



The Sandstorm

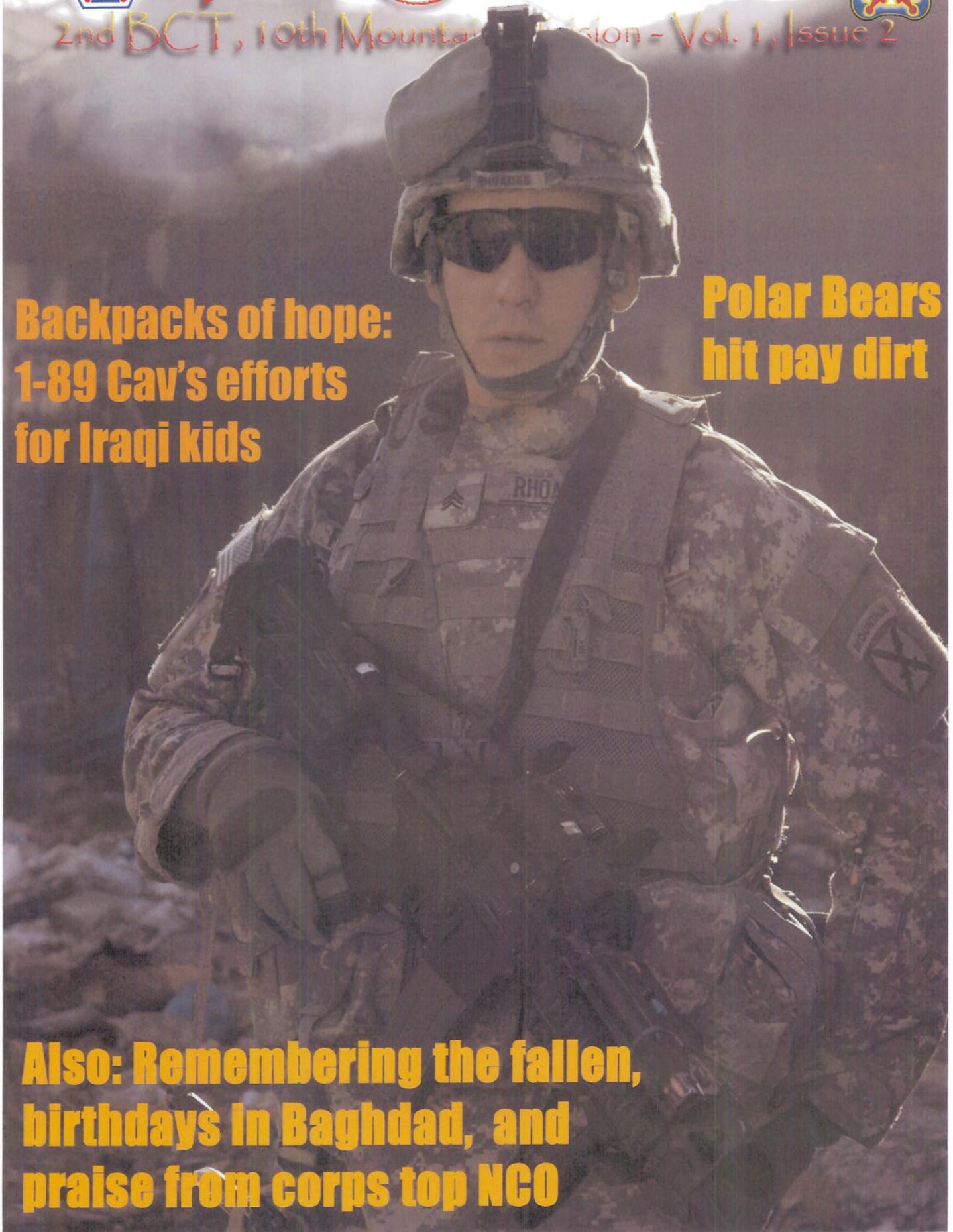


2nd BCT, 10th Mountain Division - Vol. 1, Issue 2

**Backpacks of hope:
1-89 Cav's efforts
for Iraqi kids**

**Polar Bears
hit pay dirt**

**Also: Remembering the fallen,
birthdays in Baghdad, and
praise from corps top NCO**



The Sandstorm

The official magazine of the
Second Brigade Combat Team

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If you'd like to see something in this magazine, or if you'd like to make contributions or tell us about a possible story, please e-mail us at

commando_brigade@yahoo.com.

We are always striving to improve this publication, and remember - this is *your* magazine.

We reserve the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, clarity and space. The Sandstorm is an official publication of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (LI), and is produced by the 2nd BCT Public Affairs Office. The Sandstorm is in compliance with AR 360-1.

Correction: The Sandstorm mistakenly printed "2nd Brigade Support Troops Battalion" in a Sept. 25 article. The unit is actually the 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion. The Sandstorm apologizes for the error.

Cover Photo: Sgt. Phillip Rhoades of Company A, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, a section sergeant from Uniontown, Penn., patrols the Yusufiyah market area last month after an improvised explosive device detonated there.

photo by Pvt. Jon Cano/2BCT PAO



The Sandstorm - Vol. 1 - Issue 2

In this issue



Fallen comrades honored with ceremonies.

See *Memorials*, page 4



The 210th Brigade Support Battalion keeps Soldiers throughout the south Baghdad area supplied.

See *Supplied*, page 8



Multinational Corps - Iraq's top NCO praises the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Battalion during a visit.

See *Warrior Keep*, page 9

Commander's Comments

Commandos,

We have been conducting operations for three weeks and have had some successes.

At the time of this printing, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment has discovered over 53 caches in their area of operations, to include aircraft bombs, heavy machine guns, rockets, mortars, RPGs, and other weapons.

Likewise, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment and 1st Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment have discovered caches and detained several high-value targets, one of which we believe was an Egyptian al Qaeda operative.

Task Force 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment has made a huge contribution working with the 4th Brigade, 6th Army Iraqi Division, in the southern part of our sector.

Our field artillery Soldiers have steadily



Kershaw

brought 4/6 to a higher level of as proved by their performance in Operation Hurricane Wind. The Desert Lions have begun to impress the locals as witnessed by the fact that 563 AWOL Iraqi soldiers have returned to active duty, wanting to be part of this unit.

The Gladiators of the Brigade Special Troops Battalion have kept our routes clear, analyzed the intelligence, flown the UAVs and kept us in constant communications over a huge battle space.

Of course, special thanks go out to the Brigade Support Battalion for keeping the supplies, ammunition and food rolling along, our Soldiers in good health, and our vehicles running.

The Providers conducted our first nighttime sling load two weeks ago, proving that we have one more capability in our arsenal.

Each Soldier is making a difference in this fight. Every job is important. The Soldiers of Task Force Vigilant continue to demonstrate the standards every day that are the hallmarks of this BCT. We appreciate their efforts.

The hard part about this last three weeks

is that some of our Soldiers have made the ultimate sacrifice.

We mourn the loss of Corporal Bobby Callahan and Pfc. Satieon Greenlee. Their tragic passing was felt throughout the brigade. Both of these two young men will be greatly missed, but not forgotten.

Neither will we forget the Iraqi soldiers and policemen who also stood side-by-side in this fight, sacrificing their lives for the freedom of their country. Lt. Col. Mohammed, commander of the 4th IA Battalion, was one of these brave soldiers. He led from the front and set the example for his men.

We will honor all of these brave souls by continuing the mission with an offensive spirit and dedication to winning this fight. We keep each of them in our prayers and our hearts.

We have set the enemy back, but we must assume that he will fight back to regain the initiative. We cannot rest on our laurels. We still have a lot to do. There is much work ahead.

COMMANDOS!

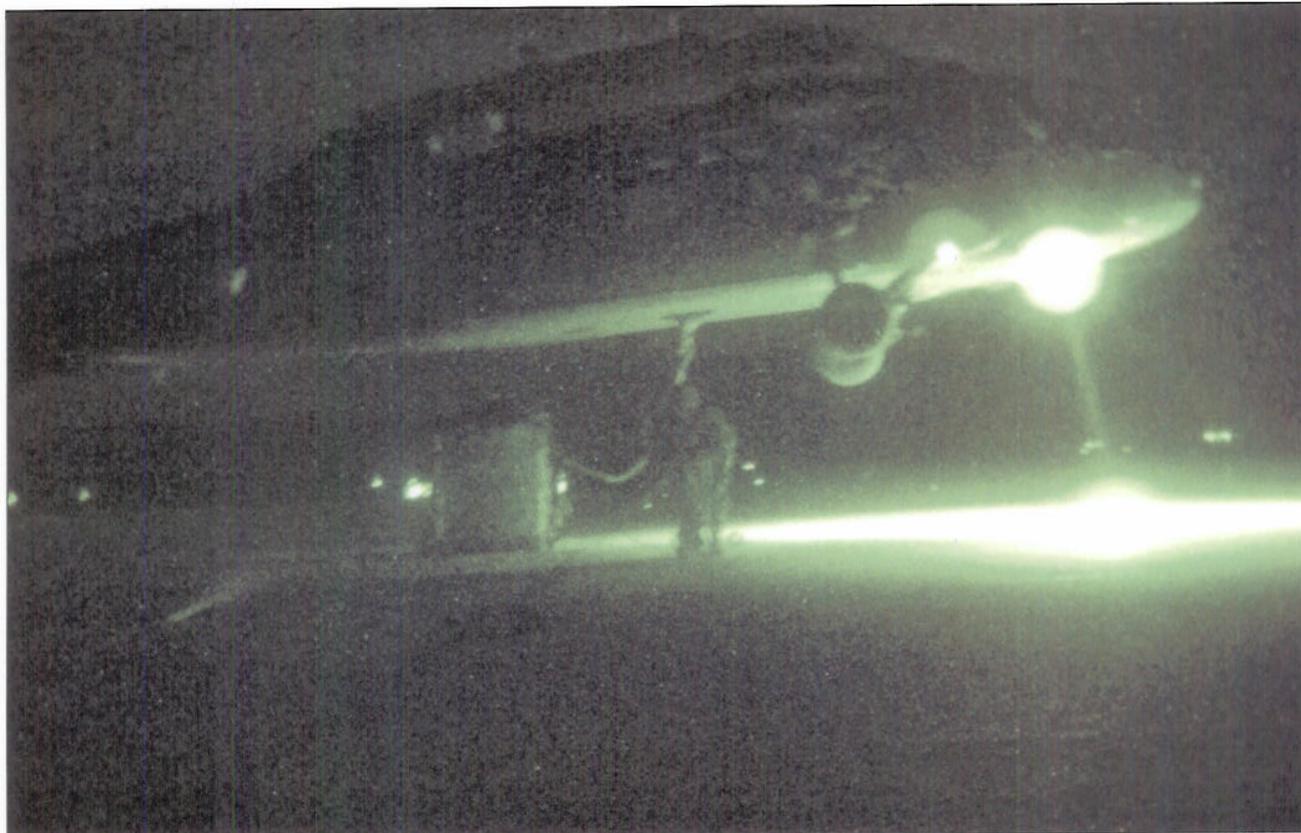


photo by Spc. Chris McCann/2BCT PAO

Slingsing hash?

Soldiers of the 210th Brigade Support Battalion practice sling-loading pallets of Meals, Ready to Eat, and bottled water on a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter as part of an exercise Oct. 3. The Soldiers were conducting one of their frequent contingency operations in case ground supply routes are compromised.

Honoring the fallen: 4-31 Soldiers

Cpl. Bobby Callahan remembered

Spc. Chris McCann
2nd BCT PAO

Patriotic country songs and music from the movie "Braveheart" drifted out of the maintenance bay as Soldiers gathered to mourn the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division's first loss in this rotation to Iraq.

Spc. Bobby Callahan was a squad leader in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment. Callahan, a mortarman, drowned when his Humvee overturned into a canal near Mahmudiyah.

The Soldiers of his squad said he made sure they were out, but he was unable to get free in time despite their assistance.

It was Callahan's second tour in Iraq.

Sgt. Eric Schultz, a close friend of Callahan's, gave a tribute during the ceremony.

"I knew him for about two years," he said. "We just hung out a lot and watched television."

"He was a quiet leader," Schultz said. "He led by example. And he was a young leader, in charge of that truck. He was always learning."

Friends, laughing at the memories despite the somber occasion, recalled that Callahan was "really hard to wake up."

"He'd do odd things (in his sleep)," said Staff Sgt. Terry Spiecher, a platoon sergeant for C Company 4-31.

"He'd put on a fleece jacket as pants. ...He could always make people smile.

"He had a broad sense of humor, loved to crack up," Spiecher said.

"Everybody that met him got a good vibe from him,"

Sgt. Lucas Kinkade (kneeling), an infantryman, and Pfc. Alan Sedam, a grenadier, both of A Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, pay their final respects at the memorial ceremony for Spc. Bobby Callahan, a squad leader with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Sept. 24 in Mahmudiyah. Callahan was killed in a Humvee accident on Sept. 22.



Callahan

Schultz said. "He was easy to carry on a conversation with, a simple guy. He loved to sing - (contemporary) rhythm and blues - anything."

Callahan was married about eight months ago, said Sgt. Lucas Kinkade, a radio-telephone operator for HHC. His wife, Kristen, lives in Central Square, New York.

"I lived with him for awhile," Kinkade said of Callahan. "We had an apartment off post. He loved to work on his car."

When the roll was called at the ceremony and volleys fired, many Soldiers wept, and final respects were paid with coins and salutes, from Maj. Gen. James Thurman, 4th Infantry Division commander, to the privates in the company.

Several knelt before the upright M-4 carbine and took the dangling dog tags in hand as if making sure of the name.

The Soldiers drifted away after the ceremony, back to work or to reminisce.

Although Callahan is no longer with them in body, he is in spirit, said Schultz.

"We can't touch him with our hands, but we can carry him in our hearts."

His awards and decorations include a Bronze Star, an Army Commendation Medal with "V" device, an Army Commendation Medal with an oak leaf cluster, a National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign medal, a Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, a Good Conduct Medal, an Army Service Medal and a Combat Infantryman Badge.

Callahan was posthumously promoted to corporal Sept. 24.

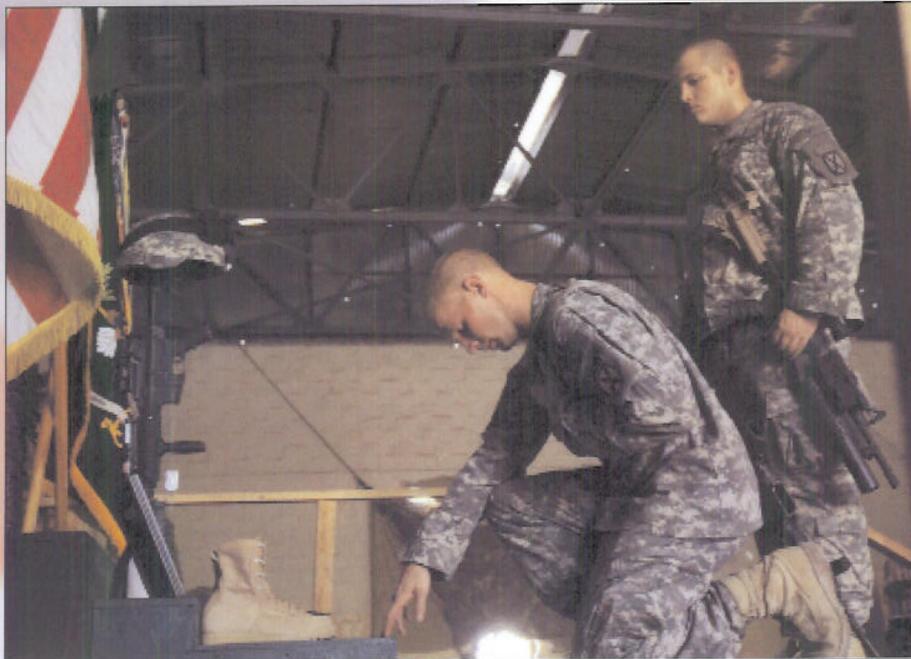


photo by Spc. Chris McCann/2BCT PAO

by Loga

A Soldier is a per
From your friend:
brothers.

Every day they're
For you and me to
Some say the ultimate

life,
But I say it's defen
wife,

your kids, and yo
we'll do it anyway
Nobody wants to
They do everything
back.

You have those p
who defend,

This is how we se
After September

But, 5 years later
People want to co
just,

But after the attac
Don't say you sup
lens,

But in reality, we
Remember those
freedom,

But let's see you
brum.

A Soldier is a ma
You open your m
If you see a Soldi

one close.

You have freedom
most.

Why tell us you s
When in all realit

This poem isn't fo
Why lie to a Sold

You go to your jo
I go to my job, ar

When you hear T
Well, I stand at at

friends!

If you want to me
ernment, or "Armi

Stop and ask you
Army?"

A Soldier is a wa
So you can sleep

night.

So the next time
say,

Just bite down yo
I salute the flag a

I remember the p
It's those people f
This poem is in n

s pay respects to two lost friends

Soldier

by J. Hayes

son just like many others,
s to your sisters, and really close

put in harm's way,
o say what we say.
mate sacrifice is giving your

nding your friends and your

ur family, and unworthy fellows,
y until this damn war mellows.
die when they come to Iraq,
ng they can in hopes to come

people who protest, and those

eparate the boys from the men.
11, everyone had rage,
they're back in their cage.
omplain, and say the cause is not

ok, a war was a must.
oport our troops in front of the

know it's just for pretend.
who died for your right to have

take shots aimed at your cere-

n or a female the same,
outh, but only to blame!
er cry, it's because he lost some-

n of speech, and abuse it the

upport us; it's only a lie,
y, do you care if we die?
or everyone, only the illiterate,
liar, and be such a hypocrite?
b, and hope you can take it,
d pray that I make it.
aps, do you stop and pretend,
tention and remember my

ake a statement about the gov-
ie"
rself - "Am I man enough for the

rrior, every day ready to fight.
in peace when you lay down at

you have something negative to

ur jaws, and just walk away.
nd those who support it,
lanes, and the people aboard it.
or whom I raised my right hand,
emory of Bobby Callahan.

Greenlee was "natural, gifted Soldier."

by Staff Sgt. Angela McKinzie
2nd BCT PAO

"Greenlee!"
No answer.
"Pfc. Greenlee!"
No answer.
"Pfc. Satieon Greenlee!"
Still no answer.

Greenlee, a native of Pendleton, S.C., served as a personal security detachment gunner for the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

He was killed Oct. 2 in Baghdad when his convoy was attacked by enemy small-arms fire.

Greenlee's comrades honored him at a memorial ceremony Oct. 10 in Mahmudiyah.

"Greenlee was a natural, gifted Soldier ... he was very disciplined and never complained - not once," said Staff Sgt. Tony Smith, Greenlee's platoon sergeant.

"He had an upbeat personality and never had a negative attitude."

As Soldiers gathered to honor Greenlee, memories were shared by his best friend.

"I remember while we were at the National Training Center in California, Greenlee and I were on a training mission and I ran out of ammunition.

"When I asked him for some of his (ammunition), he laughed and would not give me any - he loved to shoot the weapon," said Pvt. Nathan Brown, a 4-31 saw gunner and native of Manassas Park, Va.

"I used to go to his house and hang out with his family and two little boys. He loved his little boys."

Toward the end of the ceremony, emotions were strong as each Soldier paid his final respects, but everyone knew Greenlee died a hero.

"That day (that Greenlee was killed) he was heroic. He stared evil and death in the face with no fear," Smith said.

"He was a warrior - a hero. He gave the ultimate sacrifice for us - his brothers and sisters."



Greenlee

Greenlee's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, the Army Service Medal and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

Greenlee is survived by his wife, Natasha, and his two sons, Quintieon and Kuaimaine of Fort Drum, N.Y.



photo by Staff Sgt. Angela McKinzie/2BCT PAO

A military display honors Pfc. Satieon Greenlee, a gunner with the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, at a ceremony Oct. 10 in Mahmudiyah. Greenlee was killed Oct. 2 in Baghdad when his convoy was attacked by enemy small-arms fire.

Schools get a helping hand from cavalry troops

by 2nd Lt. Zach Alessi-Friedlander
1st Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd BCT

Access to a quality education is the foundation upon which a thriving democratic society evolves.

The famous late 19th-century Russian writer, Anton Chekov, observed to a friend that, "We have simply got to create exceptional conditions for teachers... since we realize that unless people get an all-around education, the state will collapse like a house built from insufficiently baked bricks."

With that in mind, C Troop, 1st Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (LI) has begun systematically surveying the different schools within their area of operations.

Their primary mission is to secure the area in order to deny terrorists the opportunities to prevent the smooth transition from a Coalition-Forces-led government to an autonomous Iraqi government-led society.

But they have also been tasked with determining, and then developing, the various ways in which they can improve the civic infrastructure. Thus, the improvement of local

schools remains one of the unit's top priorities.

Recently, C Troop's first platoon visited two schools: the Reba Yusufiyah School, located within Al Mugartimat, as well as the Tasmin Primary School, located in the vicinity of Al Rasheed and Hilla Koresh.

During their visits they spoke with school administrators, students and local nationals - all of whom provided a clearer picture of the quality of education to which they have access. Those questioned focused on two significant points.

Officials stated that many of the schools within the 1-89 AO need basic supplies and infrastructure improvements. Based on this input, the patrols of C Trp. frequently distribute knapsacks full of pencils, journals, stickers, pens, crayons and markers directly into the hands of many grateful children.

Not only are the Soldiers behind this initiative, the squadron's family readiness group has thrown its support behind this supply-distribution effort with "Operation Backpack," a fund-raising drive at Fort Drum, N.Y., to which Soldiers' families and friends contribute school supplies. As the headmaster of the Tasmin Primary School led 1st Platoon

around the school grounds, he proudly noted that he has a "nice" and "well maintained" school, but, in order to better accommodate the 650-plus students he needs at least three more classrooms.

The needs for infrastructure improvements represented potential future projects, but because of the greater political and logistical complexity inherent to such endeavors, 1-89 is evaluating possibilities.

Those associated with both schools expressed concern about the impact that the security situation is having upon the ability of the teachers to safely commute each day to these schools.

In Mugartimat, this predicament has impacted the number of teachers upon whom the school can regularly depend to be at work.

Currently, the Reba Yusufiyah School in this village is limited to only two teachers; one who hails from nearby Zaidon and the other lives in Al Mugartimat.

However, at the Tasmin Primary School, Mr. Jabar explained how his school has successfully circumvented this problem; the teachers from Baghdad remain in the immediate area rather than jeopardizing their personal safety with the

daily commute to and from Baghdad. The devotion of these teachers to the education of their students is admirable, and offers a potential solution to those other schools who are not able to provide their children with sufficient teachers.

Quality education teaches students how to think critically about their own lives and illuminates the variety of opportunities available only to those with the necessary academic training.

Natan Sharansky, the commentator on Middle Eastern politics and society, has focused particular attention on the importance of education in determining the region's future progress.

He warns against "societies that restrict intellectual freedom and prevent the free exchange of ideas," favoring instead those that "unleash the creative potential of their people."

Iraq is fertile with young minds yearning for the chance to explore the world of ideas. Better schools will provide the forums in which this next generation can chart the path that can carry the region from the struggles of the present to the hopeful possibilities of the future; the troop is doing what it can in its area of responsibility to facilitate that future.



Spc. Jerry Benson, a native of San Bernardino, Calif., a Soldier assigned to the 1st Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (LI), hands out backpacks to children during a trip to Baghdad.

by 2nd Lt. Zach Alessi-Friedlander/1st Squadron/89th Cavalry Regiment, 2BCT

563 absent Iraqi soldiers return to rolls, active duty

by Staff Sgt. Angela McKinzie
2nd BCT PAO

Deserter, as defined by the dictionary, means someone who has run away from the service without the intent of returning – one who has abandoned or forsaken.

Approximately 563 former Iraqi Army soldiers, given up as deserters, answered the call of duty again when they came back to active-duty service Oct. 10 and 11 in Mahmudiyah.

After 1,046 soldiers deserted the IA, some of the brigade commanders spoke with the Iraqi chief of staff and inquired about allowing them (the deserters) to come back to active duty without any repercussions.

After the approval of the request, the message was sent to all deserters in hopes that some would come back to the IA. The turnout in Mahmudiyah was astonishing.

"I had a chance to meet all the Soldiers

who came back to active duty," said Col. Ali, 4th Brigade, 6th IA commander. "This is an excellent and right way to serve our country," Ali said.

When the former deserters returned to Mahmudiyah they were immediately taken off deserter status and added back to the rolls after undergoing a screening process. Then they received identification cards and were fingerprinted.

Some of the former deserters made journeys that took them all day just so they could get back into the IA.

Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division personnel section helped the process.

"We are trying to help the Iraqi Army run things smoother here (in the personnel shop)," said Staff. Sgt. Alwyn Jones, 2-15 personnel noncommissioned officer in charge. "We are showing them how to use our personnel tracking systems. They are doing well and learning new things that are making them better."

As part of inprocessing, the former deserters had to write and sign a promise statement that they would never desert the IA again. This step was significant because a person's word is part of the Iraqi culture.

While some Iraqi Soldiers came back to the service because they needed money, over half of them came back because they wanted to help rebuild Iraq.

Most of them deserted the IA in fear that they or their families would be killed by terrorists. And since Iraq is changing and becoming safer, the soldiers are no longer afraid.

"I am not afraid to put my name in the newspapers now because I am an Iraqi soldier," said Iemadl Gerad, an Iraqi Soldier with the 4th Bde., 6th IA. "Soldiers coming back to the IA is better than them going out and doing bad things with the terrorists."

Having the former deserters back had a profound effect on the soldiers who had not deserted.

"It is good to have them back so we can increase our Army," said Salam Mien, an Iraqi Soldier with the 4th Bde., 6th IA. "We can use them because they have experience and knowledge."

The IA will still accept any Iraqi soldier who wants to come back into the service.

"We will have anyone at anytime come back," said Col. Khalid, Iraqi Army recruiting officer."

The former deserters who came back to active duty will be placed in areas where there are shortages in order to fill the Iraqi ranks.

"In my opinion the Iraqis are supposed to rebuild the country," Ali said. "Joining the Army allows them to do so."

Formerly known as deserters, these 563 IA soldiers have answered to the call of duty.



photo courtesy of 2nd Battalion/15th Field Artillery Regiment

Former Iraqi Army deserters gather around to listen to briefings before they are put back on active-duty status. There were 563 former deserters who came back to the IA in Mahmudiyah Oct. 10 and 11. Many had deserted for fear of retribution against their families, but as the situation in Iraq improves, they have returned to aid the efforts to move toward a self-governing Iraq.

'Commando Hunter' bags more than 50 weapons caches

by Staff Sgt. Angela McKinzie
2nd BCT PAO

Soldiers from Multi-National Division - Baghdad's 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (LI) have seized more than 50 weapons and munitions caches in the southern Baghdad area as of Oct. 11.

Soldiers of 4th Bn., 31st Inf. Regt., seized 14 weapons caches through Oct. 4. By Saturday, the Soldiers had seized an additional 16 weapons caches in the rural areas south of Baghdad.

Several caches were comprised of large quantities of assault rifles, machine guns and ammunition, and a wide assortment of

explosives and bomb-making materials.

The most significant find within the caches were four aircraft bombs, believed to be 500 pounds apiece.

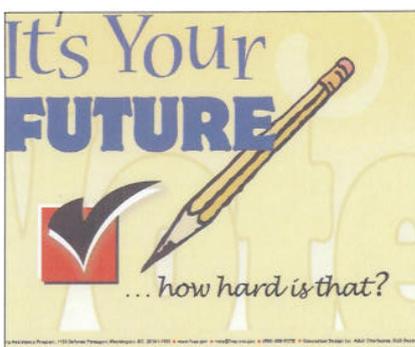
The munitions are believed to have been intended for building a massive improvised-explosive device to be used in Baghdad.

Other items in the find include 86 90mm rockets, a 107mm rocket, two fertilizer bags containing homemade explosives, two 120mm mortar rounds and a variety of remote-controlled-triggering devices.

Also found were three Dishka 12.5mm heavy machine guns with 20 full ammunition cans, telescopic sights for rifles and a 14.5mm anti-aircraft machine gun.

Soldiers also found several rocket-propelled grenade launchers with 34 grenades, and two RPK machine guns with ammunition.

The caches were found during searches that form a part of Operation Commando Hunter. The operation is designed to deny the terrorists sanctuary within the brigade's area of operations in the rural areas south of Baghdad proper.



Remember to vote this year. For absentee ballots, information about voting from overseas, or any other assistance you need, visit the Federal Voter Assistance Program's Web site at www.fvap.gov.

Responsibility has no borders.
Vote!

Corps' top NCO visits 2-14 Infantry area of operations

by Spc. Chris McCann
2nd BCT PAO

BAGHDAD – The Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers making their way through the pastoral marketplace outside Sadr Al-Yusufiyah stop frequently, well aware of the road's reputation for danger. They check every unusual pile of dirt, every crack in the road, as they safeguard their valuable cargo: Lt. Col. John Valledor, commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Clyde Glenn, both of 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, who were escorting Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph Beam, Multi-National Corps – Iraq's senior enlisted leader.

The Soldiers of the commander's personnel security detachment escorted Beam Sept. 26 to see their outpost, Patrol Base Warrior Keep, near Sadr Al-Yusufiyah, as well as a nearby battle position.

"It's always a pleasure to see professionals at work," said Beam, a native of Kissimmee, Fla. "They're fresh; they're doing fine ... and we always learn a lot when we go out."

While the patrol was for the most part routine, the Soldiers stopped two Iraqis who appeared to be taking photos of the vehicles.

After some discussion through translators, the men were determined to be doing nothing wrong and were released.

Sgt. Stuart Fredieu, a team leader with 2nd Bn., 14th Inf. Regt., and a native of Quapaw, Okla., was guarding a checkpoint next to Warrior Keep when the convoy arrived.

"We check every vehicle," he explained, "and we ask questions about how people feel and what they know."

The Soldiers also try to be sensitive to the locals' needs.

The Islamic holiday of Ramadan is going on, so the checkpoint is kept open an hour later, said Fredieu.

Many of the residents in this area gather in the evenings to break the fast with friends and



photo by Spc. Chris McCann/2BCT PAO

Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph R. Beam, the Multi-National Corps-Iraq command sergeant major, listens to mortarman Pvt. Joseph Hallman of Redding, Penn., explain his responsibilities as a guard at Patrol Base Warrior Keep Sept. 26.

need to use the checkpoint later than normal.

"We basically are securing the sector," said Spc. Terry Hobson, truck gunner, 2nd Bn., 14th Inf. Regt., and a native of Sacramento, Calif. "Everybody did everything like they are supposed to. We stopped the two people, but it was a pretty normal patrol."

Beam and his personnel

security detachment have logged over 20,000 miles in Iraq, visiting even the most remote outposts of U.S. forces here to offer encouragement and make sure standards are maintained.

"If you don't enforce the standard, you're not going to get (anywhere)," Beam said. "It's good to have this brigade here. Their reputation precedes them."

Mahmudiyah dining facility feeds forward troops

by Spec. Chris McCann
2nd BCT PAO

"An army marches on its stomach." Napoleon observed centuries ago, and it this will remain true until mechanical warfighters are created.

Keeping an army - or even a battalion - fed is not a simple task.

The dining facility at Mahmudiyah feeds the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, and the 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, both of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, and attached troops three meals a day, seven days a week, said Chief Warrant Officer Shawn Lashbrook, the brigade food service advisor.

The Polar Bears of 4-31, like their namesake, require a great deal of sustenance while on their constant missions.

Every two weeks, for example, the facility goes through 1,320 pounds of steaks, 1,250 pounds of hamburger patties, 270 cases of soda and 450 cases of ice cream.

Food is ordered online and trucked from Kuwait to Mahmudiyah in refrigerated vans.

For the Soldiers of the 2nd BCT, the news that they would be sent to Mahmudiyah implied that they'd be living on Meals, Ready to Eat indefinitely, so the Polar Bear Café was a welcome surprise.

"It's just fine," said Pfc. Kristina McCaddon, a communications specialist assigned to the 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, and a native of Seaside, Calif. "It's better than I expected, and better than MREs."

"My favorite is Mexican food," offered Spc. Joshua Scott, a signal noncommissioned officer from Tioga Center, N.Y., stationed at Mahmudiyah with the 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment. "Sometimes they have fajitas and enchiladas."

And even if the food weren't good, the dining facility is the safest place to be in the event of an attack, Lashbrook said. The building is largely composed of gabion bas-

kets filled with rocks and dirt, despite its unassuming plywood walls, and layers of sandbags on the roof provide protection for the occupants.

There are plans to increase the force protection capabilities, however, like increasing security for those who come to sate their hungry bellies and more equipment for the cooks.

Spc. Robert Conner of Johnson City, Tenn., explained that the life of a food service specialist isn't an easy one. "It's pretty hard," he said. "Eleven hour or nine hour shifts, seven days a week. Even in (garrison), we work weekends while everybody else is off."

A food service specialist works breakfast and lunch one day, dinner another, he explained.

"Dinner is harder, because you're preparing a full meal," he said. Lunch and breakfast offer more prepared foods - cereal, fruit, or heat-and-serve foods like egg rolls and pizza. Dinner can be almost anything, from pork chops to stew.

Spc. Tavon Pettway of Bridgeport, Conn., finds the work difficult, but rewarding.

"It's nice that the Soldiers appreciate it," he said. "They give a lot of compliments. We have a couple of guys that always come by and say thanks."

Some standards on the menu include Italian food nights with pasta and traditional dishes, Mexican, including tacos, and surf-and-turf on Friday evenings, complete with lobster, crab, and steak.

Even if Soldiers are out on a mission and can't make it in for a meal, the staff provides what they can.

"They leave it open during the day so you can come in and get food," said Sgt. Kenyon Hunt of 2-15, a native of Phoenix.

"Everybody seems to like it," Lashbrook said. "I was down there the other day and everybody had nothing but praise for the Mahmudiyah dining facility." The dining facility serves about 2,700 meals each day, seating 250 Soldiers at a time, with 19 food service specialists.



photo by Spec. Chris McCann/2BCT PAO

Spc. Robert Conner of Johnson City, Tenn., and a cook with the 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, prepares gravy in the Forward Operating Base Mahmudiyah dining facility Sept. 26.

Army Equal Opportunity

by Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Drayton II
2nd BCT EO Advisor

At the conclusion of the National Hispanic Heritage Month, which ran from September 15th through October 15th, it is important to focus on the reason that these observances were



Drayton

established by public law. Many people believe that these observances are times set aside for the particular ethnic group featured to celebrate their heritage.

However, while that is a part of the observance, the overall goal of them is to

increase public knowledge of the culture, diversity, and accomplishments that other rich cultures have contributed to the United States of America. Together, all of these contributions have made us the greatest nation in the world today.

Accomplishment of the overall goal does not always have to involve some lavish ceremony or activity - it can be as simple as talking to an individual that is in your team, squad or platoon

that is of that particular ethnic group.

The intent is to educate, not just to celebrate. Spending some time learning about other cultures increases not only one's knowledge, but tolerance and appreciation for the contributions of others.

So remember, observances are not just celebrations, but opportunities to increase every-one's awareness.

Army unveils new service slogan

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Oct. 9, 2006) - The Army announced the start of its communication and education efforts to assist the Army family to communicate to the nation its new advertising campaign - Army Strong - to an audience of Soldiers, Army civilians and family members today.

Army Secretary Dr. Francis J. Harvey unveiled the effort to tell the Army about the campaign, a key component of the Army's recruiting efforts, during an opening ceremony for the 2006 Association of the U.S. Army Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

"This morning we will launch our internal communications and education phase lasting several weeks until we formally launch the new advertising campaign on Nov. 9," Harvey said.

"It is vitally important that the internal Army family understand and embrace this new campaign. I believe it speaks to an essential truth of being a Soldier."

The Army is taking 30 days to educate its internal audience on the campaign's meaning. It will go "public" Nov. 9 with television, radio and online spots, as well as an updated www.goarmy.com Web site.

Print ads are scheduled to begin in January, and will be directed to media that appeals to young adults.

The Army Strong campaign will build on the foundation of previ-

ous recruiting campaigns by highlighting the transformative power of the Army.

It will also capture the defining experiences of Soldiers - active duty, Army Reserve, and National Guard - serving the nation at home and abroad.

"I am both inspired and confident that the campaign will build on the positive momentum within our recruiting program," said Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp Jr., commander of the U.S. Army Accessions Command.

The Army Strong campaign will address the interests and motivations of those considering a career in the Army, and will also speak to family members and friends supporting prospective recruits.

Developing the campaign is McCann Worldgroup, a marketing communications agency retained last December after a competitive review of potential agencies.

To develop the campaign, McCann conducted extensive research among prospective Soldiers and their influencers, and interacted with hundreds of currently serving Soldiers.

"This is a campaign informed by research and inspired by Soldiers," said Eric Keshin, McCann Worldgroup's worldwide chief operating officer and regional director-North America.

ARMY STRONG™



Dining facility schedules temporarily change

Camp Striker DFAC:

Breakfast: 4 a.m. until 8:15 a.m.

Lunch: 11:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

Dinner: 5 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

Late meal: 11:30 p.m. until 1 a.m.

Mahmudiyah DFAC:

Breakfast: 6:30 a.m. until 9 a.m.

Lunch: 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Dinner: 4:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Yusufiyah DFAC:

Breakfast: 7:30 until 9 a.m.

Lunch: 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Dinner: 5:30p.m. until 7 p.m.:

Lutifiyah DFAC:

Breakfast: 7 a.m. until 9 a.m.

Lunch: 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Dinner: 5 p.m. until 7 p.m.



photo courtesy of Task Force Vigilant

Lt. Col. Robert Morschauer, 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, puts a combat patch on a Soldier attached to Task Force Vigilant, which guards the Victory Base Camp complex.

The Soldiers were presented with the combat patches in a ceremony earlier this month. Soldiers who have been in a combat zone for more than 30 days are authorized to wear the patch.

Got news?

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs Office is here to route news! We want your stories, ideas, commentaries, and photos. Is your squad going on an interesting mission? Let us know! Got a pet peeve you're itching to write about? We want to hear it.

The PAO is available at 242-4372 or commando_brigade@yahoo.com. And if you're looking to find out about the brigade - or tell your family and friends back home about it - there are several ways to do it.

The brigade weblog is at <http://www.CommandosOf2BCT.blogspot.com>. TheSandstorm is available online as a .PDF there, as well.

Most Army video and photos - including ours - are available at <http://www.dividshub.net>, and the Blizzard is at <http://www.drum.army.mil>.

Iraqi, U.S. Army Soldiers team up against terror

by Spc. Chris McCann
2BCT PAO

The proverb says that two heads are better than one.

Soldiers from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment proved it last month as they worked with the 3rd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division troops to conduct raids and arrest suspected anti-Iraqi forces in the 2-14's area of operations in the rural areas south of Baghdad.

While the Iraqis learned from the experience, there were plenty of new Soldiers who gained valuable knowledge about operations as well.

"Executing my first mission successfully gave me confidence in my extensive training received prior to deployment," said Pfc. David McKey, an infantryman with Company B.

Staff Sgt. Robert Derohn, a squad leader, said that he was impressed with the

Soldiers' performance.

"The professionalism and expertise with which these young Soldiers executed a last-minute, high-profile mission was outstanding," Derohn said.

The raid netted a high-value target allegedly responsible for participating in attacks on coalition forces.

"Today is a proud day for the men of Bravo Company," said company commander Palmer

Y. Phillips. "It is evident that our training has truly paid off, as we successfully put down a brutal insurgency on the fringe of



photo courtesy of 2nd Battalion/14th Infantry Regiment

Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army, check a mosque during a raid conducted in conjunction with the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment last month. The operation netted a suspected terrorist leader.

freedom.

"As their commander, these men make me proud of the professionalism and first-rate work they do day in and day out."

Provider battalion keeps supplies flowing in Iraq

By Spc. Chris McCann
2nd BCT PAO

CAMP STRIKER, Iraq - In the age of e-mail and 24-hour supercenters, people sometimes forget that food and supplies have to be transported by truck or airplane. And getting supplies around in a combat zone can be a dangerous and dicey proposition in Iraq.

The 2nd Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, is nicknamed "Provider" for a reason. Convoys of trucks roll out every other day to take food, medical supplies, and other goods to remote forward operating bases in the brigade's theater of operations.

Sometimes the personnel security detachment of the 210th BSB steps in to move items, too.

On Oct. 4 and 5 the PSD went from Camp Striker to Forward Operating Base Gator Swamp with a load of supplies - everything from grapefruit to toilet paper.

The PSD dropped off a water-purification system to the

remote base, which will enable the Soldiers and locals to have potable water. Fruit, soda and other niceties were appreciated.

"We're helping bring goods to the Soldiers who don't get the everyday conveniences we do," said Spc. George Ernie, also with the PSD. "We bring that out to them."

The next day, an air-conditioning system repair machine went to Forward Operating Base Yusufiyah, as well as six new Humvee tires, four heavy-duty jacks, foot lockers and sundries.

"Anytime we get stuff that we need, it's always good," said Sgt. Scott Matthews, supply sergeant for 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd BCT, 10th Mountain Division. "We can always find some use for whatever they send."

Company C, 4-31, based in Yusufiyah, was especially glad for the shipment.

"Batteries are good," said Pfc. Nicholas Phillips, an infantryman with Company C. "We use a lot of batteries for our (equipment). They run out real quick."

Due to its location, the base often is the nearest haven for convoys with disabled vehicles. The mechanics there repair 45 to 50 vehicles each week, and go through tires often.

"We need (supplies). It makes our job easier," said Staff Sgt. Edwin Brown, a mechanic with 4-31.

He explained that often, the trucks that come in are badly damaged, with blown tires. "When we're fixing trucks, we

use a lot of supplies."

The Soldiers of the PSD also find a certain pride in keeping their compatriots in the fight.

"It makes us feel good," said Sgt. 1st Class James Felix, the PSD noncommissioned officer in charge.

"When you drop it off you can see it in their faces.

"Last week we were on a delivery and a Soldier said, "We love you guys." It makes us feel good."



photo by Spc. Chris McCann/2BCT PAO

Sgt. 1st Class James Felix and Sgt. Patrick Leone, both with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Support Battalion, help Spc. Adrian Diller, a mechanic with 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, unload supplies from a conex in Yusufiyah.



From:



To:

Greetings from Iraq!