



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
2D BN 8TH MAR 2D MARDIV
PSC BOX 20103

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1500

S-3

30 Jun 03

From: Commanding Officer, 2d Battalion, 8th Marines
To: Commanding Officer, 2d Marine Regiment (ATTN S-3)

Subj: COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1. The enclosed document is the command chronology from 1 January 2003 to 30 June 2003.
2. Point of contact for this matter is Capt Keller at DSN: 451-7828, Comm: (910)451-7828.



R. P. MORTENSON

SECTION ONE

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Unit Designation 2d Battalion, 8th Marines

- (a) Reporting Unit Code: 12170
- (b) Table of Organization Number: 1037F
1013G
1027H

2. Period Covered and Location of Battalion Headquarters

- (a) 01 Jan 03 - 09 Jan 03, Camp Lejeune, NC
09 Jan 03 - 16 Feb 03, USS Ship
16 Feb 03 - 21 Mar 03, Kuwait
21 Mar 03 - 11 May 03, Iraq
11 May 03 - 13 May 03, Kuwait
13 May 03 - 22 Jun 03, USS Ship
22 Jun 03 - 30 Jun 03, Camp Lejeune, NC

3. Personal Information

- (a) Commanding Officer
LtCol Royal P. Mortenson 01 Jan 03 - 30 Jun 03
- (b) Executive Officer
Maj Julian D. Alford 01 Jan 03 - 30 Jun 03
- (c) Subordinate Commanders
 - (1) H&S Co
Capt James A. Ryans II 01 Jan 03 - 30 Jun 03
 - (2) Co E
Capt Kevin E. Yeo 01 Jan 03 - 30 Jun 03
 - (3) Co F
Capt Timothy R. Dremann 01 Jan 03 - 30 Jun 03
 - (4) Co G
Capt Brian A. Ross 01 Jan 03 - 30 Jun 03
 - (5) Wpns Co
Capt Benjamin J. Luciano 01 Jan 03 - 30 Jun 03
- (d) Principal Staff Members

- (1) Adjutant (S-1)
1stLt Ricardo A. Medal 01 Jan 03 – 30 Jun 03
- (2) Intelligence (S-2)
Capt John R. Dupree 01 Jan 03 – 30 Jun 03
- (3) Operations (S-3)
Maj Robert C. Fulford 01 Jan 03 – 30 Jun 03
- (4) Logistics (S-4)
Capt Jeff P. Bentz 01 Jan 03 – 30 Jun 03
- (5) Communications (S-6)
2ndLt Russell A. Belt 01 Jan 03 – 30 Jun 03
- (6) Staff Historian
Capt John E. Keller 01 Jan 03 – 30 Jun 03
- (7) Sergeant Major
1stSgt Myles C. Thorne 01 Jan 03 – 30 Jun 03

4. Average Monthly Strength

| 2003 | USMC | | USN | | TOTAL |
|------|------|-----|-----|----|-------|
| | MO | ME | NO | NE | |
| Jan | 47 | 750 | 3 | 43 | 843 |
| Feb | 47 | 750 | 3 | 43 | 843 |
| Mar | 51 | 771 | 3 | 43 | 868 |
| Apr | 50 | 757 | 3 | 42 | 852 |
| May | 46 | 736 | 3 | 42 | 827 |
| Jun | 48 | 817 | 3 | 43 | 911 |
| Avg | 48 | 763 | 3 | 43 | 857 |

5. Equipment. The following equipment is reported in MARES. Excess possessed are due to attachments from 1/10 and Truck Company, HQBN, 2D MARDIV.

| <u>TAMCN</u> | <u>NOMENCLATURE</u> | <u>AUTH</u> | <u>POSS</u> |
|------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| A1530 | AN / PPN - 19 (V) 2 | 2 | 2 |
| A1935 | AN / MRC - 138A RADIO | 3 | 3 |
| A1957 (1 attchd) | AN / MRC - 145 RADIO | 5 | 6 |
| A2042 | AN / PRC - 150 RADIO | 4 | 4 |

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|----|----|
| A2065 | AN / PRC - 104 RADIO | 3 | 3 |
| A2069 | AN / PRC - 113 RADIO UHF | 5 | 5 |
| A2070 (6 attchd) | AN / PRC - 119A | 36 | 42 |
| A2074 | AN / VRC - 88D | 16 | 16 |
| A2075 | AN / VRC - 89D | 2 | 2 |
| A2079 | AN / PRC - 119F | 36 | 36 |
| A2164 | AN / VRC - 83 RADIO | 3 | 3 |
| A2167 | AN / VRC - 88A RADIO | 8 | 8 |
| A2168 | AN / VRC - 89A | 2 | 2 |
| A2169 | AN / VRC - 90A | 2 | 2 |
| A2505 | SB - 3614 SWITCHBOARD | 1 | 1 |
| A8100 | OK648 | 17 | 18 |
| B0730 | MEP-16 | 2 | 2 |
| B1291 | LTWT DECON UNIT | 3 | 2 |
| D1001 | HRD BK AMBULANCE (997 A2) | 2 | 2 |
| D1002 | AMBULANCE (M1035) | 2 | 2 |
| D1125 | TOW VEHICLE (M1045) | 8 | 8 |
| D1158 (4 attchd) | HIGH BACK HMMWV (M1123) | 32 | 36 |
| D1159 | HMG HMMWV (M1044) | 11 | 11 |
| E0180 | M2A2 AIMING CIRCLE | 4 | 4 |
| E0330 | TOW NGHT SIGHT 12C | 8 | 8 |
| E0915 | MK153, SMAW | 18 | 18 |
| E0980 (4 attchd) | MG, M2, .50 CAL, BROWNING | 6 | 10 |
| E0989 | MG, M240G | 29 | 29 |
| E0994 (3 attchd) | MG ,40MM, MK -19 MOD - 3 | 11 | 14 |
| E1045 (3 attchd) | MULE, AN / PAQ - 3 | 2 | 5 |
| E1065 | M244, 60MM MORTAR | 9 | 9 |
| E1159 | NIGHT VISION SCOPE | 18 | 18 |
| E1460 | M40A1, SNIPER RIFLE | 8 | 8 |
| E1475 | SASR .50 CAL M82A3 | 2 | 2 |
| E1911 | TEST SET, MIS GUIDE AN/TSM-152 | 2 | 2 |
| E1912 | TEST SET, MGS | 2 | 0 |
| E0207 | JAVELIN | 8 | 8 |
| E0935 | M220E4, TOW | 8 | 8 |
| E1095 | M252, 81MM MORTAR | 8 | 8 |

SECTION TWO

COMMAND OPERATIONS AND TRAINING

During the first half of CY 2003, 2d Battalion, 8th Marines was presented with numerous challenges revolving around combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The first challenge for the Battalion was logistical: a last-minute change in its mode of transportation from air to a combination of amphibious and black-bottom shipping. After being notified on the 30th of December of the requirement for the Battalion to be embarked aboard amphibious shipping on the 9th of January, the Battalion was recalled off of block leave on 2 January. The Battalion successfully repacked and restaged all of its gear, vehicles, and personnel and loaded them aboard amphibious ships for transport to Kuwait in the required time frame. Loading of black-bottom shipping was accomplished on the 22nd-24th of January, with the Advance Party flying out on the 5th of February and arriving in Kuwait on the 6th. The Battalion was OPCODEN to Regimental Combat Team (RCT) 2, 2d Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) for transit, and was scheduled to change OPCODEN (CHOP) to RCT-7 upon arrival in Southwest Asia.

Once aboard ship, the Battalion commenced planning and training for upcoming operations. The commanders and staff conducted numerous Operational Planning Teams (OPTs) to work out the details of such things as how to operate as a Motorized Battalion, how to employ fire support in our probable Area of Operations (AO), how to deal with a Nuclear, Biological, or Chemical (NBC) attack, and many other aspects of our possible and probable missions in Iraq. The rifle companies also maintained a rigorous training schedule focusing on individual and unit tactics, live-fire training, and operations in an NBC environment.

During the transit, the Battalion had to deal with yet more major changes: a shift in higher headquarters for the operation itself and an accompanying change in AO. Instead of a CHOP to RCT-7, the Battalion was to remain with RCT-2 for the duration of the operation.

Upon arrival in the Kuwait Theater of Operations (KTO) on 16 February, the Battalion commenced offloading via surface and helicopter to an austere site at Camp Shoup, Kuwait. At Camp Shoup, the Battalion continued its training schedule with an increased emphasis on live fire training to include indirect fires and aviation integration, motorized convoy operations, and urban combat techniques.

The Battalion's training schedule continued with minor interruptions until days before the beginning of hostilities when the Battalion shifted its priorities to emphasized unit and individual readiness to move to and cross the Line of Departure (LD).

On 20 March 2003, 2d Battalion, 8th Marines left Camp Shoup, Kuwait for Tactical Assembly Area (TAA) Hawkins, and, on 21 March, the Battalion crossed the LD and entered Iraq. The Battalion paused briefly at Phase Line (PL) Outback on the 21st before proceeding to the vicinity of Jalibah airfield on the 22nd of March.

23 March saw 2/8 closing on An Nasiriyah in trace of 1st Battalion, 2d Marines. Radio traffic on command and fire support nets made it clear that 1/2 was encountering heavier resistance than anticipated, and 2/8 was ordered to clear bypassed resistance

along Highway 7, conduct a relief in place (RIP) with elements of 1/2 at the Euphrates River Bridge.

Fox Company was the lead rifle company, and they were tasked with the RIP with 1/2 on the southern bridge in An Nasiriyah. Two sections from the Combined Anti-Armor Team (CAAT) led the company movement to the linkup point, but were unable to find any units from 1/2 in the vicinity of the linkup grid. As the lead CAAT section approached the bridge, they received heavy machine gun fire from the west. Fox Company dismounted and cleared the final kilometer south of the bridge, receiving sporadic small arms fire as they did so. Upon reaching the bridge, the company crossed to the north side of the bridge. Unable to gain contact with 1/2, the company established platoon defensive positions on the bridge oriented north and at the base of the bridge oriented southeast and southwest.

As Fox Company secured the southern bridgehead, Echo Company cleared the west side of Highway 7 and Golf Company cleared the east side south of the Euphrates. CAAT destroyed one technical vehicle with a TOW missile, and Alpha Company, 2D LAR became OPCON to 2/8 for the defense. As the 23rd came to a close, Company F was arrayed at the base of the southern bridge oriented south and east with Echo Company holding the base of the bridge oriented south and west. Company G was approximately one kilometer south of the bridge securing a key intersection. During the night of 23 March, elements of Alpha Company, 2D LAR destroyed 4 technical vehicles while screening the Battalion's Western flank.

24 March saw 2/8 in continuous contact with primarily irregular enemy forces in An Nasiriyah. Early in the morning, an Iraqi man, saying he was a doctor from the hospital located in the vicinity of PV211337, approached Captain Dremann, Commanding Officer, Fox Company at the Euphrates River Bridge. This "doctor" delivered a note to Captain Dremann written in English, saying that he had patients in his hospital and that he supported the US. He asked Captain Dremann to leave the hospital alone, as they were peaceful people, and he had patients in there.

Throughout the morning of the 24th, 2/8 continued to clear resistance in sector, while also recovering the bodies and equipment left behind from the previous unit's engagements. Two squads from Golf Company, led by the Battalion Gunner, recovered the remains of two US Army personnel from the wreckage of their vehicle. One element of Golf Company received reports that U.S. Prisoners of War were being held in the hospital complex just to the East of Fox Company's position. Coincidentally, this is the hospital that the "doctor" worked at, who approached Captain Dremann earlier.

In the late morning of 24 March, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines had a resupply convoy that desperately needed to move through An Nasiriyah across the Euphrates River Bridge and the Saddam Canal Bridge (Ambush Alley) to provide essential resupply to 1/2 units north of the city. In support of this convoy, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines developed, planned and fired Series Code Red (an artillery series targeting Ambush Alley key terrain). Series Code Red would become a much used fire support tool for weeks to come, in support of convoys transiting the Alley.

In the early afternoon, Alpha Company, 2nd LAR returned to their parent unit, 2D LAR Battalion, and proceeded north through Ambush Alley and up Highway 7 north the city. Alpha Company left one platoon OPCON to 2/8. Shortly afterward, Golf Company prepared to search the hospital complex suspected of housing Prisoners of War (POWs).

As Golf Company stepped off on its movement; they came under fire from the southeast. Simultaneously, Fox Company, in close proximity to the hospital, took direct fire from the hospital, coupled with direct and indirect fire from the northern bank of the Euphrates. Echo Company also took direct and indirect fire from enemy forces north of the Euphrates. CAAT and the 81mm mortar platoon, located in the vicinity of Golf Company, took fire as well. Utilizing fire support coordinated by the Battalion in conjunction with their own organic direct-fire weapons, each company returned fire and eventually silenced the fires of the enemy in their respective sectors.

In response, 2/8 prepared to assault the hospital compound. The Commanding General (CG) of Task Force Tarawa (TFT), who was at the Euphrates River Bridge, halted this assault in order to allow US Special Forces and national assets the opportunity to investigate the presence of US POWs. The Battalion received 7 WIA'S as a result of the fighting of 24 March.

Late in the evening of 24 March, elements of RCT-1 commenced a forward passage of lines with RCT-2 and transited the two bridges and Ambush Alley to points north of the city along Route 7. This passage was not completed until late in the morning of 25 March.

Once the forward passage of lines of RCT-1 was complete, Fox Company attacked to clear the hospital compound to the East of their position. The assault on the hospital was successful, and Fox Company Marines recovered hundreds of enemy assault weapons, thousands of rounds of ammunition, and hundreds of enemy chemical protective suits and masks. It was clear that this complex was more than a hospital, but was an army garrison. There was an Iraqi T-55 tank within the hospital compound, as well. The Marines also recovered evidence that American POWs had been held at that location. This evidence included two flak jackets adjusted for wear by females – one of which bore the name "Lynch" – American utility uniforms, American chemical protective suits marked with Lynch's name, and two pairs of size five desert boots. Dozens of EPW's were taken from the compound, including the "doctor" who had approached Captain Dremann on 24 March. Evidence found in the hospital indicated that the "doctor" was an Iraqi General.

Late in the afternoon of 25 March, Golf Company received mortar impacts in their lines. These impacts were duds, but had also registered as Red Rains on the counter-battery radar from 1/10. CAAT Platoon was dispatched to clear the suspected point of origin of these rounds, which was just to the Southeast of the Hwy 7/8 intersection. The lead element of CAAT was engaged by a heavy caliber weapon located near the fuel storage tanks southeast of the intersection of Highway 7 and Highway 8. Captain MacCutcheon, the CAAT Platoon Commander, addressed this threat employing direct and indirect fires to destroy enemy resistance in the area. The rifle company positions continued to receive sporadic small arms and mortar/artillery fire regularly, this would continue through the 28th. Additionally, late on the 25th, 3/2 moved into sector to the West of Hwy 7, assuming responsibility of that sector in the morning of 26 March.

On 26 March, CAAT Platoon was providing security for the RCT's Combat Engineers, who were attempting to crater Highway 8 just to the East of Highway 7. Late in the afternoon, the engineer platoon was engaged by a heavy machine gun at the key intersection of Highways 7 and 8 that was later discovered to be a 23mm anti-aircraft gun in direct-fire mode. CAAT Platoon provided covering fire to the engineers as they

withdrew south, taking cover in the 2/8's Main Command Post compound. Shortly after the engagement at the intersection, the Battalion's Main Command Post reported that they were taking fire from the Northwest. CAAT continued to prosecute the targets at the intersection until the RCT's LAR Company arrived on scene, and then conducted a battle handover with LAR.

The engagement at the Main Command Post (CP) continued to grow in intensity, receiving impacts from enemy forces armed with small arms, machine guns, mortars, and Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPGs). During the engagement, elements of the LAR Company became disoriented and began engaging 2/8's Main CP itself with 25mm and small arms, destroying three MTVRs and one wrecker, and damaging five HMMWVs before it was determined that a blue-on-blue situation was occurring and a cease-fire was implemented.

On 27 March, CAAT Platoon was once again engaged at the 7/8 intersection, by enemy forces firing a ZPU in direct fire mode. CAAT destroyed these forces with a combination of direct fire and a section of UH-1N Huey Gunships. On 28 March, CAAT provided overwatch on an obstacle emplaced on Highway 8 southeast of town to prevent enemy reinforcement from Suk Ash Shakar.

Additionally, on 27 March, a scout sniper team led by Corporal Meier, attempted to swim the Euphrates River in order to inspect a truck that was parked under the northern side of the bridge. The current in the river proved too strong to swim, so Corporal Meier's team moved across the bridge on foot, and inspected the vehicle. After determining the vehicle was benign, the team proceeded to search a house near the bridge where they had seen enemy activity for the previous several days. This house proved to be a Ba'ath party militia headquarters and was a windfall of intelligence, with multiple maps and graphics detailing the locations of enemy strong points and headquarters buildings. These maps were exploited at the Battalion level and then passed up to the RCT for further exploitation.

Prior to crossing the line of departure, each rifle company and the CAAT Platoon took OPCON of a scout sniper team. These imbedded teams played an integral role in the security of the Battalion's flanks and the stabilization of the bridgehead from 23-25 March. During this period, the scout sniper platoon accounted for (38) confirmed sniper kills of enemy personnel on both the northern and southern banks of the Euphrates.

28 and 29 March saw the engagement and neutralization of numerous enemy indirect fire assets by rotary-wing CAS aircraft in the southeastern section of An Nasiriyah.

From 29 through 31 March, Company E began an extended patrol to clear the southern bank of the Euphrates River. This patrol continued into an industrial area on the 30th and an urban cluster on the 31st of March, destroying numerous weapons caches and rendering the southern half of the city secure.

From 23 through 29 March, fire support played a central role in the Battalion's success, during deliberate attacks, meeting engagements, and defensive operations. Throughout this period, the Battalion successfully employed the following:

- 580 artillery rounds
- 460 81mm mortar rounds
- 30 combat air missions

31 March also began 2/8's Civil/Military Operations, providing security for the distribution of food and water and for medical and dental care for the civilian residents of An Nasiriyah.

On 1 April, the Civil/Military Operations continued, 3/2 conducted a RIP with 2/8's westernmost elements. While the RIP was occurring, Company G cleared an industrial complex west of Highway 7. Also on 1 April, an anonymous Iraqi civilian handed a Marine on a routine patrol a piece of paper. That piece of paper turned out to be a letter from someone claiming to be Private Jessica Lynch. Later that night, Private Lynch was successfully rescued from her room in a hospital north of the Euphrates.

The 15th MEU came into An Nasiriyah on the 2nd of April, and their GCE, 2/1, began their relief in place with 2/8 on this date. On 3 April, the RIP was complete and 2/8 commenced its movement to Ad Diwaniyah to provide LOC security on Highway 1 in the vicinity of the town.

Upon arrival in Ad Diwaniyah on the 4th of April, the Battalion set up a defensive perimeter between the town and Highway 1 with Company E in a blocking position, Company G guarding an enemy Divisional Ammunition Supply Point (ASP), and Company F in reserve. CAAT conducted a reconnaissance of a complex of numerous chicken coops south of the main LOC intersection at Ad Diwaniyah, in preparation for a deliberate cordon and search operation by Company F the following day.

On 5 April, Fox Company (+) conducted a deliberate cordon and search of the area south of Ad Diwaniyah known as the chicken coop. Prior to our arrival in the Area of Operations, the chicken coop had served as a staging point for Iraqi paramilitary forces. Fox's cordon and search turned up nothing of military significance.

On the 6th of April 2/8 was tasked to support a Special Operations mission. To support the mission, 2/8 was tasked with establishing a blocking position on a Main Supply Route (MSR) north of Ad Diwaniyah to isolate the town, preventing enemy forces from escaping shaping operations conducted by higher headquarters. In order to accomplish this, the Battalion received a platoon of LAR and Battery A, 1/10 in Direct Support (DS). Battery A would remain DS to 2/8 until 16 April. During their movement to the blocking position north of the town, the LAR platoon drove through a small village north of Ad Diwaniyah and past numerous empty fighting positions. Upon reaching the blocking position, they noticed multiple enemy soldiers in the vicinity, obviously surprised at the LAR's presence. They began taking sporadic mortar fire, and commenced to withdraw. During the withdrawal, small arms, mortars, and RPGs engaged the LAR platoon. There were no friendly casualties during this engagement. Subsequent aerial reconnaissance flights over this area were unable to uncover any additional activity.

In the early hours of 7 April, 2/8 received the frag order to secure Highways 1, 7, and 27 in zone, in the vicinity of Ash Shumali. The Battalion moved out on the 7th and established defensive positions in the vicinity of the town of Ash Shumali, effectively cordoning the town, and securing the main avenues of approach. On the 8th, Company G occupied positions in the town itself, building a solid relationship with the residents of Ash Shumali and setting a firm foundation for the successful transition to support and stability operations.

On 9 April, the Battalion received the frag to clear areas East of Ad Diwaniyah along Highway 17, where 1st FSSG convoys had reported being ambushed. This area

was approximately 50 kilometers from the Battalion's current base of operations. On 10 April, CAAT Platoon reinforced with a rifle platoon and a section of 81's cleared the designated area, identifying no signs of an ambush or enemy activity. On the 11 April, Company F occupied the town of Sumer – midway between Ash Shumali and Ad Diwaniyah. Over the previous two weeks, Sumer had been a known staging point for former Iraqi military and Ba'ath Party officials. During previous presence patrols in the area, the residents of Sumer had been openly anti-coalition. Company F's presence in the city rapidly dispersed any active enemy presence, and ensured the LOC remained open at this critical junction.

At 2100Z on the 12th, 2/8 receive a Fragmentary Order (FragO) to move to Al Aziziyah to provide LOC security along Highway 6. Early on the morning of the 13th, the Battalion moved to Al Aziziyah, assuming OPCON of RCT 2's Reconnaissance Company. The Battalion's battle space in Al Aziziyah extended over 75 kilometers. On the 14 April at 1140Z, 2/8 received orders to move back to Ash Shumali, NLT 1600Z. The Battalion (-) commenced its movement, in accordance with the designated timeline, and the remainder of the Battalion displaced the morning of 15 April. The Battalion's disposition on 15 April was as follows: Company G, the TAC CP, CAAT, and 81's were in Ash Shumali; the Main CP and Battery A, 1/10 were between Ash Shumali and Sumer; Company F was in Sumer; and Company E was just East of Ad Diwaniyah.

On 16 April, 2/8 received another frag. This time, the Battalion would CHOP to Task Force Tarawa, moving to Al Kut and conducting security operations to facilitate the transition from combat operations to support and stability operations in zone. The Battalion (-), consisting of CAAT Platoon (-), Company E, and 81's Platoon commenced movement to Al Kut on 18 April. That night at 1600Z, the Jump CP – consisting of the Battalion Commander, S-3, S-2, S-6, the Battalion Gunner, and the Air Officer – along with Company E moved into Al Kut proper to provide security for a town council meeting to be attended by numerous high-ranking US Military and Iraqi civilian officials scheduled for the 19th. For this mission, the Battalion also assumed OPCON of Company C (-), 4th LAR.

On 19 April, Company E's perimeter was established without incident. Despite numerous peaceful protests, the town council meeting was successfully conducted without any incident. Additionally, on the 19th the remainder of 2/8 closed on Al Kut airfield. That afternoon, Companies F and G moved into the town, assuming responsibility for their respective sectors. The Battalion retained OPCON of one platoon from Charlie Company, 4th LAR. As a result, the Battalion formed a reserve – Task Force Rebel – which included an LAR Platoon, a rifle platoon from Company G, and the Battalion XO.

On 20 April, 2/8 continued its operations in sector. Company E was tasked with providing security for a crew restoring the British cemetery in Al Kut. This mission would be an almost daily requirement through the 5th of May. Additionally, the Task Force Rebel conducted Non-lethal Weapons Training provided by instructors from the 15th MEU. This training occurred from 20 April through 24 April, focusing on the reserve's rifle platoon. Master Gunnery Sergeant Broda, the Battalion Operations Chief, attended this course with two of his clerks, forming an instructor cadre within the Battalion.

23 April began with elements of Task Force Rebel stopping a white SUV with license plates identifying it as a vehicle belonging to Abbas, the leader of the most vocal anti-American faction in Al Kut. The occupants were detained. Not too long afterward, vocal protests began involving large crowds of people blocking traffic on the southwestern bridge into the city. It later turned out that one of the persons detained by Task Force Rebel was one of the leaders of the anti-coalition faction and the protests were in response to his detention. In most cases, the demonstrations were peaceful. In the isolated incidents where there was violence or hostile acts. Marines utilizing non-lethal techniques and weapons quelled the situation, and the city was stabilized.

Demonstrations continued on 24 April, with rock-throwing being the highest threat. Once again, the Marines' non-lethal training was put to good use in the dispersion of the protesters.

On 25 April at 1300Z, the primary antagonist against coalition forces, Abbas, unexpectedly left his stronghold in the Al Kut Municipal Building, setting fires and looting as he left. Reacting quickly, Company E moved to secure the building. Once Company E's operation was complete, Company G moved in to permanently secure this building, which served as the symbolic seat of authority in the city.

Later that evening, automatic weapons fire rang out throughout the city. Company E, Company F, and a Special Forces unit in the city reported being engaged by enemy fire. In response to the increased level of gunfire, Tarawa approved M-203, 60mm, and 81mm illumination to be fired over the city. 81mm illumination was subsequently fired in support of the Special Forces unit, and a section of Cobras was launched to support Fox Company. CAAT Platoon investigated similar incidents on the southern side of the Tigris. The locals said they were celebrating the departure of Abbas, and the shots were not aimed at the Marines. The evening came to a close without further incident.

26 April was another day of patrols in sector for the Marines of 2/8. Reports of looting were investigated, weapons caches were discovered, and suspicious civilians were detained for questioning. By this time, the US Army MPs had arrived and begun operation in 2/8's zone, and the local Iraqi police force was becoming operational. Company E and Company G Marines were performing joint patrols with the Iraqi police in their sectors. Although limited in scope, these joint patrols were significant step towards returning the city to a semblance of normalcy. Also on this date the 1800Z-0100Z curfew went into effect. At approximately 2322Z, 1-2 personnel armed with small arms engaged an Echo Company patrol. No friendly casualties were taken.

27 April was relatively quiet, with security and presence patrols continuing. One such patrol engaged an Iraqi who had demonstrated hostile intent by leveling his weapon at some Marines. The effort to find and disable weapons caches and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) also continued.

Early on the 28th, Task Force Rebel Marines engaged a vehicle that tried to run them down while searching another vehicle stopped due to supposed curfew violation. Later that day, Company G was given a FragO to take over a sector south of the Tigris River, with elements of Company E taking over responsibility for the Municipal Compound and the surrounding area.

The 29th and 30th of April and the 1st of May were relatively quiet. The companies conducted patrols, occasionally detaining suspicious persons. The Battalion

continued to employ Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams to dispose of UXO and weapons caches. 30 April also brought the lead elements of 2/8's RIP force – 3d Battalion, 23d Marines – into Al Kut.

On 2 May, Marines from all companies took part in live fire ranges north of Al Kut, capitalizing on the unique opportunity to train the Marines. On the southernmost range, Marines trained with hand grenades and AT-4s, and on the northern range, Marines shot 81mm mortars and TOW missiles. On 3 May, the live fire training continued with Scout Sniper Platoon (SSP) Marines firing in the northern portion of the Al Kut airfield.

Everything was business as usual in Al Kut until the morning of 5 May. At 0100Z, an explosion was heard near the Tarawa House. After initial indications from Tarawa that it was an RPG, Echo Company Marines investigated the site of the explosion and found it to be a car bomb directed at a local civilian who had been vocal in his opposition to Abbas. There were no casualties as a result of the bomb.

Later that day, the deliberate physical RIP with 3/23 began. Marines from 3/23 were trucked out to co-locate with 2/8 units and to conduct joint patrols. Over the next 2 days, joint patrols were conducted with 3/23 leadership observing 2/8 patrols followed by 2/8 leadership observing 3/23 patrols. This deliberate process helped to ensure a smooth transition between the two Battalions. The RIP was complete by 1800, 6 May.

On 7, 8, and 9 May the Battalion conducted an operational pause devoted to getting units and individual Marines prepared to move south to Camp Shoup. Gear was inspected and serialized inventories were conducted in order to assure full accountability of 2/8 assets. On 10 May, Company F and elements of Company G and the Main CP boarded C-130s bound for Kuwait. On 11 May, the remainder of the Battalion commenced a road march south along Highway 7, back through An Nasiriyah, to Camp Shoup where the Battalion prepared for its onload onto amphibious and black-bottom shipping.

On 13 May, the Battalion's main body was back aboard amphibious shipping. The Battalion's vehicles were washed down beginning on the 15th of May, and their agricultural and customs inspections were completed on the 17th. All personnel and equipment to be transported by amphibious shipping were aboard by 17 May.

The Battalion's ADVON departed on 19 May and arrived at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina the same day. The rear party and the washdown crew for the equipment being transported via black-bottom shipping remained in Kuwait in order to load vehicles and equipment on the black-bottom ships. The rear party returned to Camp Lejeune on 28 May, with (5) Marines serving as ship riders aboard the black bottom ship.

From the 6th to the 11th of June, the Battalion enjoyed liberty in Rota, Spain before re-embarkation for the last leg of the trip back to CONUS. On the 9th of June, the Battalion was informed that Echo Company, embarked on the USS Kearsarge, was to be included in a force prepared to reinforce the United States Embassy in Liberia. In order to support Echo Company, two Tactical Air Control Parties (TACPs) were cross-decked to the Kearsarge on the 12th of June.

On 22 June the Battalion's main body returned to the United States. On 28 June, Echo Company returned. Mission accomplished.

PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

LEGAL ACTION

From 11 January to 23 June, the Battalion S-1 was deployed in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.

The Commanding Officer, Second Battalion, Eighth Marines is the Special Courts-Martial Convening Authority for the Battalion. As such, the following legal proceedings were held at this level:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| General Courts-Martial | 0 |
| Special Courts-Martial | 0 |
| Summary Courts-Martial | 6 |
| Bn Non-Judicial Punishments | 3 |
| Co Non-Judicial Punishments | 3 |
| JAG Manual Investigations | 0 |

AWARDS

Second Battalion, Eight Marines recognized its outstanding Marines by presenting them with the following awards:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medals | 0 |
| Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medals | 1 |
| Certificates of Commendation | 0 |
| Meritorious Masts | 1 |
| Letters of Appreciation | 0 |

LOGISTICS/SUPPLY

After receiving notice on 30 December 2003, the Battalion prepared for embarkation aboard the USS Saipan and the USS Kearsarge. All but (12) of the Battalion's quadcons and (8) HMMWVs were loaded onto black bottom ships. The rest were embarked aboard the USS Saipan on 9 January 2003. A platoon from Truck

Company was attached to the Battalion with (35) MTRVs, (1) 5-ton wrecker (4) water bulls, (1) fuel sixcon with pump and (18) M105 trailers. In combination with the Battalion's TE vehicle assets, this is what was utilized for all of the Battalion's lift requirements throughout Operation Iraqi Freedom. On 16 February the vehicles and quadcons on the USS Saipan were offloaded and convoyed to Camp Shoup, Kuwait. The Battalion's gear aboard black bottom Ships was offloaded approximately a week later at Kuwait Naval Base and convoyed to Camp Shoup.

From 15 February to 21 March the S-4 shop planned and prepared for logistical operations in support of possible combat operations in Iraq. The preparations included the allocation of the Battalion's vehicle assets that were as follows: (9) MTRVs, (1) water bull, (4) M105 trailers and (2) HMMWVs per rifle company; Weapons Company: (17) HMMWVs for CAAT, (9) HMMWVs for 81s, (1) HMMWV for Scout Sniper Platoon and (3) for HQ Platoon; Headquarters and Service Company: (8) MTRVs, (1) water bull, (6) M105 trailers and (28) HMMWVs distributed between the Main CP and the Logistics Train, which were co-located throughout Operation Iraqi Freedom. Other preparations included Battalion convoys in which the command and control of the Battalion march was rehearsed and validated as well as the Logistics Train's capabilities to repair and recover deadlined vehicles. During the Battalion's stay at Camp Shoup maintenance and equipment readiness were always a priority with emphasis on vehicles, crew-served weapons, and communications gear. Class IX repair parts were difficult to obtain, especially secondary repairables. The Battalion was, however, able to maintain a high state of equipment readiness throughout the deployment.

From 22 March to 11 May the Battalion Logistics Train successfully supported the Battalion throughout combat operations in southern Iraq. The Logistics Train's responsibilities included providing vehicle recovery and maintenance support, refueling, resupply of water and chow, weapons maintenance, communications maintenance, and replenishment of ammunition. As a result of the difficulty in obtaining Class IX repair parts, the Motor-T maintenance section made due by scrounging parts from destroyed and abandoned vehicles throughout the war. After three of the Battalion's MTRVs and its 5-ton wrecker were destroyed in an attack on the Main CP and Logistics Train, the Motor-T section rebuilt a heavily damaged 5-ton that was abandoned by the Army. The Battalion also received one 5-ton that was loaned by an Army unit and one 5-ton from 2D Marines' ALOG. All stayed within the Logistics Train and were utilized for the resupply of the Battalion.

The Logistics Train was resupplied on classes I, III, IV, V and IX of supply primarily through CSSB-22. During long road marches it was sometimes difficult to link-up with them, which made it necessary to seek out other Combat Service Support Units to replenish the Battalion. Resupply of the Battalion Logistics Train was accomplished utilizing the service station method (we reached back to CSSB-22). Resupply of subordinate units within the Battalion was accomplished utilizing the same method (they reached back to us). This proved to be the optimal method of replenishment given the limited vehicle assets of the Logistics Train. There were exceptions when it was necessary to send maintenance contact teams and small resupply detachments to the positions of various units within the Battalion. Overall, the flow of all classes of supply went fairly smoothly from the supporting units in the rear to the Battalion with the exception of class IX repair parts, which were slow in coming through the logistics

pipeline. From conversations with logistics officers in other units, it seemed to be the same across the board.

Between 10 May and 16 May 2003, the Battalion retrograded back to Camp Shoup. The back load of all gear on amphibious and black bottom ships was accomplished using the same load plans used to get to Kuwait. Personnel were embarked on the Saipan and the Kearsarge. All but (12) quadcons and (8) vehicles were embarked on the Saipan. The rest of the Battalion's gear was embarked on black bottom ships.

MEDICAL

From January 1, 2003 to June 30, 2003, the Battalion Aid Station supported Operation Iraqi Freedom. During this real world operation the BAS treated sixty-three casualties with thirty-eight of these being Marines and Sailors. The BAS actively completed the smallpox vaccination program en route to theatre, as well as completing the first three shots of the anthrax vaccination program. Additionally, the BAS successfully trained and qualified over eighty Marines in the Combat Lifesaver Program and the Battalion's command element received an educational brief about biological/chemical weapons and an Iraq medical brief. Finally, the BAS ensured that the Battalion maintained a medical readiness of 100%.

SECTION THREE

CHRONOLOGICAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

| | | |
|-----------------|-----|--|
| 2 | JAN | BN RECALL |
| 5 | JAN | HABITABILITY INSPECTION TEAM TO AMPHIB |
| 7 | JAN | ADVON TO AMPHIB |
| 9 | JAN | BN MAIN BODY EMBARKED ON AMPHIBIOUS SHIPPING |
| 8 | FEB | DJIBOUTI TACP SHOOT |
| 16 | FEB | BATTALION ARRIVES CAMP SHOUP, KUWAIT |
| 20 | MAR | MOVEMENT TO TAA HAWKINS |
| 21 | MAR | LD/MOVEMENT TO PL OUTBACK |
| 22 | MAR | MOVEMENT TO JALIBAH |
| 23 MAR – 3 APR | | COMBAT OPERATIONS IN AN NASIRIYAH, IRAQ |
| 23 MAR | | ATTACK TO SEIZE SOUTHERN BRIDGE |
| 24 MAR | | BATTALION PERIMETER ATTACKED |
| 25 MAR | | FOX COMPANY ATTACK TO SEIZE ENEMY COMMAND POST/HOSPITAL COMPOUND |
| 3 | APR | MOVEMENT TO AD DIWANIYAH, IRAQ |
| 4-7 | APR | LOC SECURITY VIC AD DIWANIYAH |
| 7-13 | APR | LOC SECURITY VIC ASH SHUMALI, IRAQ |
| 13-14 | APR | LOC SECURITY VIC AL AZIZIYAH, IRAQ |
| 14-18 | APR | LOC SECURITY VIC ASH SHUMALI |
| 18 APR – 11 MAY | | SECURITY OPERATIONS, AL KUT, IRAQ |

| | | |
|------|-----|---|
| 13 | MAY | BATTALION RE-EMBARKED ON AMPHIBIOUS SHIPPING |
| 6-11 | JUN | LIBERTY PORT, ROTA, SPAIN |
| 22 | JUN | BATTALION OFFLOAD FROM AMPHIBIOUS SHIPPING |
| 28 | JUN | ECHO COMPANY OFFLOAD FROM AMPHIBIOUS SHIPPING |

SECTION FOUR

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

| | |
|----------|---|
| Item #1 | Chronological Listing of Events |
| Item #2 | Echo Company Chronology |
| Item #3 | Fox Company Chronology |
| Item #4 | Golf Company Chronology |
| Item #5 | Weapons Company Chronology |
| Item #6 | POW/MIA Inter-Network Nasiriyah 31 March 2003 |
| Item #7 | Chicago Tribune Nasiriyah 25 March 2003 |
| Item #8 | CBS News Injured Soldiers Treated in Germany 28 March 2003 |
| Item #9 | DefenseLink Nasiriyah 2 April 2003 |
| Item #10 | MSNBC Kerry Sanders' Experience 29 April 2003 |
| Item #11 | Newbernsj.com Nasiriyah 28 March 2003 |
| Item #12 | USMC.mil Al Kut 23 April 2003 |
| Item #13 | CNN Marines Seize Hospital 25 March 2003 |
| Item #14 | National Alliance of Families POW/MIA Nasiriyah 29 March 2003 |
| Item #15 | Shelby Star Deployment January 2003 |
| Item #16 | Marine Corps Times Nasiriyah Hospital 25 March 2003 |
| Item #17 | 2/8 Operation Order 1003V, 12 March 2003 |

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF EVENTS:

20 MARCH MOVEMENT TO TAA
21 MARCH BREACH/MOVEMENT TO PL OUTBACK
22 MARCH MOVEMENT FROM PL OUTBACK TO JALIBAH
23 MARCH JALIBAH TO AN NAZ
-F CO RIP'S/SECURES SOUTHERN BRIDGE
-E CO CLEARS WEST SIDE OF HWY 7 AND TIES INTO FOX
-G CO CLEARS EAST SIDE OF MSR
-CAAT KILLS (1) TECHNICAL VEHICLE WITH TOW
-A CO 2ND LAR KILLS (4) TECHNICAL VEHICLES
-A CO 2ND LAR REINFORCES FOX COMPANY ON SOUTHERN BRIDGE
24 MARCH -A CO 2ND LAR DISCOVERS LARGE AMMO CACHE SITE VIC MILITARY COMPOUND WEST OF ECHO'S POS. LAR AND CEB DESTROY INITIAL CACHE
-GUNNER AND TEAM RECOVER (2) BODIES OF US SOLDIERS FROM AMBUSH SITE
-G CO MOVES TO CLEAR HOSPITAL AND TAKES FIRE
-F CO TAKES FIRE FROM HOSPITAL
-E CO TAKES FIRE FROM NORTH OF THE BRIDGE
-81'S/CAAT TAKE FIRE
-US ARMY SOF FORCES SHOW UP AND STOP ASSAULT INTO THE HOSPITAL DUE TO POTENTIAL FOR FEMALES LIVE POW'S.
25 MARCH -F CO ASSAULTS HOSPITAL
-CAAT TAKES FIRE AT INTERSECTION AND FIRES DPICM ON SUSPECTED TANK
-COL BAILEY'S CONVOY STOPPED TO ALLOW CAAT TO PROSECUTE TARGET
26 MARCH -CAAT TAKES FIRE AT 7/8 INTERSECTION
-MAIN CP ATTACKED
27 MARCH -CAAT CONTACT AT 7/8 INTERSECTION
28 MARCH -CAAT SITES IN OBSTACLE ON HWY 8
29 MARCH -ECHO COMPANY CLEARS SOUTHERN BANK OF EUPHRATES
30 MARCH -E CO CLEARS INDUSTRIAL AREA
31 MARCH -E CO CLEARS URBAN CLUSTER
-CMOC AT 7/8 INTERSECTION
1 APRIL -RIP WITH 3/2 - 2/8 ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY FOR MILITARY COMPOUND
-CMOC AT 7/8 INTERSECTION
-G CO CLEARS INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX WEST OF HWY 7
2 APRIL -RIP WITH COMMENCES WITH 2/1
3 APRIL -RIP COMPLETE
-BN MOVEMENT TO AD

4 APRIL -BN ARRIVES AD
-E CO BLOCKS ROAD
-G CO SITS ON ASP
-F CO RESERVE
-CAAT RECONS CHICKEN COOP

5 APRIL -FOX CO CLEARS CHICKEN COOP

6 APRIL -ISO OF AD IN SUPPORT OF SOF/LAR TAKES FIRE
-FRAGO TO MOVE TO ASH SHUMALI (A 1/10 DS; TANK SECT DS)

7 APRIL -BN MOVEMENT TO ASH SHUMALI

8 APRIL -G CO OCCUPIES TOWN/CAG EFFORTS START IN ASH SHUMALI

9 APRIL -ASH SHUMALI OPS/DEFENSE IN SECTOR

10 APRIL -CAAT (+) CLEARS EAST OF AD

11 APRIL -FOX COMPANY OCCUPIES SUMER AND ESTABLISHES TCP

12 APRIL -OPS IN SECTOR CONTINUE
-2100Z MOVEMENT ORDER TO AL AZZIZIYAH

13 APRIL -MOVEMENT TO AL AZZIZIYAH

14 APRIL -OPS IN AZZIZIYAH
-1140Z MOVEMENT ORDER TO RETURN TO ASH SHUMALI
-1600Z FIRST ESCHELON DEPARTS FOR ASH SHUMALI

15 APRIL -BN CLOSES ON ASH SHUMALI AND RESUMES OPS IN SECTOR

16 APRIL -OPS CONTINUE IN SECTOR
-PHASE 4 FRAGO RECEIVED/FACE TO FACE WITH MEB

17 APRIL -PREP FOR AL KUT

18 APRIL -FIRST ESCHELON MOVES TO AL KUT
-1600Z JUMP MOVES INTO TOWN
-1800Z E CO ASSUMES SECURITY OF SECTOR

19 APRIL -TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
-MAIN BODY CLOSES ON AIR FIELD
-FOX AND GOLF COMPANIES MOVE INTO SECTOR

20 APRIL -CONTINUE OPS IN SECTOR
-LAR PLT (+) OPCON
-TF REBEL CONSTITUTED

21 APRIL -CONTINUE OPS IN SECTOR
-E CO TASKED WITH PROVIDING SECURITY FOR BRITISH CEMETERY CLEANUP (ONGOING)

23 APRIL -TF REBEL DETAINS 6 PERSONS, ONE OF WHOM IS SHEIKH BUSHTAK
-PROTEST ON EAST SIDE OF SOUTHERN BRIDGE SHUTS DOWN TRAFFIC ACROSS THAT BRIDGE. PURPOSE OF PROTEST: REQUEST RELEASE OF SHEIKH BUSHTAK

24 APRIL

-PROTESTS VIC AL KUT MUNICIPAL BUILDING (E CO
ZONE)

Date/Time (Z) Event

Tarawa CO/OPSO Companies
(C, O, B) (E, F, G, R, A,
T, C)

25 Apr 0000 Date Change

0200 I, CWO Allen, have assumed the duties of COC Watch Officer.
0220 Seminole calls to ask if he has to go to cemetery today. Advised to show up at 0500.
0250 Seminole request S-4 send 40 rolls of concertina to put around Tarawa House. Mohawk 6 can send 20 rolls.

0330 Viking requests numbers for Silver Stars and Navy Crosses
0500 Blackfoot requests Sapper support.
0535 Seminole advises that Abbas is expected at Tarawa House at 0630 to sign some papers. Advises that security posture will be stepped up and requests that all military traffic for Tarawa House use SW gate (gate 2). 0538 0537 (O) 0540 (C)

0550 TF Rebel moving NLW team to Tarawa House. Rebel is coordinating with Seminole.
0600 I, 1st Lt Gifford, have assumed the duties of COC Watch Officer.
0615 Rebel enroute to Seminole pos
0622 Seminole SITREP: Abbas not yet present
0641 Rebel 6 L/U w/Seminole. Standing by for Abbas
0650 Rebel 5 reports that they have 2 LAVs with Seminole, 2 at propane facility, and 2 at their pos.
0652 Rebel 5 reports that Iraqi guard at propane facility is firing AK-47 harmlessly into the air, apparently "showing off." Weapon confiscated.
0704 Rebel 5 requests more support at propane distribution site. Blackfoot prepared to reinforce.
0707 Seminole reports Abbas is late. All quiet.
0735 Seminole reports that Abbas will not show today, Seminole has stood down, and Rebel 6 has moved back to his CP.
0746 Rebel reports that their entire reac platoon is at propane facility. Situation is completely calm.
0805 Sapper is moving out to Blackfoot's pos w/4 vehicles and 22 Marines
0806 Zulu arrives @ Seminole
0821 Rebel 7 asked by Mohawk 7 to divide up some of their non-lethal gear to support Mohawk NLW training
0834 Sapper arrives @ Blackfoot
0900 Sapper reports arrival @ C 1/2 (NA 725 996)
0930 Tarawa requests Spartan's presence @ TF COC 2 1600 0935 (O)
1000 I, 1st Lt Demetriades, have assumed the duties of COC Watch Officer.
1015 Scarlet reports to Comanche "widespread" looting Vic (NA 790 978)
1045 Comanche requests to use Blackfoot's range to expend AT-4s and SMAWs on 27 Apr. BN Gunner advises range still pending TFT approval
1057 Seminole will send 20 body shields to COC to facilitate Mohawk's NLW training.
1136 China Lake reporting looting at military hospital NA 785976 and medical supply building NA 776965 O T
1147 Comanche request EOD support to remove AAA rounds Vic NA 844 735 T
1221 LA Times reporters at front gate claiming to have interviewed Abas. Tarawa PAO in route to main gate. T
1238 Spartan in route to Comanches' pos
1259 Tarawa informed that Abas has left municipal building looting and building on fire O
1306 Abu Hazim to see Col Johnson (only) Will have a scorpion 77 ID card and a Thuria phone with # 5110-8477. He will arrive at the air field tonight or tomorrow. Contact Tarawa for escort.
1324 Thunder storm warning for next three hours 50 knot winds.
1346 Cyclops requested section of Cobras to push to Eddie
1359 Gramps assumes the duty of COC Watch Officer and all around swell guy.
1400 Contacted Tarawa for EOD support at the municipal building. Tarawa rogered up to the request. 1400
1405 Tarawa informs Warpath that EOD is enroute to Tarawa House for further tasking to the municipal building. 1405
TARAWA also would like warpath to escort the EOD team to the site. Warpath can provide escort.
1430 Warpath has secured inside of municipal complex; have not entered building. 1430
1430 Blackfoot staged at Tarawa House. 1430
1444 Protesting in Al Hayy, Gramps assesses cause was no sausage in grocery stores 1444
1450 EOD has linked up with Seminole at the Municipal building. 1450
1515 Seminole has occupied 4 buildings SW of Municipal Compound 1515
Blackfoot has occupied outside of compound
Col wolf has arrived at compound
1530 [REDACTED] 1530
1536 Seminole reports hearing shots fired SW of pos, appears to be celebratory fire. 1536
1545 Seminole reports Intel of two vehicles loaded with armed men Vic ck pt 43. sending PLT size patrol to investigate. 1545
1600 Aztec reports locals possibility throwing molotov cocktail in Vic 761960 1600
1619 Seminole 5 reports mult-source Intel confirmed by HET & SF that Iranians and Iraqis were planning to occupy and fortify water treatment plant (NA 753 981), phone exchange (NA 776 965), and hospital (NA 776 973). Also planning to poison water supply at w 1625 1619
1631 New Blackfoot Company CP location (NA 774 962)
1639 Seminole reports shots fired
1650 Comanche reports drive-by shooting at their NW gate. Approx 6 shots fired, no injuries. Also reports a couple of shots fired on southern bridge Vic 955 northing.
1655 Cyclops requested section of Cobras to push to Eddie
1719 Comanche receiving fire. Cobras will be pushing to Mango, launching at 1750.
1725 [REDACTED]
1728 Tarawa clears 203, 60mm, and 81mm mortar illum as required.

1726 LATE ENTRY. Rebel dispatches 2 LAVs to Comanche.
1736 Seminole reports gunfire and illum Vic NA 762 963.
1737 Aztec observes red pop-ups to his SE.
1741 Tomahawk reports celebratory fireworks and small arms fire Vic NA 778941
1751 [REDACTED]
1800 GySgt. Pastella has assumed duties as Warpath COC Watch Officer.
1810 End of Mission for 81mm illum. Recorded as AI3100.
1816 [REDACTED]

1833 Dragon Red 1 reports a building, Vic 773972, being looted and burned. 1835
1845 Suez reports that they have not received fire from hospital in last 60 minutes
1850 Tarawa requests that Warpath look at three red rain grids in the SW section of sector H. Warpath responds that current force array does not support request.
1852 Suez reports that they will leave 1 platoon FIF and 1 three man SF team at hospital. The remaining SF personnel will return to SF house.
1916 [REDACTED]
2200 Sgt Gloede assumes duties as COC Watch Officer.
2320 Timberwolf advises there CAAT vehicles will be pushing into Al-Kut at approx 2330. All companies have been notified.
2328 Timberwolf CAAT in route through city. Will contact us on our net when they reach our positions.
260000 APR Time and Date change. Also Timberwolf advises main body moving through city with 97 vehicles.
0035 Timberwolf is out of our area.
0147 Chaplain requests to be picked up @ 0500Z at Comanche's pos.
0200 CWO Allen assumes duties as COC Watch Officer.
0300 OPPO advised that "Route Janice" is still closed. Will re-evaluate the ROUTE later today and determine if we can use it.
0400 Sapper 4 reports that he is on his way to the TAC. Warpath 3 advised for him to stay at Blackfoots' POS.
0430 Rebel reports that possible looting in vicinity of 779963.
0445 Comanche will search several houses at pos 783965, 78496. They have observed individuals on rooftop with possible weapons.
0454 Comanche advised that EOD will be doing DEMO at Municipal BLDG for next hour. Notified Tarawa and Warpath Collective.
0524 Seminole 6 reports gunfire in vicinity of CP 42, pos 766958. Aztec 6 called and reported that Teachers at the school stated that the gunfire was coming from people celebrating. Aztec 6 will investigate further.
0840 Tarawa passed that counter battery radar detected possible mortar fire from the following grids, NA 767936. NA 768931, NA 767929, and NA 761954. Recon will investigate these positions today. First 3 grids are same as those investigated by section of AH-1Ws on 25 April. Nothing visible at that time from the air.
0600 Comanche reports they are taking gunfire at their pos. They believe it is coming from a water treatment plant located at pos 774962. They are sending a patrol to that pos.
0600 1st Lt Gifford assumes all duties as the COC watch officer
0618 Blackfoot uncovers a weapons cache at grid NA 774964. They have a small EOD detachment with them but has requested more EOD support, it was recorded as weapons cache site #17
0620 Rebel 5 informs Warpath that they went to a looted building at NA 773972, locals there said that the looters have threatened to strike again tonight at NA 773976 (a textile factory) and stated that they will burn the place.
0628 Tarawa calls and reports looters at the water treatment facility (NA 761972), requested troop support
0634 Seminole was informed and will send 1 platoon to investigate
0647 EOD reports that they have sent three trucks to link up with Blackfoot via Warpath
0651 CAG police reports that there was 1 guard at the water treatment facility that was over run by a truck full of armed civilian looters.
0721 Blackfoot calls and reports that they have found a potential location for their CP, 200 m NW of their current CP if they need to move.
0726 Tarawa reports that they have rerouted the 3 EOD 7-tons to Warpaths position (For Weapons Cache #17).
0735 Seminole reports that over 180 MP's have showed up to their pos, but they will be operating independently of 2/8
0800 EOD's 7-ions depart for Blackfoot's position
0805 Warpath 2 departs to escort a Mr. Haziz (civilian VIP) from Aztec's pos to Tarawa's pos.
0816 Cyclops informed by TFT that CG lift cancelled. The CG will not be here at all today.
0823 Seminole reports that the meeting of VIP's at their pos is over and they will be resuming a normal posture
0836 Seminole reports that they have been told by two local civilian women that the women were kicked out of a school (that they taught at) by armed men. The school was at NB 775 010 and Rebel was informed as it falls under his sector. Rebel will be sending out a patrol in that area and will keep Warpath informed on the situation.
0914 Seminole reports that their platoon size patrol from the water treatment facility has returned and they found nothing in that vicinity that would lead them to believe that there is any looting going on
0914 Tarawa reports that there will be a curfew imposed tonight from 1800 Z -0100 Z, more details on the curfew will come about later
0936 Comanche reports that they have 21 detainees at this time, they are awaiting JET support
1000 1st Lt Demetriades, have assumed the duties of COC Watch Officer.
1003 Tomahawk had reports of break in and looting at bank Vic NA 775955. There was no break in. Bank was asking for security from us. Blackfoot will include in their patrol route.
1027 Tomahawk detained 3 Iraqis in connection with bank robbery NA 775955.
1031 Rebel 7 in route to COC took fire from Vic check point 57 from NW.

1041 Tomahawk reported another bank being robbed Vic NA 773963. Tomahawk was informed at police station. They are checking out the situation.

1055 Three detainees are still at police station NA 772955. Need to be taken to CSSB-12. Tarawa will pick up with the other 21 detainees.

1108 Tarawa reports looting Vic NA 771975 Same area that Rebel 7 took fire from.

1153 Spartan has stopped at the 77 easting on route Meadow to investigate locals pointing at something on side of road.

1156 Zulu 2 reports possible explosives at NA 773 947 requesting EOD.

1225 Tarawa sent SALUTE report taken from TF Recon. 10 Suburban / SUVs moving into AL Kut from Vic NA 800977 at 261140(Z)03 vehicles are black and beige with a side ways L on back windshield. Weapons unknown. Notified Comanche.

1242 Seminole reports looting at NA 970976

1314 Capt Dorn 194 MP Company responsible for enforcing curfew. There will be 10x2 vehicle teams. Will coordinate with Warpath for a reaction force.

1320 Maj Hogan CAG reports looting at health facility near main police station, had no grid to send.

1344 Seminole reports civilian source says looting taking place at warehouse NA 790 998. Rebel says no looting at that location.

1350 Gramps assumes the duty of COC Watch Officer and all around swell guy.

1358 Tarawa reports potential looting/destruction of textile factory NA 774 976. Possible intent to also loot/destroy water treatment plant - no grid passed. 1406 (F)

1402 Tarawa reports 2 lost soldiers from 991st Transportation Battalion believed to be lost in our AO. 1st Lt Fulton & PFC Legrant. No physical description. 1404 (C)

1432 Warpath 3 requests dissemination of grids that will be guarded by FIF forces starting tonight. Construction Materials @ NB 795 000, Food Distro @ NA 7785 9605, Fuel Distro @ NA 794 999, Main Water Plant @ NA 7532 9796, Supermarket @ NA 7785 9605, Bank @ NA 7750 9558, Bank @ 7734 9599, Bank @ NA 7786 9633, Bank @ NA 7788 9641,5 Awaiting CAG confirmation 1445 (C)

1500 Blackfoot sending out PLT size patrol 1500-1700 ck pt cp,44,43,45,47,44,cp

1505 Scorpion sending three LAV's N thru the city to grid 760420

1529 From Eddie looting @ 814017 Capt Tabash stopped it, but as soon as he left more vehicles rolled in.

1605 Blackfoot reports that Army MP company has occupied police station at 775957 approx 120 soldiers. They plan on running patrol tonight.

1608 Comanche reports no sign of looting at textile plant and will run motorized patrols through area all night

1716 Cherokee 6 reports 2 oda and 2 FIF will patrol the water treatment plant in echo sector. Uniform will be chocolate chip utes and ak-47s 1719 (C)

1731 Tarawa calls about water textile factory, Crewfew, and AK-47's to local police. Tarawa inform that patrols will go by plant. No curfew has been established and we have no AK-47's to give to local police

1753 Comanche reports 3 armed men in textile plant compound. Tomahawk enroute to find out if they are guards.

1757 Tarawa G-3 directs 24 hour security on the textile plant. 1758 (C)

1800 GySgt Pastella has assumed duties as Warpath COC Watch Officer.

1805 Comanche reports that the 3 armed men in textile plant are guards. Spartan informs Tarawa of situation in textile plant with guards after tasker by Tarawa G-3 to put a permanent presence in compound. Tarawa gives Warpath 6 commanders discretion in putting Marines in compound. Compound will be a regular stop on Comanche's patrols. 1805 (F)

1840 TFT G3 sends: each unit allowed to keep (6) AK-47s. All excess must be turned in to TFT G4. Contact TFT G4 with numbers and turn-in plan by COB 26 April.

1856 Warpath collective receives message that curfew starts tonight at 1800z to 0100z. All violators will be warned tonight and detained tomorrow.

1857 Blackfoot informed there will be a meeting at the municipal building 27 April 03 at 0400z.

1858 Fierce 23 division of AH-1W locates mortar tube at NA 8366 9678. Identified as single hot tube with no personnel in vicinity. 1858

1910 [REDACTED]

1920 Fierce 23 reports mortar destroyed. 1930

1944 TFT passes the following grids as sites of possible looting (1) Public Works Vehicle Lot @ NA 791 978, (2) Froze Food Store @ NA 794 999, (3) Textile Factory @ NA 773 978, (4) Fuel Distribution site @ NA 794 999, (5) Construction materials warehouse @ NA 795 000, and (6) Gov't Building @ NA 773 965. 1950 (R, G)

1955 Fierce 23 makes over flight of sites 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. Site 1: NSTR. Site 2, 4, 5: same site, 1 vehicle and 5 personnel seen. Personnel seemed to be in no particular hurry and did not appear to be looting as far as could be discerned from the air. Site 3: NSTR. Rebel reports personnel are most likely civilian guards employed to defend site from looters. Site 6 is within view of Blackfoot CP. NSTR. 2026

2045 Blackfoot calls and reports that they have 29 detainees. They request an interrupter in the morning. O 2044 (G)

2105 Scarlet 1 reports 40mm illum being popped near the textile plant. O 2108 (F)

2130 Challenge and Passwords for 27 Apr: C - Guilty, P - Historic, R - Warehouse, Alt - 28. 2135 (C)

2145 Sgt Gloede assumes duties as COC Watch Officer.

2322 [REDACTED]

2328 Seminole has apprehended 1 individual. No casualties. Advised they will be bringing him to our pos in the A.M.

2331 Tarawa has been notified.

270000 APR Date and Time change

0009 Seminole 6 advises the detainee has some minor injuries and they are going to bring him in to BAS so they can look at him.

0200 CSSB has picked up detainee at Seminole's pos.

0201 CWQ ALLEN assumes duties as COC Watch Officer.

0410 Detainees from Blackfoot in G sector (262045ZAPR03) are being held at police station by MPs. Tarawa advises that MPs have already coordinated for pickup of detainees.

0411 Tarawa advises that each battalion is only authorized 1 weapon system -- any type -- as war trophy. All others must be turned in to TFT G4

0430 Pos updates: Aztec 750 952; Blackfoot 744 962; Seminole 764 967; Rebel 798 005; Comanche 785 967

0541 Tarawa given clarification on detention of bank robbers (261027ZAPR03): no money was confiscated; robbers were detained before they could enter the bank. 0541

0600 First Lieutenant Gifford assumes duties as COC watch officer.

0613 2/6 reports that their last convoy is en route to our position

0645 Tarawa needs sqd of security @ 762985-- crowd control while gas is being dispersed 0648 (R)

0650 Tarawa's Lt Col Perez is coming to pick up AK-47's at warpath cp location

0655 Blackfoot 6 is en route to CP to communicate in person with BC and OpsO 0700 (B)

0718 Rebel 5 is requesting a security group of LAV from Tarawa 0719

0728 Dispersing has left CP location and is en route to all companies location 0731 (C)

0735 Rebel 5 has one Iraq with a pass form CAG to cross the bridge at anytime. He runs the gas facility.

0828 Informed warpath collective that trucks that were used by 2/6 are ready to be picked up by CO. guns at the log train. 0829(C)

0830 REBEL 5 HAS A BURNING BUILDING WITH LOOTERS IN GOLF SECTOR... GRID- 783010. SQUAD REINFORCED HAS BEEN SENT TO TAKE CARE OF IT.

0945 AZTEC A NEEDS TO CONTACT CB'S THEY HAVE IRAQI CONTRACTORS THAT NEED ESCORTS. 0945(A)

0948 Tarawa was notified and they will be sending a Seabee escort to Aztec's pos for contractor escort.

1000 Lt 1st Lt Demetriades, have assumed the duties of COC Watch Officer.

1005 CBR hit reported by Tarawa PO. 7502 9309 PI. 7758 9555. Tarawa is scrambling cobras to investigate. PI PLOTS IN A SECTOR 1005(G)

1025 FIERCE 45 LOCATES 3 ZPU2's AT GRID NA 748 940, LATER UPDATED TO 747-942 AZTEC SAID THAT THEY HAD SEEN THESE BEFORE.. FIERCE SAYS THAT THERE ARE ROUNDS CHAMBERED AND REQUEST THAT ZPU'S ARE RENDERED INOP IN ORDER TO PROTECT AIR CREW

1055 5 FOX REPORTERS CAME TO THE GATE REQUESTING TO SEE COL. JOHNSON

1045 LATE ENTRY. LT. DEMETRIADES PHYSICALLY CHECKED OUR ZPU'S AND APPEAR TO BE FULLY OPERATIONAL WITH AMMO.

1057 TARAWA PASSES SUEZ 42 REPORTED THAT INDIVIDUALS APPROACHED THERE PHSYOPS WITH INFORMATION THAT SIX MEN ENTERED THE EMERGENCY HOSPITAL WITH BOMBS. TARAWA DOES NOT KNOW WHERE THE EMERGENCY HOSPITAL IS LOCATED.

1110 SEMINOLE REPORTS GRID TO HOSPITAL WHERE 6 MEN HAVE BOMBS NA 776974 1115

1135 Zulu 1 IS LEAVING SEMINOLES POS IN ROUTE TO BLACKFOOT POS WITH DISPERSING.

1137 5 FOX REPORTERS AT FRONT GATE STILL AND ARE REQUESTING FOR SOMEBODY TO PICK THEM UP.

1145 REPORTERS AT FRONT GATE LEFT DUE TO A STRICT SCHEDULE.

1157 GROUP OF IRAQI CONTRACTORS (4 DUMP TRUCKS) AT FRONT GATE NEED SEABEES TO ESCORT THEM IN

1205 REBEL FIVE SENDING NON-LETHAL TO SEMINOLE POS FOR TRAINING REACTION TIME FOR NON-LETHAL SQUAD

1220 COMANCHE FIVE REPORTS THAT THEY HAVE PATROLLED PAST THE HOSPITAL AT GRID NA 776974 NOTHING UNUSUAL OTHER THAN PEOPLE CARRYING SANDBAGS DUE TO THE AREA FLOODING

1310 CHALLENGE AND PASSWORDS FOR 28 APR C TOURIST P JASMIN R SPONSOR.

1350 REBEL 5 CALLED ABOUT A SMALL CHILD WITH BURNS TO THE FACE. THE MO IS ASSESSING THE SITUATION.

1410 TARAWA PASSED THESE TWO HOSPITAL GRIDS NA 776 974 AND NA 757989.

1411 Gramps assumes the duty of COC Watch Officer and all around swell guy.

1433 REBEL DOC IS GOING TO TREAT THE CHILD AT THEIR POS AND SEND THE CHILD HOME.

1439 WARPAT 3 PASSES THAT CURFEW VIOLATORS THAT ARE DETAINED OVER NIGHT CAN BE TURNED INTO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT THE FOLLOWING MORNING. 1440(C)

1457 LAV PATROL HAS FOUND APPROX. 1,000 120MM MORTAR RDS AT 830 005 AREA IS NE OF REBELS POS. TARAWA IS CONTACTED OF EOD SUPPORT.

1511 TARAWA CAN NOT PROVIDE EOD SUPPORT UNTIL TOMORROW.

1524 TARAWA REQUESTS THAT WARPAT PUT SOMEONE ON THE GAS DISTRIBUTION AT GRID 762985. REBEL WILL HAVE THREE PATROLS OUT AROUND WPNS CACHE 18 AND GAS DISTRIBUTION.

1528 I MEF WILL INCREASE ITS VISIBILITY AND PRESENCE IN ZONE DUE TO SADDAMS BIRTHDAY. 1528(C)

1605 BLACKFOOT, REQUEST FOR TRAM W/ BUCKET FROM 8ESB TO SUPPORT AREA FOR BEAUTIFICATION, FILL HOLES AND TRANSPORT SCRAP METAL (2-7TONS) BY 0500Z

1619 CHEROKEE 6 REPORTED ODA SOURCE @ CHEROKEE POSITION HAD INFO ON BATH PARTY MEETING, INFO PASSED ON TO TARAWA FOR ACTION, TARAWA WILL GET BACK WITH US ON ACTION

1635 CHEROKEE SIX REPORTED BATH PARTY MEETING TO BE HELD AT 1900Z

1645 COMANCHE REPORTS ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE @ 793957 APROX 20M NORTH SIDE OF ROAD, TARAWA INFORMED FOR EOD SUPPORT , MINE WILL BE MARKED TONIGHT AND INVESTIGATED TOMORROW

1750 REPORTED BY WARPAT 3, BLACKFOOT WILL HAVE A CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT THERE POSITION TOMORROW. CAG FROM TARAWA HOUSE, WILL HELP DETERMINE WHO GETS IN. TOMORROW IRAQI POLICE ARE COMING TO GOVERNORS BUILDING AND MAN SIX POST. FOR LINK UP TO START SCALING DOWN OUR PRESENCE

1800. GySgt Pastella has assumed duties as Warpath COC Watch Officer.

1823 REQUESTED ENGINEER SUPPORT FROM TARAWA FOR BLACKFOOT, TARAWA WILL GET BACK WITH WARPAT ON ACTIONS TO SUPPORT

2010

2020 O

2200 SGT GLOEDE ASSUMES DUTIES AS COC WATCH OFFICER

280000 ARR TIME AND DATE CHANGE

0151

0205 0202 (C)

0200 CWO ALLEN assumes duties as COC Watch Officer

0225 Tarawa advised to send CAG or MA to Rebel's pos to help with disposal of dead Iraqi.

(C)

0240 Maj Hogan CAG will coordinate with local doctor and will take care of body at Rebel's pos.

0351 CAG at Rebel's pos, will take care of the body.

(O)

0512 Comanche has in custody 2 individuals with weapons and 49,000 American currency and some Iranian currency. They have requested HET team from Tarawa.

0515 0528 (C)

0535 Seminole has launched their HET team to Comanches' position.

0544 Possible attacks on U.S. post through out the city by Baath Party and Saddam Fedinyne members in remembrance of Saddam Husans birthday. Attacks may include suicide bombings and close-range attacks in which attackers will approach military personnel as if to greet them and shoot them at close range.

0545 (C)

0600 Lt Gifford assumes duties as COC Watch Officer

0610 Tarawa reports funeral procession moving toward Municipal Building. Blackfoot informed, says procession moved east past their position 10 minutes ago (0600). Procession was peaceful.

0610 (G) 0615 (F)

0630 Frag order: to Blackfoot to move to the Hotel sector and Seminole will have responsibility for Charlie and Alpha sector including the municipal building.

0635 (E, G)

0640 Frag order: fire @ oil storage facility @ 830995. there are currently 6 MPs' at the facilities and requesting an infantry sqd for re-enforcement. SSgt Camtano is OIC at location. One section from Tomahawk is en route.

0641 (O) 0645 (T)

0702 Section of corbras are inbound. They are about 10 miles out will contact us on khaki. Call sign Deadly 01.

0710 Tomahawk reports no fire @ 830995. Teir is a fire well north of that grid. Advise not to push north by higher.

0720 (O)

0718 HET team at Comanches' location has found 50,000 American dollars and one pistol. They have question the individuals and is releasing. Individuals were on their way to purchase a wife. Pistol is for security.

0720

0752 Deadly 01 reports in the vic 858055 is the fire. That is the fire tomahawk was suppose to go to. MPs' in that area have it under control.

0754

0800 Tomahawk is currently at location 873978

0808 Comanche enter a house at grid 781972. This was the residence of Mohamid Ali. The locals say he left when the war started. Nothing is in the house at this time.

0814 Tomahawk needs no engineer assets

0816 Commanche needs mobile b.a.s. has 2 young children injured, one shrapnel, two broken arms.

0821

0824 Commanche notified to take injured children to local hospital @ 757989

0824 (F)

0831 Mohawk5 advised will be igniting 5 flash bangs @ 716955

0832 Tarawa advised about Mohawk 5 shoot. Approved at 0835.

0832

0838 Location of IZ security guards with weapons, court 772976, propane district 795009, supermarket 77859605. school warehouse 777968, construction warehouse (across from propane district) 795000, food warehouse 787995, grain silo 763958.

0838

0841 Commanche advised eod situation unk

0843 Commanche pulling snipers from echo for soccer game

0845 Rebel 5 has 100 detainees from looting and burnings @ 858023 requesting mp's

0851

0845 Fox reports 2 iraqis, claim to have receipts from cag to get weapons back, at gate.

0851

0858 (F)

0857 Scorpion notifies crossing bridge at Fox position. Completed at 0914.

0900 Fox notified still waiting on clarification on iraqis trying to get weapons back

0900 (F)

0914 Tarawa asking for Rebel net ID.

0916 Rebel. Rebel 7 had accident with civilian. Waiting for outcome.

0919 Rebel 5, one civilian injury @ 797955 in traffic accident. Civ injury was only wind knocked out of him.

0925 Commanche notified to take civilian injuries to said hospital, hospital is operational. Injuries self inflicted by playing with grenades.

0925 (F)

0925 Rebel 5 notified MP's enroute to site for 100 detainees

0924 (R)

1000 Lt Demetriades, have assumed the duties of COC Watch Officer.

1000 Tarawa reports civilians loading ammo into truck @ 84619811

1000 Rebel 5 reports no one arrived yet to take care of detainees

1010 858-023 CAG police need security to get local police to detainees. Will only keep worst offenders, don't have room in jail to detain all 100.

1014 Asking CAG police if they need transportaion of detainees also. Relaying questions from Tarawa to CAG police

1023 Rebel 6 sending 7ton with squad minus with 2 LAV to p/u 6 of 100 detainees as requested by cag

1030 To CAG police; asking if there are any personnel @ 858023? None there yet. CAG looking for transportation and Tarawa looking to solve trans. Problem.

1039 Tarawa called, civilians unloading ammo crates, unk if empty or full, @ 772903.

1044 MHG lost M16/M203 in vicinity of SW gate. POC capt Julka or Msgt Kehrt 3705-000

1047 CAG has ride to detainee site @ NB858023

1047 EOD works for MEB. Need to contact G3, LtCol Smith, for EOD support. From Seminole.

1103 CAG police reports live grenade at police station and are looking for EOD support.

1125 Tomahawk 6; has cleared west of hospital, has only seen 1-2 personnel in hospital at any given time. Has seen Task Force Recon in area.

1130 Tarawa passed Echo CO is POC for EOD as of now.

1154 Blackfoot POS NA762951 update CP

1204 Army MP's request grid for 100 detainees and are enroute. Grid: 858 023

1212 CAG took six detainees and let the others go. Maj Marble was senior CAG rep

1221 Tarawa confirms that there is no card that allows civilians to carry weapons nor is there a receipt system that allows civilians to get confiscated weapons back. 1221(F)

1230 Comanche calls in reference to a child that they treated. That had been turned away from a hospital due to no money. Requesting from Tarawa on where to take wounded in future.

1234 Two platoons from Seminole moved into Golf's old pos at NA 774 962. HIP was complete at 1100 1235(O)

1338 Tomahawk A&T Pos Rep NA 871 977

1400 Gramps assumes the duty of COC Watch Officer and all around swell guy.

1440 Tarawa request assistance with transportation of a civilian patient (possible heart attack). DENIED

1510 EOD and Seminole completed their mission.

1544 4 lar vehicles roll through our pos enroute to meb

1615 EDDIE REPORTED FINDING STINCLES READING TV, @ G 776957, SUSPECT UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS ARE USING THEM TO GAIN AUTHORIZATION TO UNAUTHORIZED AREAS, WILL PUSH UP TO TARAWA

1628 TARAWA WAS NOTIFIED OF TV STINCLES

1629 REBEL REPORTS LARGE FIRE NE OF REBELS POS. G NB 785011. DETAINED 5 PERSONS WITH CAN FULL OF GAS

1655 TARAWA REPORTS 2 SST VEHICLES @ 751953, DOING RARIO FREQUENCY INTERCEPTING. 1 MEW VEHICLE @ 732930

1745 GySgt Pastella has assumed duties as Warpath COC Watch Officer.

1820 TARAWA INFORMS WARPAT THAT SIX HUMVEES WILL BE TRANSISTING WARPATHS AO BETWEEN 1000 TO 1200 TO TARAWA TO ASSIST CAG. O

1918 Rebel turned in 5 detainees to MPs at Police Station at 1700

1920 Tomahawk 7 detained 2 persons. Will hold overnight and await further instructions in the morning O

2115 Challenge and Password for 29 Apr: C - Tunic, P - Wholesome, R - Naughty, Alt - 10. C

2200 SGT GLOEDE ASSUMES DUTIES AS COC WATCH OFFICER.

290000 APR TIME AND DATE CHANGE

0200 CWO ALLEN assumes duties as COC Watch Officer

0543 "Eddie" was given info to pass to EOD. Three task were given (1) Live grenades at municiple building, (2) Anti-personnel mine @ 793957, (3) Weapons cache @ 829005.

0600 EOD is heading to municipal building to handle grenades.

0600 1st Lt Gifford assumes all duties as the COC watch officer

0620 Seminole coordinating with EOD and Engineers to take care of AP mine in B sector (271645Zapr03).

0623 At Warpath request, Tarawa has Weapons Cache #18 (1000x120mm mortar rounds)(271457ZAPR03) for action.

0721 Counter battery picked up mortar fire from NAB17957 impact @ 766956 5 mikes prior. From Tarawa. 0721

0728 From Tarawa; will be launching Deadly15, 1 Huey 2 Cobras, in 15-20 mikes to investigate mortar fire origination

0734 Rebel has detained 7 Iraqis for looting. Transporting to police station

0742 Shawnee 6 at Tarawa MEB for next hour.

0805 PERSON AT SEMINOLES POS HAS POSSIBLE INFORMATION ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS BURRIED AT GRID 788 962. INFORMATION IS SIX MONTHS OLD. COULD BE UP TO 1-200 METERS FROM FOX CO. POS.

0810 AZTEC HAS TWO VEHICLES WITH CIVILIAN CONTRACTERS AT THE GATE LOOKING FOR LT. MEEK. 0813
TARAWA HAS BEEN NOTIFIED AND HAS SENT SEABEES TO ESCORT THEM.

0812 EOD TOOK CARE OF GRENADES AT THE MUNICIPLE BUILDING AND THE AP MINE IN THE JULIET SECTOR.

1000 1st Lt Demetriades assumes all duties as the COC watch officer

1130 4 TRUCKS WITH IRAQI CONTRACTORS AT FRONT GATE.

1132 RELAYING TO WARPAT COLLECTIVE. ALL COMBATE CARGO MARINES MUST RETURN TO COC AT 1600Z TODAY. TO FLY TO CAMP SHOUP TOMMOROW ON C130. 1135(C)

1145 BLACKFOOT POS NA764957 UPDATE CP

1150 RELAYED TO WARPAT COLLECTIVE THAT MARINES GOING TO BAGHDAD NEED TO BE AT COC AT 1600Z TODAY. 1150(C)

1238 CHEROKEE 6 DIRECTED TO RELOCATED HIS COMMAND GROUP INCLUDING GS TEAMS TO REBELS POSITION NO LATER THAN 0300 ZULU 30 APRIL.

1256 CSSB12 COMING TO COC TO COORDINATE PLACEMENT OF THEIR 60MM MORTARS

1326 SPARTAN INFORMS COMANCHE 5 OF DISTERBANCE BEHIND STADIUM

1350 Gramps assumes the duty of COC Watch Officer and all around swell guy.

1556 Comanche going to check out possible looting at an unknown area. Info passed by unknown HUMMVEE

1614 Camanche Six reports abandoned 5-ton, with (acb) markings on side, @ 789973, Camanche will put a squad on it until determined weather we are going to get it or not. Relayed to warpath 4.

1624 Warpath contact team with security squad going to check out down 5-ton @ 789973
1600 Late Entry; Capt Keller has assumed duties of COC watch officer
1656 Aztec reports seeing a green star cluster near CP 42
1700 Rebel reports down 5-ton @ 789973 to have V-6 on side
1732 Warpath contact team has picked up down 5-ton @ 789973 and is enroute back to warpaths pos
1800 GySgt Pastella has assumed duties as Warpath COC Watch Officer.
1805 Contact Team returns from disabled vehicle.
1806 TF Gunner returns.
1818 Warpath directs Aztec to provide two highback humvees with Driver, A-drivers to 3/23 at 0300z30Apr
1819 Aztec reports detaining 21 civilians. Tarawa directed to release them to the police station. @ NA776957
1933 Aztec reports that there was no one at the police station to take the detainees, so Aztec let them go. Passes information up to Tarawa
2030 Tarawa passes info on the flight to Baghdad. Planes callsign is Crier-42 and will arrive 1030Z. Will depart 1130Z. Lt Ragan is the plane team commander.
2200 SGT GLOEDE ASSUMES DUTIES AS COC WATCH OFFICER.
300000APR: Date and Time change
0200 CWO ALLEN assumes duties as COC Watch Officer
0330 Rebel dropped 7 detainees (290734ZAPR03) off with Iraqi Police at 291700ZAPR03
0411 C-130 to Foss Field will depart @ 0800, C-130 to Baghdad departs @ 1130. All personnel should be at the AGDAG at least 1 hour before flight. Plane team commanders notified of timeline. Warpath 4 notified of timeline.

G
1818(A)

O

0800 "Eddie" called and stated that EOD will be at his pos if we need to task them for anything.
0558 Grid 796953, Aztec reports @ 0543Z, observed detonation in the water.
0600 1st Lt Gifford assumes all duties as the COC watch officer
0606 From Tarawa; All detainees should be taken to NA772995, police station.
0630 From Tarawa; Report of reduced visibility of 2 miles from 0230-1500. Wind gusts up to 30kts
0639 White1, 4th LAR escorting water truck thru Warpath AO in 2 miles w/ 4 LAV's.
0709 2 civ contractors waiting for CEB escort at gate 3
0728 Detainee point @NA772995, is a soccer field. NOT set up to receive detainees.
0728 From Seminole; CAG will be paying police dept. tomorrow and will continue to pay civil services over the next five days.
0745 New detainee point is NA778954
0850 COMANCHEE HAS A CIV. THAT SAYS HE IS A POLICE OFFICER THAT HAS A WEAPON. HE HAS NO PERMITE FOR THAT WEAPON. GUIDANCE WAS GIVEN TO HOLD HIM AS A DETAINEE UNTIL MP'S GET THERE TO FIND OUT IF THE CIV. IS LEGIT.
0930 194 MP IS IN ROUTE TO COMANCHEE POS.
0935 AZTEC HAS A WELL DRESSED CIV. WITH A LETTER TO SEE 1ST LT. REYNOLDS DIRICTING HIM TO COME HERE AND LINK UP WITH SNM. HE IS CLAIMING TO HAVE VITAL INFORMATION.
1000 1st Lt Demetriades assumes all duties as the COC watch officer
1040 INDIVIDUAL LOOKING FOR LT REYNOLDS LEFT
1045 MP COMPANY WENT TO COMANCHEE'S POS AND SCREENED INDIVIDUAL CLAIMING TO BE A POLICE OFFICER AND LET HIM GO.
1130 FLIGHT TO FOSS FIELD LEFT AT 1110. FLIGHT TO BAGHDAD IS LOADING NOW.
1211 REBEL IS TAKING SEVEN DETAINEES TO THE POLICE STATION.
1345 SGT GLOEDE ASSUMES DUTIES AS COC WATCH OFFICER.
1450 Rebel reports dropping off detainees at police station at 1300
1530 Security Platoon 0400 at cemetery (NA 778 957)1 & 2 May. Security for ceremony 8 May Crowd Control.
1700 TARAWA advises FRAG O: In reference to throwing candy to children. There will be no throwing candy to children along the roadside. It may cause accidents. Also the ceremony on May 8 will be at the cemetery. WARPAT collective has been advised.
1710 WARPAT SWO DIRECTS MOHAWK 5 PROVIDE SEC SQD AND VEHICLE FOR 0230 MOV'T WITH 3/23 CO.

0937

1555(E)
1705

1800 GySgt Pastella has assumed duties as Warpath COC Watch Officer.
1820 The 0200 daily activity report has been canx until further notice.
2200 MGySgt Broda assumes all duty as the COC Watch officer
010000May: Date and Time change
0200 CWO ALLEN assumes duties as COC Watch Officer
0200 Zulo trucks depart on area fam for 3/23 personnel
0230 AirO vehicle w/3/23 CO departs w/security squad for Tarawa House
0300 AirO vehicle convoy arrives Tarawa House
0600 1st Lt Gifford assumes all duties as the COC watch officer
0639 Mohawk5 reports 3 Iraqis with bino's @ 720958. Reported to Tarawa.
0641 Rebel5 reports has taken 9 detainees and 1 vehicle. Looting @ NA784010. Taking to police station.
0743 From Viking, turn in all GSM phones asap to MEB main to GYSGT Farrell.
0816 ECHO COMPANY HAS BEEN TASKED IN PROVIDING A 7 TON, ESCORT, CAG REP, ALL GOING TO FOX CO. POS AT 1100.
1000 1st Lt Demetriades assumes all duties as the COC watch officer
1030 COMANCHEE AHS CHECKED THE BASKETBALL COURT AND IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN CHECKED BY MEB.
1312 AT4 SHOOT APPROVED BY TARAWA
1401

0710

1401 1401

1428 CAG ARRIVES AT COMANCHES POS (LTCOL ZANGES)

1445 TARAWA ENFORMS ALL VEHICLES ARE WITH 4TH CAG. COMANCHE GOING TO PUSH TWO CAAT VEHICLES OUT WITH LTCOL ZANGES TO FIND LOCATION OF ACCIDENT.

1456 MGySgt Broda assumes all duty as the COC Watch officer

1521 COMANCHE CALLED TO INFORM US THAT 10 LAR VEH. WILL PASS THROUGH OUR AO TO THE AIRFIELD

1610 COMANCHE 5 PASSES THAT AT THE VICINITY OF 886 973 A DEAD CHILD, CAUSE OF DEATH EXPLOSION 1618 POSSIBLY EOD. ALSO THE CHILDS FATHER AND GRANDFATHER ARE AT COMANCHE'S POS. ORDANACE WAS FOUND AT 8788 9791 AND 8808 9731 APPROX 200 METERS FROM WHERE DEAD CHILD WAS FOUND. MEDICAL PERSONNEL SAID THAT THE CHILD HAS BEEN DEAD ONLY A FEW HOURS. INFO PASSED TO TARAWA.

1800 GySgt Pastella has assumed duties as Warpath COC Watch Officer.

1820 TARAWA CALLS AND REPORTS THAT ALL PROCEDURES WERE FOLLOWED BY EOD. IT IS UNKNOWN 1820 (F) WHETHER CHILD WAS KILLED BY EOD DETONATION OR WHILE SCAVENGING. WILL CALL IF THEY GET FURTHER INFO.

1932 CAJUN IS THE RUNNING PASSWORD FOR 3/23.

2155 SGT GLOEDE ASSUMES DUTIES AS COC WATCH OFFICER.

020000MAY TIME AND DATE CHANGE

0200 CWO ALLEN assumes duties as COC Watch Officer

0240 From Tarawa: 8th ESB will be sending a convoy south to Coyote on 3 May, time unknown.

0444 Ranges hot, "E", "F", "G", "H&S", and "Tomahawk" are firing. Advise Tarawa when ranges go cold. 0444

0513 Comanche 6 has 17 Marines sick with the "runs", stomach cramping, and fever. BAS will go and check the waterbulls. I notified Tarawa and they will take a look at the water production

0531 Zulu and 12 marines are heading to the range were Tomahawks is to improve their comm.

0535 Need to know if any marine has been medavac to a local hospital? And if any one has a corpsman name of HM1 Paul ? Answer is negative and negative. 0535 (C)

0545 X 0545 0548 (C)

0600 1st Lt Gifford assumes all duties as the COC watch officer

0615 HM1 Narduzzi from TFT COC reports a missing pistol with ser no 100-1184. Contact no is tac no 370-5700

0650 EOD is requested to blow a tow missing that is a dud at Tomahawks range. Time for them to arrive is at 1400 zulu 0655 time.

0715 China Lake has been re-directed to NB 734001 at 1400 zulu time. Cordination contact is with gunner on push 819 0720

0735 Scorpion Mobile (4TH LAR) is passing threv warpath main position with 7 veh

0745 Tarawa has notified warpath that blackfoot needs to go Cold Immediately. Blackfoot has gone cold and warpath is 0744 investigate the message. 0746 (G)

0747 EOD is hearing impats from the northern most range. 0747

0805 TARAWA INFORMED US THAT WE CAN GO HOT.

0832 AZTEC HAS CONSTRUCTION WORKERS AT GATE 3 THAT NEED ESCORT TO THE AIR STATION 0835

0951 TRUCKS AT THE GATE NEEDING ESCORT BY SEA BEES 0952

0955 1st Lt Demeirades assumes all duties as the COC watch officer

1008 TARAWA REQUESTING WEAPONS LIST FOR WAR TROPHIES. NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, CALIBER AND SERIAL NUMBER. ALLOWED 1 HISTORICAL AND 3 TRAINING WEAPONS.

1351 MGySgt Broda assumes all duty as the COC Watch officer

1602 THE RANGE IS COLD AND GUNNER IS ENROUTE BACK TO WARPATHS POS.

1704 WARPATH PASSED TO TOMAHAWK SIX TO COME TO WARPATHS POS TO SPEAK TO SPARTAN

1716 CHALLENGE/PASSWORD C:BENCH, P: ALTER, R: WEED, FOR 03 MAY, 03 1723 (C)

1722 SCORPIAN HAS CONVOY MOVING THROUGH OUR ZONE

1800 SGT TREME ASSUMES DUTIES OF COC WATCH OFFICER

1920 SGT BAILEY ASSUMES DUTIES OF COG WATCH OFFICER

1700 LATE ENTRY: Echo Company detains Iraqi at front gate of Tarawa House. Individual had a note stating he was a suicide bomber. Echo Company Marines search individual, but find no explosive devices on said name. Individual Echo Company calls for 194th MPs to pick up individual and escort to the police station.

2111 China Lake requests details into Echo Company detainee from 1700(z) at Tarawa house.

2120 TFT sends message concerning taking home of war trophy's. Request S/N, caliber, description by COB tomorrow.

2200 SGT GLOEDE ASSUMES DUTIES AS COC WATCH OFFICER.

2307 Tarawa advised that the range cannot go hot until Tarawa has an overlay.

030000MAY TIME AND DATE CHANGE

0200 CWO ALLEN assumes duties as COC Watch Officer

0400 "Cyclops" is down hard, Capt. Luciano will be the Watch Officer until "Cyclops" is back on his feet

0552 Tarawa approves al kut south range to go hot. Do not have comm with Gunner, he has not been notified for the 0553 south range is hot for SSP shoot.

0600 Lt Gifford assumes duties as COC Watch Officer

0605 Non-Leathal weapons shoot is denied. 323 and TFT communication lines need to be improve.

0610 Comm with gunner has been re established and notified that his range has been approve to go hot.

0658 Blackfoot had raided a house at grid 773 945. A individual was detained for storing several AK47's, machine guns, ammo and iraq uniforms. Detaine has been taken to the collection point.

0725 Morale chow is at the Main CP. Units need to come pick it up. 0726 (C)

0736 Sem 3 is reporting a class 1 air filter leak. They are at 775 962.

0906 Gunner repors Al Kut south range has gone cold at his time. Lt Gifford transfers the message to Tarawa. This concludes all training for the day.

0950 SGT GLOEDE ASSUMES DUTIES AS COC WATCH OFFICER.

1034 Hotel C advises they are moving 10 vehicles through Al-Kut en-route to Tarawa. 1034

1100 Lt Whitten from 194 MP Co came in and inquired about the NLW range. I advised him we did ours behind the gym. He said they would be doing theirs Sunday and Monday. I told him to let us know when they were going hot.

1215 Cyclops attempts to pass to Tarawa a serialized list of enemy weapons systems the Bn is planning to take home. Tarawa says that Viking is the one that needs the list. Requested deadline from Viking. Awaiting reply.

1233 Serialized list of weapons sent to Tarawa:

| | | |
|---------------------|--------|--------|
| (1) RPK | 7.62mm | U-3456 |
| (1) 12.7mm MG | 12.7mm | 302257 |
| (1) RPG | 40mm | 9418 |
| (1) AK-47 | 7.62mm | 61451 |
| (1) SKS | 7.62mm | 3302 |
| (1) British Enfield | 303 | 50190 |

1245

1245 While 3rd platoon echo company was providing security for clean up crew. Army mp conducted a raid within 3rd platoons perimeter. They cleared north to south with no coordination. 776957 cemetery. Time 0900 1249

1400 MGySgt Broda assumes all duty as the COC Watch officer.

1509 (1) 106mm recoilless rifle added to list of weapons to take home

1515 AK-47 s/n 61451 replaced with AK-47 S/N 6(or G?)13891

1603 The 0700 raid produced two detainees and 4 ak-47s, were turned in at 0900z to police station, previous raid constituted 9 ak-47s, 1 rpk which are to be destroyed later.

1755 Warpath passed to seminole 0330 payroll @ govenment house. 0500 cemetery security

1800 GySgt Pastella has assumed duties as Warpath COC Watch Officer.

1801 Tarawa passed, sst 1 @ 742942, sst 2 @ 730928, est ORF @ 728931, time of return 0200z

1829 Tarawa will be conducting raid with local police and MP's @ 783968, time 0100z. House of person who made threats against local police chief. 1829 1830 (F)

2100 Tarawa calls to confirm tomorrows events: (1) Staff planning mtg with 3/23, (2) Cemetery security, (3) Range recon with EOD. Link up is at 0400Z.

2200 1st Lt Demetriades assumes all duties as the COC watch officer

2316 TARAWA CALLED IN REFERENCE TO AN ERATIC TOW MISSILE FROM OUR LIVE FIRE RANGE THAT WAS A DUD. ASKED IF WE HAD EYES ON AT THIS TIME. TOMAHAWK INFORMED COC THAT HE DID NOT HAVE EYES ON.

~~040000MAY TIME AND DATE CHANGE~~

0200 Capt Keller assumes all duties as COC watch officer

0353 CFLCC actual will be in the area around 1100Z. 0355(C)

0400 Seminole reports payroll security mission still in progress.

0430 Aztec is at the Tarawa house but EOD has not shown up for the 0400 meeting. EOD is on the way.

0445 Seminole 8 is enroute to COC.

0455 CFLCC will be in the area touring the city no special security needed 0500 (C)

0500 Seminole 8 is still at his POS and will be at the COC in 30 min

0508 Aztec will start recon at range without EOD. EOD is to wait at the Tarawa house until he gets back. 0510

0515 War Trophies per the guidance of spartian we dropped the 12.7 mm machine gun, and the Enfield. Authorized war trophies/training weapons are as follows: (1) RPG, (1) RPK, (1) AK-47, and (1) SKS. The battalion is also authorized to transport the 2 MARDIV war trophy, (1) 106mm recoilless rifle. Watch officer asked if Tarawa required readback of serial numbers. Tarawa said no readback required.

0520 Nailbender says EOD was dispatched to Tarawa house, but was apparently unable to affect linkup with Aztec 6. Nailbender advised to have team link up with Seminole and await Aztec 6 return from range recon.

0600 1st Lt Gifford assumes all duties as the COC watch officer

0615 Seminole will maintain security at the cemetery. EOD is at their position.

0725 3 civilian contractor at the east gate and need a CEB escort. 0727

0820 IRAQI CONTRACTORS AT THE GATE NEEDING ESCORT 0820

0920 REBEL 5 IS GOING TO SEND ALL THE CORPMAN BACK TO THE MAIN TO SPEEK WITH THE COL.

1000 1st Lt Demetriades assumes all duties as the COC watch officer.

1045 Seabees CO enroute to cemetery. Seminole security detail still at cemetery. 1047 (E)

1100 Tarawa calls to pass that local cops are provideing security at a local tv station and request 10 roles of c. wire for extra security the wire is at semenoles pos and needs to go the grid 758 977. Spoke to Seminole 5, he is working the issue and will advise Warpath on outcome.

1225 Seminole sending security team out with wire for TV station.

1250 Tarawa requesting all rosters for retrograde to Capt Henderson at RCT-2. LT Medal has been tasked

1400 MGySgt Broda assumes all duty as the COC Watch officer

1444 Tarawa informs Warpath of raid by local police aided by MPs and elements of 4th LAR on suspected Badr Corps HQ Youth Center @ 1930Z, Grid NA 773 963. 1449(b) 1445(E)

1520 SEMINOLD 6 AND RAID FORCE ACTUALS CONDUCT COORDINATION AT SEMINOLES POS AND DO A LEADERS RECON FOR TONIGHTS RAID. THE GRID NA 772974 WAS DIFFERENT THAN THE ORIGINAL GRID FROM HIGHER. 1530

1537 TARAWA REPORTS TO GO WITH THE INFORMATION FROM THE ACTUALS ON THE GROUND.

1547 TARAWA CALLS OFF RAID FOR TONIGHT. TARAWA WILL SEND A RECON TEAM IN TOMORROW. TARAWA WILL HAVE A REACT TEAM STANDING BY. 1716 1549(O)

1654 REBEL REPORTS LCPL HECKSHER WITH 103 DEG. TEMP ENROUTE TO WARPATHS POS. (BAS)

1731 SEMINOLE IS INFORMED OF SECURITY BEING NEEDED AT THE CEMENTARY @ 0500Z AND MUNICIBLE BUILDING @ 0300Z.

1800 GySgt Pastella has assumed duties as Warpath COC Watch Officer.
1930 COMANCHE CALLS AND INFORMS WARPAT THAT THERE WILL BE ELECTIONS TOMORROW AT 0900 LOCAL AT THE HOSPITAL COMPLEX IN JULIET SECTOR. REQUEST THAT TARAWA IS INFORMED SO THEY CAN HAVE CAG UNIT TO MONITOR. CHINA LAKE INFORMED. 1945

2156 SGT GLOEDE ASSUMES DUTIES AS COC WATCH OFFICER

050000MAY TIME AND DATE CHANGE

0200 CWO ALLEN assumes duties as COC Watch Officer

0215 Tarawa called and stated that there was an explosion near the Tarawa House. Wanted us to send out a patrol and investigate. Checked with Seminole and they also heard an explosion. Seminole was told by someone in MEB Forward that the explosion was an RPG and that it had been fired at a City Counselman's house. As soon as Seminole gets a good grid, they will send out a patrol. 0243(O)

0333 Seminole 8 advises that a car bomb exploded, not an RPG. No injuries at this time. Seminole will get the correct grid and forward it to me.

0336 [REDACTED] 0349 0340(O)

0300 LATE ENTRY: 3/23 CAAT Section conducts RIP with 2/8 CAAT Section at ASP. (1) 81mm Mortar Section commences RIP with Aztec. Weapons Company (-) commences RIP with TF Rebel.

0315 LATE ENTRY: Co. G picks up (1) Plt from Kilo Co 3/23 for RIP in H Sector.

0400 Co. E picks up (3) Plts from kilo Co for RIP at Tarawa House/Municipal Building/Police Station.

0600 Lt Gifford assumes duties as COC Watch Officer

0750 MGySgt Carassca has a message to SSgt Gibbs. Message is to provide rosters for advance party, main body, and black bottom. Captin from 2/8 standing by at rear G-1. Please call 932-25-135 or 141.

0905 REBEL IS LEAVING THERE POS TO BE RELIEVED BY TF TIGER

0950 1st Lt Demetriades assumes all duties as the COC watch officer

1025 Tarawa requests that Warpath moves the 10 rolls of concertina at TV station (041100ZMAY03) and another 4 rolls of concertina to a location not very far from where the 10 rolls are now. Warpath advises Tarawa that we cannot come up with the 4 rolls of concertina and that our vehicle assets are tapped out with the RIP.

1134 Enforcer 6 called Tarawa to report NLT range has gone cold. We are relaying for Enforcer 6 due to no comm

1232 AGDAG net ID 930 for HST.

1304 One section of Aztec has been relieved by 3/23. Aztec still has control of gate. One Aztec section still fire capped 3/23 COF Net is 042. At 1500 Aztec will turn over control of gate.

1327 One FIF requesting to see Maj Wiggins at front gate

1349 SGT GLOEDE ASSUMES DUTIES AS COC WATCH OFFICER.

1515 Notified Aztec 6 that the live-fire confirmation brief is at 0300 6 May. 1515(A)

1647 COOTER?? Advised they have comm with TIGER and will relay traffic.

1700 TARAWA advised all live-fires in Iraq are cancelled. Aztec and Tomahawk advised.

1711 Tarawa advises the following info is needed prior to patrolling in our local security area: An overlay must be submitted and approved by Tarawa. Local as in Airfield.

1715 We now have direct comm with Tiger.

1731 Golf Co is all in except for 2 squads + Co Commander. 3 personnel still at TF Rebel. All Marines should be in by 0800 tomorrow.

1735 Clarification on local security patrol requirements from Tarawa: roving security that does not leave the immediate battalion area does not require an overlay. Tarawa is primarily concerned with personnel wandering around the airfield shooting dogs, etc, posing a blue-on-blue hazard.

1750 GySgt Pastella has assumed duties as Warpath COC Watch Officer.

2200 MGySgt Broda assumes all duty as the COC Watch officer

2400 DATE change 06 MAY 2003

0200 CWO ALLEN assumes duties as COC Watch Officer.

0429 Aztec; relief in place complete at this time.

0600 1st Lt Gifford assumes all duties as the COC watch officer

0702 Task Force Tiger will be in COC in 25-30 mikes to update position.

0900 3MARINES FROM GOLF CO. AT TF TIGERS POS. WAPATH IS SENDING A VEHICLE TO PICK THEM UP IN 45 MIKES TO AN HOUR.

0935 ZULU TRUCKS HAVE DEPARTED FOR F TIGER FOR GOLF MARINES

0950 1st Lt Demetriades assumes all duties as the COC watch officer

1002 COMANCHE REQUEST THAT ZULU BRING SERIALIZED GRAR BACK TO COMANCHE'S POS

1010 3/23 HAS A LETTER AT THE FRONT GATE FOR A CAPTAIN GEORGE A. Marine at front gate took letter and sent the people away.

1400 MGySgt Broda assumes all duty as the COC Watch officer

1800 SGT GLOEDE ASSUMES DUTIES AS COC WATCH OFFICER.

2200 SGT COWEN ASSUMES DUTIES AS COC WATCH OFFICER

2400 SGT BAILEY ASSUMES DUTIES OF COC WATCH OFFICER

2400 DATE change 07 MAY 2003

0200 SSGT BARTELS ASSUMES DUTIES OF COC WATCH OFFICER

0400 CAPT HASKELL ASSUMES DUTIES AS COC WATCH OFFICER

0500 NOTIFIED WARPAT COLLECTIVE OF 1430 COMMAND AND STAFF MEETING.

0600 CAPT MORSE ASSUMES DUTIES OF COC WATCH OFFICER

0800 1st Lt Demetriades assumes all duties as the COC watch officer

1123 TOMMOROW AT 1400 REPORT CARD COMING HERE TO SIGN OVER PRR CARD'S.

1000 1st Lt Gifford assumes all duties as the COC watch officer

1200 GySgt Pastella has assumed duties as Warpath COC Watch Officer.

1355 MGySgt Broda assumes all duty as the COC Watch officer

1600 CWO ALLEN assumes duties as COC Watch Officer

1730 SGT GLOEDE ASSUMES DUTIES AS COC WATCH OFFICER.

2200 SGT COWEN ASSUMES DUTIES AS COC WATCH OFFICER

2400 SGT BAILEY ASSUMES DUTIES OF COC WATCH OFFICER

2400 DATE CHANGE 08 MAY 2003

0125 Radio watch notices fire to 200m north of CP

0135 2nd Lt Luna and a squad-sized unit has fire out, monitoring for re-flash.

0200 SSGT BARTELS ASSUMES DUTIES OF COC WATCH OFFICER

0230 H/J Crypto changeover

0235 Per Bn CO, the burning of trash is now officially banned in the pit next to the COC.

0346 Tarawa requests additional 7-ton for unanticipated VIP transpo to cemetery ceremony

0400 CAPT HASKELL ASSUMES DUTIES AS COC WATCH OFFICER

0600 CAPT MORSE ASSUMES DUTIES OF COC WATCH OFFICER

0800 1st Lt Demetriades assumes all duties as the COC watch officer

1000 1st Lt Gifford assumes all duties as the COC watch officer

1200 GySgt Pastella has assumed duties as Warpath COC Watch Officer.

1400 MGySgt Broda assumes all duty as the COC Watch officer

1555 CWO ALLEN assumes duties as COC Watch Officer

1745 SGT GLOEDE ASSUMES DUTIES AS COC WATCH OFFICER.

2200 SGT COWEN ASSUMES DUTIES AS COC WATCH OFFICER

2400 DATE CHANGE 09 MAY 2003

2400 SGT BAILEY ASSUMES DUTIES OF COC WATCH OFFICER

0200 SSGT BARTELS ASSUMES DUTIES OF COC WATCH OFFICER

0400 CAPT HASKELL ASSUMES DUTIES AS COC WATCH OFFICER

0600 CAPT MORSE ASSUMES DUTIES OF COC WATCH OFFICER

0800 1st Lt Demetriades assumes all duties as the COC watch officer

0945 4 pallets of mail are ready to be picked up at Tarawa

0946 Report Card request chaplain for services from 0500 to 1200 10 May 03

1000 1st Lt Gifford assumes all duties as the COC watch officer

1145 GySgt Pastella has assumed duties as Warpath COC Watch Officer.

1355 MGySgt Broda assumes all duty as the COC Watch officer

1600 CWO ALLEN assumes duties as COC Watch Officer

1800 SGT GLOEDE ASSUMES DUTIES AS COC WATCH OFFICER.

1941 Tarawa advises following flight times tomorrow: 1st arrive at 0700, depart 0800 2nd arrive 0730, depart 0830 3rd

arrive 0800 depart 0900 4th arrive 1045 depart 1145 5th (if needed) arrive 1915 depart 1945 5th flight will

have 18 packs from FSSG, trying to get 85 packs per flight.

2200 SGT COWEN ASSUMES DUTIES AS COC WATCH OFFICER

2400 DATE CHANGE 10 MAY 2003

2400 SGT BAILEY ASSUMES DUTIES OF COC WATCH OFFICER

0145 Radio check with Tarawa

0150 Capt Keller assumes all duties as COC watch officer

0321 Tarawa advises first C-130 takeoff will be 0700Z.

0500 CAPT HASKELL ASSUMES DUTIES AS COC WATCH OFFICER

0800 1st Lt Demetriades assumes all duties as the COC watch officer

0130

1955(C)

On Saturday 11 January 2003, Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines began its journey to the Middle East from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. The company formed at 0245 to load baggage and stage gear. At 0430 the company traveled by bus to the 6th Marine Regiment's PT field in order to stage and wait for the charter buses that would take the company to Norfolk, Virginia. At approximately 1130 the company's buses arrived and Marines and baggage were embarked. Finally, at 1335 the trip to Norfolk Naval Base began. While en-route, the buses made one stop in Roanoke Rapids, Virginia, allowing the Marines to invade the local McDonalds restaurant. By 1930 the company had arrived at the pier and begun embarking aboard the USS Kearsarge (LHD3). The remainder of the evening was spent securing gear and weapons, and arranging berthing spaces.

On Sunday, 12 January the Kearsarge got underway at 1000, its destination, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina and Onslow Bay. The Marines of Echo Company spent the day continuing to get settled into their berthing spaces, and becoming familiar with the ship and its daily routine.

Monday, 13 January was the first training day aboard the Kearsarge for Echo Company. The Marines were involved in mandatory shipboard training, broadcast over the ship's TV, while the Staff and Officers spent the day planning the training, which the company would execute while en-route to the area of operations.

Execution of the training schedule commenced the following day, Tuesday 14 January. Throughout the week the platoons of Echo Company participated in classes led by their platoon commanders and platoons sergeants, as well as "round robin" training, prepared by other members of Echo Company including the company RTO, company corpsman, and the Fire Support Team (FiST). Weapons platoon spent the majority of the week conducting SL-3 inspections on its various weapons systems. They also conducted Enhanced Marksmanship Training (EMT) and a weapons handling test. First platoon conducted EMT and weapons handling tests, an M16/M203 SL-3 inspection, and classes focusing on room clearing and rubble areas. They finished the week with an inspection of the platoons M249 SL-3. Second platoon conducted EMT and weapons handling tests, classes in urban patrolling and navigation, and counter-sniper/machine gun employment in an urban environment. They also conducted an SL-3 inventory of their M249 machine guns and classes on NBC defense and first aid. Third platoon concentrated on SAW gunnery and employment of the AT-4 rocket and M18 claymore mine. Third also received classes on preparation of the defense, artillery Call For Fire, and First Aid. All platoons conducted NVG familiarization. Sunday 19 January marked the end of the first training week. For Sunday the company adopted a holiday routine, which allowed the Marines a measure of personal time for church, PT, and chores as they saw necessary.

The week of 20 to 26 January saw the training schedule intensify for Echo Company. Weapons platoon received classes on demolitions, principles of employment and firing considerations of the machine gun, and field communications. First platoon concentrated on counter-sniping, room clearing, machine gun employment in the urban environment, artillery Call For Fire, armor identification and weapons systems, NBC, and first aid. Second platoon received classes on field communications, armor identification

and weapons systems, artillery Call For Fire, attacks on fortified positions, enemy small arms and preparing for combat. Third platoon was involved in classes on consolidation and preparing for counterattack, field communications, passage of friendly lines and relief in place, NBC, first aid, and Echo Company's combat version of the trivia show Jeopardy. As a company, Echo received classes on breaching operations, considerations of the defense, and artillery Call For Fire. All platoons also conducted SL-3 inventories on their personal night vision devices. The company once again closed out the week on Sunday with the holiday routine.

The week of 27 January saw Echo Company moving into company-level training though there still remained platoon level training to be done. Weapons platoon conducted SL-3 inspections on its optic equipment, specifically Aquila III night-sights, and laser bore sights. First, second and third platoons participated in field communications classes as well as various SL-3 inspections. At the company level the training consisted of classes on the artillery Call For Fire, counter-mechanized tactics, night coordination measures, NBC defense, public/civil affairs, explosive ordnance disposal, and first aid. The company also continued its combat Jeopardy tournament.

The following week, starting 3 February Echo Company resumed its focus on company level training, with smaller squad and platoon sized classes running concurrently. Overall the company focused on night infiltration measures, NBC Monitor/Decon Team training, patrol link-ups, defensive considerations, 7-ton familiarization, an intelligence brief, defensive fundamentals test, and the counter-mechanized tactics test. With their remaining time Weapons platoon concentrated on cross-training on the M240G, while First and Second platoons worked at patrol overlays/debriefs, AT-4, and body armor classes. Third platoon conducted first aid classes, and participated in the M240G cross training.

10 February marked the beginning of Echo Company's last week aboard the Kearsarge. The company also participated in a Battalion Squad Competition, putting into practical use the knowledge they had gained over the previous four weeks. The following three days platoons focused on finishing squad sized classes such as patrol overlays/debriefs, body armor, AT-4, and first aid classes. On the fourteenth and fifteenth the company prepared for the offload, scheduled for Sunday, 16 February. During those two days berthing spaces were cleaned, and final inspections were conducted on weapons and equipment. The evening of 16 February found Echo Company on the ground at Camp Shoup, Kuwait, well prepared for what lay ahead.

From: Second Platoon Commander
To: Company Commander

Subj: CHRONOLOGY FROM 20 MARCH – 1 APRIL DURING OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

20 March – 2/8 loaded trucks at Camp Shoup and moved north to TAA Hawkins, near the Iraqi border. We arrived and occupied the assembly area well after dark. Artillery

fire could be heard in the distance, and a nearby Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) battery fired numerous rockets throughout the night.

21 March – On the morning of the 21st, we went to MOPP I in preparation to cross the LOD. After loading the trucks and lining up with the rest of the battalion, we waited for many hours to move north. During this time, LCpl Brom of 2nd Plt was medevaced due to an infection in his arm which had continued to worsen. Echo Company finally crossed the border in the afternoon and drove into Iraq for several hours before stopping to occupy a hasty battle position in the desert. We dug skirmisher's trenches and hit the rack.

22 March – After waking up and loading the trucks again, we continued our drive north. We continued to drive through open desert all day long, stopping for security halts every so often. At one point, we had to stop because the company gunnery sergeant's HMMWV broke down. We transferred the trailer, equipment, and personnel, then continued on. Once again we occupied a hasty BP for the night. The news coming down was the An Nasariyah was already secure, but there were still squad to platoon sized pockets of resistance.

23 March – We pressed towards An Nasariyah, hitting the highway and continuing until we were close to the city. We stopped in the midst of a long column of vehicles on the highway, and waited for many hours. The lead elements of I MEF even caught up to us on the road. Finally, the call came that 1/2 was stuck, and we were moving to clear the area just southwest of the Euphrates River bridge. We were about 1-2 km south of the bridge when we were ambushed by a handful of Iraqis to our left. We quickly dismounted and 1st and 3rd platoons began clearing the houses nearby. One Iraqi was wounded during the initial exchange of gunfire, it was never clear if he was one of the ones who fired on us. 2nd platoon covered the road and village to the rear, and then moved up to occupy a blocking position near another block of houses while 1st and 3rd swept through the houses, attempting to flush any Iraqi militia out in front of 2nd. At the end of the day, Echo moved up and occupied a perimeter around the southwest corner of the bridgehead, tying into the river and Fox Co. There was sporadic firing throughout the night as LAR engaged armed Iraqis across the river.

24 March – Echo Company expanded our perimeter around the bridge by occupying a house along an east-west running dirt road just south of the bridge. 2nd Platoon occupied the house and immediate vicinity, 1st Platoon tied in between 2nd and the highway, and 3rd Platoon dug in along an irrigation canal. 2nd and 3rd Platoons received sporadic sniper and mortar fire, but nothing effective. 2nd Platoon spotted a fireteam-size group of Iraqis approaching the company position from the west that afternoon, and the Assault Section fired several SMAW rounds at a house that we believed the Iraqis were hiding in. 2nd cleared the house, but did not find any bodies or weapons.

25 March – The company left on a patrol to look at a military compound to our west. We cleared several buildings along the way, and the mortar section attempted to take out a footbridge that crossed the Euphrates. After returning to the defensive position, 1st

Platoon left to reinforce Fox Co. That night, 1st Recon Bn came to occupy 1st Platoon's old position, then changed their minds and left. After that, it poured rain on the company, followed by a thick fog. Many of the Marines slept in puddles of water and mud that night.

26 March – The next day we were relieved by 3/2 and moved back to the bridge. From there, we stepped off heading south, along the east side of the highway this time, and cleared several kilometers of houses. The thing that stuck in most Marines' minds about this operation was crossing several irrigation canals, forcing the company to exchange MOPP suits that evening. After we finished clearing the area, we occupied a company defense oriented south. That evening, the Bn Main was involved in a friendly fire incident across the road.

27 March – The company continued to improve its positions, while 3rd Platoon took over 1st Platoon's position, tying in with the highway on their right. 2nd Platoon conducted a patrol through the village to the company's front, scouting out potential firing positions for enemy snipers. Sgt Halterman of Weapons Platoon diagramed the most likely spots, with the intention of boobytrapping them the next day.

28 March – We continued to work on our positions, and 2nd Platoon placed signs in the village to the south to keep civilians away. Later in the afternoon, when 2nd was scheduled to move back to battalion reserve, the entire company was relieved by Golf Company and moved back to the bridge to stage for another mission. We received our first mail drop since we left Kuwait, and LCpl Brom returned to 2nd Platoon.

29 March – Echo Company stepped off on patrol, moving to the east along the Euphrates. Two platoons moved on line, clearing between a dirt road and the river. The company turned south after 2-3 kilometers, and halted in a temporary patrol base for a few hours. 2nd Platoon occupied a nearby school and established an overwatch position while 1st and 3rd Platoons cleared a military compound. They uncovered a large cache of arms and ammunition, including a few artillery pieces.

30 March – 1st and 3rd Platoons continued to clear the compound, uncovering more munitions, while half of 2nd Platoon cleared a house that had been occupied by the Ba'ath Party before our arrival. 2nd found RPG and mortar rounds, a terrain model of the area, and quite a bit of intel. Once the compound was clear, the company moved out of the area while demolitions placed by the First Sergeant destroyed piles of arms and ammunition. The entire company then occupied the schoolhouse and made it a patrol base. 2nd Platoon spent an uneventful night in ambush positions around the Ba'ath party house.

31 March – The company cleared several compounds east of the military facility, finding a small cache of arms in a construction compound. That night we moved by truck to occupy the construction yard, receiving our first morale chows and a mail drop.

C. F. BENBOW

From: Weapons Platoon Commander

To: Company Commander

Subj: CHRONOLOGY FROM 1 APRIL – 15 APRIL DURING OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

1 April – Echo Company stayed in Al Nasiriya and occupied an abandoned warehouse. We found 13 fully loaded AK-47 Assault Rifles. We continued our vigorous patrolling effort, during the day and at night.

2 April – Echo Company moved to an old military compound. We relieved 3/2 to allow them to push north while we planned to head north the following day. The rescue of Jessica Lynch took place in a hospital nearby that night.

3 April – Our Company, along with the rest of the battalion, pushed north and attempted to drive through the night. However, with the drivers becoming too tired and inexperienced A-Drivers, we were forced to stop for the night along the edge of the highway.

4 April – The Company moved to a bridgehead and set up a defense in the vicinity of the town of Al Diwaniya. We patrolled during the day and at night and saw no sign of any enemy forces. The weather was extremely hot during this time with temperatures surpassing 110 degrees during the day.

5 April – Our Company stayed in the same position, improved the defense, and continued to send out patrols during the day and at night.

6 April – The Company spread out the defense to cover more ground and continued the vigorous patrolling effort.

7 April – Echo Company pushed north-west about 20 kilometers. We were tasked with securing three bridgeheads and this spread the company out about six to seven kilometers. Each rifle platoon secured a different bridgehead and we continued our day and night patrols.

8 April – Our Company stayed in the same position. Then with the NBC threat lowered, we dropped our MOPP Suits, and retained our gas masks. This was a big relief to all of the Marines.

9-10 April – Echo Company remained in the same position, conducted maintenance and continued patrolling.

11 April – Our Company was tasked with clearing a section of the town of Al Diwaniya 20 kilometers south-east of our position. No enemy or weapons were found. After the mission was complete, we returned to our original position.

12 April – The Company stayed in our current position and continued the patrolling effort.

Subj: CHRONOLOGY FROM 1 APRIL – 15 APRIL DURING OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

13 April – Echo Company pushed north about 50 kilometers to an old military training compound inside the city of Asisiyah. We set up a defense around the compound, sent out patrols, and found multiple weapons caches.

14 April – Our Company stayed in the current position, continued patrolling and prepared to leave the following morning.

15 April – The Company placed all of the enemy weapons and ammunition into one of the buildings at the training compound. As we rolled out, we blew the building along with all of the enemy ordnance. We pushed back south, secured a bridgehead just on the outskirts of Al Diwaniya.

B. G. Ruhling

Echo Company, 2/8
Chronology 16 April-1 May, 2003
2nd Lt J M Jones 511 82 9377/0302

16 April- With the bridgehead at al Diwaniyah secured, the company manned checkpoints all day in a company defense. A BZO range was set up, along with an abandon school that was used for live fire room clearing. With the company almost finished with the training, we were given the order to load trucks and head north to a battalion reserve.

17 April- The company was given orders to enter the city of Al Kut in force to demand a meeting with the leader of Habas, an Iranian ran group causing trouble in the city. That word was revised, and the company stayed in place the entire day with orders to move to the city the following morning to run security at Hotel Kut for a meeting between 2 MEB CG, and the elders from the region.

18 April- The company convoyed northeast to Al Kut airfield just south of the city. The commanders conducted a leaders recon of their security positions before dusk, and the

company moved into the city under the cover of darkness. We bivouacked at a school next door to the hotel.

19 April- The company provided security around the perimeter of the hotel for the majority of the day. There were a few crowds and a protest, but no violence.

20 April- The company began platoon sized patrols throughout the city. The only anti-American area was the Habas compound.

21 April- The company continued its platoon sized patrolling effort. First platoon secured the British cemetery while the Marines of TSB stood around and got nothing accomplished in its cleanup effort.

22 April- The company continued its platoon sized patrolling effort. Second platoon maintained security at the cemetery. First platoon secured the city's police station and provided security there while CAG began the process of hiring a new police force.

23 April- The company continued its squad sized patrolling effort. Second platoon maintained security at the cemetery. First platoon began sending integrated squad patrols with one or two Iraqi policemen at a time. One squad responded to a report that a building was being burned and looted. They arrived to find a mob of over 200 people protesting them. They linked up with third platoon and got on line. When the crowd began attacking the Marines, 2nd Lt Hefty led the line to drive back the mob 100 meters, then when the mob began throwing rocks at the Marines, so the line proceeded to pummel anyone attacking the Marines, and sprayed OC pepper spray at the instigators. The crowd quickly turned into a peaceful protest.

24 April- The company continued its patrolling efforts, with Third platoon as security for the cemetery and First platoon running its integrated patrols.

25 April- The company continued its patrolling efforts, with Third platoon as security for the cemetery and First platoon running its integrated patrols. First platoon, along with CAAT platoon, cleared everyone out of the Habas compound and found caches of RPG rockets, mortars, and grenades in the compound and surrounding buildings. The crowd was peaceful.

26 April- The company continued its patrolling efforts, with Third platoon as security for the cemetery and First platoon running its integrated patrols.

27 April- Second platoon was tasked to clear looters out of a building. They snatched a few of the looters and broke up the crowd.

28 April- The company continued its patrolling efforts, with Second platoon running squad patrols from the hotel, Third setting up random patrol bases through its sector, and First running its integrated patrols from the police station.

29 April- The company continued its patrolling efforts, with Second platoon running squad patrols from the hotel, Third setting up random patrol bases through its sector, and First running its integrated patrols from the police station.

30 April- The company continued its patrolling efforts, with Second platoon running squad patrols from the hotel, Third running security at the Habas compound, and First running its integrated patrols from the police station.

1 May- The company continued its patrolling efforts, with Second platoon running squad patrols from the hotel, Third running security at the Habas compound, and First running its integrated patrols from the police station.

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

17 May 2003

Chain of Command

| | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Company Commander | Capt Timothy R. Dremann, Jr. |
| Company Executive Officer | 2ndLt Thomas J. Leslie |
| Company First Sergeant | 1stSgt Howard B. Gatewood |
| Company Gunnery Sergeant | GySgt Aubery A. Hall |
| Platoon Commander, 1 st Platoon | 2 nd Lt Jeffery W. Wong |
| Platoon Sergeant, 1 st Platoon | SSgt Rickey St. John |
| Platoon Commander, 2 nd Platoon | 2 nd Lt Kris K. Southwick |
| Platoon Sergeant, 2 nd Platoon | SSgt Richard B Ayala |
| Platoon Commander, 3 rd Platoon | 2 nd Lt Carlos G. Luna |
| Platoon Sergeant, 3 rd Platoon | SSgt Alex J. Russel |
| Platoon Commander, Weapons Platoon | 1stLt Benjamin P. Gifford |
| Platoon Sergeant, Weapons Platoon | SSgt. Charles N. Allen |

Timeline of events and locations:

Jalibah

22 March:

- Fox Company established a defensive position as part of Battalion defensive perimeter.
- 1st Platoon detaches with the Assault Section around 1600Z and moves as part of a Battalion Task Force, takes 49 EPW's into custody and transports them to a MEB HET unit.

An Nasiriyah

23 March – Securing the bridge

- Company F receives FRAG-O via radio to clear in zone from PL Jackie to the southern bridge, link-up with Company A, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines and conduct relief in place to secure bridge and maintain it's structural integrity.
- CAAT Section, Tomahawk Black, followed by Tomahawk Green led company movement into zone. Tomahawk Black passed designated link-up grid and failed to locate any element of 1st Bn, 2nd Marines. Company column continued to move north and as CAAT reached the base of the bridge, the lead section received heavy machine gun fire from the west. Company pulled back to PL Jackie, dismounts and began to clear in zone north toward the bridge. At dismount point, company received sporadic enemy small arms fire from the west.
- Cleared 2 buildings, conduct hasty weapons search.
- 2nd Platoon establishes positions on bridge, 1st Platoon at base of bridge oriented west, 3rd Platoon at base of bridge oriented east.
- Company fires several artillery missions into city north of Euphrates River in response to small arms and heavy machine gun fire from the west.
- Link-up with Company E conducted, they assume responsibility for western approach to bridge along Euphrates River.
- LAR Platoon (+) and MEWSS vehicle arrives approximately 2200, reinforces company defense.

24 March – Fox Company bridge defense

- Approximately 0700Z, LCpl Poljak and Sgt Perez engage civilian vehicle that failed to stop at blocking position astride the bridge. Three Iraqi's wounded. Vehicle pushed to north end of bridge.
- Approximately 15-20 EPWs surrender at the bridge, come from the north. Several arrive wounded.
- At approximately 0930Z Battalion CAG detachment arrives at bridge. Makes announcement north toward center city that civilian population has one hour to vacate town or they will be in danger. Fox Company observes mass exodus of civilian population from An Nasariah.
- An individual comes from the military hospital claiming to be a first lieutenant in the Iraqi Army. He delivers a letter stating the hospital doesn't want any trouble. The hospital flies a Red Crescent flag and has sandbag bunkers on the roof. We suspect it is an enemy stronghold.
- Company begins to repositioned defense and expand bridgehead 300 meters to the east. 1st Platoon conducts a two-squad patrol, makes (2) house calls, clears buildings and searches for weapons caches. Local date farmer tells Lt Wong that all Iraqi military are north of the Euphrates River, and that everyone south of the river hates Saddam Hussein. Patrol goes as far east as north-south dirt road leading directly to the hospital. Patrol locates a cache of military fatigues and 782 gear near a pickup truck parked close to the riverbank.
- 2nd Platoon with LAR attached move approximately 400 meters north of the bridge to search AAV for wounded or dead Marines. They find none and return to their positions at the bridge.

- Company expands positions to the east of the bridge. 1st Platoon establishes BP tied in with the Euphrates on the left and with a squad from 3rd Platoon on the right. 2nd Platoon remains in position on the bridge. Company E assumes responsibility for the entire western side of the bridgehead.
- The entire company position comes under enemy attack at about 1410Z. Enemy machine gun and small arms fire originates from across the river, south of the hospital and the hospital building proper, while indirect fire falls on company positions.
- 2nd Platoon begins movement to attack to seize hospital building. While moving, remain behind security element on the bridge begins comes under heavy direct fire attack and LCpl Josh Menard is wounded, becomes first Marine from 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines wounded in Operation Iraqi Freedom.
- During the ensuing fight three were wounded by enemy indirect fire, LCpl Ryan Clay, LCpl John Santa Maria, Hm3 Carlos Cordova.
- At approximately 1630, 80 individuals emerge from the hospital and are taken into custody as EPWs. Among them is an Iraqi general and Iraqi major wearing civilian clothes.

25 March – Fox Company attacks military hospital complex

- 2nd Platoon ordered to move all civilians out of the houses and buildings to the immediate front of the company positions. Nine houses cleared, and U.S. Army MIA uniforms are discovered, three booby traps destroyed.
- According to the S-3, human intelligence sources indicate there may be American POW/MIA located in the hospital.
- Fox Company receives clearance to attack and seize hospital compound. Five Marines are wounded – one was hit in the calf by an enemy 7.62mm round entering complex, four wounded by fragmentation while inside the hospital.
- We find an armory stocked with hundreds of assault weapons, thousands of rounds of ammunition and hundreds of MOPP suits. Marines also find two female adjusted flak jackets one bearing the name “Lynch”, as well as utility uniforms, MOPP suits marked with Lynch’s name and two pair of size 5 desert boots– all indicators that American POW’s were located at the hospital at some time.
- The platoon consolidates facing south, begins receiving enemy small arms fire from buildings east of the hospital. Return fire with Company G 60mm mortars and M203 grenade launchers.
- The company withdraws to battle positions around the bridge. Position Scout Sniper Team Two to overwatch hospital complex. Approximately, 2300 observe enemy patrol approaching hospital. Fire Series Crush in response.
- Approximately 2000, Company F tasked to execute movement to recover stuck LAV. GySgt Hall leads element consisting of CAAT section, F Company vehicle and recovery vehicles. Recover LAV without incident.

26 March – Battalion Clears in zone to expand southern bridgehead.

- Company F clears hospital a second time. Begin artillery preparation at 1030Z and then move into compound. Extend perimeter to east of hospital clearing 12

more buildings. Executes night link-up with Company G. Establishes defense with Euphrates River to the left and tied in with Company G to right.

27 March – Company Conducts defense in sector.

- Conduct dismounted day and night patrols. Attached CAAT section engaged technical vehicles to north side of river on three occasions. Company executed three fire missions with battalion 81mm mortars and two with company 60mm mortars to counter enemy bunkers and dismounted troops moving to north of river and sporadically shooting at company's northern most positions along Euphrates River.

28 March - Company patrol

- Conduct company (-) patrol to search village 300 meters to east of defense. Small weapons cache of approximately 15 Ak-47 and 200 rounds located and destroyed.
- Continue to engage enemy individuals and vehicles on the north side of the Euphrates River with mortars and heavy machine-guns.

29 March – 2 April – Defense in sector

- Continue to conduct dismounted day and night patrols. Clear in zone along Euphrates River to south turn. No enemy contact on south side of the river. Last engagement on the north side of the river made on 29 March, destroy D-30 artillery tube. No other contact or significant events.

3 April – 4 April Movement to Ad Diwaniyah

4 April – Fox Company becomes Bn reserve.

5 April – Conduct company patrol to clear farming complex on east and west side of Highway 1. Company clears ten compounds comprising over 100 buildings. No enemy contact, nothing significant to report.

6 April – Establish blocking position northeast of Ad Diwaniyah

- Company establishes blocking position as part of battalion mission to stop exfiltration from Ad Diwaniyah. During occupation of defensive position company takes nine EPW's. Withdraw on morning of 7 April.

7 – 10 April – Route Security

- Company establishes defense in sector along west side of Highway 1. Establish company patrol base and two vehicle checkpoints along main road into Highway 1. Conduct platoon and squad sized patrols throughout sector. No contact or signs of enemy activity in area.

11 – 12 April - Sumer and Qal at Shakhir

- Company moves and occupies positions in the towns of Sumer and Qal at Shakhir. Establish traffic control points along roads into Highway 1 and conduct

Item (3)

dismounted patrols into city. Company detains two individuals in connection with murder of young boy in the town. Stop and detain three individuals attempting to get weapons through western traffic control point.

13 – 14 April – Enter town of Ukraysh

- Company tasked with establishing defense in sector in order to provide security along Highway 6.
- Occupy school building in town of Ukraysh located approximately 15 kilometers southeast of Al Aziziyah. Local population extremely receptive to U.S. presence. Company conducts platoon dismounted patrols and mounted patrols in zone. Also move and destroy over 30,000 anti-aircraft round and repair a bridge for local population damaged during earlier fighting.

15 – 18 April - Sumer and Qal at Shakhir.

- Company returns to towns of Sumer and Qal at Shakhir and reoccupies traffic control points and resumes urban patrolling in the towns. During this time company conducted four cordon and search operations in the towns. Two were conducted on former Bath Party buildings, one on the local police station and one on the local town municipal building. During these searches, two weapons caches, one including a ZSU-23, were located and destroyed. During vehicle checkpoint operations nine individual detained for transporting weapons.

19 April – 6 May – Civil Military Operations in Al Kut.

- Company assigned responsibility for the Bravo, Delta and Juliet sector of Al Kut. Throughout this period, the company occupied the Al Kut University of Education campus in downtown Al Kut as a base of operations.
- The company manned two traffic control points along the eastern bridges into Al Kut and executed presence patrols throughout assigned sectors.
- Significant events:
 - o 21 April - 3rd Platoon executes raid to search house identified as being guarded by armed men the day prior. Enter house and detain approximately 15 men. Find several AK-47's and one machine-gun. Also search abandoned military compound adjacent to house, nothing found, compound had been previously looted.
 - o 24 April – Due to political situation guidance received to continue presence patrols but avoid confrontation. 3rd Platoon patrolling in Juliet Sector and encounters crowd throwing rocks and yelling anti-American slogans. Company react force led by executive officer moves to secure egress route for patrol. No further incidents, no injuries. Numerous individuals approach compound and ask for assistance in stopping looting in Juliet Sector and assistance with security for the hospital also located in Juliet Sector. CAAT Scarlet Section detached and remains in over watch positions around hospital throughout night.
 - o 25 April – continues to be looting in Juliet Sector, most looters disperse when Marine patrols arrive in area.

- 27 April – Locate two anti-personnel mines vicinity of traffic control point along southern bridge. Disabled by 1stSgt Gatewood. Iraqi Police attempt to establish checkpoint 50 meters in front of Fox company traffic control point along the bridge. Marines disarm individuals and send them away. Several hours later, 2nd MEB civil affairs Marine returns with paperwork to recover confiscated weapons.
- 29 April – Company provides security for 2nd MEB soccer game versus Iraqi team. Upon completion of the game 2nd MEB Marines begin throwing soccer balls, soccer cleats and toys into the crowd generating numerous fistfights and a near riot. Company size react drill executed. Provide security for MEB and Iraqi soccer teams to exit stadium and disperse crowd.
- 2-6 May execute relief in place with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marines.

COMPANY G COMMAND CHRONOLOGY OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

23 March 2003:

The company started the day off as a serial in the battalion convoy, which departed our defensive position east of Jalibah airfield around 0200Z. After a long motorized movement, the company came to a halt along Route 7 about 12 kilometers south of An Nasiriyah. The company remained halted on the route until around 0900Z, when the company commander went forward for a frag order. The company was ordered to clear in zone from Phase Line Ralphie to Phase Line Jackie along the east side of Route 7.

At around 1200Z, Company G entered the southern approach to the Iraqi city of An Nasiriyah along Route 7. The Marines of the company rolled into a vague, unknown enemy situation, with close up images of burning Iraqi tanks and an ambushed U.S. Army convoy, as well as sustained friendly and enemy fire in the company vicinity. Confusion ensued as Marines were exposed to the sights and sounds of combat for the first time. As the company's trucks rolled north on Route 7, they ran into the back end of Company F. The order to dismount was given, and initially the Marines oriented west of the MSR. After some hands-on leadership by the officers and SNCO's, the Marines moved into a drainage ditch just off the east side of Route 7. Second platoon, commanded by 2ndLt Matthew Fitzsimmons, moved out first, securing a small house and a tree line about 300 meters to the east. First and Third platoons, commanded by 2ndLt's Zaher Bouza and George Flynn, respectively, provided over watch and support by fire. Once Second platoon was set, First and Third platoons cleared forward to a position roughly 200 meters to the east. Both platoons sent out squad size reconnaissance patrols to ascertain the enemy situation and interact with the local population. Both reported the same information upon their return: the enemy soldiers had fled within the past hour. During this clearing operation, four Marines from the company (the company executive officer, 1stLt Dennis O'Donnell; the company gunnery sergeant, GySgt William Sweeney; and Corporals McMillan and Donald) engaged four or five enemy soldiers on the west side of Route 7 with .50 caliber M2 and M16s. No casualties were reported.

When enemy fire resulted in numerous Iraqi civilian casualties, the company first sergeant, First Sergeant Robert Beith, along with 1stLt O'Donnell, GySgt Sweeney, and the two company corporals, HN Tindle and HM3 Immediato, personally handled and supervised the medical triage and evacuation of five wounded Iraqis. Twice, GySgt Sweeney and Corporal Donald drove south to the battalion main CP to deliver these casualties. The remainder of the company established the defensive perimeter oriented NNE with Second platoon tied into Route 7 on the left flank, First platoon in the center, and Third platoon doglegged on the right flank oriented due east.

24 March 2003:

The company went to stand to at 0200Z and spent the morning improving defensive positions. Around 0700Z, an Iraqi man approached Company G's lines with information as to the supposed location of four American POWs at a hospital complex in the company's sector. A squad-reinforced patrol was identified from Second platoon to go check out the information. Sergeant Campbell was the patrol leader. The company commander and the company first sergeant both went along. The patrol made its way north along Route 7 to Company F's position on the bridge. Upon seeing the size and organization of the supposed hospital, which looked

more military than humanitarian, the company first sergeant advised the company commander that this should be reported to higher and that the compound should be searched by more than a squad. The squad departed Company F's position and returned to Company G's lines. On the way back, the squad searched several ambushed U.S. Army vehicles from the 507th Maintenance Company hit the day prior. A helmet band with Piestewa was discovered in one of the vehicles, but nothing else significant found. The information on the hospital was reported to higher headquarters.

Around 0900Z, the battalion's 81mm mortar platoon co-located immediately to the south of the company's defensive position.

Around 1000Z, two squads from the company departed with the battalion gunner to collect up Iraqi weapons and equipment strewn about from the previous day's fighting. As the Marines were searching for weapons, they discovered two deceased U.S. Army soldiers in a wrecked LVS vehicle from the 507th Maintenance Company. The Marines carefully recovered the bodies of the soldiers and returned to their original mission, ultimately destroying several hundred rifles, RPGs, and light machine guns and thousands of rounds of small arms ammunition.

Around 1400Z, as more intelligence was gathered, Company G was tasked to conduct a cordon and search operation on the same complex. Task organization consisted of Company G, two sections from CAAT platoon, and a human exploitation team. As the company was organizing and preparing to step off on a foot movement, 3-5 Iraqi Feyadeen Saddam paramilitary soldiers firing AK-47s from nearby buildings triggered a spoiling attack on the company's right flank, near Third platoon. Third platoon immediately began to return fire, while the other two platoons moved back into their original defensive positions. The company fire support team called in 60mm, 81mm, and artillery support on the tree line and row of buildings from which the fire was coming. The two CAAT sections fired volley after volley of .50 caliber and 40mm rounds into the buildings. Individual Marines peppered the tree line and buildings with M16s, SAWs, and M240Gs. The company mortar section fired almost 50 high-explosive rounds in the hand held mode. The company's return suppressive fire, combined with CAAT and 81mm mortar Marines, was immediate and overwhelming. After nearly 15 minutes of steady firing, cease-fire was given. Third platoon was tasked with clearing north the buildings from which the company received fire. As Third platoon cleared the buildings, a CAAT section with a squad from Second platoon was sent east along Phase Line Jackie to provide observation and over watch for any enemy infiltrating back east. Third platoon recovered one enemy KIA, one captured rifle, and identified several blood trails. No friendly casualties were reported.

The mop-up operation to clear the buildings following the engagement took until dark, so the cordon and search on the hospital was not conducted. The Marines in the company remained in their defensive positions a bit more alert and fiercely, and justifiably, proud of their first successful engagement with Iraqi forces.

25 March 2003:

The day of the sandstorms and harassment fire. Around 0700Z, while attempting to establish a company observation post on a nearby building to the northeast, a squad from First platoon came under harassing enemy sniper and light machinegun fire. Assessing the situation and initially pinned down and unable to move, Lieutenant Bouza and the squad leader, Corporal Zenk, personally directed the fire of their Marines and oriented them to return fire. After several minutes still under fire, Lieutenant Bouza and Corporal Zenk's cover fire allowed the unit to

break contact and return to friendly lines with all Marines accounted for and no friendly casualties.

Throughout the day, Second platoon received sniper harassment fire from the tree line and buildings immediately to the front of their position along Route 7. Several Marines returned fire at men that would pop out of buildings with AK-47s and fire off a high stray round or two. No friendly casualties were reported.

The company mortar section fired several missions in support of Company F's seizure of the suspected hospital/military compound investigated the day prior. About 10 high-explosive rounds were fired.

Heavy rain throughout the night. Fighting positions were flooded. 81mm mortar platoon had to displace to the higher ground provided by Phase Line Jackie. Fog rolled in and the rain stopped around 2300Z. No enemy activity.

26 March 2003:

The morning brought a desperate need to clean and oil weapons and equipment that had rusted shut from the night's rain. All morning was spent conducting weapons maintenance and reorganizing the defensive perimeter.

Around 1000Z, two suspected enemy artillery shells landed just inside the company's defense, but did not explode. At least ten Marines and two 7-tons were within meters of the shells as they impacted, and no injuries were reported.

Around 1400Z, the company received a frag order to conduct a battalion-level clear in zone in conjunction with Company E and Company F. At 1500Z, the company stepped off, with First and Second platoons clearing the buildings and evacuating all civilians from the area. Third platoon followed in trace to facilitate the forced evacuation and conduct a detailed search of the cleared buildings. PSYOP and Civil Affairs forces used loudspeakers and broadcasts to tell the civilian population to evacuate their homes. Several wounded Iraqi civilians were discovered, treated, and medically evacuated. After much trial and tribulation in the dark, the company finally conducted a link-up with Company E on the right flank and Company F on the left flank and established a company defense oriented ESE in the center of the battalion's lines. The Marines spent a cold, uncomfortable night in a palm tree grove, remaining alert for an enemy attack that never materialized.

27 March – 3 April 2003:

The company consolidated the defense during the day on the 27th, and searched civilian homes within our sector. Marines discovered seven AK-47s, numerous black Republican Guard berets, uniform items, hundreds of rounds of small arms ammunition, and thousands of newly printed Iraqi dinars. A stray 81mm mortar round landed 15 meters in front of Second platoon's position, killing two cows and a donkey, and stunning, but not injuring, many Marines.

On the 28th, First platoon conducted platoon-reinforced patrol across frontage of battalion to clear buildings, sweep frontage, gather intelligence, and look for contraband. Marines discovered several AK-47s, numerous bags of rice, and some intelligence on the location of Saddam Feyadeen soldiers.

On the 29th, Brigadier General Natonski (2d MEB CG) and Lieutenant Colonel Mortenson toured the company's defensive lines. Marines received mail for the first time in Iraq.

On the 30th, Third platoon conducted platoon patrol to search several buildings to the east of Route 7. Marines discovered two U.S. Army packs and a sea bag filled with Iraqi cash. Packs later determined to be from soldiers of the ambushed Army convoy.

On the 31st, the company conducted a two-platoon patrol to search an Iraqi village to the east of Route 7. Nothing significant to report.

On 1 April, the entire company, reinforced with two CAAT sections and an LAR platoon, searched the An Nasiriyah aluminum and textile industrial area. The complex consisted of hundreds of buildings and warehouses, and tons of chemical and laboratory-type facilities. Marines discovered three large weapons caches, consisting of over one hundred enemy weapons to include AK-47's, 60mm mortars, RPG-7s, several crew-served anti-aircraft weapons, and hundreds of mortar and small arms rounds. The weapons caches were combined and destroyed by EOD.

On 3 April, the company departed An Nasiriyah and later in the day conducted a long motorized movement across the Euphrates River north to Ad Diwaniyah.

4 April – 7 April 2003:

The company established defensive positions in the vicinity of the Iraqi 4th Corps Ammunition Supply Point. The ASP consists of over a hundred bunkers, each filled with tons of ammunition and explosives. Ammunition is from all over the world, the U.S., U.S.S.R., Jordan, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, China, and Pakistan. Small-arms ammo, tank main gun rounds, artillery shells, and a bunker filled with hundreds of anti-tank and anti-personnel mines. On 6 April, Lieutenant General Conway (I MEF CG) and Brigadier General Natonski arrived at the ASP to check out a "suspected" chemical munition in one of the bunkers. The grey, 2-foot long cylinder had everyone excited, including a former U.N. weapons inspector working for NBC News.

8 April – 12 April 2003:

The company occupied the former Ba'ath Party HQ complex just outside the small Iraqi town of Ash Shumali. First platoon occupied an abandoned building, known as "Gold's Gym" for the picture of the weightlifter on the wall, on the west side of town. Second and Third platoons remained in the HQ complex. During this period, the company conducted two day patrols and one night patrol through the town, interacting with the local population and keeping the peace. The MSNBC News crew held interviews and did a news story from inside the town on 11 April. One patrol discovered a medical clinic in the town, and with civil affairs interpreters, a list of needed medicines was received and forwarded to higher headquarters.

13 April – 15 April 2003:

The company moved north of the Tigris River through An Numaniyah to vicinity of Al Azzizyah with the remainder of the battalion. The company defense in sector along Route 6 was roughly 60 square kilometers. The company occupied a company patrol base just north of the Tigris River. Marines conducted squad and platoon sized patrols along the Tigris River and through small villages along Route 6. Marines discovered some mortar rounds, but otherwise nothing significant to report.

16 April – 18 April 2003:

The company moved back to Ash Shumali, and occupied "Gold's Gym". Continued to run patrols throughout the town. Nothing significant to report.

19 April – 10 May 2003:

Around 1400Z 19 April, after a long motorized movement from Ash Shumali, the company occupied a former Republican Guard HQ complex just northwest of Al Kut along Route 6 to Baghdad. Numerous destroyed tanks and artillery pieces in the area, together with several dozen small ammunition bunkers just to the north. Apparently the area was a former Republican Guard military complex. Second platoon was detached for the duration of this period to the battalion to act as the battalion non-lethal react/reserve force.

On 22 April, Marines conducted patrols of a hospital and schools within our sector. Schools were out of session for the war, but appeared to be in good shape. The hospital was running and handling patients.

Throughout this period, Marines continued to find weapons caches in the usual places—former government buildings and Ba'ath Party HQs. Sporadic firing at night throughout the city.

On 26 April, the company was assigned to secure a key governmental complex in the city where an Iranian based Islamic group was using as a base. First and Third platoons cleared and secured the buildings. The Marines provided security for an EOD team and cleared over fifty rooms successfully. The building was quickly cleared and secured, providing the company with a patrol base of operations and Task Force Tarawa with a foothold in the city from which the beginning workings of a functional Iraqi government could be accomplished. A large ammunition cache was discovered and removed by EOD. That night, celebratory fire erupted all over the city as the people of Al Kut reacted favorably to the departure of the Iranians.

Within the next couple of days after occupying the building, the Marines effectively reacted to dozens of looting and civil disturbance incidents, chasing away looters, preventing lawlessness, and enforcing the rule of law. In one instance, Sergeant Baugh detained a looter and began to search the individual. The Iraqi grabbed Sergeant Baugh's weapon and began to wrestle for it. Sergeant Baugh shot the looter in the hip and the man ran away. The Marines aggressive actions directly contributed to a dramatic decrease in the civil unrest within the company sector and Al Kut as a whole.

On 27 April, Third platoon, occupying the Al Kut Police Station, conducted a squad patrol just after dark. Lance Corporal Kleinpeter was forced to shoot and kill an armed Iraqi when the man deliberately pointed an AK-47 at the Marine.

From 1 May to 10 May, First platoon occupied a schoolhouse south of the Tigris River near the main bridge while Third platoon occupied a newly built small complex further to the south. The Marines continued with squad patrols in the sector and interacted with the local population. Several pick-up soccer games were started with the school kids. On 5 May, Marines from Company K, 3/23, conducted a relief-in-place of our positions over two days and Company G was moved back to the Al-Kut airfield to begin the retrograde back to Kuwait.

On 10 May, the majority of the company departed Iraq via C-130 from Blair Field. 30 Marines who were not able to catch one of the flights departed on 11 May with the battalion convoy that made its way over 300 kilometers back to Camp Shoup. By the end of the day on 11 May, all Company G Marines were successfully either back at Camp Shoup or already back safely aboard USS SAIPAN.



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

WEAPONS COMPANY
2D BN, 8TH MARINES, 2D MARDIV
PSC BOX 20103
CAMP LEJEUNE NC 28542-0103

IN REPLY REFER TO:
1000
EBC
22 May 2003

From: Commanding Officer
To: Capt Haskell, Forward Air Controller, 2D Battalion 8th Marines
Subj: COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1. The following gives an overview of those actions taken by Weapons Company during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

2. 1 Jan - 6 Jan: Weapons Company embarks all quadcons and black bottom quadcons for deployment to the Middle East.

7 Jan - 9 Jan: Weapons Company embarks all personnel and equipment aboard the USS Saipan.

10 Jan - 13 Jan: All vehicles and quadcons embarked aboard the USS Saipan at Morehead City, NC.

13 Jan - 15 Feb: Movement from Morehead City, NC to off the coast of Kuwait.

16 Feb: Weapons Company enters Kuwait and establishes bivouac at Camp Shoupe.

17 Feb - 16 Mar: Weapons Company trains for possible war with Iraq in the Udari Training Areas of Kuwait.

17 Feb - 19 Mar: Weapons Company stages and awaits order to move to TAA.

20 Mar: Movement to TAA

21 Mar: Breach/Movement to PL Outback.

22 Mar: Movement from PL Outback to Jalibah.

23 Mar: Movement from Jalibah to An Nasiriyah.

- CAAT engaged by enemy direct and indirect fire at the Southern bridge. CAAT returns fire, destroying (1) technical vehicle and (3) personnel with a TOW shot.

24 Mar: 81's and CAAT take enemy direct fire. Immediate actions are conducted and no further enemy fire received.

25 Mar: CAAT takes fire at intersection and fires DPICM on suspected tank. Tank destroyed.

26 Mar: CAAT takes machinegun fire at 7/8 Intersection. CAAT calls in indirect fire and a UH-1 Huey with Rockets and Guns. Machinegun destroyed.

Item (5)

- 27 Mar: CAAT conducts raid into POL site (PV 215 312). Observes (4) BM-21s and (8) D-30's. CAAT utilizes artillery to reduce threat and LAR/Tanks sweep IOT secure area. UAV's utilized to assess BDA. (6) D-30's and (4) BM-21s destroyed.
- 28 Mar: CAAT conducts CFF's onto enemy ZPU vic GC (PV 205318). ZPU not affected. Section of UH-1N Huey's attack with Rockets and Guns. ZPU Silenced.
- 29 Mar: CAAT conducts mortar raid into industrial area South of battalion defensive perimeter. AH-1W's conduct recce prior and find (2) D-30's and (2) machinegun bunkers. D-30's and machinegun bunkers destroyed.
- CAAT conducts CFF's and exploits IDF. (2) AAA guns destroyed and ammo storage facility discovered. CAAT utilizes 81's to CFF and destroy.
 - Scout Sniper Platoon conducts CFF on water pipes.
- 30 Mar - 2 Apr: CAAT and 81's conduct extensive patrolling in the battalion's AO.
- 2 Apr - 3 Apr: 2/1 conducts RIP with 2/8
- 3 Apr - 4 Apr: 2/8 conducts movement to Ad Diwaniyah.
- CAAT provides route security for battalion's movement.
 - 81's displaces to Ad Diwaniyah.
- 4 Apr: 2/8 arrives Ad Diwaniyah
- CAAT recons "chicken coop"
 - 81's establish FIRECAP in support of the battalion's eastern flank.
- 5 Apr: 2/8 conducts defensive operations in Ad Diwaniyah.
- CAAT establishes BP to secure cloverleaf in the rear area of battalion's operations.
 - 81's in position to support CFF missions to the battalion's eastern flank.
- 6 Apr: 2/8 establishes cordon of area.
- 81's displace vicinity of Co. E IOT extend range towards Ad Diwaniyah.
 - CAAT assumes responsibility for Eastern BP.
 - Battalion frago to move to Ash Shumali.
- 7 Apr: 2/8 conducts RIP with Recon
- 2/8 conducts movement to Ash Shumali.
 - CAAT provides route security for movement to Ash Shumali.
 - 81's displaces to Ash Shumali.
- 8 Apr: 2/8 establishes strongpoint of Ash Shumali and surrounding areas.
- CAAT working in Sections to provide screen and security for the battalion.
 - 81's centrally located to prosecute any missions in protection of the TAC/Main CP.

- 9 Apr: 2/8 and CAG begin conducting CA operations in vicinity of Ash Shumali.
- CAAT providing security patrols along main highways surrounding Ash Shumali.
 - 81's maintaining posture to support missions in protection of the TAC/Main CP.
- 10 Apr - 13 Apr: Weapons Company conducts operations in vicinity of Ash Shumali.
- CAAT conducts clearing mission East of Ash Shumali.
- 13 Apr: 2/8 conducts movement to Al Azziziyah.
- CAAT provides route security for battalion's movement.
 - 81's displaces to Al Azziziyah.
- 14 Apr: 2/8 conducts operations in sector of Al Azziziyah.
- 2/8 receives frago to move back to Ash Shumali.
- 15 Apr: 2/8 closes on Ash Shumali and resumes operations in sector.
- CAAT provides route security.
 - 81's establishes FIRECAP East of Ash Shumali to protect eastern flank.
- 16 Apr: Operations continue in sector.
- Phase 4 Frago received.
- 17 Apr: 2/8 prepares for movement to Al Kut.
- 18 Apr: 2/8(-) conducts movement to Al Kut.
- CAAT(-) provides security for 2/8(-) while conducting movement to Al Kut.
 - 81's conducts movement to Al Kut.
- 19 Apr: Main Body conducts movement to Al Kut.
- Remainder of CAAT provides security for Main Body's movement to Al Kut.
- 20 Apr: 2/8 begins conducting Phase 4 operations in Al Kut.
- CAAT conducts security patrols in southern area of Al Kut.
 - 81's established FIRECAP in support of operations within Al Kut.
 - 81's provides security and established TCP at the Eastern gate of Blair Airfield.
 - CAAT sends (2) sections to the Tarawa House for security.
- 21 Apr: 2/8 conducts patrols in AO to identify serviceability of schools.
- CAAT conducts patrol in area of operation to identify status of schools.
 - 81's conduct patrols in area of operation in order to detain any civilian personnel in battalion's area.
 - CAAT identifies a large ammo cache at NA 762949.
- 22 Apr: CAAT provides route security and escorts for Engineers in AO. CAAT request (2) 7-Tons to remove a weapons cache at GC NA 811953.

- 81's uses C4 to blow ammo cache.
- 23 Apr: CAAT provides route security and escorts for CAG at police station IVO NA 775958.
- 24 Apr: CAAT Section stuck on bridge between CP 42 & 43 due to protestors blocking the exit of the bridge.
CAAT and 81's report to have all military convoys use Rte Meadow.
- 25 Apr: CAAT reports wide spread looting at NA 790978.
81's report that locals are possibly throwing Molotov Cocktails IVO NA 761960.
TFT gives approval to utilize 81mm/60mm illumination w/in the limits of city (Al Kut).
81's fires an illumination mission ISO of SOF
81's fires an illumination mission ISO of Co. E.
- 26 Apr: CAAT detains (3) Iraqis in connection with a bank robbery at NA 775955.
- 27 Apr - 5 May: 2/8 continues Phase 4 operations in Al Kut. Situation calming.
- 5 May - 7 May: 3/23 conducts RIP with 2/8.
- 8 May - 10 May: Battalion conducts maintenance stand down.
- 11 May: 2/8 begins retrograde back to Camp Shoupe.
- 11 May - 13 May: 2/8 conducts retrograde from Camp Shoupe to USS Saipan.

Scout/Sniper Platoon Chronology

23 March 2003

Cherokee 1 identifies Iraqi male observed removing a 240G light machine gun from a disabled AAV north of the Euphrates River Bridge. Target was engaged with a single shot from a M40A1

1130 am

Cherokee 2 identifies an armed Iraqi male walking away from an area of previous enemy engagement north over a footbridge spanning the Euphrates River. Target was engaged with M82A3 .50 cal Sniper Rifle at 1080 yards. Round was spotted impacting abdomen and the target went down immediately on North side of river.

1215 pm

Cherokee 2 identifies an armed Iraqi male in black shirt and trousers walking away from a site of previous enemy engagements north over a footbridge spanning the Euphrates River. Target was engaged with M82A3 .50 cal Sniper Rifle at 1050 yards. Impact was not spotted; target took five steps after impact before falling down and was accounted dead by sniper team.

Debrief of EPW indicates that two female soldiers ambushed while traveling in an Army convoy being held in the military hospital south east of Euphrates River Bridge. EPW stated he did not know condition of two American POW's.

Confiscated AK-47 had what appeared to be an Army PT shirt wrapped around it. Upon further inspection the shirt had the name Estrella stenciled in black ½ inch letters along the front bottom seam of the shirt. Shirt was handed over to the RCT-2 intelligence section.

24 March 2003

Cherokee 1 identifies armed Iraqi male using woman and child as shield walking east to west along northern bank of Euphrates River. Target meets with additional armed Iraqi male and they begin to point out friendly positions south of the Euphrates River. Lead target was engaged with M82A3 .50 cal Sniper Rifle. Round was spotted impacting the middle of the lead targets back exiting the middle of the targets chest then impacting the high chest of the second target and exiting the back of the neck impacting the wall behind the targets. The woman and child turned away from the targets as they fell and ran into the nearest house.

Cherokee 1 identifies armed Iraqi male in building using optics to spot friendly vehicle and infantry positions. Target engaged with M40A1 Sniper Rifle at 750 yards. Round observed impacting target.

Cherokee 1 identifies armed Iraqi male on rooftop using optics to spot friendly infantry positions. Target engaged with M40A1 Sniper Rifle at 750 yards. Round observed impacting target causing him to fall behind wall and out of observation.

Cherokee 1 identifies armed Iraqi male walking from the north to the south along street. Target was pointing out friendly vehicle positions to unknown enemy force. Target was engaged with M82A3 .50 cal Sniper Rifle.

Cherokee 1 observes enemy vehicle transporting two Iraqi males with weapons. Target engaged with M82A3 .50 cal Sniper Rifle. Round observed impacting through passenger door, through passenger into driver and out drivers door into wall beside vehicle. The passenger and driver did not move after vehicle stopped.

Cherokee 1 identifies a 4-door vehicle transporting 4-armed Iraqi men from north to south along street north of the Euphrates River. Target engaged with M82A3 .50 cal Sniper Rifle. Round observed impacting the passenger door and exiting through rear gas tank. Secondary effects of round caused the gas tank to explode engulfing the vehicle in flames. No target observed leaving car after it caught on fire.

Cherokee 3 identifies two armed Iraqi males. Engages 1 target with M40A3 Sniper rifle and observes target fall to ground. Engages second target with M40A3 but does not observe target during impact.

Cherokee 4 observes Iraqi male with weapon behind a berm exchanging fire with Marines. Cherokee 4 engages target with M40A3 Sniper Rifle at 200 yards. Impact of the round was spotted high on targets chest causing him to immediately fall; target did not move into observation after shot.

4 ambulances with medical personnel and wounded Iraqi nationals leave Military Hospital and are directed to EPW screening site. Medical personnel questioned about nature of the wounded Iraqi nationals in the last ambulance. The ambulance was filled with Iraqi military and paramilitary personnel with severe wounds caused by shrapnel and small arms fire. Medical personnel explained the wounds as a result of the attack by US forces on the hospital earlier that day. They denied military service and denied the wounded attacked US forces. When questioned about the presence of two US Army female soldiers they initially denied any knowledge of the two. When pressed the self-proclaimed leader of the group said that they had worked on the two Army soldiers. He stated that he knew them by their first names, Jessica and Lori. He detailed the nature of the two soldiers injuries and that Lori had died of her wounds never regaining consciousness. He further stated that a IIS Major had arrived and taken Jessica who had not regained consciousness and the body of Lori to the Saddam Hospital north of the Euphrates River along with the doctor and nurse on duty. As far as he knew, Jessica was still at the Saddam hospital. The leader also denied again that he was a member of the Iraqi military and demanded to be set free so he could take the wounded to the Saddam Hospital. The convoy was delivered to the RCT-2 ALOG for care of the wounded and detention of the medical personnel.

25 March 2003

Cherokee 1 observes enemy vehicle, a short bed truck traveling north to south on street west of the Euphrates River Bridge. Vehicle had two Iraqi males with weapons and was traveling toward friendly positions. Target engaged with M82A3 .50 cal Sniper Rifle. Impact of round spotted entering the driver side window striking the driver in his neck and exiting into the instrument panel killing the driver and disabling the vehicle.

Cherokee 1 identifies Iraqi male armed with AK-47 and observing friendly positions. Enemy was under the Euphrates River Bridge and started to move toward enemy building. Target engaged with M40A3 Sniper Rifle. Shot missed target and was then engaged by 4 rounds from M16A2 from 400 yards. Target staggered a few steps and fell into a kneeling position. Target was then engaged with the M82A3 .50 cal Sniper Rifle. Impact of round was spotted on high and to the left of targets chest.

Cherokee 1 identifies enemy forward observer on roof of 3rd story building pointing out friendly vehicle positions. Target was engaged with M82A3 .50 cal Sniper Rifle and impact was observed in the targets chest.

Cherokee 1 observed an armed Iraqi male walking west to east pointing out friendly infantry positions. Target was engaged with M82A3 .50 cal Sniper Rifle and impact was observed on targets chest.

Cherokee 1 observes Iraqi male armed with AK-47 west of Euphrates River Bridge waking down street west or away from the bridge. Target was leaving an area that had friendly infantry positions under observation. Target was engaged with a M82A3 .50 cal Sniper Rifle and impact was observed on targets upper back.

Cherokee 1 observes a 4 door vehicle transporting 4 armed Iraqi males from west to east toward friendly positions. Target was engaged with M82A3 .50 cal which impacted the vehicle in the center. All windows immediately exploded out from vehicle and no movement from inside was observed.

After the Military Hospital was secured a search revealed two US desert uniforms and 782 gear. The nametapes on the uniform blouses were LYNCH and PIESTEWA. The uniforms were cut from the bodies of the service members in a manner that suggests emergency medical treatment was conducted in concert with the removal. Neither uniform had a clean bullet hole in it. Uniforms were handed over to the RCT-2 intelligence section.

26 March 2003

Cherokee 5 observes two armed Iraqi males walking east along road. Lead target engaged with M40A3. Impact on target unobserved.

Cherokee 5 observes two armed Iraqi males attempting to reach a suspicious vehicle under the north bridgehead of the Euphrates River Bridge. Lead target engaged with M40A3. Impact on target unobserved.

Cherokee 5 patrols east along Euphrates River Bridge down road. Observed 3 armed Iraqi males on north side of river. Cherokee 5 engages targets with M16A2 and M203. CAAT Tm co-located with Cherokee 5 then engaged the targets with M19 and 249G. Targets were observed for 15 minutes and it appeared that they had been killed.

27 March 2003

Warpath S-2 receives a sea bag and pack that had been found in a Iraqi house. The pack belonged to a soldier named JOHNSON and the sea bag belonged to a soldier named HERNANDEZ. Both items were turned over to the RCT S-2.

29 March 2003

Cherokee 4 observes two males approaching enemy vehicle parked under the northern bridgehead of the Euphrates River. Lead target was engaged with M40A3 Sniper Rifle with SIMRAD at 360 yards. Round was observed impacting the lead targets head. Second target moved behind cover and was not observed again.

31 March 2003

Warpath S-2C receives letter from Golf Company. An Iraqi male handed the letter to a Marine in the street; the Iraqi male left without an explanation. The letter was written in English and was signed Jessica. It detailed what ward and room she was being held in at the Saddam Hospital. The letter was turned over to RCT-2 within the hour.

News-Info-Alerts

Re: **NAF Bits 'N' Pieces**

To: ALL

From: Andi Wolos & Bob Necci

(POW-MIA InterNetwork)

Date: March 31, 2003

 "BITS 'N' PIECES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF FAMILIES
FOR THE RETURN OF AMERICA'S MISSING SERVICEMEN
+ WORLD WAR II + KOREA + COLD WAR + VIETNAM + GULF WAR +

March 29, 2003

May God Bless and Protect our Gulf War II POWs and MIAs and bring them all home. Also, Please remember our British Allies who also have POWs and MIAs.

To show our support for the families of our POWs and MIAs held in Iraq, the National Alliance of Families has set up a special message board. To send a message of support to the families of our latest POWs and MIAs go to <http://www.nationalalliance.org> A page will pop up, allowing you to send your message of support. If the pages does not pop up click the link.

The Cost of War - as of 10 AM March 29th

Prisoner of War (POWs) - 7

Missing in Action (MIAs) -20

Killed in Action (KIAs) - 28

Don't Repeat Mistakes of the Past - that would be the advise of Vietnam War POW/MIAs families to the POW/MIAs families of Gulf War II. After the initial flurry of media interviews with POW/MIA families, we've heard that the families have been advised not to speak with the media. Vietnam POW/MIA families were

Item (6)

given the same advise. They were told that the enemy might use the information to coerce the POWs. We're told the Gulf War II families have been given the same reason for not speaking with the media.

Our Vietnam families followed that advise. Today, many of them bitterly regret that decision.

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"U.S. Central Command spokesman Air Force Maj. Gen. Victor Renuart told reporters today in Qatar of the situation developing in the vicinity of Nasiriyah. He said a U.S. mortuary affairs team is en route to the site. He said he couldn't tell reporters whether the remains belonged to troops who'd been involved in the March 24 engagement in and around the city."

"Several service members are listed as missing after that action, in which Saddam-aligned irregular forces attacked a U.S. supply convoy that had gotten lost. The Iraqis quickly paraded some U.S. captives on state-run television. The videotape also showed some dead American troops, who'd been positioned for the camera."

"Some senior Pentagon leaders who'd viewed the tape, including Marine Corps Gen. Peter Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, believe it's possible the dead troops were executed with shots in the head after they'd surrendered."

"The mortuary team "will conduct normal levels of investigation," Renuart noted. "We will also approach it from the aspect to ensure that there were no war crimes committed that may have caused their deaths. We'll have a full forensic evaluation as well..."

Late Breaking News - March 28th, NBC's Kerry Sanders reports; "AN NASIRIYAH, March 28 -- U.S. Marines who secured a hospital that had been used by Iraqi forces later found several bloodied U.S. uniforms worn by female soldiers, NBC's Kerry Sanders reported Friday from the hospital. The find suggested that Iraq had held several POWs at the hospital, which is in An Nasiriyah, a town where at least five Americans were taken prisoner in an attack that killed two other soldiers and left eight missing."

"Sanders was shown where the uniforms were found -- inside the bathroom of a larger room that had been padlocked. It was the same room where 3,000 nuclear, biological and chemical suits were found when the Marines moved in. The uniforms, which had their American flag patches and names ripped off, were found inside a bag...."

".... The hospital was taken by the 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines, after a fierce battle with Iraqi forces there. Sanders, who has been traveling with the battalion, was shown the room by a Marine who identified the uniforms as those worn by servicewomen. It was not clear what distinguished them from those worn by men...."

Senator: 1991 POW May Be Alive in Baghdad - March 28th, from the Associated Press by Ron Word " Citing unspecified reports, a U.S. senator said Friday that an American pilot missing since the 1991 Gulf War may have been seen alive and in the custody of Iraqi authorities in the past month."

"Sen. Bill Nelson mentioned the reports while releasing an unclassified summary on the fate of Capt. Scott Speicher, who was shot down over Iraq on the first night of the Gulf War and has been unaccounted for ever since. Nelson did not elaborate on the recent reports. "I believe he is still alive," Nelson said. "The question is: Can we find him and bring him home alive?"

"....The Pentagon is required to report to Congress on Speicher every 90 days under the National Defense Authorization Act, which was enacted in December. The unclassified summary Nelson released is the first to be filed and details some of the evidence that led military officials to conclude Speicher likely survived the shootdown. The report mentions Baghdad's false suggestion that remains returned in 1991 were Speicher's and officials' claims that the aircraft wreckage was tampered with before a 1995 crash site excavation."

"Still, the unclassified version, dated March 3, provides no conclusive information about Speicher's fate and does not address the recent information about a possible sighting. "We assess Capt. Speicher was either captured alive or his remains were recovered and taken to Baghdad." In either case, the Iraqi government has concealed information about his fate, the report said...."

Note: the new version of the declassified Intelligence Community Assessment of the Speicher case is available on the web site of Senator Bill Nelson. We've tried and failed several times to download this "pdf" file. If anyone is successful in retrieving this file, please email us a copy at lynn@nationalalliance.org

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Just as "Missing/Captured" or MIA-C has replaced POW, DUSTWUN or "Duty Status and Whereabouts Unknown" has become a holding or temporary designation for service personnel from AWOL to Captured, giving command 10 days to make a determination of status.

The definition of DUSTWUN, per DOD Instruction (DODI) 1300.18 6.1.2.2 "DUSTWUN Cases - Duty Status and Whereabouts Unknown is a temporary designation when a members' actual status is uncertain. As such, the NOK (Next of Kin) will be kept informed of progress in determining the members' actual status. Casualty assistance is not provided unless the member's actual status is determined to be deceased or missing."

Give us the day, POWs were officially POWs, and those whose location were unknown after battle were immediately listed MIA.

So Why Does DOD Continue To Use The POW Phrase - wouldn't they look dumb referring to service personnel viewed on televisions around the world, as "Missing/Captured" or MIA-C

Words paint pictures. The phrase, "Prisoner of War," paints a clear picture. A picture, like the ones aired around the world, of seven bruised and battered American soldiers now in Iraqi hands. The phrase, "Missing/Captured," suggests nothing but a question mark.

The Geneva Convention - Article 13, pertaining to "Humane Treatment" reads: "Prisoners of war must at all times be humanely treated. Any unlawful act or omission by the Detaining Power causing death or seriously endangering the health of a prisoner of war in its custody is prohibited, and will be regarded as a serious breach of the present Convention. In particular, no prisoner of war may be subjected to physical mutilation or to medical or scientific experiments of any kind which are not justified by the medical, dental or hospital treatment of the prisoners concerned and carried out in his interest."

"Likewise, prisoners of war must at all times be protected, particularly against acts of violence or intimidation and against insults and public curiosity. Measures of reprisal against prisoners of war are prohibited."

Article 14 regarding "Respect and Honor" reads: "Prisoners of war are entitled in all circumstances to respect for the persons and their honour. Women shall be treated with all the regard due to their sex and shall in all cases benefit by treatment as favourable as that granted to men. Prisoners of war shall retain the full civil capacity which they enjoyed at the time of their capture, The Detaining Power may not restrict the exercise, either within or without its own territory, of the rights such capacity confers except in so far as the captivity requires."

No where in the Geneva Convention do we find the designation Missing/Captured or "MIA-C"

The Geneva Convention provided for the treatment of Prisoners of War. It makes no provisions for the combatants listed as Missing/Captured.

When Does Freedom of Speech Cross The Line And Become Aid And Comfort To The Enemy - take your blood pressure meds before reading this one. The following article is from Fox News -- "Columbia Prof Calls for Deaths of American Troops" - An academic furor was brewing Friday over a Columbia University professor who told thousands of students and faculty that he would like to see the United States defeated in Iraq and suffer "a million Mogadishus" - referring to the 1993 ambush in Somalia that killed 18 Americans."

The professor, Nicholas De Genova, told a "teach-in" on Wednesday that "the only true heroes are those who find ways that help defeat the U.S. military." De Genova also asserted Americans who call themselves "patriots" are white supremacists."

"De Genova's hopes for the defeat of the United States were cheered by the crowd of 3,000, according to newspaper reports. But his mention of the Somali

ambush -- "I personally would like to see a million Mogadishus" -- was largely met with silence. A call Friday to De Genova, 35, was answered with a recording that said his voice mailbox was full."

"Columbia University on Friday issued a statement that distanced the school from his comments but did not condemn them."

"Assistant Professor Nicholas De Genova was speaking as an individual at a teach-in. He was exercising his right to free speech. His statement does not in any way represent the views of Columbia University."

"History professor Eric Foner, who helped organize the teach-in and spoke after De Genova, said Friday: "I disagreed strongly and I said so. If I had known what he was going to say I would have been reluctant to have him speak." Foner said De Genova was a last-minute invitee, was just one of about 25 speakers and "did not represent the general tone of the event, which was highly educational."

"I thought that was completely uncalled for," Foner was quoted as saying, referring to De Genova's allusion to the Mogadishu ambush and firefight, known for the graphic image of a slain American soldier being dragged through the streets. "We do not desire the deaths of American soldiers...."

The National Alliance Of Families Fourteenth Annual Forum is scheduled for June 26th - 28th, 2003. Our forum is conducted to coincide with the Governments annual Vietnam POW/MIA Family Briefings. We urge all family members to attend this years government briefings. A separate briefing for Korean/Cold War families will be held in July. The government will provide free airfare to two family members to attend the government briefings. There is no charge or registration fee to attend the government briefings and you do not have to belong to an organization to attend these briefings.

This year the Alliance meeting will be held at the Sheraton Crystal City located at 1800 Jefferson Davis Highway, in Arlington Va. Rate for single or double occupancy is \$99.00 per night plus tax.

Many of you will remember this hotel from the previous Alliance meetings (1994 - 96). The hotel is located across the street from both the Crystal City Underground Food Court and the Metro Stop. The Sheraton is within walking distance of the hotel hosting the government briefings. The Alliance is working on transportation between hotels for those who prefer to ride. To make your reservations, call 703-486-1111 and remember to say you want the special National Alliance of Families rate.

The Alliance is an all volunteer organization. Our meetings are open to all, without charge. At this time of year, we actively seek contributions to finance our

forum. If you wish to contribute, donations may be mailed to:

National Alliance Of Families
P.O. Box 40327
Bellevue, Wa. 98015.

Remember all contributions are tax deductible.

Contact us here!

DOLORES ALFOND -
National Chairperson (dolores@nationalalliance.org)
425-881-1499
LYNN O'SHEA -
Director of Research (lynn@nationalalliance.org)
718-846-4350"

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News-Info-Alerts

Re: NAF Bits 'N' Pieces

To: ALL

From: Andi Wolos & Bob Necci

(POW-MIA InterNetwork)

Date: March 31, 2003

Item (6)

 "BITS 'N' PIECES
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FOR THE RETURN OF AMERICA'S MISSING SERVICEMEN
+ WORLD WAR II + KOREA + COLD WAR + VIETNAM + GULF WAR +

March 29, 2003

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No where in the Geneva Convention do we find the designation Missing/Captured or "MIA-C"

The Geneva Convention provided for the treatment of Prisoners of War. It makes no provisions for the combatants listed as Missing/Captured.

When Does Freedom of Speech Cross The Line And Become Aid And Comfort To The Enemy - take your blood pressure meds before reading this one. The following article is from Fox News -- "Columbia Prof Calls for Deaths of American Troops" - An academic furor was brewing Friday over a Columbia University professor who told thousands of students and faculty that he would like to see the United States defeated in Iraq and suffer "a million Mogadishus" - referring to the 1993 ambush in Somalia that killed 18 Americans."

The professor, Nicholas De Genova, told a "teach-in" on Wednesday that "the only true heroes are those who find ways that help defeat the U.S. military." De Genova also asserted Americans who call themselves "patriots" are white supremacists."

"De Genova's hopes for the defeat of the United States were cheered by the crowd of 3,000, according to newspaper reports. But his mention of the Somali ambush -- "I personally would like to see a million Mogadishus" -- was largely met with silence. A call Friday to De Genova, 35, was answered with a recording that said his voice mailbox was full."

"Columbia University on Friday issued a statement that distanced the school from his comments but did not condemn them."

"Assistant Professor Nicholas De Genova was speaking as an individual at a teach-in. He was exercising his right to free speech. His statement does not in any way represent the views of Columbia University."

"History professor Eric Foner, who helped organize the teach-in and spoke after

De Genova, said Friday: "I disagreed strongly and I said so. If I had known what he was going to say I would have been reluctant to have him speak." Foner said De Genova was a last-minute invitee, was just one of about 25 speakers and "did not represent the general tone of the event, which was highly educational."

"I thought that was completely uncalled for," Foner was quoted as saying, referring to De Genova's allusion to the Mogadishu ambush and firefight, known for the graphic image of a slain American soldier being dragged through the streets. "We do not desire the deaths of American soldiers...."

The National Alliance Of Families Fourteenth Annual Forum is scheduled for June 26th - 28th, 2003. Our forum is conducted to coincide with the Governments annual Vietnam POW/MIA Family Briefings. We urge all family members to attend this years government briefings. A separate briefing for Korean/Cold War families will be held in July. The government will provide free airfare to two family members to attend the government briefings. There is no charge or registration fee to attend the government briefings and you do not have to belong to an organization to attend these briefings.

This year the Alliance meeting will be held at the Sheraton Crystal City located at 1800 Jefferson Davis Highway, in Arlington Va. Rate for single or double occupancy is \$99.00 per night plus tax.

Many of you will remember this hotel from the previous Alliance meetings (1994 - 96). The hotel is located across the street from both the Crystal City Underground Food Court and the Metro Stop. The Sheraton is within walking distance of the hotel hosting the government briefings. The Alliance is working on transportation between hotels for those who prefer to ride. To make your reservations, call 703-486-1111 and remember to say you want the special National Alliance of Families rate.

The Alliance is an all volunteer organization. Our meetings are open to all, without charge. At this time of year, we actively seek contributions to finance our forum. If you wish to contribute, donations may be mailed to:

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DOLORES ALFOND -
National Chairperson (dolores@nationalalliance.org)

425-881-1499
LYNN O'SHEA -
Director of Research (lynn@nationalalliance.org)
718-846-4350"

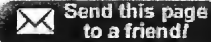
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Published on Tuesday, March 25, 2003 by the *Chicago Tribune*

Anger Builds as Marines Wage Bloody Street Fight

by Dexter Filkins and Michael Wilson

NASIRIYAH, Iraq -- U.S. Marines battled their way into the heart of this city Monday, but they appeared to be stepping into just the sort of urban imbroglio they long had been hoping to avoid.

After heavy fighting here Sunday, in which at least nine Americans were killed in an ambush, the Marines found themselves wading into a protracted street fight Monday that took them into the heart of a populated area.



A US Marine from the 2nd Battalion, 8th Regiment, kicks open a door as troops search house by house close to the Euphrates River on the outskirts of the southern Iraqi city of Nasiriyah(AFP/File/Cris Bouroncle)

Helicopter gunships fired rockets into the city, and residents of Nasiriyah complained that the air raids had killed and injured scores of civilians.

The Marines countered that the Iraqis were using civilians as shields, pushing women and children into the streets to drive up the civilian body count. They also said Iraqi men were leaping out of buses and taxis to shoot at them.

The fighting continued until sunset, with the Marines gaining control of much of the urban center but sustaining an unknown number of casualties.

Necessary as it may have been, Monday's battle was hardly the sort of warfare that American commanders had envisioned to convince the Iraqi population of

America's good intentions. For U.S. commanders, winning the war means destroying the Baghdad government, but it also includes a concerted effort to avoid the kind of urban fighting that might enrage the Iraqi people.

"No Iraqi will support what the Americans are doing here," said a man at a U.S. checkpoint at the city limits who gave his name as Nawaf. "If they want to go to Baghdad, that's one thing, but now they have come into our cities, and all Iraqis will fight them."

In interviews Monday, residents of Nasiriyah, including Nawaf, said that American bombs dropped on the city in the morning had killed 10 Iraqi civilians and injured up to 200.

Some of the Iraqis conceded that loyalists to President Saddam Hussein had operated bases inside the city center. But many Nasiriyah residents, including those who said they oppose Hussein, expressed outrage at the first entrance of U.S. troops into an Iraqi city.

In the chaos of the fighting, it was impossible to verify the Iraqi claims of civilian deaths. An American commander said Monday night that the fighting had taken troops into the heart of the city, and he did not discount the possibility that Iraqi civilians could have been killed.

Col. Glenn Starnes, the commander of an artillery battalion firing on Nasiriyah, placed responsibility for any civilian deaths on the Iraqi soldiers who drew the Marines into the populated areas.

"We will engage the enemy wherever he is," Starnes said.

Nasiriyah, a southern Iraqi city that spans the Euphrates River, is coveted by American commanders for a pair of bridges that could be used to help a Marine division move north toward Baghdad.

The battle began Sunday when a group of American Marines, trying to retrieve four wounded comrades, ran into heavy fire from Iraqi soldiers. The fighting left nine Marines dead, in addition to up to 10 others who appeared to have been killed in an earlier ambush.

On Monday, the Marines said they had begun to gain the upper hand, as the steady bombardment from artillery and air power enabled them to move toward the north of the city.

Despite the progress, the battle appeared to be turning into a messy street battle. The Marines estimated that up to 400 enemy fighters remained in the city, but that figure seemed sketchy, with Marines complaining that they were having trouble distinguishing between civilians and combatants.

By deciding to pursue their enemy into the city center, the Americans appeared to have enraged many of the Iraqis who live there, including those who said they were predisposed to support the U.S.-led effort.

One of those, Mustafa Mohammed Ali, a medical assistant at the Saddam Hospital, said he had spent much of the day hauling dead and wounded civilians

out of buildings that had been bombed by the Americans. Mustafa said the Americans' failure to discriminate between enemy fighters and Iraqi civilians had turned him decisively against the U.S. invasion.

"I saw how the Americans bombed our civilians with my own eyes," Mustafa said, and he held up a bloodied sleeve to show how he had dragged them into the ambulances.

"You want to overthrow Saddam Hussein's regime?" Mustafa said. "Go to Baghdad. What are you doing here? What are you doing in our cities?"

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Germany: A Way Station For Wounded

GERMANY, March 28, 2003

More than two dozen U.S. soldiers and Marines injured on the front lines are being treated at a military hospital in Germany.

"We're only keeping them here for a pretty short time," said Lt. Col. Susan Raymond, a nurse at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center's ICU. "If it looks like they have a condition that they will be over in time to head back to the front, we'll let them do that. Otherwise, if they don't look like they're going to be over it pretty quickly, they're usually sent back to their home station."

Dr. Maj. Jeffrey Lawson, an emergency room physician, said he is seeing a lot of injuries to the arms and legs. "Seems like the body armor's doing a good job of protecting people," he added.

Raymond noted treatment is not just for physical injuries, but also for mental health.

"We have chaplains, social workers, psychiatrists that treat not only the patients but the staff members, as well, making sure we take care of their physical and their mental health," she said. "When they first wake up from anesthesia, many of them want to know, 'Can I talk to my loved one in the States?' And the second thing they want to know is, 'How are the guys doing in my unit?' They're very, very concerned with their buddies back in the war zone."

Sgt. Charles Horgan is one of the injured U.S. soldiers eager to get back to his buddies. And he doesn't mind telling people how he was injured.

He says he's just grateful to be alive to tell his story.

From Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, he told *The Early Show* co-anchor **Hannah Storm** he suspected trouble when he approached a bridge south of an-Nasariyah and saw a group of Iraqis in Bedouin robes running away from him.

"We went to go check on some civilians that were on a bridge that apparently were upset about something," said Sgt. Horgan, a 21-year-old Humvee gunner from Fort Benning, Ga. "We went up to the bridge and we ended up getting ambushed by Iraqi soldiers dressed as civilians.

"I looked down the road, and right as I looked, there was a rocket headed toward us. It was just like in the movies. It didn't make like a horrible loud noise, it was just like this whizzing noise."

Recovering from shrapnel wounds to his right leg, he told Storm he was in shock at first.

"I was thinking, 'Oh, my God, they actually shot at us.' And then I thought, 'I'm going to die.' Then I thought, 'Well, no, it's going to hit the truck. I'm going to lose both of my legs.' And then I knew right then that I had to warn the guys who were inside of the vehicle. I yelled 'RPG,' and no sooner than I said it, we got hit. And the vehicle was disabled."

He was blown out of the turret along with Staff Sgt. Jamie Villafane, the Humvee driver from the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, from Fort Benning, Ga. Wounded on his left arm, Villafane said the whole experience was more of a shock than anything.

"I was real relieved to find that they all reacted the way that we would in training - the way that all

of us are trained," Villafane said.

Villafane said he managed to pull the Humvee back, pursued the assailants and got four to drop their assault rifles and surrender.

Marine Lance Cpl. Joshua Menard, also being treated for battlefield wounds at Landstuhl, said he was not prepared for the scale or resistance he encountered in the battlefield. "You can prepare yourself as much as you can physically and mentally, but, there's really no way to describe how it is. You're not really prepared for what is out there."

But like the others, Menard noted, he did what he was trained to do. Menard is from the 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines out of Camp Lejeune, N.C. He was hit in the left hand, severing nerves.

Sgt. Horgan said he joined the army to serve his country but he was fighting to protect his friends.

"My friends were there. I know Sgt Schwartz, Nick and I are really good friends. We've been together since we've been in the military. We went to Kosovo together. We went to Iraq together, and I feel that he was there on the ground helping protect me. And I know my driver was there, and he was crawling with me, keeping me protected. And I feel that right now, since I'm at this hospital, I'm not doing like the same for them. I'm not helping them, the way they did to me and I feel kind of bad for that."

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Wounded Marines Recall Harrowing Iraq Combat Experiences

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WASHINGTON, April 2, 2003 – One recalled experiencing a type of blindness caused by darkness and the "fog of war," while the other noted it was hard to see the enemy because of deception.

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These were the views of Marines 1st Lt. James Unwins and 1st Sgt. Bruce Cole, recently wounded in combat in Iraq. The two, now recovering at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany, told their stories to reporters today.

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Unwins, 26, of South Pasadena, Calif., remembered a grueling 48 hours trucking supplies to fellow Marines striving to secure a bridge crossing across the Euphrates River near the town of Nasiriyah.

[American Forces News](#)

Near nightfall on March 26, Unwins and his group of drivers and mechanics from the 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, had established a temporary rest-and-refit stop at an abandoned Iraqi gas station. Marine bulldozers piling up berms or mounds of earth around the station improved security, he noted.

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"It was looking like a pretty good place to spend a couple of days," the lieutenant recalled. "We had Marines set up on the perimeter around this berm, so our security was in place."

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Darkness had fallen when Unwins "was pulling my sleeping bag out." The lieutenant didn't know it then, but all hell was about to break loose.

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Suddenly, "we started having a kind of sporadic fire ... I saw the tracer rounds passing over the berm of the camp," Unwins remarked. At first, he thought "it was just someone kind of sniping the camp."

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Updated: 02 Apr
2003

Then, "we really started to take heavy fire," Unwins recalled, "and that's when the small-arms fire escalated to rocket-propelled grenades and mortars."

At that point an RPG round plowed into a nearby vehicle and shrapnel whickered toward the lieutenant.

Hot metal struck his lower right leg, then went "all the way up to the left leg," Unwins pointed out. Then, another piece of metal sliced his left arm.

"The shrapnel in the leg kind of took me out of the fight," Unwins said, noting that a corpsman quickly began treating him.

The night's "darkness really created the 'fog of war'" during the fight, the lieutenant emphasized. Consequently, there was "no clue," he declared, as to the enemy's position, other than the streaking tracer rounds "coming from all three sides of our perimeter."

In contrast to Unwins' nighttime combat experiences, 1st Sgt. Cole said he had fought the enemy during the full light of day.

However, Cole's Iraqi foes didn't enlist Mother Nature to cloak their attack, but instead resorted to dastardly deception that violates the rules of war under the Geneva Conventions.

On the morning of March 27, Cole said his battalion was headed north on Iraqi Highway 1 as the main attacking element.

"It was a bright morning," the 39-year-old Beaumont, Texas, native recalled. Berms and ditches had been established along both sides of the highway, he noted, which seemed to both channel and restrict the several-hundred-vehicle strong convoy as it continued up the road.

Cole recalled the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle he was in was in the lead of a column of trucks just behind the heavy armor. The first sergeant pointed out that many Iraqi civilians were observing the convoy, seemed friendly and were waving to the Marines.

Shortly after this, he noted, the U.S. troops were under attack, first with firing heard at the column's front where the tanks were. Then, more firing was evident, he added, emanating from the rear.

"There were engagements north of us; there were engagements south of us," the first sergeant remarked. Some Iraqi civilians had moved

Item (9)

toward the Marines, he said, "as close as maybe 50 meters off the road, standing on top of the berms."

"It was difficult to determine where the firing was coming from," Cole said, noting that bullets were pinging off the Marines' vehicles and ricocheting off the stolid berms.

Not all of the civilian-garbed Iraqis were attacking the Marines, the first sergeant emphasized, noting some seemed as surprised and "just as afraid as anyone else from the look of fear on their faces."

In the middle of all this bedlam "the difficult part was trying to return fire and figure out who to shoot at," Cole asserted. He said the bright sky juxtaposed against the berms helped to mask the enemy's positions.


He turned in his seat and began to return fire out the vehicle's window. Then the "Top Kick" was hit in the arm.

"A bullet entered my forearm and exited through the back of my triceps, (which) knocked the rifle out of my hand," Cole recalled.

The attack ended. Cole attributed his and the convoy's survival of the ambush "to everybody's clear head and good thinking and the training that we had been through."

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Kerry Sanders' embed experience

NBC News journalist, embedded with the 2nd battalion, 8th Marines, comes home

interview by Lester Holt

April 29 — Kerry Sanders recently came home from his assignment in Iraq. As an embedded reporter, Sanders traveled with the 2nd battalion, 8th Marines. Among the highlights of his reporting was the battle for bridges in Nasiriyah, an interview of a wounded soldier (and helping him contact his mother), and the discovery of chemical suits and bloodied uniforms in a Nasiriyah hospital. Scroll below to read Lester Holt's conversation with Sanders, on his experiences in Iraq.

HOLT: How long were you on the road?

SANDERS: Boy, I haven't actually added up the days, but I guess in Iraq, 30 plus days.

HOLT: It didn't move as quickly as you had expected. Was that, the time, a big surprise?

SANDERS: It was to me, and I guess, I was learning a little about the military as I

was there. It was sort of infantry, and I know that they move slowly, but I didn't know it would be seven, 10 miles an hour at times. So, it was a slow move north and for some reason, I had the first Gulf War in my head and a 100-hour war. It just seemed to me that this was excruciatingly slow compared to what I had anticipated.

HOLT: And the guys you were traveling with saw quite a bit of action along the way. Were they at all taken by surprise, either by the weather there, or the speed of this and the resistance they encountered?

SANDERS: Well, I think the big surprise was when they got to Nasiriyah. I mean, there was more in Nasiriyah than the intelligence that they had. So when they got there, they expected it to be a pretty quiet, accepting, welcoming city and instead, discovered that there was a tremendous amount of resistance there. And, so when you talk about surprise, I guess everything is a surprise as you're going along in the battlefield. But they didn't anticipate as much as they received when they got there. That's why it was so slow moving in that city, and it really was, in many ways, the focus of at least what I saw with the 2nd battalion, the 8th Marines. It was the focus of their real efforts through the war. It was really centered in Nasiriyah.

HOLT: You brought us some top-notch journalism while you were on the road, and in Nasiriyah, I believe it was, you showed us what appeared to be a torture chamber in a hospital. This was really the first verification of the stories we heard that they would be using hospitals as military places. Tell us about that experience.

SANDERS: This was one of the two hospitals where Jessica Lynch, the POW, was being held. One of the folks from the 2nd battalion, 8th Marines, took us in and showed us this one area where there were car batteries. All indications were that it could have been used for some sort of torture. There was an area of the hospital that was sort of sectioned off. Just about any hospital in the world that you go to, there are areas that are sectioned off where you might keep violent patients or something. But here, it just had the feel like this was where people were being locked up. And so, it was just a very eerie walk through this so-called hospital. The big surprise was discovering that there was all this brand new equipment inside the hospital, inside what really turned out to be a military headquarters for the Iraqi military. It certainly raised the question, "Are we going to see that all of the Iraqi military is going to outfit themselves for the use of chemical and biological weapons?" And of course, we knew the U.S. and the allies aren't using this.

HOLT: There was another untold story that was going on while this was playing out that you would later tell us, and we would all learn about Jessica Lynch. It was in another hospital in Nasiriyah. Tell me the story of how you first learned that this American was apparently being held very close to where you were.

SANDERS: Well, you know, you have to sort of balance what you're doing in the field as a reporter, in a war scenario. In this particular case, very early on, the day that Jessica and the others were taken, the 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines, got a hint that the Americans might still be there. And the following day they had pretty good evidence that the Americans had been in that first hospital and that Jessica Lynch might still be alive. On any other day, in any other place, that would be your lead story — you would run to

say it's possible that she's still alive. But I was asked, and it seemed to make perfect sense, to hold off on the initial reporting of the story. The fear was, and I think it was a legitimate fear, that if somehow it was reported, the Iraqis would then discover that the American military knew that one of their own might still be alive, and they might do something to her.

So we held off on the story, actually held off on it for several days, until we first developed the story and finally brought it on the air that they had found her clothes in the corner, the bloody clothes. And then eventually, that led to the story which we reported, which was the happy story of her being rescued and the special operations swooping in with the help of a lot of different people, providing cover, and everything else to rescue her and get her out alive.

HOLT: That was an amazing story, and I'm sure it wasn't a hard call to sit on that, and it was a great story to see her rescued. Thanks for all your hard work. You did a terrific job.

SANDERS: Thank you.

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Run : 03/28/2003

Battle details are slowly disclosed

JACKSONVILLE -- Fierce fighting between Marines, many from Camp Lejeune, and Iraqi forces in An Nasiriyah continued Thursday after 14 Marines were wounded and 11 others classified as missing by military officials.

News of the casualties came after a battle Wednesday that was described in earlier television reports as house-to-house fighting. Later reports indicated that the cause of the casualties might have been "friendly fire."

Military officials had few answers Thursday and were investigating the incident, Army Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks of Central Command said during a briefing.

Early Thursday, Camp Lejeune officials said the Marines are with II Marine Expeditionary Force from Lejeune. No further information was released by the base and all questions were referred to the Department of Defense.

"We're not going to confirm numbers anymore," said spokeswoman Maj. Michele Flynn. "I just got the word from DoD."

Gun battles between Marines with Task Force Tarawa from Camp Lejeune and Iraqi troops in An Nasiriyah have been intense since an ambush of U.S. forces Saturday night and Sunday when nine Lejeune Marines were killed and an as-yet-unreleased number were wounded.

The number of Iraqi casualties has not been released, but Marine Corps commanders said large groups of prisoners were taken into custody. Also, a hospital housing 3,000 chemical suits was captured while a large amount of Iraqi equipment has been destroyed.

"I am very proud of the performance of Regimental Combat Team 2 and of 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine (Regiment)," said Task Force Tarawa commander Brig. Gen. Richard F. Natonski. "One-two took the brunt of the early fighting, and my heart goes out to the families who have lost loved ones."

Lt. Col. Robert Petit said he visited 2nd Marine Regiment Headquarters on Tuesday and described the troops as calm but busy. Petit is an operations officer for Task Force Tarawa, which includes Camp Lejeune's 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade.

"The staff is tired, but they weren't getting rattled," Petit said. "While I was there, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine (Regiment), and 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine (Regiment), both got hit. They have their battle drill down. They had cut their teeth the day before, and they have all gotten a taste of the fight."

Meanwhile, some Marines wounded in weekend fighting were recovering in Germany, according to several newspaper reports.

Sgt. Jose Torres, 26, suffered multiple gunshot wounds to his left pelvic area, his mother Karen Torres of Lorain, Ohio, told The Chronicle Telegram of Elyria, Ohio.

Torres' wife, Gennifer Williams-Torres, reached at the family's quarters at Camp Lejeune, said her husband wouldn't want her to comment. The couple has a 2-year-old son.

Karen Torres said the family had been told her son was injured by shrapnel, but later was told he had multiple gunshot wounds. She said her son will be on medical leave until his injuries heal, but "knowing him, he'll probably want to go back" overseas.

Lance Cpl. Joshua Menard of Camp Lejeune also was injured Sunday. He said during an interview at a military hospital in Germany that Iraqis who appeared to be civilians attacked him and other Marines, the Associated Press reported.

Menard, 21, from 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, said he was hit in the left hand, severing nerves.

"I was up on the bridge with six other Marines, pulling security and letting our troops over when what would appear to be civilians came with AK-47s from the city side and started shooting at us," Menard said Thursday of the Sunday attack.

In other news involving Lejeune-based troops, the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, which was told this week to expect an extended deployment, remained in the Persian Gulf awaiting orders to go ashore.

The 2,200-member force includes reinforced versions of the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment and Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 263, as well as command and combat service support elements aboard amphibious assault ships USS Nassau, USS Austin and USS Tortuga.

"We are ready to send personnel ashore, to conduct preparations in the event we are tasked with a mission," said 24th MEU public affairs chief Gunnery Sgt. Mike Dougherty.

Eric Steinkopff can be reached at esteinkopff@jdnews.com

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2/8 Echo keeps the streets of Al Kut safe

Submitted by: I Marine Expeditionary Force

Story Identification Number:
200342775413

Story by Cpl. Matthew Orr

AL KUT, Iraq(April 23, 2003) -- The day for E Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment began as it has for the past few days here. The Marines on foot patrols, keeping the streets of Al Kut safe. The warriors go on numerous daily patrols to show

a presence, which also gives them time to interact with the local residents.

"Right now the Marines are doing presence patrols, which lets the leadership in the area know that we are here and to also gain confidence with the locals," said Gunnery Sergeant Steve Cutrer, Company Gunnery Sergeant, E Company, 2/8.

The patrols also serve another purpose.

"We are also here to get a general sentiment of the people, to see if they are still giving us the thumbs up or the thumbs down, so to speak," said Cpl. Patrick S. Davis, mortar section leader, Weapons Platoon, E Company, 2/8.

Currently, two platoons are actively patrolling and one platoon is on reserve. The patrols average about two hours in duration and require the Marines to walk a designated area of the city.

"Eight patrols are usually conducted in the daylight hours and two to four in the night," said Cutrer, a Newton, Texas native.

The patrol routes are based on intelligence gathered from civil affairs Marines and others in the community gathering information.

"A lot of the patrols, in this city particularly, have been directed by the civilian population, based on the intelligence that we have been gathering," said Cutrer.

Also while on the patrols the Marines search buildings for possible weapons caches. The Marines have located numerous caches since the fighting has decreased. Recently the Marines also found over 100 computers were supposed to have gone to classrooms. After talking to a teacher at the school, Marines

learned the computers would have probably found their way to the black market.

The teacher was asked when she had seen the computers in the classrooms, and her reply was, "never."

"What we did was probably stop a huge black market sale," said Cutrer. Weapons caches have been found in buildings all over the city.

"Almost every weapons cache we have found has either been in a hospital, a school or in another public gathering area," said Cutrer.

Another important benefit of the roving foot patrols: better interaction with residents.

"The more we go out on the patrols, the more trust we gain with the residents," said Davis. "The children have really taken to us, and they love to get their photograph taken with you."

On a patrol recently, Marines came across a man with severe burns to his left hand.

"We were walking through the streets, and we saw a guy who had really bad third-degree burns," said Davis, who hails from Baker, Fla. "We bandaged his hand up, and everybody around could see that we were here to help. We then came back that same night with an interpreter who told the man where he could go to get further help."

"Just the fact that we came back to help that same guy really impressed a lot of people, and gave the people the realization that we are here to help them," recalls Davis.

With the fighting of the war over, the process of rebuilding the community has begun.

"Right now from what we have seen, the community has really taken well to us," said Cutrer. "When the Marines see the children getting help and getting food, their morale pops right up, and they know their purpose here is incredibly necessary."

-30-

Photos included with story:

Cpl. Patrick S. Davis, from Baker, Fla., mortar section leader, Weapons platoon, E Company, 2d Battalion, 8th Marines keeps the streets of Al Kut safe. Davis along with the rest of mortar section, patrol the streets in a effort to build a rapport with the local residents. Photo by: Cpl. Matthew Orr

Cpl. Patrick S. Davis, from Baker, Fla., mortar section leader, Weapons Platoon, E Company, 2d Battalion, 8th Marines keeps the streets of Al Kut safe. Davis along with the rest of mortar section, patrol the streets in an effort to build a rapport with the local residents. Photo by: Cpl. Matthew Orr

Text version of story is attached below:



Patrol.txt

U.S.: Marines seize hospital hiding Iraqi soldiers

Tuesday, March 25, 2003 Posted: 7:44 PM EST (0044 GMT)

NASIRIYA, Iraq (CNN) -- U.S. Marines on Tuesday seized a hospital in Nasiriya and captured nearly 170 Iraqi soldiers who had been staging military operations from the facility, U.S. authorities said.

No civilians were in the facility, which U.S. Central Command said was "clearly marked as a hospital by a flag with a Red Crescent." Marines confiscated more than 200 weapons, more than 3,000 chemical suits with masks and Iraqi military uniforms in the hospital, and found a T-55 tank in the hospital compound, Central Command said.

Marines had been fired at from the hospital a day earlier.

No civilians were injured in the operation and none were found in the hospital when Marines from Task Force Tarawa of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines went in, according to Central Command. Before they moved in, Marines used loudspeakers to instruct any medical personnel or patients inside to evacuate, authorities said. Marines said the Iraqi soldiers were not armed when they were captured, but were wearing what Central Command described as "a mixture of mostly civilian clothing with parts of military uniforms."

Col. Ron Johnson, operations officer for Task Force Tarawa, said Marines believed Iraqi soldiers dressed as civilians were being bused into Nasiriya to stage attacks on U.S. forces there. The Iraqis were taking weapons and ammunition from the hospital before entering the city, he said. Coalition leaders have accused Iraqi forces of luring coalition troops into ambushes and attacks by dressing as civilians, as well as by feigning surrender.



U.S. troops found gas masks in abandoned Iraqi positions on the road to Nasiriya.

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Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Tuesday, "Some of the biggest losses we have taken are due to Iraqis' committing serious violations of the law of armed conflict and the Geneva Conventions by dressing as civilians and luring us into surrender situations and opening fire on our troops."

The Pentagon has lashed out at such tactics, calling them "deadly deception" that marks "serious violations of the laws of war." Officials said Tuesday that conducting military operations under a Red Crescent flag is also a violation. There was no immediate report of any casualties on either side as the Marines seized the hospital and took prisoners.

Nasiriya was the site of a second day of intense fighting Tuesday as U.S. Marines moved through.

CNN Correspondent Art Harris, embedded with the Marines, said that as his unit rolled into Nasiriya just before dawn Tuesday the main road was "wall-to-wall" with Marines. They were lying flat on the ground, M-16 rifles at the ready, facing in both directions, he said.

At every intersection were tanks, Bradley fighting vehicles and armored personnel carriers, Harris said.

Ten Marines were killed in action in Nasiriya early in the battle and at least five others were taken prisoner by Iraqis on Sunday, military authorities said.

The southern Iraqi city is a key center in the war because it is the site of bridges across the Euphrates River.

cnn

BITS 'N' PIECES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF FAMILIES FOR THE RETURN OF AMERICA'S MISSING SERVICEMEN

**+ WORLD WAR II + KOREA + COLD WAR + VIETNAM + GULF
WAR +**

DOLORES ALFOND - National Chairperson <mailto:dolores@nationalalliance.org>
425-881-1499

LYNN O'SHEA - Director of Research <mailto:lynn@nationalalliance.org>
718-846-4350

[Visit the National Alliance Of Families Home Page](#)

March 29, 2003

May God Bless and Protect our Gulf War II POWs and MIAs and bring them all home. Also, Please remember our British Allies who also have POWs and MIAs.

To show our support for the families of our POWs and MIAs held in Iraq, the National Alliance of Families has set up a special message board. To send a message of support to the families of our latest POWs and MIAs go to <http://www.nationalalliance.org/> A page will pop up, allowing you to send your message of support. If the pages does not pop up click the link.

The Cost of War - as of 10 AM March 29th

Prisoner of War (POWs) - 7

Missing in Action (MIAs) -20

Item (14)

Don't Repeat Mistakes of the Past - that would be the advise of Vietnam War POW/MIAs families to the POW/MIAs families of Gulf War II. After the initial flurry of media interviews with POW/MIA families, we've heard that the families have been advised not to speak with the media. Vietnam POW/MIA families were given the same advise. They were told that the enemy might use the information to coerce the POWs. We're told the Gulf War II families have been given the same reason for not speaking with the media.

Our Vietnam families followed that advise. Today, many of them bitterly regret that decision.

Please Remember information is changing on a minute by minute basis. Information in any articles quoted in the Late Breaking News section may be subject to correction and/or revision.

Late Breaking News - From American Forces Press Service, by Gerry J. Gilmore American Forces Press Service "Washington, March 29, 2003 -- **The remains of American troops have been discovered in southern Iraq near where paramilitary forces loyal to Saddam Hussein have been accused by the Pentagon of executing U.S. service members after they'd surrendered.**"

"U.S. Central Command spokesman Air Force Maj. Gen. Victor Renuart told reporters today in Qatar of the situation developing in the vicinity of Nasiriyah. He said a U.S. mortuary affairs team is en route to the site. He said he couldn't tell reporters whether the remains belonged to troops who'd been involved in the March 24 engagement in and around the city."

"Several service members are listed as missing after that action, in which Saddam-aligned irregular forces attacked a U.S. supply convoy that had gotten lost. The Iraqis quickly paraded some U.S. captives on state-run television. The videotape also showed some dead American troops, who'd been positioned for the camera."

"Some senior Pentagon leaders who'd viewed the tape, including Marine Corps Gen. Peter Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, believe it's possible the dead troops were executed with shots in the head after they'd surrendered."

"The mortuary team "will conduct normal levels of investigation," Renuart noted. "We will also approach it from the aspect to ensure that there were no war crimes committed that may have caused their deaths. We'll have a full forensic evaluation as well..."

Late Breaking News - March 28th, NBC's Kerry Sanders reports; "AN NASIRIYAH, March 28 -- U.S. Marines who secured a hospital that had been used by Iraqi forces later found several bloodied U.S. uniforms worn by female soldiers, NBC's Kerry Sanders reported Friday from the hospital. The find suggested that Iraq had held several POWs at the hospital, which is in An Nasiriyah, a town where at least five Americans were taken prisoner in an attack that killed two other soldiers and left eight missing."

"Sanders was shown where the uniforms were found -- inside the bathroom of a larger room that had been padlocked. It was the same room where 3,000 nuclear, biological and chemical suits were found when the Marines moved in. The uniforms, which had their American flag patches and names ripped off, were found inside a bag...."

".... The hospital was taken by the 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines, after a fierce battle with Iraqi forces there. Sanders, who has been traveling with the battalion, was shown the room by a Marine who identified the uniforms as those worn by servicewomen. It was not clear what distinguished them from those worn by men...."

Senator: 1991 POW May Be Alive in Baghdad - March 28th, from the Associated Press by Ron Word " Citing unspecified reports, a U.S. senator said Friday that an American pilot missing since the 1991 Gulf War may have been seen alive and in the custody of Iraqi authorities in the past month."

"Sen. Bill Nelson mentioned the reports while releasing an unclassified summary on the fate of Capt. Scott Speicher, who was shot down over Iraq on the first night of the Gulf War and has been unaccounted for ever since. Nelson did not elaborate on the recent reports. "I believe he is still alive," Nelson said. "The question is: Can we find him and bring him home alive?"

"...The Pentagon is required to report to Congress on Speicher every 90 days under the National Defense Authorization Act, which was enacted in December. The unclassified summary Nelson released is the first to be filed and details some of the evidence that led military officials to conclude Speicher likely survived the shutdown. The report mentions Baghdad's false suggestion that remains returned in 1991 were Speicher's and officials' claims that the aircraft wreckage was tampered with before a 1995 crash site excavation."

"Still, the unclassified version, dated March 3, provides no conclusive information about Speicher's fate and does not address the recent information about a possible sighting. "We assess Capt. Speicher was either captured alive or his remains were recovered and taken to Baghdad." In either case, the Iraqi government has concealed information about his fate, the report said...."

Note: the new version of the declassified Intelligence Community Assessment of the Speicher case is available on the web site of Senator Bill Nelson. We've tried and failed several times to download this "pdf" file. If anyone is successful in retrieving this file, please email us a copy at lynn@nationalalliance.org

DUSTWUN - That was the official status of the 8 Army personnel unaccounted for from the 507th Maintenance Group and the Marines missing from Nasiriyah in Iraq, as of March 28th.

We've written much about the fact that the Defense Dept. (DOD), on December 18, 2002, issued Instruction 1300.18 dealing with "Military Personnel Casualty Matter, Policies and Procedures." Among the instruction is a series of new classifications for service personnel, missing and captured. These instructions eliminate the designation Prisoner of War in favor of the more ambiguous status of Missing/Captured.

For our new readers, last October, the Navy changed the status of Navy Capt. Scott Speicher - missing in action since his F/A-18 was shot down on the opening night of the Gulf War in January 1991 - once again. Originally, listed as Killed in Action, his status was changed in January 2001 to "Missing." Pressured by a small group of Senators, the Navy again changed Speicher's designation in October 2002. However, Speicher's new designation was not "Prisoner of War." His status, and the status of all future captured service personnel, is "Missing/Captured" or "MIA-C."

Just as "Missing/Captured" or MIA-C has replaced POW, DUSTWUN or "Duty Status and Whereabouts Unknown" has become a holding or temporary designation for service personnel from AWOL to Captured, giving command 10 days to make a determination of status.

The definition of DUSTWUN, per DOD Instruction (DODI) 1300.18 6.1.2.2
"DUSTWUN Cases - Duty Status and Whereabouts Unknown is a temporary designation when a members' actual status is uncertain. As such, the NOK (Next of Kin) will be kept informed of progress in determining the members' actual status. Casualty assistance is not provided unless the member's actual status is determined to be deceased or missing."

Give us the day, POWs were officially POWs, and those whose location were unknown after battle were immediately listed MIA.

So Why Does DOD Continue To Use The POW Phrase - wouldn't they look dumb referring to service personnel viewed on televisions around the world, as "Missing/Captured" or MIA-C

Words paint pictures. The phrase, "Prisoner of War," paints a clear picture. A picture, like the ones aired around the world, of seven bruised and battered American soldiers now in Iraqi hands. The phrase, "Missing/Captured," suggests nothing but a question mark.

The Geneva Convention - Article 13, pertaining to "Humane Treatment" reads:

"Prisoners of war must at all times be humanely treated. Any unlawful act or omission by the Detaining Power causing death or seriously endangering the health of a prisoner of war in its custody is prohibited, and will be regarded as a serious breach of the present Convention. In particular, no prisoner of war may be subjected to physical mutilation or to medical or scientific experiments of any kind which are not justified by the medical, dental or hospital treatment of the prisoners concerned and carried out in his interest."

"Likewise, prisoners of war must at all times be protected, particularly against acts of violence or intimidation and against insults and public curiosity. Measures of reprisal against prisoners of war are prohibited."

Article 14 regarding "Respect and Honor" reads: "Prisoners of war are entitled in all circumstances to respect for the persons and their honour. Women shall be treated with all the regard due to their sex and shall in all cases benefit by treatment as favourable as that granted to men. Prisoners of war shall retain the full civil capacity which they enjoyed at the time of their capture, The Detaining Power may not restrict the exercise, either within or without its own territory, of the rights such capacity confers except in so far as the captivity requires."

No where in the Geneva Convention do we find the designation Missing/Captured or "MIA-C"

The Geneva Convention provided for the treatment of Prisoners of War. It makes no provisions for the combatants listed as Missing/Captured.

When Does Freedom of Speech Cross The Line And Become Aid And Comfort To The Enemy - take your blood pressure meds before reading this one. The following article is from Fox News -- "Columbia Prof Calls for Deaths of American Troops" - An academic furor was brewing Friday over a Columbia University professor who told thousands of students and faculty that he would like to see the United States defeated in Iraq and suffer "a million Mogadishus" - referring to the 1993 ambush in Somalia that killed 18 Americans."

The professor, Nicholas De Genova, told a "teach-in" on Wednesday that "the only true heroes are those who find ways that help defeat the U.S. military." De Genova also asserted Americans who call themselves "patriots" are white supremacists."

"De Genova's hopes for the defeat of the United States were cheered by the crowd of 3,000, according to newspaper reports. But his mention of the Somali ambush -- "I personally would like to see a million Mogadishus" -- was largely met with silence. A call Friday to De Genova, 35, was answered with a recording that said his voice mailbox was full."

"Columbia University on Friday issued a statement that distanced the school from his comments but did not condemn them."

"Assistant Professor Nicholas De Genova was speaking as an individual at a teach-in. He was exercising his right to free speech. His statement does not in any way represent the views of Columbia University."

"History professor Eric Foner, who helped organize the teach-in and spoke after De Genova, said Friday: "I disagreed strongly and I said so. If I had known what he was going to say I would have been reluctant to have him speak." Foner said De Genova was a last-minute invitee, was just one of about 25 speakers and "did not represent the general tone of the event, which was highly educational."

"I thought that was completely uncalled for," Foner was quoted as saying, referring to De Genova's allusion to the Mogadishu ambush and firefight, known for the graphic image of a slain American soldier being dragged through the streets. "We do not desire the deaths of American soldiers...."

The National Alliance Of Families Fourteenth Annual Forum is scheduled for June 26th - 28th, 2003. Our forum is conducted to coincide with the Governments annual Vietnam POW/MIA Family Briefings. We urge all family members to attend this years government briefings. A separate briefing for Korean/Cold War families will be held in July. The government will provide free airfare to two family members to attend the government briefings. There is no charge or registration fee to attend the government briefings and you do not have to belong to an organization to attend these briefings.

This year the Alliance meeting will be held at the Sheraton Crystal City located at 1800 Jefferson Davis Highway, in Arlington Va. Rate for single or double occupancy is \$99.00 per night plus tax.

Many of you will remember this hotel from the previous Alliance meetings (1994 - 96). The hotel is located across the street from both the Crystal City Underground Food Court and the Metro Stop. The Sheraton is within walking distance of the hotel hosting the government briefings. The Alliance is working on transportation between hotels for those

who prefer to ride. To make your reservations, call 703-486-1111 and remember to say you want the special National Alliance of Families rate.

The Alliance is an all volunteer organization. Our meetings are open to all, without charge. At this time of year, we actively seek contributions to finance our forum. If you wish to contribute, donations may be mailed to:

**National Alliance Of Families
P.O. Box 40327
Bellevue, Wa. 98015.**

Remember all contributions are tax deductible.



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Bits 'N' Pieces Index 2003



7,000 Marines leave Camp Lejeune for Mideast

Eric Steinkopff

Freedom News Service

Thousands of Marines and sailors at Camp Lejeune got the official word Friday and will begin leaving as soon as today in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

About 800 Marines and sailors from 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment will leave Camp Lejeune this morning, and 7,000 primarily from the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade could be gone within the week, military officials announced Friday. Their destination was not released but military officials have acknowledged that an area in the Middle East is the likely destination as the U.S. conflict with Iraq escalates.

"Elements of 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade have received authority to embark Marines on ships and stage gear in preparation for a possible deployment," 2nd MEB spokesman officer Capt. Kelly Frushour said Friday morning.

The 2nd MEB includes the 2nd Marine Regiment, Marine Aircraft Group 29 and a Brigade Service Support Group, Frushour said.

Three Marine infantry battalions are assigned to the 2nd Marine Regiment: 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment; 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment and 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, Frushour said.

Such infantry units are typically supported by tanks, light armored vehicles, assault amphibian vehicles, combat engineers and reconnaissance Marines.

Marine Aircraft Group 29 includes Marine Aircraft Logistics Squadron 29, Marine Helicopter Training Squadron 302, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 464, Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 269 and Marine Medium Helicopter Squadrons 162, 263, 365, said New River Air Station spokesman Staff Sgt. Pat Franklin.

"Each squadron normally includes about 12 helicopters," Franklin said.

With the exception of the training squadron that normally does not deploy and the maintenance squadron that keeps other aircraft flying, the remaining squadrons would typically represent 12 CH-53E Super Stallion heavy lift helicopters, six UH-1N Huey utility helicopters, six AH-1W Super Cobra attack helicopters and 36 CH-46 Sea Knight Medium lift helicopters.

A Brigade Service Support Group is a smaller version of the 2nd Force Service Support Group, with support personnel that include supply, logistics, vehicle drivers, engineers, as well as religious, medical and dental specialists.

On Thursday and Friday, elements of the 2nd MEB were preparing to load amphibious assault ships at the port in Morehead City as well as shuttle personnel and equipment from Onslow Beach and Mile Hammock Bay to amphibious ships off the coast via air-cushioned and utility landing craft.

The amphibious assault ships USS Saipan and USS Ponce have departed Norfolk, Va. and USS Gunston Hall has left Little Creek, Va., said Petty Officer 1st Class Andy Karalis, 2nd Fleet spokesman,

"(USS)_ Saipan, Ponce and Gunston got under way (Friday) and are all in receipt of deployment orders," said 2nd Fleet public affairs director Cdr. Ernest Duplessis.

Duplessis did not confirm if the ships were headed to North Carolina.

Frushour on Friday could not confirm reports that long lines of buses filled with Marines and sailors traveled north on U.S. 17 from Camp Lejeune to Norfolk, Va.; at least 30 on Thursday and 30 on Friday, too late to board the three assault ships that set sail early Friday morning.

Navy officials could not confirm what other amphibious assault ships might be preparing to join the war on terrorism.

"No other ships are in receipt of deployment orders," Duplessis said.

On Wednesday, some of an approximately 400-member offshore preparation party left Camp Lejeune for an unidentified port and the remainder of the force left Friday, said Camp Lejeune spokesman Staff Sgt. Jay Connolly.

They are scheduled to board five maritime prepositioning force cargo ships, which transport supplies for the Marine Corps. The preparation team is readying the equipment to be unloaded by a team of about 500 logistics personnel from the 2nd Force Service Support Group (forward), who departed two weeks ago and are in an undisclosed location in the Middle East.

Maritime Prepositioning Squadron 1 normally maintains a presence in the Mediterranean Sea and is assigned to the 2nd MEB, while Maritime Prepositioning Squadron 2 is homeported in the Navy Support Facility, Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean and is designed for the West Coast-based 1st MEB, elements of which are already in or on the way to the Persian Gulf.

Each Maritime Prepositioning squadron is designed to support a brigade-size force of up to 16,000 combat troops.

3570-1/11/2003-LN

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March 25, 2003

Marines seize hospital used as staging area by Iraqi forces

By Vince Crawley

Times staff writer

A Marine Corps task force in An Nasiriyah, Iraq, took over a hospital being used as a staging area for Iraqi paramilitary forces, U.S. Central Command officials said March 25.

The Marines reported being fired upon from the hospital on Monday, March 24. The building was clearly marked as a hospital by a flag with a red crescent, Central Command said in a statement.

Marines with 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines, secured the hospital and the surrounding compound, the statement said. They reported capturing about 170 Iraqi soldiers who were not armed and were wearing a mix of mostly civilian clothing with parts of military uniforms.

In the hospital, the Marines reportedly found and confiscated more than 200 weapons and stockpiles of ammunition, more than 3,000 chemical suits with masks, and Iraqi military uniforms. The Marines also said they found a T-55 tank on the compound.

No civilians were injured during the U.S. raid, Central Command said. Prior to going in, the Marines used loudspeakers outside of the hospital to encourage the doctors and patients to evacuate the hospital, and no civilians were inside at the time the hospital was seized, Central Command said.

"It is believed that the enemy soldiers dressed in civilian attire were being bussed into the city and were drawing weapons and ammunition from the hospital in order to fight in the city," the Central Command statement said, attributing the information to Col. Ron Johnson, Task Force Tarawa Operations Officer.

Operation Order: 1003V, EFFECTIVE 13 MARCH 03
 Reference: Maps: SEE ANNEX B
 Time Zone Used Throughout the Order: Local/GPS Time

TASK ORGANIZATION:

| BN | ECHO | FOX | GOLF | CAAT |
|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Main CP | 9 MTRVs | 9 MTRVs | 9 MTRVs | 1 SS Team |
| 3 MTRV | 5 MTRV Trailers | 4 MTRV Trailers | 4 MTRV Trailers | 1 FAC Tm |
| 2 MTRV Trailers | 2 Highback HMMWV | 2 Highback HMMWV | 2 Highback HMMWV | 2 Jav Teams |
| 1 Waterbull | 1 Waterbull | 1 Waterbull | 1 Waterbull | |
| NBC | 1 SS Team | 1 SS Team | 1 SS Team | |
| 1 NBC MTRV | 1 Arty FO Tm | 1 FAC Team | 1 Arty FO Tm | |
| 1 MTRV Trailer | 2 Jav Teams | 1 Arty FO Team | 2 Jav Teams | |
| CI Sub Team | | 2 Jav Teams | | |
| CAG Det | | | | |
| SST | | | | |
| TAC CP | | | | |
| Security Squad/w/ HMMWV | | | | |
| 81mm Mortar Platoon | | | | |
| | | | | |
| SSP (-) | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Log Trains | | | | |
| 1 MTRV-Refueler | | | | |
| 1 MTRV-MT Parts Block | | | | |
| 2 MTRV-Log Train | | | | |
| 2 MTRV Trailers | | | | |
| 1 WRECKER | | | | |
| | | | | |

1. Situation:

| |
|--|
| <p>a. Enemy Threat Condition: SEE ANNEX B</p> |
| <p>b. Friendly</p> <p>(1) Higher's Mission: On order, RCT-2 moves to positions north of MEF OBJ C IOT prepare for RIP. O/O conduct RIP with 3ID IVO An Nasiriyah. Secure the Highway 1 LOC and the Highway 1 bridge west of the city of An Nas IOT facilitate FPOL of 1st MARDIV. O/O conduct FPOL with 1st MARDIV IOT facilitate movement of MEF ME. BPT seize bridges east of AN NASIRIYAH IOT facilitate FPOL of 1st MARDIV up route 7.</p> <p>(2) Higher Intent & Concept.</p> <p>PURPOSE: . Secure the highway 1 LOC and Euphrates crossing west of AN NASIRIYAH to facilitate onward mvmt of MEF ME</p> <p>METHOD: Mech Bn and LAR Co relieve elements of 3 BCT, secure western bridge, block north and East. Bns secure LOCs in sector, facilitate FPOL.</p> <p>ENDSTATE: HWY 1 bridge West of AN NASIRIYAH secure, RCT-2 in control of LOCs into AN NASIRIYAH . 1st MARDIV units passed forward, and RCT-2 prepared to continue the attack.</p> |

Concept of Operations:

AT H MINUS 24 HOURS RCT-2 WILL OCCUPY TAA. O/O MOVE TO MEF OBJ C. BPT CONTINUE THE ATTACK TO SEIZE CROSSING SITES EAST OF AN NASIRIYAH.

PH I: MOVEMENT TO TAA

- ALL UNITS MOVE TO TAA HAWKINS

PH II: BREACH AND MOVEMENT TO JALIBAH

- TF SAPPER BREACH 4 LANES EAST OF ASR ASPEN.
- LAR LEAD MECHANIZED BATTALION THRU BREACH, SECURE TFT OBJ 1. O/O ARTY BN AND MOTORIZED BNs FOLLOW IN COLUMN.
- O/O LAR LEAD RCT NORTH IN ZONE TO POSITIONS VIC MEF OBJ C.

PH III: RELIEF IN PLACE

- MECH BN RIP EAST SECTOR, BPT PROVIDE REGIMENT'S RESERVE ON 4 HOUR NOTICE.
- 1/10 POSITION AS REQUIRED TO SUPPORT LAR.
- MECH BN BPT SEIZE EAST BRIDGES, BLOCK NORTH AND EAST
- LAR CO RIP WEST FBHL
- MOTORIZED BN SECURE LOC IN SECTOR
- MOTORIZED BN SECURE LOC IN SECTOR

PH IV: CONSOLIDATION/FPOL.

- LAR SECURE WEST BRIDGES, STATIONARY UNIT FPOL 1ST MARDIV.
- MECH BN BLOCK NORTH AND EAST, BPT ATK NORTH. BPT ACT AS STATIONARY UNIT FOR FPOL OF 1ST MARDIV ELEMENTS UP RTE 7.
- ONE MOTORIZED BN SECURE LOC IN SECTOR..
- ONE MOTORIZED BN SECURE LOC IN SECTOR - ARTY BN POSITION TO SUPPORT FPOL/BHO ON RTE 1.

ON ORDER RCT-2 WILL ATTACK TO SEIZE CROSSING SITES EAST OF AN NASIRIYAH.

PH I: PREPARATION (RECIEPT OF WARNING ORDER-STEP OFF)

- ARTY BN MOVE TO PAA ISO EAST BRIDGEHEAD
- MECH/ MOTORIZED BN MAKE FINAL COORDINATION
- RECON CONDUCT COVERT RECON OF BRIDGES AND ROUTES

PH II: SEIZURE OF BRIDGES

- MECH BN SEIZE EAST BRIDGES EST FBHL TO NORTH AND EAST
- MOTORIZED BNs O/O FOLLOW IN TRACE.
- O/O MOTORIZED BN RELIEVE MECH BN AS DESIGNATED.

PH III: CONSOLIDATION

- MOTORIZED BN RIP MECH BN IN SECTOR BETWEEN EUPHRATES RIVER AND SADDAM CANAL.
- 1/10 POSITION AS REQUIRED TO SUPPORT MECH BN.
- MECH BN BPT CONTINUE THE ATTACK NORTH UP RTE 7
- MOTORIZED BN SECURE LOC IN SECTOR
- MOTORIZED BN SECURE LOC IN SECTOR

PH IV: FPOL.

- LAR CONTINUE TO SECURE WEST BRIDGES, BLOCK RTE 8 TO THE EAST
- MECH BN BLOCK NORTH AND EAST, BPT ATK NORTH. BPT ACT AS STATIONARY UNIT FOR FPOL OF 1ST MARDIV ELEMENTS UP RTE 7.
- MOTORIZED BNS SECURE LOCS IN SECTOR..
- ARTY BN POSITION TO SUPPORT FPOL/BHO.

Left Unit's Mission: 3RD ID DESTROY THE 11TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Right Unit's Mission: RCT 5 Attacks to seize the Rumallah oil fields

Forward Unit's Mission: TF 1/2 attacks in zone to secure bridge crossing sites for 1ST Mar Div.

Rear Unit's Mission: FSSG FOLLOW ON FORCES

Supporting

c. Attachments/Detachments: N/A

2. Mission:

O/O, 2/8 (+) defends in sector, IOT facilitate the passage of follow on forces. BPT conduct RIP with 1/2.

3. Execution:

Commander's Intent:

Key Tasks:

- Maintain Bn integrity and mutual support between 2/8 units throughout the operation, creating flexible employment options and allowing us to rapidly mass our organic combat power.
- Maintain a physical connecting file and comm. links with higher and adjacent units.
- Remain flexible, keeping plans simple, and execute with deliberate controlled aggression.

End State: Enemy defeated in sector; LOC's secure in sector; 2/8 positioned to continue offensive operations.

Concept of the Operation:**Phase 1- Movement to TAA**

- **Stage 1 QP Movement to TAA** – At 0800, Movement Day – 24 hours, QP departs Camp Shoup and establishes TAA Warpath.
End State: QP established in TAA Warpath, and prepared to receive 2/8 main body.
- **Stage 2 Main Body Movement/Establishment in TAA** – At 0800, Movement Day, 2/8 main body departs Camp Shoup IOT link up with the QP at Contact Point #1. Upon arrival at the Contact Point, the main body will move into the Assembly Area by echelon.
End State: 2/8 established in TAA Warpath.

Phase 2- Breach

- **Stage 1 – Movement to the Breach Lane** – O/O, 2/8 will depart the TAA and move to the start point of the designated breach lane.
End State: 2/8 successfully staged in order of movement at designated breach lane.
- **Stage 2 – Exploitation of the breach** – O/O (H+10), the battalion follows in trace of the RCT Main CP, exploiting the breach along PL Florida. Upon reaching the far side of the breach, 2/8 moves to designated positions south of TF Obj 1. At TF Obj 1, 2/8 will assume a hasty 360 defensive posture IAW Bn SOP.
End State: All 2/8 forces successfully passed through the breach lane along PL Florida, and staged in preparation for continuing offensive operations.

Phase 3- Movement to Jalibah

- **Stage 1 - Movement** – O/O, 2/8 departs their positions south of TF Obj 1 and follows in trace of the CEB until the RCT secures MEF Obj C. Upon consolidation at MEF Obj C, 2/8 establishes a hasty defense in sector.
End State: 2/8 consolidated vic MEF Obj C.
- **Stage 2 – Hasty Defense in Sector** – O/O, 2/8 consolidates and defends in sector, IOT protect the right flank of the RCT ME. The Bn will consolidate in a hasty defense in sector oriented North, IOT facilitate rapidly resuming offensive operations.
End State: RCT right flank secure; Bn prepared to resume offensive operations.

Phase 4 – Defense in Sector

- O/O, 2/8 follows in trace of 1/10, and moves to assume control of the Bn's sector. Upon arrival in sector, the Bn will establish a deliberate defense in sector oriented east, blocking enemy forces, IOT prevent the enemy from interfering with the passage of 1st Marine Division forces along Hwy 1. Additionally, the Bn will maintain the trafficability and security of Route 7 through our sector. We will accomplish this by establishing company sector defenses. The (ME) one motorized company (+), defends in sector oriented southeast on NAI 4, blocking enemy movement, preventing interference with 1st Mar Div forces moving along Hwy 1. One motorized company (SE) defends in sector oriented east on NAI 5, IOT prevent the enemy from interfering with friendly forces moving along Route 7. One motorized company (SE) defends in sector oriented southwest, IOT maintain the trafficability and security of Route 7 in sector. CAAT Platoon (-) screens in sector oriented on NAI 6, IOT maintain the trafficability and security of Route 7 in sector. 81's occupies positions in sector, IOT support the Bn Main Effort, maintaining the capability to provide responsive fires throughout the Bn's sector.
End State: Uninterrupted flow of friendly forces throughout 2/8's sector; 2/8 positioned to commence the relief in place or reinforcement of 1/2.

BPT – Relief in Place

- **Stage 1 - Reconnaissance/Quartering Party** – O/O, the Bn will conduct a reconnaissance of the bridge heads, and collocate our TAC CP with the 1/2 CP.
End State: Successful reconnaissance of the relief sites; CP's; and guides in place.
- **Stage 2 – Relief in Place** - O/O, 2/8 conducts a relief in place with 1/2 on both the north and south bridges along Lane Larry. CAAT Platoon (SE) moves to the northern bridgehead, conducts a relief in place with 1/2 and secures the northern bridgehead, IOT facilitate the passage of follow on forces. Upon completion their relief, CAAT Platoon conducts a reconnaissance of alternate routes east of Lane Larry. Simultaneously, one motorized company (SE) conducts a relief in place on the southern bridge head, securing that bridge and prepares to clear in zone. 81's occupies MP vic southern bridgehead, IOT support relief in place and subsequent clearing in zone. One motorized company (SE) positions south of the contact point, in preparation to clear in zone. One motorized company (ME) stages, in preparation to clear in zone.
End State: Relief in place complete; All 1/2 units clear of 2/8's zone; 2/8 positioned to clear in zone.
- **Stage 3 – Occupation of Sector** – O/O, one motorized company (SE) clears in zone, IOT prevent the enemy from influencing the northern bridgehead in sector. One motorized company, (ME) clears in zone, IOT prevent the enemy from influencing Lane Larry in sector. One motorized company (SE) clears in zone vic the southern bridgehead, IOT prevent the enemy from influencing the flow forces through the southern bridgehead.
End State: Bn Obj's 1&2 secure; Bn prepared to pass follow on forces.

Concept of Fire Support: See App. 19.

Concept of CA Support: 2/8's CA team will focus on minimizing civilian interference in our zone in order to allow the battalion to set the conditions for a successful movement into defensive positions in the vicinity of An Nasariyah. CA will aggressively pursue the concept of keeping civilians off main roads, remaining in their homes, and not interfering with the battalion's operations. It will do this primarily through hasty information dissemination utilizing linguists and loud speakers.

Upon receipt of the BPT mission, CA will coordinate with CA team from 1/2 to ensure minimal civilian interference with the battalion's RIP effort with 1/2. Following the RIP, CA will be poised to support the security of the urban corridor and battalion maneuver elements by continued dissemination of information via linguists/loudspeakers and where possible by making liaison with local government and/or religious leaders in order to gain local populace support and cooperation for 2/8's subsequent missions.

Tasks:

ECHO:

- Phase 1:** See coordinating instructions
- Phase 2:** See coordinating instructions
- Phase 3:** O/O, establish defense in sector.
- Phase 4:** ME, O/O, block in sector oriented southeast on NAI 4, IOT prevent the enemy from interfering with 1st Mar Div forces moving along HWY 1. Upon consolidation, One CAAT Section in DS.

BPT - Upon RIP with 1/2, clear in zone, IOT allow the uninterrupted flow of follow on forces.

FOX:

- Phase 1:** See coordinating instructions
- Phase 2:** See coordinating instructions
- Phase 3:** Base Unit. O/O, establish defense in sector.
- Phase 4:** SE, O/O, defend in sector oriented east on NAI 5, IOT prevent the enemy from interfering with friendly forces moving along Route 7.

BPT - conduct RIP with 1/2 elements and secure Bn Obj 1 (southern bridgehead), IOT prevent the enemy from interfering with Lane Larry in sector.

GOLF:

- Phase 1:** See coordinating instructions
- Phase 2:** See coordinating instructions
- Phase 3:** O/O, establish defense in sector.
- Phase 4:** SE, O/O, defend in sector oriented southwest, IOT maintain the trafficability and security of Route 7 in sector. Upon consolidation, establish a platoon size QRF, on a 30 min alert status capable of reinforcing adjacent units.

BPT - Upon relief in place with 1/2, conduct BHO with 2/8 CAAT Platoon on Bn Obj 2 (northern bridgehead), IOT prevent the enemy from interfering with Lane Larry in sector.

CAAT:

- Phase 1:** See coordinating instructions
- Phase 2:** See coordinating instructions
- Phase 3:** O/O, establish screen line across the Bn frontage, IOT provide early warning of enemy advances from the East. BPT provide convoy security, guides, and traffic control for Route Harley through the Bn Zone. Establish contact point with 3/2.
- Phase 4:** SE, O/O screen in sector oriented on NAI 6, IOT maintain the trafficability and security of Route 7 in sector. Maintain connecting file with 1/2. BPT provide guides through the Bn sector for any convoys. Upon consolidation, DS one section to Echo Company.

- BPT - conduct RIP with 1/2 elements and secure the Bn Obj 2.***
- *conduct BHO with Golf Co on Bn Obj 2.*
 - *develop alternate routes connecting the bridges to the East of the city.*
 - *maintain observation on Bn Obj 3.*

Fires

81mm will be in GS of the Battalion

Mobility/X-Mobility

PRIMARY LANES:

LANE 3:

- SP QU13791910
- KU FENCE QU1315820632
- LAST KU BERM QU10612332
- IRAQI BERM QU0430

LANE 4:

- SP QU13471895
- KU FENCE QU1268320311
- LAST KU BERM QU10262308
- IRAQI BERM QU0430

SECONDARY LANES:

LANE 1:

- SP QU15101975
- KU FENCE QU1428621382
- LAST KU BERM QU11912412
- IRAQI BERM QU0531

LANE 2:

- SP QU14871962
- KU FENCE QU1399221188
- LAST KU BERM QU11412393
- IRAQI BERM QU0531

Coordinating Instructions

Phase 1:

1. Checkpoints: See below.
2. TAA Warpath Quarters Party Composition/Order of movement: Sect, CAAT; Main; Company Quarters Parties
3. TAA Warpath Main Body Serial Order of Movement: CAAT(-); G Co; F Co; TAC/ SSP; 81's; E Co; Log Train
4. March Speed: 35 kph; Catch-Up Speed: 40 kph
5. Formation for Movement: Traveling/ Open Column
6. Report passage of all checkpoints or every 30 minutes.
7. Weapons Status = Tight throughout the operation unless otherwise directed.
8. Dismount order will be given by serial commander.
9. Dig order will be given by the Bn CO.
10. MOPP 0 in effect.

Phase 2:

1. RCT order of movement: 2/8 follows RCT Main CP.
2. MOPP 2 in effect.
3. 2/8 order of movement: CAAT, Fox, 81's, TAC, Golf, Main, Echo, Log Trains.
4. RCT TF Obj 1 consolidation plan: see control measures below
5. BN Consolidation Plan: RP – QU030338; BP FOX – QU035347; BP GOLF – QU030340; BP ECHO – QU040340; MAIN/TAC/LOG – QU030338; CAAT SCREEN IN SECTOR ORIENTED EAST VIC QU040350

Phase 3:

1. RCT order of movement: 2/8 follows CEB.
2. 2/8 order of movement: CAAT, FOX, 81'S, TAC, GOLF, MAIN, ECHO, LOG TRAINS.
3. Tentative BP Locations: vic PU810660 or PU840600
4. Contact Point with 1st MarDiv – PU690870

Phase 4:

1. RCT order of movement: 2/8 FIT of 1/10.
2. FWD BDRY – PV146250-PV242250; REAR BDY – PV288110-310125;
3. Bn Obj 1 – PV207343
4. Bn Obj 2 – PV222386
5. Bn Obj 3 – PV260344
6. ROUTES: 1st MarDiv primary route is HWY 1 to the south/west of our sector.
7. Sequence of Relief:
 - CAAT Plt, TAC CP, and QP from Fox Company Moves to Contact Point.
 - CAAT Plt follows guides to northern bridgehead and prepares for relief in place.
 - TAC CP collocates with 1/2 main.
 - O/O, CAAT conducts relief on northern bridge.
 - O/O, Fox Company conducts relief on southern bridge, 81's accompanies Fox company and establishes MP in Fox's sector.
 - 1/2 units echelon out of sector.
 - O/O, Golf, Main, and Echo cross the southern bridge and enter the sector.
 - Main CP moves to predesignated position and prepares to assume control.
 - Golf moves to the Northern bridgehead, conducts BHO with CAAT, and prepares to clear in zone.
 - Echo establishes attack position, and prepares to clear in zone.
 - 81's displaces and establishes an MP IOT support the Bn clearing in zone.

| Tactical Control Measures | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|------|
| AA Warpath | QU192169- QU200176- QU217174- QU200159 | Route Snowman | Camp Shoup-Ironhorse Trail-MSR Barbara- Route Hawkins | 2/8 Sector on TF Obj 1 QU019343-055362-063350- 024330 | |
| PL FLORIDA-LD | KU/IRAQ BORDER | Ckpt 32 | QT361772 | TF OBJ 1 QU076330- QU049373- QU967338- QU970300- QU998265- QU023306 | |
| Ckpt 53 | QT362887 | Ckpt 84 | QU357074 | | |
| CKPT 3 | QU354106 | CKPT 27/CkPt 1 | QU200114 | ROUTE HARLEY – SP = PU622805; RP = PU460935 | |
| CKPT 19 | QU190150 | PL TOWER | QU055380-QU944330 | BN FWD BDRY AT MEF OBJ C = PU573873- 610850-704850 | |
| MEF OBJ C | JALIBAH AIRFIELD | 1 st MAR DIV CONTACT PT | PU690870 | BN WESTERN BDRY AT MEF OBJ C = PU573873-538807 | |
| 3/2 – 2/8 CONTACT POINT | PU573873 | AA Hawkins/TF Obj 1 Layout → | LAR/CEB | 1/10 | 3/2 |
| | | | 1/2 | HQ | 2/8 |
| | | | | CAAT | |
| | | AA Warpath Layout → | Echo | Main/Tac/Log | Golf |
| | | | | Fox | |

| Timeline. | | |
|-----------------|------|--|
| DATE | TIME | EVENT |
| Movement Day -2 | | |
| | 0800 | FINALIZE UPLOAD |
| | | ALL SERIALS STAGED IN MOTOR POOL |
| | 1200 | UPLOAD COMPLETE |
| | | QP SEA BAGS STAGED |
| | | QP QUADS BONDED |
| | 1900 | QP REPORTS TO BN CO INSPECTIONS COMPLETE AND READY TO MOVE |
| Movement Day -1 | | |
| | 0600 | QP PERSONNEL LOAD VEHICLES |
| | 0630 | QP COMM CHECKS |
| | 0700 | QP PREPARED TO MOVE |
| | | QP DRIVERS BRIEF |
| | 0750 | QP SHORT COUNT |
| | 0800 | TENT. QP DEPARTS FOR TAA |
| | | MAIN BODY SEA BAGS STAGED |
| | 1200 | ALL REMAINING QUADS BONDED |
| | | QP ARRIVES AA |
| Movement Day | | |
| | 0600 | MAIN BODY PERSONNEL LOAD VEHICLES |
| | 0630 | MAIN BODY COMM CHECKS |
| | 0700 | MAIN BODY PREPARED TO MOVE |
| | | DRIVERS BRIEF |
| | 0750 | SHORT COUNT |
| | 0800 | MAIN BODY DEPARTS |
| | 1200 | TENT. ARRIVAL OF MAIN BODY AT TAA |
| CCIR | | |
| - See Annex B | | |

Engagement Priority: IAW ROE

4. Admin/Logistics:

| |
|---|
| ADMIN |
| -See Annex E |
| Logistics |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 DOS on hand - 3 DOA on hand - Each Marine will have 1 DOS chow/water and 1 DOA - Bump Plan: Rifle Companies spread-load remaining Company MTRV's; - Recovery Plan: All vehicles in Bn march column stop in the event of a down vehicle (maintain vehicle dispersion while at halt). <p>Steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) All vehicles in Bn column march stop and post security in the event of a down vehicle. 2) Operator Id's problem, if not a quick fix, execute the bump plan by spread-loading pax and equipment within Company. Bump plan beyond Co's capability: 1) Main CP, 2) Log Train, 3) Other rifle Co's. 3) Once bump plan complete, Bn column continues on movement. 4) Train recovers down vehicle, utilizes MTRV/HMMWV to tow down vehicle for duration of movement and link-up |

- with Bn. (HMMWV- 10 min delay, MTRV- 60 min delay)
- 5) If 2 MTRVs break down during one road march, execute steps 1-3. The train will contact CSSB and leave a contact team with down vehicle. Contact team will link-up with Bn after recovery is made by CSSB.
 - 6) If 5 HMMVs break down during one road march, execute steps 1-3. The train will contact CSSB and leave contact team with down vehicle. Contact team will link-up with Bn after recovery is made by CSSB.

5. Command and Signal

a. Command

Phase 1: TAC retains control until arrival at TAA, where TAC collocate with Main and the Main will assume control.

Phase 2: TAC retains control throughout movement. Upon consolidation at TF Obj 1, Tac and Main collocate, and control is passed to the Main.

Phase 3: TAC retains control until establishment of hasty defense. Upon consolidation, TAC and Main collocate and control is passed to the Main.

Phase 4: TAC will maintain control throughout the movement from Jalibah to defensive positions south of An Nazariah. Upon consolidation, TAC and Main collocate and the Main assumes control.

Upon receipt of the BPT mission, TAC will collocate with 1/2 per coordinating instructions. Upon consolidation, TAC and Main will collocate and the Main will assume control.

Succession of Command: CO, XO, S-3, FSC, Main Effort Co Cdr.

b. Signal:

Pri: By CEOI

Sec: NBC- Vehicle Horn/ Hand-and-Arm

Signal Plan:

SMOKE

| | |
|--------------|--|
| WHITE SMOKE | NO MEANING-USE FOR SCREENING OPERATIONS ONLY |
| RED SMOKE | REAL-EMERGENCY SEND ASSISTANCE TO THIS AREA |
| YELLOW SMOKE | TARGET DESIGNATION |
| GREEN SMOKE | SAFE TO LAND, PARACHUTE OR DROP SUPPLIES HERE |
| VIOLET SMOKE | DANGER- DO NOT LAND, PARACHUTE OR DROP SUPPLIES HERE |

PYROTECHNICAL DESIGNATOR AND DEFINITION

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| WHITE STAR PARACHUTE | NO MEANING USE FOR ILLUMINATION ONLY |
| WHITE STAR CLUSTER | NO MEANING USE FOR ILLUMINATION ONLY |
| RED STAR CLUSTER | REQUEST SUPPORTING FIRES |
| GREEN STAR CLUSTER | LIFT SUPPORTING FIRES |
| RED STAR PARACHUTE | CHALLENGE ARE YOU FRIENDLY |
| AMBER STAR PARACHUTE | REPLY FRIENDLY TROOPS HERE (DO NOT BOMB OR STRAFE) |
| GREEN STAR PARACHUTE | CEASE ALL FIRES/CEASE AIR STRIKE |
| AMBER STAR CLUSTER | COMMENCE FIRING/LAUNCH ATTACK |
| RED SMOKE STREAMER | BREAK CONTACT WITH ENEMY WITHDRAW |
| YELLOW SMOKE STREAMER | AIR STRIKE, CBR, OR GROUND ATTACK ANTICIPATED |
| VIOLET SMOKE STREAMER | OBJECTIVE TAKEN/ MISSION ACCOMPLISHED |
| GREEN SMOKE STREAMER | SPARE |

ACKNOWLEDGE

OFFICIAL: R P Mortenson, Commanding Officer