



*By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States and as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States, I have today awarded*

**The Presidential Unit Citation (Army) for extraordinary heroism to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division (Mechanized)**

The 3rd Infantry Division and its supporting units distinguished themselves by extraordinary gallantry, valor, professionalism and esprit de corps displayed in the conduct of unusually complex, difficult, and hazardous combat operations to liberate Iraq from March 19 to May 1.

Relentlessly attacking over unforgiving terrain during extremely difficult weather conditions, the division advanced 750 kilometers while spearheading the Coalition's offensive. Continuously opposed by determined Iraqi forces using both conventional and unconventional tactics, under frequent threat of chemical attack, the soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division decisively won every engagement of every battle by virtue of their unequalled fighting spirit, dedication to duty, and commitment to their cause.

Before the fighting ended, the division defeated or destroyed four Republican Guard Divisions, one Iraqi Regular Army Division, three Special Republican Guard Brigades, and thousands of fanatical paramilitary forces; sustaining few casualties, the 3rd Infantry Division achieved one of the most stunning victories in military history.

Aggressively attacking into the heart of Baghdad the division ultimately removed the brutal Iraqi regime from power, then rapidly transitioned to enforce law and order and help rebuild a shattered nation despite the constant threat of terrorist attacks.

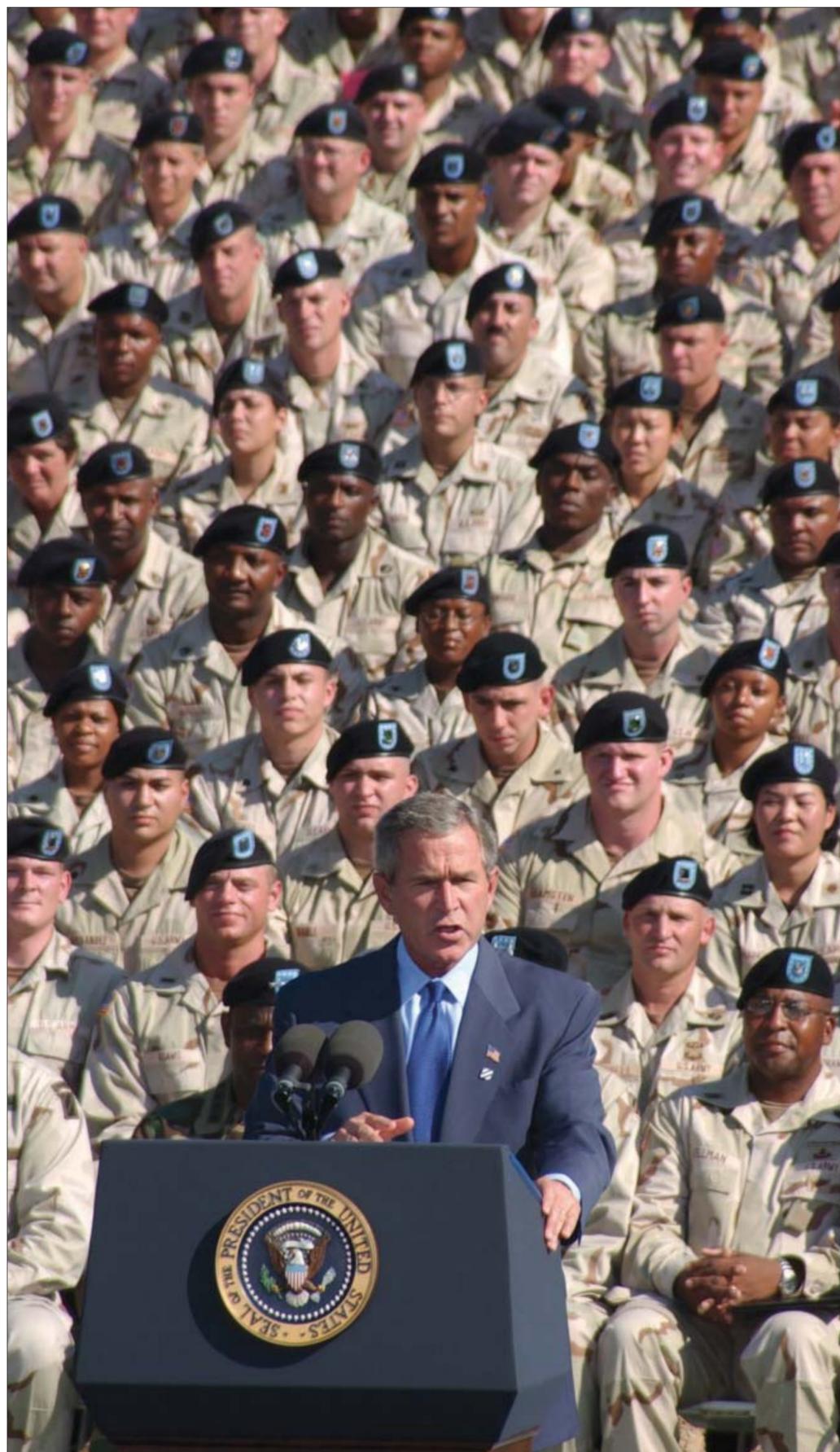
Its efforts have been instrumental in the success of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The courage, skill, and professionalism of the division's soldiers and its supporting units exemplify the highest traditions of military service and are in keeping with the finest traditions of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) "Rock of the Marne" and the United States Army.



# A visit from the President



Spc. Katherine Robinson  
Emergency service personnel stand among the spectators ready to respond in case of emergency.



Pic. Benjamin T. Brody

President George W. Bush addresses the crowd at Trent Field at Fort Stewart during his Friday visit. Bush awarded the Presidential Unit Citation to the 3rd Inf. Div. and thanked soldiers and their families for a job well done during Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Spc. Katherine Robinson

A little girl waves a flag above the crowd of soldiers on Trent Field Friday before the president's speech.



Pic. Benjamin T. Brody

(Above) Sgt. 1st Class Henry Blair sings the National Anthem.

Spc. Katherine Robinson

(Left) A mother holds her flag-clad baby up to get a better look during Friday's ceremony.



Pic. Benjamin T. Brody

Command Sgt. Maj. Carl T. Smith, garrison command sergeant major, warms the crowd up with a rehearsal prior to the ceremony. Smith ran the crowd through the music, salutes and order of the ceremony twice.



Pic. Benjamin T. Brody

A helicopter in the president's entourage lands near Marne Garden just before the ceremony Friday.