



BATTLE SIGHT



Issue 005

30th Brigade Combat Team

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BATTLE SIGHT

Published twice each month for the Soldiers and families of the 30th BCT. Questions or comments concerning this news letter can be sent to the Public Affairs Officer, Capt. Matthew Handley
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Public Affairs Guidance for dealing with the media

- Always check to see if the media rep is credentialed. If not credentialed, suggest they contact the 11D PAO, Maj. Debra Stewart at the DIV HQ.
- Never discuss current or future operations. Topics such as Force Protection and ROE are off limits.
- Everything is on the RECORD when talking with the media.
- Stay in your lane and only discuss what you know and NEVER speculate.
- Be prepared by knowing three things you can say about yourself and three things about your job.
- Avoid using any military jargons. Keep it plain and simple.
- If you do not know the answer, then just say you do not know. NEVER lie to the media.
- Set the record straight if the media has the facts confused.
- Have your chain of command notify the PAO about the interview.

Remember, if we do not tell the story, the media will be forced to write it on their own. We can be proud of what we are doing for OIF and the sacrifices our families are making. Let the world know that you are making a stand and what you are willing to defend.



Cover photograph - Spc. Jervis A. Baley, Headquarters Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 120th Infantry, stands on watch outside the Hospital in Tuz, Iraq. Baley is from Miami, Florida. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mike Welsh, 30th BCT, PAO)

30th Infantry Division during WWII

Just 60 years ago - August 1944



In August 1944, the town of Reuilly fell to the 30th and the Seine River was soon crossed. In September 1944, an offensive was started near Tournai and Brussels. In mid-September after the Albert Canal and the Meuse River were crossed, the 30th took objectives near Horbach, Germany and completed plans for the assault on the Siegfried Line. This attack opened on 2 October 1944 and a breach was made the following day. Contact with the 1st Infantry Division was made 16 October 1944, and encirclement of Aachen was completed. The 30th then continued on their offensive into Germany. When Von Rundstedt attempted his breakthrough in December, 1944, the 30th was rushed to the Malmedy-Stavelot-Stoumont area. Here the 30th gave such a mauling to some of Hitler's best troops, that the Germans called the Division "Roosevelt's SS Troops." After helping to stem the German winter drive, the Division moved to the Vielsalm-Sart-Lierneux areas.

Awards for service during WWII with the 30th Division

CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR: Recipients: 1st Lt Raymond O. Beaudoin, Co. F, 119th Infantry Regiment for 6 Apr. 1945 action near Hamelin, Germany; S/Sgt Paul L. Bolden, for 23 Dec. 1944 action at Petit-Coo, Belgium; Sgt Francis S. Currey, Company K, 120th Infantry, for 21 Dec. 1941 action near Malmedy, Belgium; S/Sgt Freeman V. Horner, Co. K, 119th Infantry, for 16 Nov. 1944 action at Wurselen, Germany; Pvt. Harold G. Kiner, Co. F, 117th Infantry Regiment, for 2 Oct. 1944 action near Palenberg, Germany; S/Sgt. Jack J. Pendleton, Co. I, 120th Infantry Regiment, for 12 Oct. 1944 action near Bardenberg, Germany.

(Source of information; The 30th Infantry Division Association)

These Army Ground Forces Fact Sheets were prepared at the end of the war (1 March 1947) by The Information Section. Analyst: Branch, Headquarters Army Ground Forces on each division. They may be found in Record Group 407, Unit Records, for each division, under the file number 3 (Division #) - 0 at the National Archives and Records Administration. 8601 Adelphi Rd., College Park MD. 20740



Capt. Samuel Coleman, Headquarters Headquarters Battery, 113th Field Artillery, listens to local village leaders and school officials concerning the progress of a new school being built with Coalition funding in the Diyala Province, Iraq. Coleman is part of the Coalition effort involving Civilian Military Operations (CMO) and works closely with Iraqi contractors. Turn to page 04 for more information about CMO. (Photo by Master Sgt Mike Welsh, 30th BCT PAO)

Iraqi children helped by G-202

Written by Cpl. Matthew Putney, 30th BCT Public Affairs

FOB CALDWELL, Iraq - Soldiers from G Battery, 202nd Air Defense Artillery (ADA) saw a problem on one of their patrols and knew they could do something about it.

Across from FOB (Forward Operating Base) Caldwell is a place called the “brick factory”. A bleak looking place with numerous brick smoke stacks belching thick black smoke into the sky. There is a series of buildings that produce the yellow building bricks that are seen all over Iraq. The workers not only work there, but they live in the brick factory. As with any other village type setting, the brick factory has a large number of children living there.

When the soldiers of G Battery made earlier patrols through the area they noticed many things missing. Things such as a good clean water source, electricity and none of the children wore shoes. They were all running out to greet the American Soldiers barefoot.

“Barefoot children are something we can do something about. I notified my wife who

is the chairperson of the family support group back in Marseilles, IL to start collecting shoes and sandals of various children sizes,” said Sgt. First Class Daniel Jackson, G Battery, 1st Battalion, 202nd Air Defense Artillery.

As it turns out other Soldiers on that patrol made the same call to their families. In addition to the shoes and sandals gathered by the family support group, the American Veterans of Streator, IL collected “troll dolls” to give to the children as well.

Spending nearly \$900 dollars in shipping costs, the shoes and stuffed animals arrived and were distributed by the Soldiers of G Battery.

“It was a total team effort between the Soldiers, the family support group and citizens like the American Veterans” stated Jackson. Upon delivery of the shoes and dolls the response from the children was immediate, positive and very gratifying.



1Lt. Nathan Westby, G Battery, 202nd Air Defense Artillery, hands out bags of candy to Iraqi children near FOB Caldwell. (Photo by Sgt. First Class Daniel Jackson, G-202 ADA)



Sgt. First Class Daniel Jackson, 202nd Air Defense Artillery, greets Iraqi children at a brick factory with items donated by the units Family Readiness Group back in Illinois. (Photo by 1Lt. Nathan Westby, G-202 ADA)

AO HICKORY 30th Brigade Combat Team



Combat Engineers from C Company, 105th Engineers, construct a highway Check Point near Ballad Ruz. (Photo from C Company 105th EN)



Sgt. John Burt, B Company, 252nd Armor, pulls security on a roof top in Khanaqin with the 240B Machine Gun. (Photo by Master Sgt Mike Welsh, 30th BCT PAO)



1Lt. Jamie Goodwin (right), B Company, 252nd Armor, talks with Iraqi National Guard officers at the Security Forces meeting, Joint Operation Center in Khanaqin. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mike Welsh, 30th BCT PAO)



Spc. Dustin Pond, G Battery, 202nd Air Defense Artillery, mans the mounted M2 50 cal machine gun. (Photo by Sgt. First Class Daniel Jackson, G 202 ADA)



Soldiers from Headquarters Headquarters Company and A Company, 1st Battalion, 150th Armor, enjoy a volley Ball game just before sunset at FOB Roughrider. (Photo by Master Sgt Mike Welsh, 30th BCT PAO)

Destroying Captured Enemy Ammunition

B Company 105th Engineers



Combat Engineers from the B Company, 105th Engineers have prepared this collection of munitions for destruction - (Left to right kneeling) Spc. Matthew Shaffer, 1Lt. Henry Lynn, Sgt. Eric Jones, Sgt. William Cipriani. (Back row left to right) Pfc. Jerry Gibson, Sgt 1st Class Marshal Thompson, Spc. Todd Stubbs, Staff Sgt. George Brower, Sgt. Parrish. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mike Welsh, 30th BCT PAO)



Captured enemy ammunition was destroyed by B Company 105th Engineers at Forward Operating Base Caldwell in Iraq. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mike Welsh, 30th BCT PAO)



Combat Engineers from B Company, 105th Engineers destroyed an assortment of captured enemy ammunition that included anti-personnel mines and various types of ordnance. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mike Welsh, 30th BCT PAO)

CMOC Operations



Soldiers of B Company 1st Battalion, 252nd Armor have become a common site at the Civilian Military Operation Center (CMOC) in Khanaqin, Iraq. B Company conducts joint patrols with the Iraqi National Guard (ING) and often provides military classes for the ING at the CMOC. During some renovation improvements, Sgt. James Felton (standing), Staff Sgt. Eric Ramesy (window) and Sgt. Steve Garrett paint the lower level of the CMOC. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mike Welsh, 30th BCT PAO)



During a Civilian Military Operation, Sgt. David Fisher, Headquarters Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 120th Infantry, lends a helping hand by carrying into the hospital in Tuz, Iraq boxes of donated items. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mike Welsh, 30th BCT PAO)



Government Building in the city of Tuz, Iraq is the hub of activity for military assistance and coordination with local civilians. 1Lt. Maurice Hudson (right), Troop E, 196th Cavalry, 30th Brigade Combat Team, attempts to identify what assistance these local gentlemen need. Hudson works with the city council on issues involving city departments and municipality services. Back home the North Carolina Guardsman works for Public Service Energy. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mike Welsh, 30th BCT PAO)

Best care anywhere

Written by Cpl. Matthew P. Putney, 30th BCT PAO

FOB CALDWELL, IRAQ - The opening of the new TMC (Troop Medical Clinic) at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Caldwell is another step forward in the quality of life for the members of 30th Brigade Combat Team (BCT) stationed in Iraq.

“With this new clinic and a constant reliable source of power, we can provide our soldiers with the best available health and dental care” stated Capt. Mark McCaslin, Commander of C Company, 230th Forward Support Battalion (FSB).

The TMC is located in the northwest corner of “Whiskey-Pad-Four” (W-4) at FOB Caldwell. This facility is a level two clinic. Meaning it can provide x-rays, lab work, and dental care. Sick call hours are 0800 to 1000 and 1500 to 1800 with 24 hour emergency care. Dental clinic hours are 0800 to 1000 and 1600 to 1800 also with 24 hour emergency care available.

Sgt. Malcolm Bennett, a 91P (radiologist technician) attached to Charlie Med, said “his ability to x-ray patients and give quick and reliable results to doctors, so they can make a more informed and accurate diagnosis has increased one hundred percent.” One of the best assets the clinic offers according to Bennett is the ability to digitally transfer x-rays in real time to doctors located at the other FOBs.

“I can send the image to an orthopedic doctor and that doctor can make the decision to treat the patient where they are, or to transport the patient for further care. This is a huge plus” stated Bennett about the level of x-ray service. “It eliminates sending patients on potentially risky travel” added Bennett.

Spc. John Hagen a 91K (medical lab tech) praises the new clinics clean large rooms and constant supply of power. “The new benefit for the lab is the temperature control. It enables all equipment to operate as it should. In the tents a lot of the equipment would malfunction or just not work at all” commented Hagen. “This lab sees between

fifteen and twenty patients a day. We can test everything from urinalysis, pregnancy, liver function and strep throat type-A, to electrolytes and cardiac tests” continued Hagen.

The lab at the TMC also stores an emergency blood supply which needs to be refrigerated at a constant temperature. Hagen continued by saying “he can usually provide doctors with lab results in about fifteen to twenty minutes”. This improvement will be of value for the doctors in making their diagnosis and cuts down on a patients waiting time.

Finally a treatment selection sometimes overlooked by the bicuspidly challenged members of the 30th BCT, is the dental clinic. Part of the same building as the health clinic, it stands ready to serve soldiers in need of dental work. “We don’t have the resources to do regular cleanings,” stated Spc. Robert Beltran Shadley, a 91E (dental assistant/hygienist).

“There is only one dentist, so we need him for soldiers who are in pain and need immediate treatment” added Shadley. “When we were in the tents, equipment was getting damaged from the heat and would not function properly. Here at the new clinic the constant power enables us to perform routine fillings; tooth pulls and if the tooth is not too far gone root canals.

“We have not seen many heat casualties (which means soldiers are listening to the chain of command and staying hydrated) so that is great” commented McCaslin when prompted about the rise in daytime temperatures in Iraq. “The clinic offers sick call, x-ray, lab work, a pharmacy, mental health services and dental. I think we can offer the best care anywhere” said the McCaslin



Sgt. Malcolm Bennett, C Company, 230th FSB (Forward Support Battalion) also known as Charlie Med, reviews an x-ray in the new Troop Medical Clinic on FOB Caldwell. (Photo by Cpl. Matthew P. Putney, 30th BCT PAO)



Spc. John Hagen, C Company, 230th FSB, runs diagnostic lab test on samples in the climate controlled medical lab at FOB Caldwell. (Photo by Cpl. Matthew P. Putney, 30th BCT PAO)

The new Troop Medical Clinic (TMC) at FOB Caldwell boast a large and well stocked pharmacy. Soldiers Prescriptions can be filled immediately after their medical consultation. (Photo by Cpl. Matthew Putney, 30th BCT PAO)





Soldiers with a Warrior Spirit

Written by Master Sgt. Mike Welsh, 30th BCT PAO

FOB COBRA, Iraq - With stealth like silence the guardian Q-36 Acquisition Radar provides an invisible net of security over the skies of Forward Operating Base (FOB) Cobra, home to many of the Soldiers of the 30th Brigade Combat Team (BCT) making up Task Force Thunderbolt.

“Our mission is to observe enemy indirect fire and call in counter fire” stated Staff Sgt. David Abernathy, Section Chief, Headquarters Headquarters Battery (HHB), 1st Battalion, 113th Field Artillery (FA).

The point of origin information is immediately sent from the Q-36 team directly to the Fire Direction Center which is tied into the gun crews manning 120mm mortar tubes and the M-109 Paladin artillery system. When all of these elements react to a Q-36 target acquisition the response from Cobra just might be an order of 155mm High Explosive artillery or a deadly volley from the 120mm mortar teams. These crews thrive on their precision team work, accuracy, and lethal combat weapons.

“When we see the rounds coming we alert the Fire Support Officer (FSO) and the Mortar Platoon” continued Abernathy. The Q-36 team can rapidly determine the location of insurgents launching mortars and artillery at friendly forces. The mere presence of the Q-36 is a deterrent to enemy forces. Cobra has endured more than its share of insurgent launched rockets and mortars.

Combat patrols operating out of the Spartan conditions of FOB Cobra have had some success at recovering enemy rocket launcher systems and munitions suspected of being used to target the camp. During one of these combat patrols a rocket launcher system was spotted in a civilian pickup truck rolling past the convoy. The alertness of the patrol resulted in the confiscation of the launcher and detention of the insurgents.

The Radar Section arrived in Iraq back in early March of 2004 with the 30th BCT, however on April 10, orders from the 1st Infantry Division launched this team on a mission to support elements responding to the flare up of insurgent attacks in the An Najaf area. Convoying for this mission would expose the team to some of the most intense fighting they would see in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and the vivid reality of roadside bombs known as Improvised Explosive Devices (IED).

Traveling in a small convoy serial, the Radar Section encountered their first IED with an ambush outside of Khabarala. Immediately they started receiving small arms fire from both sides of the dirt road. The Radar Section quickly spotted the green tracers being fired at their convoy and immediately they started to pound 5.56mm rounds into the concealed locations used by the insurgent. A welcome sight for the Radar Section was the presence of the Army’s new Stryker combat vehicles from the 2nd Infantry Division. The Stryker vehicles rolled up on the convoy fighting off the ambush and released a heavy barrage of 25mm and 50 cal lethal fire.

As the Radar Section returned suppressive fire, the Combat Medic in their convoy maneuvered with the casualty aid vehicle towards the badly damaged military vehicle struck by the IED, just in front of the Radar Sections vehicle. Doing what Soldiers are trained to do, they assisted with the critically injured, called in the 9-Line Medivac, and continued to help secure the perimeter. As the convoy continued towards Najaf, word by radio would be received that the Soldier from another unit they called in the Medivac for did not survive.

“Coming through town we saw flares being fired up into the sky” recalls Sgt. Daren Graves about the mission down south in Al Najaf. “They fired green flares or red flares as we passed certain points”

added Graves. “We kept firing and reloading our weapons the same way we were taught” continued Graves about the convoy phase of the operation. Back in his civilian occupation, Graves is the Senior Electrical Inspector for Mecklinburg County, NC.

Graves was the vehicle driver as the convoy was passing by the Khabarla area and started receiving small arms fire again from the insurgents. Graves drove as his partner Spc. Peter Harmon, HHB, 113th FA, continued to return fire out of the vehicle window. “We reacted the way we were trained” added Harmon about the small arms fire.

Prior to arriving in Iraq, the 1st ID pushed as many Soldiers as possible through intense Reflex Fire and Convoy Live Fire training in Kuwait. “The training in Kuwait was the best I have ever had in my whole military career. Training about how to react to IED’s and shooting from inside the vehicle paid off in big dividends” commented Graves.

Eventually the team arrived in the area defended by the Task Force assigned to FOB Duke. Wanting to exploit the capability of the Q-36, the Radar Section was ordered to move to an alternate location by the 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. Still in close proximity to An Najaf, the Radar Section would now take on the mission of being the forward Counter Battery Radar. Keeping the system operational fell upon Harmon, as the crew accurately tracked multiple acquisitions of indirect enemy fire systems.

As April 22 arrived, the Radar Section began to convoy back to their original area with the 30th BCT. During this convoy they experienced an IED strike behind their vehicle. Battle drills and quality training would once again come into play as they setup a rally point and continued the mission. As they arrived at FOB Warhorse for regeneration and a combat patrol to escort them the remainder of the distance to Caldwell, rocket attacks and mortars from insurgents would prompt them to remain at Warhorse to acquire target acquisitions. After being kept on station at Warhorse for several days tracking targets, the Radar Section moved out to Caldwell and eventually Cobra.

Since arriving at FOB Cobra, this Q-36 team has been persistent at acquiring targets and applying the lessons they have learned over the past year. “We picked up a lot of good things at the JRTC (Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La.). This radar can provide a lot of Intel on indirect fire. We found out that we could make it into a mini TOC (Tactical Operation Center)” stated Abernathy.

Harmon is a former member of the US Navy and has concluded that he intends to stay in the National Guard, even after all that he has witnessed in Iraq. “What I want to do is put in my packet to become a Warrant Officer” said Harmon. “I make sure that the Q-36 can run to its full potential” concluded Harmon.

Not only is this Q-36 Radar running to its full combat potential, but perhaps the entire team is. These Soldiers have the Warrior Spirit, never willing to accept defeat, never leaving a fallen comrade, they are guardians of freedom and the American way of life.



(Front left to right) Sgt. Daren Graves, Sgt. Joshua Mitchell, Sgt. Daniel Blasky, Spc. Peter Harmon, (back row left to right) Chief Warrant Officer Kim Auten, Staff Sgt. David Abernathy, all with 1st Battalion, 113th Field Artillery. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mike Welsh, 30th BCT PAO)



Sgt. Daren Graves and Staff Sgt. Daniel Blasky (right), both with 1st Battalion, 113th Field Artillery, operate the Q-36 radar remotely from their tactical van at FOB Cobra. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mike Welsh, 30th BCT PAO)



Spc. Peter Harmon, Headquarters Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 113th Field Artillery, runs the Q-36 through a series of maintenance tests. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mike Welsh, 30th BCT PAO)

Iraqi Soldiers share weapon knowledge

Written by Maj. Barry Hull, HHC 30th BCT

FOB Caldwell, Iraq - We all know the US Army has been assisting the New Iraqi Army in reorganizing, but today, soldiers of the 5th Battalion, 3rd Brigade Iraqi Armed forces returned the favor. In the spirit of friendship, some Iraqi soldiers took time out to train a few men from the 30th Brigade Combat Team (BCT) of the US Army. Both units are based at Kirkush Military Training Base east of Balad Ruz in Iraq.

Two weapons of Soviet design were used; the PKC medium machine gun and the RPK light machine gun. The Iraqi soldiers also got a chance to fire a few rounds from US M16A2 rifles.

The Iraqi soldiers provided a short class on how the weapons function and how to disassemble them. After the class, the Iraqi and US soldiers loaded magazines and belts together. Soon, the soldiers were doing what all soldiers like to do most... shoot.

"I liked the PKC best", stated Capt. Tim Tielking, Headquarters Headquarters Company (HHC), 30th BCT. "The tripod is simple and easy to work and once you get the gun laid on target, it stays" continued Tielking.

Staff Sgt. Ronald Cox Cox, HHC, 30th BCT still prefers his M16 rifle to the older Soviet designed RPK. "I did fine with the RPK laying down, but I found it hard to control if I was kneeling or standing, especially on automatic" stated Cox.

"I like the M16 because it is very light and it doesn't jump when I fire it" said Sergeant First Class Ishmail Dawood, 5th Battalion, 3rd Brigade Iraqi Army. Dawood and several other Soldiers from his team were able to test fire the M16A2.

"It is important to get to know our Allies and understand their capabilities. It helps us work together to achieve peace and stability in Iraq. . "We have the same goal" stated Maj. Mike Bruschi, HHC, 30th BCT.



Capt. Tim Tielking (left) and Staff Sgt. Ronald Cox (right), both assigned to Headquarters Headquarters Company, 30th Brigade Combat Team, fire Soviet design weapons after receiving instruction from the 5th Battalion, 3rd Brigade Iraqi Army, at a range located at Forward Operating Base Caldwell, Iraq. Tielking is firing the PKM machine gun from a tripod and Cox is firing the RPK machine gun. (Photo by Maj. Barry Hull, HHC 30th BCT)



Chief Warrant Officer, Henry Cooke (left), 30th BCT Property Book Officer for the Iraqi National Guard (ING), hands out radios to the 206th Battalion (BN), ING Capt. Kahtan Adnan (back), Logistics Officer for the 206th BN annotates the issue in his property book. (Photo by Capt. Matt Handley 30th BCT PAO)



Capt. Robert Boyette (right), 30th BCT, Iraqi National Guard Coordinator, helps Cpl. Muhammad Yousif (back) load Motorola radios into the back of an Iraqi National Guard truck. This is part of the continuing effort to improve Iraqi Security Force infrastructure. (Photo by Capt. Matt Handley, 30th BCT PAO)

ING News - Iraqi National Guard receives new radios

Written by Capt. Matt Handley,
Public Affairs Officer, 30th BCT

KIRKUSH, Iraq - Soldiers from the 206th Battalion of the Iraqi National Guard (ING) received the first delivery of new squad radios today from their counterparts with the 30th Brigade Combat Team of the 1st Infantry Division.

"The radios will increase communication capabilities at the small unit level" said Capt. Robert Boyette, ING coordinator for the 30th Brigade Combat Team.

This is not the first delivery of communication devices to the ING. The delivery of Icom base stations came several months ago, and there are more Motorola radios on the way. This delivery was designed to augment the soldiers in the field while the additional radios are delivered to ING forces around the country.

Capt. Hussien Shahab, the communications officer for 206th Battalion ING, said, "These radios will be very helpful to us to do our missions." Capt. Kahtan Adnan, the logistics officer for the 206th Battalion, explained how working with the Coalition Forces they have been very helpful in many areas, "The HHC 1-113th (Headquarters Headquarters Battery of the 1st Battalion 113th Field Artillery) has been very helpful getting us, uniforms, new tactical and non-tactical vehicles, pistols, and ballistic vests."

Capt. Robert Walker Jr. Communication officer with the 1st-113th said, "My counterpart has taken his job of learning on this new equipment and how it can be employed very seriously and is eager to use it to increase their communication capabilities."

The Iraqi National Guard is conducting operations all over Iraq, increasing the safety and security for Iraqi citizens.

230th “Water Boyz” at Cobra

Written by Cpl. Matthew P. Putney
30th BCT PAO

FOB COBRA, IRAQ – At the far end of the newly expanded Forward Operating Base (FOB) Cobra in a non-descript tent, is a nine man section of soldiers from A Company 230th Forward Support Battalion. These soldiers make up the water purification unit, or as they are known around Cobra, the “Water Boyz”.

The unit is based in Durham N.C. On drill weekends they are attached primarily to supply. During their annual training (AT) and the train up at the National Training Center (NTC) in California, the section ran strictly water missions. When the talk started about being mobilized, these Soldiers in the water section knew that they would play a vital role in the harsh unforgiving climate of Iraq.

Before the unit arrived at Cobra, water was trucked up from FOB Caldwell in a 3,000 gallon bladder twice a week. That was primarily used for cooking and drinking only. The soldiers still had to rely on local contractors to supply water to shower with.

Sgt. Charles Suggs of Raleigh N.C., who is in his tenth year of military service, is the section mechanic. Suggs job is to make sure all the pumps, filters, hoses and generators are working properly. “When everything is working properly and there are no malfunctions we can produce about 40,000 gallons of potable water a day,” Suggs stated. “We have the capability to remove salt from sea water and make it potable, only we can not produce anywhere near that number of gallons. We were lucky when we arrived that there was an existing well - we hooked up to. In about 24 hours we were pumping water” continued Suggs.

Daily Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services (PMCS) are done on all equipment to ensure a high state of combat readiness. “If all the filters and equipment are not functioning properly, bacteria may get into the water and that could make the Soldiers sick. It’s our job to make sure that does not happen” said Suggs. Cobra started out using about 7,000 gallons of water per day. Now with the additional soldiers the usage is about 13,000 gals. Soldiers on the “new” side of the FOB have a 7,000 gallon plastic water storage tank for showers.

Keeping an eye on the water quality of the ROWPU-600 (water purification unit) is eight year veteran Spc. Ricky Norwood from Roanoke Rapids, NC. Once every hour Spc. Norwood must test a water sample. “If there is too much chlorine we will add water to dilute it, not enough chlorine and bacteria may form” said Norwood. Norwood also tests the water for cleanliness. “Since we

started providing water to the Soldiers they have repeatedly told us, they can feel the difference in the water on their skin. The water used to be gray and cloudy now it is clear and clean” continued Norwood when asked about the water testing. Cooking, showering or brushing your teeth the soldiers should have no worries. It’s a morale booster knowing you have clean drinking water.

Along with testing Cobra’s drinking water, the water section also tests the contractors trucks that carry water on the FOB. “It’s all about giving the soldiers what they need” said Sgt. Jeffery A. Reason from Wilson, NC. “Our water is actually filtered more and the chlorine levels are better than some of the bottled water here” continued Reason.

Reason has been in the water treatment section for all of his fourteen years of military service. A veteran of Desert Shield, Desert Storm Reason knows the difficulties of the desert environment first hand. In his civilian job, Reason is a police officer in Scotland Neck, N.C. He plans on staying on the water treatment team in the N.C. National Guard for the rest of his career.

In the desert climate to sustain life you have to have a clean, portable source of water. Soldiers that know that they can stay hydrated have a combat edge over their enemy. The “Water Boyz” of Alpha Company, 230th FSB feel they can supply this critical element to the soldiers of FOB Cobra.



At FOB Cobra Spc. Ricky Norwood, A Company, 230th Forward Support Battalion, collects a sample from the Water Purification System for testing. Norwood plays a key role in the maintenance of the section equipment. (Photo by Maj. Chris Simpson, 382nd MPAD)



Sgt. Jeffery A. Reason, A Company, 230th Forward Support Battalion, conducts testing on the water purified by the ROWP-600 at FOB Cobra. (Photo by Cpl. Matthew Putney, 30th BCT PAO)



Water samples are collected by the “Water Boyz” daily for testing and monitoring of the Chlorine content. (Photo by Maj. Christopher Simpson, 382nd MPAD)



FOB Cobra obtains potable water from the ROWP-600, which is a trailer mounted water purification unit. The ROWP can produce 40,000 gallons of water per day. (Photo by Cpl Matthew Putney, 30th BCT PAO)

Night Patrol in Balad Ruz B Company 1/120th



From their vantage over watch position above the dismount patrol, Sgt. Napoleon Mills (right) and Pfc. Anthony Cattaneo, both with B Company, 1st Battalion, 120th Infantry, keep alert for anything out of the ordinary. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mike Welsh, 30th BCT PAO)



Pfc. Keshon Pitt, B Company, 1st Battalion, 120th Infantry, on a dismount night patrol in Balad Ruz, Iraq. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mike Welsh, 30th BCT PAO)



Local citizens outside their home in Ballad Ruz watch as Coalition Force Soldiers from B Company, 1st Battalion, 120th Infantry, pass by on a night patrol. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mike Welsh, 30th BCT PAO)



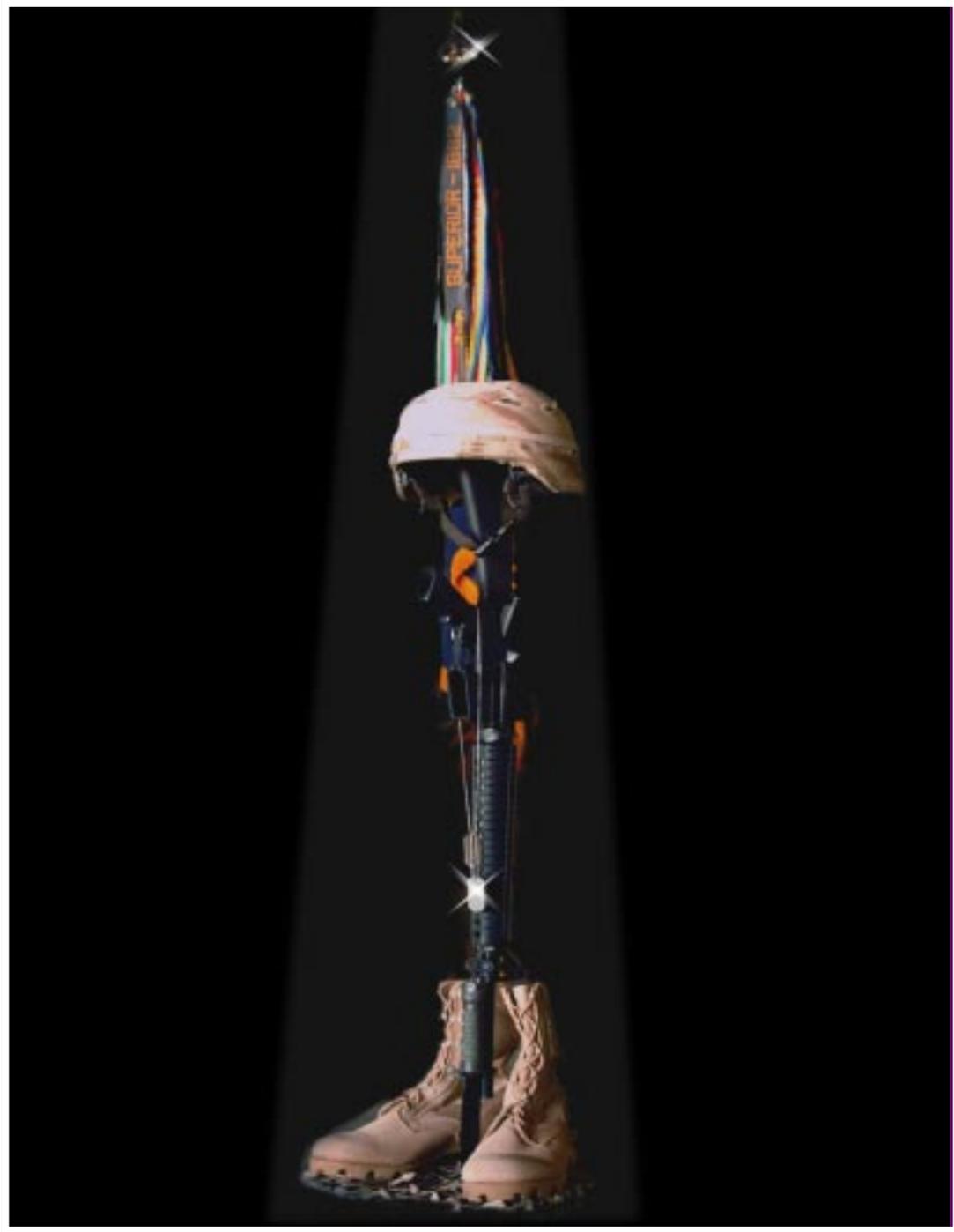
Sgt. Mark Miller, B Company, 1st Battalion, 120th Infantry, serves as the radio operator during a night time patrol in Ballad Ruz, Iraq. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mike Welsh, 30th BCT PAO)



ING Soldiers graduate from Combat Lifesaver

(Photo and information provided by TF 252)

FOB COBRA, Iraq - Task Force 252, Forward Operating Base Cobra completed their third Iraqi National Guard (ING) Combat Lifesaver course. The course was an intense four days of classes that focused on advance life saving skills. One of the graduates was quoted saying "This class taught me things that I will always use no matter what I do in the future". Soldiers from D Company (Jalula) and A Company (Khanaqin), 206th Battalion, completed the training July 22.



In memory of fallen heros
Capt. Christopher S. Cash
Spc. Daniel A. Desens
Killed In Action
24 June 2004, Baqubah, Iraq.

Roughrider - pizza night

Written By Master Sgt Mike Welsh,
30th BCT PAO

FOB Roughrider, Iraq - Under a pitch black sky in Iraq, the line of Soldiers extended well past the MKT (Mobile Kitchen Trailer) used by Task Force Mountaineer at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Roughrider. It was late Sunday night and the Soldiers lined up for what has become an anticipated ritual of homemade thick pan pizza.

"I make two pizzas' a night and that serves only about 36 Soldiers. Its first come first serve every night" said Sgt. First Class Henry Hutteman, Headquarters Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 150th Armor. Hutteman is a senior NCO in the Mess Section at FOB Roughrider and prepares and supervises the diet of all of the Soldiers living at this camp near the border with Iran.

Hutteman tries to prepare the day before as much as he can to make the high demand pizzas. This is not a very easy task given the fact that he just happens to be an extraordinary long distance from any grocery store chain and the field rations that he draws do not include pizza making kits.

"I try to save a little bit each day from the breakfast leftovers to make the pizzas. Things like the sausage, bacon, and cheese" stated Hutteman. "I use spaghetti sauce for the pizza and add some tomato sauce to it" added Hutteman.

On Sunday night during the evening meal, which just happened to be fried chicken, Hutteman moved through the dining area in search of packets of sugar that Soldiers were not going to use from their packet of plastic utensils. "I need the sugar for the pizza. I can get the flour but I don't have sugar" added Hutteman. Every food ingredient that the MKT needs has to be hauled by Logistic Supply convoys to the FOB. Overcoming the logistical limitations Hutteman has found a clever method to bring some pleasure to the Soldiers with his pizza night.

"I do this every night as a MWR event" stated Hutteman. MWR is the acronym for Morale Welfare Recreation on military bases and it includes activities from athletic gyms, recreation lounges, telephone centers, etc. When not on a mission or force protection duty, all of the Soldiers need some way to unwind or decompress.

Soldiers at this particular FOB receive a hot breakfast and a hot evening meal each day when in the camp. Their lunch is the notorious MRE (Meal-Ready-to-Eat). These austere conditions are ideal for creating a following of late night pizza fans.

"This taste great" stated Spc. Hermon Blount from B Company, 1st Battalion, 120th Infantry. "You got to get in line early if you want to get a slice" said Blount.

Blount and his fellow Soldiers eagerly sat down in the dining tent enjoying their single serving of thick pizza covered in cheese and meat toppings. Blount lives in Roanoke Rapids, NC and has been in Iraq since early March 2004. Prior to enjoying pizza night, Blount was on a mission under a relentless sizzling sun conducting a route recon and site visit at a radio transmission operation.

Hutteman has made it possible for these guys to come in and sit down in the dining tent while they enjoy the pizza. Frequently it is the simple task or perhaps the other small things done by good NCO's that contribute to the mission and comfort of Soldiers. In this case morale is lifted and combat readiness is constant.

Task Force Mountaineer Re-enlistments



Sgt. David Flanders (right side of photo) is administered the oath of re-enlistment while serving in Iraq by Chief Warrant Officer Richard Hylton. Both Soldiers are serving in Iraq with Headquarters Headquarters Company (HHC), 1st Battalion, 150th Armor (AR). (Photo by 1st Sgt Stephen Deweese, HHC 1-150th AR)



Staff Sgt. Darwin Shrewsberry, (right side of photo) is re-enlisted in the military by Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Vance. Both Soldiers are serving in Iraq with Headquarters Headquarters Company (HHC), 1st Battalion, 150th Armor (AR). (Photo by 1st Sgt. Deweese, HHC 1-150th AR)



Capt. Clifford Brackman (left) had the honor of re-enlisting Staff Sgt. Jerry Matthews in Iraq. Both Soldiers are serving in Iraq with Headquarters Headquarters Company (HHC), 1st Battalion, 150th Armor (AR), 30th Brigade Combat Team. (Photo by 1st Sgt. Deweese, HHC 1-150th AR)



Sgt First Class Henry Hutteman, Headquarters Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 150th Armor, takes a tray of homemade pizza out of the oven inside a Mobile Kitchen Trailer (MKT) at Forward Operating Base Roughrider in Iraq. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mike Welsh, 30th BCT PAO)