

2003

Looking Back

THE FRONTLINE

January 8, 2004

Serving the Army of One

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Serving the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized), the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield communities

President Bush visits Stewart, Hunter

Spc. Katherine Robinson

Editor

"You led the fighting into Baghdad the day the statue of (Saddam Hussein) was pulled down."

A resounding "Hooah!" from the thousands of soldiers gathered on Trent Field early this morning answered these words, spoken by President of the United States George W. Bush.

Bush visited Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield to welcome home soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) and to thank their families and community for continuing support.

Crowds of supporters, military and civilian, greeted him waving flags and cheering. Georgia Senators Zell Miller and Saxby Chambliss as well as Congressmen Max Burns and Jack Kingston accompanied Bush on the trip.

The 3rd Inf. Div. Band played in his honor, and Garrison Command Sergeant Major Carl T. Smith ran the crowd through a rehearsal prior to the ceremony.

Finally, after hours of waiting, the President approached the podium to the strains of "Hail to the Chief," and hundreds of hands raised in salute.

Back dropped by several hundred soldiers in desert camouflage uniforms, Bush addressed the crowd.

"After a long deployment, the 3rd ID is now home. America is grateful for your devoted service in hard conditions. America is grateful to the men and women right here on this base who supported your mission. And we're especially grateful to our military families," Bush said. "I know it has been a tough nine months for Fort Stewart families. But you



Spc. Katherine Robinson

President George W. Bush waves to the crowd at Trent Field during his visit to Stewart and Hunter Sept. 12. Bush awarded the 3rd Inf. Div. the Presidential Unit Citation during his visit.

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Raiders fight hard, travel far in war's first four days

Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

NCOIC, Hunter Public Affairs

SOUTHERN IRAQ — The 1st Brigade Combat Team entered Iraq last week and has continued to push



Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

Pfc. Robert Roman, B Co., 2/7th Inf., provides perimeter security for the transport of three Iraqis. The men were apprehended from the white sedan in the background which, upon search, had 13 AK-47 assault rifles in the trunk.

north as part of a U.S. led effort to remove Saddam Hussein and his regime from power.

The Raiders, led by Task Force 3-69, crossed the border from Kuwait around

8 p.m. amid a flurry of suppressive artillery from 155mm Paladins and unitary rounds from a number of Multiple-Launch Rocket Systems.

Despite an all-around nervousness, the crew of the first tank over the border was ready to do what was necessary to accomplish the mission.

"Being the first tank in the task force adds to the nervousness," said Pfc. Lewis Jones, A Company, 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment loader for M1 Abrams crew A21. "But we're going to do what we came into this Army to do."

The crew crossed the border unscathed and, by sunrise the next day, the remainder of 1st BCT was 10 kilometers into Iraq.

The Raiders continued north and secured an airfield south of Jalibah, encountering no Iraqi resistance.

"The Soldiers are doing

great work," said Col. William Grimsley, 1st BCT commander, at the end of day two of the ground assault. "We're right where we need to be, and early."

Saturday saw the 1st BCT convoying 30 hours straight until Sunday afternoon. In the process, more than 250 vehicles were tactically refueled and continued on to what would be a 300-kilometer movement.

Outside the city of As Samawa, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment exchanged fire with Iraqi Soldiers. No injuries were reported, as 15 Iraqis surrendered and were taken as prisoners of war, according to Maj. Morris T. Goins, 1st BCT operations officer.

Another incident, a Soldier from 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery was injured when he received a gunshot wound to the leg.

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Sgt. Mason T. Lowery

A statue of Saddam Hussein with its head blown off, signifying the end of his regime.

Spartan Brigade battles its way into Baghdad

Sgt. Mason T. Lowery

Staff Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Spartan Soldiers were the first U.S. Soldiers to reach Baghdad; they battled their way in, encountering heavy resistance from Republican Guard Soldiers while clearing the way for the rest of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) to follow.

It was an important shaping operation to set conditions for taking the seat of power — the Presidential Palace and official government buildings, on April 7, 2003, according to Col. David G. Perkins, 2nd Brigade Combat Team commander from Keene, N.H.

Task Force 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Soldiers lead the

way. They attacked up Highway 8 from Objective Saints, where they encountered tanks and dug-in infantry in a significant fire fight, according to Perkins. All their vehicles were hit many times.

1-64 Soldiers fired so many thousands of rounds that their ammunition bags filled up, clogging their weapons. They had to empty them over and over and keep on firing, Perkins said.

They finished their first Baghdad battle at Baghdad International Airport — Objective Lions. All 1/64's vehicles were hit and smoking when they pulled in, Perkins explained.

He described one of the

See SPARTANS, Page 5A

Signing sends RCI planning into next phase

Spc. Natalie Schlotman

Staff Writer

The plan to privatize the transformation of Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield into a "Southern Living Station of Choice" is now officially in ink.

Installation Commander Col. Gerald Poltorak; Principal Deputy Secretary of the Army, Installations and Environment Geoffrey Prosch; Georgia Congressman Jack Kingston and Chief Executive Officer and President of GMH Military Housing Gary Holloway signed a contract March 7 during a Partnership Signing Ceremony inside Club Stewart.

The signing represents the next phase in the Residential Communities Initiative — the plan to turn present mil-

itary housing into Southern-style communities Soldiers can take pride in.

Over the next six months, Fort Stewart staff will work alongside GMH, Centax Construction Company and Atkins Americas, an engineering firm. Together, the staff will create the plans to develop and improve housing.

The partnership with private companies is the most effective way to transform the installation, Poltorak said.

"We are fortunate to have as our partner a developers who not only understand the traditional military culture, but also have vast experience as leaders in creating communities of excellence," Poltorak said.

The privatization of military housing is an important step in improving the

quality of life for Soldiers, Poltorak added.

"Throughout the past decade we've transformed from an exclusive military way of life into a more exclusive customer service oriented community," he said. "This is a time of change for the good of our soldiers and their families. This is a time in which we can be proud to know our Soldiers will have the kind of homes they deserve," Poltorak said.

RCI will make the Army more efficient because the soldiers can better focus on their missions, knowing that they and their families are well taken care of, Kingston said.

"The Soldiers out in Kuwait could not

See RCI, Page 5A

310 trains for war



Spc. Adam Nuelken

An M270 Multiple Launch Rocket System shoots a rocket downrange during the Division Artillery live-fire exercise Feb. 13 at the Udairi Range Complex.

Marne division deploys to Kuwait

Staff Reports

The 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) deployed to Kuwait in January in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Although some elements of the division had been in-country as early as September, the majority of Marne Soldiers arrived shortly after the new year.

With tensions increasing as President George W. Bush and Iraq's President Saddam Hussein in a standoff, neither willing to back down, the 3rd Inf. Div. trained hard in Kuwait for the war that loomed ever nearer on the horizon.

The division units conducted regular physical fitness training, desert tank tables, hot refuels and road marches, military operations on urbanized terrain, artillery live-fires, enemy prisoner of war, sniper, nuclear, biological and chemical attack, trench, and engineer training.

The division practiced "jumping" — quickly breaking down, relocating and building — its tactical operations center.

Soldiers also conducted extensive maintenance on vehicles and equipment, since the desert sand was hard on tracks and weapons.

But Kuwait wasn't all work and no play. With the massive influx of media covering the division's arrival and stay in the country, came a few perks. Several morning shows broadcasted live from the numerous camps the Soldiers lived in, and gave them the opportunity to communicate with loved ones back home.

Meanwhile, hundreds of care packages flooded in for Soldiers from family members and supporting citizens.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation activities included performances by visiting entertainers, boxing smokers, an MWR tent complete with widescreen television and phone and internet cafes so Soldiers could stay in touch with loved ones.

Finally, after months of training and waiting to see what would happen, the call came. On March 20, the Division began to cross the border from Kuwait to Iraq, beginning Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Sgt. Kevin Doherty

A Soldier from E Trp., 9th Cav., acts as a rear support for his team as they attempt to clear a room during a three-day military operations on urbanized terrain training exercise Dec. 31 at an abandoned women's prison outside Camp Doha, Kuwait.



Spc. Jacob Boyer

Combat Engineers from the 10th Engineer Battalion, use a grapple hook to pull back concertina wire. The engineers would then cut the wire to allow the infantry to pass.



Sgt. 1st Class David K. Dismukes

An M1A1 Abrams tank moves across Northwestern Kuwait during a maneuver exercise held Dec. 9.



Sgt. Mason T. Lowery

Sgt. Steven Crane, A Co., 10th Eng. Bn., trains during a livefire in Kuwait Jan. 29. The division was deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.



Sgt. Mason T. Lowery

1st Lt. Dan VanKirk, a platoon leader with 4/64 Armor, scans the firing line at Range 8 during the Spartan live ammunition fire Feb. 8.

Garrison activities not slowing down

Pfc. Emily Danial

Staff Writer, Hunter Public Affairs

January 2003 — The eye of a hurricane is the most peaceful part of the storm despite being the center of intense activity. When you're within the eye, there is the illusion that all is quiet, but in actuality you are only experiencing a pause in the action.

Right now it may seem like the perpetual motion of the fast pace of deployment and all that goes along with it at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield might be slowing down. However, it is only in the proverbial eye of the storm, according to Col. Gerald Poltorak, garrison commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Mittie Smith, Hunter command sergeant major.

"Things are not slowing down," said Poltorak. "We have four tasks here ... deployment, mobilization, executing rear detachment operations and taking care of families. Although it appears that things have slowed down, it is only a pause."

Of the four tasks Poltorak mentioned, he said the only lull has been in the area of deployment, and that it too would begin to pick up again as more National Guard and Reserve Soldiers are ready to go overseas — 2,700 Soldiers in all.

"On the heels of these 2,700 Soldiers," Poltorak continued, "are going to be significant mobilizations that are going to come here to Fort Stewart, and we will again have to go through the mobilization process of inprocessing them into the active Army, of issuing them clothing and equipment, of

ensuring their paperwork is correct, validating and certifying their training, and once we've done that, we'll go into another cycle of deployment."

Smith reaffirmed the commander's views, adding, "We still have to accomplish our mission, more so with less people ... Of course with so much going on because of the deployment it's going to increase the workload, but all the agencies have handled it exceptionally. They know the importance of soldiers' deployment and making sure that we give them service as quickly as possible."

In the area of rear detachment, Poltorak said, "Things are as intense as ever. The garrison and those units are required to get Soldiers ready to deploy, to do the housekeeping that normally large bodies of units usually do as well as assist us in mobilization and deployment ... they have the same requirements that you have at a home station base and there's less people to execute them, so it takes a lot of good management and a lot of hard work. That's why commanders left their best and their brightest to be able to handle this mission of working in rear detachment."

The last task Poltorak mentioned, taking care of families, has not been neglected in the midst of all that's been going on.

"There is a lot of supporting going on in various agencies around the installation with families who may be already encountering difficulties, that need support, that need a helping hand. Poltorak continued, the Family Readiness Groups, of course are meeting regularly to provide information. It takes a lot of aggressive work by the Family Readiness

Groups to be very vigilant on what the issues are for the families and provide that information to us so that we can get involved as quickly as possible."

Organizations on post have been working diligently to accomplish a mission that can be quite daunting, causing some personnel to work 24-hour days at times, according to Poltorak.

"They've performed magnificently," he said. "We are in extraordinary times, and it takes extraordinary people to accomplish all those missions. The team that is in place here handled the level of work and effort superbly."

Poltorak said that all the Soldiers, garrison and garrison support, came together as a team and every agency stepped up to the plate to accomplish the deployment mission. "And we are going to continue," Poltorak promised.

Smith spoke positively of agencies on Hunter as well.

"Overall we've seen more camaraderie, more coming together, they'll go that extra mile to make sure the Soldiers get pointed in the right direction."

She said Soldiers who are new to the installation and working in the supporting units have been adapting more quickly to the fast-paced environment, saying, "They just jump right in and go with it."

"This type of thing is always going to happen," Smith added. "We can never plan for it, but we are always going to be prepared."

Poltorak said, "Fort Stewart is a power projection platform. It is a facility that supports training. It is an installation that takes care of families, and we are going to do that."

549th MP Company earns Holland award



Sgt. R. James Piper

Capt. William Poole, 549th MP Co. commander, holds up the J.P. Holland award during a ceremony Feb. 27.

Staff Sgt. Robert Harrison

Special to The Frontline

Fort Stewart's 549th Military Police Company received the prestigious Jeremiah P. Holland Award from Reginald J. Brown, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), and they received the Eagle Award from Maj. Gen. James E. Donald, Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel and Installation Management Feb. 27.

Brown presented the Holland Award and congratulated the 549th for being the best military police company in the active Army. He related how the 549th outstanding performance contributed to winning the war against terrorism, and he thanked the Soldiers' families for supporting their "unlimited commitment."

The best active Army military police unit, company size or smaller, receives the Brig. Gen. Jeremiah P. Holland Award for outstanding achievement in training, physical fitness, retentions, weapons qualifications, quality of life improvements, community services and family support programs.

Holland, a military police officer, sponsored the award when he retired in 1969. The award is intended to keep morale high and professionalism a priority in MP units.

"As this year's richly deserved winner of the Holland Award, the 549th should be justifiably proud, but hardly surprised. "The Enforcers have won numerous awards including the Holland Award in 1988," Brown said.

The 549th outstanding performance defending life and property in Bosnia was as important to the war on terrorism as your upcoming deployment, Brown said.

In the next chapter of the war on terrorism, the soldiers of the 549th will be asked to confront and defeat the armies of a ruthless dictator who support terrorism, Brown said.

"Needless to say, none of your accomplishments would have been possible without the support of your families. "I pledge my personal support — and I know the Secretary of the Army backs me up on this — to continue to work earnestly and diligently to ensure we look after our Army families," Brown said.

Reginald J. Brown is responsible for manpower and reserve affairs. He graduated from the United States Military Academy and served in Korea and in Vietnam with 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division. He resigned as a major after receiving the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal and Army Commendation Medal.

Maj. Gen. Donald J. Ryder re-enforced the importance of the family support for high performing units.

"A high performing unit such as the 549th can't get to where they are today without the support of their family members, Ryder said, "because they can't focus on their mission if they don't know their family members are being cared for and that their families are behind them 100 percent."

Ryder has spent his Army career with military police units in Germany and the United States. He has been the Commandant of the military police schools at Fort McClellan and at Fort Leonard Wood.

Maj. Gen. James E. Donald also presented the Eagle Award the 549th.

"You know achieving this award doesn't suggest that your are better than other Soldiers, but what it does suggest is that you are the best by test," said Donald.

Forces Command presents the Eagle Award to the best MP Company in the active Army.

Donald has spent most of his military career as an infantry officer in Germany, Korea and the United States. He was the battalion commander, 1st battalion, 502nd infantry regiment during Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

The 549th carries out law enforcement operation on Fort Stewart, maintains training and readiness, conducts vehicle and weapons maintenance and deployed to Bosnia for six months in 2002.



If you accidentally discover an archaeological site on Fort Stewart:

1. Cease what you are doing immediately.
2. Notify Range Control at 767-8777.
3. Do not attempt to unearth the object or remove it.



VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS

A great generation

Sgt. Craig Zentkovich
NCOIC, Hunter Public Affairs Office

When I used to reflect on all the conversations I'd had with combat veterans from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, I was always amazed at their extraordinary stories of bravery and perseverance — their dedication to duty and their love of country at a time of war.

These were the men who set the standard for which we as soldiers live by today — the seven army values; Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless service, Honor, Integrity and Personal courage.

In recent years, some naysayers had all but written off the young men and women who happen to comprise today's fighting force. They've used terms like "lazy," "unmotivated," "lack of direction" and "soft." Here's a news flash for these "experts" — you were wrong.

Since March 20, I have bared witness to unfathomable acts of greatness by soldiers of all ages — in the face of fear, horror and loss. These soldiers have not buckled under the pressures of intense small-arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades, or lost their focus when their subordinates, peers and leaders lie lifeless beside them.

I have spent weeks with the different units and soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry

Division — **Commentary** — the men of B Company a second and third time. Less than 12 hours after being relieved from their security position, they were called on again, this time to support the infantry by constructing hasty fighting positions and knocking down walls in outer Baghdad.

Later that afternoon, an armored combat earthmover, under the direction of Staff Sgt. Lincoln Hollinsaid, Smith's replacement as platoon sergeant, knocked down a portion of wall running along Highway 8. On the other side of that wall were Iraqi soldiers, who immediately opened fire when the wall crumbled. Soldiers of B Company could only watch as an RPG was fired directly at Hollinsaid, killing him. They held their ground, maintained their focus and fought hard, killing and capturing many Iraqi troops, while sustaining no further casualties.

At 11:30 p.m., Pfc. Jason Meyer, a driver for 1st Platoon, B Company, stood atop his APC, putting his vest on prior to pulling turret watch. Mistaken as an Iraqi soldier attempting to scale a wall to the front, he was fired on by an M1A1 Abrams tank with a 120-millimeter round. Though the round did not impact his APC, the wall and

Despite the loss of what his soldiers described as an "outstanding noncommissioned officer and leader who always looked out for his soldiers," B Company remained in the area, providing security for the next two days.

On April 7, tragedy struck



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armored combat earthmover it did hit sent shrapnel and concrete with such force that one fragment struck and killed him. Amid the dust and fear that followed the unexpected explosion, each soldier in the area maintained his composure, doing everything he could for that 20-year-old soldier, and each other.

I attended the memorial service that B Co. held for Smith, I spoke extensively with Hollinsaid before the mission, and I was atop the APC when Meyer was hit. I have felt the pain and experienced the horror that B Co. has endured, though I can't begin to imagine what they, as brothers-in-arms, are going through.

Yet in spite of their losses, they continue to accomplish their missions and keep their chins up. They now fight for something that hits closer to home — the memory and honor of their fallen comrades.

This war has proven what I have known for long time: The soldiers of today's Army are loyal, dedicated, respectful, selfless, honorable, honest and courageous. They live by the Army's values, as did their predecessors. Those who doubt them should continue to bathe in their ignorance, for these soldiers have nothing to prove. Today's soldier has served and will continue to serve his country with pride and resolve. That's what makes this nation and this generation of soldiers great.

Marne Voice

THE FRONTLINE

Readers respond to the question:

What was your most memorable moment of 2003?

"Having my baby."

Spc. Shannon Hutchison
C Co., 26th FSB



"In Iraq these missiles went straight into the air. We were all scared out of our minds and hit the deck. My wife was on the other side of Objective Rams and all I could think about was her."

Pfc. Rafael Ramos
3rd Inf. Div. Band



"Arriving at Basic Training."

Pvt. Andrew Leonard
HHC, 3/15 Inf.



"Coming home from deployment."

Sgt. Ruben Herrera
3rd MP Co.



"When I proposed."

1st Lt. Brad Ashing
A Co., 123rd Sig. Bn.



"Redeploying my whole unit back from Iraq as a first sergeant. My wife made it back safe, which was a blessing."

Master Sgt. Paul A. Goldsmith
B Co., 603rd ASB



New PX rocks my Marne

Sgt. Mason T. Lowery
Staff Writer

— **Commentary** —

I'll take the honor of being the first person to write that the new PX is awesome. And I'm not just haphazardly throwing "awesome" out there; my first glimpse of the new PX actually put me into a state of awe.

I got to the PX early on the day of its grand opening to take pictures and write a story about it.

As a journalist, I reserve the right to wander where I'm not supposed to be. I put this look on my face like I have a purpose, and rarely does anyone question me.

So I sidestepped the crowd waiting patiently for the stores to open, and walked right in to the PX.

There were a few people in there besides me — organizers and high rankers, but I was the only person in there just to gawk. I ignored everyone else and took in the magnificence of that monster PX. ("Monster PX" — that's good. Forget Super Wal-Mart, I'm going to the "Monster PX.")

And magnificent that place is. First of all, it's huge. I can't get into the square footage specifics, because I don't have them, but it's pretty big.

Then the stores — there are more than 10, so really, it's a mall. It's the Monster PX Mall. (That IS good.) One of those stores is Cinnabon, and attached to that is Seattle's Best Coffee. This base has needed a good coffee joint since it invaded the low country *however* many years ago. Army coffee is bad. They write songs about how bad it is. So you'd think some of these stores on post would sell good coffee, wouldn't you? WOULD'N'T YOU! But no, they didn't. They just sold more bad coffee.

Until now, that Seattle's Best coffee is pretty good. Thank you Monster PX Mall.

The new Monster PX Mall also has an optometry store. My faithful readers know how much I love a dorky pair of glasses. So I'll definitely give that place a LOOK. Also featured is a knife and sword shop. I've always said returning war veterans need ample supplies of oversized cutlery.

Of course it's great that a Clothing Sales store and a cleaners are so conveniently located inside the Monster PX Mall Complex. What could I really say about that — it's obviously great.

If you have any time after your caffeine-fueled Samurai Sword spending spree, go inside the actual PX.

Then you'll see what I'm talking about. You'll be in awe too. You may just stand there for a few minutes, and the word "awwwwwwww" might escape your lips as your brain is liquefied by the amazing selection.

No seriously, there's so much stuff in there. I walked through the aisles saying to myself, "Yes I do need a new \$800 watch. Maybe I should get a food processor. Yes — stereos, CDs, shoes, shelves, yahoo I want it all!"

Once my imaginary shopping spree was over, I left to take some pictures. But I know I'll be back.

I only hope I'm worthy of shopping in an awesome Monster PX Mall Complex.



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PRESIDENT

from page 1A

have been loyal and patient.”

Bush also presented the Presidential Unit Citation to Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount III, 3rd Inf. Div., Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield commanding general.

“You made history,” Bush told the division Soldiers. “You made our nation proud. And you deserve the Presidential Unit Citation.”

The citation was the division’s second. The first was awarded after World War II, for a grueling two-week fight in the winter of 1945. “A presidential citation is very rare,” Kingston said. “That’s huge.” It is hugely important for the president to visit and award the citation in recognition of the Division’s performance he said.

“The Presidential Unit Citation will go down in history,” Miller said. “I was honored to be a part of it.”

Bush said the division has accomplished many great feats since his last visit to Fort Stewart in February, 2001. “Since we last met, Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division have fought in Afghanistan, you have hunted terrorists in Pakistan. You’ve launched the coalition offensive into Iraq.”

The mere fact that Bush visited Fort Stewart a second time is an honor to the division, according to Kingston. “For a president to come some place twice during his first term ... that doesn’t happen everyday.”

The visit and award were well-deserved, Burns said. “These are our neighbors and friends and loved ones. The people who stand up for our country,” he said. “Never have we seen such power combined with such passion ... it’s important we recognize that and be here to honor (it.)”

The president also spoke of his resolve to

never give up the fight against terrorism, and said America has already made great progress in that fight.

“Nearly two thirds of al-Qaeda’s known leaders have been captured or killed,” he said. “No matter how long it takes we will bring justice to those who plot against America.”

“And we have pursued the war on terror in Iraq,” he added. “Iraq is now a central front in the war on terror. This nation will complete our work and we will win this essential victory.”

Bush commended the Soldiers of 3rd Inf. Div. for their courage while facing hardships in Iraq, and honored those who didn’t return.

“You know the names of some who fought for our country and didn’t come home; who died in the line of duty. You

remember them as comrades and friends,” he said. “This nation will remember them for their unselfish courage, for their sacrifice in a time of danger to America. We honor their memory.”

“This base and all of you serving here are critical to the defense of the United States,” he continued. “Our whole nation has been reminded that we can never take our military for granted. I will keep our military strong.”

After the ceremony the president accompanied Blount to the Fort Stewart Headquarters building, where he met with the families who lost loved ones in Iraq.

“America counts on the men and women who have stepped forward as volunteers in the cause of freedom,” Bush said in his closing statement. “Thank you for the credit and honor you bring to our country every day.”

RAIDERS

from page 1A

The name of the Soldier will be released pending notification of the next of kin.

On Sunday, as the 1st BCT was still on the move, 2/7 Inf., moved up to high ground where they found Iraqi Soldiers and various pieces of equipment scattered about a two- square kilometer area.

“We received some inaccurate incoming artillery for a little while,” Grimsley said. “Once we discovered the firing location, we called for close-air support that, in turn, eliminated the threat.”

Included in the area was a military compound, complete with bunkers, watchtowers and barracks, enclosed by a barbed-wired, chain-link fence.

“When we rolled up on the compound, and most of

(the Iraqi Soldiers) were sitting on the ground in a circle with their uniforms off,” said Staff Sgt. George Stephenson, B Co., 2/7 Inf., squad leader. “In total, there were 97 (Iraqi) Soldiers who surrendered.”

1st BCT was responsible for the apprehension of 248 Iraqi POWs when Sunday drew to a close, according to Maj. John M. Altman, 1st BCT intelligence officer.

“They have all been very cooperative,” he said. “Most of them were told by (Saddam’s regime) that all the Americans wanted to do was kill Iraqis, and that we would use chemical weapons on them. Shortly thereafter, they said they realized that all of it was lies and propaganda.”

“Our actions have contradicted what they were led to believe.”

In addition to the POWs detained, 1st BCT located and destroyed numerous pieces of equipment including small arms, artillery cannons, mortar tubes, armored personnel carriers, vehicles and air defense guns during the first four days of the war, according to Altman.

Apart from the one injured Soldier, the Soldiers of the 1st BCT are a healthy, motivated and great team, ready to do whatever is asked of them, according to Goins.

“I’ve been training a long time for this. Now is a time of action,” said Sgt. Jeff Emrick, A Co., 3/69 Armor M1 Abrams gunner. “The Soldiers are going to do whatever it takes to accomplish the mission. The only medal they want is that plane ticket home.”

SPARTANS

from page 1A

many heroic acts he saw during the fight. A tank was hit from the rear and its engine caught fire. The crew jumped out and held the enemy off with their M-16s while medics worked on wounded Soldiers.

2nd BCT Soldiers went back in. They went straight for the Presidential Palace, according to 2nd BCT Battle Captain Capt. Matt Morgan. They left so early that they got to the palace before the enemy knew what they were doing. They took the palace and government buildings, establishing a strong foothold in Baghdad.

Approximately 600 Iraqi Soldiers were killed, as well as 70 modified-for-military-use civilian vehicles, and artillery and mortar equipment, Morgan said.

3rd Inf. Div. got its first resupply in the city as refuel trains arrived into Baghdad, and took the remainder of the palaces,

according to Morgan. He said the last major objective was a private military airport to be taken. The 3rd Brigade Combat Team would come from the north, the 1st Brigade Combat Team from the west, the Marine Expeditionary Unit from the east, and 2nd BCT would meet them there to finish the job.

Morgan said Iraq’s Army is falling apart. Almost everything is abandoned and nothing is organized in Baghdad. All that’s left are Regime Death Squads — unorganized Soldiers willing to stand up to a tank with an AK-47 and die.

“You can shoot at that tank all day long and you’re not going to kill it,” he said.

The U.S. is predicting the Iraqi Regime will be destroyed in a week. The mission is already transitioning to peace; the Red Cross is in Iraq, according to Morgan.

RCI

from page 1A

do it without their families and the support systems here,” Kingston said, adding, “Supporting families — that’s what’s happening with this military housing development.”

In addition to reflecting the Army’s shift to a more Soldier-oriented force, the RCI plan fits into the Army’s goal of winning the war on terror, Prosch said. “Installations are a key part of winning wars. Installations are where we mobilize the force, where we house the force, where we train the force and where we project the force,” he said.

The RCI plans will also bring about improved installation management, according

to Prosch. “We’ve focused our efforts to more organization to better manage installations in a business-like fashion,” he said. “This privatization is part of the Army’s plan to gain resources to better accomplish its mission,” he added.

Prosch said the Army’s goal to eliminate all inadequate housing by 2007 reflects the respect America feels for its Soldiers. “We have Soldiers deploying right now to defend everything America stands for. Don’t you think we should respect them enough to give them the adequate housing they deserve?” he said, adding that the RCI plans will do just that.



Marne division goes to war

Staff reports

Going to War:

3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) tracks hit the sand five hours after President George W. Bush addressed Americans and the world March 17 and gave Saddam Hussein 48 hours to get out of Iraq.

2nd Brigade Combat Team Commander Col. David G. Perkins, briefed his battalion and company commanders the morning after Bush's speech that they and their Soldiers are the last hope for peace in Iraq. Soldiers moved north hours after the briefing.

TF 2-69 Armor's first days of battle

SOUTHERN IRAQ — Shortly before midnight March 21, Task Force 2-69 Armor was the first unit to cross the berm into Iraq and toward its first objective.

After taking the first objective, the task force was faced with the challenge of a 460-kilometer distance road march to Attack Position Raider.

The task force was then given the mission to secure a 10-kilometer area around a Euphrates River crossing by the town of Al Kifa.

During the battle, TF 2-69 Armor captured more than 60 enemy prisoners of war to include Republican Guard officers and noncommissioned officers who were sent to try and rouse the local populace.

Once the bridge was sealed, the task force began assisting the people of Al Kifa by supplying needed water.

31D approaching objective — Baghdad

NORTHWEST OF NAJAF IRAQ — After a three-day push that saw the 3rd Inf. Div. plunge deep into Iraq, units of the Marne Division consolidated forces northwest of this historic city before an expected final assault on Republican Guard units ringing Baghdad.

The division traveled more than 200 miles in about 36 hours with troops engaging enemy forces along the way in the initial ground assault to disarm Iraq and change its leadership regime.

Coalition ground forces breached the berm separating Kuwait and Iraq during the early morning hours of March 21, after a night time artillery barrage and attack helicopters pounded Iraqi observation posts just north of the border.

Advanced units immediately met resistance by Iraqi regular Army units which were quickly eliminated by direct fire from tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles.

The 3rd Inf. Div., with 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment out front swept across southern Iraq to its current position 60 miles south of the Iraqi capital.

Raiders secure foothold in Kifl

KIFL, Iraq — The 1st Brigade Combat Team continued its move north by securing a foothold in Kifl, a northern suburb of Najaf, March 25 through 27.

A section of the Brigade Recon Team and a tank platoon from Task Force 3-69 with attachments crossed the Euphrates River, from the west, into Kifl to establish a blocking position for follow-on enemy forces from Najaf.

The assault element began receiving contact about 500 meters before the bridge, to the north and south of the road, and fought their way to the river — leaving many dead Iraqi Soldiers in their wake, while receiving no casualties of their own. The explosion, triggered by two Iraqi Soldiers under the bridge, was a failed attempt to disable the bridge.

In the midst of a sandstorm with 25-meter visibility, an infantry company team from 1st BCT crossed the river into Kifl shortly thereafter to further establish a foothold in the town. A Battery, 1st Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, provided indirect fire support from the west side of the river. Close-air support from Air Force bombers and 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment attack helicopters aided

"G Day"

Saddam Hussein refuses to cooperate with the United States, and the Marne Division rolls into Iraq. 4th BCT fires the first Hellfire RF missiles at observation posts in support of initial movement into Iraq.

Half the division moves north to Tallil Air base, while the other half moves northwest toward AS Samawah.



A HEMMET ammo carrier for C Company, 1/15 Infantry of Task Force 2-69 Armor, explodes after being struck during an RPG attack outside the Arab Petroleum Training Institute.

Spc. Adam Nuelkin

the team from above. Sporadic fighting carried on through the night. Later that night, TF 2-69 relieved the Soldiers in place and continued the fight.

In the afternoon, a B-52 dropped numerous bombs on a brick factory north of Kifl.

By evening, roughly 50 enemy prisoners were secured on the west side of the bridge leading to Kifl, bound by zip ties at their wrists, awaiting transport and interrogation.

2nd BCT battles Al Qut Soldiers

AN NAJAF, Iraq — Objective Rams, near the town of An Najaf, Iraq, turned out to be a hornet's nest of Iraqi irregulars for 3rd Inf. Div. Soldiers to root out from March 22 to 29.

Resistance was supposed to be light, but what U.S. Soldiers found instead were Saddam Hussein's Al Qut. Approximately 3,000 enemy Soldiers, armed with rocket propelled guns and AK-47s, were waiting in An Najaf.

Enemy Soldiers used the town as headquarters. From there, they headed out in small trucks to attack American Soldiers.

1st Battalion, 64th Armor Soldiers first battled Al Qut Division Soldiers March 22 and 23 in 2nd BCT's RAMS objective area 5 kilometers from An Najaf, Iraq.

2nd BCT reconnaissance troops came into contact with the Al Qut Soldiers at about 2 p.m. March 22. They pulled back and 1/64 went forward to clear the area for the 2nd BCT tactical operations center and the rest of V Corps. Tactical Psychological Operations Detachment 970 questioned approximately 15 enemy prisoners of war while 1/64 continued to clear the area.

They found about eight dismantled Al Quts at a radio tower, about six at a processing plant, and approximately 90 Soldiers reinforced with gun trucks, anti-tank weapons and automatic weapons at the Al Qut main defensive area 10 kilometers into the zone of attack, according to Schwartz.

The enemy attacked in human waves, even crawling up to 1/64 tanks and throwing grenades.

1/64 Armor and 2nd BCT Headquarters relieved 3rd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, lost two tanks and Bradleys but no Soldiers. 1/64 Soldiers moved across the Euphrates River to block enemy supply and communication lines.

They captured and got information on enemy locations from enemy prisoners of war. The Soldiers, aided by U.S. Air Force bombs and 2nd BCT Multiple Launch Rocket Systems, dismantled a city block containing a Baath Party Headquarters building and troop barracks.

Apaches secure bridge at An Nasiriyah

AN NASIRIYAH, Iraq — Attack cleared the objective..

2nd BCT fights at OBJ Rams

Soldiers encounter fanatical paramilitary irregular soldiers near An Najaf. The Spartan Soldiers cleared the objective..

3rd BCT seizes Tallil, 1st BCT moves to OBJ Raiders

Soldiers with the 3rd BCT secure the Tallil Air Base while 1st BCT Soldiers move into the Euphrates River valley.



Relief In Place

The Marne Division is relieved by elements of the 101st Airborne Division and the 82nd Airborne Division near An Najaf after securing the area, to continue fighting north toward Karbala.

OBJ Saints

2nd BCT Soldiers become the main effort, attacking and seizing Objective Saints, a key point for controlling enemy movement at the intersection of Highways 1 and 8 and isolating Baghdad from the South.



OBJ Titans

3rd BCT Soldiers attack and seize OBJ Titans — the key to isolating Baghdad from the North.

Mission shifts

As soon as Baghdad is secure, Marne Soldiers' mission immediately changes from warfighting to peacekeeping and rebuilding Iraq.

President Bush declares an end to major combat operations on May 1.

Follow on in Fallujah

Fallujah, located 30 miles northwest of Baghdad, remained a hot spot for resistance. In early June, 2nd BCT Soldiers move into an abandoned terrorist training compound outside the city and begin patrolling and rebuilding. They stay until redeployment.

Longest, fastest movement in history

The division moves along two routes and converges near AS Samawah. Marne Soldiers endure sleepless nights and three battles as they move 10,000 vehicles more than 500 kilometers in 72 hours.

Battle of As Samawah

Soldiers with 3rd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment seize bridges and link up with special operations forces. They experience the first contact with fanatical paramilitary irregulars — enemy Soldiers dressed as civilians, armed with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades.



Battle for An Najaf

1st and 2nd BCT Soldiers encounter Saddam Fedayeen forces. More than 2,000 enemy Soldiers are killed and more than 100 technical vehicles destroyed.

Karbala Gap

1st BCT Soldiers destroy enemy Soldiers and equipment, and secure bridges across the Euphrates, clearing the way to Baghdad. It was the first contact with Iraqi Republican Guard Soldiers.

OBJ Peach

1st BCT Soldiers secure bridges in EA Hannah, allowing the division to continue moving north.

Baghdad International Airport

1st BCT Soldiers battle and seize the airport — a key Iraqi regime target and a position outside Baghdad from which to attack the city. 2nd BCT Soldiers attack into the city in "Thunder Runs".



Regime area seized

2nd BCT Soldiers attack straight into Baghdad up Highway 8 and seize the heart of the city. The 2nd BCT Tactical Operations Center, still at OBJ Saints, is hit by an enemy missile. 1st BCT Soldiers continue clearing Highway 1 from OBJ Saints, joining 2nd BCT Soldiers on the 10th.



Sgt. Mason T. Lowery

B Co., 3/15, 2nd BCT Bradleys head north March 18 after Saddam Hussein repeatedly ignored United Nation regulations, and the president's patience wears thin.

established three blocking positions to prevent enemy Soldiers from attempting to retake Saints. Task Force 3-15 Soldiers were tasked with securing the bridge (Peach) so 1st Bde. Soldiers could move on and attack Objective Lions — Baghdad International Airport.

Spartan TOC hit by missile
BAGHDAD, Iraq — The Spartan tactical operations center received a direct hit from an enemy missile, killing 17 Soldiers, two civilian journalists and wounding 17 Soldiers at Objective Spartan, 18 miles south of Baghdad.

Soldiers reassembled the TOC and were back to work in less than an hour supporting the 2nd BCT battle in Baghdad. The Spartans lost 16 Humvees and 2 1/2-ton vehicles, six trailers, and miscellaneous gear in the attack.

Raiders take Saddam International
BAGHDAD, Iraq — The 1st BCT ended a 72-hour assault north with the seizure of Saddam International Airport.

Led by C Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, Task Force 3-69 breached the southern wall of the airport following a two-day bombardment from Air Force bombers, and Army rockets and artillery of

key targets in and around the area. The Raiders began their assault April 2 when they pushed past the Karbala Gap and seized a bridge crossing the Euphrates River at Yasin al Khudayr.

While traveling through the winding roads and canal system of central Iraq, troops were greeted by hundreds of residents in the town of Yusufiyah, who lined the streets cheering and waving to the passing Soldiers.

The first tanks breached the walls of the airfield following a fight on Highway 1, approaching the entrance to the airfield, with C Co., 2/7 Inf., pitted against a two-company sized element of the Iraqi Republican Guard.

A Co., 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment and B Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment attacked a Special Republican Guard compound to the east side of the airfield while C Co., 3/69 Armor and C Co., 2/7 Inf., conducted a simultaneous attack on the west side of the airfield.

Unfortunately, a TF 3-69 Soldier lost his life when the element he was traveling with came under hostile fire and the vehicle he was in drove off the road into a canal, causing him to drown, according to the initial report.

Eight other TF 3-69 Soldiers were wounded during the 12 hours of fighting for control of the airport, that has since been renamed Baghdad International Airport by allied forces.



Spc. Jacob Boyer

An AH-64 Apache helicopter lifts off from an airstrip near Jalibah in southern Iraq to fly a mission in support of Operation Freedom.

March 20 March 21 - 23 March 22-23 March 24 March 25-28 March 29-30 March 30 - April 2 April 3 April 6 April 7 - 10 April 10 - May 1 June - July

Timeline of key events: Battle of Tallil Air Base (March 20), Battle of As Samawah (March 22-24), 3rd BCT seizes Tallil, 1st BCT moves to OBJ Raiders (March 25-28), Battle for An Najaf (March 30 - April 2), Karbala Gap (April 2), OBJ Peach (April 3), OBJ Saints (April 3), OBJ Titans (April 6), Mission shifts (April 10 - May 1), Follow on in Fallujah (June - July), Regime area seized (April 7 - 10), Baghdad International Airport (April 3 - 5).

Marne division supports and stabilizes Iraq

3ID Mission changes — Support and stabilization operations become top priority

BAGHDAD, Iraq — After the regime of Saddam Hussein was toppled, and Baghdad's streets began to come alive again, the work for coalition forces was far from over.

The 1st Brigade Combat Team moved its operation to Downtown Baghdad to begin support and stabilization operations April 20.

"Our job here is to ensure the continued destruction of any forces loyal to the previous regime," said Col. William Grimsley, 1st BCT commander. "In the process we have to maintain order in the city as the country transitions to a new government."

The 1st BCT was one of several units responsible for security in a sector of the city.

Soldiers visited hospitals in the city and helped provide supplies, rebuilt soccer fields and renovated schools.

The brigade has also taken a major step in cleaning the city of the damaged and burned out vehicles and debris left on the roads.

3rd Inf. Div., 1st Armor Div. Soldiers provide joint security for Baghdad propane distribution

BAGHDAD, Iraq — After a nearly three-month absence, liquid propane gas bottles were once again distributed for sale to the citizens of Baghdad for personal in-home use May 21.

Clearing the way for full-scale distribution of the essential cooking supply, the Iraq Ministry of Oil set the standard price of 250 dinars per bottle, established a one-for-one

exchange requirement to prevent hoarding, and asked the U.S. military to provide security for government vehicles from the two major bottling plants to the 18 government-run distribution sites throughout the city.

"Liquid propane gas is used by 99 percent of the population for cooking," explained Capt. Eric Strong, troop commander of H Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Division. "One bottle can last a normal family of five for approximately 22 days. If they are doing a lot of cooking, such as baking bread, a bottle will only last about seven days," added Strong.

While liquid propane gas distribution was but one step in restoring normality to life in Baghdad, it was an important step in the chain of services the Iraqi citizens deserve and can expect from their government as the Republic of Free Iraq slowly takes shape.

Civil Affairs moves in as 3ID settles

BAGHDAD, Iraq — After the combat phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom was over, M1A1 Abrams main battle tanks from the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) were replaced with the extended welcoming hand of Soldiers assigned to the 352nd Civil Affairs Brigade.

Brig. Gen. John Kern, said coalition forces recruited Iraqi militia, who were trained in Hungary, that he brought into Iraq to assist civil affairs Soldiers there.

The brigades assisted with helping people get paid, and trying to get water and electricity up and running again.

"We are working very hard to get the ministries running and we're working with the Office of Reconstruction and

Humanitarian Assistance," he said. "My civil affairs functional teams are working with those officials and other governments in order to get the ministries started."

1/64 Armor works to prevent looting

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Keeping the streets of Baghdad free of crime and safe for the residents of the city is a task that fell into the laps of coalition forces after the fall of the last regime.

Members of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) were tasked to instill law and order since the end of the war. They patrolled the streets of Baghdad.

The job of containing the looting can be a dangerous one. Many suspected looters carry what can turn out to be lethal weapons.

"They mostly run around with AK-47 bayonets," said Sgt. Dwayne Asrat, an armor crewman with A Co., 4th Battalion, 64th Armor.

With the economy in Iraq in shambles, looting was a common problem to deal with. Many of the people had not been able to return to work to earn a paycheck.

Out on patrol with A Co., 4/64 Armor, many families were seen occupying these dwellings and asking if it was all right to stay there. No one seemed to mind as long as there was no evidence of looting.

Looters caught were searched for weapons and released, unless an arrest is merited. They were told to leave the area.

All Soldiers would agree that the locals appreciated their presence.

"They are glad to have us here. We make them feel safe," Asrat said.

Stewart honors fallen Soldiers at memorial

Spc. Jonathan Stack

Associate Editor

"Forevermore, these Soldiers will be remembered and most of all they will always be here, marching in every formation on the field of honor. They will be in attendance at our most important events. They will not be forgotten," said Col. Gerald J. Poltorak, during a memorial ceremony, to honor 343rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) Soldiers killed in action during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The installation commander addressed more than 3,000 family members, Soldiers and friends of the 3rd Inf. Div. during the ceremony April 30.

"These Soldiers like many before them in this most storied Army division have added with their fellow Soldiers of today's Marne division a proud chapter to the division and Army's history," Poltorak said.

"Today, we solemnly read their names; an honor roll of courageous warriors who gave their all to their country, unit, and fellow Soldiers," Poltorak said. "We will honor them with a living tribute of their great sacrifice."

Thirty-four Eastern Red Bud trees, native to this region, were planted with a granite

marker in front of each tree with the Soldier's rank, name and Iraqi Freedom engraved on it.

The trees will bloom annually in the late spring, which is about the same time Iraqi Freedom was ongoing.

The trees were planted in two rows on the edge of Cottrell Field and will know be known as Warriors Walk.

"Through the years the 'Rock of the Marne' division has paid a heavy price, more than 35,000 casualties in five wars and many battles since it's formation at Camp Green, N.C., in 1917," he said.

The Soldiers of the Marne Division were prepared when called to deploy to Kuwait, Poltorak said.

In January, the division moved in weeks to the Middle East and awaited orders, he said. More than a month ago the division struck into the heart of Iraq, straight to the capital, Baghdad, fighting its way in the tough conditions, through the Iraqi Army, Republican Guard, Fedayeen fighters and anyone else who stood in its way in little more than 23 days.

"While the Marne Division encountered tens of thousands of enemy fighters, it left thousands of them dead, and thousand more were wounded and captured. Thirty-four of

our Soldiers died and 87 were wounded," Poltorak continued.

During the ceremony, Command Sgt. Maj. Carl T. Smith, installation command sergeant major, read the names of the 34 Soldiers.

After each name, a Soldier guarding the marker removed a veil of courage, made of desert camouflage material with the Soldier's rank and 3rd Inf. Div. patch sewn on it.

"Those killed and injured were from units throughout the division. headquarters units and line units, infantry, combat engineer, aviation, field artillery, and support units," Poltorak said.

"They were young troopers and old Soldiers, private to captain to chief warrant officer 4," he said.

"Single Soldiers and married Soldiers, some with large families and some with small, died and were wounded for their country and its values. They fought for their units and most of all for the soldiers standing next to them," Poltorak said.

The ceremony ended with retreat after which, the family members were given a chance to go and see Warriors Walk.

The memorial is a chilling reminder that freedom is not free, said Sonny Perdue, gover-

nor of Georgia. The ceremony was very respectful and extremely reverent.

Sgt. Eugene Williams' family was one of the many families that attended the ceremony. The noncommissioned officer would have been 25 years old the day of the ceremony.

"They did a beautiful job with today's ceremony," said Ulyses Williams, father of Sgt. Eugene Williams.

"Some day his wife and daughters can come and see how the trees have grown," he said. "My son did a wonderful job over there, but it is hard to lose a son. I know my son did not die for nothing — he died a hero," he said.

Warriors Walk will be completed very soon by friends of the 3rd Inf. Div. and Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, Poltorak said.

"We thank our friends for this tribute and this wonderful reminder of their great sacrifice, and that each and everyday our fallen brothers are with us," he said. "To all of their families, wives, children, others, fathers, sisters, brothers, friends and relations, on behalf of a grateful Army and nation our heartfelt gratitude goes out to each for your sacrifice, for the Marne Division, their fellow Soldiers and this great country, the United States of America."

Spartans secure Fallujah

2nd BCT stays true to motto

FALLUJAH, Iraq — Spartan Brigade Combat Team Soldiers rolled through Najaf, rumbled through Karbala and thundered into Baghdad to help finish the war in 21 days. Baghdad fell to the Spartans in a day and two days later was under control.

Their success resulted in 2nd BCT being given a follow-on mission, about a month later, to quell another hot spot — Fallujah.

The 2nd BCT then stayed true to its motto 'Send Me' and blitzed into Fallujah. Col. David G. Perkins, the 2nd Bde. commander said the focus of the mission was to provide a safe and secure environment to the people of Fallujah and enable a quick return to normalcy.

To achieve the goals the Soldiers went out on patrol the very first night they were into town.

At present the U.S. Army is the only government in town, thus repairing the infrastructure is one of the primary responsibilities.

According to Spc. Clint J. Dietz, a gunner with E Troop, 9th Cavalry Regiment, "We are here to make sure that the people here can have a better life. If we can help them fix their electricity and water and get rid of the criminal element that has been causing problems in the city then we will have done a good job."

"We will continue on our path to achieve an environment where the people of Fallujah will need little or no military interaction and become self sufficient," Morgan said.

1/9 protects Al Fallujah

AL FALLUJAH, Iraq — Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery visited three schools, two mosques and one potato and onion warehouse outside Fallujah on a routine patrol June 13.

The 20 kilometer patrol was 1st Platoon, B Battery Soldiers' area of responsibility, and they've got it pretty much under control, according to 1st Platoon Leader 1st Lt. Parker Knight.

The route borders highways 1 and 10 outside Fallujah.

The Soldiers guard food warehouses, the Jordanian Hospital, two clinics and police stations. They mingle with the citizens, assess their needs and make their presence known.

"We let them know we're friendly, there to help and not hurt anybody," Knight said.

The 1/9 Soldiers have help from 1st Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Soldiers. They provide Soldiers and firepower at guard points along 1/9 Soldiers' route.

The progress and importance of their mission in Fallujah wasn't lost on the Soldiers. Spc. Joe McGovern, 1/9's medic, said, "We're making sure the streets are secure and making sure everything's running. We're getting them back to the way they were."

3ID brings justice to Iraq

AL FALLUJAH, Iraq — The first legal conviction in five months was handed down Tuesday at the Al Fallujah courthouse, thanks



Sgt. Mason T. Lowery

As seen through a night vision device, Spartan Soldiers wait outside a building being raided during the pre-dawn hours of June 15.

to coordination from Spartan Soldiers.

The conviction sends a message to Iraqi people that law and order is back, according to Maj. Robert Resnick, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) chief of justice.

Judge Advocate General, 3rd Military Police and 103rd Military Intelligence Soldiers are helping the Iraqi legal system run again, but are staying out of the actual proceedings, Capt. Michael Scionti, JAG Judicial Assessment Team, said.

This was the first trial in Iraq since the war, and also the first trial in decades without Saddam Hussein's influence. But the Iraqi court system mirrors the United States' and Hussein's influence at Judge Naseeb Eyd Johar's court was minimal.

"With or without Saddam, the court will run fairly, no matter what," Johar said.

Accused criminals have the right to due process and the right to a court-appointed lawyer like accused criminals in the U.S.

"There's no question that these guys got a fair trial. The judges looked at the evidence, listened to the defendants and talked among themselves," Resnick said.

JAG Soldiers' future plan for the court is to hire an Iraqi Attorney Liaison to take JAG's place, so the Army has even less to do with their system, Resnick said.

The success in Al Fallujah will be a model for the rest of Iraq, according to Resnick.

Johar and the senior judges were pleased with 2nd BCT Soldiers' help. They welcomed Soldiers in the courtroom.

3rd MP Soldiers, who guarded the prisoners, felt a sense of satisfaction about helping the system get started.

"It makes me feel significant. I'm pretty proud of it — helping these guys get a fair trial.

They probably understand now that we're here to help them. When we first got here they shot at us a lot. Now things are calming down and are pretty much under control," said Spc. Darris Mallet, a 5th Platoon, 3rd MP Co. Soldier.

Even as the conviction was handed down, 30 more cases were being reviewed, proof that the wheels of justice in AL Fallujah are in motion.

Spartan Scorpion Saddam remnants feel sting

AL FALLUJAH, Iraq — Soldiers from four Spartan task forces and support elements conducted offensive operations as part of Operation Spartan Scorpion in the pre-dawn hours Sunday in and around Al Fallujah.

Spartan Scorpion was 2nd BCT's part in nationwide raids designed to remove all remaining Baath Party, non-compliant forces and paramilitary forces throughout Iraq.

"Spartan Scorpion isn't only focused on conventional military operations. The most important thing we did was the civil military projects we conducted to continue to establish rapport with the locals," said 2nd BCT Battle Captain Matt Morgan.

The ongoing humanitarian assistance in Fallujah consists of repairing area hospitals and clinics, and delivering medical supplies to those hospitals and clinics. They also repaired schools and delivered supplies to the schools. Thousands of gallons of gas were given away, and Soldiers cleaned up trash in the city.

According to 2nd BCT Operations Officer Maj. Rick Nussio, "The idea (of Spartan Scorpion) was to execute attacks against selected targets while minimizing damage to locals."

Soldiers captured nine suspects, explosive

devices, bomb-making material and documents during the early-morning raids. No Soldiers, civilians or suspects suffered casualties, Nussio said.

The quantitative results of the raids helped stabilization in Iraq. "Anytime we disrupt cells from operating, it's beneficial. It contributes to the overall coalition effort in Iraq, and we are continuing daily operations in the area," Nussio explained.

"Spartan Scorpion was a decisive point for us in turning the tide in this town. We set the conditions for a week prior, talking to the mayor and Sheiks, listening to them and finding out what they need," Morgan said of the progress Spartans are making in Fallujah. "It's been a week since we've been shot at downtown, which is significant since they were trying to kill us before that."

Nussio said the mayor of Fallujah made positive comments about the raids. He said the timing of the raids helped by not disrupting daily life in Fallujah. He was also happy that weapons and anti-coalition forces were off the street.

Morgan said, "The mayor's clearly on our team. He's working with us and we're working with him."

TF Enforcer strikes militants in Habbiniyah

AL FALLUJAH, Iraq — Soldiers of Task Force Enforcer took steps once again to rid the Fallujah area of organized, anti-coalition resistance by conducting raids on six different homes Monday morning.

The task force consisted of teams from 211th Military Police Battalion, 155th Military Police Company and 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment with a platoon from A Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment attached.

Scouts from 1/64 Armor Regiment, were conducting presence patrols through the streets of Habbiniyah, a town northwest of Fallujah, early Monday morning when they received fire from eight Iraqi militants, according to Lt. Col. John A. Hammond, 211th Military Police Battalion and TF Enforcer commander.

By using 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment's air reconnaissance assets, Kiowa Warriors found multiple targets — ammunition crates in the yards and on the roofs of area houses.

Overall, 9 men were apprehended during Monday morning raids.

"These raids allow us to take the initiative away from the enemy," Hammond said. "We choose the times we engage now."

"We've seen very positive results in the past two weeks," said Capt. Matt Morgan, 2nd BCT battle captain. "We have a good rapport with the mayor of Fallujah, and the citizens are responding well to our security presence in the area as well as community and area improvement programs."

ONLY YOU

Burn Debris Disaster Free

Smoking is counting on you to follow the rules for safely burning debris.

1. Check local laws on burning.
2. Don't burn on city windy days.
3. Clear a 30-foot circle around debris before lighting fire.
4. Keep shovel, rake and water nearby.
5. Don't leave fire unattended by an adult, even for a minute.
6. Consider alternatives to burning: composting, recycling, or hauling to a landfill.

REMEMBER, ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT FOREST FIRES.



3ID IN BRIEF

Stewart

Fort Stewart Museum

The Fort Stewart Museum will be closed during business hours for renovations from now to March 2. Regular office hours will be maintained, and other museum services will be available.

Marne Tax Center

The Marne Tax Center will be open from Jan. 21 to April 15. The hours of operation will be as follows:

Jan.
Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Feb. and March
Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday (ending March 13)
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
April
Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The location is Bldg. 9611 in the National Guard Training Area. For more information call the tax center at 767-3909.

Commissary privileges

Commissary and PX privileges are now granted to all National Guard and Reservists. For hours of operation and more information, call 767-1392 for commissary and 876-2850 for PX.

Couple communication

Couples can learn communication skills to enhance and strengthen their relationship. Couples will learn talking and listening and conflict resolution skills. Participants will receive a certificate at completion of this four week course. Child care may be provided, but advance registration is required. For more information, call 767-5058.

Empowerment Seminar

When you are raising a special needs child, you find yourself on the phone a whole lot. Well thanks to the Exceptional Family Member program for hosting this seminar. On Feb. 18, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Club Stewart many different organizations will gather in one room to provide you with valuable information, demonstrations of the latest technology and to answer all your questions. This seminar is free and is only

given twice a year. For more information call Laura Arisohn at ACS, 767-3032.

Skeet and trap range

Join in the fun each Thursday evening (except holidays), 5 to 8 p.m., for open shooting. Cost is \$3 per round of either trap or skeet. Range can be scheduled for special events and parties. For more information contact Roy Rogers at 767-2771.

Army One Source

Phone counseling (formerly Military One Source) now available for personal support and referrals to military and community resources.

For help call 800-6554545, or en Espanol, 888-732-9020. You can also visit online at www.armyone-source.com.

Libby Auto

Learn to check tire pressure, rotate your tires, inspect belts, hoses, breaks and more. Must have at least 3 participants to have a class. Teens are welcome. Libby Auto saves you money and offers affordable, reliable service for cars, trucks and SUVs. When you buy four tires — mounting and balancing is free and alignments are half price. Oil changes are \$19. For more information on classes and operating hours call 767-3527.

Financial readiness workshop

Get valuable tips on everything from basic budget planning to long-term financial planning, wise use of credit, buying insurance, and always getting the most for your money. Invest one day in this workshop, then watch your money go farther and your financial future get brighter.

All Soldiers are required to attend this workshop during their first enlistment. Workshops start at 9 a.m. and continue until 4 p.m. every Wednesday. For more information call 767-5058.

Anger management

Learn how to manage conflict and control your anger effectively without resorting to violence. Class meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Call 767-5058 for more information.

Financial planning for PCS

Sooner or late you will be moving. Whether it is to a new duty station or back into the civilian world, moving costs money. The time to plan is now.

All Soldiers E-1 through E-4, or who are serving their first enlistment are required to attend this workshop which is held the first and third Monday at 9 a.m.

For more information call 352-6816.

Hunter Golf Club

The driving range is now open and new hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Buckets of 60 balls are \$4 and 30 balls are \$2. For more information call 352-5622.

Hunter Club

The Hunter Club is now open for lunch Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information or to schedule an event, call 352-5270.

Thrift Shop

The Hunter Thrift Shop is open on Wednesday, Friday and the first Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with consignments accepted from military identification card holders from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. It has a great assortment of bargains from baby clothes to furniture.

All proceeds are returned to the Hunter Community in scholarships, grants to units, and through other military organizations. Donations are accepted and volunteers are always welcome.

For more information contact the Hunter Thrift Shop at 352-0376.

Child Development Center

The following are several events planned for our families in Jan. Please join us for:

African American Art Exhibit
Jan. 9, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Walk-A-Thon

Jan. 10, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Milk and Cookies Social
Jan. 30, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

School Liaison Officer

Soldiers and their families who

need school-related help with transferring schools, PCS or ETS can contact Barbara L. Jenkin, Hunter school liaison officer by phone at 352-6586 or by e-mail at barbara.jenkin@stewart.army.mil.

Become an FCC provider

For information about becoming an FCC provider, contact Joyce Cassino at 352-6064 or email at joyce.cassino@stewart.army.mil.

Basketball and cheerleading

Sign up for Youth Basketball and Cheerleading, ages 7 to 18. Sports fee is \$20 for first child, \$18 for each additional child. For more information call 352-5851

Commissary privileges

Commissary and PX privileges are now granted to all National Guard and Reservists. For hours of operation and more information, call 352-5007 for commissary and 352-5336 for PX.

Active parenting

Army Community Service will conduct each Wednesday, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Jan. 14 to Feb. 18, a session for parents of children ages 5 to 12. In these sessions parents will learn styles of parenting, winning cooperation, responsibility and effective discipline techniques, communication skills and building courage, character and self-esteem in their children.

Child care may be provided but participants must sign-up in advance.

For more information contact Regina Mims at 352-6816.

Hunter Club

Come check out the Community Activities Center. Lunch is served daily, evening activities, catering and other functions.

For more information, call 355-7923.

International spouse support

Spouses meet every third Tuesday at the Army Community Service at 1 p.m.

For more information, call 352-6816.

Winn Army Community Hospital

New OB-GYN Walk-in Hours

The new walk-in hours for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology are 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. Monday thru Wednesday and Friday and 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Thursday.

Flu Shots

In accordance with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Department of the Army, flu vaccinations are limited to the following groups until further notice:

- Medically high-risk beneficiaries, to include children ages 6 to 23 months old, adults over the age of 65, pregnant women in the 2nd and 3rd trimesters and individuals ages 2 and older with underlying chronic medical conditions. High-risk patients must have a referral from their primary care manager.

- Individuals at greatest risk of transmitting influenza to those at high risk.

- Active-duty personnel.

For more information, call the Department of Preventive Medicine at 370-5065.

Pharmacy Change

Refill prescriptions must be ordered and picked-up at the refill pharmacy, located in the hospital, or the satellite pharmacy, located at the Post Exchange. Refill prescriptions will not be filled at the main pharmacy. For more information, call 370-6040.

Refill Pharmacy

The refill pharmacy is open 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and Friday and 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Thursday. Refills can be ordered by calling 370-6575 or 1-800-652-9221 or online at www.winn.amedd.army.mil.

Orders placed before 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday will be ready for pick-up the next working day after 7:30 a.m. Orders called in after 2 p.m. Friday will be ready Monday after 10 a.m.

Satellite Pharmacy

The pharmacy is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. New prescriptions can be dropped off and picked up the next day. Refill prescriptions can be ordered by calling

370-6575 or 1-800-652-9221 or online at www.winn.amedd.army.mil.

Orders placed before 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday will be ready the next working day after 9 a.m. Orders called in after 2 p.m. Friday will be ready Monday after 10 a.m.

"Take Care of Yourself"

The next "Take Care of Yourself" classes at Winn will be held 2 to 3 p.m. Jan. 14 and 11 a.m. to noon Jan. 28. Tuttle's class will be held 10 to 11 a.m. Jan. 28. The class gives an overview of how to use the "Take Care of Yourself" book. Upon completing the class, you will receive a card that allows you to get over-the-counter medications from Winn or Tuttle.

To register for the class Jan. 14, call 370-5071. To register for the class at Winn Jan. 28, call 368-3048. To register for Tuttle's class, call 1-800-652-9221.

Tobacco Cessation Classes

Tobacco Cessation classes at Winn will be held 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Thursdays from Feb. 19 to March 11 or 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays from Feb. 17 to March 9. Tuttle's class will be held 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesdays from Feb. 4 to 25.

To register for Winn's classes, call 370-5071. To register for Tuttle's class, call 1-800-652-9221.

Tuttle Information Desk

Tuttle Army Health Clinic's new Information Desk phone number is 352-6500.

Additional Parking

An additional parking lot on Harmon Ave., adjacent to Winn and next to the sports complex, is open for patient parking.

Winn Seeks Volunteers

Winn is looking for adult volunteers to help out in a wide range of areas from administrative specialists to chaperones to certified or licensed nurses. The next mandatory orientation will be held 8 a.m. to noon Jan. 9. For more information, call 370-6903.



3ID colors flying again at Stewart

CG to pass division reins in Sept.

Sgt. R. James Piper

Staff Writer

"The 3rd Infantry Division performed magnificently... throughout the war and it's great to bring the majority of the division home," said Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount III during a press conference at Hunter Army Airfield, Ga.

The 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) commander returned to Fort Stewart with 197 soldiers August 22.

The last of the division's equipment is being loaded onto ships and about 1,500 Soldiers remain in Kuwait and should return to the United States within the next four or five days, Blount said.

The 3rd Inf. Div. colors were returned to the installation to symbolize the return of the division to Fort Stewart.

Blount passed the 3rd Inf. Div. colors to Division Command Sgt. Maj. Julian Kellman, who is responsible for maintaining and safeguarding the colors, who presented them to the color guard to secure during a ceremony at Hunter.

"I'm real proud of the great work the Soldiers have done and proud of the great support of the spouses and the community," Blount said. "I know the Soldiers

are looking forward to getting back to their families."

Blount said he did not think that a deployment in the next 12 months would be in the future for the division. The focus will be on training and rotations for each of the division's four brigades to the National Training Center, Fort

"I'm real proud of the great work the Soldiers have done..."

Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount
3rd Inf. Div. commander

Irwin, Calif., in 2004, according to Blount.

"First, we have to get our equipment out of storage and get it back into shape, and get back to training and focus on the NTC rotations for each brigade," Blount said.

Members of the division have been redeploying for the past month.

Prior to the redeployment the Soldiers conducted peacekeeping actions in Al Fallujah, Iraq, after an earlier redeployment had been changed because the fighting turned from open warfare to

guerilla warfare and terrorist attacks, according to Blount.

"We were helping to stabilize the situation in Iraq. Fallujah is a great example," Blount said. "The city was in great turmoil (when we began operations there). When we left, it was fairly stable."

He added that the majority of the people in Iraq support the coalition and are trying to take control of their destinies.

Blount said, "You have a small minority that are still fighting the inevitable. We have to take care of them, and we are making progress everyday."

Blount will pass the reins of the 3rd Inf. Div. to Maj. Gen. William G. Webster Jr., Sept. 26.

Blount will move to his next assignment as the assistant chief of staff, G-3, after commanding the division since November 2001.

Webster will be leaving his position as the deputy commanding general, 3rd U.S. Army with duty as the deputy commanding general, Combined Forces Land Component Command.

Webster has served at Fort Stewart as the assistant division commander for maneuver beginning in May of 1997 and left in November 1998. He also served at Fort Stewart when it was the home of the 24th Infantry Division.



Spc. Jonathan M. Stack

Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount, 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) commanding general, leads the returning colors and Soldiers onto Cottrell Field during a Welcome Home Ceremony Aug. 22.

Secretary of the Army visits Soldiers at Stewart

Spc. Jonathan M. Stack

Associate Editor

"Nothing has stopped the Marne Division. In the finest traditions of this great division they have written history, and they are going to keep on writing it," said the Secretary of the Army, the Honorable Thomas E. White, during a press conference at Marne Gardens.

White visited the post to see the 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) rear detachment

and the Family Readiness Group April 3 and 4.

He spent time with Soldiers and spouses while touring Fort Stewart.

The 3rd Inf. Div. (Mechanized) has been absolutely magnificent and everyone should be very proud of them, White said.

During the two-day tour, White had numerous opportunities to speak to Marne Soldiers.

He thanked the troops for doing such a wonderful job and making the sacrifices

they do everyday in support of this global war on terrorism, he said.

"I've never seen a better Army than the one we have fielded today," White said. "I've been a part of the Army one way or another since 1963."

It is the most dedicated, professional, tough, disciplined Army in history, and it wins, he said.

Among the Soldiers, the Secretary of the Army spoke to spouses of the Soldiers at the FRG.

"We make every effort to get information to family members as rapidly as can, but understand we also want to be precise about it," White said. "We are talking about the well-being of Soldiers."

It's a great Army that is on the march today, he said. That is never more evident than standing today in front of the Rock of the Marne Headquarters here, we should all be proud as Americans for the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard.

Look Before You Leap...

Observe swimming safety, year-round!



Commanders link with law enforcement

Provost Marshal's Office

Special to The Frontline

Commanders play a key role in disciplining their Soldiers. This is not a new concept to anyone, but it goes beyond administering corrective training, Uniform Code of Military Justice actions and chaptering Soldiers for patterns of misconduct. Commanders should also interface with law enforcement. There are four key ways that commander's interface with law enforcement.

Commanders should ensure their Soldiers appear at mandatory court dates. When a Soldier is listed in the blotter for a civil offense (one that occurred off post), the date, time and location of the hearing is listed in the details of the blotter entry. This is so the command knows when the Soldier must be in court. Frequently Soldiers inform us they were in the field or attending mandatory training and could not attend a court date. The Provost Marshal's Office provides the information to the commander, in most cases 30 days out, to help plan for contingencies. If unavoidable conflicts arise contact the court and attempt to reschedule the hearing. Ensuring Soldiers are make their hearings prevents them from having warrants placed on them and from paying additional fines. If a failure to appear warrant is issued by the judge, the MPs will come to your unit to apprehend the Soldier for adjudication.

Soldiers who are absent without leave or deserters, departing and returning, must be reported to the PMO's AWOL/Deserter Section (767-8057) by bringing a copy of the DA form 4187, Personnel Action, that

changes their duty status to the PMO.

Effective Dec. 15, commanders will pick up Military Police Reports and traffic tickets from the Police Services Offices at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield.

Commanders must complete the Report of Commanders Action (DA form 4833) and the Armed Force Traffic Ticket (DD form 1408) and return them to Police Admin. Office within 30 days. These forms are essentially the record of the adjudication of offenses and are sent on to the Crime Record Command or to the state that issued the driver's license. Commanders' adjudications transcend the military and become part of the Soldier's permanent criminal history and driver history, which will impact on that individual every time he or she applies for a job, buys car insurance or appears before a civil judge in the future.

Finally, IAW CG Policy 15-06 and AR 600-85, commanders who have Soldiers who test positive in a urinalysis for any substance, prescribed or not, must contact CID (767-3676/3962 (Stewart) or 352-6333 (Hunter)) within 24 hours of notification to schedule an appointment for the Soldier to be interviewed and they must send the Soldier to building 621 for alcohol and drug counseling within 72 hours. CID handles all drug cases and the interview must take place in order to initiate a police report that will yield a DA form 4833 for the commander to record the adjudication on. This, in turn, ensures that drug users have a "permanent criminal record".

Further questions may be directed to Police Admin at 767-8479 or the Civil Liaison Office at 767-8057.

Celebrating Veteran's Day ...



Pfc. Emily Daniel

Soldiers from 4th Bde. march past the reviewing stands during Savannah's Veteran's Day parade Nov. 11.

