



BUGLE CALL

Iron Ranger



C/4-3 Air Defense Artillery
Masters Fixed Site Security



During deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom, C Battery, 4-3 Air Defense Artillery has been given the tough task of fixed site security on numerous occasions. Whether it is an oil pumping station, a dam, or an ammunition storage area, the Air Defenders are on the spot, with little complaining. The days sometimes get old and it is a challenge to keep soldiers vigilant over long periods of time in the same place. However, they understand the importance of keeping these critical sites out of the hands of the enemy. Currently soldiers at the Thar Thar dam have had the interesting challenge of working with the Iraqi guards and training them to protect the dam on their own, in order to allow the Air Defenders to move on to other missions. Since most of the Iraqis speak little English and the soldiers have a limited (but expanding!) Arabic vocabulary, explaining a Task, Condition, and Standard is a bit more difficult than it would be in the usual classroom setting. Nevertheless, through daily hands-on lessons, the guards learn about crowd control, vehicle searches, marksmanship, and other tasks that will help them secure the site. In return, the soldiers learn some basic Arabic, local customs, and where the best fishing spots are in the area.

When those soldiers leave the dam, the men they've trained will form a cadre that can pass on their knowledge to others and ensure the safety of that site. Other Air Defenders are guarding one of the many ammunition storage areas scattered throughout the country. Covering several square kilometers, the site has enough munitions for hundreds if not thousands of improvised explosive devices that could be used against Coalition Forces. The Air Defenders maintain a twenty-four hour guard around the perimeter to ensure that no one gets in without authorization. They have posted signs in both Arabic and English to warn off innocent passers by, and beyond them the soldiers are alert for more determined intruders. EOD teams are working to render the storage point harmless, but until that happens, the Air Defenders will ensure the safety of the potentially dangerous site. In conclusion, no matter where they are, no matter what the task, the soldiers of Charlie Battery, 4-3 Air Defense Artillery will stand to protect freedom and democracy against anyone who threatens it.



SPOT LIGHT ON MAINTENANCE



MIA1 engine replacement during field services

Following the recent capture of Saddam Hussein by Coalition Forces, the Bushmasters (B Co, 1-16 IN, 1BCT, 11D) took to the streets to locate a far greater threat, the weapons being used to kill Coalition Forces. The Company began its mission near Ar-Ramadi, with a detailed search along Highway 10, a major 4-lane highway connecting both Habbiniya and Ar-Ramadi to the Syrian Border. Once completing this initial phase of area sweeps, the Bushmasters began concentrating their searches along the other high-speed route, the Euphrates River. Beginning on 14 December 2003, the Company began its focus on the river banks with support from A Company, 1st Engineer Battalion. Through detailed searches and the assistance of some luck, the weapons began rolling in. 2nd Platoon, B Company, 1-16 IN, made the first of what would be numerous cache finds. "The ground looked odd, there was something just not right about the way the ground looked so we began using the metal detectors." reported SSG K, a dismounted infantry squad leader from 2/B/1-16. He was right, found under the ground and in the neighboring pump houses, in 4 different locations were hundreds of different types of munitions to include plastic explosives, rocket propelled grenades, and artillery shells, stockpiled by Former Regime Loyalists to be utilized by the insurgents. Once the cache was uncovered, the platoon received support from an Explosives Ordnance Disposal team to destroy the weapons and munitions on site. "The cache was simply too large to load and move, so it was smarter to destroy them in place." Stated 1LT L, platoon leader for 2/B/1-16. The following morning, 3rd Platoon, B Co, 1-16 IN, was launched for the same mission, expecting to find little in the aftermath of 2nd Platoons significant find. Fortunately, their expectations were wrong, for less than a mile from the first find they uncovered another large cache, rivaling the first in numbers of munitions.

After each successful mission, one thing is certain: we couldn't have done it without the dedicated help of our maintenance team. Often the unsung heroes of B/ 1-34 AR, the Bounty Hunter maintenance team

works tirelessly to keep our vehicles rolling. Although they are not always out on patrol with us, every soldier knows and appreciates the hard work provided by our maintenance team. Every day the Bounty Hunter maintenance team works.



SFC K pausing during construction of the CP

In addition to maintenance our mechanics help out the company in a variety of ways. One such example is SFC K, maintenance team chief for the Bounty Hunters. When the work demand dies down in the motorpool, there is never a shortage of things to do. Using his engineering skills, SFC K was key to building the company command post. He tailor-made shelves, workbenches and a map board for the company to track missions on. The new CP is a great addition to the Bounty Hunters. Without a doubt the maintenance team for the Bounty Hunters is one of our greatest assets. We're proud to have our mechanics with us, and we couldn't be as successful without them.

COYOTE CADRE POSE WITH THEIR ICDC PLATOON, AND CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

Charlie Company welcomes four new soldiers this week, SGT T comes to us from the 25th ID in Hawaii, PFC R comes to us from 2nd ID Korea and just completing Basic Training and AIT at Ft. Benning are PV2 S and PFC S. Sgt T will be joining Strike Fast as a Team Leader, PFC R joins the Wild Deuce as a Rifleman, and PFC S and PV2 S will be joining our First Platoon as Auto Riflemen. The first Civil Defense class graduated this week with Coyote picking up the 4th platoon of ICDC for sponsorship.



SFC M and SPC C arrived at Walter Reed hospital to begin their recovery process, the entire Coyote Company sends its best wishes and regards to the Families of both great soldiers and their presence here will be greatly missed. SGT R continues recovery and is expected to return back to duty sometime after Christmas. The company has put up a live Christmas tree donated by Cpt S family complete with a few lights and a few small ornaments; it is a small start to making home seem a little closer for the soldiers. All of our soldiers send their best wishes to all their loved ones back in the states hoping a very happy and safe Holiday Season. Soldiers continue to enjoy R&R leave and/or 4 days in Qatar. Rumors of leave being curtailed beginning January have hit with the outcome yet unknown. We will continue to push soldiers coming home to visit their families as often as possible.

Charlie Company enjoyed the Christmas holidays in Camp Junction City. Through generous donations by several sources, we were able to give gifts to almost every soldier assigned and attached to the company. Gifts ranged from envelopes and sundry items to DVD's, CD's and various games. The gift exchange was more an opportunity for the soldiers to get together and reflect on the passing year and their experiences over the past four months since they have left home for theater. The soldiers were definitely missing home, family, and loved ones, but through the camaraderie developed over the past four months, we were able to get through it all and give thanks for what we do have and enjoy what holiday we could make for ourselves here. We enjoyed various food items, candies, and a bit of eggnog along with watching the classic "A Christmas Story". Now we look forward to the College football games and pray for our favorite teams to win the big one.



We conducted various missions over the past week with much success. We have begun cracking down on the black market fuelers who are charging enormous prices for fuel, which continues to stifle the economy. We have had measured successes in this area and we expect to get better over time until the black market guys are no longer present

School, lunch, and for dessert, Sheik's Surprise!

The Crossbows have been up to a lot of different missions lately. In addition to the usual security, training and the constant convoying back and forth, Charlie Battery, 4-3 ADA has gotten to see a bit more of the local countryside and culture than many units have the opportunity to. Recently Captain L, Specialist R and others from the battalion participated in the opening of a local village school. There were the usual speeches, local dignitaries and pictures taken and the strangers in brown and tan provided a bit of entertainment for the students. After the ceremony, they traveled a short distance to the house of a local sheik for a celebratory luncheon. SPC R had to eat at the kid's table outdoors since there wasn't enough room inside for everyone. The soldiers got a chance to sample traditional Arabic cuisine, including roast lamb, curried chicken, pita bread, yogurt, and a few other dishes that remain unknown, but were eagerly eaten anyway. Most of the children and adolescents in the village clamored for anything that the soldiers might be willing to give up. English isn't common here in Iraq, but "Meester, candy? Chocolate?" and "MRE!" are well known. One of the kids played it cool though, hanging back and refusing to be part of the crowd that constantly tried to get some attention (and hopefully a present). His patience was rewarded when he was "adopted" by SPC R, picking up a handful of candy and some colored pencils to write and draw with. He had his picture taken with the Americans with a digital camera and on the next trip, got a printout of his photo. As they were eating, the sheik and Captain L spoke on a variety of topics, using an interpreter as neither spoke much of the other's language. When they were finished, the sheik said that he had one more thing for the battery commander. By the way, there was a big weapons cache just north of here! Heading back to Camp Junction City was out of the question now, and the convoy moved out under the sheik's direction. He pointed out a spot in the middle of the desert, seemingly no different from any other patch of sand. The soldiers started digging and soon unearthed more than fifty rocket-propelled grenades, hundreds of heavy machine gun rounds and more. Someone had been studying more than reading, writing and arithmetic around here.

Among all the excitement, Sergeant First Class K failed to latch his door properly on the way out. He was riding with SPC R, who knows how much performance he can get out of a well-tuned Humvee. As he pulled onto the highway, he saw movement out of the corner of his eye and heard an odd "thump-thump-thump" receding behind him. He glanced over his shoulder to see his (former) passenger picking himself up off the blacktop. SPC R shifted into reverse and pulled up beside the NCO, who had suffered nothing more than a slightly bruised ego. SFC K laughed it off and got back in, making sure to latch the door correctly this time. The rest of the trip back passed without further incident, much to the relief of the Humvee driver assigned to carry the entire cache in the back of his truck. The Crossbows had learned some valuable lessons. Working with the local authorities generates goodwill and friendship. Spending some time to learn about the concerns in the area can do even more. Finally, properly maintained and operated door latches are a very important part of vehicle operations in Iraq.



The month of December sends the warmest holiday wishes from the Scout Platoon of the 1st Battalion 16th Infantry Regiment. This month has proven once again that although the Army loves routine, order and discipline, the daily tasks needed to bring order and stability to the country of Iraq require constant flexibility and innovative thinking.

This month the Scouts have done everything from Quick Reaction Force, to Convoy Escorts, to Civil Affairs missions, to training the new recruits of the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps, and that's just to name a few. These missions all work together in the continuing effort to help drive the basic elements of a fledgling democracy on the road to economic and social recovery. Although the Scout Platoon plays a small role in the over all picture of Operation Iraqi Freedom, our role is still an essential part. Day after day we are given no notice and on call missions to go and assist the overall effort to find insurgents and develop the Iraqis, who will lead their country in the years to come. All this is complicated by the enormous organization that calls itself the United States Army. As the enemy and civilian situation changes and assets are reallocated the seemingly flawless plans that are created in the 3 shops must quickly be revamped to accommodate the new situation. This invariably causes much complaining among the soldiers executing the actions, as they must now change their concept of the operation. The Scout platoon reacts daily to help alleviate the strains inherent in an enemy that is continually adapting and hiding and an Army that is not only concerned with finding and destroying them, but also convincing an Iraqi population that we are here for their best interests and their eventual success as a nation.



Central National Bank Sponsor

Charlie Battery 4-3 ADA has received one of the best sponsors a unit could ask for. Central National Bank out of Junction City, Kansas adopted the battery soon after they deployed to Ar Ramadi. It began with an e-mail to First Sergeant F, alerting him that people back in the United States were keeping our troops in mind. A week later, packages started showing up. At first it was one or two a week, but soon three or four a day began arriving. Soldiers who were deployed far from any PX or Wal-mart were sent much-needed stationary for writing home in addition to CDs so that soldiers could record videos and send them back to their families. Numerous other items have been sent to the soldiers of the battery since. As we approached closer to Christmas, every soldier in the battery received some sort of gift from the bank in addition to a card. There were a few holdouts that insisted that Christmas gifts should be opened on Christmas day, but eventually curiosity overcame even the staunchest adherents of tradition. The videotapes of current shows such as "Survivor" and "ER" back in the States have been popular with the soldiers and a nightly movie has quickly become a ritual for members of the battery in Camp Junction City, aided by DVDs sent by bank employees. According to Specialist H of Charlie Battery, "It has been extremely motivating knowing that there are people back home thinking of our unit specifically". For a few individuals, the packages from the

bank have been the only ones they have received out here. The difference in their morale after finding out that someone else cares about them out here is immediate and noticeable. The bank continues to be extremely helpful and the soldiers of the battery are thankful for all of their efforts

Practice Makes Perfect

“The rehearsal is the most important part of the operation. You can have a great plan, but if it isn’t rehearsed-it is likely to fail”, says CPT H. Although it may seem laborious to most, the rehearsal ties several actions together that were planned separately. The rehearsal gives the commanders the ability to see the big picture on the battlefield. The rehearsal above was conducted in preparation for a two company cordon and search of the Tameen area, just south west of Camp Junction City. Recent IED attacks in that area sparked the operation. Intelligence believes that the anti-coalition forces conducting the attacks are residing in the area and were planning future attacks. This particular operation was postponed until more credible intelligence was gained. On 4 January, Coyote company received information on four suspects that reside in Tameen area. The Coyotes burst into action. The company quickly formed a plan, conducted a rehearsal, and prepared Soldiers and equipment for the mission. The mission, raid one house and detain four suspects. The company departed Camp Junction City with Special Forces leading the way. Special Forces Intelligence team marked the target location. 2nd Platoon led by 1LT M surrounded the target area, cordoning off the target.



TF 1-16 rehearsal for a two company cordon and search.

1st Platoon led by 1LT A quickly approached the target house, dismounted and stormed the house. The first house contained 6 males, 5 females, and 2 children. No contraband was found. After questioning, it was determined that the targets lived next door. 1LT A quickly assembled his men and stormed the second house. Inside were 4 males, 4 females, and 5 children. After clearing another 2 houses, it was later determined that the individuals had already fled the area days prior. “The mission was a success”, says CPT H. “We got in, we got out, no one was injured-it was a success even though the targets were not home.”