





By Spc. Jason Dangel, 4th BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

The 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, "Cobras," deployed in late November 2005 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and officially assumed responsibility of battle space in central and southern Baghdad from the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Jan. 14, 2006.

After a successful transition with the 3rd Inf. Div.'s "Vanguard" Brigade, the Cobra Brigade was ready for its first mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As the Ivy Division's newest brigade combat team, the Cobra Brigade, comprised of approximately 5,000 combat-ready Soldiers, was deployed to Forward Operating Base Prosperity in Baghdad's International Zone and operated in some of the most dangerous neighborhoods in Baghdad, to include Al-Doura, Al-Amerriyah, Abu T'schir, Al-Ademiyah and Gazaliyah.

Led by Col. Michael F. Beech and Command Sgt. Maj. John E. Moody, Jr., the Cobra Brigade, working closely with Iraqi Security Forces, was responsible for providing security for more than 3.5 million Iraqi citizens while simultaneously improving the city's infrastructure.

The Cobra Brigade brought six of its own battalions to the fight, and employed a host of units as well to include the 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division; the 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Division; and later the 1st Infantry Division's 1st Battalion, 14th Cavalry.

The brigade's subordinate combat battalions: the 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry; 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry; and 2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery; were located throughout the brigade's battle space as they completed a full spectrum

of operations with their ISF counterparts.

Cobra combat support and combat service support units, the 4th Special Troops Battalion and 704th Support Battalion were responsible for command and control for all the units of Task Force Cobra, while simultaneously providing logistical support for the brigade's Soldiers.

The 3rd Battalion, 67th Armor was attached to the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division and operated from FOB Rustamiyah, located in the northern portion of the Iraqi capital.

The Cobra Brigade oversaw the security of many key events to include the first session of the Iraqi Council of Representatives.

The Iraqi Council of Representatives, the parliament elected under the nation's new constitution, convened at the Parliament Center in central Baghdad where 275 representatives were sworn into Iraq's newly elected four-year government March 16, 2006.

This official swearing-in of the new Iraqi COR was a milestone not only for Iraq, but also for the region as the parliament was the first such democratically elected body in the Middle East.

During the Cobra Brigade's year-long tenure in the Iraqi Capitol, Iraqi citizens also witnessed the 5th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Division assume responsibility of security in central Baghdad.

The battle space changeover marked the unrelenting progress in the Iraqi Security Forces' capabilities in the city as they continued to fight to secure the country for the Iraqi people.

The 6th Iraqi Division became responsible for all the bat-

the space in Baghdad. The 5th Brigade's area of operations covered approximately 73 square kilometers of the city. More than 70-percent of Baghdad was under the control of the ISF when the Cobra Brigade redeployed to Fort Hood, Texas in November 2006, a remarkable achievement for a unit still considered "new" in the U.S. Army.

Working 24 hours-a-day and seven days-a-week, Cobra Soldiers and the ISF completed multiple large-scale operations to root out terrorists operating in the city limits.

Operations United Fist and Together Forward, among others, both resulted in capturing or killing terrorists, finding roadside bombs, and developing intelligence used to prevent

other terrorist attacks.

Operations Stallion Run, The Doura Clean-Up and numerous civic projects, helped rid the streets of garbage and showed the Iraqi citizens that their new government is working for the future.

The 4th BCT began deploying personnel to Camp Buehring, Kuwait, as its advance party left Fort Hood, Texas Nov. 29, 2005, marking the unit's first deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since activating on Dec. 16, 2004.

Upon redeployment to Fort Hood, the brigade will transition over into the 4th BCT, 1st Cavalry Division.



1st Battalion, 12th Infantry

Warriors

By 1st Lt. W. Kyle Simon, 1st Bn., 12th Inf.

The 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division has successfully completed its mission of securing Baghdad's International Zone since its arrival in theater at Forward Operating Base Prosperity. The battalion completed this mission while detaching its Company A and Company C, and receiving Company C, 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division.

With this task organization, the 1st Bn., 12th Inf. prevented and deterred the enemy's attempted ground penetration of the IZ, and supported the establishment and growth of the Iraqi Government, allowing its newly formed democracy to shape and govern its people.

The "Warrior" Battalion's main effort focused on securing the International Zone and controlling the daily traffic of nearly 10,000 people and 2,000 vehicles.

In achieving this mission, the battalion operated seven checkpoints in a joint mission with Iraqi Security Forces and coalition allies from Georgia, a nation formerly of the Soviet Republic.

On March 16, working in conjunction with coalition partners, the Warriors successfully secured the IZ for the inauguration and first seating of Iraq's newly democratically elected government.

All 275 members of the Iraqi Council of Representative safely entered the IZ without incident for this historic event.

The 1st Bn., 12th Inf.'s efforts went beyond the significant and highly pub-

licized efforts related to Iraq's national government. The battalion also devoted resources to developing local government institutions close to the people in order to help serve the constituency of central Baghdad.

Karkh and Karadah are two Baghdad Districts that border the International Zone, combined accounting for more than one million Iraqi citizens.

To ensure ISF success in Karadah, the battalion worked with the local District Advisory Council in a Security Committee initiative. In less than a year, this effort has proven a successful model of local citizens securing their own neighborhoods.

Their weekly meetings led to numerous operational successes, including the detention of several high value individuals and the discovery of a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device factory.

To augment the efforts of the ISF in providing security in both Karkh and Karadah, the battalion's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, already responsible for the battalion staff and the fielding of escorts for the brigade's Explosive Ordnance Disposal team, provided most of the personnel to field two Military Integration Training Teams, and support four others. These MiTTs are essential in training and coaching the new frontline defenders of Iraq.

In addition to supporting the ISF in these areas, the battalion also played a critical role in continuing to improve the lives of the Iraqis living in central Baghdad through numerous Civil Military Operations Projects.

The battalion maintained a strong Civil Affairs campaign in both Karkh

and Karadah through the deployment's duration.

These efforts led to many humanitarian assistance missions at area schools, hospitals and the most impoverished neighborhoods of central-Baghdad. The Civil Affairs representatives also worked with civil military operations to successfully coordinate completion of 350 projects, totaling approximately \$40 million, to improve local services and infrastructure projects.

The battalion's engineer company conducted another critical mission: route clearance for the 4th Brigade Combat Team's area of operations. Eskimo Company used specialized equipment to clear various important main supply routes throughout Baghdad, enabling freedom of movement for the "Cobra" Brigade.

As of mid-October, the company has cleared more than 10,900 miles of Baghdad roadway and found or detonated 71 IEDs. The heroic efforts of the engineer company provided safe main supply routes for Coalition Forces and Iraqis alike.

These successes have not been without cost. The Warrior Battalion has endured the loss of five of its Soldiers; 18 wounded over the course of the deployment. Staff Sgt. Lance Chase; Cpl. Peter Wagler; Staff Sgt. Christopher Schornak, Capt. James Funkhouser and 1st Lt. James Lyons will not be forgotten as 1st Bn., 12th Inf. strives to keep the IZ secure and uphold the democratic values the Iraqi people deserve. The Warriors will continue doing their part to ensure success as it completes its mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07.





Written by 4th STB Staff Section

The "Griffons," 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team is comprised of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Company A, a military intelligence company, and Company B, a signal company. The STB is also administratively responsible for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th BCT.

During late November 2005, 4th STB's advanced party deployed to Camp Buehring, Kuwait to establish a command and control node at the intermediate staging base in order to begin preparation to receive the main body.

In early December 2005, the battalion's main body deployed to Camp Buehring, Kuwait and began an intense training regiment to prepare for the rigors of combat in Iraq. Soldiers received classes on the current common tasks, counter-improvised explosive device measures, weapons systems and equipment familiarization, weapons qualification, and convoy operations.

Completing its training, the battalion began movement north to Iraq. Most Soldiers boarded U.S. Air Force C-130 Hercules Aircraft and journeyed to

Baghdad and the International Zone.

A small element of the battalion provided convoy security escorts for the common-user land transport assets, which carried the 4th BCT's armored vehicles and shipping containers. Crossing the berm into Iraq, the Soldiers stayed highly motivated and vigilant despite the concentration required for more than 200 miles of travel along some of the most attacked routes.

In January 2006, the STB conducted a relief in place with Basic Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. In less than one week, Co. A completed the change-over of operators, equipment, and leadership. Even while first integrating into the theater of operations, the "Prophets" contributed to the capture of their first High Value Individual. Co. A was responsible, directly or indirectly, for all intelligence, to include asset management, collection, analysis, targeting, and current operations in the 4th BCT Area of Responsibility.

Upon arriving at Forward Operating Base Prosperity, Co. B quickly

replaced 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div.'s communications, establishing a brigade network operations center, command post and JNN Platoon. Outside FOB Prosperity, 4th STB pushed Soldiers and Line of Sight assets to 2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery to support their network and task force from Forward Operating Base Union 3. On Forward Operating Base Falcon, 2nd Platoon established a communications site, providing data, voice and video teleconferencing to more than six battalion task forces, the brigade combined operation intelligence center and tens of smaller elements.

The platoon also synchronized brigade and multiple battalion task force communication packages in order to establish and develop a single FOB communications network.

In March, the 4th Brigade conducted Operation Vigilant Guard, securing the seating of the Iraqi government, as well as the trial of Saddam Hussein. Co. B was responsible for command network set up, providing voice, data and FM communications during the formation of the new government of Iraq. From the Iraqi Convention Center located in

the International Zone, the signal company linked the communications of Multinational Coalition Forces in order to ensure security forces were communicating during the seating of the Iraqi Parliament.

In whole, Company B connected 4th BCT command and control assets spread across seven FOBs, numerous other locations and nearly 400 square kilometers of some of the most difficult urban terrain.

The headquarters company was tasked with executing three of the battalion's primary tasks, operating the Division Holding Area Annex, manning the Infrastructure Coordination Element, and operating the Mayor's Cell on FOB Prosperity.

The Military Police Platoon conducted detainee operations without any incidents, and every month, the Soldiers received accolades from MND-B and Multi-National Corps-Iraq Inspector General Teams during unannounced inspections.

The ICE Team conducted essential service operations in support of the brigade, planning, coordinating and supervising more than \$150 million of infrastructure projects to assist the Iraqi people in south and central Baghdad. Their mentoring of district and neighborhood council members empowered local Iraqi leaders, helping them to develop the processes of organizing meetings; identifying areas to improve and planning and coordinating community projects.

The FOB Mayor's Cell worked tirelessly with civilian contractors to ensure all facilities and life support areas were renovated and operational, ensuring the quality of life for Soldiers on FOB Prosperity.

Other HHC platoons and sections, while not as high profile, were all essential to the smooth operation of the battalion and the brigade. The HHC STB Support Platoon Field Feeding Section managed and maintained the largest dining facility in the

International Zone, FOB Prosperity's King Cobra Café.

The Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Reconnaissance Platoon served as the core of the Griffon Commander and Command Sergeant Major's Physical Security Detachments.

The 4th Special Troops Battalion medical section assisted 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry in providing medical support for all Coalition Forces and Local Nationals stationed on or visiting FOB Prosperity. In addition to their work on FOB Prosperity participated in training at the local Combat Support Hospital Trauma Center.

The maintenance platoon provided outstanding service and support throughout the deployment. The platoon developed a quality control/quality assurance program ensuring vehicles and equipment remained combat ready.

Strong and True, the 4th STB Griffons accomplished everything asked of them and more.







3rd Battalion 67th Armor Hounds of Hell

1st Lt. Joshua Prentice

3rd Battalion, 67th Armored Regiment

The 3rd Battalion, 67th Armored Regiment, "Hounds of Hell," served exceptionally as the principle maneuver unit in eastern Baghdad from December 2005 to November 2006. The battalion conducted full-spectrum combat operations from its deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom until completion.

Led By Lt. Col. Mark Bertolini and Command Sgt. Edwin Rodriguez the Hounds officially took control on their new area of operations from 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division on January 7, 2006, when they attached in support of the 506th Regimental Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division at Forward Operating Base Rustamiah.

The Hounds' impact was not limited to Eastern Baghdad, as they committed combat power to the fight against Musab Al Zarqawi and Al Qaeda in Iraq, assisting multi-national special operations forces in the hunt for terrorists and foreign fighters during countless raids from Ramadi to Baghdad and the surrounding areas. The Hounds guaranteed security and confidence for Iraqi citizens through the election of the Council of Representative and the seating of a new multi-ethnic, coalition government.

The Hounds area of responsibility included a total population of four million Iraqi citizens in 100 square kilometers, more than 15 percent of the entire Iraqi population.

Company A occupied one of the battalion's main checkpoint responsibilities and continued its twenty-four hour patrols throughout the deployment. The Soldiers of "Ares" Company at the checkpoint, as well as the company's

unrelenting patrols in sector, affected the terrorists' ability to attack Iraqis and coalition forces at the intersection.

The "Berzerkers," Company B, occupied their new area of operations and began patrols, assuming responsibility for the largest area in the Hound battle space. The Berzerkers were responsible for an area with a population in excess of 1.5 million inhabitants.

At various points in the deployment, the Berzerkers' responsibility also increased to include the Shia slum of Sadr City and the land to the north, increasing their responsibility to include more than two million more Iraqis and a large swath of additional countryside. The Berzerkers conducted in excess of 1,800 patrols during their deployment, ranging from engagement with local leaders to countless cordon and knock operations to locate illegal weapons and high value terrorists.

The Soldiers of Company C, the "Comanches," would have a myriad of missions during its deployment, each with its own unique challenges. The Comanches were very successful during their tenure, finding countless improvised explosive devices before they detonated, and ensuring that no Coalition Forces were attacked while traveling through their checkpoint.

The Hounds' Company D patrolled a large area consisting of wealthy and impoverished neighborhoods. The "Dark Knights" patrolled from the neighborhoods of Al Amin and Mashtal in the south, to Fedaliyah and Kamaliyah in the north.

The Dark Knights were paired with the 6th Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 2nd National Police Division and set out daily combined operations with vigor. The Soldiers of Company D were instrumental in training their counterparts, and developed an exceptional

comradeship, resulting in a fruitful relationship that resulted in the capture of numerous weapons caches and terrorist groups.

Immediately after the arrival, the combat engineers of Company E set about the tedious yet vital task of route sanitization. This mission, while time-intensive and monotonous, proved vital as it denied the enemy the ability to emplace deadly IEDs along the battalion's routes. In fact, largely due to the "Easy Riders'" efforts, there were no catastrophic attacks on the battalion's most traveled area during the deployment.

The battalion's forward support, Company F, 704th Support Battalion, exceeded all expectations and supported the battalion with logistics and maintenance support. "Fox" conducted combat logistics patrols across all of central Iraq, driving more than 200,000 miles during their deployment in over 245 patrols. The patrols delivered more than 100,000 gallons of water and 210,000 gallons of fuel, as well as countless amounts of spare parts and other materiel. Fox also supported the engineers of the Easy Riders, moving more than 1,500 barriers during checkpoint construction.

The Hounds' also lead the way in civil military operations and projects amounting to over 1.5 million dollars spent to benefit the local population. In addition to its projects, the battalion supervised over 50 million dollars in United States Army Corps of Engineers projects.

The battalion would conclude its tour in Iraq with daily mechanized patrols inside Sadr City; developing intelligence and providing strategic-level effects felt throughout Iraq in political and terrorist circles.



*Written by Capt. Daniel Tower
8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment*

The 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment Headquarters assembled at Forward Operating Base Falcon, assuming control of its new area of responsibility in Baghdad and beginning its mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom Jan. 12, 2006.

Twenty-four hour operations began immediately after the unit arrived at FOB Falcon, and once the tactical operations center was set up, full-scale operations with digital tracking and surveillance equipment were at the disposal of the Squadron Commander, Lt. Col. Gian Gentile and Command Sgt. Maj. Rafael Rodriguez.

The 8th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Reg., "Rough Riders," part of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, immediately began patrolling and conducting counter-insurgency operations in West Rasheed, located in southwest Baghdad. In addition to the counter-insurgency operations, the squadron was assigned several key missions in this area.

Countering the Improvised Explosive

Device threat in the Rough Rider's battle space was a priority mission, as each troop played a vital role in operations against Anti-Iraqi Forces. Certain patrols were specifically tasked to be counter-IED patrols and locate these weapons before they were used on coalition forces. Numerous patrols encountered roadside bombs in place along high traffic areas, cordoned off the area, and called for Explosives Ordnance Disposal to control detonate the devices. Countless lives were preserved by these patrols discovering the IEDs before they were detonated.

From March 12 to June 13, 2006, the Squadron participated in Operation Scales of Justice, a tactical operation to deter and prevent sectarian violence after the Samarra mosque bombing. Cordon and searches, raids and patrols were increased to meet the huge wave of sectarian violence that broke out following the bombing. The Soldiers of 8th Sqdn., 10th Cav., were instrumental in disrupting enemy operations and preventing the unnecessary murder of innocent Iraqis.

Also increased insurgent activity in

the Rough Rider area of responsibility made it necessary to conduct full-scale operations in conjunction with Iraqi Security Forces in order to detain suspected insurgents and gain valuable information on enemy activity.

Over the course of combat operations in Iraq, the troops of 8th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Reg., changed battle space more than several times throughout the deployment.

Conducting an array of combat operations to include zone and area reconnaissance, security and combined patrols and raids of suspected Anti-Iraqi Forces targets, "Apache" Troop and "Bandit" Troop assumed responsibility for Al Furat, Jihad, Amel, Bayaa, Yarmouk, Shurta, Shueb, Rishalah and Ameriyah areas of Baghdad.

The troops also worked with the local government to develop a positive interaction between ISF and community leadership, while overseeing the completion of essential service projects throughout West Rasheed.

In June 2006, as the squadron moved to FOB Liberty, Apache assumed control of the neighborhood of Ameriyah.

A hot bed of insurgent and sectarian violence, Ameriyah became one of the focal points for the 4th Infantry Division's operations in Baghdad. The squadron conducted more than 1000 patrols and participated in Operation Together Forward, providing the main effort in cordon of the entire neighborhood, or muhalla.

The squadron supported the rebuilding of the neighborhood and the re-opening of the local businesses. In August 2006, 8th Sqdn., 10th Cav. conducted Operation Rough Rider Round-Up, supervising local contractors picking up trash and debris strewn throughout the muhalla. This not only helped clean up the garbage from the streets, but it also took away convenient places to emplace improvised explosive devices.

Bandit Troop conducted over 1100 combat patrols with multiple tasks and purposes in support of many higher echelon missions.

Attached to support the squadron, Battery A, 4th Battalion, 27th Field

Artillery, 1st Armored Division, conducted over 500 combat patrols with multiple tasks and purposes joining the squadron in support of many higher echelon missions to include Operations Scales of Justice, Operation Shifting Sands, Together Forward, Stallion Run, Vigilant Guard, United Fist, Cobra Guard, and Ferryman.

As part of the newly acquired battle space, Troop C was tasked with the manning of an observation post southeast of Baghdad International Airport. While assigned to occupy the post, Crazyhorse Troop performed this mission flawlessly as not even one attempt was ever made to down any aircraft within this sector. The troop also conducted over 35 cordons and knock searches to locate dangerous terrorists and suspected caches.

The Roughriders' Troop D assumed the responsibility of conducting re-fit and re-supply operations every four to five days. The logistical patrols delivered over 100,000 gallons of fuel. "Desperado" Troop maintained logisti-

cal and maintenance support 24 hours-a-day and seven days-a-week, while providing additional combat service support on combat logistical operations.

The 8th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Medical Platoon established a squadron aid station and assisted line troops, providing medics for operations, training and sick-call.

Not all of the squadron's responsibilities involved security operations as the Fire Effects Coordination section had oversight on more than 60 squadron, brigade, and United States Corps of Engineers projects in various local neighborhoods worth over \$32 million. The projects ranged from building playgrounds to coordinating sewage and trash disposal.

With the assistance of the FEC section, the Neighborhood Councils and District Councils in the area improved their ability to govern the local populace dramatically producing a sense of pride amongst the locals with respect to the future of Iraq.







2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment

Renegade

Written by 2nd Bn., 506th RCT Staff

The 2nd Infantry Battalion, 506th Regimental Combat Team distinguished itself in the conduct of military operations in the Republic of Iraq from November 14, 2005 through November 2006 by exceptionally meritorious service in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Assigned to one of the most hostile areas of Baghdad, the "Renegade" Brigade commanded by Lt. Col. Gregory Butts and Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Moss immediately went on the offensive by seizing the main enemy supply line into the Iraqi capitol from the southeast. By conducting more than 500 mounted and 200 dismounted patrols throughout the Al Boetha, Hor Ajab, Hamza Donum, and Arab Jabour regions, the Renegades were able to seize hundreds of enemy weapons, munitions caches, and military equipment as well as capture more than 300 insurgents. Currahee also participated in Operation Swordfish, a major Air Assault operation deep into enemy territory in Arab Jabour resulting in the capture of twenty-seven insurgents.

In Al Doura, the urban center of the insurgency in Baghdad, the Renegades were able to neutralize the enemy through their aggressiveness and persistence. By conducting over 6,500 patrols throughout the city, 2nd Bn., 506th Inf. Reg., pacified the area where there was once a daily high of twenty-one murders and greatly reduced the sectarian violence.

Working in conjunction with the 6th and 8th Brigades, 2nd Iraqi National

Police Division, the Battalion executed Operation Together Forward, a major operation to protect the local populace and reduce sectarian violence by establishing 19 key checkpoints around Al Doura and Abu T'schir and increasing combat patrols, thereby denying the enemy freedom of movement throughout the city.

Shortly thereafter, the Battalion extended its efforts with Operation Together Forward during which the Renegades isolated Al Dora and conducted an intensive search of over 5,100 houses and businesses in four days. The results of this operation on the city were far reaching as it created a secure environment for Iraqis while disrupting enemy activity.

The 2nd Bn., 506th Inf. Reg. worked closely with the 6th and 8th Brigades, 2nd Iraqi National Police Division throughout its tenure in Iraq. The battalion carried out an intensive and conclusive joint operations program which resulted in a highly proficient, integrated indigenous force. By conducting over 1,500 joint patrols and 75 operations, the Currahee Soldiers impressed their technical and tactical knowledge upon the Iraqi Soldiers, thereby enhancing the ability of the Iraqi National Police to successfully secure southeastern Baghdad and take the lead in counterinsurgency operations.

In addition to tenacious combat operations, the Currahee Soldiers carried out an extensive civic action program characterized by sincere compassion for the Iraqi people. In Al Doura, the Renegades transformed the dilapidated

market into a thriving center of commerce. The battalion also conducted two major area beautification projects along three major thoroughfares, removing dozens of truckloads of trash and repairing the fractured roads. Through its participation in civic institutions such as the Rasheed Security Council, Rasheed District Advisory Council, and the Abu T'schir, Al Hadar, Jaza'ir, Jazeera, and Massaffee Neighborhood Advisory Councils, the 2nd Bn., 506th Inf. Reg. leadership contributed conspicuously to the development and maintenance of a stable and viable nation by lending their advice and assistance to the Iraqi officials as they propagated the new government. The battalion's accomplishments in this area are reflected most vividly in the remarkable progress achieved within the social and cultural sphere of life among the Iraqi people.

The Renegade Battalion consistently displayed professional competency and the highest degree of dedication during combat operations and in their advisory efforts to the Iraqis. Through effective teamwork, an aggressive fighting spirit, and the many individual acts of bravery, the stalwart Soldiers of 2nd Bn., 506th Inf. Reg. demonstrated those qualities of valor and professionalism that are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect distinct credit upon them, the 506th Regimental Combat Team, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and the United States Army.

2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment

GATORS

*By Capt. Michael W. Cygan, Jr.
2nd Bn., 6th Inf., 1st Armored Div.*

The Soldiers of Task Force 2-6 experienced numerous successes over the past ten months while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07.

The 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry, "Gators," started its deployment as the Theater Reserve and closed out the challenging year controlling all of the 'West Rasheed' District in southwest Baghdad—an area more than 110 square kilometers and one million residents.

The Task Force planned and executed a variety of operations and is now prepared to shift focus to redeploying Soldiers and equipment bound for

Baumholder, Germany.

The Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team begin training, as a task force, during gunnery, at the Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany, and Task Force 2-6 officially came into being in mid-December 2005, when 2nd BCT task organized in mid-December 2005.

Lt. Col James Danna and Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Orosz, combat elements of the Task Force consisted of Batteries A and B, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery; Company B, 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment; Company B, 40th Engineer Battalion; and Company C and Headquarters and

Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry.

Upon arrival at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, the Soldiers of the Task Force embarked on an aggressive training plan and cycle in preparation for possible deployment and employment in Iraq. Commander's developed and executed numerous weapons ranges, Counter-Improvised Explosive Device Situational Training Exercise Lanes, and Military Operations on Urban Terrain Training. The less glamorous, but still important maintenance operations in the motorpool continued nearly 24 hours-a-day to keep the task force's combat power, M1A1 Abrams





Tanks and M2A2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles, prepared for combat operations.

During the four months in Kuwait, 2nd Bn., 6th Inf. overcame numerous challenges and emerged a better trained and ready combat force prepared for operations in Iraq. The Soldiers of 2nd Bn., 6th Inf., deployed to Baghdad and arrived at Forward Operating Base Falcon within 48 hours upon receipt of mission. The Soldiers conducted transfer of authority on March 20, and quickly adapted to their new mission with the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

The primary focus during the first 45 days was to aggressively patrol a main supply route ensuring coalition freedom of movement along the vital road leading into Baghdad. The Task Force also conducted Operation Stallion Run, clearing 17 kilometers of Baghdad's main highways, benefiting both coalition forces and the Iraqi populace by removing tons of debris scattered along

the routes.

In early May 2006, Task Force 2-6 increased its area of operations and began conducting framework operations in the Saydiah, Bayaa, and Radwanayah neighborhoods of Baghdad, and less than 30 days later, the 750 Soldiers of the Gator Battalion assumed even more responsibility, gaining additional control of the Risalah, Shurta, and A'amel districts of Baghdad.

The Task Force's Operation Relentless Hunt made a huge impact and progress towards reducing sectarian acts and protecting the Iraqi populace. During the three-day combined coalition and Iraqi operation in Risalah, Soldiers confiscated numerous weapons and explosives by conducting house-to-house searches. After searching the area, concrete barriers were emplaced to encircle the cleared area to prevent weapons being moved back into the area.

Soon after, the task force conducted

Operation Together Forward, the ongoing operation to secure Baghdad. Partnering with two Iraqi National Police Brigades, conducting joint patrols and operations with the National Police, the Soldiers of Task Force 2-6 made great strides during OTF. Everyday the Soldiers conducted joint patrols with the Iraqi National Police in efforts to build the Iraqi Soldiers' proficiency and foster confidence and trust with the Baghdad populace.

During seven months of combat operations in Baghdad the Soldiers of Task Force 2-6 conducted more than 3,500 patrols, with almost half of those combined with the Iraqi Security Forces. The Soldiers of Task Force 2-6 detained more than 150 individuals, many of which were high value targets responsible for planning and executing sectarian acts of violence and terrorizing innocent Iraqi civilians.

1st Battalion, 14th Cavalry

WARHORSE

Written by Capt. John Fluery, 1st Bn., 14th Cav. Reg.

The 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, "Warhorse," deployed in late June 2006 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and officially assumed responsibility of battle space in southern Baghdad from the 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry on August 11, 2006.

After a successful transition with the 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division "Renegades", the Warhorse Squadron was ready for its first mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As the newest addition to the 4th Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, "Cobras", the Warhorse Squadron, comprised of approximately 550 combat-ready Troopers led by Lt. Col. Jeffrey Peterson and Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Shover, was deployed to Forward Operating Base Falcon in south-central Baghdad, operating in some of the most notorious neighborhoods in Baghdad, to include Al-Doura, Abu T'schir, and Al Hadar.

The Warhorse Squadron brought three of its own troops to the fight; Headquarters and Headquarters Troop (Horsemen), A Troop (Apocalypse), C Troop (Crazyhorse), and employed a host of attachments; to include the C Company, 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, attached (Charlie Rock).

B Troop, 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry (Bronco) was attached to 2nd Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, and 3rd Squadron, 4 Cavalry Regiment all subordinate combat battalions to 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division. They conducted operations in Tal Afar, the Iraq-Syria border, and Mosul in northern Iraq. D Troop, 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry (Dragoon) was attached to Brigade Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division and conducted operations in Mosul.

The Squadron's Troops and Company conducted full spectrum operations partnered with their Iraqi Security Forces counterparts mainly in Abu T'schir and Al Hadar.



Apocalypse Troop, attached to 2nd Bn., 506th Inf. Reg., conducted operations in Al Doura for three months.

Led by Lt. Col. Jeffrey D. Peterson and Command Sgt. Maj. Brian C. Shover, the Warhorse Squadron, working closely with Iraqi Security Forces, was responsible for providing security for more than 85 thousand Iraqi citizens, while simultaneously improving the infrastructure in Abu T'schir and Al Hadar.

The Warhorse Squadron oversaw the security of many key events and worked with two Neighborhood Advisory Councils and one District Advisory Council.

Working 24 hours-a-day and seven days-a-week, Warhorse Soldiers and the ISF completed multiple large-scale operations to root out terrorists operating in the city limits. As part of Operation Together Forward II, the Warhorse Squadron assisted in capturing or killing terrorists, finding roadside bombs, and developing intelligence used to prevent other terrorist attacks.

The 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry began deploying person-

nel to Camp Buehring, Kuwait, as its advance party left Fort Lewis, Washington June 22, 2005, marking the unit's second deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As the Warhorse Soldiers arrived at Camp Buehring, the Troops began to prepare for the Squadron's eventual movement to Combat Out Post Rawah in Al Anbar Province. After receiving a change of mission and new task organization the Squadron prepared to movement to Baghdad and attachment to 4BCT, 4ID.

Each Warhorse Soldier was required to complete training, conduct preventive maintenance checks and services and perform pre-combat inspections before moving into the combat zone. Some of these requirements included Improvised Explosive Device awareness training as well as cultural awareness, weapons proficiency and crew-served gunnery ranges.

The Squadron is scheduled to redeploy in the summer of 2007 to FT Lewis, Washington.



2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Steel Warriors

Written by Capt. J.D. Lauramore

2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Reg.

In December of 2005 2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment deployed to the Central Command theater of operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07. The "Steel Warrior" Soldiers of the battalion trained for more than a year perfecting their field artillery mission as well as preparing for what would be their primary mission; security escort for the United States Embassy Baghdad, Regional Security Office.

To accomplish this mission, the battalion transformed themselves from a standard two firing battery, field artillery battalion configuration into a mechanized/light cavalry unit comprised of 17 platoons. These platoons were entrusted with the task of securing the movement of Department of State and senior military personnel throughout central Iraq in order to allow the government of Iraq to build capacity and assist the Iraqi people in establishing a stable, secure, and democratic Iraq.

Throughout the deployment, the Soldiers of the 2nd Bn., 77th FA distinguished themselves through acts of exceptional bravery, in connection with military operations against an armed hostile force and compassion for the people of the country where they were located.

The Battalion safely escorted personnel to over 150 different Iraqi Ministries, Department of Justice locations, regional and local government offices, and logistic

support areas, with no damage or injury to the personnel that they transported. Each mission required; from the Battalion tactical operations center tracking each platoon's movement and providing the most up-to-date intelligence estimates to the platoon leader and platoon sergeant planning their routes and executing their mission, the personnel of 2nd Bn., 77th FA worked non-stop to ensure the safe movement of their principles.

The battalion also served as the primary indirect fire counterstrike delivery asset for the 4th Brigade Combat Team, Multi-National Division-Baghdad. The hot gun platoons stood ever ready to deliver 155mm artillery rounds in support of the maneuver commander. The battalion rehearsed daily to maintain its proficiency and conducted more than 50 counter-mortar and area denial missions; never failing to fire due to maintenance or crew

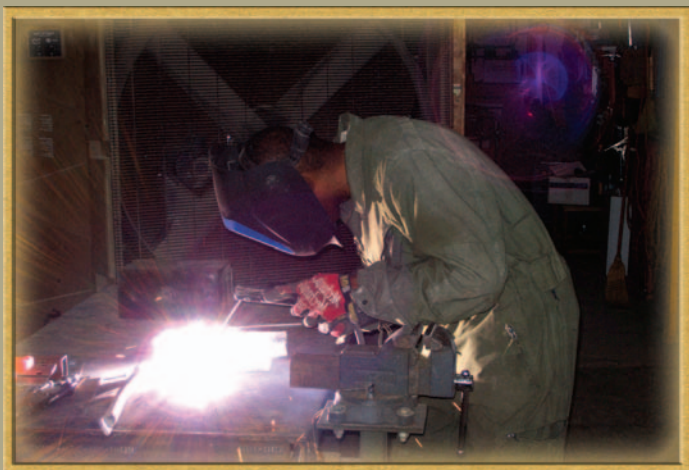
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These missions denied anti-Iraqi forces the freedom to fire mortars and rockets at coalition forces, and resulted in the death of an Al-Qaeda in Iraq insurgent group leader.

During the 12 months, the battalion was in Iraq, the Steel Warriors of the 2nd Bn., 77th Field Artillery provided an average of 10 combat patrols each day. They completed more than 3,000 combat escort missions, traveling more than 500,000 miles of some of the most dangerous roads in the world. They safely escorted more than 50,000 diplomats, contractors, Department of State personnel and senior military officers and Soldiers to their destinations throughout central Iraq.

These missions directly contributed to the Department of State and Coalition Forces ability to assist the Iraqi people in establishing a stable, secure and democratic Iraq.





704th Support Battalion Blacksmiths

*Written by Capt. Stephanie Huereca,
704th Spt. Bn.*

In early December 2005, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 704th Support Battalion led a nine-Soldier advance party to Forward Operating Base Falcon, Iraq.

Upon deploying, Soldiers from the battalion laid the foundation for the battalion's combat service support to the 4th Brigade Combat Team during Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07. Their efforts ensured the effective relief in place of the 703rd Forward Support Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, and the seamless inventory and transfer of over \$15 million worth of equipment prior to the transfer of authority.

The "Blacksmith" Battalion, led by Lt. Col. Victor Harmon and Command Sgt. Maj. Harry Lockamy, accomplished a myriad of missions maintaining life support activities for the Soldiers of the Cobra Brigade.

Headquarters Company managed and operated the FOB Falcon Dining Facility, preparing and serving an average of 6,400 meals daily for more than 4,500 Soldiers and civilians on FOB Falcon. The DFAC section also supported Soldiers working outside of FOB Falcon by preparing 1,000 meals daily for delivery to Soldiers embedded with Iraqi Security Forces.

The Base Operations Section was responsible for the Command and Control as well as all operations of the FOB Falcon Mayor's Cell. The section worked closely with Halliburton to facilitate 15 contracted life support services for over 4,500 FOB Falcon residents. The section also managed housing for all FOB Falcon tenants, maintaining keys and keeping records of residents for over 5,000 offices and living quarters on the base.

The operations center ensured that recovery assets and crew were on stand-by and ready to roll out within one hour of the recovery requests. The company's exceptional coordination effort

and quick response greatly assisted in the battalion's successful completion of 15 recovery missions.

Company A assumed control of the Supply Support Activity and over \$40 million worth of vehicle supply and repair parts.

The Petroleum and Water Platoon maintained 24-hour operations at the Fuel System Supply Point as well as conducted over 400 nightly Combat Logistics Patrols to the International Zone in order to re-supply the brigade's Forward Logistic. The platoon safely and efficiently distributed over eight million gallons of JP-8 and over 50,000 gallons of MOGAS during this deployment.

Co. A's Missile Maintenance Section was responsible for providing Direct Support maintenance support to the 4th BCT as well as six different FOBs throughout the Multi-National Division-Baghdad area. The missile sections tireless efforts during OIF 05-07 resulted in the completion of over 500 work orders.

Bravo Company established Field



Maintenance operations and was responsible for providing maintenance support to the 704th SB, the 4th BCT, as well as the non-standard mission of supporting 13 additional battalions. Bravo Company's Automotive Maintenance Section was responsible for providing field level maintenance and logistical support to 380 wheeled and tracked vehicles within the 704th SB and back-up maintenance support to three additional battalions located on FOB Falcon. The section also pushed Soldiers forward to FOB Prosperity in order to provide automotive maintenance support to the 704th SB Forward Logistics Element and Direct Support maintenance to 10 battalions outside of the 4th BCT located throughout the International Zone in Baghdad.

The many sections of Company B, contributed significantly to the success of the Blacksmith Battalion. The Communication & Electronics completed more than 2,500 work orders in support of the and the Armament Section was responsible for providing small-arms repair and electrical test

support for six of the 4th BCT battalions operating in Baghdad. The Ground Support Equipment Section was responsible for maintaining the Material Handling Equipment for the 4th BCT SSA.

The combat lifesavers for the Soldiers of the Cobra Brigade, Company C consists of four cohesive sections: Treatment, Evacuation, Headquarters and Brigade Medical Supply Office. The Treatment Platoon operated a Level II Troop Medical Facility; which provided Level II Combat Health Support, consisting of medical, dental, laboratory, radiology, physical therapy and mental health services to 4,000 4th Inf. Div. Soldiers as well as 500 civilian contractors assigned to Falcon. The medical staff used their knowledge and skills to diagnose, treat and evacuate patients to the next echelon of care in a proficient and expedient manner. The TMC provided the best Level II medical support in the brigade while treating 25 traumas and 4,000 patients with minor injuries, resulting in a return to duty

rate of 90 percent.

Working in the battalion Tactical Operations Center, the Evacuation Team enabled the timely dispatch of the air evacuation team to casualties on the battlefield and help the Treatment Platoon anticipate and prepare for treatment needed by casualties en route to the TMC.

The Brigade Medical Supply Office's Medical Supply and Medical Maintenance managed the brigade's medical supplies and equipment, ensuring 100% serviceability of all medical equipment.

As the central logistics hub for the brigade, the Support Operations Section forecasted, coordinated, directed and oversaw daily execution of logistics actions ensuring support to over 10,000 brigade FOB tenants and Multi-National Coalition Forces.

Fulfilling the support capabilities, functions and activities crucial for the successful completion of combat operations on the battlefield, the 704th Spt. Bn. served as the "lifeline" for the 4th BCT.



December 2005

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Army Staff Sgt. Lance M. Chase, 32, of Oklahoma City, Okla.; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas; died Jan. 23 of wounds sustained that day when an improvised explosive device detonated during patrol operations in Baghdad.



Army Pfc. Peter D. Wagler, 18, of Partridge, Kan.; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas; died Jan. 23 of wounds sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated during patrol operations in Baghdad.



Army Sgt. David L. Herrera, 26, of Oceanside, Calif.; assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky.; killed Jan. 28 when an improvised explosive device detonated during combat operations in Baghdad.



Army Pfc. Brian J. Schoff, 22, of Manchester, Tenn.; assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky.; killed Jan. 28 when an improvised explosive device detonated during combat operations in Baghdad.



Army Sgt. Charles E. Matheny IV, 23, of Stanwood, Wash.; assigned to the 704th Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas; killed Feb. 18 when an improvised explosive device detonated near his Humvee in Baghdad.



Army Staff Sgt. Christopher J. Schornak, 28, of Hoover, Ala.; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas; killed Feb. 26 when his dismounted patrol was engaged by enemy forces using small-arms fire.



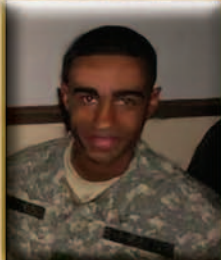
Army Spc. Antoine J. McKinzie, 25, of Indianapolis; assigned to the 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Division, Baumholder, Germany; killed March 21 when his Humvee came under enemy small-arms fire during combat operations in Baghdad.



Army Sgt. 1st Class Darrell P. Clay, 34, of Fayetteville, N.C.; assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Baumholder, Germany; killed April 1 when an improvised explosive device detonated while he was conducting a dismounted patrol in Baghdad.



Army Sgt. Israel Devora Garcia, 23, of Clint, Texas; assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Baumholder, Germany; killed April 1 when an improvised explosive device detonated while he was conducting a dismounted patrol in Baghdad.



Army Sgt. Jose Gomez, 23, of Corona, N.Y.; assigned to the 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry, 4th Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas; killed April 28 when an improvised explosive device detonated near his Humvee during combat operations in Baghdad.



Army Staff Sgt. Bryant A. Herlem, 37, of Killeen, Texas; assigned to the 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry, 4th Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas; killed April 28 when an improvised explosive device detonated near his Humvee during combat operations.



Army Spc. Brandon L. Teeters, 21, of Lafayette, La.; assigned to the 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, Fort Hood, Texas; died May 12 in Ludwigshafen, Germany, of injuries sustained April 20 when an improvised explosive device detonated during combat operations.



Army Spc. Robert E. Blair, 22, of Ocala, Fla.; assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry, 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, Baumholder, Germany; killed May 25 when an improvised explosive device detonated near his Humvee during combat operations in Baghdad.



Army Capt. Douglas A. Diczno, 30, of Plymouth, N.H.; assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry, 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, Baumholder, Germany; killed May 25 when an improvised explosive device detonated near his Humvee during combat operations in Baghdad.

VER FORGET

November 2006



Army Capt. James A. Funkhouser, 35, of Katy, Texas; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas; died May 29 of injuries sustained when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated near his patrol operations in Baghdad.



Army Cpl Ryan J. Buckley, 21, of Nokomis, Ill.; assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Ky.; died June 23 of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated during combat operations in Baghdad.



Army Staff Sgt. Kenneth I. Pugh, 39, of Houston Texas; assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas; died July 17 of injuries sustained when his M1A2 Abrams tank encountered enemy forces small arms fire in Baghdad.



Army Spc. Manuel J. Holguin, 21, of Woodlake, Calif.; assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, Baumholder, Germany; died July 15 of injuries sustained when his dismounted patrol encountered enemy small arms fire and an improvised explosive device.



Army Staff Sgt. Kenneth A. Jenkins, 25, of Fouke, Ark.; assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas; died Aug. 12 in Balad, Iraq, of injuries sustained when he came in contact with enemy forces using small arms fire.



Army Sgt. Jeremy E. King, 23, of Meridian, Idaho; assigned to the 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas; died Aug. 24 of injuries sustained by enemy forces using small arms fire during combat operations in Baghdad.



Army Spc. Joshua D. Jones, 24, of Pomeroy, Ohio; assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas; died Aug. 27 of injuries sustained when his Humvee came in contact with enemy forces using small arms fire.



Army 1LT James Lyon, 28, of Rochester, N.Y.; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas; killed Sept. 28 when his patrol encountered enemy small arms fire in Baghdad.



Army Spc. Windell J. Simmons, 20, of Hopkinsville, Ky.; assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 4th Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas; died Sept. 23 of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his Humvee during combat operations in Taji, Iraq.



Army Pfc. Michael K. Oremus, 21, of Highland, N.Y.; assigned to the 57th Military Police Company, 8th Military Police Brigade, Seoul, Korea; killed Oct. 2 after being shot by enemy forces in Baghdad.



Army Sgt. Joseph W. Perry, 23, of Alpine, Calif.; assigned to the 21st Military Police Company, 16th Military Police Brigade, XVIIIth Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, N.C.; killed Oct. 2 when his mounted patrol came in contact with enemy forces using small arms fire during combat operations.



Air Force Airman 1st Class Leebenard E. Chavis, 21, of Hampton, Va.; assigned to the 824th Security Forces Squadron, Moody Air Force Base, Ga.; killed Oct. 14 while performing duties as a turret gunner with the Iraqi police in the vicinity of Baghdad.



Army SSG Kevin Witte, 27, of Beardsley, Minn.; assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment; killed Oct. 20 when an improvised explosive device detonated near his combat reconnaissance patrol.



Army Maj. David G. Taylor, 37, of North Carolina; assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Baumholder, Germany; died Oct. 22 from injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle in Baghdad.



Cobra Strike!



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