



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:

- 2nd BCT: 9 July
- 40th EN BN: 13 July
- 4-27 FA: 17 July
 - 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:

Nicole Micklus's Birthday is July 9th
 SGM Brain Olson birthday – 9 July.

1-35 AR

Birthdays:

- 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 Doboszanski 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 you 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!





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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-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





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4-27 FA:

FIREARMS

In Every Alley, Soldiers Search for Household Weapons

By NEELA BANERJEE

AGHDAD, Iraq, June 18 - "This is the worst place, these back alleyways," Capt. Christopher Prussman said. "There are too many places for people to get at you. This is where it gets dangerous."

Early this morning only a bright coin of light from a bulb above a doorway poked the darkness enveloping him in a narrow lane in central Baghdad.

Captain Prussman, an angular 26-year-old from Syosset, N.Y., had come with about 500 other soldiers from the Second Brigade of the First Armored Division to fan through the dogleg alleys of the Rakhmaniya quarter to search for weapons in people's homes.

Crime in this poor neighborhood has jumped since the war, the Americans said. On Tuesday someone drove by and shot at a nearby First Armored Division post. In home after home today, the soldiers told the Iraqis they had come to this neighborhood to make it safer.

The search was just one of hundreds the United States military is conducting throughout Iraq to improve security, the lingering absence of which has been among the angriest complaints of Iraqis during this shaky peace.

It is too early to tell if such aggressive measures will mute the violence in Iraq or stoke it. And a community's reaction will no doubt reflect the sensitivity with which the Americans treat it. In Captain Prussman's patch of Iraq, the Americans apologized in nearly every house for the intrusion. They said thank you in Arabic as they left.

The Iraqi families, mostly silent and blinking from their broken sleep, told them it was no trouble. Some men shook hands with the soldiers. Later in the day, the anger of a few people in the Rakhmaniya area seemed to be brushed aside by the understanding of many others.

"We're encouraging them to continue," said Jamila Hussein, a housewife in whose home the Americans confiscated a scope for a rocket-propelled grenade launcher the family said it had found. "It will provide security for the whole area."

A warren of rough, low brick houses, Rakhmaniya is among the few old neighborhoods that remain in Baghdad. At 2 a.m., an announcement in Arabic crackled through the quarter telling people that a weapons search by the Americans would begin and that families should stay in their homes and cooperate. Soldiers already stood in the dense shadows of the alleys, the muzzles of their rifles pointed up at the balconies of an apartment complex.

About a dozen soldiers from one team pressed against the walls next to Hamid Qadim's doorway, as an Iraqi policeman knocked on the door. Mr. Qadim quietly let them into his modest house. His family gathered in one parlor while the soldiers spread through the rooms looking in closets and under beds.

One woman was asked to open a trunk, but it held only clothes and a toy truck. The soldiers folded the clothes they had rifled through and put them away. Toddlers slept on blankets on the floor as the soldiers stepped around them.

"We've searched under babies before," said First Lt. Chris Labra, "and they still sleep through it."

No weapons were found in the five-minute search. "Let's find some real action," said Sgt. First Class Derek Goodwater.



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Soldiers recently deployed from Baumhoder to Iraq to link up with their units. A mixture of soldiers from different units deployed. Here are some common pictures of the actions that took place at the Rhine Ordnance Barracks or ROB.



ID Card Scan Station



LT Moody, Schwarts and Chambers



LT Chambers being weighed on the scales



LT Sparks just off the scales



PFC Kropick





ROB Living Arrangements



SGT Mix on scales



Weighed in and waiting in line to be weighed
(Try saying that 5 times real fast)

2-6 IN:

Hello again. Here is this week's Gator bites. The BN is moving to a little area south of central Baghdad today. Its a definite step down from where we were but it has the hardwiring to be eventually made better. There is even an Olympic size pool. Also it is closer to our working sectors so soldiers have less far to travel to patrol routes/ hard sites. I'll report how that goes for us.

I hope you enjoy these reports. The soldiers, as a whole, have really mastered their element here. Many people are able to work crowds and negotiate the streets as though they've lived here all their lives. Its easier to read the citizens and even communicate though none of our Arabic is the least bit stellar...mostly its a matter of becoming acquainted with the subtleties of body language.

We still lodd forward to those letters so please keep us in your daily routines. There's still some concern about the mail's reliability but with all the moving going on it could be that some of its being held for a few days until the unit gets settled o a permanent location.

We have many Iraqis helping us to fix our hardsite and the new government kicks off on the 15July (supposedly). That's all good news of course; we want a new, functional government as soon as possible.

On the 29thJun03 Bravo Co. , 2nd plt was featured on FOX news. They showed Operation Salmon Pak. I believe 1st and 2nd sqds were shown the most; they were entering buildings and marshalling families to consolidation points while we searched buildings.





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Gator Headquarters – This week Task Force Gator conducted its largest operation yet. The Task Force spent the entire week preparing for what was to be a six-hour “Reconnaissance in Force” in the small town of Salmon Pak, on the outskirts of Baghdad. Salmon Pak actually lies in 4th ID’s territory but due to mission requirements, TF Gator was called upon to scour the town for weapons markets and information on aggressors possibly living in the area. Though Salmon Pak is only an ink splotch on any map of greater Baghdad, its very lack of notoriety attracts weapons dealers from every direction. Some sources believe many of the weapons being used against Coalition forces in Baghdad are coming from outlying towns --Salmon Pak in particular. Salmon Pak as a whole is believed to be a neutral town, possibly even pro-coalition; but it has also been marked as being a site likely to hold major weapons markets. Some objectives of the Operation were to determine the exact disposition of the town, what evidence there was of weaponry being sold illegally, and how the US and local leaders could work together to eliminate the problem. Even though Salmon Pak resembles most of Baghdad –90% of the people being non-aggressive towards Americans—it takes only a small minority to pose a significant threat. In preparation for Operation Salmon Pak, Death Dealer and Blackjack companies re-organized themselves to combine heavy armor (Blackjack tanks) with mobile, dismounted infantry (Dealer mech). Elements of Charlie Company joined with A Co, 2-501st Aviation for an air insertion; UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters would insert Charlie Co. soldiers into a field just a few hundred meters south of the main objective. HHC prepped the Task Force’s support assets (wrecker trucks, 5-ton troop trucks, medics, scouts, etc.) and the S-shops (intel, planning and operations, civil affairs, commo, etc.) studied the mission requirements to come up with a workable plan. LTC Williams issued a single operations order to ensure synchronization of all the Task Force’s moving parts. From there, the Dealer

and Blackjack Commanders issued their own OPODs and began rehearsals and pre-combat inspections.

Early Saturday morning, C Co. air assaulted into a small field on the south side of town. Dealer and a platoon of Blackjack tanks drove in from the north; Gator Wrench (mechanics) and Witch Dr. (medics), along with a portion of the support pl. established combat trains just outside of the town’s limits but fortunately none had to be called.

Salmon Pak turned out to be nicer than most soldiers expected with painted sidewalks and active storefronts. The people were complacent and generally understanding of what the Operation was all about after Civil Affairs humvees with loudspeakers broadcast messages explaining what we were looking for. The pre-recorded messages asked citizens to comply with the requests of American forces and they iterated our respect for the peoples’ rights to property and personal dignity.

Once the perimeter of the town was secured, LTC Williams and the S2 (intel), CPT Lorenzetti, found the local leaders to ask questions about the town’s welfare and how the town people and American forces could work together to snuff out illegal weapons dealing in the area. Squads from Dealer and Charlie Co. began their searches of buildings already suspected to have weapons inside. Building by building, Gator squads searched for weapon stockpiles and hidden caches. Interpreters, a team from the NY Times, and a combat camera crew were on site to keep record of the events of the day. Battalion leaders were successful in establishing a rapport to ensure citizens were aware of weapons policies and what the Americans were trying to accomplish. Though no weapons dealers were captured, the TF did locate several surface to air missiles near the town. Leaders were able to talk and the disposition of the town was assessed as being generally positive. Overall, the mission was a success. Specific buildings thought to hold weapons were searched and Iraqi and American leaders made contact. The TF reiterated it’s stance on weapons



markets in Salmon Pak and the citizens were reminded of the American presence in Iraq.



B Co., 3platoon soldiers block the four corners of a neighborhood while 2nd platoon searches buildings for stockpiles of weapons. Sources believe many of the weapons in Baghdad are sold in outlying towns like Salmon Pak.



B Co., 2platoon, 2squad talks about how to best clear rooms for the upcoming mission. Surprise and fluidity are key when flowing into a room. Teamwork is essential and everyone listens to make sure they know their piece.

SGT Luna, PVT Vasquez, and PVT Winn from Charlie Co. 1st platoon and HQ prepare to take off for Salmon Pak. Upon landing they will search a market allegedly selling weapons.



Gator Recruiting Mission Successful and Interesting

Gator Headquarters – This week, TF Gator recruited local Iraqis, mostly ex-military and former guards, to take over for American troops at certain facilities. The citizens interested in becoming security guards were required to attend a two-day course on professional ethics, search techniques, and other security related skills; they were also subject to background checks and, upon being hired, the men volunteering expected steady, well-paying, jobs. Each volunteer proudly knew he was helping to put his country one step closer to independence. The recruiting process turned out to be more eventful than expected; CPT Redmond and his security element had planned to visit two small police stations to set up their recruiting tables and then leave. Instead, they found themselves called upon to assist a police station three different times during the day. After the interpreter showed up two hours past the originally scheduled departure time, CPT Redmond's team left to conduct their mission. Recruiting at the first station yielded only four volunteers and the usual crowd of elementary school kids. A brief ride to the district of Zaphernia brought four-dozen more signatures but also a few problems for the Americans to respond to. CPT Redmond's team was asked to help the station serve two warrants –one on a suspected baby kidnapper, one on a suspected murderer-- after sitting with police chief Colonel Suhail N. Majeed for only a few minutes, Given his two gun-trucks outside and an obligation to protect the U.S.'s credibility, CPT Redmond agreed to help the severely under-funded police officers find and arrest both suspects. After a drive to a nearby neighborhood, two suspects were quickly apprehended. Shortly after the recruiting process resumed at police headquarters, the soldiers were called upon again to apprehend a knifeman only a few



hundred meters away from the station itself. Again, CPT Redmond stopped to assist police in the arrest. The mission was successful; four-dozen Iraqi nationals signed as being interested in becoming security guards and U.S. forces were able to demonstrate their willingness and ability to help out when necessary.



CPT Redmond flexcuffs a man suspected of murdering another Iraqi citizen. He will be held by Iraqi police for trial

Security Guard Training Goes Smoothly
Conference Center, Baghdad –On Wednesday, SSG Heskey and SGT Lininger from HHC, helped to instruct in a two-day course designed to give Iraqi citizens the bare essentials necessary to begin work as security guards around Baghdad. Prospective security guards participated in training for crowd control, weapons safety, professionalism and respect for citizen rights, and search techniques. Other topics covered marksmanship, and controlling detained personnel. The Iraqi guard force is being set up to protect hospitals, gas stations, and other points of infrastructure. Only the number of instructors and interpreters available limits class sizes with the average class being between 80 and 125 people. After some blanket instruction on a few of the subjects (such as professionalism), the larger class is broken down into groups of 15 or 20 where individual

instructors can give more attention to people with questions.

SSG Heskey taught the volunteer citizens how to gauge the threat level of a crowd and how to pick out people who are instigating violence within the larger body. With proper training and a keen eye, security forces can pick out a crowd's leaders and remove them before they incite a full blown riot. SGT Lininger taught the next step --how to react to the threats without making the crowd any more volatile.



[UPPER] CPT Redmond and police chief discuss needs.

[UPPER] SSG Scotty Heskey is an HHC medic helping to train the new Iraqi guard force About 80 men attend this class.



[LOWER] SGT Rusty Lininger, S3, leans over the back row. His class comes at the end of day 1 or start of day 2, depending on time.

Acting Secretary of the Army Visits Task Force Gator

On Wednesday, some Gators got a rare opportunity to eat lunch with the acting Secretary of the Army, the Honorable Les Brownlee. Secretary Brownlee and one soldier from each company sat down to MREs in the Task Force conference room and discussed current military issues and soldiers' concerns. The Secretary praised the soldiers for their jobs

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well done, "This job is much harder than you guys make it look. The benefits of what you are doing...will have an enormous effect on the region and the world."

For approximately two hours, topics such as mail, vehicle parts, and soldier equipment were brought up. Being a former infantryman himself, the Secretary was also able to give some advice about coping with long deployments and how much things have improved over what they were during his deployments. The Secretary noted that any email at all is a leap beyond the Army's old school daily mail call; however, some soldiers debated the importance of email in taking care of personal matters in today's more high-tech business world. The availability of replacement parts and tools for vehicles was also addressed as well as how durable our equipment is proving to be. Major General Robinson noted that track pads are generally changed once a year in Germany –or about every 800 miles. With the heat and heavy use of the Bradleys here in Iraq, we're generating "two years worth of wear on the pads" in about two months. Finally, new items in the infantryman's inventories were applauded. Knee and elbow pads, bulletproof vests, nightvision goggles, squad radios, and bright lights for clearing dark rooms are all improvements the army soldier of today is outfitted with. No matter what the equipment, Secretary Brownlee emphasized nothing can replace standards and battledrills. "The training that synchs a team's movements and brings about overwhelming proficiency is more important than any equipment issued by supply."



SSG Duncan, SPC Rodriguez, and SPC Jones sit with the Secretary



PFC Valdez, SGM Bobb, and SSG Dommell talk about mail, equipment and the standard of living in Iraq.



LTC Williams presents the Sec. With a gift.





B 1-35, 1st platoon prepares to roll out to Salmon Pak. Next to their tank the PsyOp truck blares AC/DC and Metallica songs



PVT Chadtelain, SPC Molina, SPC York, and SPC McKinnon sit at the newly built Ft. Kermit Baghdad. Dozens of little frogs



TOC, SFC Porter, SFC "Grumpy" Renner, and SSG Rodriguez track Task Force operations in the TOC.



1SG Proctor and SSG Lynk talk in front of a 5-ton before a patrol.



B Co, 2plt soldiers spent hours building a terrain model for their Co.



A real-life clearing of a building for weapons and bad guys by B Co. 2plt.



B Co, 2plt, 1sqd practices their Combat Life Saver skills. Under the instruction of PFC Ryan Fritz, the plt medic, the men give each other lvs.



SPC Lehman and SGT Cordery stand in front of a tractor. Every day SPC Lehman hauls this house used as a trash point to a burn pit.



HHC, SPC Basilio Hernandez stands door guard while CPT Redmond recruits locals to serve as security





HHC, SPC Juan Palacios outside of a Zaphernia police station.



The "yellow cake factory" from a guard tower. Some barrels here are radioactive so soldiers stay far away,



PVT Parsons, B 1-35, 2plt, guards the "yellow cake factory" (a chemical facility) for 7 day stretches. For their safety, they never go near the place.



This air photo was taken just before Charlie Co. landed. The landing strip is just behind the building on the left.



PFC Smith, SSG Hunter, LTC Williams, and SPC Howard listen to advice from the Sec. of the Army.

TF GATOR THANKS ANOTHER OUTSTANDING SOLDIER FOR STAYING ON BOARD

Congratulations to C Co. medic SGT Germaine Wilson for deciding to remain with the Gator BN!

SGT Wilson has been in the Army for 9 years and has volunteered to serve his country for 3 more years. Upon re-deployment, SGT Wilson would like to go to Ft. Jackson, SC. SGT Jackson would like to thank his friends and family for their support during his career. "I love you all."





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What can Family Readiness Groups and Family Readiness Liaison's **do** for you?

- Provide information to you on unit specific information if you let them know you want the information.
- You should make contact with your unit FRG / FRL and get involved in the unit. Don't wait on them to contact you.
- They help resolve matters that you can't solve on your own. The go-between between you and an Army agency.
- Gives you a place to meet new friends who may offer to give you a ride to the airport, PX, or hospital.
- Help involve families in unit activities.

What will Family Readiness Groups and Family Readiness Liaison's **not do** for you?

- Will not give you a ride to the Airport, PX or Hospital unless some one volunteers to do it.
- Will not be an advocate for you if you are wrong. Being wrong means doing something against Army Regulations or Post Policy.
- Becoming Surrogate Parents
- Becoming Social Workers
- Lending money, cars or expensive items.
- Dividing into groups, ie. Officer and enlisted.
- Becoming a baby sitting or errand service.

Army and Air Force Exchange:

The Post Auto Parts store has some really strange hours. If you need to use the store than I recommend you call first to see if they will be open and to see if they can do the work you may need done. In most cases you can get the work done off post cheaper anyway. But that is up to you. An option for oil changes is the Auto craft self-help store. They have started a Oil and Oil Filter change service. You call and make an appointment and they will change your oil and filter while you wait. Theirs hours are Weekdays from 1700 – 2000 hours and weekends from 1000 – 1700 hours, you have to call for an appointment so they will have the correct filter and oil on hand when you go in. Call 485-6344.

GATE CLOSURE:

The Baumholder Rod and Gun Gate will be closed from 1000 hours to 1700 hours every Saturday in July. Closure is due to Skeet Shooting on the Range near the gate.

EDITORS NOTE:

This is my last newsletter. Hopefully someone else will take it over and put the effort into it. Hope it was helpful! Good luck.

