

Desert Rifles

Desert Rifles Issue 15

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PSYOP Begins Broadcast in Al Fallujah

Story and Photos by Spc Justin Carmack
350th MPAD

AL FALLUJAH, Iraq - By airplane, Iraq is less than 24 hours away from the United States, but in many ways, Iraqis and Americans are further apart. Most Americans simply do not relate to the Iraqi way of life. Soldiers now stand in a nation, perhaps surrounded by people that appear different from them, have different religious beliefs and a different system of values.

One thing remains the same. Everyone has the most primal emotions of fear. Saddam Hussein relied on deceit to establish



FINE TUNE--Spc. Martin Taylor of the 3d PSYOP Battalion adjusts the audio level in the mobile radio station. The station can cover the entire city of Al Fallujah and surrounding areas.

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his regime and fear to maintain it.

Tactical Psychological Operations (PSYOP) Detachment (TPD) 1270, out of Seattle, Wash., is living the motto of the 7th PSYOP Group, "Support by Truth." The truth is proving to be a powerful tool in offsetting the last three decades of Ba'ath Party rule.

"If you are going to lie to the people

you can only do it once. Trust is vital to accomplishing our mission. We do not want to break the trust between the people and us," said Capt. Ian Clunies-Ross Commander of TPD 1270. "At first we spent a lot of time answering myths."

Since joining -up with the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment (3d

ACR) in early April, the detachment has used different methods of offsetting myths.

Among the techniques used were newspapers and simply word of mouth. Now the detachment is working with the members of B and C Companies of the 3d PSYOP Battalion, Ft. Bragg, N.C., in hope that a bit of new technology now present in the region will advance



RADIO--Spc. Martin Taylor of the 3d PSYOP Battalion changes programming for the radio station.

their cause.

A mobile radio station is now in the area, with the capabilities of transmitting on either AM or FM frequencies. The station is now located just outside of Fallujah. It is transmitting music, entertainment and information for locals to enjoy.

Special Operations Media System Broadcast Non - commissioned Officer Sgt. 1st Class Andy Yoshimira explained, "The radio station has the ability to get a message to the people faster than any other method available. For example we can broadcast what the mayor has to say in just minutes." The radio station is currently transmitting on 756 AM and can be heard throughout the city of Fallujah and as far away as Ramadi.

Longknife Squadron Helps to Relieve Water Worries in the Town of Baghdaddi

BAGHDADDI, Iraq - Soldiers from the 4th Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment from Fort Carson, Colo. have made significant efforts to improve access to water for the citizens of Baghdaddi, Iraq.

Baghdaddi is a community of approximately 15,000 people located north of Hit along the Euphrates River. Many small villages make up this riverside community, such as Al Mashad, Juwana, and Jubba. For some time, the major concern for the people of the area has been reliable access to potable water. Upon arrival in the area, civil affairs troopers with the 4th Squadron, known as Longknife Squadron, were quick to recognize the severity of the problem. The village of Baghdaddi and the outlying communities suffer from either weak water pressure or from the complete lack of a water facility.

According to Lt. Col. Robert Douthit, Longknife Squadron Commander, the solution is simple, "In the long-term, we must repair, replace, or build facilities



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kieth O'Donnell

WATER--Life in the hot desert that makes up the majority of land in Iraq can be difficult. Thus, to combat these arid conditions, the Coalition Forces have made getting adequate water to the local population one of their top priorities.

that will yield sufficient water for the entire population. In the short-term, we must find a feasible way to provide this basic necessity to the people."

The Civil Affairs team for Longknife Squadron quickly responded to the challenge. Capt. Michael Rush, the squadron Civil Military Operations Officer and Civil Affairs team leader devised a plan to meet this requirement. Longknife Squadron was fortunate to have brought a 5,000 gallon civilian water truck with them from Kuwait. According to Rush, "I couldn't have asked for more in the line of the necessary equipment, and disciplined, willing troopers to accomplish this mission."

Providing the invaluable skill of Arabic translation during these and all civil affairs missions is Spec. Naïel Mere, a soldier of Palestinian decent. "I consider myself fortunate to be a member of the U.S. Army in a time where we are in a position to provide help to people in such need." Mere, assigned to the squadron as a helicopter crew chief, quickly realized that his Arabic skill was a much larger asset to the effort in Iraq, and readily volunteered his services.

On scorching hot days, throughout the Iraqi summer, the Longknife team has pumped over 50,000 gallons of water to the people of Baghdaddi. A regular stop for the "Water Mission" is an elevated area in Baghdaddi where pressure in the water lines is not sufficient to reach the people. Tomahawk Troop, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, and the 323rd Engineers Firefighting Company provided the essential members for the team.

Sgt. Rozmanowski of Tomahawk enjoys his opportunity to provide aid, "I never expected to have

the chance to help in such an important way. These people are great, and the warm welcome we receive is nearly overwhelming."

Rozmanowski operates the water truck with the help of his driver, Pvt. 1st Class Schauf. Schauf says, "Normally going house to house in a truck this size would get frustrating, but the rewarding feeling we get from the Iraqi people makes it well worth it."

To facilitate the long-term portion of the plan, Rush and his team have made the necessary steps to provide for the repairs and rebuilding of several water facilities. While continuing these necessary water truck missions, much progress has been made to reach the long-term goal of sufficient clean water for the entire community. Improvement to four water facilities in the Baghdaddi area has been made due to efforts made by Alpha Company, 122nd Engineer Battalion, a German non-governmental organization, known as Architects for People in Need, and the Longknife Squadron.

The desert heat makes water a necessity for everyone. The efforts made by the 4th Squadron, 3rd ACR, will go a long way towards stabilizing the situation in this small part of Iraq. Meanwhile, residents of Al Baghdaddi can rest assured that their water problems will soon be a concern of the past.

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2/5 Field Artillery Helps Local University With Security and Receives a Lesson in Culture

Story and Photos by Cpl. Joe Niesen
350th MPAD

AR RAMADI, Iraq--At the university in Ar Ramadi, classes this session have been held with a few minor adjustments. Last semester, armed Coalition soldiers patrolled the campus and inspected students' cars and bags before they were allowed onto the campus.

"It is strange to see soldiers in the university. The students have received them with mixed feelings. Some appreciate the added security, while others are uneasy about the armed presence of the troops," said Abdul Hadi Rajeb Habeeb, President of Ar Ramadi University.

The university is similar to most campuses in the United States. There are two semesters a year with a summer session and graduate students that attend classes year round. The Ramadi campus is the main facility for the university and houses its administration and five of the colleges. The studies are varied and cover everything from education to engineering. The university operates satellite campuses in the sur-

rounding areas that include a college of Agriculture and a women's campus.

The facility is patrolled by a combination of trained Iraqi guards and armed

already proven their worth by the fact that there have been no major incidents since they began work.

The campus of almost 10,000 students

and faculty has already begun to make changes. The president and the faculty have been appointed by the people for the first time through Coalition aided elections and they have been given a new freedom to decide what and how they teach. No longer are students required to study Ba'ath party politics or other government mandated courses, instead, they are working with other universities throughout Iraq to design a curriculum that will be of greater benefit to the students.

Many of the soldiers enjoy working with the

civilian guards, many of whom were in Desert Storm. Marcoe explains that despite many of the guards having once fought against U.S. soldiers in the first gulf war, curiosity has gotten them past the fact that these men were once considered the enemy.

Some soldiers are more interested in the students and enjoy the daily interaction with them when class is in session.

"It really lets you see how much they are like normal everyday people, it has been a real positive experience for me," said Pvt. 1st Class Cedric Oliver, a soldier with 2-5 Field Artillery. "Its good to joke with people my own age."

In the coming months, the soldiers of the 2-5 Field Artillery will begin to train more guards for the university. The new guards have already begun conducting searches of vehicles and classrooms. The soldiers have taught them what and how to look for potential threats. Thanks to the work that the soldiers have done at Ramadi University, students and faculty will have the security to attend classes once again and the freedom to decide what is taught.



ON GUARD--Soldiers from the 2-5 Field Artillery provide overwatch while Iraqi guards inspect vehicles at Ar Ramadi University.

U.S. soldiers from 2/5 Field Artillery.

"At first, the locals were supplementing us, now we are supplementing them. Hopefully, things will continue to improve so that we can turn over the

entire operation to the local guards," said Staff Sgt. Christopher Marcoe, Service Battery, 2-5 Field Artillery. The university now employs approximately 200 guards who are paid through the Commander's Emergency Relief Fund. The local guards have been working since June, and have



Photo by Capt. Michael Calvert

INSPECTION--Being ready means keeping your equipment clean and in good working order. Staff Sgt. Robert T. Mitchell, the supply sergeant with the 66th Military Intelligence Company performs preventive maintenance on a 50 caliber machine gun that guards Rifles Base's Protocol Palace. Mitchell said he tries to make sure the weapon is cleaned at least once a day.

3d ACR Troopers Plod Through 'Dog Days' of Operation Iraqi Freedom

By Sgt. 1st Class Gary L. Qualls Jr.
3d Armored Cavalry Regiment

AL ANBAR PROVINCE, Iraq - The thermometer seems stuck at the mid-120-degree range. Troopers of 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment trudge ahead with guard duty, traffic control points and patrols while wondering why, despite job payouts and community project contributions totaling millions and millions of dollars, attacks against them have not subsided. It is the "dog days of Operation Iraqi Freedom."

"It's not getting better and it's not getting worse," said Capt. Mike Davis, regimental battle captain.

The Regiment previously dispensed \$40 million it was allotted for stipend payments to military personnel and payouts to government workers. This past week, the Regiment distributed \$1.2 million for community projects such as repairs to the hospital water treatment facility pump, a soccer stadium, sanitation department, and train station and street re-pavements. Within the past four weeks, the Coalition Provisional Authority has also given more than \$2.8 million to Al Anbar Province, bringing the total so far to \$4.13 million.

Still, the attacks continue. Every time a convoy rolls out, soldiers know there's a good chance they will be attacked. The Regiment was the victim of nine separate attacks on Aug. 9 alone from mortars, rocket-propelled-grenades and Improvised Explosive Devices.

"We're just lucky they're bad shots," Davis said.

The Regiment, along with attached units, forges ahead, nonetheless, striving to turn the tide on the continuous stream of attacks. The 1st Battalion, 124th Infantry National Guard soldiers from Miami, Fla., for example, has formed a new division in the Ar Ramadi Police Department that focuses on apprehending attackers and clearing roadways of their traps before Coalition Forces' convoys run through the region's highways and routes.

The 94th Military Police Battalion, Reservists from Londonderry, N.H., attached to 3d ACR, trained 233 highway patrolmen in Ar Ramadi and 111 in Rutbah, which can help reverse lawlessness on the roadways. In Al Fallujah, 127 recruits graduated from the police academy there, which can help fortify Coalition Forces in the city.

Some still see a "silver lining" in the far off horizon.

1st Lt. Jonathan Michael, the squadron intelligence officer for 2nd Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, for example, told of how this past week a sheik deterred two would-be attackers from attacking U.S. soldiers guarding the Mayor's compound in Al Fallujah.

The would-be attackers were approaching the Mayor's compound with two rocket-propelled grenades when a sheik got out of his car and yelled something at the men. They dropped their weapons and fled. Al Fallujah police chased them, finally apprehending one and finding another RPG, plus the two the men had dropped.

"It used to be that people in this city would just look the other way when an attack was about to happen. Now, they're actually taking measures against it," Michael said. "This was an authority figure in the community who did this. People need to follow his example and take responsibility for their city."



TAKING THE OATH--(Above) Shiek Ahmed is sworn in as Chairman of the Al Anbar Provincial Council by Al Anbar's Governor Abel Alkareem Burgess Alzaldin and 3d ACR Regimental Commander, Col. David A. Teeples during a ceremony at Rifles Base. **(Below)** Shiek Majed takes the oath of office as he assumes the role of Vice Chairman of the Al Anbar Provincial Council.



THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK ?

What music artist was featured on the character 'Mouth' in the 1980's classic movie, "The Goonies?"

Last week's Answer:
The regiment is 157 years old and was established May 19 1846 as the Regiment of mounted Riflemen.

ESPN/USA Today Top 25 Coaches' Poll

1. Oklahoma (29)
2. Ohio State (28)
3. Miami, Fla. (5)
4. Texas
5. Kansas State
6. Auburn (1)
7. Michigan
8. USC
9. Georgia
10. Virginia Tech
11. Pittsburgh
12. Florida State
13. Maryland
14. NC State
15. LSU
16. Tennessee
17. Virginia
18. Notre Dame
19. Washington
20. Wisconsin

Defeat The Heat: Advice From the Regimental Surgeon on How to Avoid Heat Injuries

Whenever the ambient temperature is higher than normal body temperature, there is serious risk to exposed personnel. The extreme heat in this region continues to be a great risk to the well-being, even the lives, of 3ACR troopers throughout our area of operation. Below are some pointers or reminders about preventing injury from heat.

1-Proper hydration requires proper nutrition. Remember that hydration is not just a matter of water. It also requires adequate amounts of salt in the body. The salt comes from food. In the heat, some people are inclined to eat less because they just don't feel right or are inclined to eat fun food rather than good food.

2-Water is essential to maintaining hydration. Most clear liquids qualify for water intake but simple water is best. Sports drinks are also good and give a degree of salt replacement as well as water replacement.

3-Use alternate drinks sparingly. Caffeine containing drinks like coffee and sodas can increase risk of dehydration. Caffeine causes the kidney to lose extra water. Not only is the water loss a problem, the increased urination gives the false impression that you are well hydrated.

4-Limit high calorie snacks and sugared sodas. Taking extra calories gives a sense of fullness - especially in high heat - that decreases normal appetite, thus decreasing the amount of nutritious food eaten.

5-Watch your salt intake. Salt is lost in sweat. Lightly salting food or eating an occasional salty snack is adequate to replace it. In general extra salt consumption is not necessary as long as you eat a nutritious and balanced diet.

6-Monitoring your urine is one of the simplest and best methods to measure your hydration status. Many people look for a required number of bottles to drink in order to stay hydrated, but water consumption is highly variable based on activity level and the amount of time spent in the heat or time spent in air conditioning. Get an idea of how much urine you put out and what color it is.

a. **In general you should have to urinate 3-4 times daily to maintain health.** This means feeling the urge to urinate; squeezing out a few drops in order to meet the number requirement is not adequate.

b. **Urine should be a pale yellow color.** If it is dark yellow or orange, you are not drinking nearly enough. If it comes out looking like water, you are probably pushing more than you need. Fluctuations from one time to the next are normal, but are still an indicator of how well hydrated you are.

7-Enforce water consumption. Especially on convoys or outdoor details, commanders and NCOs should emphasize and observe water consumption.

8-Plan work/rest cycles to avoid the hottest parts of the day whenever possible and to rotate personnel out of the heat whenever possible.

9-Don't forget unacclimatized personnel. It takes several weeks for personnel to acclimatize to the extreme temperatures here. Don't require heavy or prolonged work of personnel newly arrived in theater.

10-Plan APFTs ahead of time. Contact the RSURG or your Squadron medical providers to get pointers on how to plan PT tests, especially if you have personnel who are not acclimated or who have recently returned after time out of country. For further info, contact RSURG or SQDN/Unit medical providers.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PROPER PMCS

Submitted by the RHHT maintenance troop

I have been a mechanic for the U.S. Army for close to three years now. In that time I have discovered that most, not all, operators do not properly PMCS their vehicles. There are many factors why this happens, yet failure to complete proper checks, can lead to a dangerous situation.

Improper PMCS can cause the operator to overlook faults that could potentially deadline a vehicle and render it unsafe. This puts the operator at serious risk and jeopardizes the safety of any passengers.

Many accidents have occurred because of this. Another reason that PMCS is so important is that it is exactly what the abbreviation stands for: Preventative Maintenance Checks and Services. It is one way that the operator can identify small problems before they become large ones. This, in turn, makes

Maintenance easier and cuts your time in the motorpool in half, and everyone likes that. Wouldn't you rather spend ten

minutes tightening your oil pan bolts than four hours replacing an oil pan gasket? How about the mechanic? I am sure he or she would agree. What do I mean by Proper PMCS? I mean proper by-the-book (your -10 operators manual, if you don't have one, ask a mechanic to supply you with the proper TM number and your publications NCO can try to get one through their channels.

In the mean time, try to borrow your buddies.

Without the proper tools, how can you complete the project to standard? You can't, so your -10 is very important.

What else can you say about proper PMCS? Get a book, complete the tasks to standard, turn in your 5988E you're your vehicle gets fixed. Follow up on the changes, and your time in the motorpool will be cut in half. Your vehicle will be combat ready, and you will keep yourself and your passengers alive in the long run. A little extra effort has so much reward, doesn't it?

“failure to complete proper checks, can lead to a dangerous situation”

The Back Page...

California Pizza Kitchen Opens First Location in Colorado Springs

COLORADO SPRINGS-California Pizza Kitchen, home of the Original BBQ Chicken pizza and many other innovative hearth-baked pizzas, made to order pastas, creative salads, soups, sandwiches and delicious desserts, will open its first Colorado Springs location on August 15 in the Shops at Briargate, 1645 Briargate Parkway at the intersection of Briargate Parkway and Highway 83.

To celebrate California Pizza Kitchen's (CPK) new Colorado Springs location, the restaurant is partnering with the Boys & Girls Club of the Pikes Peak Region. On Tuesday, August 26, CPK will donate 100% of its pizza sales to the Boys & Girls Club, a nonprofit entity that exists to inspire and enable all young people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens.

"We are proud to partner with the Boys & Girls Club of the Pikes Peak Region and support their efforts to offer invaluable opportunities and hope to children in Colorado Springs and beyond," said Rick Rosenfield, CPK Co-Chairman and Co-CEO.

The new CPK location occupies approximately 5000 square-feet of space, the restaurant accommodates 154 guests in the indoor dining room and 28 in the quaint outdoor patio.

California Pizza Kitchen, Inc., founded in 1985, is a leading casual dining chain in the premium pizza segment. The restaurant features hearth-baked pizzas, pastas, salads, soups and sandwiches. The company operates 159 restaurants of which 128 are company-owned, and 31 operate under franchise or license agreements.

Canada power outage leaves millions in dark

NEW YORK - The largest blackout in North American history plunged the streets of New York and other major U.S. and Canadian cities into darkness through Friday morning, forcing millions to spend a night in the sweltering summer heat without air conditioning, lights or television.

Dawn was only a few hours away, but authorities were uncertain if power would be restored in time for work or for the trading day to begin at financial markets. New York's subways were not expected to be running in time for the morning commute, raising questions about whether traders could get to the markets if

they opened.

The New York Stock Exchange and Nasdaq said they expected to open Friday morning as usual.

More than 12 hours after the power outage began at about 4 P.M. EDT Thursday, most of New York was pitch black and only a few sections of the nation's largest city had electricity. Thousands of commuters, who were unable to make it home, slept in the streets of Manhattan.

Authorities also were unsure what caused the power outage, which spread across 3,600 square miles to Detroit and Cleveland, and across the Canadian border to Toronto and Ottawa, except to say it was not the work of saboteurs.

"The one thing I can say for certain is that this was not a terrorist act," President Bush told reporters in California.

French Officials Report Up to 3,000 Heat-Related Deaths

PARIS, Aug. 14 - A blistering heat wave across Europe has caused as many as 3,000 deaths in France, the government said today, and overburdened funeral homes and morgues are struggling to deal with an unusually high number of bodies.

Critics posed new questions for the government about its handling of the crisis, and

Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin rushed back to Paris from his Alpine vacation to deal with what the Health Ministry termed an epidemic of heat-related deaths.

Abnormally high temperatures this month have baked France and other parts of Europe, fanning forest fires and devastating livestock. Health Minister Jean-Francois Mattei, speaking to reporters after an emergency meeting with Raffarin, said the figure "reflects a reasonable estimate" of between 1,500 and 3,000 dead.

The estimate was lower than an earlier ministry statement that put the number of dead at 3,000 since Aug. 7, which many people had found surprisingly high. Other countries in Europe that have suffered through the heat wave have reported far fewer deaths. Spain, for example, has recorded 42.

"It's a nationwide catastrophe the likes of which we've never seen," Patrick Pelloux, head of the association for French emergency hospital physicians, told Europe 1 radio today. He has repeatedly criticized the government for reacting slowly. Family members of victims lashed out at the government. "It's scandalous. The government has done nothing," said Martine Flou, whose 70-year-old mother's body had to be brought

to a morgue in Paris from their home 50 miles away because there was no space to be found.

The French Health Ministry said its estimate was partly drawn from tracking deaths in 23 Paris regional hospitals from July 25 to Aug. 12, and from information provided by General Funeral Services.

Newly found microbe can take a lot of heat

The one-celled organism not only lived but grew successfully at 121 degrees centigrade, the temperature inside doctors' sterilization equipment, long believed to be hot enough to kill any life form.

The iron-breathing microbe, named Strain 121 for its ability to thrive at the temperature of a medical autoclave, joins a growing menagerie of "extremophiles," exotic creatures that thrive in what to humans are extremes of heat and cold.

Strain 121 is only about one micron (one millionth of a meter) across and looks something like a balloon with a dozen whipping strings. It belongs to an ancient branch of life known as Archaea, which are similar to bacteria and often live in seemingly inhospitable environments