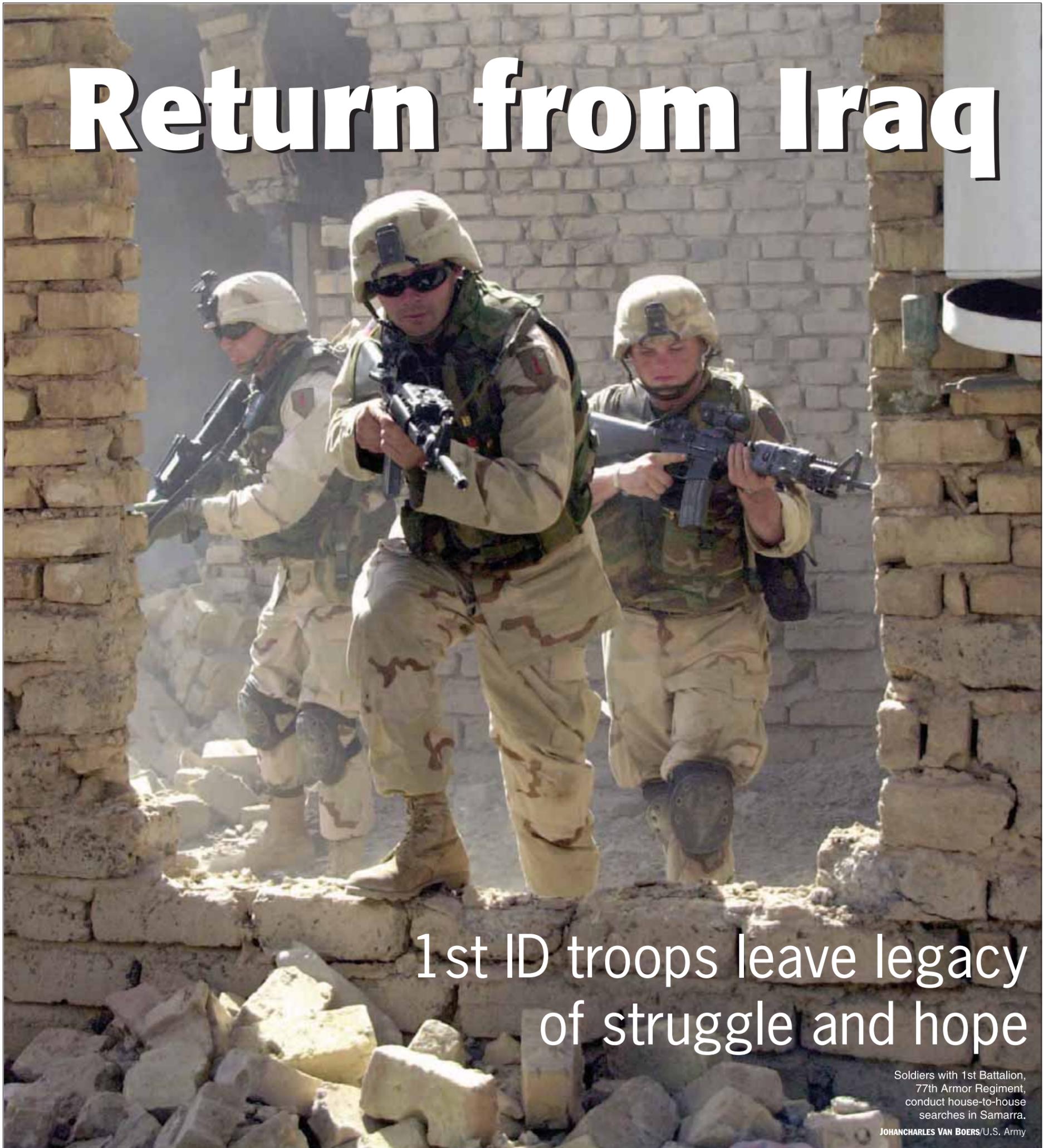


STARS AND STRIPES

STARS AND STRIPES, • WELCOME HOME • APRIL-MAY, 2005 •

Return from Iraq



1st ID troops leave legacy
of struggle and hope

Soldiers with 1st Battalion,
77th Armor Regiment,
conduct house-to-house
searches in Samarra.

JOHANCHARLES VAN BOERS/U.S. Army

Big Red One home at last

Grueling year in Iraq ends

BY STEVE LIEWER
Stars and Stripes

Finally, the longest year has ended.

Greeted by a sea of banners, balloons, hugs and kisses, troops from the 1st Infantry Division and a handful of other Germany-based units flew home between December and March following a grueling mission in Iraq.

Some 15,000 soldiers are back at work, having wrapped up seven days of "reintegration" training and 30 days of leave. Coming home, they felt a weird mix of joy, relief, bewilderment and shock.

"It's kind of indescribable," said Pvt. Cornell Declouet, 19, who was barely out of basic training when he deployed as part of the 1st ID's headquarters staff last year. "It makes you want to hug everybody."

Soldiers are restarting lives put on hold by war: opening musty apartments and barracks rooms, buying cars and stereos, signing up for college classes, getting to know spouses and kids who've grown a year older, or babies who weren't even born when they left. Many must adjust to life alone after the breakup of a marriage that couldn't bear the stress of separation.

Most are simply happy to be home.

No soldier survives a combat zone unchanged. Hundreds suffered injuries, and a few lost limbs. Many saw horrors civilians back home couldn't imagine. Some killed people, both enemy and innocents. All knew fear.

Eighty-one Europe-based soldiers flew home from Operation Iraqi Freedom III in flag-draped coffins. Seventy-two of them wore the patch of the Big Red One. They will live on only in memory, as names etched in marble monuments or read at Memorial Day roll calls.

Two-year journey

The 1st Infantry Division's Iraq journey began more than two years ago, as President Bush and Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein squared off over the biological and chemical weapons Bush and his allies believed Saddam to be hiding.

While three Army and Marine divisions massed in Kuwait, the 1st ID packed up and headed for Turkey. Military leaders planned an invasion from north and south that would trap Iraqi forces in Baghdad.

Most of the division's vehicles and gear landed in Turkey along



U.S. Army

Sgt. Sean Smedley of the 45th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) gets a "welcome home" hug from his daughter MacKenzie, 3, upon his return to Katterbach, Germany, following a yearlong deployment to Iraq.

with about 1,000 soldiers before the Turkish parliament voted against allowing the United States to mount an invasion from its soil. So the 1st ID returned to Germany and unpacked, many of its soldiers bitter they'd missed out on the battle.

They needn't have worried. Winning the peace in Iraq proved harder than winning the war, and the division got the call to return in February 2004 for a one-year tour.

The division would take over control of a vast area of north-central Iraq, centered on Tikrit, from the 4th Infantry Division, the unit that was supposed to be its partner in the invasion from Turkey.

About 12,000 25th Infantry Division, National Guard and Army Reserve troops would bolster a similar-size 1st ID force to patrol a zone the size of West Virginia. 1st ID commander Maj. Gen. John Batiste named the resulting unit Task Force Danger.

The major cities there included:

■ Kirkuk, a major oil-producing city of 700,000 that has been peaceful but tense because of its explosive ethnic mix of Arabs, Kurds and Turkomen.

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SHANE A. CUOMO/U.S. Air Force

Staff Sgt. Mora of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, checks equipment on his Bradley fighting vehicle while guarding a blocking position outside of Samarra on Oct. 1, 2004, during Operation Baton Rouge.

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■ Hawija, a rebellious town populated by former members of Saddam's Republican Guard and Baathist teachers.

■ Bayji, an oil refinery and power generation center that is the frequent target of saboteurs.

■ Tikrit, Saddam's hometown but relatively peaceful during the occupation.

■ Samarra, an ancient capital and smuggling center of 240,000 residents that had become an insurgent stronghold.

■ Balad, an ethnic Shiite enclave surrounded by Sunnis.

■ Baqouba, another persistent hotbed of rebellion.

No one doubted it would be an interesting year.

After six months of training in Europe, the Big Red One's lead elements flew to Kuwait in early February 2004. Troops laden with body armor and weapons packed more than 50 jumbo jets before the last ones arrived in early March.

The soldiers packed camps Udairi and New York during the February troop swap, the largest simultaneous troop rotation in military history.

As soldiers waited to roll into Iraq, the 1st ID spent \$35 million to buy new gear for its troops as part of the Armywide Rapid Fielding Initiative. They got Wiley-X desert goggles, Sonic earplugs, Camelbak water-carrying backpacks, Nomex gloves, lightweight boots, moisture-absorbing underwear and vests lined with handy pouches.

"It was like Christmas," said 1st Lt. Jason Royston, 24, of the 9th Engineer Battalion, when he got his gear.

Into Iraq

The division expected the worst when it convoyed north to Iraq in early March, figuring the insurgents would test it with ambushes and roadside bombs when the troops were green and vulnerable.

But the trip stayed eerily quiet. The enemy rarely attacked, and all the 1st ID soldiers survived the convoy ride north, even though most vehicles still lacked armor. The calm seemed to confirm the conviction of senior Pentagon leaders that the coalition forces had turned a corner against the insurgency. They talked confidently of Operation Iraqi Freedom 2 as a peacekeeping mission.

The 1st ID left most of its tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles in Germany as the Pentagon sought to project a less fearsome face to the Iraqi people. Batiste would airlift more than two dozen tanks to Iraq before the end of March, a decision that almost certainly saved lives.

Because the Big Red One's bloodiest days lay ahead.

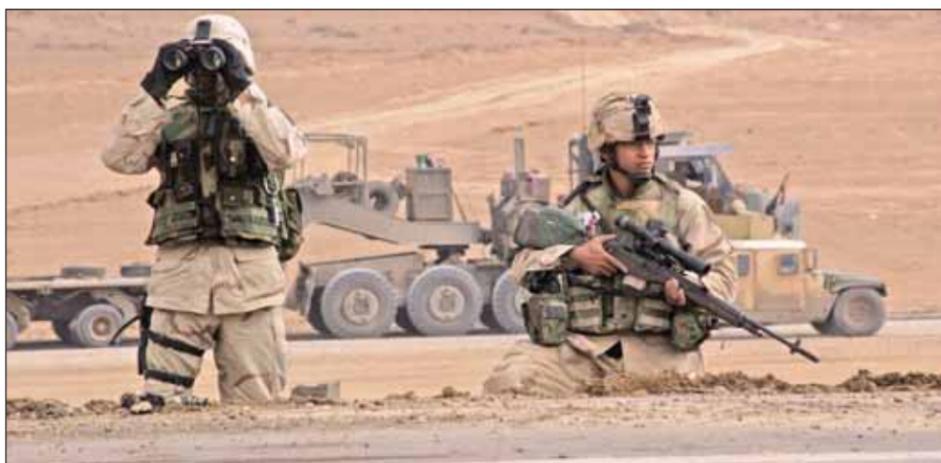
The division lost its first soldier, Sgt. 1st Class Richard Gottfried, 42, of the Division Support Command, on March 12. Seven more men died that month in attacks that still were no more than sporadic.

But in April, the insurgents struck hard. During an Easter week uprising, enemy irregulars

launched 196 attacks by mortar, bomb or gunfire — triple the number in previous weeks. Fourteen 1st ID soldiers died that month, part of a toll that reached 138 nationwide. Injured troops jammed the Army medical center in Landstuhl, Germany, and the newly opened "Victory Ward" for 1st ID soldiers at Würzburg Army Hospital.

If any of them weren't sure before, April taught 1st ID sol-

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Soldiers with the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment survey the terrain around Fallujah on Nov. 8, 2004.

BRANDI MARSHALL/U.S. Army

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of the 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION

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TERRY BOYD/Stars and Stripes

Master Sgt. Joseph Liberman and Sheik Hajjim stroll away from a polling station outside Tikrit during Iraq's national elections on Jan. 30.

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diers how ugly war could be.

"This was the month where I first had to look my fears in the face," wrote Spc. Nick Cademartori, 23, a 1st ID infantryman, at the time on his Web log "The Questing Cat" (www.thequesting-cat.com). "In this month I have seen things that will probably not be forgotten."

The 1st ID's Baqouba-based 3rd Brigade saw some of the strongest fighting. During an operation that came to be known as the Battle of Baqouba, the brigade's forces put down a stubborn insurrection. Staff Sgt. Raymond Bittinger, a Bradley commander from the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, later earned the division's first Silver Star since Vietnam for his actions there.

At the same time, 3rd Brigade commander Col. Dana Pittard led a task force to Najaf to lay siege to the militia of the rebel Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, which had holed up in mosques and a cemetery. Troops harassed al-Sadr for two weeks, until he agreed to disarm his militia and work within the Iraqi political system.

That month 1st ID soldiers learned training could only take them so far. They had drilled for urban warfare, marksmanship and how to react to ambushes. But soldiers had little training in developing and maintaining informant networks, running a jail, interrogating prisoners, training Iraqi forces, or conducting free elections. They picked up these skills as they went along.

"I don't see how you can possibly mimic what we are facing here," said Sgt. Will Douglas of the 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment. "The urban training was good for us, but now that

we're here I see that it wasn't very realistic."

Fighting insurgents

Bloody April also drove home the message that the insurgents were a canny fighting force, far more than the ragged handful of "dead-enders" that Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld had once so readily dismissed.

Lt. Col. Jim Stockmoe, the division's intelligence officer, said it's not possible to accurately assess how big the insurgency really is. But from captured rebels and informants, he said, analysts learned it was a loosely organized operation composed 90 percent of Saddam loyalists and ex-Baathists, 5 percent of religious extremists bent on installing an Islamic theocracy, and 5 percent terrorists backed by al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden or militant Abu Musab Zarqawi, bent on undermining the occupying coalition and inciting civil war.

Using tips and informants, each unit fought its own mini-battle against the insurgency. Each made its own list of "high-value targets" and sent out nightly patrols to chase them. Few raids netted such big fish, but soldiers believed they helped keep the insurgents on their heels.

While soldiers hunted down the enemy at night, their leaders made nice with the locals all day. Each unit controlled and patrolled a sector, running it with little interference from above. Majors and captains with no training in diplomacy learned to sip sweetened tea while listening patiently to the needs of sheiks, teaching them about democracy while navigating a maze of tribal jealousies.

"This is a platoon- and company-level, day-to-day fight," said Lt. Col. Kyle McClelland, 41,



ELIZABETH ERSTE/U.S. Army

Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, and the 28th Infantry Division move up the stairs of an apartment complex on the outskirts of Baiji to search for weapons Jan. 20.

commander of the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, who himself met almost daily with the mayor of Baiji, an oil-refining crossroads near his unit's base. "For the most part, we are making forward progress. We meet roadblocks, and we overcome them."

As spring warmed into sizzling summer, the danger zone fell into a relative calm. Attacks dropped by one-third to one-half compared with the mid-April peak, but never so low that soldiers riding in convoys dropped their guard. Fear of sudden death gave way to a state of edgy hyper-alertness.

"We were jumpy as hell when we first got here," said Sgt. Joshua Staderman, of Company C of the 82nd Engineer Battalion, in an interview last summer. "Not anymore."

Nearly everyone lived through

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BRANDI MARSHALL/U.S. Army

Medics of the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, rush an Iraqi patient, who was shot in the neck, to an awaiting medical helicopter near Samara on July 13, 2004.



TERRY BOYD/Stars and Stripes

Scouts from the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment — from left, Staff Sgt. Patrick Shrier, Staff Sgt. Kevin Harris and Pvt. Tyler Pylate — prepare to search houses in a village north of Tikrit on Feb. 5.



STEVE LIEWER/Stars and Stripes

Soldiers from the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, receive Purple Hearts on Nov. 9, 2004, at Forward Operating Base MacKenzie. They were wounded during their service in Iraq.

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a close call of some sort — a roadside bomb hitting the next vehicle, a mortar landing close by, a rocket-propelled grenade whizzing past one's ear. About 900 Task Force Danger soldiers earned Purple Hearts.

"These guys are battle-hardened. There isn't anybody who hasn't been under attack," said Maj. Kirk Dorr, 38, the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry's operations officer. "The logisticians and convoy supporters see just as much combat as our line troops."

During the summer, insurgents used car bombs for the first time against 1st ID bases. On June 1, a suicide terrorist pulled his dark sedan up close behind a military convoy as it

pulled into Camp Summerall, near Bayji. Only two soldiers suffered injuries, but the blast killed 11 Iraqi contractors and injured 30 others who were waiting for clearance to enter the base.

A week later, another bomber drove to the front gate of Camp Warhorse in Baqouba. Capt. Humayun Khan, 27, of the 201st Forward Support Battalion, had warned his troops back and approached the car alone to investigate just before its driver blew himself up.

And on July 8, Iraqi National Guardsmen at Patrol Base Razor in Samarra opened the gate for an Iraqi police truck, which then sped up and crashed into a barracks occupied by troops from the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry

Regiment. The suicide bomber blew up the truck, killing five American and two Iraqi soldiers and injuring two dozen more.

But as the months wore on, deaths slowly diminished. The growing use of armored trucks and Humvees saved lives. Soldiers developed a sixth sense at spotting roadside bombs. By fall, Stockmoe said, task force soldiers were discovering 60 percent of the IEDs before they went off. December was the first month since February that the Big Red One's Germany-based units didn't lose a single soldier.

Good vs. evil

The Iraq theater offered few setpiece battles after the invasion of spring 2003 because the enemy preferred to hide among civilians in mosques, schools or houses rather than stand and fight.

"The [Iraqi] guys fire at the convoy, then run into the palm groves," said Command Sgt. Maj. John Gioia of the 82nd Engineer Battalion. "It's a cowardly way to fight."

But 1st ID troops figured heavily in two of the war's biggest battles that fall. The 2nd Brigade Combat Team surrounded and retook the rebel stronghold of Samarra. It fell swiftly and almost without American bloodshed.

Samarra's defeat cheered the men who patrolled the region because it cut attacks to near zero, at least for awhile, and removed what blogger Cademartori described as "a place we have had bothering us like a canker sore for months."

Samarra proved to be a dress rehearsal for the attack on Fallujah six weeks later. First ID soldiers from the 2-2 Infantry — a unit with a knack for landing in the middle of the action — fought alongside several units of Marines.

"This is as pure a fight of good versus evil as we will probably face in our lifetime," battalion commander Lt. Col. Peter Newell told his soldiers beforehand, according to an embedded jour-

nalist from the Columbus (Ga.) Ledger-Enquirer.

As expected, Fallujah proved to be a longer, bloodier and more destructive battle. Almost all its 300,000 residents fled beforehand, but the military estimated considerably more than 1,000 insurgents died. More than 50 U.S. troops were killed. The four from 2-2 Infantry included the battalion's command sergeant major, Steven Faulkenburg, and two officers from the same company, Capt. Sean Sims and 1st Lt. Edward Iwan.

By the end of the month, Fallujah had fallen but lay in ruins. No longer could it be called the insurgents' capital. The rebels that hadn't been killed scattered to places such as Mosul, Bayji and Ad Duluiyah, which soon saw a surge in violence. But Fallujah no longer posed a threat.

Iraqi National Guardsmen played a big part in both battles, offering some of the first returns on the 1st ID's investment in training. Over the course of the year, soldiers agreed, they started to look like a force that could some day take over from the United States and its allies the job of keeping Iraq secure.

Brick by brick

The division also sank tens of millions of dollars into the seemingly endless task of rebuilding the country one school and medical clinic at a time, part of the U.S. effort to win over Iraqis with good works. Soldiers and their families dug deep, too, donating hundreds of boxes of toys and school supplies to hand out to delighted Iraqi children.

For most soldiers, though, the most critical reconstruction took place right in their own camps. The 1st ID inherited mostly makeshift camps that its 4th ID predecessors barely had time or money to make livable.

So the Big Red One units pushed hard to clean up and improve their bases, knowing they'd be living there for a whole year. They fixed the makeshift wiring that often failed or, worse, caught fire. They scrounged tools and plywood to construct buildings and furniture.

As always, it paid to live either near the brass or at the huge logistical supply hubs. Large camps such as Danger and Speicher in Tikrit or Anaconda in Balad offered sprawling,

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ELIZABETH ERSTE/U.S. Army

Capt. Crawford of the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, gives guidance to the commander of the Emergency Services Unit of the Iraqi police before beginning a hostage response exercise in Tikrit on Oct. 20, 2004.

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well-stocked chow halls, libraries, gymnasiums, swimming pools, and a choice of fast-food shops.

The gap between conditions at those bases compared with the smaller, grittier forward operating bases where combat troops lived remained wide and caused plenty of resentment. Line troops frequently resented the relative safety and splendor of the big bases and almost automatically disliked the "POGs" (personnel other than grunts) who lived there.

The outlying bases remain far more Spartan, but even the worst ones are much better than they were. By the middle of the Big Red One's tour, nearly all soldiers moved from tents into portable barracks rooms with windows and air conditioners. They could visit Internet cafes, phone centers, gyms and small post exchanges — amenities that soldiers even at major bases only dreamed of in the first months of the occupation.

Final month

By January, soldiers had begun to break out of the shell of stress, irritation and apathy that had built up over the months, as they looked forward to going home. Commanders worked hard to keep their troops focused — especially with insurgents expected to try and disrupt the crucial national elections Jan. 30.

"Our task is to see that no one's nerves become dull and complacent," said Dorr, of the 1-4 Cavalry.

But the division's last full month of deployment also proved to be one of its deadliest. Ten 1st ID soldiers died in Iraq, and another was shot and killed while home on leave. That was more than any other month except April. Seven of them died in firearms or vehicle accidents. Noncombat injuries caused more than one-third of the division's deaths during the year.

If the prospect of going home buoyed the soldiers of the Big Red One, the stunning success of



JEREMY L. WOOD/U.S. Navy

Pfc. John Snyder carries a squad automatic weapon during a patrol outside the barriers of Patrol Base Uvanni on Nov. 6, 2004.



LEE HARSHMAN/U.S. Air Force

Staff Sgt. Hector R. Meza of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, checks the ID of an Iraqi driver during a traffic control point in Ad Duluiyah on Dec. 21, 2004.

the Iraqi elections filled them with a feeling of "mission accomplished."

No soldier could miss the significance of the long lines of Iraqis who lined up to vote in spite of rebel threats. Jan. 30 exposed the insurgents as the enemies, not the champions, of ordinary Iraqis.

"Today felt like the culmination of a year's toil," wrote Spc. Michael A. Cotignola III, 24, Cademartori's best friend and fellow blogger, on the night of the election. "Today felt like the main event."

A few noncombat units had begun to fly home in January. With the election complete, the combat troops turned over their sectors and flooded home to the kisses, hugs and cheers of loved ones. The happy homecomings continued almost daily through the middle of March.

They came home to families who had lived through their own war. Husbands and wives left at home worried alone over kids and houses and cars while keeping an eye on (or avoiding) casualty reports and hoping for that next phone call from downrange. They prayed they would not see the solemn officers in dress uniforms walking slowly up the sidewalk to knock on their doors.

"It's been hard to do it," said Sharmilla Gonzalez, who cared for a son while her husband, Spc. Camilo Gonzalez, served in Iraq with the 1st ID's headquarters company, "but I'm glad. I learned a lot about myself, and about my husband."

What's ahead?

The Big Red One comes home to an uncertain future. Between one-half and two-thirds of the division's soldiers are expected to transfer or leave now that the

Army's stop-loss and stop-movement programs no longer bind them.

Those who stay behind may find themselves stateside if Gen. James Jones, chief of the European Command, sticks with his announced plan to move the division to the United States

beginning in 2006. Many think it almost as likely 1st ID will return to Iraq next year.

But for now, few of the Big Red One's newest combat veterans are worrying about such things. They are enjoying simple pleasures: a hot steak, a cold beer, waking up with someone

special right nearby.

"It feels wonderful," said Master Sgt. Regina Thomas, of the division's headquarters staff, as she greeted her husband at a homecoming ceremony in February. "It's been a long time coming."

E-mail Steve Liewer at: liewers@mail.estripes.osd.mil

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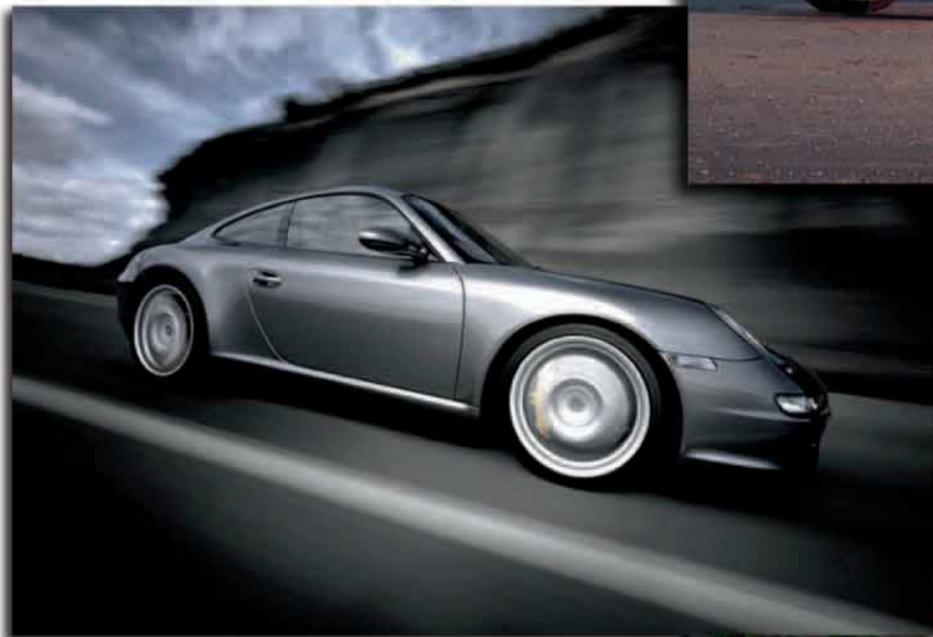
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Samarra a 'fight on our terms'

BY STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

The soldiers of Blue and White platoons hunkered down in their tanks under the light of a full moon, fit and restless as thoroughbreds in a starting gate.

Before them lay Samarra, a city of 240,000 in the grip of insurgents. From their haven in the ancient capital on the east bank of the Tigris River, the black-robed Fedayeen guerrillas had launched hundreds of attacks against U.S. forces from the 1st Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

The homemade bombs of Samarra-based insurgents had turned nearby roads into death-traps. Everyone from the two 1st ID units that patrolled nearby — the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, and the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment — knew someone who'd been killed.

Finally, the Americans stood poised to strike back.

"Cleaning up Samarra was something we'd wanted to do for a long time," said 1st Lt. Ben Butler, 24, a 1-4 Cavalry tank platoon leader. "I was extremely confident. It's one of the few times we got to fight on our terms here."

Maj. Kirk Dorr, 38, the squad-

ron's operations officer, had been working with his counterparts for months on the battle plan for Operation Baton Rouge, which was named for a successful 1st ID mission during the Vietnam War.

In April, coalition troops had barely subdued an Easter week uprising in Samarra in which the Iraqi troops they'd begun training threw down their weapons and fled. In the next several months, the rebels had gained strength and bullied city officials, who finally begged the local Army commanders to stop patrolling in the city.

By June, American soldiers from the 1-26 Infantry watched in frustration from Patrol Base Razor, the small Iraqi National Guard headquarters at the city's edge, as the Fedayeen walked the streets openly carrying grenade launchers. The insurgents blew up the homes of several pro-American city officials and assassinated police.

"There were roving bands of thugs executing people," Dorr said. "The city was in such a state of chaos and terror."

Then on July 8, a suicide truck bomber disguised as an Iraqi policeman leveled a barracks at the ING base, killing five American and two Iraqi soldiers and

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JOHANCHARLES VAN BOERS/U.S. Army

A soldier from the 9th Engineer Battalion — attached to 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment — kicks in the front gate of a house being searched for weapons in Samarra.



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SHANE A. CUOMO/U.S. Air Force

Spc. Chaves and Spc. Harris of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, set up a blocking position with razor wire outside Samarra on Oct. 1, 2004.

SAMARRA, FROM PAGE 11

injuring two dozen others. The al-Zarqawi terrorist network, known for its gruesome videotaped beheading of hostages, claimed responsibility.

Over the next two months, the 1-26 Infantry and 1-4 Cavalry, backed by the division's AH-64D Apaches and some AC-130 gunships, launched a series of raids called Cajun Mousetrap to soften up the city's defenses. The division claimed 73 enemy dead and 11 insurgent hideouts destroyed.

In the final days of September, the 2nd BCT engineers blocked all roads and bridges out of the city while units from the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment and the 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment set up a screen line and combat helicopters watched from overhead.

"You could not get one vehicle out of that city," Dorr said. "They say siege war is over, but we had it locked up real tight."

The 1-4 Cavalry and the 1-18 Infantry formed a crescent to the north, south and east of Samarra, while the 1-26 Infantry massed across the river to the west. M1A1 Abrams tanks flanked by Bradley Fighting Vehicles would lead the assault, obliterating anyone who opposed them.

After a 24-hour delay, the units formed up at their bases around sunset Sept. 30. They headed for Samarra in starts and stops, the troops sweating anxiously in their tanks and Bradleys as they waited hours for the word to go in.

"Most of the guys were ready to kick ass," said Spc. Christopher Matz, 21, a 1-4 Cavalry tanker.

The order came after midnight. The 1-4 Cavalry tanks pushed forward through the narrow streets toward neighborhoods code-named Harding and Taft. Not knowing where the insurgents hid, the tanks circled narrow blocks hoping to draw them out. They would kill anyone carrying a weapon and blast away at any building used by snipers.

It worked splendidly.

The rebels came out of their nests to shoot and run, but their weapons could do little to the heavy armor. Tank and Bradley gunners could see them perfectly through their night-vision scopes.

"You're looking through a sight that's like a video game," said Sgt. Eric Predmore, 25, a 1-4 Cavalry gunner. "You see people running around — but it's not a video game. It's sort of unbelievable."

After a few hours of intense combat, the tanks had reached their objectives and left dozens of dead fighters on the streets. The opposition melted away, though troops met sporadic gunfire until after sunrise.

Ground troops from the 1-18 Infantry and the 1-77 Armor spent the next couple of days mopping up with house-to-house searches, but soldiers say the battle really ended in the first few hours. Operation Baton Rouge was the swiftest success of the war. The division said it netted 127 enemy dead, 60 wounded, and 128 prisoners. Ten weapons caches were destroyed, and six buildings.

About 2,000 Iraqi security forces joined in the battle. They played a key role in the clearing out of a rebel-held mosque where 25 Fedayeen had been holed up with a cache of weapons.



JOHANCHARLES VAN BOERS/U.S. Army

Soldiers from the 9th Engineer Battalion, attached to 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, move through the front gates of a house being searched Oct. 2, 2004, in Samarra.

"The whole mission went like clockwork. It was simple, and we executed it well," Koper said. "Nobody got hurt, and we killed a bunch of bad guys."

Not quite. One soldier, Sgt. Michael Uvanni, 27, a New York National Guardsman attached to 1st ID, was shot and killed by a sniper.

Finally, the Big Red One controlled Samarra. Within a few weeks, shops reopened. Forty-nine construction projects were begun and a new police force brought in. A few attacks continued, but U.S. forces and their Iraqi allies remain in charge seven months later.

"The city has come back to life," Dorr said.

E-mail Steve Liewer at: liewers@mail.estripes.osd.mil



JOHANCHARLES VAN BOERS/U.S. Army

Yaltchin Kaya, a Turkish driver who had been held hostage for 10 days shakes hands with 1st Lt. Jason Royston of the 9th Engineer Battalion moments after being rescued by Iraqi National Guard and U.S. soldiers during a search in Samarra.

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PHOTOS BY BRANDI MARSHALL/U.S. Army

Staff Sgt. Donaval Avila of the 82nd Engineer Battalion, which was assigned to Task Force 2-2 Infantry, walks away as Marines clear a path for other troops with a bulldozer in Fallujah on Nov. 13, 2004.

Task Force 2-2 key to success in Fallujah

BY RICK EMERT
Stars and Stripes

By early October, the soldiers of Task Force 2-2 Infantry knew there would be a big battle for Fallujah.

The city, about 40 miles west of Baghdad, had become a hotbed for insurgents, and by early November, the United States had amassed more than 10,000 troops outside the city's borders. On Nov. 8, the Vilseck-based unit, working with the 1st Marine Division, launched Operation Phantom Fury.

The task force deployed from Forward Operating Base Nor-

mandy in Muqdadiyah and became attached to the 7th Marine Regimental Combat Team in Fallujah, according to an executive summary of the battle prepared by Task Force 2-2 Infantry.

The task force included Company A and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment; the 3rd Brigade Combat Team Reconnaissance Troop; Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment; an element from the 201st Forward Support Battalion; and a firing platoon from Task Force 1-6 Field Artillery.

SEE FALLUJAH ON PAGE 14



Soldiers assigned to 82nd Engineer Battalion, attached to Task Force 2-2 Infantry, prepare to clear the upper floor of a house in Fallujah on Nov. 11, 2004.

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FALLUJAH, FROM PAGE 13

The plan was for the 2-2 to move into position in northeast Fallujah, and attack south through the eastern edge in the city's industrial district, according to the summary.

The soldiers first hit the insurgents' strongholds, conducting both attack and search missions.

They came under fire from roadside bombs, rocket-propelled grenades, as well as sniper and small-arms fire. But the task force continued to push the insurgents further south into the Shohada district.

By Nov. 15, insurgents had been driven to the southern corners of the city, where they held defensive positions, according to the summary.

"We control 90 percent, but the 10 percent that's left is the most difficult," said Capt. Erik Krivda, a member of Task Force 2-2, in a Nov. 14 Washington Post article.

The second-ranking U.S. leader in Iraq at the time, Lt. Gen. Thomas F. Metz, said he expected smaller groups of insurgents to launch attacks against the U.S. forces fighting in Fallujah.

There remain "leaders in Fallujah who are orchestrating (the fight) to the best of the ability," Metz said, "but they are fighting in very small groups without much coherence to the defense. I think the enemy is fighting hard, but not to the death, and they are continuing to fall back."

With insurgents pinned, the task force conducted clearing operations of homes and the industrial district until Nov. 19, when it began attacking the south to prevent insurgents from leaving the city.

After 12 continuous days of combat, the result was 304 insurgents confirmed killed, 49 enemy prisoners of war and 50 weapons caches seized.

The 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment lost four soldiers in the battle: Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Faulkenburg, Capt. Sean Sims, 1st Lt. Edward Iwan and Sgt. James Matteson.

On Nov. 20, the task force handed the mission over to the 1st Battalion, 8th Marines and returned to FOB Normandy.

E-mail Rick Emert at: emertr@mail.estripes.osd.mil



Soldiers of the 82nd Engineer Battalion, attached to Task Force 2-2 Infantry, clear a house in Fallujah on Nov. 13, 2004.

PHOTOS BY BRANDI MARSHAL/U.S. Army

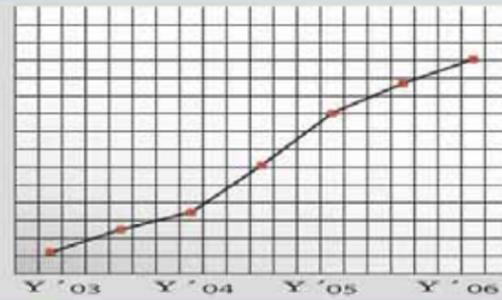
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A soldier with the 82nd Engineer Battalion prepares to enter a house in Fallujah on Nov. 11, 2004.

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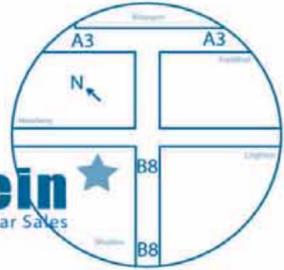


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ELIZABETH ERSTE/U.S. Army

Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, move toward an apartment complex on the outskirts of Bayji in order to search it for weapons and bomb-making materials on Jan. 20.



U.S. Army

Staff Sgt. Philip J. Casiano, a squad leader with the 230th Military Police Company, examines the area where an Iraqi truck was destroyed by a roadside bomb in central Baghdad.



TERRY BOYD/Stars and Stripes

An Iraqi man sits stoically as Staff Sgt. Kevin Harris of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, searches his house Feb. 1 in Talal Sabot.



KIMBERLY SNOW/U.S. Army

Pfc. Ivy J. Marks changes the dressing of a shrapnel wound on the arm of Spc. Eric A. Girasia of 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery, on May 2, 2004, in Baqouba. Girasia was wounded when an improvised explosive device exploded outside the Baqouba police station.



KURT GIBBONS III/U.S. Air Force

Pfc. Casey Schooter of the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, activates an illumination round to be launched from a M109-A6 in Balad on Jan. 29.



JAMES B. SMITH JR./U.S. Army

Sgt. Pablo Villanueva of the 101st Military Intelligence Battalion recovers a Shadow 200 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle after it landed at Forward Operating Base Warhorse on Sept. 22, 2004.

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Winning hearts, minds with bricks, mortar

BY STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

While building up the Iraqi army, 1st Infantry Division tried to rebuild Iraqi cities as well. The division sank tens of millions of dollars into rebuilding schools, mosques, water plants and police stations. Even battalion-level commanders controlled construction budgets for smaller projects.

"We're showing the kinder face of democratic society, by reaching out a helping hand," said Maj. Michael McCurry, 37, the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry's executive officer. "A great majority of the populace just wants a better standard of living."

Local commanders and civil affairs soldiers worked directly with mayors and city councils. They funded construction projects but forced local officials to pick and prioritize them at open meetings. They explained and forced the use of competitive bids among Iraqi contractors who were used to getting jobs because of tribal connections.

"These people need to learn how to do it themselves, or we'll be here forever," said Capt. Scott Emmel, 29, the civil-military operations officer for the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment.

But the division learned — sometimes through hard lessons — that paying to build something wasn't enough. Someone needed to watch closely to make sure projects were built right, and then to make sure they were maintained after they were built.

Capt. Andrew McConnell, 36, and Sgt. 1st Class Paul Guinto,



JAMES B. SMITH JR./U.S. Army

Capt. Gloria Browne of the 82nd Engineer Battalion checks the throat of a recruit for the Iraqi National Guard on Forward Operating Base Gabe on July 20, 2004.

40, of the 426th Civil Affairs Battalion, learned quickly that they got the biggest "bang for their buck" out of water projects.

"Everybody loves clean water," McConnell said, and it is critical in an arid land where many people drink from the

same river in which raw sewage is dumped.

But they also learned that Iraqi building standards are low, and contractors would cut corners wherever they could — for example, painting over problems they'd been hired to repair. So

the civil affairs soldiers made sure they repeatedly inspected construction work and withheld half the payments until it was satisfactorily complete.

McConnell and Guinto discovered that graft is a part of handing out work. Prospective con-

tractors would try to give them "gifts," and take offense when the soldiers firmly said no. In Iraq, that's how business is done.

"What they consider gift-giving or currying favor, we would

SEE HEARTS ON PAGE 21



ELIZABETH ERSTE/U.S. Army

Capt. Casey, chaplain for the 82nd Engineer Battalion, puts candy in the pocket of an Iraqi child in a village outside of Baqouba on Dec. 8, 2004.

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“We’re showing the kinder face of democratic society, by reaching out a helping hand.”

Maj. Michael McCurry

HEARTS, FROM PAGE 20

consider a bribe,” McConnell said. “It’s part of the system. There’s no way around it.”

“When I see that, I see corruption,” Guinto said. “Are we encouraging corruption, or should we try to stop it?”

Even after the ribbon-cutting on a refurbished water plant or new health clinic, the work wasn’t necessarily through. The projects needed to be stocked and staffed as well.

“It’s easy to build a school,” McConnell said. “It’s tough to get teachers and school supplies.”

U.S.-funded projects often needed extra security once built. The 1-4 Cavalry saw three of its projects — an Internet cafe, a police station and a municipal building — bombed, either by insurgents or disgruntled contractors who lost out on a bid.

“We know we’re making progress because the insurgency is targeting [our projects],” McCurry said. “It’s an acknowledgment by the enemy that these



SHANE A. CUOMO/U.S. Air Force

Second Lt. Juan Martinez of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, hands out candy to Iraqi children as part of Operation Paper Cut in Ad Dawr on Nov. 16, 2004. In Paper Cut, troops handed out fliers informing Iraqis how to get medical assistance and how to contact the police, Iraqi National Guard or Joint Coordination center if they are threatened.

people are effective.”

The 1st ID engaged in more than just official acts of reconstruction. Patrols frequently carried candy to hand out to Iraqi children. Nearly every unit adopted a school, orphanage or hospital to receive toys and school supplies gathered by the

soldiers and their family members.

The 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery worked with the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion to start one of the largest such home-grown projects, called Operation I CAN (Iraqi Children’s Assistance Network). The

entire division eventually adopted it.

Through grass-roots efforts and its Web site (www.operationican.com), Operation I CAN gathered contributions from 35 U.S. states, Canada and several communities in Germany to hand out at seven schools in central Iraq.

“It felt fantastic to see the smiles on their faces when we handed out the toys,” said Staff Sgt. Nichole Bower of the 854th Engineer Detachment, last August in the 1st ID magazine Danger Forward. “This is the kind of thing we came here for.”

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ELIZABETH ERSTE/U.S. Army

During a Jan. 22 visit to a village on the outskirts of Bayji, Capt. Byard of the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, gives money to an Iraqi man to pay for the earlier destruction of the man’s wall and the door to his son’s home.

Troops see improvement in Iraqi forces

BY STEVE LIEWER
Stars and Stripes

As they battled a bubbling rebellion, the 1st Infantry Division worked at building a new Iraq by training a new army and police force while rebuilding a crumbling infrastructure.

Maj. Gen. John R.S. Batiste, the 1st ID commander, opened two training camps for Iraqi National Guard recruits and pushed thousands of them through the three-week course in basic soldiering.

The goal: stand up one Iraqi division, three brigades and four battalions.

By summer, most Task Force Danger patrols included Iraqi as well as American troops, but the experiment didn't start out well.

To some U.S. soldiers, the Iraqi recruits seemed impossibly green and much too chummy with the locals. They grew suspicious when sometimes the Iraqis seemed to disappear just before a bomb exploded.

During the Easter uprising, in cities such as Samarra, most of the Iraqi troops dropped their weapons and ran when things got hot. Many deserted to the other side. At Ad Duluiyah in September, the commander of the local battalion quit along with many of his troops. Soon the U.S. forces there put him at the top of their



ELIZABETH ERSTE/U.S. Army

Along a main road in Tikrit, members of the Emergency Services Unit of the Iraqi Police and Spc. Marino, second from left, of 1st Battalion 18th Infantry Regiment, keep watch for any suspicious activity during a raid Nov. 22, 2004.

list of most-wanted insurgents.

"It's kind of hard to distinguish who's good and who's not," said Staff Sgt. Metoyer Jordan, 28, of

the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, in November. "That's why the trust level is real low."

The young Iraqi troops, nearly

all in their late teens and early 20s, were rambunctious and awed by their U.S. counterparts. They liked to show off their skill

with their AK-47 assault rifles and frequently used up ammo as fast as the Americans could issue it.

"They're just like a bunch of privates. If you don't have a lieutenant out there telling them what to do, they're useless," said Staff Sgt. David Place, 27, of the 1-4 Cavalry, also interviewed in November. "It's like watching a person grow up. Some of what we do wears off on them."

Over the months, trust grew. The newly minted Iraqi soldiers started to stand up under fire. They played important if limited roles in battles such as Samarra and Fallujah, and the Americans respected the risks they faced at home by sticking with the Iraqi army.

"We used to have to push the [Iraqi soldiers] to do every little thing," said Sgt. Daniel Veach, a 1-4 Cavalry squad leader. Now, he said, "they're 300 times better."

To help the Americans and Iraqis work together, Batiste's task force also set up 25 "joint coordination centers," emergency operations posts where Americans and Iraqis worked side-by-side to dispatch police, rescue and security services where they were needed.

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 April 29, Katterbach Hangar 2, Ansbach (235th BSB)
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 May 16, 1st ID Celebration, Harvey Barracks, Kitzingen

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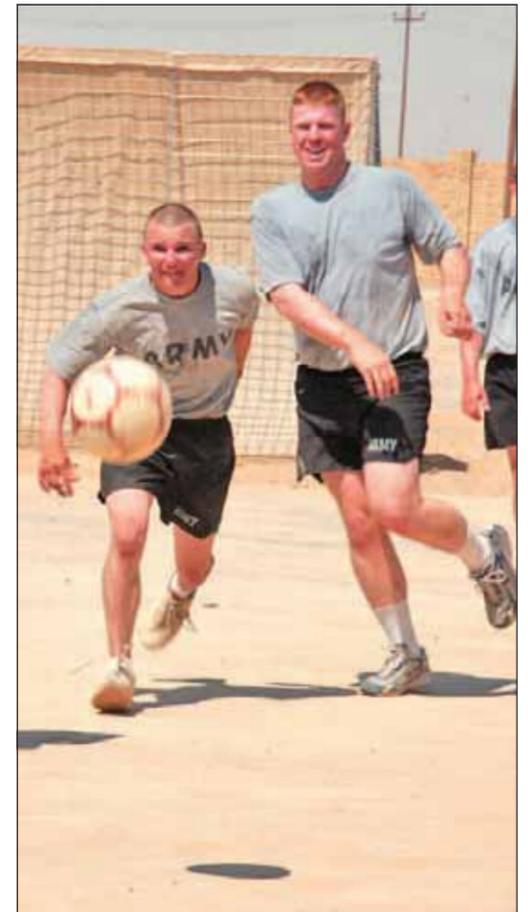
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JEFFREY WILLIAMS/U.S. Air Force

Sgt. Edward Wilcox of the 63rd Armor Regiment washes his Abrams tank at Kirkuk Air Base on Feb. 5.



ELIZABETH ERSTE/U.S. Army

Soldiers of the 1st Battalion 18th Infantry Regiment, battle for possession of a soccer ball during a game on their organizational day June 25, 2004, at Forward Operating Base Omaha.



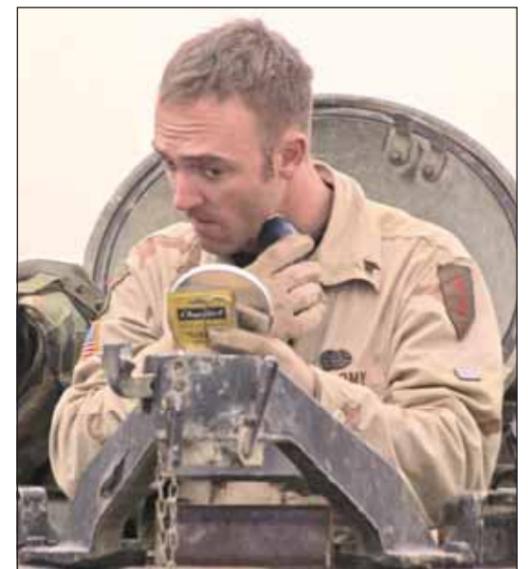
ELIZABETH ERSTE/U.S. Army

Spc. Maria Gutierrez of the 201st Forward Support Battalion works alongside Iraqis as they process parts to be stocked in a Supply Support Activity warehouse on Forward Operating Base Warhorse on Aug. 18, 2004.



ELIZABETH ERSTE/U.S. Army

Spc. Toni Henricksen of the 201st Forward Support Battalion removes lug nuts from the tire of a 5-ton truck Aug. 19, 2004, at Forward Operating Base Warhorse.



BRANDI MARSHALL/U.S. Army

A soldier shaves in his Bradley fighting vehicle at Camp Fallujah on Nov. 8, 2004.

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A look at some of the other units:

386th Movement Control Team

Commander: Maj. Elizabeth Featherston

Home base: Vicenza, Italy

Time deployed: February 2004 - February 2005

Deployed to: Baghdad

Troops deployed: 18

Highlights: Served at Baghdad International Airport under Air Force command, as communications link between Army and Air Force coordinating movement of cargo from outside the country to Iraq. The unit is a "port" team that specializes in helping control the flow of vehicles and equipment at either a sea- or airport. In coordination with a U.S. Army Cargo Transfer Company that performed the physical lifting and moving of equipment and supplies, the 386th MCT handled the technical part of the operation, ensuring the Air Force received the movement data it needed.

3rd Battalion, 58th Aviation Regiment (Company B)

Commander: Capt. Brandon Russell

Home base: Katterbach, Germany

Time deployed: February 2004 - January 2005

Deployed to: Tikrit, Balad

Troops deployed: 72

Highlights: The 3-58 Aviation air traffic control team guided traffic at both locales. It joined with Air Force command at Balad to set up one of first joint Army/Air Force control towers. Organized commercial air space for new airfield at Camp Speicher in Tikrit, helped set up and coordinate air transportation for 1st Infantry Division aviation elements.

557th Medical Company (Ground Ambulance)

Commander: Capt. Matthew Curlee

Home base: Wiesbaden, Germany

Time deployed: January - December 2004

Deployed to: Tikrit

Troops deployed: 111

Highlights: The unit's 40 ambulances escorted convoys all over Iraq, putting in 179,000 road miles and evacuating 5,258 patients to hospitals for treatment. Some medics were tasked out to combat units in locales such as Fallujah, Samarra and Baiji. The unit suffered no deaths or serious injuries.

SEE UNITS ON PAGE 28



U.S. Army

A soldier from the 512th Maintenance Company works on an engine. Each week, the unit supported convoys averaging 60 trucks on missions between Logistics Support Area Anaconda and Camp Speicher in Tikrit.

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Summertime fun has hidden risks, which is why the Army in Europe implemented its summer safety campaign. The campaign promotes key areas of vehicle accident prevention, heat injury prevention, and various aspects of recreation. Automobile safety tops the list, according to USAREUR Safety Manager Dave Scott, citing the deaths of eight Soldiers in vehicles crashes so far this year - twice as many as the same period last year. Scott said Army in Europe members need to make it personal, and consciously anticipate and address driving dangers like autobahn construction sites, where traffic goes, as he put it, from "the speed of light to a crawl, and always just around a bend in the road." Driving on secondary roads has been particularly hazardous. Scott says that drivers shouldn't underestimate the time it takes to pass in relation to how far you can see so that you don't misjudge the speed of oncoming traffic. "Soldiers, civilians, and family members need to be prepared and drive defensively. Relax, be patient and enjoy the scenery," Scott said. Good safety tools are available as part of the campaign on the USAREUR home page at <http://www.hqusareur.army.mil>. You will find tips on trip planning, automated risk assessments and vehicle inspections.

Trip planning is especially relevant during the summer travel season. Mr. Mike Willoughby, IMA Europe Safety Manager, emphasizes the need to plan enough time for the return trip. "Don't wait until the last minute to return home and then feel the need to speed or drive through the night." In addition to plenty of time, Willoughby suggests some other important planning considerations: Plan travel routes that avoid traffic jams and construction sites. Be prepared for mechanical and medical emergencies. Know how to contact emergency services while en route and at your vacation location. After you've done your planning, it's time to consider what to pack. In addition to packing clothing appropriate for all types of weather possible in Europe, Willoughby suggests packing an emergency kit appropriate for your mode of travel. Willoughby also has some suggestions for things to leave behind. Leave a copy of your itinerary, credit card numbers, travel documents, prescriptions, and a spare house key with someone you trust and whom you can reach in an emergency. Safety awareness doesn't stop once you're at your vacation location, says Willoughby "Be Safe and make it home!"

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UNITS, FROM PAGE 26

67th Combat Support Hospital

Commander: Col. Patricia Lillis-Hearne

Home base: Würzburg, Germany

Time deployed: January 2004 - January 2005

Deployed to: Mosul, Tikrit, Abu Ghraib/Fallujah, Balad

Troops deployed: 200+

Highlights: Unit took over staffing of several field hospitals in Iraq the following month. The Abu Ghraib unit established a prison, survived and handled massive numbers of casualties from fierce mortar attacks that totaled 700 in just a few months. During April, it handled mass-trauma situations almost daily. On Dec. 21, the Mosul team treated 91 patients after a suicide bomber attacked the chow hall there. The Mosul and Tikrit teams both opened new hospitals in permanent buildings.



U.S. Army photos

Soldiers from the 574th Supply and Service Company delivered more than 80 million gallons of fuel and 200 million gallons of water in support of coalition forces.

serviced up to 300 units based there. In all, the unit delivered more than 80 million gallons of fuel and 200 million gallons of water in support of coalition forces.

66th Transportation Company

Commander: Capt. Samuel Pena

Home base: Kaiserslautern, Germany

Time deployed: January 2004 - February 2005

Deployed to: Tikrit

Troops deployed: 142

Highlights: The medium-truck company hauled supplies throughout Iraq and Kuwait, logging more than 1.5 million miles. It conducted



Sgt. Kristi Schmidt, a driver with 66th Transportation Company, climbs out of her truck after a mission in central Iraq.

convoys daily through areas plagued by heavy insurgent violence. Two soldiers, Sgt. Tatjana Reed and Spc. Torey Dantzler, died from injuries suffered in a July 22 roadside bomb attack. Endured fierce ambush Aug. 4 in Mosul that soldiers compared to the book and movie "Black Hawk Down."

512th Maintenance Company

Commander: Capt. Kevin Z. Smith

Home base: Mannheim, Germany

Deployed to: Balad

Troops deployed: 200+

Highlights: The unit's soldiers maintained vehicles operating convoys out of Camp Anaconda. Each week, the unit supported convoys averaging about 60 trucks on missions between Anaconda and Camp Speicher in Tikrit. They did so without losing a single truck.

95th Military Police Battalion, headquarters and headquarters detachment

Commander: Lt. Col. Randall Twitchell (battalion), Capt. Robert L. Elliott (detachment)

Home base: Mannheim, Germany

Time deployed: February 2004 - January 2005

Deployed to: Baghdad

Troops deployed: 90

Highlights: The battalion served as the "mayor cell" and provided security for the large housing area at Camp Victory North, near Baghdad International Airport. The unit was the largest MP battalion in Iraq and escorted more than 10,000 convoys, and helped create the Iraqi Highway Patrol while patrolling in Iraq's most dangerous area, the "Sunni Triangle."

230th Military Police Company

Commander: Capt. Michael Jensik

Home base: Kaiserslautern, Germany

SEE UNITS ON PAGE 29

574th Supply and Service Company

Commander: Capt. Natalie Rolling-Edlebeck

Home base: Mannheim, Germany

Time deployed: January 2004 - January 2005

Deployed to: Balad

Troops deployed: 100

Highlights: The 574th SSC set up a headquarters operation to help keep the massive post running and

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THERE IS A DIFFERENCE™

UNITS, FROM PAGE 28

Time deployed: March 2004 - March 2005

Deployed to: Abu Ghraib/Fallujah, Baghdad

Troops deployed: 170

Highlights: The 230th MPs provided security at notorious Abu Ghraib prison near Fallujah during heavy mortar attacks last spring. They helped the 95th MP Battalion patrol central Iraq's highways and train the new Iraqi highway patrol. They escorted hundreds of convoys and participated in multiple battles in Baghdad and Fallujah. The 230th lost one soldier, Spc. Jonathan Kephart, who was killed in action April 9. About one-fourth of the company's soldiers received the Purple Heart.

272nd Military Police Company

Commander: Capt. Jason Marquiss

Home base: Mannheim

Time deployed: April 2004 - March 2005

Deployed to: Baghdad

Troops deployed: 170

Highlights: The 272nd MPs trained Iraqi police at Baghdad Police Academy and while assisting and securing dozens of Iraqi police stations in and around Baghdad. The company saw action in Sadr City, the most violent area of Baghdad, and lost one soldier, Pfc. Cole William Larsen, killed in November 2004 when his vehicle collided with an Iraqi truck and turned over.

612th Movement Control Team

Commander: Capt. Trahon Mashack



U.S. Army

An Iraqi police officer practices searching and clearing a building under the watchful eye of Sgt. David M. Burks, a team leader with the 272nd Military Police Company.

Home base: Kaiserslautern, Germany

Time deployed: January - December 2004

Deployed to: Camp Navistar, Kuwait

Troops deployed: 14

Highlights: The team helped control the movement of 110,000 vehicles in seven U.S. Army and Marine divisions as well as thousands of other coalition forces across the Kuwait/Iraq border. It also helped coordinate the flow of \$18 billion in humanitarian aid and equipment into Iraq.

226th Medical Logistics Battalion

Commander: Lt. Col. James A. Signaigo

Home base: Miesau, Germany

Time deployed: January 2004 - January 2005

Deployed to: Balad, Mosul, Babylon, Taji, Baghdad

Troops deployed: 160

Highlights: The medical supply unit managed 557 lines of stock, sending out among other things 5,584 gallons of blood and 4,600 pairs of eyeglasses while completing 4,200 work orders and shipping 300

pallets of supplies per week. The 226th also oversaw the rebuilding of one school and the renovation of another, manning and protecting convoys to carry supplies.

45th Medical Company (Air Ambulance)

Commander: Maj. Christopher Knapp

Home base: Katterbach, Germany

Time deployed: January-December 2004

Deployed to: Taji, Iraq

Troops deployed: 121

Highlights: The unit's 12 UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters flew 3,823 patients on more than 2,500 medical evacuation missions all over Iraq. They evacuated 48 patients after a mortar attack on the Abu Ghraib prison, and 62 after a battle in the Sadr City section of Baghdad. The unit earned 88 Air Medals, including 16 with valor.

1st Military Intelligence Battalion (Company A)

Home base: Hohenfels, Germany

Time deployed: January-December 2004

Deployed to: Balad

Troops deployed: 50

Highlights: The company flew combat support missions over central Iraq using unmanned aerial vehicles.

133rd Medical Detachment (Preventative Medicine)

Commander: Maj. Jody Cline

Home Base: Hanau, Germany

Time Deployed: February 2004 - February 2005

Deployed to: Camp Victory, Baghdad

Troops Deployed: 10

Highlights: The unit was in charge of ensuring sanitary living conditions for about 70,000 troops in 14 base camps and over 7,000 Iraqi detainees in Baghdad-area holding facilities, including Abu Ghraib. The 133rd drove over 30,000 miles to collect hundreds of air, water and soil samples from everything from dining facilities and pools to drinking-water reservoirs to have them tested for possible pathogens. The unit certified about 1.5 million gallons of water per day for troops and detainees, and collected thousands of insects to be tested for disease.

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A tribute to those who have served their country in support of the fight against terrorism: W. Goebel Porzellanfabrik presents the "WELCOME HOME" M.I.Hummel figurine.

This special version has been made for the 1st Infantry Division, the "BIG RED ONE", with the service members from Operation Iraqi Freedom in mind.

"Welcome Home" is a gift to recognize those who have spent valuable time away from their family and friends for duty, honor and country. Long a traditional homecoming symbol of welcome, the yellow ribbon signifies open arms, pride and patriotism.

Goebel salutes the American military and bids them a warm "Welcome Home".

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In memory of those who fell

While deployed to Iraq, 72 members of 1st Infantry Division units based in Germany were killed in action. Following is a list of the fallen, starting with those who most recently gave their lives. In addition, nine other Europe-based soldiers who fell are listed below.

JANUARY 2005

Pfc. Kevin Luna, 26, of Oxnard, Calif.; 1st Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, Vilseck; died Jan. 27 of non-combat-related injuries in Muqdadiyah.

Sgt. William Kinzer, 27, of Hendersonville, N.C.; 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, Schweinfurt; killed Jan. 26 when a rocket-propelled grenade hit his patrol in Ad Duluiyah.

Staff Sgt. Joseph W. Stevens, 26, of Sacramento, Calif.; 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, Vilseck; died Jan. 24 when his Bradley fighting vehicle overturned in a canal near Khan Bani Saad.

Sgt. Michael C. Carlson, 22, of St. Paul, Minn.; 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, Vilseck; died Jan. 24 when his Bradley fighting vehicle overturned in a canal near Khan Bani Saad.

Sgt. Javier Marin Jr., 29, of Mission, Texas; 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, Vilseck; died Jan. 24 when his Bradley fighting vehicle overturned in a canal near Khan Bani Saad.

Spc. Viktor V. Yolkin, 24, of Spring Branch, Texas; 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, Vilseck; died Jan. 24 when his Bradley fighting vehicle overturned in a canal near Khan Bani Saad.

Pfc. Jesus A. Leon-Perez, 20, of Houston, Texas; 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, Vilseck; died Jan. 24 when his Bradley fighting vehicle overturned in a canal near Khan Bani Saad.

Sgt. Kyle Childress, 29, of Terre Haute, Ind.; 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, Schweinfurt; died of wounds received in Ad Duluiyah, when his unit was attacked by enemy forces using small-arms fire, on Jan. 21 in Balad.

Pfc. Gunnar D. Becker, 19, of Forestburg, S.D.; 2nd Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, Vilseck; died Jan. 13 in an accidental shooting in Mosul.

Pfc. Curtis L. Wooten III, 20, of Spanaway, Wash.; 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, Schweinfurt; killed Jan. 4 when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle in Balad.

NOVEMBER 2004

Spc. Erik W. Hayes, 24, of Cascade, Md.; 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, Vilseck; killed Nov. 29 when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle in Al Miqdadiyah.

Sgt. Trinidad R. Martinezluis, 22, of Los Angeles; 201st Forward Support Battalion, Vilseck; killed Nov. 28 when his 5-ton vehicle rolled over and pinned him underwater in Baqouba.

Spc. Jeremy E. Christensen, 27, of Albuquerque, N.M.; 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, Schweinfurt; killed Nov. 27 when an improvised explosive device detonated near his patrol vehicle in Ad Duluiyah.

Sgt. Jack Bryant Jr., 23, of Dale City, Va.; 3rd Brigade Fire Support Team (1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment), Vilseck; killed Nov. 20 when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military convoy, followed by a rocket-propelled grenade attack, in Muqdadiyah.

Capt. Sean R. Sims, 32, of El Paso, Texas; 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, Vilseck; killed Nov. 13 when his unit came under small-arms fire while clearing a building in Fallujah.

Sgt. James Matteson, 23, of Celoron, N.Y.; 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, Vilseck; killed Nov. 12 when a rocket-propelled grenade struck his Bradley fighting vehicle in Fallujah.

1st Lt. Edward D. Iwan, 28, of Albion, Neb.; 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, Vilseck; killed Nov. 12 when a rocket-propelled grenade struck his Bradley fighting vehicle in Fallujah.

Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Faulkenburg, 45, of Huntingburg, Ind.; 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, Vilseck; killed Nov. 9 by small-arms fire while he was conducting combat operations in Fallujah.

Sgt. Charles Webb, 22, of Hamilton, Ohio; 82nd Engineer Battalion, Bamberg; died Nov. 3 at the 31st Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad from wounds sustained earlier that day when an improvised explosive device detonated in Baghdad.



STEVE LIEWER/Stars and Stripes

Just before a memorial service, a color guard stands watch over the helmets, rifles, boots and dog tags of Task Force 1-18's two fallen soldiers: Capt. John "Hans" Kurth and Spc. Jason Ford. The men were killed March 13, 2004, by a makeshift bomb as they patrolled in Tikrit.

OCTOBER 2004

Spc. Andrew C. Ehrlich, 21, of Mesa, Ariz.; 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, Vilseck; died Oct. 18 in Muqdadiyah of non-combat-related injuries.

Spc. Morgen Jacobs, 20, of Santa Cruz, Calif.; 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, Schweinfurt; died Oct. 7 in Tikrit of injuries sustained in Aaliyah on Oct. 6 when an improvised explosive device detonated near his patrol vehicle.

SEPTEMBER 2004

Staff Sgt. Mike A. Dennie, 31, of Fayetteville, N.C.; 106th Finance Battalion from Kitzingen; died Sept. 29 in Balad from injuries sustained on Sept. 29 in Baghdad, when the driver of his military vehicle pulled off the road and lost control, causing it to roll over.

Sgt. Tyler Prewitt, 22, of Phoenix; 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, Vilseck; died Sept. 28 in Landstuhl, from injuries sustained Sept. 24 when a rocket-propelled grenade struck his vehicle in Baqouba.

Spc. Gregory Cox, 21, of Carmichaels, Pa.; 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, Schweinfurt; killed Sept. 27 when his military vehicle was unintentionally run off the road by a civilian vehicle in Balad.

Sgt. 1st Class Joselito Villanueva, 36, of Los Angeles; 9th Engineer Battalion, Schweinfurt; killed Sept. 27 when a sniper shot him while he was at his observation post in Balad.

Spc. Joshua Henry, 21, of Avonmore, Pa.; 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, Schweinfurt; died Sept. 20 in Tikrit of injuries sustained when his convoy was attacked by small-arms fire in Sharqat.

Spc. Edgar P. Daclan, 24, of Cypress, Calif.; 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, based in Schweinfurt;

killed Sept. 10 by an improvised explosive device as his patrol was responding to indirect fire in Balad.

Spc. Michael Martinez, 29, of Juan Diaz, Puerto Rico; 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery, based in Bamberg; killed Sept. 8 when his military vehicle rolled over in Baqouba.

AUGUST 2004

Capt. Andrew R. Houghton, 25, of Houston, Texas; 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, Schweinfurt; died on Aug. 9 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., of injuries sustained July 10 in Ad Dhuha, when a rocket-propelled grenade detonated near his vehicle.

Spc. Armando Hernandez, 22, of Hesperia, Calif.; Army's 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, Schweinfurt; killed in action when an improvised explosive device exploded near his guard post, on Aug. 1 in Samarra.

Spc. Anthony J. Dixon, 20, of Lindenwold, N.J.; Army's 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, Schweinfurt; killed in action when an improvised explosive device exploded near his guard post, on Aug. 1 in Samarra.

JULY 2004

Pfc. Nicholas J. Zangara, 21, of Philadelphia; 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, in Schweinfurt; killed July 24 in Tikrit, when an improvised explosive device exploded near his vehicle.

Pfc. Nicholas Blodgett, 21, of Wyoming, Mich.; 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, Schweinfurt; killed July 21 when his patrol vehicle hit an improvised explosive device in Abdalluyah.

Pfc. Torry D. Harris, 21, of Chicago; 12th Chemical Company, Kitzingen; died July 13 of non-combat-related injuries in Tikrit.

Pfc. Collier Barcus, 21, of McHenry, Ill.; 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, Schweinfurt; killed July 8 during a truck-bomb and mortar attack on the Iraqi National Guard Headquarters in Samarra.

Spc. Sonny G. Sampler, 23, of Oklahoma City, Okla.; 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, Schweinfurt; killed July 8 during a truck-bomb and mortar attack on the Iraqi National Guard Headquarters in Samarra.

Spc. Joseph M. Garmback, 24, of Cleveland, Ohio; 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, Schweinfurt; killed July 8 during a truck-bomb and mortar attack on the Iraqi National Guard Headquarters in Samarra.

Spc. William R. Emanuel IV, 19, of Stockton, Calif.; 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, Schweinfurt; killed July 8 during a truck-bomb and mortar attack on the Iraqi National Guard Headquarters in Samarra.

Sgt. Robert E. Colvill Jr., 31, of Anderson, Ind.; 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, Schweinfurt; killed July 8 during a truck-bomb and mortar attack on the Iraqi National Guard Headquarters in Samarra.

JUNE 2004

Pfc. Jason Lynch, 21, of St. Croix, Virgin Islands; 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery, Bamberg; killed June 18 by small-arms fire as his unit was engaging the enemy in Buhzir.

Capt. Humayun S.M. Khan, 27, of Bristow, Va.; Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 201st Forward Support Battalion, Vilseck; killed June 8 after a vehicle packed with an improvised explosive device drove into the gate of his compound while he was inspecting soldiers on guard duty in Baqouba.

Pfc. Markus Johnson, 20, of Springfield, Mass.; D Battery, 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, Kitzingen; died June 1 in Al Anbar Province when an Avenger rolled over.

MAY 2004

Pfc. Owen D. Witt, 20, of Sand Springs, Mont.; 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, Schweinfurt; died May 24 in Ad Dawr, when his military vehicle rolled over.

Spc. Michael C. Campbell, 34, of Marshfield, Mo.; Headquarters, Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, Schweinfurt; killed May 19 when his convoy hit an improvised explosive device near Samarra.

Staff Sgt. Joseph P. Garyantes, of Rehoboth, Del.; B Company, 1st Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, Vilseck; killed May 18 by sniper fire while on a combat patrol in Muqdadiyah.

Spc. Marcus O. Nolasco, 34, of Chino, Calif.; Battery B, 1st Battalion, 33rd Field Artillery, Bamberg; died May 18 in an electrocution accident in Baiji.

1st Lt. Christopher J. Kenny, 32, of Miami; 4th Cavalry Regiment, Vilseck; one of four soldiers killed May 3 when their military vehicle left the road and flipped over in a canal in Balad.

Pfc. Lynden A. Marcus Jr., 21, of Long Beach, Calif.; 4th Cavalry Regiment, Vilseck; one of four soldiers killed May 3 when their military vehicle left the road and flipped over in a canal in Balad.

Sgt. Marvin R. Sprayberry III, 24, of Tehachapi, Calif.; 4th Cavalry Regiment, Vilseck; one of four soldiers killed May 3 when their military vehicle left the road and flipped over in a canal in Balad.

Sgt. Gregory Wahl, 30, of Salisbury, N.C.; 4th Cavalry Regiment, Vilseck; one of four soldiers killed May 3 when their military vehicle left the road and flipped over in a canal in Balad.

APRIL 2004

Pfc. Martin W. Kondor, 20, of York, Pa.; 1st Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, Vilseck; killed April 29 when an apparent improvised explosive device exploded near his vehicle in Baqouba.

Pfc. Shawn Edwards, 20, of Bensenville, Ill.; 121st Signal Battalion, from Kitzingen; killed April 23 when his convoy vehicle hit an improvised explosive device in Samarra.

Spc. Marvin A. Camposiles, 25, of Austell, Ga.; 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, Schweinfurt; killed April 17 when he was

SEE FALLEN ON PAGE 31

FALLEN, FROM PAGE 30

electrocuted while performing routine generator maintenance in Samarra.

Sgt. Brian Wood, 21, of Torrance, Calif.; 9th Engineer Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, Schweinfurt; killed April 16 when his military vehicle pulled off the road while on patrol and apparently hit a mine in Tikrit.

Spc. Richard Trevithick, 20, of Gaines, Mich.; 9th Engineer Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, Schweinfurt; killed April 14 when an improvised explosive device exploded near his convoy vehicle in Balad.

Staff Sgt. Victor A. Rosales, 29, of Westminster, Calif.; 2nd Battalion, 2nd

Infantry Regiment, Vilseck; killed April 13 when an improvised explosive device exploded near his escort vehicle in Iraq.

Sgt. William C. Eckhart, 25, of Rocksprings, Texas, F Troop, 4th Cavalry Regiment, Schweinfurt; killed April 10 by hostile fire near Khalis.

Sgt. Peter G. Enos, 24, of South Dartmouth, Mass.; 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, in Schweinfurt; killed April 9 when a rocket-propelled grenade struck his patrol vehicle in Bayji.

Staff Sgt. Toby W. Mallet, 26, of Kaplan, La.; 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, Schweinfurt; killed April 9 when a rocket-propelled grenade struck his patrol vehicle in Bayji.

Sgt. 1st Class Raymond E. Jones, 38, of Gainesville, Fla.; 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, Schweinfurt; killed April 9 when a rocket-propelled grenade struck his patrol vehicle in Bayji.

Spc. Allen J. Vandayburg, 20, of Mansfield, Ohio; 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, Vilseck; killed April 9 when a rocket-propelled grenade struck his vehicle in Barez.

Spc. Isaac M. Nieves, 20, of Unadilla, N.Y.; Army's 82nd Engineer Battalion, Bamberg; killed April 8 when individuals using an improvised explosive device and small-arms fire attacked his combat patrol in Khan Bani Saad.

Sgt. 1st Class Marvin L. Miller, 38,

of Dunn, N.C.; 1st Squadron, 4th U.S. Cavalry, Schweinfurt; died April 7 of a gunshot wound he received while on traffic-control duty in Balad.

Sgt. Lee D. Todacheene, 29, of Farmington, N.M.; 1st Battalion, 77th Armored Regiment, Schweinfurt; killed April 6 when mortar fire hit his guard post in Balad.

MARCH 2004

Spc. Adam D. Froehlich, 21, of Pine Hill, N. J.; 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery, based at Warner Barracks, Bamberg; died March 25 from injuries sustained when his patrol came under attack by an improvised explosive device

in Baqouba.

Pvt. Dustin L. Kreider, 19, of Riverton, Kan.; 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, based in Schweinfurt; died March 21 during a unit weapon test-firing incident near Samarra.

Spc. Clint R. Matthews, 31, of Bedford, Pa.; 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, from Schweinfurt; died March 19 from injuries sustained two days before when his Bradley fighting vehicle went over a 60-foot embankment and flipped over in Bayji.

Pfc. Jason Ludlam, 22, of Arlington, Texas; 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, based in Vilseck; died March 19 when he was electrocuted while laying telephone wires in Baqouba.

Spc. Tracy L. Laramore, 30, of Okaloosa, Fla.; 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, Schweinfurt; died March 17 of injuries sustained when his Bradley fighting vehicle went over an embankment and flipped over into a river in Bayji.

Capt. John F. "Hans" Kurth, 31, of Wisconsin; 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, based in Schweinfurt; killed March 13 when his patrol was hit by an improvised explosive device in Tikrit.

Spc. Jason C. Ford, 21, of Bowie, Md.; 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, based in Schweinfurt; killed March 13 when his patrol hit an improvised explosive device in Tikrit.

Sgt. 1st Class Richard S. Gottfried, 42, of Lake Ozark, Mo.; 1st Division Support Command, Kitzingen; killed March 9 when his Humvee was hit by an improvised explosive device along Route Tampa.

Troops from other Europe-based units

Sgt. Carlos Gill, 30, of Orlando, Fla.; 377th Transportation Company, 181st Transportation Battalion, Mannheim; killed Feb. 18 by an improvised explosive device in Humaniyuh.

Pfc. Joshua Ramsey, 19, of Defiance, Ohio; 95th Military Police Battalion, Mannheim; died Dec. 12 in Baghdad of noncombat-related injuries.

Pfc. Cole W. Larsen, 19, of Canyon Country, Calif.; 272nd Military Police Company, 21st Theater Support Command, Mannheim; killed Nov. 13 when a civilian vehicle struck his military vehicle, causing it to roll over, in Baghdad.

1st Lt. Timothy Price, 25, of Midlothian, Va.; 127th Military Police Company, 709th Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade, V Corps, Hanau; killed Sept. 7 by small-arms fire in Baghdad.

Sgt. Tatjana Reed, 34, of Fort Campbell, Ky.; 66th Transportation Company, Kaiserslautern; killed July 22 when an improvised explosive device detonated near her convoy vehicle in Samarra.

Spc. Danny B. Daniels II, 23, of Varney, W.Va.; 630th Military Police Company, 793rd Military Police Battalion, 89th Military Police Brigade, Bamberg; killed July 20 when his patrol vehicle came under attack by small-arms fire, then hit an improvised explosive device in Baghdad.

Spc. Thai Vue, 22, of Willows, Calif.; 127th Military Police Company, 709th Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade, V Corps, Hanau; killed June 18 when a mortar round hit the motor pool where he was working in Baghdad.

Pfc. Leroy Harris-Kelly, 20, of Azusa, Calif.; 596th Maintenance Company, 3rd Corps Support Command, V Corps, Darmstadt; killed April 20 when his truck went off the road and rolled over because of limited visibility and dangerous driving conditions north of Tallil.

Spc. Jonathan Kephart, 21, of Oil City, Pa.; 230th Military Police Company, from Kaiserslautern; died April 9 in Baghdad from injuries sustained when his patrol was ambushed near Baghdad on April 8.



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