



THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 7 OIF

26 JUNE 2003



DOWN RANGE NOTES:

The following units should have access to phones and email during the dates noted below:

- 1-35 AR: 30 June – 3 July
- 1-6 IN: 4 July – 7 July
- 4-27 FA: 8 – 11 July
- 1-6 IN: 12 – 15 July

Change of Command Time Line:

- A 1-35 AR: 1 July
- HHD 47th: 1 July
- 2nd BCT: 9 July
- 40th EN BN: 13 July
- 4-27 FA: 17 July
- Alpha - 12 June 03
- Charlie - 10 July 03
- Service - 10 July 03
- HHB - 14 Aug 03
- Bravo - TBD(~Dec 03)

All dates are tentative and can change without notice.

ANNIVERSARY:

July 3rd: 2 year anniversary of SPC Kenneth Reed and Shirin Caiola-Reed!!
 Chaplain and Mrs. Sorenson celebrate their 15th Anniversary on July 2

1-6 IN

CPT Joe and Sandy Ewers July 3rd.
 CPT Joe Ewers Birth Day – 16 July

2-6 IN:

SSG William "Billy" & Nicole Micklus for July 25th.
 Billy is in Bravo 2-6. Nicole Micklus's Birthday is July 9th
 SGM and Tina Olson – 21st Anniversary on 19 June
 SGM Brain Olson birthday – 9 July.

1-35 AR

Birthdays:

- SFC Cormier 25 June
- 1SG Wolborsky 27 June
- Jennifer English 22 July
- Diana Cormier 29 July
- Sonie Pryer 13 July
- Arsenio Rivera 6 July

- 2LT Corey Howard 18 July
- LT Roman Izzo 8 July
- Davion Alonzo 26 July
- Sarah McCullar 28 July
- MSG Laurence McCullar 17 July
- Crystal Butler 2 July
- CPT Brad Doboszenski 6 July
- Kara Songer 26 July
- Meghan Moss 30 July
- SFC Darren Woodland 18 July
- Tristen Brown 3 July

Anniversary:

- MSG Laurence & Yvette McCullar 7 July
- 2LT Ben & Genevieve McGrann 14 July
- MSG Wilmer & Jeannette Morales 29 July
- Major Alan & Jody Jans 26 July

Baumholder Events:

July 4, 2003

Get ready! Baumholder will be celebrating July 4th with the American Pride Celebration. The day will be full of food, games, sports, live entertainment and of course FIREWORKS! The fun begins at 11 am and will be held on Minnick Field, so mark your calendars!

LIVE FREE CONCERT

On July 30, Baumholder MWR will host Amy-Jayne McCabe LIVE in concert! This is a free concert so come out and enjoy the show! Watch for more details to come!

HEADSTART IS BACK

CLASS START DATES:

- 8-11 JULY 2003 (Monday Holiday)
- 14-17 JULY 2003
- 21-24 JULY 2003
- 28-31 JULY 2003

WHERE: EDUCATION CENTER

WHEN: MONDAY-WEDNESDAY

TIME: 0900-1700

THURSDAY 0800-1700 (TRIER TRIP)

NOTE FOR MILITARY AND CIVILIANS PERSONNEL:

- MUST REGISTER FOR CLASS BY CALLING DANNA STONE AT 485-7574 BY TUESDAY THE WEEK PRIOR



1-35 AR:

1-35 AR held a Battalion Wide FRG BBQ/Picnic on 21 June. Here are some pictures of the good time that they had.



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1-35 AR:

This edition of the "Conqueror Courier" finds the men and woman of Task Force 1-35 in considerably more posh accommodations than was the case for the previous installment. As you might have heard, we have set up camp in the heart of Baghdad. Fortunately for us, a good deal of prime real estate has come up on the market due to the untimely demise of the former owners. Their loss is our gain. The end result is your loved ones have left behind the dusty tents of Camp New Jersey for the lavish palaces of Baghdad. The road march up to Baghdad was a long one. Task Force 1-35—consisting of HHC and C Company 1-35, C





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Company 1-6, A Company 2-6, and C Company 40th Engineers—was the last maneuver unit in the Brigade to leave Kuwait. While the tracks were transported to Baghdad, the wheeled vehicles endured a 42 hour road trip. We had one vehicle roll over and PFC Gadd sustained some minor injuries. A credit to his intestinal fortitude, he has recovered fully and returned to duty. Although it took nearly two days to make it to Baghdad, the long journey was well worth the change in scenery. We traded the barren landscape of Kuwait for the impressive, and far greener scenery of downtown Baghdad. When we arrived in Baghdad, we linked up with Task Force 4-64 of the Third Infantry Division and began the RIP (Relief in Place) process. Initially, we were briefed on what was going on in the sector. In the second phase, we rode along with and observed them during their operations. During the third and final part, we took over, but they rode along with us to give pointers and help to ease our transition. The entire change over took place over about two weeks, and we have been flying solo ever since. For the past few weeks, we have been running checkpoints, going out on presence patrols, and working with local nationals to help stabilize the economy and the government.

However, it wasn't until June 10 that 3 ID left Baghdad, allowing us to move into the nice rooms and buildings that they had occupied immediately following the war. Some of the more well known locations are a Republican Guard Headquarters, one of Saddam's palaces, and the infamous "Uday's Love Palace." Some of the buildings that we inherited from 3 ID are air-conditioned and have outlets for refrigerators and other appliances. We have local nationals working every day to fix the buildings in which we are living (many of these structures fell victim during the war to looting and the precision

munitions of the US Air Force), and the standard of living is improving daily.

Federal Holidays and USAREUR Training Holidays

04 JUL 03-**FRIDAY**-INDEPENDENCE DAY
07 JUL 03-**MONDAY**-SUPPORTS INDEPENDENCE DAY FOUR DAY WEEKEND

08 AUG 03-**FRIDAY**-PROVIDES A THREE DAY WEEKEND

29 AUG 03-**FRIDAY**-SUPPORTS LABOR DAY FOUR DAY WEEKEND
01 SEP 03-**MONDAY**-LABOR DAY
10 OCT 03-**FRIDAY**-SUPPORTS COLUMBUS DAY FOUR DAY WEEKEND
13 OCT 03-**MONDAY**-COLUMBUS DAY

10 NOV 03-**MONDAY**-SUPPORTS VETERAN'S DAY FOUR DAY WEEKEND
11 NOV 03-**TUESDAY**-VETERAN'S DAY

27 NOV 03-**THURSDAY**-THANKSGIVING DAY
28 NOV 03-**FRIDAY**-SUPPORTS THANKSGIVING FOUR DAY WEEKEND

24 DEC 03-**WEDNESDAY**-SUPPORTS CHRISTMAS DAY HOLIDAY
25 DEC 03-**THURSDAY**-CHRISTMAS DAY

31 DEC 03-**WEDNESDAY**-SUPPORTS NEW YEAR'S DAY HOLIDAY
01 JAN 04-**THURSDAY**-NEW YEAR'S DAY

German Holidays

15 AUG 04-**FRIDAY**-ASSUMPTION DAY (MARIA HIMMELFAHRT) (OBSERVED IN BAVARIA AND SAARLAND)

03 OCT 03-**FRIDAY**-DAY OF GERMAN UNITY (TAG DER DEUTSCHEN EINHEIT)

31 OCT 03-**FRIDAY**-REFORMATION DAY (REFORMATIONSTAG) (OBSERVED ONLY IN BRANDENBURG, MECKLENBURG-





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VORPOMMERN, SAXONY, SACHSEN-ANHALT AND THURINGIA).

01 NOV 03-**SATURDAY**-ALL SAINT'S DAY (ALLERHEILIGEN) (OBSERVED ONLY IN BAVARIA, SAARLAND, BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG, NORDRHEINWESTFALEN, RHEINLAND-PFALZ).

19 NOV 03-**WEDNESDAY**-REPENTANCE DAY (BUSS- UND BETTAG) (OBSERVED ONLY IN SAXONY)

25-26 DEC 03-**THURSDAY-FRIDAY**-CHRISTMAS DAYS (WEIHNACHTEN)

01 JAN 04-**THURSDAY**-NEW YEAR'S DAY (NEUJAHRSTAG)

The following are the closures dates for the month of July:

ACS – 4 – 7 July

Dental Clinic – 4 – 7 July and 11 July

Health Clinic 4 – 7 July

Health Clinic 11 July (Appointments Limited)

Health Clinic 25 July Organization Day (Critical Care Only)

Pharmacy 4 – 7 July

Pharmacy 11 July (Change of Command)

Pharmacy 25 July (Organizational Day)

Post Office (CMR) 4 – 7 July

Post Officer (APO) 4 – July

Ed Center 4 – 7 July

Finance 3 – 7 July

Task Force 1-35 forms line in sand to protect soldiers serving in Iraq

Story and photo by Spc. Christopher Stanis, 1st Armored Division Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq – There is a thin line between the soldiers in Baghdad's city center and the vagrants who want to harm them, but crossing that line is like passing through a brick wall.

That line is the soldiers of A Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment.

Assigned to Task Force 1-35 for this deployment, the soldiers guard the front gate of the coalition compound in the heart of the Iraqi capital.

Everybody has a mission and this is just one of the many for A Company, said Cpl. Jonathan Gibson, a team leader with the company's 2nd Platoon.



A soldier pulls security at the front gate of the coalition forces compound in the city center of Baghdad, Iraq.

Each platoon works 48 hours – in a 12-on-12-off format – on the gate, then moves to one of the other missions, which could be patrols or guarding checkpoints.

While on the main gate, they thoroughly search non-military vehicles and local nationals entering the compound, checking for proper identification, which the locals obtain from their employers on the compound.

"If the employer is legitimate," Gibson said, "they'll have the proper means to get their workers passes."





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In addition to filtering who enters the compound, the guards must also keep the flow of traffic moving past the gate, especially when it is a mob protesting the presence of the United States in Iraq.

They hold up signs saying "America go home" and "No George Bush," Gibson said.

"They felt that us being here, we are an occupying force and we're not going to give them the chance to have their own government," the La Porte, Texas, native added. "There's a lot of confusion on that part."

Though Gibson doesn't feel very threatened during demonstrations, he said his team can't let their guard down.

"That's when they like to hit," he added, "when we're all unfocused."

Gibson said a big asset at the gate has been the translators.

These guys are working out really well," he said. "They understand us and ... they know we're trying to help these people"

Like many of the other soldiers in his unit, Gibson has only been able to correspond with his wife through letters, but if he got the chance, he wouldn't tell her what he's doing here.

"I'd tell her the basic stuff," he said. "But, I don't think she'd like to hear the dangerous stuff ... it would just make her worry more."

All in all, everyone understands that there is a job to do, and as a team they stay focused on it.

"We keep each other alert by word of mouth – 'Hey, watch for hands. Watch for this guy over here. What's that guy with the bag doing over there?'" Gibson said. "There's a lot of cross talk amongst this platoon, and it keeps us wide awake."

Story on USAREUR Web Site at :

http://www.hqusareur.army.mil/htmlinks/Press_Releases/2003/Jun2003/23Jun2003-01.htm

1-6 IN:

1-6 IN Bn Picnic on Saturday, July 19th, from 12-3pm at the Rheinlander Park. All families in the battalion are welcome and are asked to bring a side dish, salad or dessert.

40th ENG

Dear Friends and Family,

The battalion is working hard to repair the Zawra Zoo in Baghdad. We have arranged to repair two of the power substations at the zoo. We have brought in many contractors to repair windows, security fences, security lighting, air conditioning, and rest rooms in the zoo and the park. We are also trying to repair several pump stations in and around the zoo. We also have several engineer bridge boats working to support our search operations. On a side note, three Task Force Commanders changed command today, they were TF 1-35, 1-6 IN, and 2-6 IN.

A Co completed their Task Force Neighborhood project. They built a soccer field. TF Neighborhood is a task-organized group of Army Engineers that executes one-day projects to improve Baghdad. They are capable of making most repairs. They can fix electricity, roads, doors, windows and





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even plumbing. The Assassins have also broken ground on a project to improve the Baghdad University front gate. During Cordon and Search Operations with 1-6 IN, the company found several grenades and weapons.

B Co has been focused on the Zoo clean up. They have been supervising and participating in cleanup with Iraqi laborers. During the clean up, the Bulldogs found 41 fused mortar rounds, destroyed equipment, and cluster bomb submunitions. So far the company has probably removed about 30 tons of debris, including 16 artillery pieces, 1 destroyed helicopter, and 8 trucks. The company also provided a SEE to the CIA to uncover a possible buried weapons cache, but they found nothing.

Charlie Company has been focused on operating and improving three checkpoints that they are now responsible for. They are also responsible for removing destroyed Iraqi equipment and abandoned vehicles. They have reconnoitered three bridges in the last four days. In the last few days, we got a report of a bomb in C Co's sector. We told the company to check it out before we sent out the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team. A thorough engineer recon by Rock informed us that the bomb was in fact a frying pan.

HHC has been supporting all the other companies by moving barriers, picking up barrier material, and preparing projects for Task Force Neighborhood. The company helped to repair a school and build a playground in their area of operations. During a guard shift, some HHC soldiers reported hearing shots fired near them. They returned fire at the suspected source of the shooting and broke contact. No one

was injured. A patrol was sent out to investigate, but it turned up nothing.

As for the Engineer Recon Teams and the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team, They have had plenty of work to do, but the biggest discovery was the "bomb factory." We received a report of 20 lbs of black powder, switches, TNT, etc. So we sent out the EOD Team and the ERT to check it out. When they arrived on site, they found all sorts of stuff that could be used to build bombs. It was a pretty neat find.

I have another featured soldier for you. SPC Bryan Bradbury, from HHC, says "Hi Honey. I love you. Kiss the kids for me." I have a picture of him sitting down near Bulldog's TOC. The picture is from a week ago, when a loaded mortar vehicle (not from our Brigade) caught fire and exploded. Everyone is watching the smoke from a distance...except SPC Bradbury.



2-6 IN:

B Co. RAIDS SUSPECTED BA'ATH HOUSES

This week Bravo Company went to nearly a half-dozen houses to arrest suspected Ba'ath loyalists. In the middle of the night, an informant pointed out men he knew to be plotting against U.S. forces and our efforts to bring peace to the people of Iraq. The mission yielded three suspects, no injuries, and was conducted in a calm, collected manner from start to finish. The raid kicked off with an Operations Order (OPORD) as usual; a recon having already been conducted, the CO, PLs, and senior NCOs used a large mapboard to point out where vehicles and troops would be positioned. Last minute questions were answered and the leaders broke to see to their soldiers. During the OpOrd, platoon sergeants and other NCOs saw to it the vehicles were staged and ready to go. Soldiers had checked their weapons, tended to last-minute personal affairs, and were waiting for the call to "load up!" before the senior company leadership stepped outside.

The ride to the objective was short. Arriving in Bradleys, a 5-ton truck, and multiple humvees, Bravo Co. quickly dismounted and moved to seal off blocks of the neighborhood. 30-ton Bradleys were positioned to halt all vehicle traffic into and out of the target area, though at 0030hrs there was virtually none to worry about. Fire teams dismounted and placed themselves at every corner to watch doors, rooftops, and alleyways. A civil affairs team with a fluent linguist walked briskly about the sealed area telling bleary-eyed on-lookers to go back indoors for safety's sake. Squads of soldiers then stacked against the walls of houses and waited for the informant to point out target houses.

With the block's every nook and cranny observed via powerful spotlights or night-vision goggles, key leaders with interpreters approached the designated houses. After knocking on a suspect's door, they waited for a response and told the suspect he was surrounded and should surrender peacefully to U.S. authorities. The suspect was asked to bring his family outside while a squad of soldiers searched the houses for weapons, large amounts of cash, military uniforms and other evidence that might indicate Ba'ath Party affiliation. The soldiers searching the

houses were professional and thorough. Searchers took care not to damage families' personal affects and they brought evidence to one collection point where it could be photographed and later labeled. The cordiality was returned; one family even brought water to our interpreters while soldiers detained the husband. It would have been hard to ask for better results: the raid was quiet, brisk, and the suspects offered no resistance. The soldiers of Bravo Company were alert and at the top of their game, all the while staying professional and cool as cucumbers.



It is no coincidence that all three detainees gave their birthdays as 1 July. In July 1968, the Ba'ath party killed the Iraqi royal family and assumed control of the government ; today, men show their allegiance to Saddam and the Ba'ath Party by claiming the Ba'ath Party Revolution date as the day the day of their birth.

Blackjack Gets Ready to Patrol in Sector

Early this week, SFC Jackson of C Co., 2pl and his assistant instructor, SSG Hunter, related their patrolling experiences to 2nd platoon of B 1-35. Together, the two NCOs gave the tankers some important advice to help them prepare for running dismounted patrols. The Blackjacks listened to a block of instruction, a few personal accounts, and then conducted their own hands-on training.

Blackjack Co. first covered basic patrolling techniques –formations, drop-off/ load-up points,



[LEFT] SPC Eric Daulba stands in front of one of the missiles. Destroying the warheads is easy but the rocket fuel leaves toxic waste if it is not burned off properly. [RIGHT] PFC John Jakusz and PFC Brad Gillespie sleep much better now that they have mosquito nets.



GATOR MECHANICS KEEP THE BATTALION ON TRACK

Task Force Gator has had many successful missions since it came to the Middle East, but the soldiers haven't been walking to get to where they need to go. For every vehicle carrying soldiers to an objective, there is a team of dedicated mechanics who will work at any hour of the day to make sure the Task Force is ready to roll.

The Task Force's mechanics are all a part of HHC but some are tasked to work with specific companies. Gator mechanics fix or replace engines, transmissions, fuel lines, and other vehicles parts to keep the companies operational. The men perform operations as simple as changing radiator hoses to removing an entire engine block. Most of the work is done in the morning and evening times; when there is light enough to work easily and it is cool enough to work efficiently.

It's easy to spot a mechanic when he is wearing his overalls. The mechanics were all issued OD Green coveralls before leaving Germany to keep their normal desert camouflage uniform from being destroyed. A spill of brake fluid, or even transmission fluid, will quickly break down the fibers of the DCU fabric (not to mention the effects chemicals might have on your skin.) Much to their benefit, the mechanics were most recently issued a lighter weight tan coverall set that is much cooler and breathes easier than the heavy coveralls made for German weather. Though some mechanics still change into the greens to do particularly dirty work, having the tans for daily wear is nice.

Charlie Co. set the greatest example of what the TF's mechanics can do during their 600+ mile drive to Baghdad. Through feats that sometimes bordered on miracles, the C Co. mechanics were able to get 100% of the company's Bradleys to Baghdad under their own power. The C Co. mechanics ratcheted, welded, bolted, and rigged whatever it took to get the job done. With their re-supply system working about as well as their mail system, the mechanics had to use every ounce of their ingenuity to make up for lack of tools and parts.

So far, the Task Force has had good luck with its vehicles. Tracks and trucks alike have fared well. Though there are far more wheeled vehicles than there are tracks in the Task Force, most of the M113s have fared well up to now. Bradleys can usually be fixed by members of the companies relieving the HHC track mechanics of having to bother with them. The trucks --save one humvee that burned to the ground while a fuel line was being repaired-- have had very few problems as well. Humvees and 5-tons have been kept up and running proving themselves to be reliable after harsh use.

Thank you mechanics for keeping the Task Force on track!



Without the Bravo Co. mechanics, vehicles wouldn't run past the front gate, let alone get all the way to a raid objective.





PFC Pena, SPC Nesbitt, SPC McKinnon, and SPC Callahan are all mechanics for Charlie Company.



These track mechanics have had good luck up to now. The M113s have been running well; breakdowns are largely amongst the wheeled humvees.

CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY BRINGS IN NEW TASK FORCE COMMANDER

The 2-6 INF BN and Task Force Gator has a lot to thank LTC James Boisselle for. After two years of service to the Gator Battalion he is moving on to serve as a G3 with 25th ID at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. LTC Boisselle's wife, Joy Boisselle will also be missed. Mrs. Boisselle's support has been felt within the Family Readiness Group and other BN activities to include helping with the distribution of the Gator Bites newsletter during the deployment. Thank you both and good luck!

LTC T.C. Williams and his wife, Helen Williams, along with their children Cort and Katie, join the Gators after LTC Williams recently served as a Congressional liaison with the House and Senate Armed Service Committee. We welcome them to the Gator family!



CPL Vitautas Bucevicius spent the last two years diligently serving his country and on 19 June 2003 he volunteered to remain a soldier for another 3 years. CPL Bucevicius is an 11B in Charlie Company, additionally serving as the company's Nuclear, Biological, Chemical NCOIC.

CPL Bucevicius is hoping to re-deploy to Ft. Carson, Colorado when he completes his tour in Iraq.



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SPC Adams under a humvee seen through the removed front section.



Charlie Co. rolls up as these girls head out to school for a few hours.



The maintenance teams set up a break area under a tent.



SPC Howard sits aboard a UH-60 Blackhawk; the helicopter was on a mission to survey land for a firing



SGT Castillo, PFC Madore, SGT Fields recover vehicles with their Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical



This little Iraqi puppy wandered up to the front gate. Feral dogs roam the Baghdad streets in packs as strong



Puddles of human waste pool in the streets of this neighborhood in Diyala. Watch your step Charlie Co.



PFC Nick Fry bears the Battalion colors at the change of command ceremony.



Charlie Co, 2nd pl. SSG Hunter and SFC Jackson teach a class on room clearing to 2pl, B 1-35



2LT Alle, CPT Payment, 1SG Proctor, and 1LT Lauer look over a map after a successful raid.



The American flag and 1AD sign adorn the foreground. A gaping hole in former President Hussein's palace adorns the background.