

# THE GALLEY

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Bonds of Friendship	1
Terrorism in Baghdad	1-2
The Demanding Role	2
Patrolling the Tigris	3
Call to Duty	3
Pooling the Knowledge	4
The Commander's Corner	5

## BONDS BASED ON FRIENDSHIP

BY THE 615TH MP COMPANY

Over the past few months, the soldiers of the 615th Military Police Company have been working hand-in-hand with the Iraqi Police, forming close bonds and friendships, some of which will last a lifetime.

The continuous interaction between MPs and the Iraqi Police has opened up many avenues of dialogue and understanding. Passers-by are subject to ringside seats of heartfelt and inquisitive discussions about American and Iraqi culture, Iraq's history and the day-to-day dealings of its people. This interaction encourages and fosters the development of strong bonds. If you ask any 615th soldier, they will tell you, "This job demands that we work together."

At the Al Shulla Police Station, in Northwest Baghdad, there's an old Iraqi Police Warrant Officer who runs the day-to-day operations. The NCOs of the 615th affectionately call him "Sergeant Major" because there doesn't seem to be any problem he can't solve. Every time he walks into the office, the seasoned soldiers and NCOs are quick to snap to the position of parade rest. Without fail, one of them breaks and is unable to keep a straight face; the room erupts with laughter in only a camaraderie that is felt and understood among soldiers.

Every morning, he ushers out the night crew as their relief arrives, saying "Go, go!" in a thick Arabic accent. Picking up their bags and carrying them to the door, he greets each of the Iraqi Police and Military Police alike with a fatherly pat on the back so they'll move a little faster.

ters such as the "Sergeant Major" who make the work we do all the more enjoyable and rewarding. The same is true of the other Iraqi Police Stations throughout Baghdad.

The mission of the Military Police soldiers of the 615th is to train the Iraqi Police Force; a task they perform with diligence and the utmost professionalism. In return, they are becoming better acquainted with the diverse cultures that inhabit Baghdad. This part of the deployment offers a bond based on friendship that only a few others would ever have the chance to experience. It is a bond that the soldiers of the 615th will definitely not take for granted.

## Battalion Highlights:

- Air Conditioning is in the works.
- The Internet Café has just opened
- Jazz Concert by 1st Armored Division in September
- Rock Concert planned for September—1AD Rock Band to Headline
- See Calendar on Page 4 to keep up to date with the battalion's MWR events

At Al Shulla, there are dozens of colorful charac-



PFC Morgan conducts joint arms room operations at Al Shulla

## TERRORISM IN BAGHDAD

BY ILT MICHAEL HONG

It has been an eventful month for the family of the Strike Deep Company. As much of the world has learned, the Jordanian Embassy fell victim to yet another barbarous act of terrorism in Baghdad. What the world may not know is the direct role the Strike Deep Company played in the early

hours of the recovery. Upon notification of the incident, 527th Military Police squads, working in unison with the Iraqi Police were the first responders on the scene. The incident drew steady throngs of on-lookers, thrill seekers and mourners. The crowd became consumed in anger, grief and frustration;

chaos emerged from what was already a disaster. The 527th, recognizing the potential for further disaster, took action. Within minutes, the area was secured. Personnel other than emergency responders were relocated, order was restored and the once simmering emotions were quenched through

## TERRORISM IN BAGHDAD CONT...

*"This incident is a reminder of the past and the future"*

the show of solidarity between the Military Police and the Iraqi Police. In the wake of the disaster, a new confidence is emerging. Seeing the teamwork between MPs and the Iraqi Police, the citizens of Iraq are finding it easier to trust and believe in their developing Police Force and the men and women of the Military Police Corps. It may have never been as clear as it is now, our endeavors to rebuild this war torn and divided nation rest on the success of the Military Police and the rebirth of the Iraqi Police Force.

This incident is a "reminder of the past and the future," says SSG Pippen, refer-

ring to the events of the past embassy bombings. With time, dedication and renewed confidence in the people, the 527th Military Police Company will press forward and complete the mission of training the Iraqi Police. "STRIKE DEEP"

527th Military Police and the Iraqi Police respond to the Jordanian Embassy Bombing



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## THE DEMANDING ROLE

BY SFC STEPHEN M. OSHANA

The day is coming to an end and the 143d Military Police Company is winding down. The platoons are calling in their SITREPs (situation reports) for the day; it's an end of shift routine. Routine is a word that is rarely spoken here in the 143d. In the background, the radio squawks - a message from a Bandit element (3d Platoon) stating that their checkpoint is complete and that they are en-route to a car jacking in progress. It is about 2000 and the best part of the day is at hand...the mail run is arriving by the crate load. Soldiers begin gravitating towards the unit headquarters in anticipation of any news from home.

The days here consist of raids, sweating, patrols, sweating, cordon and searches, sweating, force protection, sweating, vehicle checkpoints, and when all else fails, there is ample opportunity to just sweat. Heat injuries, for the most part, have been minimal considering temperatures inside the vehicles exceed 140 degrees on a daily basis. What few injuries we have incurred have not been serious; a true testament to our company's leadership. The days here are long and tedious; the MP



### 143d Proving that Crime Doesn't Pay

team is often up before dawn and at times may not return until late into the night. Their mission is endless as is their dedication to duty.

Our supporting troops in Headquarters and Operations work diligently to quell the endless supply requests and administrative actions. The mission of supporting a combat support Military Police Company requires a tireless work ethic; their tasks include unit maintenance, food service, communications, supply and administrative actions. As a National Guard unit, we are blessed

with a diverse population of soldiers who bring with them skills learned from their civilian trades, such as carpenters, electricians, corrections officers and so forth. These invaluable skill sets often ease the process of adapting to a new environment. However, no unit would be complete without the guidance and direction provided by the Commander and First Sergeant. It has been said by many soldiers, "you couldn't pay me to do their jobs." Though as soldiers and leaders in our own right, we are trained and ready to step up and prove ourselves when the time is required.

The soldiers here that wear the MP brassard are the cream of the crop for the United States Army and the Connecticut National Guard. The 143d Military Police Company is second to none in their professionalism and dedication to duty, to each other and to the Iraqi communities. Our Military Police give new meaning to the acronym MP, to include multi-purpose for the demanding role we play here everyday. We are all proud to represent the United States and the State of Connecticut.

2007th MILITARY POLICE BATTALIONS  
The Galley

# PATROLLING THE TIGRIS

BY THE 135TH MP COMPANY

The 135th Military Police Company in Baghdad, Iraq is charged with expediting the restoration and training of the River Patrol. The mission is a difficult one; priority continues to be placed upon the more conventional police forces and precincts within the city; spending and budget constraints are grinding the recovery of the River Patrol to a halt. On 1 September, that will all change. Starting 1 September, the Iraqi Police will have company on the water- one platoon from the 135th Military Police Company will provide security at the station, conduct police specific training for the officers assigned and finally, initiate joint patrols along the Tigris River.

The River Patrol, under the guidance and supervision of the 135th MP Co, will become a vital part of the police force in Bagh-

dad. LTC Jamal is the officer in charge with 120 Iraqi Police currently assigned and working for him. The River Patrol is tasked with conducting patrols on the Tigris River, securing the bridge crossings, providing assistance to the local police stations when a report of a possible suspect is reported to be fleeing on the river, boarding boats along the river for registration validation and responding to crimes along the banks of the river. They have three certified scuba divers per shift who are trained for search and rescue and recovery operations. The scuba divers also aid in removing obstructions from underwater pipelines.

The river patrol is currently equipped with four 8-10 foot, 110 horsepower boats from the pre-war era. While only two of

them are up and running, arrangements and contracts have been established to continue to build the inventory. One of the major accomplishments to date is a contract through the U.S. Army for 12 new boats. There is also a plan for additional and better scuba gear, as well as the installation of Motorola nautical antennas that will allow them to communicate with all of the Baghdad police stations.

The dedication to duty, competence and self-healing enthusiasm towards the future that the officers of the River Patrol display is truly a testament to a promising future; it is no wonder that they are viewed as an emerging powerhouse in the Iraqi Police Force arsenal.



**Ships Ashore!**

# CALL TO DUTY

BY CPT JEFF SEARL

Providing a safe and secure environment for the Iraqi People continues to be the focus of the 709th Military Police Battalion. The soldiers of HHD strive to excel each day to meet this challenge and call to duty. Since arriving in Baghdad over three months ago, the soldiers of HHD have focused on arming our Military Police combat support companies with

the Battalion's vehicle fleet of over 300 vehicles; our transporters and logisticians have easily accumulated thousands of miles of road time; our supply soldiers provide and requisition uniforms, coolers for vehicles, food, sound systems for our theaters and a multitude of additional recreational and personal items; our maintenance technicians acquire the

family, true to one another, and growing stronger everyday through our dedication to God, Country, Mission and most important, each other. The accomplishments mentioned above are just a small portion of the missions that the soldiers of the Detachment complete daily.

The HHD machine continues to roll, and along the

*"Each gallon of fuel poured, each tire changed and every package delivered is a small building block in our ultimate success"*



the resources required to be successful. HHD currently supports seven companies and is responsible for the welfare, supply and administrative actions of over 1,000 soldiers. This mission is diverse and is readily apparent in the number and nature of missions that the soldiers are charged with completing everyday. On a daily basis, fuel handlers provide for



parts necessary to keep our vehicle fleet up to speed; our signal soldiers setup our internet café, distribute MWR phones and keep our invaluable communication system operational; our personnel and administrative soldiers deliver the much anticipated mail and coordinate MWR events to include the Jazz band and MP Anniversary Rock Concert. We are a



way, has made a difference in the lives of the soldiers of the Warrior Battalion and the Iraqi people. Each gallon of fuel poured, each tire changed and every package delivered is a small building block in our ultimate success. The hard work and determination of the soldiers in the detachment is a testament to the support and understanding they receive from our loved ones back in Germany.

**709th Military Police  
Battalion**

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**Warriors!**



## SEPTEMBER 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	Jazz Concert 10	11	12	13
14	15	16	Talent Show 17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	Rock Concert 25	MP Anniversary 26	27
28	29	30				

## POOLING THE KNOWLEDGE

BY PFC JEANNA SPAIN

The 4th Platoon of the 269th Military Police Company, from Murfreesboro, TN, is composed of a diverse group of citizen soldiers. They run the gamut from civilian police officers to students. Many have prior military service, but for most, this is their first deployment. The veteran soldiers try to aid the "first-timers" in adapting to the rigors of being in a new, and often hostile, environment. Pooling the knowledge gained from years in the active Army, Navy and Marines has helped everyone have a better understanding of what to expect.

The commander's intent states that "the 269th will conduct law and order and police intelligence operations in order to establish a stable and secure environment, setting conditions for a legitimate Baghdad police force." One of the mechanisms for accomplishing this is by training the Iraqi Police (IP) on fundamental policing tasks. Classes are taught by the MPs and cover subjects from traffic stops to paperwork procedures. All involved seem to gain from the training sessions.

Interaction with the IPs has also given many an unexpected glimpse into the Iraqi culture. In SPC John Compton's view, "The people here almost make up for the rough living conditions." SPC Compton and several others have been learning Arabic and exchanging views with the IPs. SGT Roy Birdwell takes the philosophical approach, "We are here, like it or not. It's what you make of it. If you concentrate on the negative aspects, it will all be bad." SGT Birdwell,



From Left to Right: Johnson, SGT Joe Noltes, SGT Trevor Satermaster,  
SPC Cory Murphy, SPC Brandon Sandrell, SPC Clayton Cates, SPC Jay

a prior service Navy man adds, "This is different than my last deployment, but having done this before makes it easier to be away from home." Not everyone, however, is quite as optimistic. SGT James Gilberto is focused on the task at hand, "I just want to get the job done so I can get home to my wife."

While these soldiers have different opinions, they all agree on one thing...it's the strength of the platoon as a whole, and the teamwork and camaraderie that has developed, that prepares them for anything.

Dear family members and loved ones of the soldiers assigned to the 709th Military Police Battalion,

As we approach our Six month deployed to Southwest Asia, I want you all to know what a tremendous job the soldiers are doing here in Iraq. Every day the military police men and women along with the great soldiers who support the battalion are making a difference in the lives of the Iraqi people. We are tasked with a great responsibility, to bring peace and stability to Baghdad - a city terrorized by decades of tyranny. Together, with the soldiers of V Corps and the 1st Armored Division, we are accomplishing that task. Our mission as a military police battalion also includes rebuilding, reorganizing and training the Iraqi Police Service. In a city of 5.7 million people, you can imagine how difficult this can be. However, because of the phenomenal performance of your husbands, wives, sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, friends and significant others, we are making great progress each and every day.

We live and work in a major metropolitan city, which is equal in size to Houston, Texas. In this city; however, electricity, water, sewage, trash removal and basic services are just beginning to work. The roads and bridges are intact but many of the buildings have been damaged by the looting that followed the collapse of Baghdad. Our soldiers are still living in austere conditions: limited shower facilities, few satellite phones, lack of air conditioning and limited access to e-mail. Yet, the soldiers remain committed to getting the job done. They are true professionals and you have every right to be proud of their hard work.

The military police work side by side with the Iraqi Police. The police stations throughout the city are manned by your loved ones. We conduct basic law enforcement functions in a city where previously police brutality was commonplace and the citizens of the city lived in fear. We continue to train the Iraqi Police in all facets of policing with a huge emphasis on treating people with dignity and respect. This does not come naturally to the Iraqi Police as they have spent the last 30 years running the city with an iron fist and not affording the citizens they were supposed to serve with basic rights. Today and every day, the citizens of Baghdad are seeing the benefits of our hard work. Police cars patrol the entire city and crime is being reduced. Children now play in neighborhood parks and along the streets without fear and families can walk through their community safely. The people in Baghdad are slowly beginning to trust the police who are now working to keep them safe from criminals.

Equally important to the work that the military police are doing throughout the city is the work that is being done behind the scenes. Our food service soldiers, mechanics, medics, communications specialists, clerks, personnel specialists and staff work hard everyday so that the military police can do their job. These support soldiers are truly the backbone of the battalion.

Every letter, package, hand drawn picture, photograph and note that you send boosts the morale of the soldiers. We look forward to hearing from you and understand that you, too, have a difficult task as you raise our children, pay the bills and keep the house in order. You truly are the unsung heroes of Operation Iraqi Freedom. There is no medal or certificate that could ever come close to showing you how much we appreciate your support.

The Rear Detachments and Family Readiness Groups of our units are doing a fantastic job and we appreciate all of your hard work. Our jobs are much easier knowing that professional soldiers are taking care of business back at home station and great groups of caring volunteers are taking care of all of our families.

You all need to know that your loved ones from the HHD, 709th MP Bn (Hanau, GE), 135th MP Co (OHARNG), 143d MP Co (CTARNG), 170th MP Co (Fort Lewis, WA), 210th MP Co (NCARNG), 269th MP Co (TNARNG), 527th MP Co (Giessen, GE), and 615th MP Co (Grafenwoehr, GE) miss you very much and can't wait to be in your arms again. You are all in our hearts and prayers.

May God bless each of you.

Sincerely,

John F. Garrity

Lieutenant Colonel, Military Police

Commanding

