country.

The emplacement of democracy and freedom is no longer a dream but a reality for the Iraqi populace. It is only through our efforts and resources that this reality is felt door to door within Northwest Iraq.

I am so very proud of Tiger Squadron and the entire team effort that is put forth daily by the finest troopers and leader's in today's Army.

It is both a privilege and honor to lead such a magnificent team.

Their constant daily sacrifices and intense dedication truly make our presence felt within the Iraqi community. Each day continues to be a step forward for Tiger Squadron and a step forward for this nation.

At this point in time, the duty, morale, commitment, professionalism, and spirit of Tiger Squadron are truly phenomenal.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the entire Tiger Squadron "team" back home for your constant support and dedication to both our troopers and the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen. Brave Rifles!

Tiger 6

Berming the Border

43rd Combat Engineering Company support operations involving security on Iraq's border

Mounted Rifleman Reports

Soldiers of the 43rd Combat Engineering Company revved their bulldozers to assist the Iraqi Border Patrol by building a berm to prevent smugglers and insurgents from entering the country along the Syrian border at Iraq's Ninewa province.

Attached to Tiger Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, the 43rd CEC has been pivotal in increasing the force protection of Iraqi and Coalition Forces.

Engineers of the 43rd Combat Engineering Company uses Armored Combat Earthmovers to construct a berm around an Iraqi border patrol station to protect Iraqi border guards from incoming fire.

Far left: Iraqi border police stand guard at the Syrian border. The Iraqi border patrol is working with support from the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment to prevent smugglers and insurgents from entering the country. Left: Sgt. Jonathon Clark, 43rd CEC, of Orleans, Mich. takes a break after a long day of operating an Armored Combat Earthmover. The vehicle was used to reinforce the berm seperating Iraqi and Syria in Iraq's Ninewa province.

Photos by U.S. Navy Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Robert M Schalk

‘Leader of Soldiers’ remembered, honored

By Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks
NCOIC, 3rd ACR Public Affairs

As the sun faded its rays behind Sinjar Mountain during sunset, the silhouettes of grief-filled Soldiers from Tiger Squadron covered the boots of one of their fallen comrades.

The men of Reaper Platoon stood in rank and file to say goodbye to Staff Sgt. Jeremy A. Brown during a memorial service held at Forward Operating Base Al Nimr, at Sinjar, Iraq on July 8.

Brown, a ground surveillance systems operator, was killed July 3 in a vehicle accident while conducting reconnaissance just north of the same picturesque mountain in Iraq.

“Staff Sergeant Brown was an extraordinary Soldier and leader of soldiers,” said Lt. Col. Gregory Reilly, commander, Tiger Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. “He was respected, revered, and admired by his superiors, peers, and subordinates by the way he carried himself, the example that he set, and in the tone… in which he inspired the very best in others.”

Photo by Photographer’s Mate 2nd Class Robert Schalk

Soldiers from the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment share their condolences at a memorial ceremony for Staff Sgt. Jeremy Brown at Forward Operating Base Al Nimr in Sinjar, Iraq on July 8.

Assigned to 66th Military Intelligence Company, Brown was an instrumental part of leading and training a unique team – a ground surveillance radar platoon – the only one of its kind remaining in the Army.

Upon arrival in Iraq, the GSR Platoon was attached to Dragon Company, 1st Squadron, 3rd ACR, where Brown served as a squad leader.

Reaper Platoon formed and trained to fight as a Cavalry Scout Platoon, capable of mounted and dismounted operations, to fight as a maneuver formation with quarter troops and tank platoons in the execution of complex air and ground area security operations.

Capt. Laurence Christian, 66th MI Company commander, spoke on Brown’s impact to the Soldiers serving under his leadership.

“From his first to last day of service in the United States Army, Staff Sergeant Brown sought to set the standard and live by the code of the warrior,” Christian said. “He was a Soldier and leader who could always be counted on to accomplish the toughest missions with skill and inspiring determination.”

Dragon Company Commander, Capt. Wade Birdwell, described Brown as having the greatest attitude of any Soldier he’d ever known.

“Regardless of the mission or the conditions, he was always up beat about the situation,” Birdwell said.

Brown, from Beckley, W.Va., entered the Army July 9, 1997 and attended Basic Training at Fort Sill, Okla. Upon graduation, he went to Fort Huachuca, Ariz., to attend the U.S. Military Intelligence School and awarded his military occupational specialty of 96R.

He served in Operation Iraqi Freedom I with the 311th MI Battalion at Fort Campbell, Ky., where he met and mentored Cpl. John Morris, who’d soon follow him to Fort Carson and assigned to the same unit.

“I had known Staff Sgt. Brown since I first was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division three years ago,” Morris said. “As a new Soldier, I was personally and professionally impressed with the true caliber of this great noncommissioned officer. He was truly a role model to emulate, that inspired me and many others.”

As the final salutes were rendered to the leader who craved Dr. Pepper sodas more than water, the dusk sky shadowed Brown’s boots for the last time, but not his memory in the hearts of the men who loved him.

Brown is survived by his wife, Rosemary, his son Seth, and his mother Teresa.

SABRE SQUADRON

By Lt. Col. Christopher Hickey
Sabre Squadron Commander

Greetings again from Tall Afar! Sabre Squadron and the new Iraqi Army continue to wage war an intense war against the insurgents in the city.

Over the past month, the Troopers of Sabre Squadron and their Iraqi Army (IA) counterparts have been involved in some of the most intense ground battles that the Regiment has witnessed to this point in the deployment.

All of the Soldiers involved in the fight against the insurgents have proven to be supremely well-disciplined and well-trained, and their courage and violence of action have taken a major toll on the enemy as the squadron continues to make daily progress towards destroying the insurgency.

The battles have been hard fought, but every operation conducted by Sabre Squadron over recent weeks has shown the ever-increasing competency and capabilities of our IA brethren, as well as provided illustrations of the heroism and valor of our own Troopers.

Many of the Iraqi Army Soldiers completed advanced dismounted training this month and the results have been superb.

Members of the Iraqi Army were part of a raid on an insurgent stronghold with Grim Troop, where they showed off their new skills and entered and fought in the fiercely contested objective as skillfully, violently, and confidently as any of the American Soldiers.

The integration of American and Iraqi forces continues to prove essential to the success of any major operation in the city and the growing confidence and proficiency of the IA on the battlefield has substantially increased the squadron's overall combat effectiveness.

This month Sabre Squadron, in conjunction with the Regimental MST, began training Iraqi Soldiers on the operation of tracked vehicles, in order to further increase their capabilities.

To date, 16 IA Soldiers have completed M113 training, and the squadron looks forward to using this new asset on the battlefield in coming operations.

The heroism displayed by the Troopers Grim, Eagle, Fox, Heavy, Lion, and Rattler Troops over the past month has been extraordinary. I would like to give just a quick glimpse of the valor displayed by the soldiers of this squadron over recent weeks.

During a dismounted patrol in Tall Afar on June 25, Grim Troop came under small arms fire from multiple directions, originating in alleyways intersecting the street which 3rd Platoon was patrolling.

Sgt. Wolfsteller was hit by a round from and AK-47 and lay wounded in the street. Without regard for his own safety, Spc. Hoby Bradfield immediately moved to aid the wounded Soldier and help move him to a safer location.

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The **integration** of American and Iraqi forces continues to prove essential to the **success** of any major operation in the city...

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As soon as Bradfield, working with other members of the platoon, got Wolfsteller to a concealed position between some bushes and a building, Bradfield, along with Pfc. Eric Woods, the platoon medic, who had rushed through the line of fire to reach the wounded Soldier, began combat trauma management.

As Spc. Bradfield bandaged the wound, Pfc. Woods inserted an IV. As 3rd Platoon continued to take fire from multiple directions, these two Troopers again moved through hostile fire in order to carry Wolfsteller to the Bradley that would be used for the evacuation to the LZ.

The actions of these two heroes saved the life of Sgt. Wolfsteller that day. Sadly, during an operation on July 9, Spc. Bradfield was struck in the neck by a small arms round. PFC Woods immediately rushed to his aid in the medic M113.

After performing first aid, stabilizing the wounded Soldier, and loading Bradfield into the M113, Woods began the evacuation. As the medic tracked vehicle moved toward the LZ, it was struck by an IED, killing both Spc. Bradfield and Pfc. Woods.

These Soldiers are just two of the many heroes who have served on the front lines with Sabre Squadron in Tall Afar.

I am extremely proud to have such fine Soldiers as these men under my command and Sabre will continue the fight until we have destroyed the enemy and brought peace and stability to the people of Tal Afar. Brave Rifles! Ai-ee-yah!

Sabre 6

Bradfield, Woods honored at memorial service

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Capt. Matthew Howell, Grim Troop commander, gives a tribute to Spc. Hoby Bradfield and Pfc. Eric Woods who were killed in action during the memorial service held July 12 at Camp Sykes, Iraq.

By Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks
NCOIC, 3rd ACR Public Affairs

On July 9 two American heroes lost their lives – one leading from the front on enemy lines, the other while attempting to save a wounded comrade.

Spc. Hoby Bradfield and Pfc. Eric Woods, both assigned Sabre Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, were remembered during a Memorial Service held July 12 at Camp Sykes.

Bradfield was killed in action while participating in a mission that destroyed a terrorist suicide bombing cell. The cavalry scout assigned to Grim Troop, was serving on his second deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During the service, Lt. Col. Christopher Hickey, Sabre Squadron commander, recalled the heroic trooper's numerous achievements while serving in the Regiment.

"Specialist Bradfield joined Sabre Squadron, as a new trooper, a few months before deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom I," Hickey said. "He quickly developed from a raw recruit into a go-to guy that was a leader among peers."

Hickey shared with the audience of more than 200 how Bradfield garnered numerous awards for valor on the battlefield.

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Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Sabre Squadron troopers take a moment to pay their respects to Spc. Hoby Bradfield and Pfc. Eric Woods. Both troopers were honored during a memorial service and were praised for their devotion to duty and their love for their families.

"Having earned an ARCOM/V [Army Commendation Medal for Valor] during the first deployment and being recommended for 2 BSM/Vs [Bronze Star Medal for Valor] during OIF III, Specialist Bradfield will be remembered as among the most decorated Troopers in the regiment," Hickey said.

Bradfield, from Virginia Beach, Va., enlisted in the Army on Aug. 20, 2002 and after graduating from Advanced Individual Training at Fort Knox, Ky. in December, he was assigned to Fort Carson, Colo.

A lover of the outdoors, Bradfield enjoyed snow boarding, mountain biking, fishing and hunting. He was remembered for another love – his wife Crystin and his unborn child.

"We'll never forget that good men become better men when they meet that person that was put on this Earth just for them, and that not even subzero temperatures at downrange Fort Carson can keep the smile from a man's face when he tells his best friends he's going to be a father," said 1st Lt. Brian Oman, Grim Troop platoon leader.

Woods paid the ultimate sacrifice while performing the duties of a combat medic – attempting to save a comrade's life.

A medic, from Urbandale, Iowa, Woods was killed when an improvised explosive device hit his vehicle on his way to take Bradfield off the battlefield for further medical care.

In a tribute to the fallen Soldier, Capt. Jonathan Newsom, Rattler Troop commander, described in the poem "I am the Medic," the concluding lines to characterize Woods.

"I stand with you today as an Angel of Mercy. Wherever brave men fight and die, wherever the best serve, I am there to serve. I am there to serve America's best. I am a medic. I serve."

"Pfc. Woods has been an Angel of Mercy for Grim Troop," Newsome said. "He served with the brave men of Grim who treated him as one of their own. He served his country in combat with America's best."

An avid reader of Stephen King novels, Woods also enjoyed crossword puzzles and playing Texas Hold-Em poker with troopers of his platoon.

"Pfc. Woods was always happy to play poker and was even more excited when he would win," said Spc. Steven Riggs.

Riggs also shared Woods' love of the men he provided medical care for on the battlefield.

"He made sure that he knew all of the guys in the platoon, and the positions that they held," Riggs said. "He took personal care to ensure that their VLSK and ILSK bags were always stocked, and restocked them as needed. He loved the Soldiers of 3rd Platoon and Grim Troop."

Bradfield is survived by his wife, Crystin, his father Hoby Bradfield Sr., and mother Dianne Sterling.

Woods is survived by his wife Jamie Marie Woods, son Eric Woods, and his parents Charles and Janis Woods.

THUNDER SQUADRON

By Lt. Col. Ross A. Brown
Thunder Squadron Commander

Dear friends and family members of the Thunder Team, greetings from southern Baghdad. I could not be prouder of how your Soldiers have served our great Nation and the people of Iraq this past month.

As I reported in my last letter to you, the Squadron joined the 48th Brigade Combat Team in mid-June.

Since then, they have represented the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen with distinction. We recently learned that we will change our higher headquarters once again, as we will now fall under the 4th (Vanguard) Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, effective July 21.

The 4th BDE is no stranger to us. Many of their units share Forward Operating Base Falcon with us, and their 703rd Forward Support Battalion has consistently supported the Squadron in outstanding fashion.

Many of you are starting to see your Soldiers return back to Fort Carson and elsewhere for well-deserved environmental leave and, unfortunately in some cases, emergency leave.

Chargeable leave begins the day after your Soldier arrives at the CONUS/OCONUS gateway and ends the day prior to departure from the CONUS/OCONUS gateway.

The two weeks that they spend home with family and friends has proven to be quite a combat multiplier, as Soldiers continue to return full of energy, ready to rejoin their troop, company or battery, and continue their mission.

Each month, we have had an award ceremony to award our Soldiers for their valorous actions and injuries suffered while serving in Iraq.

I need not tell you that our ranks are full of heroes who put their lives on the line each day to ensure that our sons and daughters live a life free of terrorism and that the Iraqi people can some day enjoy the same freedoms that we have at home.

To date, we have awarded 18 Purple Hearts, 10 Bronze Star Medals, and two Army Commendation Medals. In the months ahead, we will continue to recognize our Soldiers' actions and achievements.

To date, 13 (12 w/Thunder and one w/66th Military Intelligence Company) of our Troopers have made the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation.

Our thoughts and prayers are with each of their families and friends. We will continue to honor these men and keep them alive in our hearts by using them and their example of duty, of selflessness and honor, and of goodness to guide our decisions and actions.

Please take care of each other. I want to thank each and every family member for their continued love and support. Just as I know your thoughts are with us, our thoughts are always with you.

Thunder 6

I need not tell you that our ranks are full of heroes who put their lives on the line each day to ensure that our sons and daughters live a life free of terrorism...

Bright, Cambridge remembered as heroes

By Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks
NCOIC, 3rd ACR Public Affairs

In William Shakespeare's Julius Cesar, during a eulogy, the 'good is oft interred in their bones,' is described to explain the good deeds of men when they die.

For Staff Sgt. Scottie Bright and Cpl. Lyle Cambridge their memory will live in the hearts and spirit of the troopers serving in Howitzer Battery, Thunder Squadron.

The two troopers were honored July 11 during a memorial service held at Forward Operating Base Falcon. Both were killed in action July 5 by an improvised explosive device while conducting operations in Iraq.

Throughout Howitzer Battery, Bright was remembered as a brother, mentor, teacher and to some a father.

"When his boots went on he was a soldier first," said Capt. Mudge, commander, How Btry. "When the boots came off and he hung up his uniform he was a loving husband and caring father. His work was a labor of love, for his soldiers and leaders, and he showed it in everything he did."

A native of Jackson, Miss., Bright joined the Army as cannon crewmember on Nov. 8, 1991 and after concluding his One Station Unit Training at Fort Sill, Okla., he went on to serve in various assignments.

He arrived to Fort Carson to 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment where he was assigned as a Gunnery Sergeant and deployed with Howitzer Battery to Iraq in April 2003 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom I.

"He always had a positive attitude and a reassuring smile I will never forget," said 1st Lt. Valentin. "Even during the most stressful of times Staff Sergeant Bright was always optimistic. He was one hundred percent dedicated to the mission and the Army; and when he spoke his famous words, 'I got it

See **HEROES,** Page 24

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Sgt. Greg Impson, Howitzer Battery, Thunder Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, holds the identification tags of Staff Sgt. Scottie Bright and Cpl. Lyle Cambridge.

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sir' I always knew that everything would be okay."

Nicknamed 'Gunny' by the troopers of his battery, Bright was also praised for his devotion and love for his family by Valentin during his tribute.

"I don't think I have ever heard someone speak so highly and frequently of their family as Staff Sergeant Bright did," Valentin said. "There were countless days and nights we spent out at the checkpoints talking about how proud he was that his daughter Bre'shay would be going to college in just two years; and how excited he was to watch his son Scottie Jr. play football when he returned home from Iraq.

"He also told me of the plans he had to celebrate his fifteen year wedding anniversary with his wife Carolyn while on leave in August."

The loss of Cambridge was mentioned as a day that Lt. Anderson will never forget for as long as he lives.

"There is an old Irish saying that a good companion shortens the road," Anderson said. "Corporal Cambridge shortened many marches. He too was willing to work long unsociable hours, work through any mission. He was willing to sweat and die for his country."

Anderson added, "Whatever any of us say about him though I think Corporal Cambridge would be happy if today, as we say our goodbyes, we simply say, he was a good Soldier to his comrades, a good son to his parents, a good husband to his wife and a good father to his two children."

Cambridge, from Shiprock, N.M., entered the Army on May 8, 2002 and after concluding his One Station Unit Training as a cannon crewmember, he went to Camp Casey, Korea. He arrived to Fort Carson and was assigned to 3rd ACR as a vehicle driver.

Known as a quiet Soldier that one wouldn't notice outright, Cambridge was noticed more for his actions and deeds in his unit.

"Cambridge was an outstanding Soldier who never complained and conducted every mission with dedication and a smile," said Sgt. Greg Impson, ammunition section chief. "The best Soldier I've had the chance to lead. I will always hold a space for him in my heart and he will never be forgotten."

Bright is survived by his wife, Carolyn, and their children Scottie Jr. and Bre'shay. Cambridge is survived by his wife, Evonne, and their sons Wyatte and Nick.

Thunder Squadron grieves loss of two tankers

By Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks
NCOIC, 3rd ACR Public Affairs

For some men, there aren't too many things in life that can separate them from their love of cars. In the case of Sgt. Timothy Sutton and Spc. Ronnie Williams, their love for their tanks was only exceeded by the love they had their wives.

Sutton and Williams were honored at a memorial service by their fellow troopers from Thunder Squadron July 18 at Forward Operating Base Falcon in Baghdad.

Assigned to Mad Dog Company, Sutton's truck was conversation of choice by those who remembered and served along side him. He was killed by an improvised explosive device while conducting a patrol in Baghdad July 11.

"I remember the first day I came to Mad Dog Company and he was one of the first people to greet me there, and the first thing he said to me was 'Hey sir, your truck is a lot wimpier than mine,'" said 1st Lt. Bradley Monhaut. "He had that smirk that he always had and I turned around to see a big blue pickup truck that looked about 10 years old and had seen better days."

A tanker with immense pride, Sutton entered the Army on Jan. 17, 2002 from Ridgecrest, Calif. After concluding his One Station Unit Training at Fort Knox, Ky., and awarded the Primary Military Occupational Specialty of Armor Crewman, Sutton arrived to Fort Carson and the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment in June 2002.

He deployed with the Regiment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom I in April 2003 and to OIF 04-06 in March 2005.

Sutton, who was very knowledgeable about tanks, took his work on the tank serious.

"After being promoted to sergeant, he once asked

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TANKERS from Page 24

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

A trooper assigned to Thunder Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, drops his head in sorrow during the memorial service to honor Sgt. Timothy Sutton and Spc. Ronnie Williams held at Forward Operating Base Falcon in Iraq.

me if he was doing just 'an okay job' and that he was just trying to 'do his job,'" said Staff Sgt. Robert Cornett, Mad Dog Company tank commander. "I told him that he was doing fine, but the truth I couldn't tell him was that he had no peers."

With tears rolling from his eyes, 1st Lt. Todd Arnold, commander, Killer Troop, struggled to explain the loss of Williams. The tanker died in Baghdad when his tank plunged into a canal July 17.

Williams was described as a man who loved his tank like no other and was praised as an exceptional tank driver by the troopers in his platoon.

"Specialist Williams loved being a tanker," Arnold said. "I have never seen a Soldier who took more pride in his job, in his tank, and in simply calling himself a tanker. This young Soldier could tell you every single thing that was broken or wrong with his tank."

Williams, from Florence, Ky., entered the Army on Jan. 16, 2003. After concluding his OSUT at Fort Knox, Ky., he was awarded the MOS of Armor Crewman. He arrived to Fort Carson in May 2003 and deployed with Thunder Squadron in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom I in July 2003.

A lover of the game chess, Williams talked a better game than he played.

For two years Williams was the driver for Sgt. 1st Class John Toledo and he couldn't ask for a better tanker to motivate the rest of his crew. Considered cocky at times, it was that cockiness that made his tank, K24, one of the most well known tanks.

"He would tell you that K24 was the best tank in the Regiment," Toledo said. "He loved that tank and he loved the driver's position almost as much as he loved harassing scouts or mortar men in the Troop.

"You would hear him say, 'That's all right since you scouts can't handle it; just let the tankers do it, we got it,' just to jeer someone and get a rise out of them."

Although the life of a tanker isn't always filled with glamour, Williams with his deep Kentucky accent was just as quick to make his fellow comrades smile with his wit and humor.

"He would gripe like the rest of us, but like always he would say 'suck it up and drive on,'" said Sgt. Chad Joiner. "If you were down, he would always ask you if everything was alright. He always had something to say to make you smile. It might be rude at times, but it would make you crack a smile."

Two men from two different paths of life but shared two things in common – they were tankers and they loved their tanks.

Sutton is survived by his wife Angela. Williams is survived by his wife Linda and their son Houston.

Killer Troop remember fallen brothers-in-arms during memorial

By Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks
NCOIC, 3rd ACR Public Affairs

The four men honored by Killer Troop at Forward Operating Base Falcon on July 29 were sons, fathers, future fathers, husbands, friends and brothers-in-arms. Each Kevlar and each pair of boots basking in the evening sun were reminders that they were gone.

Staff Sgt. Jason Montefering, Sgt. Milton Monzon, Pfc. Ernest Dallas, and Pfc. Ramon Villatoro were killed in action July 24 after their Bradley vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device outside Baghdad.

1st Lt. Todd Arnold, executive officer, Killer Troop, Thunder Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, somberly took the microphone and addressed the audience of nearly 300 troopers in attendance.

"Whether it was their noted calm demeanor, sometimes fiery mentality, or ability to make you laugh even when you didn't feel like it, each one of them affected every one of us, and their sacrifice on the field of the war will never be forgotten," said Arnold as he struggled to fight back tears.

One by one, each of the four cavalry scouts were eulogized by leaders and troopers of Killer Troop.

For Sgt. Chris Fasold the loss of Montefering, the two longtime friends were stationed together in Germany as privates, was painful as recalled the times the two shared together.

"He was by far the most selfless man I have ever met and befriended him immediately," Fasold said. "I admired Jason for everything that he was and everything that he wasn't. He was among the best of

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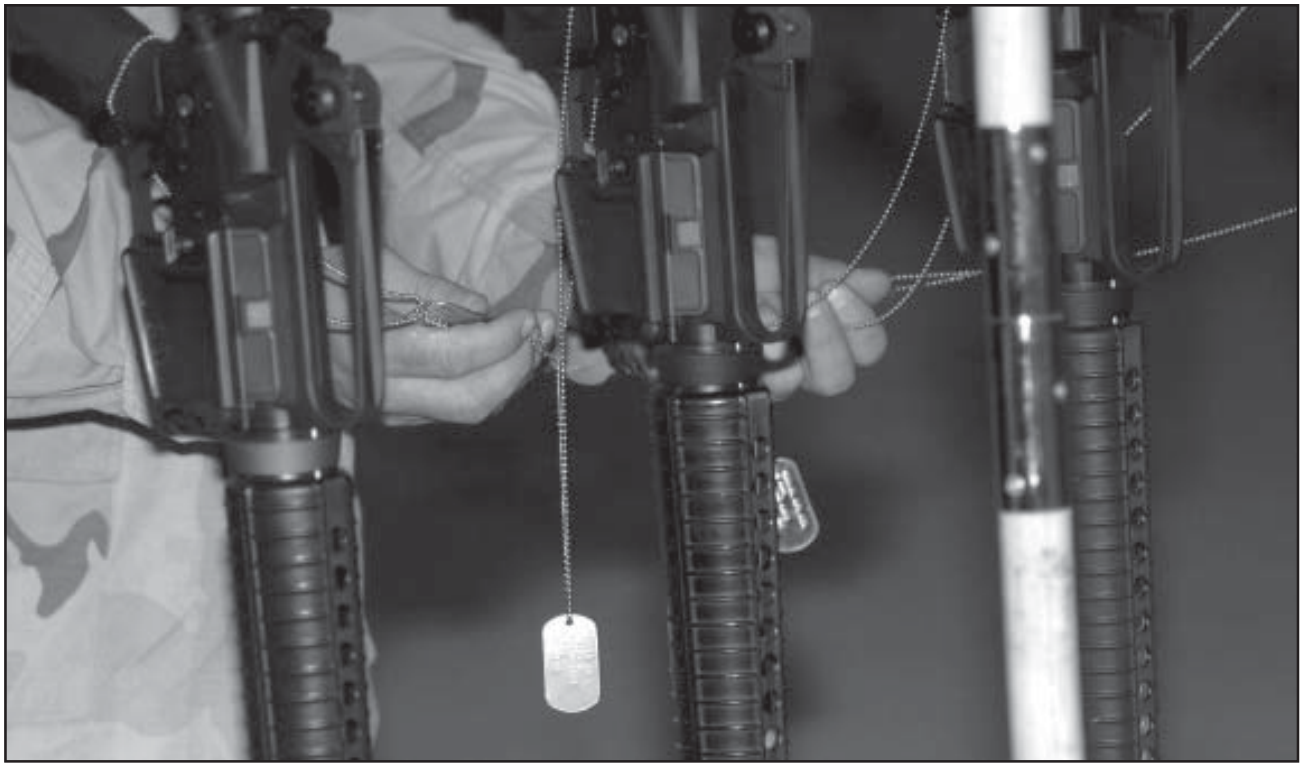

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

A trooper from 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, holds all four identification tags of fallen troopers Staff Sgt. Jason Montefering, Sgt. Milton Monzon, Pfc. Ernest Dallas and Pfc. Ramon Villitaro.

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people, a master of his life."

Montefering, from Parkston, S.D., entered the Army on June 18, 1997 and after concluding his One Station Unit Training at Fort Knox, Ky., he was awarded the Primary Military Occupational Specialty of 19D, Cavalry Scout.

In 2002 Monterefing arrived to Fort Carson, Colo. where he was Killer Troop. He deployed with 3rd ACR to Iraq in March 2003 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Monterefing is survived by his mother Lorraine and his father Allen who reside in Parkston, S.D.

Labeling Monzon as "among the greatest men I've ever known," Spc. Timothy Buchalski had immense pride for serving in the same ranks as his fallen brother-in-arms. He shared how Monzon was loved playing guitar and learning new languages.

"He was an outstanding linguist and a wonderful guitar player," Buchalski said. "Both were hand and hand. He would hear a song, and a half hour later play it for you and he spoke English and Spanish fluently."

Buchalski also described the love Monzon had for his wife, Christy.

"I knew them as boyfriend and girlfriend, as fiancée's and as newlyweds," he said. "After all of that I knew that he found a soul mate. He reenlisted before deploying to buy an engagement ring and was going to take her on a honeymoon upon our return."

Monzon, from Los Angeles, entered the Army on Aug. 6, 2001 and after concluding his OSUT at Fort Knox he was awarded the MOS of 19D, Cavalry Scout.

In January 2002, Monzon arrived to Killer Troop where he later deployed with 3rd ACR to Iraq in support of OIF I. He is survived by his wife, Christy who resides in Los Angeles.

When Pfc. Richard Guard wrote his tribute about his good friend Dallas, he reflected on a funny story to share with the troopers of Thunder Squadron. He shared a story about Dallas getting swindled on a deal to get his car painted back at Colorado Springs.

"For $200 he was going to get a complete paint job on his Honda Civic," Guard said. "The painters picked up shop and left something that resembled a Civic, they even painted his exhaust pipe. It looked like crap, and even though we gave him a hard time about it, he still blew it off in classic Dallas fashion."

Dallas, from Mesquite, Texas, entered the Army on Nov. 18, 2003 and after MOS of 19D, Cavalry Scout. In May 2004, Dallas arrived to Killer Troop and deployed to Iraq in March in support of OIF III.

Dallas is survived by his mother, Charlene A. Sauseda.

The final Soldier to be eulogized, Villatro, was described as competitive, a team player and a family man by Pfc. Marco Morales. The two occasoionally spent time together on duty in Iraq, in which Villatoro talked about his new wife, Amanda.

"Each one of them affected every one of us, and their sacrifice on the field of the war will never be forgotten."

"He would keep me up all night talking about his wife," Morales said. "He was so proud of her. He looked forward to going home in November; to see his wife give birth. He always looked at the sonogram of his son, and always would brag about him and say, 'I'm gonna have a Jr.'"

Villatoro, from Bakersfield, Calif., to entered the Army on July 28, 2003 and after concluding OSUT at Fort Knox he was awarded MOS of 19D, Cavalry Scout. In January 2005, Villatoro arrived to Killer Troop and deployed to Iraq in March in support of OIF III.

He is survived by his wife, Amanda who resides in Bakersfield, Calif.

With the sting of their loss still in the hearts, minds and spirits, Arnold reminded the trooper of Killer Troop always remember the sacrifice of the four Cavalry Scouts.

"Although we say goodbye, we will never forget them, we will remember them by talking trash just to talk trash, by being stern leaders, and by giving each other the shirts off our backs if someone needed it just like Dallas, Villatoro, Sergeant Monzon, and Staff Sergeant Monty would have."

Soldier with 'heart of gold' honored

By Staff Sgt. Raymond Piper
NCOIC, 4th BCT PAO

The Soldiers of 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armor Cavalry Regiment came together to honor the memory of their fallen comrade Aug. 2.

Pfc. Robert A. Swaney, a native of Columbus, Ohio, was killed by an improvised explosive device July 30 while conducting a combat patrol.

"As we continue to mourn the passing of Pfc. Swaney and resolve the loss in our minds, we should remind ourselves to honor him and avenge his death by following in his example of selflessness, goodness, determination and courage," said Lt. Col. Ross Brown, 3-3 ACR commander.

Swaney was remembered for many of his qualities, but one of the most memorable was his willingness to help people.

Capt. Nicholas Bradford, executive officer for Howitzer Battery, 3-3 ACR, recalled the first the time he met Swaney in Kuwait and the impact it made on him.

He said Swaney called the battery together in prayer on the hot, dusty staging area before they began the drive into Iraq.

Bradford said, "With that big missing-tooth grin, he brought us all together and prayed for us to safely to make it to FOB Falcon. His devotion and unquestionable faith was an inspiration to us all. He was a philanthropist; his faith not only spanned religion but was also deeply rooted in humanity. He truly believed that he could help people and felt that was his life calling."

"His friends," Brown said, "told me that he was always there to listen and offer advice."

"The world needs more people like him," Bradford said. "I truly believe if the world was full of Pfc. Swaneys, there would be no more conflicts or problems. He inspired me with his faith in God and his fellow man, and I know we are all better for having known him."

"I don't know why good people like Pfc. Swaney die. I will never pretend to understand why things happen the way they do," Bradford said. "One thing I do know is that he is in heaven right now looking down on us and trying to help and protect us from there." Swaney was dedicated to the Soldiers he served with and strived to do his best at all times.

"As a leader you always have certain Soldiers you simply wish you had more of. For me, Pfc. Swaney was one of those," said 1st Lt. Andrew Valentin, 1st platoon leader. "He was eager to learn and had a heart of gold."

Photo by Staff Sgt. Raymond Piper

A trooper from 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, bows his head in prayer during the memorial service held for Pfc. Robert Swaney who was killed in action on July 30 in Baghdad, Iraq.

His Section Chief, Sgt. Sean Dillon, said he would say 'Chief, teach me something new,' and he would learn it and he would do it to perfection by the book. He never took short cuts and always took the straight line in everything he did.

"When it came to shooting artillery and going out on patrols, he was one of the most motivated Soldiers in the platoon," Valentin said.

Dillon said, "Swaney loved his job and loved the Army. He always talked about reenlisting when his window opened up because he loved the Army. Pfc. Swaney was a great Soldier and person."

According to his friends the fact that every leader in his platoon wanted him on their vehicle was a great source of pride.

"Although it hurts me deeply to have lost Pfc. Swaney, I can find some consolation knowing he died doing something he loved, which is more than most people in the world can say," Valentin said. "He absolutely loved the Army and was truly happy doing his job.

LONGKNIFE SQUADRON

Photo by Sgt. Larry Chalcraft II

Helping hand

Sgt. Daniel Arcaris, combat medic from the newly founded Quickstrike Troop taking time to conduct arm splinting on one of the local children visited during a village assessment. The Quickstrike Troop, comprised of both American and Iraqi Soldiers, was formed in Longknife Squadron to conduct joint reconnaissance in the Longknife Squadron area of operations.

'Operation Oasis' delivers water to local Iraqi citizens

By 2nd Lt. Mollie Kedney
PAO, 4/3

One of the most precious resources in Iraq is water. Getting that resource to the citizens of Iraq not only is a good humanitarian mission, but also a way to meet the local populace.

On June 23, members from the Longknife Squadron Civil Military Operations (CMO) Team, Stetson Troop and a few Soldiers from the 3rd Iraqi Army Division got together to conduct Operation Oasis.

The mission was designed to provide bottled water to local towns within the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment's Area of Operation (AO).

The operation was developed as a direct result of previous missions carried out during Operation Veterans Forward throughout the month of June.

The CMO team and its counterparts the Strikers (now a platoon

See **OASIS,** Page 30

OASIS from Page 29

Photo by Sgt. Larry Chalcraft II

Staff Sgt. Wade Brambley, Stetson crew chief, Spc. Jemar Holmes, Quickstrike team member, 2nd Lt. Mollie G. Kedney, Chemical Officer/ Assistant S-1, Spc. Stephen Langvardt, Stetson crew chief, and an Iraqi Army soldier downloads water from a UH-60L Blackhawk outside a small village during Operation Oasis.

within Quickstrike Troop) were initially sent out to do village assessments and gain trust in some of the local villages.

During their initial assessment the CMO team established both immediate and necessary needs within these communities, and hoped that they would eventually be able to provide assistance.

"Most of the local villages within our AO are farming and sheep herding villages," said Chief Warrant Officer Dylan Welch, Longknife Civil Affairs officer. "Their food and water recourses are limited; however they never hesitate to share a meal or tea with the visiting Soldiers."

Most villages contain wells used for their livestock, but water for drinking and cooking must be purchased in larger towns where it could cost anywhere from $4 to $6 just for a 1000 liters.

"To some this might not seem like much but when you must provide water for upwards of 600 people the expense begins to build," Welch said.

On this day Operation Oasis helped to drop nearly 5,000 pounds of water as a much welcomed gift from the Iraqi Army with the use of U.S. Army aviation assets.

"While the current limited CMO capabilities do not allow for us to answer many of the identified needs to help these villages, the follow up mission was designed to show the population they had not been forgotten," said Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Boyle, noncommissioned officer in charge, CMO team.

Boyle mentioned too often units are unable to return to the towns and villages for a second or follow-up visit.

The operation was specifically intended to provide this opportunity to continue to build relationships with the locals as well as to show the population that aircraft are a "good" thing, and not just something to be feared.

Operation Oasis also allowed the 3rd Iraqi Army Division to interface with the local population.

"Working hand in hand with the Iraqi Army has been an amazing experience and extremely inspiring for both Iraqi and American Soldiers," Welch said. "But now they are being incorporated into the Civil Operations, which gives them the opportunity to win the hearts, minds and trust of their own citizens."

The experience of performing a humanitarian mission was one that Spc. Jemar Holmes hoped to do again.

"It has been a great experience working one on one with the Iraqi Soldiers," Holmes said. "It also felt good to do a good mission for the people of Iraq and I will always remember their smiles."

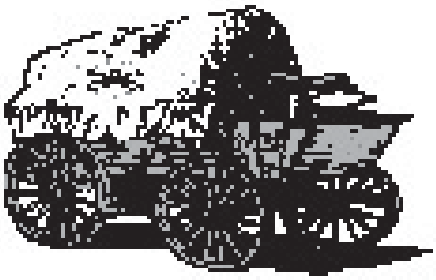
MULESKINNER SQUADRON

By Lt. Col. Richard O'Connor
Support Squadron Commander

Dear Muleskinner family and friends, I am pleased to report that the Support Squadron is doing an awesome job providing continuous sustainment operations to Tiger, Sabre, Longknife, Remington and the Iraqi Army from Camp Sykes, Iraq.

A day does not go by that Muleskinner is not *"leaning forward in the foxhole"* providing critical supplies to rearm, refuel and refit the line squadrons at multiple Forward Operating Bases in the MNF-NW Area of Operations.

It is an impressive site to see, the entire Muleskinner Team working together "Supporting the Line"…One Team, One Fight!



Now that the summer has arrived we are experiencing days where the temperature reaches 115 degrees and higher. We are mitigating the risk of heat injuries by conducting shift schedules and spending more time in the shops at night verse the middle of the day.

Morale is high and the life support has improved steadily over the past several weeks. All the Soldiers in the Support Squadron are living in Containerized Housing Units.

We have a great bus system in place on Camp Sykes that allows Soldiers to get to and from the dining facility, phone centers and MWR Center without walking.

On July 9, Support Squadron participated in the Regimental Sports Day to celebrate Independence Day. The 10K Freedom Run was the first major event and it went off without a hitch.

Thanks to 1st Lt. Carla Graves, Medical Troop, for planning this impressive event as well as her parents John and Stella Graves who took time out of their schedule to coordinate with organizations to donate T-shirts, numbers etc.

I also want to thank the Camp Sykes Fire Department and MWR for their assistance. The winner for the race was 1st Lt. Matthew Cavanaugh in the overall male category and our very own 1st Lt. Graves in the overall female category.

We look forward to the next race in the coming months. Runners here is your warning order... get ready, get set, GO!

Bullwhip and Blacksmith put together incredible softball teams that eventually paired off together for a breathtaking championship game.

Mid-tour leave is ongoing, and we are sending Soldiers home to their families based on operational need and priority.

It is good to see the Soldiers returning from leave with smiles on their face and ready to go to work. Ai-ee-yah!

I also want to thank the Rear Detachment and the Family Readiness Group for taking care of our families and keeping them informed. I have heard that the Troop FRG picnics at Turkey Creek and other places in and around Colorado Springs have been tremendous fun.

I am proud to announce that our FRG Leaders Video Telephone Conference was a success and we hope to extend this opportunity to individual troopers throughout the Squadron and Regiment to meet with their families.

Supporting the Line,
Muleskinner 6

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Staff Sgt. Robert Funderburk, noncommissioned officer in charge, Ammunition Holding Area, guides Cpl. Keisha Nunn, ammunition handler, to remove incoming ammunition for inventory and storage. Both Soldiers are assigned to Supply & Transportation Troop, Support Squadron.

Ammunition handlers vital to warfighters on ground

By Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks
NCOIC, 3rd ACR Public Affairs

The Army does not run without two necessary supplies – beans and bullets.

The cliché is probably as old as the U.S. Army itself, but for the troopers serving as ammunition handlers, the saying means the difference between victory and defeat on the battlefield.

Assigned to Supply & Transportation Troop, Support Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, the responsibility of the four-Soldier team impacts every warfighter, both American and Iraqi, on the ground throughout the Regiment.

"Any ammunition our Soldiers fire outside the wire, we process it, prepare it, band it, load it and push it to the squadrons," said Sgt. 1st Class Regina Primm, Regimental Ammunition Office, noncommissioned officer in charge. "We know the warfighters can't do their jobs without our support."

Enduring the brutal desert heat and the wind blowing powdered sand continuously at the Ammunition Holding Area, the troopers are on 24/7 operations to be ready to receive and store ammunition whether it comes in by ground or air.

The AHA team, normally an eight-Soldier team,

"Any ammunition our Soldiers fire outside the wire; we process it, prepare it, band it, load it and push it to the squadrons."

-- Sgt. 1st Class Regina Primm, Regimental Ammunition Office

consists of Staff Sgt. Robert Funderburk, Cpl. Keisha Nunn, Pfc. Christy Martinez and Pfc. Josh Allen.

According to Primm, the troopers have processed more than 300 short-tons of ammunition since arriving to Camp Sykes ranging from 5.56mm rounds, Bradley Reactive Tiles, 7.62mm rounds, rockets, and tank ammunition. The AHA also stores ammunition for the Iraqi Army at the site.

Upon arrival to the AHA, the ammunition is immediately inventoried, separated by type, inspected and stored in MILVANs. High-sensitive ammunition such as AT-4s and rockets are particularly stored in MILVANs to protect from overheating.

Primm said the inventory is one of the most important steps. The handlers are specifically looking for the right count and expired lot numbers.

"It's very critical that we don't send any suspended ammunition, ammo in which the lot number may be defective, isn't pushed to the units," Primm said. "We want to make sure the units get Condition A, the best ammo."

As a 14-year veteran handling ammunition, Funderburk, AHA NCOIC, enthusiastically loves to share with other Soldiers the importance of his job.

"I tell people 3rd ACR cannot complete its mission without us 'Ammo dogs,'" Funderburk said. "We have to make sure the Regiment is well stocked with ammo. There are not too many Soldiers who know about us, but we like being under the radar."

Explaining why being under the radar is a good thing Funderburk, the San Antonio, Texas native said, "When the Soldiers fighting on the line have all their ammo, then I did my job. If they don't have enough, that's when they'll know who we are."

Funderburk mentioned the deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom allows him a chance to share his experience to his Soldiers, two who are on their first deployment. Each day as different ammunition arrives to the AHA; different handling and storage procedures are required.

Although covered with a thin coat of dust and drooling in sweat, Nunn a two-year Army trooper from Smakover, Ark., said she would not trade her job for any other.

"It's a vital part of combat," Nunn said. "I'm doing something important for the Soldiers and the Regiment. The only bad day is when it's windy and blowing dust everywhere."

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Pfc. Christy Martinez, ammunition handler, Supply & Transportation Troop, Support Squadron, inventories a pallet of ammunition upon its arrival to the Ammunition Holding Area on Camp Sykes, Iraq.

Iraqi mother, trooper share special bond

By Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks
NCOIC, 3rd ACR Public Affairs

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Sgt. Bobbi Braden, Medical Troop, Support Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, is embraced by an Iraqi mother soon after she was reunited with her son July 23.

Although Sgt. Bobbi Braden has no children of her own, she understands the love and bond a mother has for a child.

On June 16 she was with an Iraqi mother who witnessed her son medical evacuated by from the Troop Medical Clinic at Camp Sykes, Iraq to the 228th Combat Support Hospital in Mosul.

"As she watched the helicopter leave with her son, she clutched my arm and wouldn't let it go," said Braden, assigned to Medical Troop, Support Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

On July 23 Braden was grabbed again by the same Iraqi mother, this time following the reunion of the mother and son upon his arrival to Camp Sykes, 37 days since the last time the two saw each other.

"I was so choked up and ready to cry," said Braden from Milton, Wis., after the mother hugged and held her for what seemed like a lifetime.

Overjoyed to see her son for the first time since the attack, she showered him with hugs and kisses, weeping uncontrollably during the reunion. The reunion was arranged with Longknife Squadron providing aviation assistance and the Civil Affairs team contacting the boy's family.

Both mother and son were struck by multiple shrapnel fragments following a mortar attack on their family in Tall Afar, Iraq by Anti-Iraqi Forces. Both were brought to the TMC where the mother was treated and released, however the son's injuries were critical.

According to Capt. Jay Baker, Regimental Surgeon, the boy suffered a broken left foot, a colon injury and suffered major blood loss in his right leg. Baker flew back from the 228th CSH to escort the 15-year-old boy back to Camp Sykes.

"His injuries were life threatening and he could have died," Baker said. "It's amazing he survived."

Baker mentioned doctors at the hospital stopped the bleeding and saved his right leg, performed abdominal surgery, applied skin grafts his right calve, and repaired his left foot.

"He'll be able to walk in a week," Baker said of the boy, who returned with crutches. "He'll recover fully from his injuries and be okay."

Examining her son from head to toe, she gave her son a look that only a mother could give a child, content and assured he was okay.

"I'm so happy, I'm so happy," she said. "He looks so well. The American doctors did a great job.

Recalling the tragic night of the attack, Braden was especially glad to be a part of the reunion and to see the mother again.

"I'm going to remember this day," Braden said, still filled with emotion. "I'm just glad I could be there for her. This is truly a special moment."

REMINGTON TROOP

By Capt. David Olsen
Remington Troop Commander

Dear Dear Remington families and friends, greetings from Camp Sykes! We're about halfway through the hot summer here in Iraq and approaching the midpoint of our deployment.

Now that we're all finally settled here together outside Tall Afar, we've been able to focus on our mission and still find time to relax and take some time off.

The mid-tour leave program is in full swing, and many of our Troopers have already had the chance to leave theater and spend a couple weeks at home.

The Regimental Staff is working long hours to prepare for the upcoming constitutional referendum in October, when the elected Iraqi government will decide whether to approve their newly-drafted constitution.

Our Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) team has the extremely important task of helping the government recruit and train new Soldiers and police officers. Establishing a capable Iraqi Army and police force is a crucial part of our efforts to provide security for the referendum and the national election to follow in December.

The ISF cell has set up a new NCO Academy to train Iraqi noncommissioned officers in the skills they will need to lead Soldiers during this critical period. Their hard work is moving Iraq towards the day when its security forces can secure their own cities and borders without outside help.

The staff has moved into the new headquarters building where they are working under much-improved conditions compared to the first four months spent in tents.

New carpet, new furniture, and a lot more space make for a good environment to plan and control the Regiment's operations.

Our S3 and S6 soldiers spent several weeks finishing the building with the counters, desks, map boards, and internet and phone lines the staff needs to operate the headquarters. It's been amazing watching a building rise up from flat ground to a complete command center in only a few months.

Even with all the work that had to be done, our Troopers still had a chance to relax and have some fun over the Fourth of July holiday.

The Regiment organized a sports day to celebrate our Independence with a 10K run, soccer, softball, volleyball, and basketball games, a tug-of-war, horseshoes, and a water balloon toss.

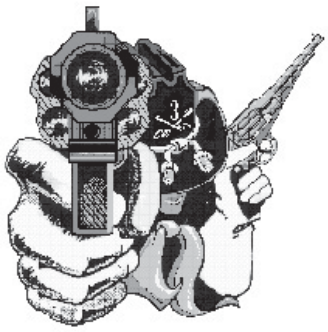
Everyone had a great time in spite of a little sunburn, and we hope to schedule another tournament in the next few months.

I'd like to conclude by recognizing Sgt. Lisa King from Headquarters Platoon and Spc. Kanaiela Thiim from S3, who were selected as the Remington Troop NCO and Soldier of the Quarter, respectively.

Their hard work and dedication not only earned them this honor, but also resulted in their selection for promotion to the next grade. These two Troopers are a fine example of the men and women that are making this Regiment successful here in Iraq.

I hope that you are all doing well back home. We appreciate your letters, emails, packages, Love-A-Grams, and all your support. Brave Rifles!

Remington 6



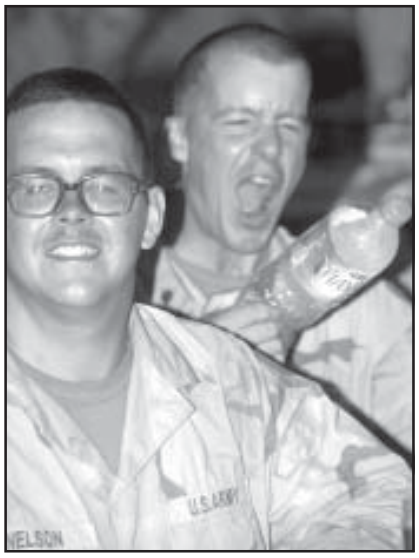
Edison bass guitarist, Jay S., leaps in the air while playing.

Rockin' the FOB

Edison Band rocks troopers during concert

By Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks
NCOIC, 3rd ACR Public Affairs

On July 13 Camp Sykes was rocked not by the normal booms from the M109A6 Howitzers on the camp, but from the music of New York-based rock band Edison.



Playing music from their upcoming CD entitled 'Seven,' the group left the troopers of 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment bobbing their heads and screaming for more.

Hypnotizing the crowd of nearly 200 spectators, Edison consisting of Ethan Isaac, lead vocalist, Jonathan Svec, guitarist, Jay S., bass guitarist, and Tim Newton on drums, put on a concert of high electricity and energy.

"This concert rocks," said Spc. Brian Wozny, Fox Troop, Sabre Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. "It's a good thing for the Soldiers, especially since the band is pretty good. This is a good stress reliever and I'm enjoying myself."

The band closed out their performance singing rock classic "Highway to Hell" made famous by the group AC/DC.

Top: Spc. Brian Wozny, Fox Troop, Sabre Squadron, lets out a scream during Edison's live music performance. Left: Ethan Isaac, lead vocalist for Edison, sings Highway to Hell during the band's final performance of their concert at Camp Sykes, Iraq held July 13. The band played original music from their soon-to-be released CD entitled "Seven."

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Sgt. Jason Morris, Aviation Maintenance Troop, Support Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, grimaces as he attempts a pull-up during the Pull-Up competition of Sports Day held July 9.

Sports Day

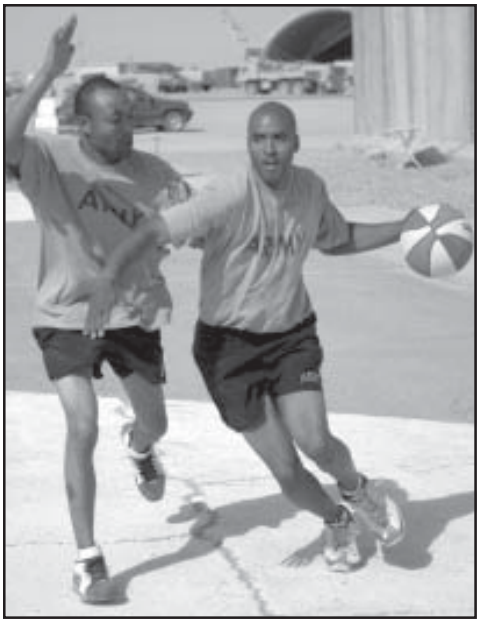
Troopers brave Iraqi heat, enjoy friendly competition

By Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks
NCOIC, 3rd ACR Public Affairs

The troopers of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment took their physical fitness to a higher level during the Regiment's Sports Day held July 9 at Camp Sykes, Iraq.

The day began with a 10K run in which 1st Lt. Matthew Cavanaugh of Sabre Squadron beat Capt. Russel Nowels, Remington Troop, in a photo-finish at the finish line.

With temperatures exceeding 110 degrees, Troopers braved the heat and competed in sporting activities ranging from basketball, pull-up competition, medicine ball throw, volleyball, one-pitch softball and a tug-o-war.



Spc. Donald English, Remington Troop, drives past a defender for a layup and score during the basketball competition.

Bad days can make us stronger

By Chaplain (Maj.) David Causey
Regimental Chaplain

Ever have a bad day? Let Joan Murray tell you about hers. And let her also tell you about the time she thought things just couldn't get any worse. Guess what? They did.

Joan was a 47-year-old bank executive and mother of two. A dull, boring life? No. You see, Joan loved skydiving. And although her first 35 jumps were uneventful, number 36 would bring her to the very brink of disaster.

On Sept. 25, 1999 Joan jumped from a height of 14,500 feet. Her main chute failed to deploy. She plunged more than two miles before she managed to get her reserve opened – just 700 feet above the ground. But things continued to go wrong. The reserve failed to properly deploy and Joan spun wildly out of control. She plowed into the ground at 80 miles per hour.

The impact shattered the bones on the right side of her body and knocked the fillings from her teeth. But if things weren't bad enough, poor Joan had the misfortune of landing atop a large nest of fire ants.

Before paramedics could rescue her from the angry ants, more than 200 poisonous bites covered her body. The trauma to her body was intense. Joan swelled to more than twice her normal size.

Joan lay in a coma for more than two weeks. She should have died. Her doctors are convinced of that. Why didn't she?

What kept her heart beating within a crushed body? Her doctors believe that the very ants that stung her with such fury also shocked her heart enough to prevent cardiac arrest. And she lived and fully recovered.

And guess what? She's back to skydiving and enjoys every minute of it. (Adapted from *People*, Aug. 5, 2002)

There's a profound lesson in Joan Murray's ordeal. Don't jump from a perfectly good aircraft? Well, maybe. But the lesson I'm talking about is this one. There are those times in life when we are hit with blow after blow and we're convinced one more burden will crush us. We look everywhere for mercy, for someone's healing touch.

But instead, we get hammered even harder by a deployment, financial problems, broken appliances, car trouble, sick children or an injured husband. But these things do not crush as we thought.

Somehow they do the very opposite. The vicious stings of life only serve to strengthen our resolve and anchor our faith more firmly in God. The old adage becomes reality – if it doesn't kill you it'll make you stronger.

And that's exactly what God does with the bee stings and the dog bites of our lives – he uses them to fortify us, to preserve us, to make us stronger than ever.

What we expected to kill us ultimately becomes our source of strength. As the Scripture tells us, "The Lord turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the Lord loves you." (Deuteronomy 23:5)

Courtesy photo

Chaplains (Maj.) David Causey, Regimental Chaplain, and (Capt.) Leo Moras, Regimental Priest, conduct a joint field service for both Protestant and Catholic soldiers at Sahl Sinjar Airfield.

New reenlistment incentives for eligible troopers

Mounted Rifleman Reports

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Spc. Nadia Almeida-Parks, right, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, Longknife Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, takes her reenlistment oath from Maj. Wayne Gilstrap on July 30. Troopers are now eligible for additional monies if they reenlist prior to Oct. 1 for up to $22,500 and other incentives.

Do you want to leave the desert early? Do you want more money? How about two complete duty days off?

Reenlist prior to Oct. 1, 2005 and be eligible for the first flight home and two full duty days off per guidance of the "Regimental Commander's First Bird out Special Reenlistment Program," – plus cash in your pocket.

On top of those incentives, your individual Squadron may offer additional reenlistment incentives. See your Squadron Career Counselor for details.

Currently 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment has almost 200 Soldiers qualified to fly home early. The incentive is to give the reenlistee the opportunity to be on the first flight back home from the deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Under the new guidance of Army MILPER Message 05-172, those Soldiers with an ETS prior to Oct. 1, 2005 are eligible to receive additional monies. For example; a specialist in the A Zone who is eligible to receive a 1.5 A Zone bonus would now be qualified for a 3.0 A Zone, capping out up to $22,500.

For example, a specialist with four years active duty service can receive around $22,000 for a four-year reenlistment.

Sergeants and staff sergeants are also eligible to cash in on bonuses as a result of the message. Sergeants and staff sergeants ETS'ing prior to Oct.1 are eligible for an additional 1x multiplier for reenlisting.

If you are a staff sergeant in the C Zone and were eligible for the 0.5 C Zone your new bonus multiplier will be a 1.5 C Zone bonus also not to exceed $22,000.

To determine your zone eligibility follow the following guidelines:

A Zone – E-3 to E-6 between 18 months and six years time in service;

B Zone – E-5 to E-6 between six years and 10 years time in service;

C Zone – E-5 to E-7 between 10 years and 14 years time in service.

On top of the bonus you may be eligible to pick a new duty station. For full details and information furthering your career with the Army contact your Squadron Career Counselor.

3D ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT
STAY ARMY
FORT CARSON, CO

Recognize warning signs of heat injuries

By Antonio Padillia
Safety Officer, 3rd ACR

Let's say that it's 100 degrees outside (and it gets hotter in Iraq) and your body wants to stay at 98.6 degrees – the only way to stay at a cooler temperature is to sweat.

By having moisture on the skin and letting it evaporate, the human body can cool itself very effectively and keep its temperature in the proper range.

Sweat works really well as long as there is plenty of water in your body – it takes water to manufacture sweat.

If a person runs out of water; sweat stops and the body rapidly overheats. And, it's extremely easy to run out of water.

Your body can produce .5 gallons (2 liters) of sweat every hour in a hot environment and unless water is replenished at the same rate, dehydration will occur and sweating stops.

The body's internal thirst meter often is not sensitive enough when you need that much water (and it's been said that by the time you feel thirsty you're already dehydrated). So it is essential to keep drinking no matter how thirsty you feel.

The combination of heat, humidity and physical exertion can lead to fatalities. The two most serious forms of heat related illnesses are heat exhaustion (primarily from dehydration) and heat stroke, which could be fatal.

Signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke need immediate attention. Recognizing those warning signs and taking quick action can make a difference in preventing a fatality.

Dehydration

Fluid loss occurs during training, physical exertion or exercise, mainly due to perspiration and respiration.

It makes a Soldier more susceptible to fatigue and muscle cramps. Inadequate fluid replacement before, during and after activity will lead to excessive dehydration and may lead to heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Sgt. Ricky Liddington, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, Sabre Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, drinks water at the completion of a mission in Tall Afar, Iraq. Temperatures throughout the month of July exceeded 100 degrees requiring Soldiers to consume large amounts of water.

Heat Exhaustion

• Characterized by a high heart rate, dizziness, headache, loss of endurance/skill/confusion and nausea.

• The skin may still be cool/sweating, but there will be signs of developing pale color.

• Soldiers will pass little urine, which will be highly concentrated.

• Cramps may be associated with dehydration.

See **WATER,** Page 41

WATER from Page 40

Heat Stroke

• Characteristics are similar to heat exhaustion, but with a dry skin, confusion and collapse.

• Heat stroke may arise in a Soldier who has not been identified as suffering from heat exhaustion and has persisted in further activity.

• This is a potentially fatal condition and must be treated immediately by a medical professional.

Leader Involvement

• Leaders should be aware of the types and causes of heat injuries. Leaders can help protect their Soldiers by taking the following preventive measures into consideration:

• Leaders must recognize that heat injury risk is cumulative. Yesterday's heat exposure can cause today's heat injury.

• Leaders must ensure Soldiers receive adequate rest between events of exertion and that adequate hydration and nutrition is ensured. Please view the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine video on Heat Risk Management.

• Ensure Soldiers are acclimatized, highly encourage them to consume water (IAW hydration guidance in link above) and consume meals rich in carbohydrates well before a training event.

• Monitor the WBGT when temperatures exceed 75° F, as increased humidity increases Soldier risk (Commander's, Senior NCOs and Instructor's Guide to Risk Management of Heat Casualties, Step 3 - Develop Controls).

• Ensure junior leaders identify which of their Soldiers are at higher risk for heat injuries and monitor those individuals closely (see Commander's, Senior NCOs and Instructor's Guide to Risk Management of Heat Casualties, Step 1. Identify Hazards for individual risk factors).

• When temperatures exceed 75° F, monitor the WBGT (wet bulb globe temperature index) as increased humidity increases Soldier risk (see same link as above, Step 3. Develop Controls).

• Ensure Soldiers are acclimatized, highly encourage them to consume water and consume meals rich in carbohydrates well before a training event (i.e. command runs, training exercises, forced road marches, day land navigation exercises, and special badge qualification training).

Leaders at all levels must recognize the types and causes of heat injuries and take preventive measures to decrease the risks. Drinking plenty of water and monitoring work schedules are ways to manage risks associated with heat injuries.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

REGIMENT'S ENGAGEMENTS

MONTH	LOCATION	UNITS ENGAGED
9 Jul 1867	Near Fort Sumner, N.M.	Detachments G, I
10 Jul 1900	Near Badoc, Ilocos Norte, PI	Det. E
11 Jul 1854	Near San Diego, Texas	Det. A, H
15 Jul 1860	Canada de los Penavetitos, N.M. (Canadian River Expedition)	Det. A, C, D, F, H, K
17 Jul 1882	Big Dry Wash or Chevelon's Fork, Ariz.	D, E, I
17 Jul 1898	Santiago, Cuba (siege and surrender of, embracing the action San Juan Hill, 1-3 Jul and around Santiago 3-17 Jul)	B, C, E, F, G, H, I, K
19 Jul 1871	Bear Springs, near Camp Bowie, Ariz.	Det. K
21 Jul 1877	Belle Fourche, Dakota	Det. A, D, E, F, G
22 Jul 1855	Vicinity of Eagle Springs, Texas	Det. I
25 Jul 1861	Mesilla, N.M.	B, F
25 Jul 1870	Pinal Mountains, Ariz.	F
27 Jul 1861	Surrender at San Augustine Springs, N.M.	F, Det. B, G, I
28-29 Jul 1932	Washington, D.C. (Bonus March Demonstrations)	Regimental Troops

Regiment's actions on San Juan Hill aided Rough Rider, future president

Compiled by Jim Mallette
3rd ACR Museum Technician

Taking a look into the past of the Regiment we see that history is not always accurate. Sometimes having a great publicist can sway the portrayal of accurate history.

In the spring of 1898 the 3d United States Cavalry was reunited at Camp Thomas, Chickamauga National Park. Up until this time most of the Regiment had been stationed at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, while the Headquarters, band and Troops C, E, F and G were located at Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont.

The Regiment was under the command of Col. Samuel Baldwin Marks Young and was assigned to the First Brigade of the Cavalry Corps.

In May of 1898 the entire Regiment boarded trains for Tampa, Fla., and in June embarked on the transport Rio Grande as a part of the expedition against the Spanish in Cuba. Col. Young was promoted to brigadier general and was given command of a Brigade.

Command of the Regiment was given to Maj. Henry W. Wessels Jr. Maj. Henry Jackson commanded the Second Squadron and the Third Squadron was under the command of Capt. Charles Morton. Each troop had an enlisted strength of 50 men, almost entirely old soldiers. [I guess Cavalry Troopers enjoyed their job and stayed longer.]

After landing at Daiquiri, Cuba (approximately 12 miles east of Santiago), the force moved quickly to subdue the Spaniards. Gen. Shafter (commander of the U.S. forces in Cuba) knew that it the U.S. forces stayed in Cuba too long; his men could become incapacitated by Yellow Fever.

Besides the well-known 3d U.S. Cavalry (Regiment of Mounted Rifles) and 10th U.S. Cavalry (the Buffalo Soldiers) Regiments operating in Cuba, was the First U.S. Volunteer Cavalry, also known as the Rough Riders – an elite group comprised of Ivy League gentlemen, western cowboys, sheriffs, prospectors, Native Americans, and a few Hispanics and European Americans. The Rough Riders were led by Theodore Roosevelt.

The plan (as of June 30) was to have the one infantry division attack and seize El Caney. Hopefully El Caney would fall by 9 a.m. After the fall of El Caney the artillery would shift fires to San Juan and Kettle Hills.

The infantry division would then move to San Juan heights to secure the flank, while the remaining divisions (one infantry and one dismounted cavalry) would attack San Juan and Kettle Hills, along the San Juan Ridge.

At 4 a.m. on July 1 the infantry began moving toward El Caney. They had shed their haversacks and bedrolls. Cartridge belts were turned with the buckles to the rear so that the reflection would not give enemy marksmen a target. At 6:30 a.m. their four field guns began firing at the village.

Believing that El Caney would fall by 9 a.m., the artillery began softening up San Juan and Kettle Hills at 8:30 a.m. The Spanish returned fire with deadly accuracy. The American artillery batteries were using black powder and the Spanish were using smokeless powder.

This gave the Spaniards a huge advantage; they could see where the Americans were firing from, while the Americans could not see the Spanish guns. The Spanish won the artillery dual.

Meanwhile believing that El Caney was soon to fall, the advance on San Juan Ridge was ordered. 8,400 men began moving along Royal Road. After they crossed the Aguadores River they were to deploy in the open meadows and storm the Spanish trenches.

El Caney had not fallen. The Spanish marksmen were very accurate and the Americans were being picked off by the dozens; the casualties were piling up. The generals had no way to change their plans.

Shafter was sick in the rear (it was easier for him

to communicate with Washington than it was for him to communicate with his generals). The bloodshed was so intense in the river that the name of the Aguadores River was changed by the Americans to 'Bloody Ford."

Lt. Col. Roosevelt had sent couriers out to find a general that would give the order to begin the assault. Lieutenant Jules Ord, aid to Gen. Hamilton Smith Hawkins (his son would become our 22nd Colonel of the Regiment) (commander of an infantry brigade) offered to lead the assault if the general would give the approval.

The general did not say yes, but most importantly he did not say no! Lt. Ord jumped up, took off his shirt and said, "Come on! We can't stay here." About 50 men followed him and to their surprise the hill protected their charge.

Off to the right of Ord were Roosevelt and the Rough Riders.

At about the same time as Ord's infantry, the Rough Riders and the other cavalry units began their assent—all independent from each other [no official order was given to charge]. Roosevelt and the Rough riders charged toward Kettle Hill and the other cavalry units began the assault up San Juan Ridge.

The 3d U.S. Cavalry was a part of the *dismounted* Cavalry division. They were on the left flank of the 10th US Cavalry (who was under the command of Capt. John (Black Jack) Pershing).

When the charge was ordered the Regiment began its assent up San Juan Hill.

As the Regiment stepped off a Spanish marksman found his mark on Sgt. Jack Andrews, the Regimental Standard bearer. Andrews passed off the Regiment's standard to Sgt. George Berry, a member of the 10th Cavalry, and told him, "take these to the top and report that I am wounded."

By the time the Rough Riders reached San Juan Hill, the action was done.

Sgt. Bartholomew Mulhern (F Troop) the Regiment's U.S. Colors bearer was cited for his actions on July 1, 1898.

Certificates of merit were issued to Cpl. George O. Ravenstein, Troop B; Mulhern, F Troop, Cpl. Henry W. Elliot, H Troop and Cpl. John Lundmark, Troop K for distinguished service in battle, Santiago, Cuba, July 1, 1898.

Honorable mentioned were given to Cpl. George Ravenstein, Troop B, commanding detachment, Saddler Frank Maresch, Troop, Privates Jeremiah Hooley and Wesley C. Rollo (killed in action), Troop E, for holding their position and firing some fifty rounds each, some 200 yards to their front while throwing up an entrenchment between the American firing line and that of the enemy, and exposed to the fire of each, holding their ground, until the enemy retreated, July 2, 1898.

At about the time San Juan Hill had been defeated, the Rough Riders had defeated the Spanish on Kettle Hill.

Roosevelt seeing a second line of trenches on San Juan Hill ordered a charge toward San Juan Hill.

After charging about 100 yards, Roosevelt realized only five troopers came with him. He returned to his lines furious. His trooper told him they did not hear the command to charge. By the time the Rough Riders reached San Juan Hill, the action was done. The battle lasted until about 2:30 p.m.

At about 4:15 p.m. the battle for El Caney was completed. The infantry attempting to follow the war plan then moved toward San Juan to secure and reinforce the right flank of the ridge from a possible counter-attack.

William Randolph Hearst had written a story of the success of Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders charge up San Juan Hill. He was considered by the press to be one of the most conspicuous heroes of the war.

Because of his great success Teddy Roosevelt would become the twenty-sixth President of the United States. In 1996 the family of Teddy Roosevelt received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions that day.

Dog days of Summer

"The ancient Romans called the six or eight hottest weeks of summer "the dog days," or, in Latin, "dies caniculares." The dog in question is Sirius, the Dog Star, so named because it is the brightest star in the constellation Canis Major (which is Latin for "Big Dog"). " – *Roman Mythology*

By Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

While doing some research on the "dog days" of summer I discovered that people used to believe that the "dog days" were the part of the year when dogs, driven to distraction by the heat, were most likely to "go mad." I don't know about dogs, but the summer heat here in Iraq will drive even the most mild-mannered trooper to the edge of insanity.

Normally the summer is a time spent relaxing and enjoying the spoils of the season which includes cook-outs, vacationing to the beach or simply enjoying some ice cream on a swing under a shade tree.

Yes the heat is a major distraction here in Iraq, but our troopers continue to conduct missions and combat operations at a high intensity. Our troopers continue to brave the brutal, blazing temperatures sometimes exceeding 110 degrees to fight the insurgency here in Iraq.

Dog days indeed for the troopers conducting cordon and searches in the city of Tall Afar, conducting raids in the town of Rabiah or patrolling the canal roads outside of Baghdad, these warriors do so; I'm sure, sweaty and fatigued.

Many of our troopers are slow roasted during the day conducting their day-to-day missions to ensure the Regiment is able to garner success in our area of operations. There are the Soldiers pulling guard at the tower in full 'battle rattle' ready to engage the enemy if they dare attempt to enter our perimeter.

There are the Soldiers who break down MILVANs filled to capacity with mail, sort it and deliver it to the units where it goes directly to the trooper on the ground.

Every now and then I have to wonder if being here is part of an experiment to see how the human body adapts to rapid water loss in extreme temperatures or another experiment to see if salt can clean stains out of the Desert Camouflage Uniform.

As I heard one trooper say one day when the temperature exceeded 115 degrees, "I'm going to have to start going to church, because if hell is this hot, I don't need to be there." *You know that's hot.*

All jokes aside, the troopers of this Regiment are taking the brunt of the "Big Dog" up there in the sky. Sirius is giving us his best bite here in Iraq, but we're going to drive on with our mission of taking the fight to the enemy whether it's in the heat of the noon day or the coolness of night.

The "dog days" of summer will past, but our commitment to our mission will continue on.

July's Fallen Troopers

July 3 - Staff Sgt. Jeremy Brown, 66th MI
July 5 - Staff Sgt. Scottie Bright, 3/3
July 5 - Cpl. Lyle Cambridge, 3/3
July 9 - Spc. Hoby Bradfield, 2/3
July 9 - Pfc. Eric Woods, 2/3
July 11 - Sgt. Timothy Sutton, 3/3
July 17 - Spc. Ronnie Williams, 3/3
July 24 - Staff Sgt. Jason Montefering, 3/3
July 24 - Sgt. Milton Monzon Jr., 3/3
July 24 - Pfc. Ernest Dallas Jr., 3/3
July 24 - Pfc. Ramon Villatoro, 3/3
July 30 - Spc. Robert Swaney, 3/3